

# WILD IMAGINATION

2023  
BYRON  
WRITERS  
FESTIVAL



11–13 August  
Bangalow Showground

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# WILD IMAGINATION

2023 BYRON WRITERS FESTIVAL

Our imagination is our superpower. Wild imagination has set us apart, enabling us to create and transform the world. But as the climate crisis demonstrates, our imaginations have also made a world that is not sustainable.

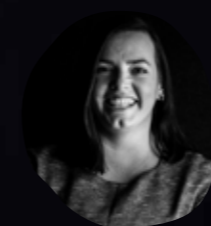
Now is the time for us to unleash our superpower, reconnect with nature and re-establish our sense of being intertwined with all living things and each other. We must imagine a new world – where the wild is free.

At this year's Byron Writers Festival we present our leading storytellers, in creative and daring conversations that will envision our world anew and bring the power of imagination to the fore.

I am thrilled to be bringing this formidable line-up to our beautiful new venue at Bangalow Showground. The festival will be opened with a very special event – a Calling to Country – where attendees will be welcomed to three days of walking, talking and connecting on Bundjalung Country.

We've designed a new way for you to participate through a series of themed stages, spread across four marquees and one indoor venue. As ever, your pass will give you access to all on-site venues and you will be free to roam across the festival site in its leafy surrounds to discover new authors and re-engage with those you know and love. There are no big screens. We want you to have time to listen and reflect, as well as mingle with other lovers of story.

However you choose to take the festival in, I hope you will enjoy living it as much as we enjoyed creating it for you and that by the end you will feel a little closer to the wild within.



**Zoë Pollock**  
CEO & Artistic Director

Held on the lands of the Arakwal Bumberbin peoples of the Bundjalung Nation, we pay respect to the traditional owners of these lands and acknowledge them as the original storytellers of this region.

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[byronwritersfestival.com](https://byronwritersfestival.com)



# FEATUREEVENTS

Join us for a unique program of special events featuring a curated selection of festival guests addressing key themes of the 2023 Festival. Details and bookings via [byronwritersfestival.com/feature-events](https://byronwritersfestival.com/feature-events)

## NATURE CONNECTION FOR CREATIVITY

with David Roland

Thursday 10 August  
8.30am – 12.30pm

Bangalow Parklands  
\$100/\$80 Members & Students

How can we optimise creativity and our capacity to write beautifully? Discover new depths to your writing in this workshop immersed in the natural world with David Roland.

## BANGALOW BUSH TUCKER TOUR

with Delta Kay

Thursday 10 August  
1.30pm – 3pm

Bangalow Parklands  
\$65 Adult / \$19 Child  
(incl. bush tucker afternoon tea)

Join Arakwal Bundjalung woman Delta Kay for a unique walking tour along the stunning Byron Creek at Bangalow Parklands. Learn about a variety of edible bush tucker plants, as well as plants used for natural medicine, jewellery, fibre and tools.

### OFFICIAL OPENING



## CALLING TO COUNTRY

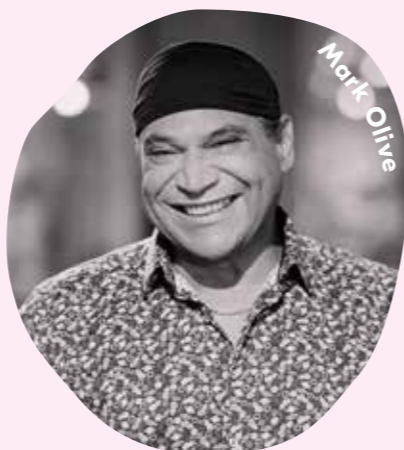
Friday 11 August  
8.15am – 8.45am

Bangalow Showground  
Entry included with Day Pass

The Byron Writers Festival 2023 official opening will honour the Bundjalung Nation, held on the homelands of the Arakwal who will welcome all to Country. In this special event the ancient ways of protocol will be revitalised, as neighbouring Bundjalung clans travelling across the Arakwal border will call Country to announce their arrival. Featuring local custodians, elders and our guardians of language, and inviting First Nations writers involved in the program to pay their deep respects and language acknowledgements.

Curated by Rhoda Roberts AO and hosted by Traditional Custodian Delta Kay

Supported by Vasudhara Fund



## BUNDJALUNG NGHARI – INDIGENISE

Friday 11 August, 7pm  
Saturday 12 August, 3pm & 7pm  
Sunday 13 August, 7pm

Brunswick Picture House  
\$20 – \$45, Blaktix available  
Bookings essential,  
[via norpa.org.au](https://via.norpa.org.au)

*Bundjalung Nghari – Indigenise* (meaning: story gathering) is a theatrical reading of stories, poems and essays, penned by First Nations writers.

After selling out in 2022, NORPA welcomes four new Bundjalung writers and creatives, Kirk Page, Naomi Moran, Grace Lucas-Pennington and Mark Olive to reflect on their experiences of *Living with Occupation*.

Presented by NORPA in association with Byron Writers Festival

### KEYNOTE



## WILD IMAGINATION

Friday 11 August  
7pm – 8pm

Imaginarium  
(A&I Hall, Bangalow)  
\$35 / \$30 Members

What does it mean to imagine with wild abandon? In this festival keynote four original thinkers will unleash their imaginations to envision possibilities for our future.

Featuring Kevin Jared Hosein, Gabriel Krauze, Ellen van Neerven, Jess Scully and Grace Tame, with a special performance by Emily Lubitz, Janet Swain & After the Flood Choir.



## WEAVING & YARNING CIRCLE

Saturday 12 August  
10am – 2pm

Bangalow Showground  
Entry included with Day Pass

Join Arts Northern Rivers at the Buruugaa Gaandjindii (Weaving Gathering) to engage with Bundjalung Elders and weavers, celebrating the launch of *Bulaan Buruugaa Ngali, We Weave Together*. Culture, art and heritage intertwine in this project preserving Bundjalung women's age-old weaving practices, elders' stories, plant species and historical materials and techniques.

Presented by Arts Northern Rivers in association with Byron Writers Festival

### SPOKEN WORD



## VOICES IN THE WILD

Saturday 12 August  
6.30pm – 9pm

Imaginarium  
(A&I Hall, Bangalow)  
\$35 / \$30 Members

They are here, they are loud and they are wild! Voices in the Wild presents eight fresh, powerful voices for a cabaret of spoken word.

Featuring Maxine Beneba Clarke, Madison Godfrey, Miles Merrill, Sarah Temporal and Jo Yang, plus winners from the Poets Out Loud Slam and Australian Poetry Slam heats. Hosted by David Stavanger.

Supported by KassaMiller Foundation

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# FRIDAY PROGRAM

11AUG

## DEEP DIVES

Presented by Vasudhara Fund



### Lives Entwined: First Nations Plant Knowledge

10am – 11am

For millennia, First Nations peoples have used ingenious methods of harnessing the power of plants to sustain and improve their lives. Zena Cumpston discusses *Plants: Past, Present and Future*, a work that celebrates the deep cultural significance of plants and shows how this heritage could be the key to a healthier, more sustainable future.

**Zena Cumpston in conversation with Rhianna Patrick**

Supported by Vasudhara Fund

### Nothing Bad Ever Happens Here

11.15am – 12.15pm

*Nothing Bad Ever Happens Here* is a luminous, compelling and utterly surprising memoir by Heather Rose, the bestselling author of Stella Prize-winner *The Museum of Modern Love* and *Bruny*. Heartbreaking and beautiful, this is a love story brimming with courage and joy against all odds, one that will bring wonder, light and comfort to all who read it.

**Heather Rose in conversation with Jill Eddington**

### Salonika Burning

12.30pm – 1.30pm

Macedonia, 1917. The great city of Salonika is engulfed by fire as all of Europe is ravaged by war. Immersive and gripping, *Salonika Burning* illuminates not only the devastation of war but also the vast social upheaval of the times.

**Gail Jones in conversation with Susan Wyndham**

Supported by Vasudhara Fund

### The Seven Skins of Esther Wilding

1.45pm – 2.45pm

Holly Ringland's novel is a sweeping, profoundly moving work about the far reaches of sisterly love, the power of wearing your heart on your skin, and the virtues of finding the courage to feel the fullness of both grief and joy.

**Holly Ringland in conversation with Jemma Birrell**



### The Book of Roads and Kingdoms

3pm – 4pm

One of Australia's best-loved broadcasters, Richard Fidler takes us into the world of medieval wanderers who wrote of their travels to the edges of the known world during Islam's fabled Golden Age.

**Richard Fidler in conversation with Kári Gíslason**

Supported by First National Byron

### Reasons Not to Worry: Stoicism for the Modern Age

4.15pm – 5.15pm

When Brigid Delaney wanted to change her life, she tried living like a Stoic. Following the tenets of a 2000-year-old philosophy made her feel much better. She shares how that old wisdom can work for us now.

**Brigid Delaney in conversation with Mandy Nolan**

Supported by Pukka Herbs

## FESTIVAL VENUES

The festival experience is designed around five themed venues

**Deep Dives** – Immerse yourself in compelling one-on-one conversations

**Ideas Salon** – Engage with brilliant ideas and contemporary issues

**Mind Spa** – Nourish your soul and revive your mind

**Play Zone** – Revel in joyful experiences for young and old

**Imaginarium** – Awaken your imagination with wild creativity and future thinking



## IDEAS SALON

Presented by *The Saturday Paper* & *The Monthly*

### Gough: The Myth & the Reality

10.15am – 11.15am **7**

The influence of Gough Whitlam on Australian politics and our society looms large. This panel explores the impact of the late Labor Prime Minister.

**Michelle Arrow, Frank Bongiorno**  
Chair: **Julianne Schultz**

### Free

11.30am – 12.30pm **8**

What does it mean to be free? Lea Ypi grew up in Stalinist Albania, one of the most isolated countries on earth and a place where Communist ideals had officially replaced religion.

**Lea Ypi in conversation with Monica Attard**



### Lutruwita Stories

12.45pm – 1.45pm **9**

The history of invaded lutruwita (Tasmania) is bloody and full of horror, resistance and courage. Three historians who have uncovered the stories of First Nations individuals and families on this frontier discuss their impact.

**Joel Birnie, Nicholas Clements, Henry Reynolds**  
Chair: **Frank Bongiorno**



### Language, Power & Privilege

2pm – 3pm **10**

Language and who controls what is published have had great impact since the invention of the printing press. Three novelists explore the impact of this on women and how literacy is not enough.

**Sally Colin-James, Anna Funder, Pip Williams**  
Chair: **Phillipa McGuinness**

### Heat

3.15pm – 4.15pm **11**

The world is waking up to a new reality: once-in-a-century floods are now happening three times a year; bushfires are the new norm. The surface area of the Arctic's polar ice caps is rapidly decreasing, while Antarctica's largest ice shelf is crumbling. It is time to take stock of global heating.

**Jeff Goodell in conversation with Erik Jensen**

Supported by *The Saturday Paper*

## IMAGINARIUM

Presented by Southern Cross University

### Free Speech

10am – 11am **12**

Two authors discuss how they explore the factors that allow us to speak freely, what forces can constrain these and what happens when we are unleashed to speak the truth.

**Hayley Campbell, Lea Ypi**  
Chair: **Paul Barclay**

### Blood Ties: The Family Saga

11.15am – 12.15pm **13**

Blood runs thicker than water, but this does not mean it tastes sweet. This panel will explore how families bind and hurt each other in the process.

**André Dao, Peggy Frew, Holly Ringland**  
Chair: **Zacharey Jane**



### The Elements

12.30pm – 1.30pm **14**

Three authors discuss how landscape, the seasons and the nature of life cycles are the driving forces in our lives.

**Robbie Arnott, Debra Dank, Maggie MacKellar**  
Chair: **Michael Williams**

Supported by Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund

### The Hearing Line

1.45pm – 2.45pm **15**

Jessica Kirkness investigates the value of life writing and creative non-fiction in exposing the 'hearing line' – the invisible boundary between Deaf and hearing cultures – in her memoir, which tells the story of growing up with deaf grandparents.

**Jessica Kirkness in conversation with Eliza Hull**



### Historical Fiction: Times of Upheaval

4.15pm – 5.15pm **16**

No-one expects to get caught in a war. Three authors explore how ordinary lives are shaped by global events.

**Robbie Arnott, Kevin Jared Hosein, Gail Jones**  
Chair: **Russell Eldridge**

## MIND SPA

Presented by Greenstone Partners

### ABC North Coast Live Broadcast

8.30am – 11am **17**

Grab a coffee and join authors from this year's line-up in a live broadcast from Bangalow Showground to kick off the 27th Byron Writers Festival.

Featuring Eliza Hull, Frank Bongiorno, Julianne Schultz, David Stavanger, Marele Day, Solli Raphael, Suneel Jethani and others.

Presented in partnership with ABC North Coast

### Living Recklessly

1.30pm – 2.30pm **19**

In her youth, amidst the throes of a reckless grief, aspiring Australian writer Marele Day was caught up in a shipwreck adventure and forged an unlikely bond with an international fugitive travelling under a pseudonym. For the next 30 years they corresponded before reuniting, both older and wiser, in France.

**Marele Day in conversation with Matthew Condon**

Supported by Greenstone Partners



### All Work & No Play

2.45pm – 3.45pm **20**

As technology reshapes our work and leisure time and corporate giants exploit our personal data for profit, the concept of 'free time' takes on new meanings. *Griffith Review 81: The Leisure Principle* explores the paradox of work-life balance, Big Tech's incursion into our private lives and the capitalist trap of contemporary recreation.

**André Dao, Suneel Jethani**  
Chair: **Carody Culver**

Presented in partnership with *Griffith Review*



### Caring, Belonging

4pm – 5pm **21**

At the centre of all family bonds is a sense of duty to care. Three authors explore what care means against the backdrop of the world.

**Shankari Chandran, Susan Johnson, Jessica Kirkness**  
Chair: **Sarah Armstrong**



# FRIDAY PROGRAM

# 11AUG

## PLAY ZONE

### The Making of Bundjalung Nghari – Indigenise 2023

10am – 11am

22

Bundjalung writers and creatives take us behind the scenes of the making of *Bundjalung Nghari – Indigenise 2023*, a theatrical reading of stories, poems and essays, penned by First Nations writers.

**Grace Lucas-Pennington, Naomi Moran, Mark Olive, Kirk Page**  
Chair: Rhoda Roberts

Presented in partnership with NORPA

### One Curious Doctor

11.15am – 12.15pm

23

In *One Curious Doctor*, Hilton Koppe reflects on his life journey and some of life's most challenging questions, with great clarity, affection, intimacy, and uncompromising honesty.

**Hilton Koppe in conversation with Kerry Sunderland**

### Poetry Month Showcase

12.30pm – 1.30pm

24

Come hear some of the country's finest poets and spoken word artists for this special Poetry Month 2023 showcase event. An initiative of Australia's leading poetic organisation, Red Room Poetry, Poetry Month is held each year in August as a national celebration of poetry in all its forms, for all audiences.

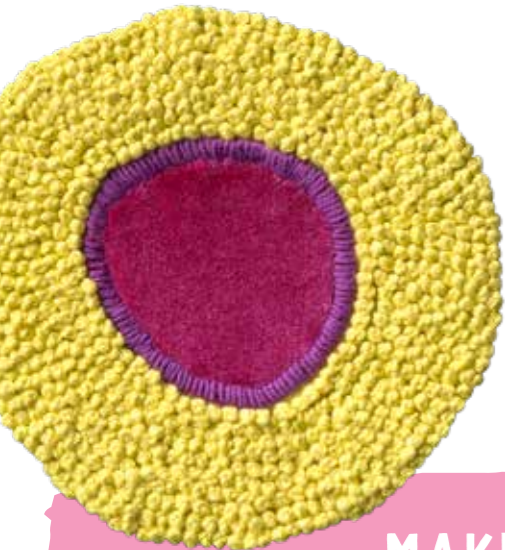
**Bebe Backhouse, Kevin Jared Hosein, Erik Jensen, Cheryl Leavy, Rebecca Rushbrook, Sarah Temporal**

Hosted by David Stavanger

Presented in partnership with Red Room Poetry



Bebe Backhouse



## MAKE STORIES MATTER DONATE TODAY

Byron Writers Festival creates moments where those who are brave enough to tell their stories can make us all feel seen and heard. In times like these, our mission to connect, inspire and celebrate the power of story is more important than ever – and your support is essential to achieving that mission.

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# SATURDAY PROGRAM

# 12 AUG

## DEEP DIVES

Presented by Vasudhara Fund



Anna Funder

### Wifedom

9.30am – 10.30am



25

George Orwell's brilliant wife Eileen O'Shaughnessy was written out of his story, but acclaimed novelist Anna Funder has restored her in a groundbreaking new work that questions what it is to be a wife and a writer.

**Anna Funder in conversation with Sarah Kanowski**

### Who They Was

10.45am – 11.45am

26

*Who They Was* is a first-hand account of a young man who has lived a violent life of crime. British author Gabriel Krauze says of his debut novel – long-listed for the Booker Prize – that it was an echo of his city's underworld and the destructive impact of toxic masculinity 'trapped on the page'.

**Gabriel Krauze in conversation with Michael Williams**

Supported by *Read This*, a new weekly book show from *The Monthly*



Gail Jones

### When Feeling Becomes Form

1.15pm – 2.15pm

27

Great works of art have a way of reverberating through literature. Two authors explore how the art of others influences their work and discuss the need for artistic expression in difficult times.

**Briohny Doyle, Gail Jones**  
**Chair: Heather Rose**

Supported by The Book Room

### Homecoming

2.30pm – 3.30pm

28

An epic story that spans continents and generations, *Homecoming* asks what we would do for those we love, how we protect the lies we tell, and what it means to come home.

**Kate Morton in conversation with Ashley Hay**

Supported by Crystalbrook Byron

### Grace Tame In Her Own Words

3.45pm – 4.45pm

29

The activist and advocate for survivors of childhood sexual abuse who was 2021 Australian of the Year discusses her bestselling memoir *The Ninth Life of a Diamond Miner*. Intelligent, raw, sometimes funny, it offers a vision for a better future for all of us.

**Grace Tame in conversation with Amy Remeikis**

Supported by Vasudhara Fund

## IDEAS SALON

Presented by The Saturday Paper & The Monthly

### Coffee & Papers

8.30am – 9.30am

30

Join four leading journalists as they discuss the week in news.

**Monica Attard, Brigid Delaney, Paddy Manning**  
**Chair: Erik Jensen**

Supported by *The Saturday Paper*

### Invisible Strings

9.45am – 10.45am

31

From the influence of corporate interests on climate policy to the way data controls us in everyday life to the Israeli munitions industry's global reach, this panel will uncover the invisible strings of influence and power at work in our world today.

**Jeff Goodell, Suneel Jethani, Antony Loewenstein**  
**Chair: Paul Barclay**

### Power Plays

11am – 12pm



32

We know the pathway out of the climate crisis. The solutions are here but the obstacles are human. Two thinkers discuss how powerful people and corporations are obstructing our pathway to saving the planet.

**Paddy Manning, Victoria McKenzie-McHarg**  
**Chair: Misha Ketchell**



## Ethics of AI

12.15pm – 1.15pm

33

What licence should we give to data collectors to snoop on us? Can virtual reality replace our bodily selves? How bad is the sexism embedded in evolving technologies? Three authors explore the wild frontier of artificial intelligence.

**Grace Chan, Suneel Jethani, Tracey Spicer**  
Chair: **Julianne Schultz**



## Thea Astley Address

1.30pm – 2.30pm

34

When Henry Reynolds began teaching Australian history in the 1960s he discovered that the history books of the period covered very little about north Australia and nothing about First Nations peoples. He set out to remedy this situation and ended up transforming Australian history in ways he could not have imagined when he began his crusade to see Australia from the north down.

**Henry Reynolds**

## Personal Score

2.45pm – 3.45pm

35

Award-winning First Nations writer Ellen van Neerven learnt as a young footballer that sport can be a painful and exclusive world. They discuss with Grace Lucas-Pennington their new work – a deep dive into sport's troubled relationship with race, gender and sexuality, as it is played on stolen, sovereign land.

**Ellen van Neerven in conversation with Grace Lucas-Pennington**

## Misinformation

4pm – 5pm

36

Trustworthy news is essential to a healthy democracy but in 2023 misinformation is rife. Three panellists discuss with *The Conversation* Editor Misha Ketchell how and why misinformation and disinformation derail public debate and what we can do about it.

**Monica Attard, Antony Loewenstein, Anke Richter**  
Chair: **Misha Ketchell**

Supported by *The Conversation*

## IMAGINARIUM

Presented by Southern Cross University

### Hungry Ghosts

9.30am – 10.30am

37

This novel about violence, religion, family and class, rooted in the wild and pastoral landscape of 1940s colonial central Trinidad, began with a story the author's grandfather told him.

**Kevin Jared Hosein in conversation with Maxine Beneba Clarke**

### Inner Wilds: Acknowledging the Animal Within

10.45am – 11.45am

38

Are humans ever truly in control of our actions? Three authors explore moments in their novels where base instincts are at work.

**Robbie Arnott, Ben Hobson, Kayte Nunn**  
Chair: **Chris Hanley**

Supported by First National Byron

### Checking Out

12pm – 1pm

39

Silent quitting, climate quitting, goblin mode, human sustainability, leaning out. What are all these terms and what age are we living in? How is language evolving to describe how we live now and what do all those catch-phrases mean?

**Ellen van Neerven, Alison Pennington, Kristine Ziwica**  
Chair: **Paul Barclay**

## Imagine a Green Future

1.15pm – 2.15pm

40

What could our future look like if we pull off the transition to a circular economy? Hear three experts tackle the greatest issue facing society today.

**Jeff Goodell, Ben Roche, Jess Scully**  
Chair: **Antony Funnell**

Supported by Southern Cross University



## The Feminist Trajectory

2.30pm – 3.30pm

41

Feminism has a new agenda. Four authors explore how feminism has changed and what's possible for tomorrow.

**Michelle Arrow, Madison Godfrey, Nakkiah Lui, Tracey Spicer**  
Chair: **Mary Sponberg**

## Living Below the Breadline

3.45pm – 4.45pm

42

What does it mean to live in poverty? A British novelist, a First Nations writer and a political economist discuss the multiple ways it affects individuals and imagine how this inequality can be overcome.

**Debra Dank, Gabriel Krauze, Alison Pennington**  
Chair: **Courtney Miller**

## MIND SPA

Presented by Greenstone Partners

### Happy or Wise?

8.30am – 9.30am

43

Humans everywhere pursue happiness, but is compassion the most healthy mind state? Panellists discuss the merits of achieving tranquillity through compassion.

**James Kirby, Hilton Koppe, Robert Waldinger**  
Chair: **David Roland**  
Supported by Elements of Byron

### Growing in to Autism

9.45am – 10.45am

44

Professor Sandra Thom-Jones thought she just had to try harder when daily life overwhelmed her, despite success in her career and home life. As she explains in her memoir, she grew to realise that she was autistic, her world very different to that experienced by neurotypical people.

**Sandra Thom-Jones in conversation with Mandy Nolan**



## From the Ancestors

11.30am – 12.30pm

45

Three writers share how ancestral knowledge shapes their work and the way they see the world.

**Joel Birnie, Zena Cumpston, Debra Dank**  
Chair: **Grace Lucas-Pennington**

Supported by Indigenous Literacy Foundation

## First Nations Design

12.45pm – 1.45pm

46

First Nations design is based in ancient belief systems and practices on Country, principles that could revolutionise the way we build in Australia for the better.

**Paul Memmott, Alison Page**  
Chair: **Rudi Bremer**

## Fragile Minds

2pm – 3pm

47

Mental health plays a big role in our public conversations, as never before. A poet, memoirist and psychologist explore the big questions: who decides what is normal, is mental fragility necessary for creativity and is it part of our inner wildness?

**Ahona Guha, Jonathan Seidler, David Stavanger**  
Chair: **David Roland**

## Loss, Spirit, Passion

3.15pm – 4.15pm

48

Where can we find solace after great loss? The path could involve a spiritual quest, solving a lifelong shipwreck mystery, or even becoming a telepathic dog-whisperer, as it did for these three writers who explore the intersection between grief and spirituality.

**Marele Day, Briohny Doyle, Heather Rose**  
Chair: **Michael Williams**

## Dress Rehearsals

4.30pm – 5.30pm

49

What does it feel like to perform womanhood in a non-binary body? This genre-blurring work explores coming of age, gender euphoria and the complicated colours of memory and desire.

**Madison Godfrey in conversation with Nakkiah Lui**





# SATURDAY PROGRAM

# 12 AUG

## PLAY ZONE

### Sistas Are Doing It

9.30am – 10.30am

50

Our special panellists have multiple strings to their bows – as published authors and with important jobs in other disciplines. Hear their stories of how they are making a difference in the world, with writing being one of their many tools for change.

**Zena Cumpston, Cheryl Leavy, Alison Page**

**Chair: Ellen van Neerven**

Curated by Blak & Bright

### Myth & Folklore in Literature

1.15pm – 2.15pm

53

From the dangers of inherited magical powers, to haunted North Sea islands where witches were once hunted, to a Danish fairytale about a woman swallowed by the sea, these novelists tell how old tales become new in their fiction.

**Sarah Armstrong, Eliza Henry-Jones, Holly Ringland**

**Chair: Kári Gíslason**

Supported by The Book Room

### Worldbuilding – an Act of Wild Imagining

2.30pm – 3.30pm

54

Three authors explore how they build fictional worlds, from the 19th century Victorian goldfields, to a 21st century world of a virtual reality called Gaia, to a magician's sea journey that awakens dangerous slumbering gods.

**Grace Chan, Ben Hobson, Amie Kaufman**

**Chair: Rhianna Patrick**

### Living Disgracefully

10.45am – 11.45am

51

Older women know that our society, smitten with youthfulness, devalues them in ways that can diminish their self-worth. Two thoughtful authors discuss ways to reclaim pride in one's ageing self – including by living disgracefully.

**Susan Johnson, Jacinta Parsons**

**Chair: Tracey Spicer**

Supported by Honey Bee Homes

### Black Joy

12pm – 1pm

52

With our social media feeds constantly inundating us with images of trauma, Black Joy is an expression of resistance and healing. Four storytellers discuss what Black Joy means to them.

**Bebe Backhouse, Maxine Beneba Clarke, Nakkiah Lui**

**Chair: Cheryl Leavy**



### Wild Notes

3.45pm – 4.45pm

55

Two acclaimed songwriters – the creatively gifted memoirist daughter of artists, and a singer/pianist who advocates for people with disabilities through her books – discuss how they go about their craft.

**Bertie Blackman, Eliza Hull**

**Chair: Jonathan Seidler**

### Time of My Life: Myf

5pm – 6pm

56

From the much-loved Myf Warhurst comes a captivating and joyous memoir of wisdom, humour and heart that unleashes the music within us all.

**Myf Warhurst in conversation with Sarah Armstrong**

Supported by Rochdale Accounting & Advisory



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## DEEP DIVES

Presented by Vasudhara Fund

### The Bookbinder of Jericho

9am – 10am

57

The author of *The Dictionary of Lost Words*, Pip Williams, discusses her recent companion novel, a tale of two sisters confronting war, and also explores how knowledge is created, distributed and withheld.

**Pip Williams in conversation with Ashley Hay**

Supported by Greenstone Partners



Tracey Spicer

### Man-Made

10.15am – 11.15am

58

Walkley Award-winning journalist Tracey Spicer has exposed how tech has imbedded sexism into the future in her new book *Man-Made*. She discusses the next frontier of feminism with broadcaster Paul Barclay.

**Tracey Spicer in conversation with Paul Barclay**

Supported by Southern Cross University

## Bohemian Negligence

11.30am – 12.30pm

59

Join musician Bertie Blackman as she discusses her evocative and intimate memoir that reveals the magic and vulnerability of her bohemian childhood growing up as the daughter of iconic artist Charles Blackman.

**Bertie Blackman in conversation with Sarah Kanowski**

## All the Living & the Dead

12.45pm – 1.45pm

60

We are surrounded by death in news, true-crime podcasts and even nursery rhymes. Yet from an early age, we are told that death is to be feared. How can we know what we're so afraid of, if we don't examine it?

**Hayley Campbell in conversation with Kerry Sunderland**

## Cult Trip

2pm – 3pm

61

An investigative journalist discusses how she immersed herself in the wild world of cults around the globe, exposing the ways they attract, entrap and destroy otherwise ordinary people.

**Anke Richter in conversation with Matthew Condon**

## IDEAS SALON

Presented by The Saturday Paper & The Monthly



Osman Faruqi

## Uncomfortable Truths

10am – 11am

62

Australia has a confronting colonial past and an ongoing legacy of racism. Three writers discuss how they are facing this head-on in their work.

**Nicholas Clements, Osman Faruqi, Ellen van Neerven**  
Chair: Cheryl Leavy

## Home, Elusive Home

11.15am – 12.15pm

63

Our housing is in crisis. Ownership is out of reach for many, rents are through the roof and homelessness is on the rise. This panel explores the causes of the problem and possible pathways to a better future.

**Alison Page, Alison Pennington, Jess Scully**  
Chair: Mandy Nolan

Supported by *The Byron Shire Echo*

## Overcoming the Overwhelm

12.30pm – 1.30pm

64

Modern motherhood is a minefield. Three writers explore the challenges facing mothers in modern society and some strategies that could be adopted to overcome them.

**Eliza Hull, Isabelle Oderberg, Kristine Ziwica**  
Chair: Jacinta Parsons

## The Mungo Panel: The Future of Journalism

1.45pm – 2.45pm

65

Media is undergoing rapid change. Four journalists explore how that change can threaten democracy itself and how the Fourth Estate can retain its key tenets, safeguarding its role as the public's watchdog.

**Monica Attard, Osman Faruqi, Paddy Manning**  
Chair: Amy Remeikis

Supported by *Quarterly Essay*

## 30 Years of Away! – Celebrating Bundjalung Artists

3pm – 4pm

66

For 30 years *Away!* on Radio National has showcased exciting developments in Indigenous arts and culture. Enjoy some of the highlights and hear from First Nations creatives who have graced the airways over the years.

**Rhianna Patrick, Rhoda Roberts**  
Chair: Rudi Bremer

Curated by Blak & Bright

## IMAGINARIUM

Presented by Southern Cross University

### What if Everything We Imagine Comes True?

9am – 10am

67

Speculating about the future, interrogating the past and understanding through storytelling unite three writers. A historian and two novelists describe how their approaches to writing allow them to imagine – and reimagine – past, present and future.

**Michelle Arrow, Grace Chan, Shankari Chandran**  
Chair: Phillipa McGuinness

Presented in partnership with *Openbook*

## Green Imaginings

10.15am – 11.15am

68

The science has long been there, but it will take imagination to win the world over to climate action. Two authors who have reimagined songs and witchy tales discuss how fiction can spark the energy we need.

**Eliza Henry-Jones, Mark Smith**  
Chair: Nell Schofield

Supported by Byron Shire Council

## The Family Spark

11.30am – 12.30pm

69

Stories are passed down through the generations. Expectations are too. Three novelists whose writings reflect their diverse family backgrounds share how the stories they inherited inform their writing.

**Shankari Chandran, Shirley Le, Peter Polites**  
Chair: Jemma Birrell

Supported by Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund



Naomi Moran

## In Recovery

12.45pm – 1.45pm

70

The Northern Rivers region is still recovering from last year's devastating floods. What new approaches to rebuilding and restoring community resilience have emerged?

**Dan Etheridge, Naomi Moran, Amanda Reichelt-Brushett**  
Chair: Nell Schofield

## The Importance of Female Leadership

2pm – 3pm

71

Imagine a world where women were at the centre of creating the solutions to our climate crisis. Would our planet and the decisions we make for future generations be different?

**Debra Dank, Victoria McKenzie-McHarg, Jess Scully**  
Chair: Ashley Hay

Presented in partnership with Women's Environmental Leadership Australia



# SUNDAY PROGRAM

# 13 AUG

## MIND SPA

Presented by Greenstone Partners

### The Art of Noticing

8.45am – 9.45am

At the heart of good fiction is a piercing appreciation for human motivation. Three novelists reveal how they mine everyday life for personal stories. These include discovering the perils of taking an elderly mother to live overseas, reflecting on being a mother living in nature on a farm and saluting a Greek mother who made her life in Australia.

**Susan Johnson, Maggie MacKellar, Peter Polites**  
**Chair: Jill Eddington**

Supported by The Book Room

### Unseen

10am – 11am

Nearly half of all Australians live with a chronic illness, one in four pregnancies end in miscarriage and some 4.4 million people live with a disability. Yet many of these experiences remain unrecognised and unseen. Three experts unpick the complexities.

**Isabelle Oderberg, Jacinta Parsons, Sandra Thom-Jones**  
**Chair: Courtney Miller**

### Inner Wilds: Calming the Storm

11.15am – 12.15pm

How can we achieve a more peaceful way of being? Three writers who have thought deeply about worry and trauma make the case for compassion – including toward oneself.

**Brigid Delaney, Ahona Guha, James Kirby**  
**Chair: Antony Funnell**

### Admissions

12.30pm – 1.30pm

We are full of worlds that can't be contained by a pill. *Admissions: Voices Within Mental Health* is a groundbreaking anthology documenting mental health in Australia via poetry and prose. This is a polyvocal show of force and difference exploring writing about mental health from lived experience.

**Madison Godfrey, David Stavanger, Ellen van Neerven**  
**Chair: Carody Culver**



Peggy Frew

### Wildflowers

1.45pm – 2.45pm

Peggy Frew is a consummate observer of human frailty and fragile love, and in *Wildflowers* she has created a riveting, compassionate and affecting novel that follows three sisters as they test the limits of love and the line between care and control.

**Peggy Frew in conversation with Susan Wyndham**



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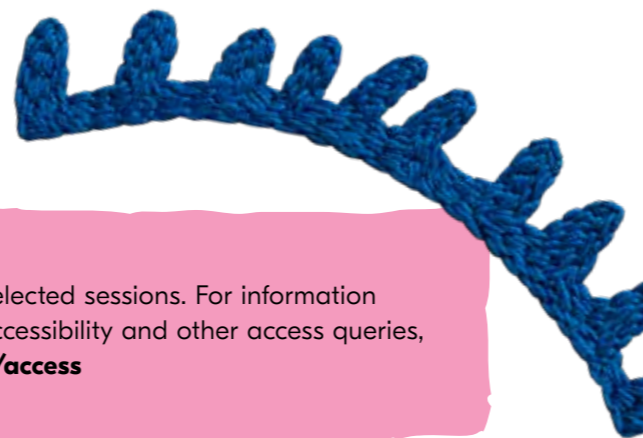
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AUSLAN interpretation available on selected sessions. For information about accessible toilets, wheelchair accessibility and other access queries, please visit [byronwritersfestival.com/access](http://byronwritersfestival.com/access)





# SUNDAY PROGRAM

# 13 AUG

## PLAY ZONE

### Kids Big Day Out

9am – 12.45pm

77

Kids Big Day Out returns with a stellar line-up of authors and performers making for a fun-packed morning of entertainment. Featuring stage presentations from Australia's best-loved children's authors, plus StoryBoard's famous StorySpace for hands-on creative sessions with authors and illustrators.

MC: **Tristan Bancks**



Robert Waldinger

### The Good Life

1.15pm – 2.15pm

78

A Harvard psychiatry professor discusses a life-changing book about the lessons the directors of the longest study of happiness in the world have learnt. It was the subject of one of the top 10 TED talks ever.

**Robert Waldinger in conversation with Brigid Delaney**

Supported by Southern Cross University

### My Wildest Dreams

2.30pm – 3.30pm

79

Sometimes the people who make us laugh find the joke is on them. Three comic writers reveal their wildest dreams and the day they came true.

**Shirley Le, Mandy Nolan, Oliver Phommavanh**  
Chair: **Mandy Nolan**

Supported by Greenstone Partners

### Shire Choir – Sing with Wild Abandon

3.45pm – 4.45pm

80

For the finale of a weekend of ideas and inspiration, festival-goers are invited to learn and sing a classic pop/rock song in parts, then sing their hearts out with hundreds of other voices. The Shire Choir directed by Melia Naughton and produced by Sal Schofield invite all to this pop-up choir event. All voices are welcome, no experience required.



Amie Kaufman

## KIDS BIG DAY OUT

## WHAT'S ON FOR KIDS

### StoryBoard StorySpace

- 10am **Draw & Tell with Lucas Proudfoot**
- 11am **Bookmaking with Zanni Louise**
- 12pm **Eco Poetry with Sarah Temporal**

### Stage Presentations

- 9am **Lucas Proudfoot**
- 9.30am **Eliza Hull**
- 10am **Charmaine Ledden-Lewis**
- 10.30am **Oliver Phommavanh**
- 11am **Solli Raphael**
- 11.30am **Amie Kaufman**
- 12pm **Zanni Louise**
- 12.20pm **Student Writing Prizes Presentation**



Get inspired, sink your teeth into your craft and learn from the best with one of our Festival Workshops. Details and bookings via [byronwritersfestival.com/festival-workshops](http://byronwritersfestival.com/festival-workshops)

# FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS

### Present and Represent

With **Nell Schofield**

**Monday 7 August**  
10am – 1pm

### Writing Change

With **Sonya Voumard**

**Monday 7 August**  
2pm – 5pm

### Write to Speak

With **Miles Merrill**

**Tuesday 8 August**  
9.30am – 12.30pm

### Memoir: Finding Your Story and Making it Come Alive

With **Alan Close**

**Tuesday 8 August**  
10am – 4pm

### Laugh Lines

With **Mandy Nolan**

**Tuesday 8 August**  
1pm – 4pm

### Writing YA

With **Mark Smith**

**Wednesday 9 August**  
2pm – 5pm

### Marketing for Authors

With **Anna Featherstone**

**Thursday 10 August**  
1pm – 3pm

### The Art of the Interview

With **Ashley Hay**

**Thursday 10 August**  
9.30am – 12.30pm

### From Idea to Finished Novel

With **Ben Hobson**

**Thursday 10 August**  
2pm – 5pm

### Personal Essay

With **Briohny Doyle**

**Thursday 10 August**  
9am – 11am

### Exploring Imagination

With **Heather Rose**

**Friday 11 August**  
2pm – 5pm

All workshops are separately ticketed and take place at Byron Bay Community Centre.

A series of free and ticketed community events taking place throughout festival week in venues across the Northern Rivers region. Details and bookings via [byronwritersfestival.com/satellite-events](http://byronwritersfestival.com/satellite-events)

# SATELLITE EVENTS

### Susan Johnson in Conversation

Presented by Friends of Libraries, Byron Shire

**Thursday 10 August**  
12.30pm – 1.30pm

Marvell Hall Byron Bay  
\$25 inc. afternoon tea by Bangalow CWA, bookings essential

### Australian Poetry Slam - Byron Heat

Hosted by Word Travels

**Saturday 12 August**  
4pm – 5.30pm

Bangalow Uniting Church  
Free, no bookings

### Poets Out Loud Youth Slam

Hosted by Sarah Temporal

**Friday 11 August**  
6.30pm – 8.30pm

The Regent, Murwillumbah  
\$5, bookings essential

### Wordworks

With **David Hallett**

**Sunday 13 August**  
2pm – 3pm

Bangalow Bowling Club  
Free, no bookings

### Gail Jones on *Salonika Burning*

Presented by Tweed Regional Gallery

**Sunday 13 August**  
10am – 11am

Tweed Regional Gallery  
Free, bookings essential

### Writers on the Road Regional Tour

With **Peggy Frew, Peter Polites and Jo Yang**

**Tuesday 8 August – Thursday 10 August**

Maclean, Grafton, Evans Head  
Free, bookings essential  
Supported by Create NSW



# WRITERS

**Sarah Armstrong** 21 53 56  
 Sarah Armstrong has written five novels – including *Salt Rain*, shortlisted for the Miles Franklin – and, most recently, two stories for young readers: *Big Magic* and *Magic Awry*.

**Robbie Arnott** 14 16 38  
 Robbie Arnott is the award-winning author of the novels *Limberlost*, *The Rain Heron* and *Flames*. He lives in Hobart.

**Michelle Arrow** 7 41 67  
 Michelle Arrow is Professor of History at Macquarie University. She is the editor of a new work, *Women and Whitlam: Revisiting the Revolution*.

**Monica Attard** 8 30 36 65  
 Monica Attard spent 30 years at the ABC as a reporter, foreign correspondent and current affairs host. She is co-director of the UTS Centre for Media Transition.

**Bebe Backhouse** 24 52  
 Bebe Backhouse is an award-winning writer and a descendant of the Bardi Jawi people of Broome. His debut poetry collection, *more than these bones*, was released in March 2023.

**Tristan Bancks** 77  
 Tristan Bancks tells stories for the page and screen. His books for children and teens include *Two Wolves*, *The Fall*, *Detention*, *Cop & Robber* and his new thriller, *Scar Town*.

**Paul Barclay** 12 31 39 58  
 Paul Barclay is a Walkley Award-winning journalist and broadcaster, with an appetite for ideas and in-depth analysis and discussion.

**Maxine Beneba Clarke** 37 52 F  
 Maxine Beneba Clarke is the award-winning author of more than 10 books, including her recent poetry collection, *It's the Sound of the Thing: 100 new poems for young people*.

**Joel Birnie** 9 45  
 Joel Stephen Birnie is an academic, visual artist, filmmaker, and author of *My People's Songs: How an Indigenous Family Survived Colonial Tasmania*.

**Jemma Birrell** 4 69  
 Jemma Birrell is Head of Writing at the Powerhouse in Sydney. She previously directed events and festivals across Sydney and Paris, and hosted a podcast on writing.

**Bertie Blackman** 55 59  
 Bertie Blackman is a multidisciplinary storyteller, ARIA-winning musician, and the daughter of iconic Australian artist Charles Blackman.

**Frank Bongiorno** 7 9 17  
 Frank Bongiorno is a Canberra-based historian working at the Australian National University. His most recent book is *Dreamers and Schemers: A Political History of Australia*.

**Rudi Bremer** 46 66  
 Rudi Bremer is the presenter of RN's *Away!* and ABC Kids Listen's *Little Yarns*, where she shares her love of performing arts, literature and Indigenous languages – like her own, Gamilaraay.

**Hayley Campbell** 12 60  
 Hayley Campbell is an author, broadcaster, and journalist. Her work has appeared in *WIRED*, *The Guardian* and more. Her latest book is *All the Living and the Dead*.

**Grace Chan** 33 54 67  
 Grace Chan is a psychiatrist and speculative fiction short story writer who recently published her debut novel, *Every Version of You*.

**Shankari Chandran** 21 67 69  
 Shankari Chandran is a lawyer and author of the novels *Song of the Sun God*, *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens* and *The Barrier*.

**Nicholas Clements** 9 62  
 Nicholas Clements is a historian of Tasmania's Black War and the author of two books on that cataclysm, most recently *Tongerlongeter*, co-authored with Henry Reynolds.

**Alan Close** W  
 Alan Close has been writing for more than 40 years. His most recent book is *Before You Met Me: A Memoir Of One Man's Troubled Search For Love*.

**Sally Colin-James** 10  
 Sally Colin-James has won several awards. *One Illumined Thread* is her debut novel.

**Matthew Condon** 19 61  
 Matthew Condon is an award-winning journalist, writer and podcaster. He is a senior writer for *The Australian*.

**Carody Culver** 20 75  
 Carody Culver is the editor of *Griffith Review*. Her chapbook, *The Morgue I Think the Deader it Gets*, was published in 2022.

**Zena Cumpston** 1 45 50  
 Zena Cumpston is a Barkandji writer, curator and researcher. Her co-authored book *Plants: past, present, future* was recently published as part of Thames & Hudson's First Knowledges series.

**Debra Dank** 14 42 45 71  
 Gudanji/Wakaja woman Debra Dank has worked in teaching and learning for many years. Her book is a tribute to family and Country called *We Come with This Place*.

**André Dao** 13 20  
 André Dao is a writer, editor and artist. His debut novel, *Anam*, won the 2021 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an Unpublished Manuscript.

**Marele Day** 17 19 48  
 Marele Day is an award-winning author of novels including the bestselling *Lambs of God*. Her latest book, *Reckless*, is a memoir.

**Brigid Delaney** 6 30 74 78  
 Brigid Delaney has worked as a journalist and speech-writer and is the author of *Reasons Not to Worry*, *Wellmania*, *Wild Things* and *This Restless Life*.

**Briohny Doyle** 27 48 W  
 Briohny Doyle is the author of the 2022 Miles Franklin and Victorian Premier's Literary Award-listed novel *Echolalia*. Her new novel is *Why We Are Here*.

**Jill Eddington** 2 72  
 Jill Eddington is an avid reader and a lover of Australian writing. She is a former publisher and director of literature at the Australian Council for the Arts.

**Russell Eldridge** 16  
 Russell Eldridge is the author of the critically acclaimed *Harry Mac*. He is a journalist, media trainer and media consultant. Russell is a founding member of the Byron Writers Festival.

**Dan Etheridge** 70  
 Dan Etheridge is Director of the Living Lab Northern Rivers in Lismore, following 20 years in New Orleans, Louisiana working in public interest design and community-based rebuilding.

**Osman Faruqi** 62 65  
 Osman Faruqi is an award-winning journalist. He is currently culture editor of *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*.

**Anna Featherstone** W  
 Author of five non-fiction books including memoir, how-to and the ASA's recommended reading title *Look – It's Your Book!*, Anna Featherstone actively empowers authors seeking sustainable writing careers.

**Richard Fidler** 5  
 Richard Fidler is the author of bestselling books blending history, travel memoir and mythology. His most recent work is *The Book of Roads & Kingdoms*.

**Karen Foxlee** 77  
 Karen Foxlee writes for both children and adults. Her novels are published around the world and include *Lenny's Book of Everything* and *Dragon Skin*.

**Peggy Frew** 13 76 S  
 Peggy Frew's work has won and been long and shortlisted for a number of prizes, in Australia and internationally. *Wildflowers* is her fourth novel.

**Anna Funder** 10 25  
 Anna Funder is the author of international bestsellers *Stasiland* and *All That I Am*, which won the Miles Franklin Literary Award. Her latest book is *Wifedom*.

# Program Session F Feature Event W Workshop S Satellite Event



# WRITERS



**Antony Funnell** 40 74  
Antony Funnell is an author and Walkley Award-winning broadcaster. His books include *The Future and Related Nonsense* and the satirical novel *So Far, So Good*.



**Kári Gíslason** 5 53  
Kári Gíslason is a writer and academic. His latest book, *The Sorrow Stone*, is an historical novel that reimagines one of the medieval Icelandic sagas.



**Madison Godfrey** 41 49 75 F  
Madison Godfrey (they/them) is a writer, educator, and the author of *Dress Rehearsals*, which ArtsHub describes as a 'fiercely punk and undeniably powerful' poetic manifesto.



**Jeff Goodell** 11 31 40  
Jeff Goodell's latest book is *Heat: Life and Death on a Scorched Planet*. He is the author of six previous books, including *The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities* and *The Remaking of the Civilized World*.



**Ahona Guha** 47 74  
Dr Ahona Guha is a clinical and forensic psychologist, and a survivor with lived experience of complex trauma. Her first book is *Reclaim: understanding complex trauma and those who abuse*.



**Chris Hanley** 38  
Chris Hanley OAM is the founder of Byron Writers Festival and was Chair for 20 years until 2016. He is the Principal of First National Byron.



**Ashley Hay** 28 57 71 W  
Ashley Hay is an award-winning novelist and essayist. A former editor of *Griffith Review*, she also works as a journalist, mentor and facilitator.



**Eliza Henry-Jones** 53 68  
Eliza Henry-Jones is an author based on a small flower farm on Wurundjeri land. She has published five novels, most recently *Salt and Skin*.



**Ben Hobson** 38 54 W  
Ben Hobson is an author and educator, whose published novels include *To Become a Whale*, *Snake Island* and *The Death of John Lacey*.



**Kevin Jared Hosein** 16 24 37 F  
Kevin Jared Hosein is an award-winning Caribbean novelist. His latest book is *Hungry Ghosts*.



**Eliza Hull** 15 17 55 64 77  
Eliza Hull is an award-winning writer, musician and disability advocate. She is the creator of *We've Got This – Stories by Disabled Parents* and the children's book *Come Over To My House*.



**Zacharey Jane** 13 S  
Zacharey Jane is an author and teacher. She has been tour manager and emcee for Writers on the Road, the Byron Writers Festival regional tour, since 2014.



**Erik Jensen** 11 24 30  
Erik Jensen is the founding editor of *The Saturday Paper* and editor-in-chief of Schwartz Media. His most recent book is *I said the sea was folded*.



**Suneel Jethani** 17 20 31 33  
Suneel Jethani is a writer, researcher and educator working at the intersections of emerging technologies, design and the politics of everyday life.



**Susan Johnson** 21 51 72 S  
Novelist Susan Johnson has turned to memoir with *Aphrodite's Breath*, which exposes the struggles and joys of moving to a Greek island with her 85-year-old mother, Barbara, without a word of Greek.



**Gail Jones** 3 16 27 S  
Gail Jones is one of Australia's most celebrated writers. Her work has been translated into several languages and received numerous literary awards. Her latest novel is *Salonika Burning*.




**Sarah Kanowski** 25 59  
Sarah Kanowski presents *Conversations* on ABC Radio and podcast.




**Amie Kaufman** 54 77  
Amie Kaufman is a *New York Times* and internationally bestselling Australian author, whose award-winning work is published in nearly 30 languages. Her latest book is *The Isles of the Gods*.

# Program Session F Feature Event W Workshop S Satellite Event



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# WRITERS

**Delta Kay** F  
Delta Kay is a proud Bundjalung woman from Byron Bay. She is passionate about sharing her culture through storytelling and native bushfoods. Delta is owner and operator of Explore Byron Bay tours.

**Misha Ketchell** 32 36  
Misha Ketchell is editor of *The Conversation*. He was founding editor of *The Big Issue*, editor of *Crikey* and *The Melbourne Weekly*, a reporter at *The Age* and producer on *Media Watch*.

**James Kirby** 43 74  
James Kirby is a clinical psychologist, senior lecturer, and director of the Compassionate Mind Research Group at the University of Queensland.

**Jessica Kirkness** 15 21  
Jessica Kirkness lives and works in Sydney on Cammeraygal land. Her debut book, *The House With All The Lights On*, explores family, deafness and hearing.

**Hilton Koppe** 23 43  
Hilton Koppe is an educator, doctor, podcaster and now published author. His debut book is *One Curious Doctor: A Memoir of Medicine, Migration and Mortality*.

**Gabriel Krauze** 26 42 F  
Gabriel Krauze was long-listed for the Booker Prize in 2020. He grew up in a Polish family in London. *Who They Was* is his debut novel.

**Shirley Le** 69 79  
Shirley Le is a Vietnamese Australian writer and a member of Sweatshop: Western Sydney Literacy Movement. *Funny Ethnics* is her first novel.

**Cheryl Leavy** 24 50 52 62  
Kooma and Nguri woman Cheryl Leavy is an Executive Director within Queensland Government working on First Nations Policy and a member of the Brisbane Writers Festival board.

**Charmaine Ledden-Lewis** 77  
Charmaine Ledden-Lewis is a Bundjalung woman, artist, and award-winning illustrator of picture books such as *Found*, *Born to Run* and *Charlie's Swim*.

**Antony Loewenstein** 31 36  
Antony Loewenstein is an independent journalist, filmmaker and author whose latest book is *The Palestine Laboratory: How Israel Exports the Technology of Occupation Around the World*.

**Zanni Louise** 77  
North Coast author Zanni Louise has written 35 books for children. She mentors aspiring writers and visits schools around Australia to teach writing.

**Grace Lucas-Pennington** 22 35 45 F  
Grace Lucas-Pennington is a Bundjalung editor and poet living on Yuggera/Turrbal country.

**Nakkiah Lui** 41 49 52  
Gamilaroi/Torres Strait Islander woman Nakkiah Lui is the co-writer and star of *Black Comedy*, and co-host of the podcast *Pretty for an Aboriginal*. She manages Joan, an Allen & Unwin imprint.

**Maggie MacKellar** 14 72  
Maggie MacKellar is a writer and farmer. Her most recent book is *Graft: motherhood, family and a year on the land*. She lives in Tasmania/lutruwita.

**Paddy Manning** 30 32 65  
Paddy Manning is a freelance investigative journalist and author of six books including *The Successor: The High-Stakes Life of Lachlan Murdoch*.

**Phillipa McGuinness** 10 67  
Phillipa McGuinness is author of *Skin Deep: the inside story of our outer selves* and editor of *Openbook*, the State Library of NSW magazine.

**Victoria McKenzie-McHarg** 32 71  
Victoria McKenzie-McHarg is the Strategic Director of Women's Environmental Leadership Australia, a gender-diverse community transforming Australia's response to climate and environmental crises.

**Paul Memmott** 46  
Professor Paul Memmott AO is an anthropologist and architect who recently published the second edition of *Gunyah Goondie + Wurley: The Aboriginal Architecture of Australia*.

**Miles Merrill** F S W  
Performing writer Miles Merrill brought poetry slams to Australia from Chicago. He is the spark for dozens of story-sharing programs across the Asia-Pacific.

**Courtney Miller** 42 73  
Courtney Miller has a varied career across politics, art and fashion and currently heads up a philanthropic foundation focused on the next generation.

**Naomi Moran** 22 70 F  
Naomi Moran is a Dunghutti and Nyangbal/Arakwal woman of the Bundjalung nation. She is CEO of *Koori Mail* and Co-Chair of First Nations Media Australia.

**Kate Morton** 28  
Kate Morton is an award-winning, international bestselling author of seven novels, including *The Clockmaker's Daughter*. Her latest book is *Homecoming*.

**Ellen van Neerven** 35 39 50 62 75 F  
Ellen van Neerven is an award-winning writer, of Mununjali and Dutch heritage. Ellen is the author of *Heat and Light*, *Comfort Food*, *Throat*, and a new non-fiction title, *Personal Score: Sport, Culture, Identity*.

**Mandy Nolan** 6 44 63 79 W  
Mandy Nolan is a stand-up comedian, feminist, activist, mother of five and the Greens candidate for Richmond. She wants to change the world by changing minds – one joke at a time.

**Kayte Nunn** 38  
Kayte Nunn is a former magazine editor and the author of seven novels, the most recent of which, *The Only Child*, was published in 2022.

**Isabelle Oderberg** 64 73  
Isabelle Oderberg has worked as a journalist for two decades in newswires across Europe, Asia and Australia. Her work has appeared in *The Age/SMH*, *Guardian*, *ABC* and *Meanjin*. *Hard to Bear* is her first book.

**Mark Olive** 22 F  
Indigenous chef Mark Olive (aka 'The Black Olive') has hosted popular TV shows *The Outback Cafe*, *The Chefs' Line* and *On Country Kitchen*.

**Alison Page** 46 50 63  
Alison Page is a Walbanga and Wadi Wadi woman and the co-author of *Design: Building on Country*.

**Kirk Page** 22 F  
Kirk Page is a proud Munanjali man with ancestral lineage connected to Badu Island/Zenadth Kes, Poland and Germany. He has brought many stories to the stage and screen during his 29 year career.

**Jacinta Parsons** 51 64 73  
Jacinta Parsons is a broadcaster, writer, speaker and host of the afternoon program on ABC Local Radio Melbourne. Her second book is *A Question of Age: Women, ageing and the forever self*.

**Rhianna Patrick** 1 54 66  
Rhianna Patrick is a freelance Torres Strait Islander journalist, broadcaster and audio content creator with 25 years' media experience.

**Alison Pennington** 39 42 63  
Alison Pennington is an economist and author of *Gen Fd? How Young Australians Can Reclaim Their Uncertain Futures*.

**Oliver Phommavanh** 77 79  
Oliver Phommavanh is an author, comedian and primary school teacher. His latest book is *What About Thao*.

**Peter Polites** 69 72 S  
Peter Polites is a novelist from Western Sydney. He has written two queer noirs, *Down the Hume* and *The Pillars*. His forthcoming novel is *God Forgets About the Poor*.

**Lucas Proudfoot** 77  
Known for his high-energy, fast wit and cheeky sense of humour, Lucas Proudfoot has been entertaining children across Australia for the last 10 years.

**Solli Raphael** 17 77  
Solli Raphael is an award-winning author, poet, and acclaimed keynote speaker. His newest book is *Our Stories: 29 Things You Didn't Know About Me*.

# Program Session F Feature Event W Workshop S Satellite Event



# WRITERS

**Amanda Reichelt-Brushett** 70  
Amanda Reichelt-Brushett is a scientist and educator. Her book *Marine Pollution – Monitoring, Management and Mitigation* addresses the need to ensure the long-term health of our oceans.

**Amy Remeikis** 29 65  
Amy Remeikis is a reporter, author and commentator on political and social issues.

**Henry Reynolds** 9 34  
Henry Reynolds taught history and politics for many years at James Cook University. He has published more than 20 books concentrating on the history of First Nations/Settler relations.

**Anke Richter** 36 61  
Anke Richter is an international journalist based in New Zealand. Her bestselling book is *Cult Trip: Inside the world of coercion & control*.

**Holly Ringland** 4 13 53  
Holly Ringland is a writer, storyteller, and television presenter. *The Seven Skins of Esther Wilding* was an instant national bestseller.

**Rhoda Roberts** 22 66 F  
Widjambul woman Rhoda Roberts AO is an actor, journalist, producer, writer, artistic director and Creative Director First Nations at Northern Rivers Performing Arts (NORPA).

**Ben Roche** 40  
Ben Roche is a human geographer, change-maker, educator, executive, facilitator and novice gardener – who likes to grow things.

**David Roland** 43 47 F  
Dr David Roland is a writer and psychologist whose work is informed by his lived experience and professional training. His latest book is *The Power of Suffering*.

**Heather Rose** 2 27 48 W  
Heather Rose is the Australian author of eight novels, including the Stella Prize-winning *The Museum of Modern Love*. Her 2022 memoir is *Nothing Bad Ever Happens Here*.

**Rebecca Rushbrook** 24  
Rebecca Rushbrook is best known for her poems *After the Water* (about the 2022 Lismore flood) and *The Queue*.

**Nell Schofield** 68 70 W  
Nell Schofield is a broadcaster and activist who co-hosts the podcast *This Week In Cyberspace*. She is a surfing yogini who also likes to boogie.

**Julianne Schultz** 7 17 33  
Julianne Schultz is the author of *The Idea of Australia: A search for the soul of the nation*. She was the founding editor of *Griffith Review*.

**Jess Scully** 40 63 71 F  
Jess Scully is a curator and city-maker whose book, *Glimpses of Utopia: Real Ideas for a Fairer World*, illuminates solutions to the climate and inequality crises.

**Jonathan Seidler** 47 55  
Jonathan Seidler is an author, creative and culture critic. His memoir, *It's a Shame About Ray*, was released in October 2022.

**Mark Smith** 68 W  
Mark Smith is an award-winning writer of novels and short fiction. His work has appeared in anthologies, journals and magazines in Australia and internationally.

**Tracey Spicer** 33 41 51 58  
Tracey Spicer is a Walkley Award-winning journalist whose latest book is *Man-Made: How the bias of the past is being built into the future*.

**Mary Spongberg** 41 S  
Mary Spongberg is the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Academic Capability) at Southern Cross University and the author of *Empathetic Histories: Women Writers and the Nation's Past*.

**David Stavanger** 17 24 47 75 F  
David Stavanger is a poet, performer, producer, editor and lapsed psychologist. David is the co-editor of *Admissions: Voices Within Mental Health*.

**Kerry Sunderland** 23 60  
Kerry Sunderland is a freelance journalist, author, host/producer of the podcast *Deathwalker's Guide to Life* and literary program curator of New Zealand's Nelson Arts Festival.

**Grace Tame** 29 F  
Grace Tame is a passionate advocate against child sexual abuse and 2021 Australian of the Year. Her memoir *The Ninth Life of a Diamond Miner* is Grace's story, in Grace's words, on Grace's terms.

**Sarah Temporal** 24 77 F S  
Sarah Temporal is a prize-winning Northern Rivers-based performance poet and the founder of Poets Out Loud. Her upcoming debut collection is *Tight Bindings*.

**Sandra Thom-Jones** 44 73  
Sandra Thom-Jones is an autistic author, artisan, academic and advocate. She is the author of *Growing in to Autism*, and a passionate champion for the inclusion of autistic people in all aspects of society.

**Sonya Voumard** W  
Writer and journalist Dr Sonya Voumard's work has been listed for major awards. Her new memoir-in-progress, *Tremor*, is about living with a movement disorder.

**Robert Waldinger** 43 78  
Robert Waldinger is Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and co-author of *The Good Life: Lessons from the World's Longest Scientific Study of Happiness*.

**Myf Warhurst** 56 79  
Myf Warhurst is a much-loved journalist, TV host, radio presenter, podcaster, Eurovision Song Contest host and *Spicks & Specks* team captain. *Time of My Life* is her first book.

**Michael Williams** 14 26 48  
Michael Williams is the editor of *The Monthly*. He spent a decade at the Wheeler Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas and was the previous Artistic Director of Sydney Writers Festival.

**Pip Williams** 10 57  
Pip Williams is the bestselling author of *One Italian Summer*, *The Dictionary of Lost Words* and *The Bookbinder of Jericho*.

# Program Session F Feature Event W Workshop S Satellite Event

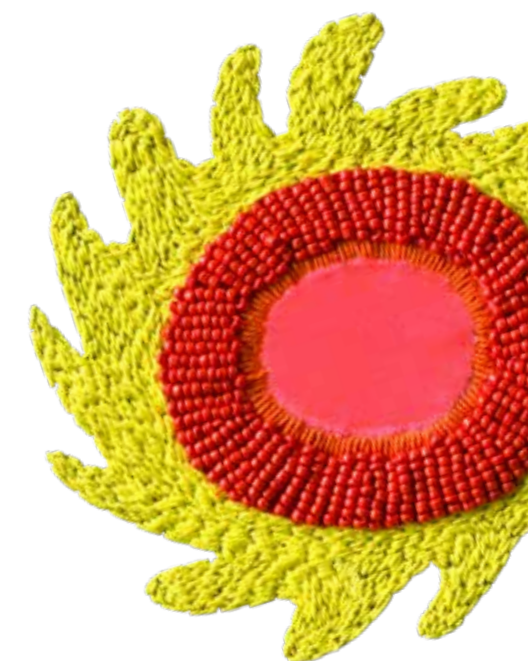
# WRITERS

**Susan Wyndham** 3 76 S  
Susan Wyndham is a journalist, writer and former literary editor of *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

**Jo Yang** F S  
Jo Yang is a proud Chinese-Australian, and the 2022 Australian Poetry Slam Champion. She is a high-school teacher, podcaster, writer, and poet, connecting through empathy and humour.

**Lea Ypi** 8 12  
Lea Ypi is a Professor of Political Theory at the London School of Economics. *Free* has been shortlisted for several prizes and is being translated into 19 languages.

**Kristine Ziwica** 39 64  
Kristine Ziwica is a Melbourne-based columnist, consultant, feminist writer and activist, and author of *Leaning Out: A Fairer Future for Women at Work in Australia*.





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Image: Australian floods in infrared (detail) by Chad Ajamian

Adam Gibbs, Director of SP Garrett Lawyers, has been practicing law in the Northern Rivers for over 20 years – and has been an active member of the community throughout that time.

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# PROGRAMGUIDE

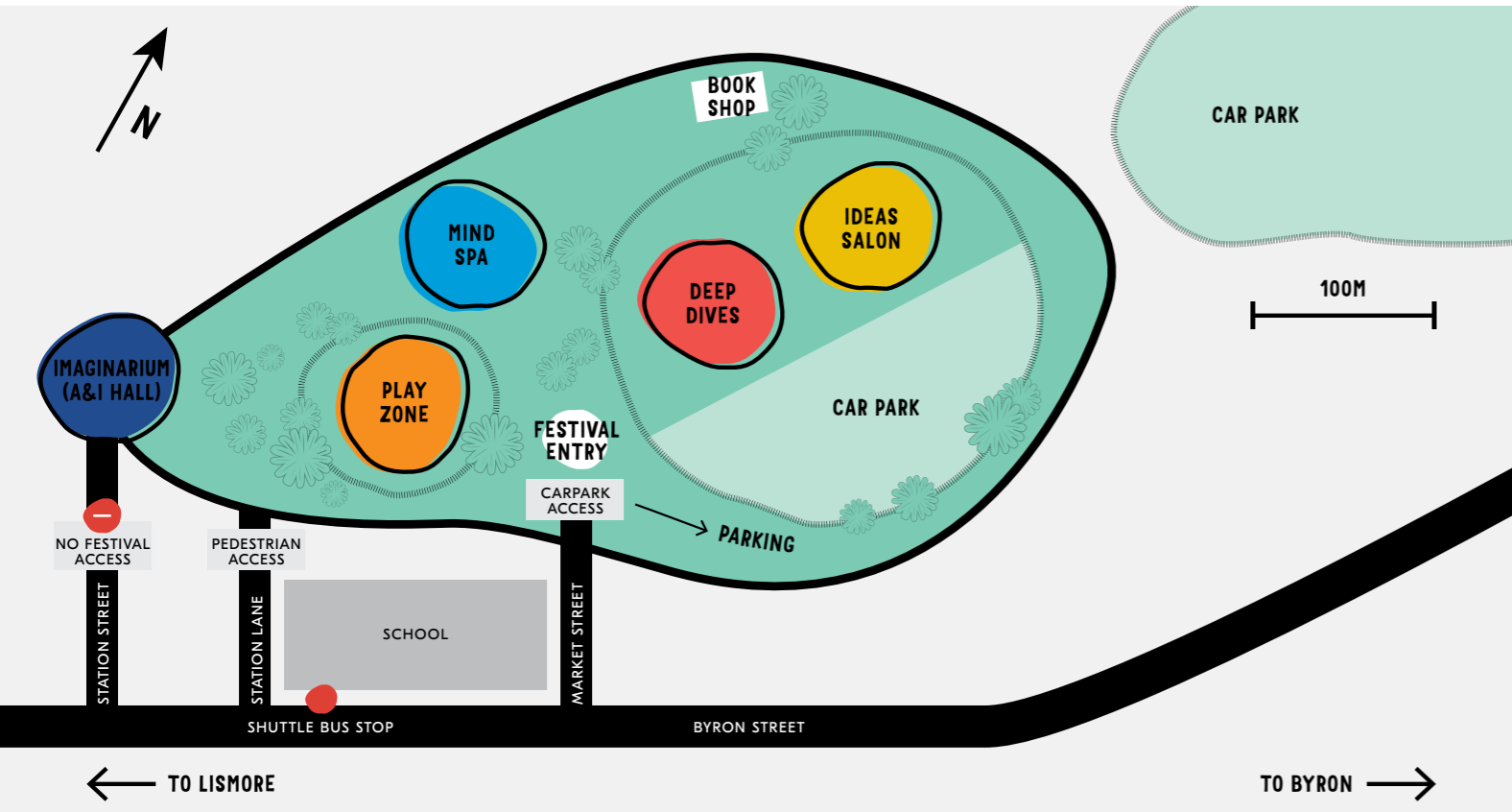
8.15am Calling to Country with Delta Kay, Rhoda Roberts, Elders & Custodians															
FRIDAY 11 AUG	DEEP DIVES	10am - 11am Lives Entwined: First Nations Plant Knowledge	1	11.15am - 12.15pm Nothing Bad Ever Happens Here	2	12.30pm - 1.30pm Salonika Burning	3	1.45pm - 2.45pm The Seven Skins of Esther Wilding	4	3pm - 4pm The Book of Roads and Kingdoms	5	4.15pm - 5.15pm Reasons Not to Worry: Stoicism for the Modern Age	6		
	IDEAS SALON	10.15am - 11.15am Gough: The Myth & the Reality	7	11.30am - 12.30pm Free	8	12.45pm - 1.45pm Lutruwita Stories	9	2pm - 3pm Language, Power & Privilege	10	3.15pm - 4.15pm Heat	11				
	IMAGINARIUM	10am - 11am Free Speech	12	11.15am - 12.15pm Blood Ties: The Family Saga	13	12.30pm - 1.30pm The Elements	14	1.45pm - 2.45pm The Hearing Line	15			4.15pm - 5.15pm Historical Fiction: Times of Upheaval	16		
	MIND SPA	8.30am - 11am ABC North Coast Live Broadcast	17					1.30pm - 2.30pm Living Recklessly	19	2.45pm - 3.45pm All Work & No Play	20	4pm - 5pm Caring, Belonging	21		
	PLAY ZONE	10am - 11am The Making of Bundjalung Nghari - Indigenise 2023	22	11.15am - 12.15pm One Curious Doctor	23	12.30pm - 1.30pm Poetry Month Showcase	24								
10am - 2pm Weaving & Yarning Circle															
SATURDAY 12 AUG	DEEP DIVES	9.30am - 10.30am Wifedom	25	10.45am - 11.45am Who They Was	26	1.15pm - 2.15pm When Feeling Becomes Form	27	2.30pm - 3.30pm Homecoming	28	3.45pm - 4.45pm Grace Tame In Her Own Words	29				
	IDEAS SALON	8.30am - 9.30am Coffee & Papers	30	9.45am - 10.45am Invisible Strings	31	11am - 12pm Power Plays	32	12.15pm - 1.15pm Ethics of AI	33	1.30pm - 2.30pm Thea Astley Address	34	2.45pm - 3.45pm Personal Score	35	4pm - 5pm Misinformation	36
	IMAGINARIUM	9.30am - 10.30am Hungry Ghosts	37	10.45am - 11.45am Inner Wilds: Acknowledging the Animal Within	38	12pm - 1pm Checking Out	39	1.15pm - 2.15pm Imagine a Green Future	40	2.30pm - 3.30pm The Feminist Trajectory	41	3.45pm - 4.45pm Living Below the Breadline	42		
	MIND SPA	8.30am - 9.30am Happy or Wise?	43	9.45am - 10.45am Growing in to Autism	44	11.30am - 12.30pm From the Ancestors	45	12.45pm - 1.45pm First Nations Design	46	2pm - 3pm Fragile Minds	47	3.15pm - 4.15pm Loss, Spirit, Passion	48	4.30pm - 5.30pm Dress Rehearsals	49
	PLAY ZONE	9.30am - 10.30am Sistas Are Doing It	50	10.45am - 11.45am Living Disgracefully	51	12pm - 1pm Black Joy	52	1.15pm - 2.15pm Myth & Folklore in Literature	53	2.30pm - 3.30pm Worldbuilding - an Act of Wild Imagining	54	3.45pm - 4.45pm Wild Notes	55	5pm - 6pm Time of My Life: Myf	56
SUNDAY 13 AUG	DEEP DIVES	9am - 10am The Bookbinder of Jericho	57	10.15am - 11.15am Man-Made	58	11.30am - 12.30pm Bohemian Negligence	59	12.45pm - 1.45pm All the Living and the Dead	60	2pm - 3pm Cult Trip	61				
	IDEAS SALON			10am - 11am Uncomfortable Truths	62	11.15am - 12.15pm Home, Elusive Home	63	12.30pm - 1.30pm Overcoming the Overwhelm	64	1.45pm - 2.45pm The Mungo Panel: The Future of Journalism	65	3pm - 4pm 30 Years of Away! - Celebrating Bundjalung Artists	66		
	IMAGINARIUM	9am - 10am What if Everything We Imagine Comes True?	67	10.15am - 11.15am Green Imaginings	68	11.30am - 12.30pm The Family Spark	69	12.45pm - 1.45pm In Recovery	70	2pm - 3pm The Importance of Female Leadership	71				
	MIND SPA	8.45am - 9.45am The Art of Noticing	72	10am - 11am Unseen	73	11.15am - 12.15pm Inner Wilds: Calming the Storm	74	12.30pm - 1.30pm Admissions	75	1.45pm - 2.45pm Wildflowers	76				
	PLAY ZONE	9am - 12.45pm Kids Big Day Out	77					1.15pm - 2.15pm The Good Life	78	2.30pm - 3.30pm My Wildest Dreams	79	3.45pm - 4.45pm Shire Choir - Sing with Wild Abandon	80		

Program subject to change. For details visit: [byronwritersfestival.com/festival-program](https://byronwritersfestival.com/festival-program)



# FESTIVAL MAP & KEY INFO

The festival site is located at Bangalow Showground, Market Street, Bangalow and features four open-air marquees (**Deep Dives**, **Ideas Salon**, **Mind Spa** and **Play Zone**) and one indoor venue at the A&I Hall (**Imaginarium**). Access is via a festival pass. Festival gates open at 8am each day.



## GETTING TO THE FESTIVAL

### By Shuttle Bus

A free festival shuttle bus will be operating between the Byron Bay bus interchange (Butler St), Cavanbah Centre (Ewingsdale Rd) and the festival site from Friday 11 – Sunday 13 August. Free car parking is available at Cavanbah Centre for shuttle bus patrons. Timetable available at [byronwritersfestival.com/travel](https://byronwritersfestival.com/travel)

### By Car

Limited on-site car parking is by donation (EFTPOS facilities available) and opens at 7.30am each day. We encourage carpooling! Please park as directed by attendants. Accessible parking available, please display your mobility parking permit.

## EAT, DRINK AND SHOP

- Stock up on books at **The Book Room**
- Meet favourite authors at the **book signing tent**
- Grab a bite to eat from a delicious **food stall**
- Stay caffeinated with our **coffee vendors**
- Enjoy a drink at our **festival bar**
- Visit the popular **artisan markets**
- Explore the **sculpture walk**

## SUSTAINABILITY

Sort your waste and BYO refillable water bottle and coffee cup. Water refill and cup wash stations available onsite. Carpool or catch the shuttle to reduce emissions.

# TICKETS

## 2023 FESTIVAL PASSES

		Days	Full Price	Members/Students
<b>3-Day Pass</b>	Includes access to all festival sessions. Excludes workshops and separately ticketed events	Friday, Saturday & Sunday	\$299	\$255
<b>1-Day Pass</b>	Includes access to all festival sessions on your selected day. Excludes workshops and separately ticketed events	Friday, Saturday or Sunday	\$135	\$110
<b>Saturday PM Under-35s Pass</b>	Includes access to <b>all festival sessions from 2pm</b> . Excludes workshops and separately ticketed events	Saturday	\$35 for under-35s Proof of age required upon entry	
<b>Sunday Family Pass</b>	Includes one child 6-12 years old and two accompanying adults. Children gain access to Kids Big Day Out marquee only and must be accompanied by at least one adult at all times	Sunday	\$175 for one child plus two adults \$20 for each additional child Children under 6 are free	
<b>Kids Big Day Out Pass</b>	Entry to Kids Big Day Out marquee only. Includes one child 6-12 years old and one accompanying adult.	Sunday	\$40 for one child plus one adult \$20 for each additional child Children under 6 are free	

**BOOK NOW** via [byronwritersfestival.com/tickets](https://byronwritersfestival.com/tickets) or call (02) 6685 5115

### Notes and Conditions

- All tickets are subject to availability and booking fees.

For full terms and conditions visit [byronwritersfestival.com/terms-conditions](https://byronwritersfestival.com/terms-conditions)

- Children must be supervised by at least one adult at ALL times.

- Tickets will be exchanged on entry for a wristband that is non-transferable.

## OUR TEAM

### Board

Chair **Adam van Kempen**  
 Treasurer **Cheryl Bourne**  
 Secretary **Hilarie Dunn**  
 Members **Daniel Browning, Marele Day, Lynda Dean, Lynda Hawryluk, Grace Lucas-Pennington**

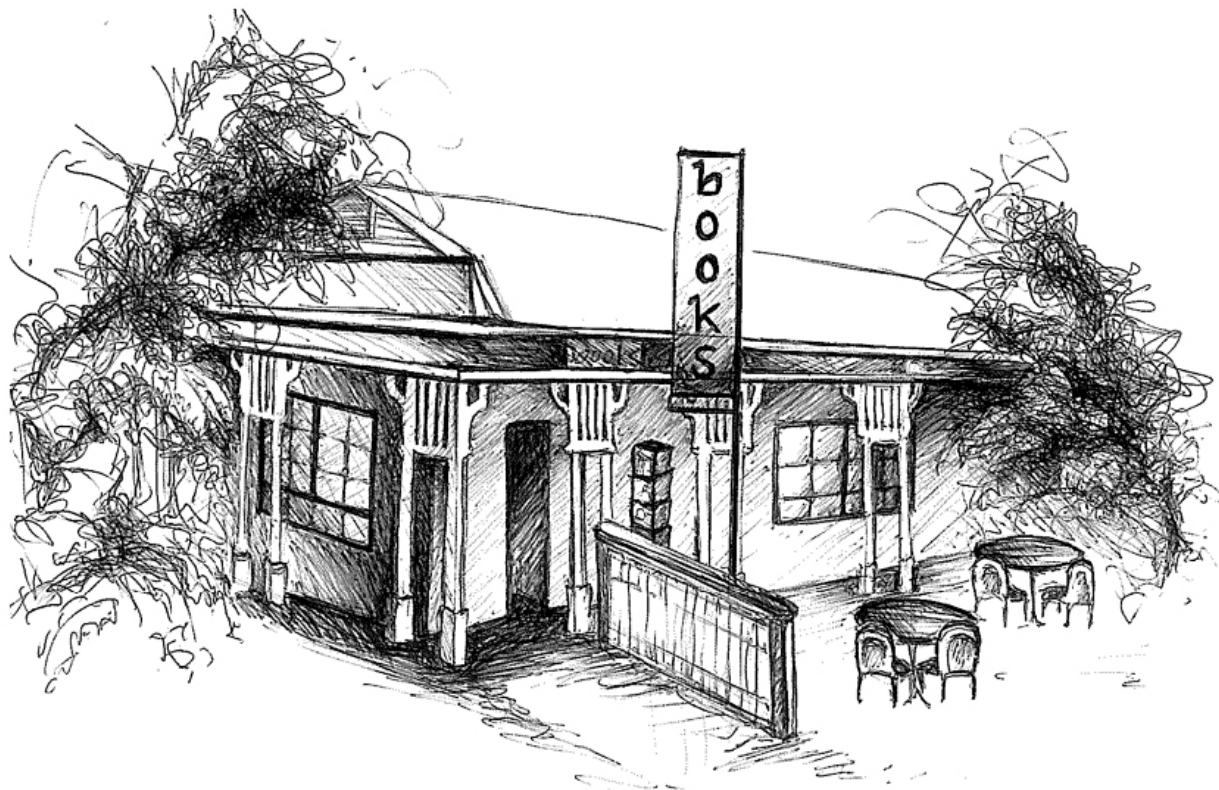
### Team

CEO & Artistic Director **Zoë Pollock**  
 General Manager **Shien Chee**  
 Communications Manager **Anika Ebner**  
 Development Manager **Aarna Hudson**  
 Program Manager **Emily Brugman**  
 Program Manager **Ella Peile**  
 First Nations Consultant **Kirk Page**  
 Artist Care & Audience Experience Manager **Cherrie Sheldrick**

Administration Coordinator **Becky Buckwell**  
 Publicist **Clare McGregor**  
 Marketing Coordinator **Samantha Smith**  
 Site Manager **Amy Shaw**  
 Events Coordinator **Emily Read**  
 Volunteers Coordinator **Keiryn Deutrom**  
 Bookkeeper **Simone Evans**  
 2023 Festival Artwork **Liz Payne**  
 Program Design **Keira Wafer, Cream Creative**  
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