

With over 40 writers attending, featured guests include:

RHODA ROBERTS
A Widjambul/Wiradjal woman from the Bundjalung territories, Rhoda Roberts AO is a hugely respected name in Australian arts. Among her many achievements are iconic stage performances, the curation of a variety of festivals, being responsible for introducing the now-customary 'Welcome to Country' at the start of public gatherings, and for working as the Head of Indigenous Programming at the Sydney Opera House from 2012 until March 2021.

BARRIE CASSIDY
Barrie Cassidy had a long career with the ABC as political correspondent in Canberra, a foreign correspondent based in Washington and Brussels, and for 18 years host of the Sunday morning political discussion program 'Insiders'. He is currently an adjunct professor in media studies at RMIT in Melbourne. He was for four years senior press secretary and political adviser to prime minister Bob Hawke.

JESS HILL
Jess Hill is a Walkley-award winning investigative journalist and author who's been reporting exclusively on domestic abuse since 2014. Prior to this, she was a Middle East correspondent, and producer/reporter across ABC radio and TV. In 2019, she published 'See What You Made Me Do', about the phenomenon of domestic abuse in Australia. It was awarded the 2020 Stella Prize, the Bookseller's Choice Award, and has been shortlisted for several others, including the Prime Minister's Literary Awards.

MICHAEL ROBOTHAM
Michael's first book, 'The Suspect', sold more than one million copies around the world and began his career as of the most celebrated contemporary crime authors. He is the only Australian to win the UK's prestigious Gold Dagger Award twice – for 'Good Girl', 'Bad Girl and Life or Death'. In 2020, 'The Secrets She Keeps' was adapted for television, and his forthcoming standalone novel, 'When You Are Mine', is published in July.

FAVEL PARRETT
In 2011, Favel Parrett's career was launched with her critically acclaimed debut 'Fast the Shallows'. Her next novel, 'When the Night Comes', was also widely acclaimed and further consolidated Favel's reputation with booksellers and readers. 'There Was Still Love' is Favel's eagerly awaited third novel, and was shortlisted for the Stella Prize and won Book of the Year at the 2020 Indie Book Awards. She lives in Victoria and is passionate about surfing and dingoes.

PAUL MCDERMOTT
Paul McDermott is a writer/performer. He has written for the stage, television and for film. Paul was also a columnist for a number of newspapers, and has published a small number of books. He was instrumental in writing and creating TV shows such as 'The Big Gig', 'DAAS Kapital', 'Good News Week', 'The Side/Show', 'SBS's Room 10' and 'The ABC's Think Tank'. Paul has recently written and illustrated a book entitled 'Ghostbear'.

CLAIRE HOOPER
Claire Hooper is an accomplished stand-up comedian, tv presenter ('The Project', 'Good News Week'), podcaster and columnist who has finally achieved something her childhood self would care about. Next up, she needs to buy a medieval castle and solve a Rubik's cube. Probably just write more story books.

MIKEY ROBINS
Mikey Robins is one of Australia's most well known comedians and broadcasters. He spent seven years as the host of Triple J's National Breakfast Show before appearing as team leader on the smash hit TV series 'Good News Week'. His latest release is 'Reprehensible: Polite Histories of Bad Behaviour', and has co-authored the books 'Three Beers and a Chinese Meal' (with Helen Razor) and 'Big Man's World' (with Tony Squires and The Sandman).

JENNY VALENTIS
Jenny Valentis is an author and journalist. Her second non-fiction book, 'Everything Harder Than Everyone Else is an Immersive Look at Why Some People Push Their Bodies to Extremes', Jenny's 2017 research-memoir, 'Woman of Substance', led to an appointment as a board director of SMART Recovery Australia and consultancy and ambassador roles in the drug and alcohol field. Her novel, 'Cherry Bomb', is set in the music industry.

TONY BIRCH
Tony Birch is the author of the bestselling 'The White Girl, Writing', 'Ghost River', winner of the 2016 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Indigenous Writing, and 'Blood', which was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award. In 2017 Tony was awarded the Patrick White Literary Award, and in 2021 will release a poetry book, 'Whisper Songs' and a new short story collection, 'Dark As Last Night'.

KATE FORSYTH
An internationally published poet, novelist and essayist, Kate's novels for adults include 'The Blue Rose' and 'Bitter Greens', which the 2015 American Library Association Award for Best Historical Fiction. Non-fiction books include 'Searching for Charlotte: The Rebirth of Australia's First Children's Author', and 'The Rebirth of Kapunui', an accredited master storyteller with the Australian Guild of Storytellers.

BOB BROWN
Arrested twice for obstructing chainsaws in the Tasmanian forests in December, Bob's Foundation is now appealing to the High Court to stop all native forests logging in Australia. His father was a Bellingen police sergeant. Bob's motto is "Don't Get Depressed, Get Active".

RAMONA KOVAL
Ramona Koval is a Melbourne writer, journalist, broadcaster and editor. From 2006 to 2011 she presented 'Radio National's Book Show', and she has written for the 'Age' and the 'Australian'. She is the author of 'By the Book: A Reader's Guide to Life and Bloodhound: Searching For My Father'. Her latest book, 'A Letter to Layla: Travels to Our Deep Past and Near Future', was published in 2020.

JULIAN BURNSIDE
Julian Burnside is Melbourne barrister, human rights and refugee advocate, and author. He is an outspoken opponent of the mistreatment of people who come to Australia seeking protection from persecution. His published books include 'From Nothing to Zero: Letters from Refugees in Australia's Detention Centres', and 'Watching Brief: Reflections on Human Rights, Law and Justice'.

TEGAN BENNETT DAYLIGHT
Tegan Bennett Daylight is the author of three novels: 'Bombora', 'What Falls Away and Safety', as well as several books for children and teenagers. Her collection of short stories, 'Six Bedrooms', was shortlisted for the ALS Gold Medal, the Steele Rudd Award and the 2016 Stella Prize. Her book of essays, 'The Details', was published in 2020 – a book about the connections we form with literature and each other.

CRAIG SILVEY
Craig Silvey is an author and screenwriter. His critically acclaimed debut novel, 'Rhubarb', was published in 2004. His bestselling second novel, 'Jasper Jones', was released in 2009 and is considered a modern Australian classic. His latest novel, 'Honeybee', was released to widespread acclaim, winning the 2021 Indie Book Award for Fiction.

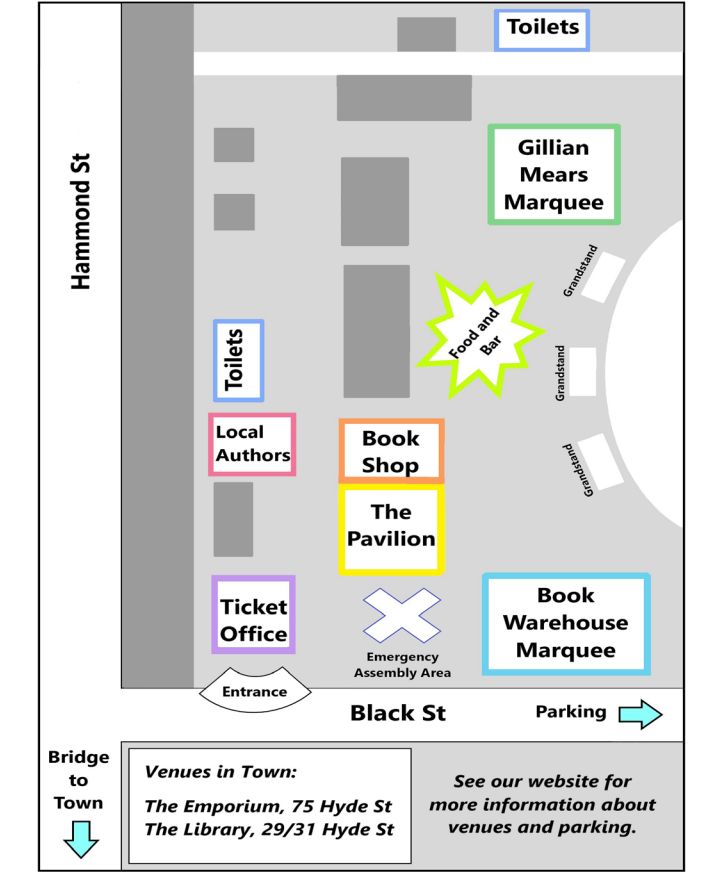
MIRANDI RIWOE
Mirandi Riwoe is the author of 'Stone Sky Gold Mountain', which won the Queensland Literary Award for Fiction and the inaugural ALA Historical Novel Prize. Her novel 'The Fish Girl' won Seizure's Viva la Novella V and was shortlisted for the Stella Prize.

BELLINGEN READERS & WRITERS FESTIVAL

JUNE LONG WEEKEND 11th - 13th JUNE

www.bellingenwritersfestival.com.au

2021 FESTIVAL PROGRAM



SPECIAL EVENTS

A TASTE OF CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

OPENING ADDRESS / IN CONVERSATION: WILLIAM MCINNES
Gillian Mears Marquee, 5.45pm Friday + 8pm Saturday

IN CONVERSATION: MICHAEL ROBOTHAM
Pavilion Hall, 11am Saturday +
Book Warehouse Marquee 5pm Sunday

IN CONVERSATION: KATE FORSYTH & JOHN MARSDEN
Book Warehouse Marquee, 1pm Saturday

IN CONVERSATION; BOB BROWN & JULIAN BURNSIDE
Book Warehouse Marquee, 8pm Saturday + 1.30pm Sunday

IN CONVERSATION: CRAIG SILVEY
Pavilion Hall, 6pm Saturday + Book Warehouse Marquee, 3.30pm Sunday

IN CONVERSATION: RHODA ROBERTS
Pavilion Hall, 7.30pm Saturday

IN CONVERSATION: JESS HILL
Book Warehouse Marquee, 6.30pm Sunday

TICKET INFORMATION

Individual Ticket: \$29.90 (\$26.15 concession)
Three Ticket Pass: \$80.75 (\$70.65 concession)
Six Ticket Pass: \$152.50 (\$133.50 concession)

Due to social distancing measures, restricted venue capacity is in place at time of printing. Please check our website for any changes. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Proof of concession must be presented at entry to event.

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:
www.bellingenwritersfestival.com.au/tickets

BELLINGEN READERS & WRITERS FESTIVAL GREATLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPPORT OF:

PROGRAM

SUNDAY

SATURDAY

FRIDAY

GM MARQUEE
5.45pm – 6.45pm
OPENING ADDRESS |
WILLIAM MCINNES
One of Australia's favourite
performers and storytellers,
William McInnes will be
delivering the inaugural
Opening Address for the
2021 festival.

BW MARQUEE
7.15pm – 10.15pm
POETRY SLAM

BOOK WAREHOUSE *Macquarie*

8.45am – 9.30am	MORNING WORDS: Kick-start each morning with several special guests for coffee and conversation
10am – 11am	<i>5th Yearbook</i> JULIAN BURNSIDE: Join Deputy Mayor Jenni Fenton as she sits down with one of Australia's most renowned human rights advocates, barrister, and campaigner for climate sustainability.
11.30am –12.30pm	<i>5th Yearbook</i> CLAIRE HOOPER & PAUL MCDERMOTT Join them for a showcase of their latest adventures in storytelling, and to discuss life across stage, screen, and the page.
1pm – 2pm	<i>5th Yearbook</i> JOHN MARSDEN & KATE FORSYTH These two renowned authors are appearing together for the very first time in a conversation that is sure to be a festival highlight.
2.30pm – 3.45pm	<i>5th Yearbook</i> ALISON GIBBS & JESS HILL Join Alison Gibbs in conversation with Jess Hill to discuss Repentance.
4pm – 5.15pm	<i>5th Yearbook</i> GISELA KAPLAN & ERNA WALRAVEN A remarkable meeting of experts in animal behaviour and conservation to discuss the insights and challenges facing our wildlife.
5.45pm – 7.15pm	SHORTCUTS 1: Four authors take the stage to share their stories. <i>This year's</i> Jenny Valentish, Michael Robotham, Favel Parrett, Mohammed Massoud Morsi
8pm – 9pm	<i>5th Yearbook</i> BOB BROWN & JULIAN BURNSIDE In this festival highlight renowned journalist Barrie Cassidy chairs what is certain to be a remarkable conversation.

BOOK WAREHOUSE *Macquarie*

8.30am – 9am	MORNING WORDS Kick-start each morning with several special guests for coffee and conversation.
9.15am – 10.15am	<i>5th Yearbook</i> JENNY VALENTISH Journalist Jenny Valentish has covered a lot of ground. To celebrate her latest release she is joined by Malcolm Knox to discuss pushing boundaries...
10.30am – 11.30am	<i>5th Yearbook</i> JOHN MARSDEN John Marsden has won every award you can possibly win for young fiction and has been regularly ranked as one of Australia's favourite authors. A highlight not to be missed.
12pm – 1pm	PRIZES! PROSE! PANDEMICS! Literary prize winners Jess Hill, Favel Parrett and Miranda Riwoe, talk about their writing and reading lives.
1.30pm – 3pm	<i>5th Yearbook</i> BOB BROWN & JULIAN BURNSIDE Both recognised as Australian Living Treasures, renowned journalist Paddy Manning chairs what is certain to be a remarkable conversation with Brown and Burnside.
3.30pm – 4.30pm	<i>5th Yearbook</i> CRAIG SILVEY Join bestselling author Craig Silvey in conversation with Jenny Valentish as they discuss his latest award winning novel, Honeybee
5pm – 6pm	<i>5th Yearbook</i> MICHAEL ROBOTHAM In another festival highlight, bestselling author Michael Robotham joins us to discuss his life in crime. Joined by Miranda Riwoe to discuss the best ways to hide a body.
6.30pm – 7.30pm	<i>5th Yearbook</i> JESS HILL In this feature event, Jess Hill sits down with fellow journalist Barrie Cassidy to talk about her 2020 Stella Award-winner See What You Made Me Do.
8pm – 10pm	Join Paul McDermott, Mikey Robins and Claire Hooper and special guests for an event that you'll kick yourself to miss. And that's the good news...

GILLIAN MEARS *Macquarie*

9am - 10am	THE 99th KOALA: Join arborist Kaiias Wild in conversation with Erna Walraven as he talks about his 1500km drive to bushfire decimated Kangaroo Island.
10.30am – 11.30am	THE POWER, THE POEM: Ellen van Neeven, Tony Birch and Jason John share their words and insights into poetry - where it begins & ends.
12.15pm – 1.15pm	SURVIVING NEW ENGLAND: Callum Clayton-Dixon discusses the resistance and resilience of the Anaiwan people in his prize-winning account of dispossession and survival across the New England Tableland.
1.45pm – 2.45pm	THE WORLD BEYOND THE WORLD: B P Marshall, Alex Landragin, Alison Croggon & Nike Sulway write from different points of the speculative-fiction compass, so bring your popcorn – this is going to be a wild ride...
3.15pm – 4.15pm	<i>5th Yearbook</i> RAMONA KOVAL Ramona sits down with B P Marshall to talk about her writing life & latest release, 'Letters to Layla'. A piercing, thoughtful conversation about the not-so-distant future.
4.45pm – 5.45pm	NO GREATER CHALLENGE: Join Paddy Manning & Jonica Newby for a vital conversation about the personal toll of climate change.
6.15 - 7.30pm	SPECIAL EVENT TO BE REVEALED
8pm – 9pm	<i>5th Yearbook</i> WILLIAM MCINNES: A celebrated columnist, author & performer on stage and screen, Claire Hooper leads a festival highlight conversation.

GILLIAN MEARS *Macquarie*

9am – 10am	FICTION, HISTORY, AND THE STUFF OF STORIES Join Miranda Riwoe and Rohan Wilson for a remarkable foray into the world that was, and the world that is today. Moderated by Courtney Collins.
10.30am – 11.45am	SHORTCUTS 3: Four different authors take the stage to share their stories. <i>This year's</i> Mikey Robins, Kate Forsyth, Jonica Newby, Alex Landragin
12.30pm – 1.30pm	<i>5th Yearbook</i> PAUL MCDERMOTT & MIKEY ROBINS: You'll laugh, you'll cry, it'll change your life! Join these two old friends for stories from the road, and discussion of their latest literary adventures.
2pm – 3pm	THE TOWN, THE WORLD Join Malcolm Knox and Alison Gibbs for small towns on the edge of change.
3.30pm – 4.30pm	<i>5th Yearbook</i> ELEN VAN NEEVERN Join us to hear a remarkable discussion on their latest release, Throat, and of the essential power of reading and writing from award-winning Ellen van Neeven.
5pm – 6pm	<i>5th Yearbook</i> MORRIS GLEITZMAN Since 1985, Morris has inspired the imagination of generations of young readers. Join us for an in-depth conversation about his life and legacy.
6.30pm – 7.30pm	SETTING IN STONE Join Miranda Riwoe, Alex Landragin and Alison Gibbs for a vivid conversation about imagination, research, and the magic in between.

LIBRARY EVENTS
For details about our free library events, see our website for more details. Featuring presentations from select special guests, it's your slice of the festival back in the heart of town.

PAVILION *Stall*

9.30am – 10.30am	<i>5th Yearbook</i> FAVEL PARRETT & ROHAN WILSON Two of Australia's most innovative and celebrated novelists sit down to share their insights on writing and contemporary literature.
11am – 12pm	<i>5th Yearbook</i> MICHAEL ROBOTHAM Bestselling author Michael Robotham joins us to discuss his life in crime. Joined by Adam Norris to discuss the best ways to hide a body...
1pm – 2.30pm	ALMOST A MIRROR: Catch renowned troubadour Michael Simic, with special guest Paul McDermott, as he joins Kirsten Krauth in bringing the post-punk world of her 2020 second novel to life.
3pm – 4pm	FREEDOM, OTHER, LIFE: A powerful conversation stretching from the Gaza Strip to Queensland with Miranda Riwoe and Mohammed Massoud Morsi.
4.30pm – 5.30pm	THE TRUTH: Life, Words, and the Things in Between Memory, history, deep research and personal experience; the tools of truth are discussed by Jess Hill, Alison Crogon and Tegan Bennett Daylight.
6pm – 7pm	<i>5th Yearbook</i> CRAIG SILVEY The bestselling author's latest novel, Honeybee, was winner of the 2021 Indie Book Award for Fiction. Join him in conversation with Adam Norris.
7.30pm – 8.45pm	<i>5th Yearbook</i> RHODA ROBERTS Rhoda Roberts sits down with Tony Birch to talk about her life championing Indigenous creativity and culture.

PAVILION *Stall*

9am – 10am	THE WORLD'S A STAGE Rhoda Roberts, Alison Crogon and William McInnes on the thrill of the stage.
10.30am – 11.30am	PIERCING THE PAGE What does a writer actually want from a reader? A conversation with Ramona Koval, Mohammed Massoud Morsi and Tegan Bennett Daylight.
12pm – 1pm	THE LIGHT FANTASTIC Join Kate Forsyth, Alex Landragin and Alison Crogon on a journey to other worlds.
1.30pm – 2.30pm	<i>5th Yearbook</i> TONY BIRCH Wherever his books appear, awards and accolades are quick to follow. Join Tony in conversation with Ramona Koval.
3pm – 4.15pm	ALMOST A MIRROR Catch renowned troubadour Michael Simic, with special guest Paul McDermott, as he joins Kirsten Krauth in bringing the post-punk world of her 2020 second novel to life.
4.45pm – 5.45pm	<i>5th Yearbook</i> MALCOLM KNOX Malcolm Knox sits down with Barrie Cassidy to discuss truth, free speech, and today's media maelstrom.
6.30pm – 7.30pm	UNEASY WITH THE FT Join Tony Birch, Tegan Bennett Daylight, and Ellen van Neeven us for what is certain to be one hell of a story. Moderated by Nike Sulway.

THE EMPORIUM
SATURDAY
6pm – 7.30pm
SUNDAY
6pm - 7pm
SHORTCUTS 2: Five different authors take the stage to share their stories. *This year's* Tony Birch, Ramona Koval, B P Marshall, Miranda Riwoe and Rebecca Jessen.
THE 99th KOALA: Join arborist Kaiias Wild in conversation with Tim Cadman as he talks about his 1500km drive to bushfire decimated Kangaroo Island.