

With over 40 writers attending, featured writers include:

JANE CARO AM is a Walkley Award-winning Australian columnist, author, novelist, broadcaster, advertising writer, documentary maker, feminist and social commentator. Jane appears frequently on Q&A, The Drum and Sunrise. She has created and presented five documentary series for ABC's Compass, and writes regular columns in Sunday Life. Jane has published twelve books. The Mother is her first novel for adults.



DR NORMAN SWAN Dr Swan was one of the first medically qualified journalists in Australia. He currently hosts Radio National's The Health Report, co-hosts Coronacast, reports on 7:30 and is a guest reporter on Four Corners. He is also an occasional host of Radio National Breakfast and appears on The Drum. His first book So You Think You Know What's Good For You? was published in 2021 and his next book So You Want to Live Younger Longer due out in August.



FRAN KELLY is Australia's leading political and current affairs broadcaster. For 17 years she presented ABC Radio National's flagship Breakfast program before stepping down last year in the pursuit of more sleep. She is currently working on other projects for the ABC. On Saturday night she will be interviewing former PM Kevin Rudd before appearing in conversation with Seth Jordan on Sunday.



COSTA GEORGADIS has been the much-loved host of Gardening Australia since 2011, but his green credentials extend far beyond the screen. He is deeply involved with regenerative agriculture and holistic practices that deal with the issues arising from a rapidly urbanising world. Costa will feature across two festival sessions - first, with interviewer Danielle Celestina, and then in a special event welcoming us to Costa's World.



SOFIE LAGUNA'S second novel for adults, The Eye of the Sheep won the 2015 Miles Franklin Award, and her third, The Choke, won a 2018 Indie Award. Sofie's most recent novel for adults, Infinite Splendours, won the 2021 Colin Roderick Literary Award, and already she has released a new novel for children, The Song of Lewis Carmichael. Her many books for young people have been published worldwide, and have been named Honour Books and Notable Books by the Children's Book Council of Australia.



TONY BIRCH has published three novels; The White Girl, Ghost River and Blood. He is also the author of Shadowboxing and three short story collections. In 2017 he was awarded the Patrick White Literary Award for his contribution to Australian literature. In 2021 he released two new books, a poetry book, Whisper Songs and a new collection, Dark As Last Night.



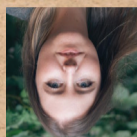
EMILY BITTO is an award-winning Melbourne based writer of fiction, poetry and non-fiction. Her debut novel, The Strays, was shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an Unpublished Manuscript, and the published novel went on to win the Stella Prize in 2015. Emily's writing has appeared in many publications, and in 2018 she was a recipient of a six month Australia Council International Residency in the B.R. Whiting Studio in Rome, where she completed the draft of her second novel, Wild Abandon, which was published in 2021 by Allen and Unwin.



PROF. PETER DOHERTY is an Australian immunologist and pathologist who, with Rolf Zinkernagel of Switzerland, received the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1996 for their discovery of how the body's immune system distinguishes virus-infected cells from normal cells. Peter is the author of many books, including The Beginner's Guide to Winning the Nobel Prize: A Life in Science (2005), Sentinel Chickens: What Birds Tell Us About Our Health and the World (2012) The Knowledge Wars (2015), The Incidental Tourist (2018) and most recently An Insider's Plague Year (2021).



CHARLOTTE MCGONAGHY is the author of the New York Times Bestseller Once There Were Wolves, winner of the indie Book Award for Fiction 2022, and the International Bestseller Migrations, a TIME Magazine Best Book of the Year for 2020, which is being translated into over twenty languages and adapted for film. She has both a Graduate Degree in Screenwriting and a Masters Degree in Screen Arts, and lives in Sydney, Australia with her partner and son.



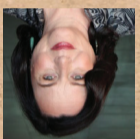
THOMAS KENNELLY Tom's first novel was published in 1964. Since then he has written a wealth of much-loved novels and non-fiction works. They include The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith, Schindler's List and most recently, Corporal Hitler's Pistol. He has won the Miles Franklin Award, the Booker Prize, the Los Angeles Times Prize, the Mondello International Prize and has been made a Literary Lion of the New York Public Library, a Fellow of the American Academy, recipient of a 55 cent Australian stamp.



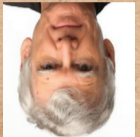
DR ANITA HEISS is an award-winning author of non-fiction, historical fiction, commercial women's fiction and children's novels. She is a proud member of the Wiradjuri Nation of central New South Wales, an Ambassador for the Indigenous Literary Foundation and the GO Foundation. Anita's novel Barbed Wire and Cherry Blossoms was the 2020 University of Canberra Book of the Year. And Bila Yarrudhangalangandhurray about the Great Flood of Gundagai, was shortlisted for the 2021 HNSA ARA Historical Novel. Her memoir Am I Black Enough For You? was shortlisted for the 2021 Human Rights Award (non-fiction).



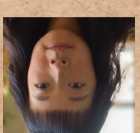
DELIA FALCONER is the award-winning author of four books. Delia's short stories and essays have been widely awarded and anthologised, while her novels, The Service of Clouds, The Lost Thoughts of Soldiers, and her memoir, Sydney, have been shortlisted for national awards across the categories of fiction, nonfiction, innovation, history, and biography, including the Miles Franklin. In 2018 she was winner of the Walkley-Pascal Award for Arts Criticism for her essay "The Opposite of Glamour". Delia has just released her fourth book, Signs and Wonders: Dispatches from a Time of Beauty and Loss.



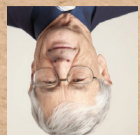
DAVID WILLIAMSON is a playwright and screenwriter who has had 55 plays produced in worldwide across the last fifty years. He has scripted twenty films and four international television series. He has won twelve Australian Writers Guild Awards and five best screenplay AFI awards. He is an Officer of the Order of Australia and has been named a National Living Treasure. In 2021 Harper Collins published his memoir, Home Truths.



JESSICA AU is a writer based in Melbourne. She has worked as deputy editor at the quarterly journal Meanjin and as a factchecker for Aeon magazine. Her new novel, Cold Enough for Snow won the inaugural Novel Prize and is published by Giramondo, New Directions and Fitzcarraldo Editions, and has been translated into fourteen languages.



DICK SMITH is the entrepreneurial businessman who founded Dick Smith Electronics, Australian Geographic and Dick Smith Foods. A Companion of the Order of Australia, an Australian of the Year and one of the National Trust's Living Treasures, he is an aviator who has flown five times around the world, including the first solo helicopter circumnavigation, and has flown across Australia and the Tasman Sea by balloon. In My Adventurous Life, Dick shares his inspiring story and the lessons he's learned about staying true to yourself.

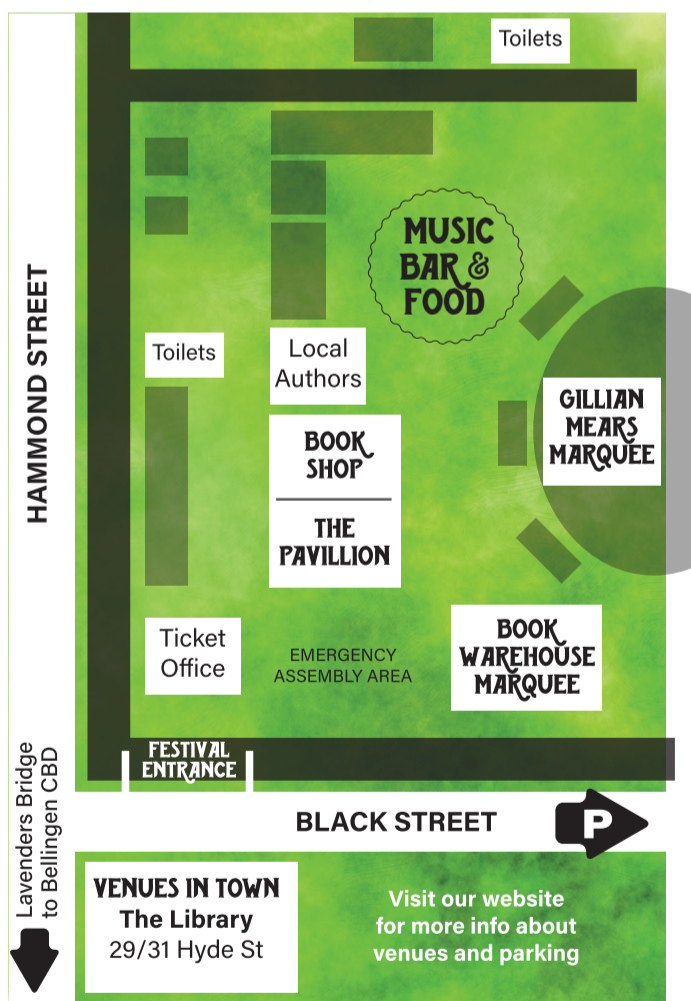


BELLINGEN READERS & WRITERS FESTIVAL

JUNE LONG WEEKEND: 10th - 12th JUNE

2022 FESTIVAL PROGRAM

www.bellingenwritersfestival.com.au



Proudly sponsored by:



SPECIAL EVENTS

POETRY SLAM Sponsored by Kombu Wholefoods
Book Warehouse Marquee, 7:15pm - 10:15pm Friday

LOCAL AUTHOR MARQUEE
Sponsored by Waterfall Way Associates
Festival Grounds, All Day Saturday + Sunday

In Conversation
PETER CAREY (LIVESTREAM) & MELANIE KEMBREY
Book Warehouse Marquee, 9am - 10am Saturday

In Conversation
KEVIN RUDD (LIVESTREAM) & FRAN KELLY
Book Warehouse Marquee, 8pm Saturday

JOHN THIERING'S SAND STORIES
Pavilion Hall, 4.30pm - 5.30pm Saturday
+ 6.15pm - 7.15pm Sunday

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 PAGES
Pavilion Hall, 8pm - 9.15pm Saturday
+ Book Warehouse Marquee, 1.30pm - 2.45pm Sunday

PHILOSOPHER'S STONE
Festival Grounds, 7.30pm - 8pm Saturday + Sunday

LITERARY DEATH MATCH!
Book Warehouse Marquee, 8pm - 9.45pm Sunday

BELLINGEN LIBRARY

Saturday 9am - 10am
GUMBAYNGGIRR STORYTELLING
Join the region's much-loved (and hugely entertaining) Uncle Micklo as he takes us on a journey through local Indigenous myths and stories.

Saturday 10.15am - 11.15am
SHIVAUN PLOZZA (TED CHENEY LIBRARY EVENTS SERIES)
The award-winning author of Frankie and Tin Heart, Shivaun's interactive talk will encourage students to reflect on what it means to persevere in the face of hard times.

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, allocated seating and 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

PROGRAM

JUNE LONG WEEKEND 10th - 12th JUNE Tickets: www.bellingenwritersfestival.com.au
BOOK WAREHOUSE Marquee
FRIDAY
BOOK WAREHOUSE MARQUEE
POETRY SLAM
 7:15pm - 10:15pm
 It wouldn't be the same festival without our longstanding slam, so come along to see the most dazzling performance poets our region has to offer – and maybe

SATURDAY

<p>9am - 10am <i>In Your Imagination</i> PETER CAREY & MELANIE KEMBREY Appearing via livestream, this twice-Booker winning literary legend is interviewed by Melanie Kembrey leads in a rare and remarkable conversation.</p> <p>10.30am - 11.30am <i>In Your Imagination</i> JOHN SAFFRAN & MARK MORDUE Author and journalist Mark Mordue joins John for a discussion of his latest release, Puff Piece – an expose on the tobacco industry.</p> <p>12pm - 1pm <i>In Your Imagination</i> BRYAN BROWN & DAVE HORSLEY Discussing his crime fiction debut, Australian screen legend Bryan Brown sits down with SWIFF director Dave Horsley.</p> <p>1.30pm - 2.30pm <i>In Your Imagination</i> PROF. PETER DOHERTY & DR. NORMAN SWAN Two of the most remarkable names in medicine share their insights into the pandemic, Australia's doctor and a Nobel Prize-winning immunologist in conversation.</p> <p>3PM - 4PM FIRST NATION STORIES: TONY BIRCH, ANITA HEISS & MYKAELA SAUNDERS Some of the most captivating and groundbreaking contemporary fiction comes from Indigenous Australia. Join us for a discussion certain to be a festival highlight.</p> <p>4.30pm - 5.30pm <i>In Your Imagination</i> DAVID WILLIAMSON & ADAM NORRIS David Williamson is the most produced playwright in history of Australian theatre. Following the release of his memoir, Home Truths, Adam Norris joins David to discuss a lifetime of words.</p> <p>6.15pm - 7:15pm <i>In Your Imagination</i> THOMAS KENEALLY & MELANIE KEMBREY Thomas Keneally is, quite simply, one of Australia's best-loved and awarded novelists. Melanie Kembrey chairs what will undoubtedly be a memorable and very entertaining event.</p> <p>8pm - 9:15pm <i>In Your Imagination</i> KEVIN RUDD & FRAN KELLYTo discuss his latest release, the former Prime Minister joins us via livestream from the United States to talk global and domestic politics with nationally respected journalist Fran Kelly.</p>	<p>9am - 10am <i>In Your Imagination</i> DICK SMITH & INGA SIMPSON Fiercely patriotic, endlessly curious with a thirst for exploration that has seen him travel to the furthest points of the globe, Dick Smith has to put it mildly, led a rather full life. To discuss his new memoir, Dick is joined by Inga Simpson.</p> <p>10.30am - 11.30am <i>In Your Imagination</i> FRAN KELLY & SETH JORDAN Recognised as one of the most influential media figures in the country, Fran's political reporting is the stuff of journalistic dreams. To talk about her career, Fran sits down with Seth Jordan for what will certainly be a festival highlight.</p> <p>12pm - 1pm COSTAS WORLD Join us as Costa takes us on an invigorating, irrepressible, and hugely entertaining journey through a life dedicated to biodiversity, permaculture, and community.</p> <p>1.30pm - 2.45pm AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 PAGES PT 2: TONY BIRCH, EMILY BITTO, CHARLOTTE MCCONAGHY, ERNA WALRAVEN & THOMAS KENEALLY Across two evocative events, a selection of guests will deliver readings from their latest work, each set in a different international location. Journey across a foreign land, all from the comfort of your festival seat!</p> <p>3.15pm - 4.15pm DAGGERS IN THE DARK: MICHAEL BURGE, BRYAN BROWN & JANE CARO Lovers of crime fiction, look no further. Enjoy an afternoon of mystery, love, death, and family – really, what more could you want from a festival session?</p> <p>4.45pm - 5.45pm THE FIRST TIME: HANNAH BENT, KAYA WILSON, DIANA REID & KATE MILDENHALL Described as one part reality show, one part writing masterclass, The First Time podcast host Kate Mildenhall leads this panel of thought-provoking authors across the development and publication of their celebrated debuts.</p> <p>6.15pm - 7:15pm <i>In Your Imagination</i> JANE CARO Jane Caro AM is a Walkley Award winning Australian columnist, author, novelist, broadcaster, documentary maker, feminist and social commentator. Join Marion Frith for this timely conversation with one of our great activist voices.</p> <p>8pm - 9:45pm LITERARY DEATH MATCH OUR 2022 BIG FINALE! Join our mystery authors as they read before a panel of all-star judges before moving on to the finals in a literary slapstick showdown!</p>
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GILLIAN MEARS Marquee Sponsored by IGA Bellingin

<p>9am - 10am AS BEAUTIFUL AS ANY OTHER: KAYA WILSON & MARK MORDUE When tsunami scientist Kaya Wilson came out to his parents as transgender, he was met with a startling family history of concealed queerness and shame. Mark Mordue sits down with Kaya to discuss this incredible memoir.</p> <p>10.30am - 11.30am WILD ABANDON: EMILY BITTO & STEVE COATES Following her 2015 Stella Prize-winning <i>The Strays</i>, Emily Bitto has created an unforgettable new novel that moves from Australia all the way to the strange heartland of the United States. Steve Coates helps us plunge into Emily's dizzying, dangerous world.</p> <p>12:15pm - 1:15pm WHITEFELLA WAY BOOK LAUNCH: JON RHODES We are very proud to be presenting the launch of Jon's sequel to the award winning <i>Cage of Ghosts</i>, – a book equally as powerful and evocative.</p> <p>1.45pm - 2.45pm <i>In Your Imagination</i> CHARLOTTE MCCONAGHY & ADAM NORRIS Half murder mystery and half literary fiction, <i>Once There Were Wolves</i> was an instant New York Times Bestseller. Join Adam Norris as he chats with Charlotte about this lyrical, mysterious read.</p> <p>3:15pm - 4:15pm ROAD WARRIORS: EMILY BITTO, KATE MILDENHALL & SOPHIE OVERETT Road novels are journeys of self-discovery that often tell us more about the world at large than we'd like to know, and from these authors we discover unforgettable characters travelling landscapes that are as familiar as they are threatening.</p> <p>4.45pm - 5.45pm ADAPTING: DANIELLE CELERMAYER, DELIA FALCONER & TIM DEAN Climate change. Mass extinction. 21st Century morality. Join these three insightful authors for their thoughts on life at large, and on life to come.</p> <p>6:15pm - 7:15pm LEAPING INTO WATERFALLS: THE ENIGMATIC GILLIAN MEARS Bernadette Brennan and Alison Gibbs. In 2016, novelist Gillian Mears passed away, leaving behind a complex legacy. Her biographer Bernadette Brennan discusses the life and work of this unforgettable figure with Alison Gibbs.</p> <p>8pm - 9pm <i>In Your Imagination</i> COSTA GEORGIADIS & DANIELLE CELERMAYER The passions of Costa Georgiadas extend far beyond the screen. In this feature session he sits down with Danielle Celemejer to discuss his life and philosophy.</p>
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PAVILION Stage

<p>9am - 10am <i>In Your Imagination</i> ERNA WALRAVEN Animal conservationist Erna has undertaken a new adventure restoring a long-forgotten villa in a tiny Castilian village. Come along to learn more of this warm (and very funny) book, <i>Sunset in Spain</i>.</p> <p>10.30am - 11.30am WRITE THE WORLD: INGA SIMPSON & ROBBIE ARNOTT These two authors are both possessed of a remarkable gift at not only conjuring the presence of nature, but also the marvel. Their latest novels of myth and mystery are highlights of the year.</p> <p>12pm - 1pm WHEN THINGS ARE ALIVE THEY HUM: HANNAH BENT & SHIVAN PLOZZA Love and existence, sisterhood and wonder, Shivan Plozza leads what will be a memorable conversation of life, love and loss in Hannah's captivating novel.</p> <p>1.30pm - 2.30pm QUEER STORIES: KAYA WILSON & MICHAEL BURGE Stories of the body, stories of identity, stories of hate, love, and vast flights of the imagination, come along for a spellbinding session of gender and sexuality.</p> <p>3pm - 4pm MISSING, PRESUMED DEAD: MARK TEDESCHI QC & ANDREW WILLIAMS High-profile prosecutor Mark Tedeschi is joined by Andrew Williams to discuss his latest release, <i>Missing, Presumed Dead</i> – the double murder case that shocked the country.</p> <p>4.30pm - 5.30pm JOHN THIERRY'S SAND STORIES FEAT. ADAM HINSHAW Tales told through shifting sand, all projected onto a great screen – John's sessions are truly unique festival events. Joined by interactive animation maestro Adam Hinshaw.</p> <p>6:15pm - 7:15pm WORDS OF TRAUMA: MARION FRITH, SOFIE LAGUNA, & MICHAEL BURGE Across vastly different lives we find very moving, sometimes harrowing stories. Join these powerful voices in conversation on writing both the darkness, and the light.</p> <p>8pm - 9 15pm AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 PAGES PT 1: JOHN SAFFRAN, HANNAH BENT, JESSICA AU & INGA SIMPSON Across two evocative events, guests will deliver readings from their latest work, each set in a different location. Journey across a foreign land, all from the comfort of your festival seat!</p>	<p>9am - 10am <i>In Your Imagination</i> PROF. PETER DOHERTY & MELANIE KEMBREY For this fascinating and very timely conversation, Spectrum editor Melanie Kembrey sits down with one of Australia's official National Treasures and Nobel Laureate to talk about his latest release, <i>An Insider's Plague Year</i>.</p> <p>10.30am - 11.30am LIES, DAMNED LIES: CLAIRE G COLEMAN & TONY BIRCH Claire G. Coleman is a proud Noonang woman, and one of the most urgent, engrossing fiction authors working today. Claire's nonfiction debut is a furious and very personal examination of the ongoing process of colonisation. Join Tony Birch for this unflinching, vital conversation.</p> <p>12pm - 1pm <i>In Your Imagination</i> SOFIE LAGUNA Sofie Laguna is one of the most versatile and enchanting authors in the country. To learn more about her literary paints and palette, Penguin Literary Prize-winner Sophie Overett leads this quirky, colourful conversation.</p> <p>1.30pm - 2.30pm BOY ON FIRE: THE YOUNG NICK CAVE: MARK MORDUE, STEVE COATES To dive into this bestselling, critically-acclaimed biography of the inimitable Cave, Mark is joined by Bellingin's own Steve Coates for a conversation of someone else's lifetime.</p> <p>3pm - 4pm <i>In Your Imagination</i> JESSICA AU & SHIVAN PLOZZA Cold Enough for Snow is an engrossing, spectral story of a mother and daughter in Tokyo, a story of things missing, and things unsaid. Join Shivan Plozza as she sits down with Jessica to explore this gorgeous novel.</p> <p>4.45 - 5.45pm SIGNS & WONDERS: DISPATCHES FROM A TIME OF BEAUTY AND LOSS: DELIA FALCONER & CAROLYN HEISE The impact of global warming on our climate is one of the major perils of our time, but its impact on our culture is something we are just beginning to reckon with. Join Carolyn Heise as she sits down with Delia to explore this beautiful, frightening book.</p> <p>6:15pm - 7:15pm JOHN THIERRY'S SAND STORIES PT II Tales told through shifting sand, all projected onto a great screen – John's sessions are truly unique festival events. This solo event conjures enchanting and poignant sand art stories that combine elements of both the old world and the new.</p>
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