

Newcastle Writers Festival



2015

FESTIVAL PROGRAM

20-22 MARCH NEWCASTLE CITY HALL



Ticket Information

The Newcastle Writers Festival is committed to providing free sessions in its program. Tickets are not needed for these events. Seats are offered on a 'first in, first served' basis. Admission cannot be guaranteed for free events.



All other tickets are available from Ticketek and can be bought over the counter, online at www.ticketek.com or by contacting the box office on (02) 4929 1977. Please note, the advertised ticket price includes Ticketek's service fee but unless you buy your tickets over the counter, the sale will incur an additional delivery fee.

Tickets at the door will be limited. There is no concession price.

Session Information

Latecomers will not be permitted entry.

Sound and video recording is not permitted without approval from the festival director. Please email: manager@newcastlewritersfestival.org.au.

At the conclusion of each session, ALL seats are to be vacated. This enables sound and stage staff to set up for the following session. Entry will not be permitted until 10 minutes before the start of each session.



Transport Information

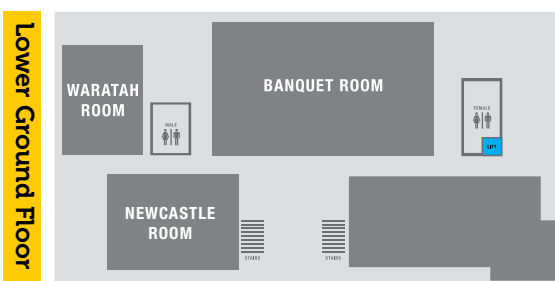
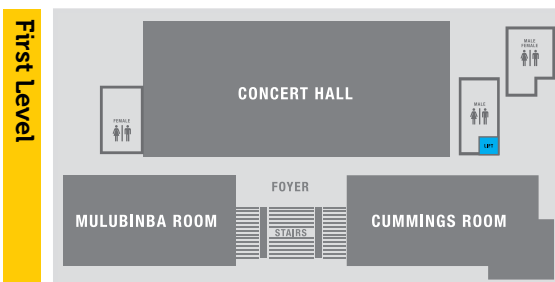
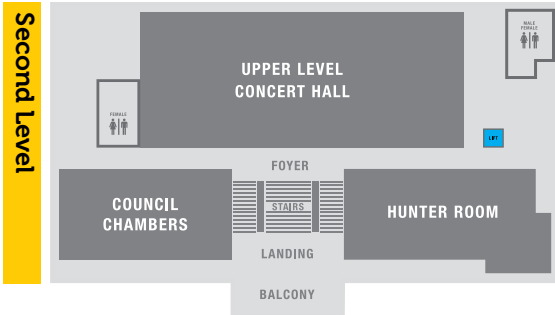
The festival is held in Newcastle's City Hall, within the Civic Precinct, which is close to bus links and the bustling Honeysuckle and Darby Street eatery strips.

Please note, the rail line has been cut at Hamilton Station and passengers cannot alight at Civic or Newcastle stations. Buses are available at Hamilton Station for transfers to the city. For updates about track work and for timetable information see www.sydneytrains.info.

For bus timetables see www.newcastlebuses.info.

Newcastle Taxis bookings can be made by phone 133 300 or online at www.newcastletaxis.com.au.

You are encouraged to leave your car at home, as parking will be difficult. There are a handful of parking stations within walking distance of the festival venue. For more details see www.huntercarparks.com.au and www.wilsonparking.com.au.



Venue Information

Newcastle City Hall, King Street, is the festival hub and the majority of events are held here. There is wheelchair access via Wheeler Place and there is an internal lift. If you require assistance, please email admin@newcastlewritersfestival.org.au and the festival can arrange for a volunteer to be available.

The main information desk is located at the entrance to City Hall and is staffed by volunteers. Programs and session information are available.

Lower Ground Floor

Disabled access via Wheeler Place

Banquet Room: MacLean's Booksellers festival bookshop. Authors will be available for signings at the conclusion of their sessions. Refreshments are available for purchase and communal seating is also located here.

Newcastle Room: Green Room for festival guests. Unauthorised persons not allowed.

Waratah Room: Volunteers' hub.

First Level

Concert Hall: At the top of the staircase

Mulubinba Room: To the left of staircase

Cummings Room: To the right of staircase

Toilets are also located on this level.

Second Level

Hunter Room: Wheelchair access available

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Rosemarie Milsom

I should not have been surprised when last year's opening night guest, the inimitable Wendy Harmer, detoured dramatically from the brief. Rather than talking about her life's journey with books, she had the audience in stitches with her passionate defence of 'chick-lit'. But before the belly laughs, Wendy presented her insightful observations about the ever-growing appeal of writers festivals.

"When you look at the topics on offer for discussion at writers' festivals, which run the gamut of the political, cultural, fantastical and myriad matters psychological and philosophical – no wonder they are bringing in the crowds, all eager for something more nourishing than the current arid political debate can provide."

Wendy went on to touch on the importance of festivals to regional centres: "A town's desire to pursue shared passions, build social capital and even to re-brand its identity. . . is to be celebrated, admired and supported. Regional communities know they are not defined by the headline that their mine or factory is closing. They have so much more to offer."

In 2012 when I first approached key people with my idea for the Newcastle Writers Festival, I was confident that with funding and support the event would attract an audience. This knowledge didn't settle my nerves or help me sleep at night, but whenever I felt overwhelmed by the enormity of the task, I would imagine a room full of people, hungry for ideas and inspiration.

Why should we have to leave town to enjoy a writers festival? Support for this home-grown event has steadily increased and I am grateful for the enthusiasm of festival-goers.

This year's line-up includes Helen Garner, Favel Parrett, Bob Brown, Michael Robotham, and Les Murray. Discussion will traverse politics, the treatment of asylum seekers, the need for optimism, the legacy of the Gallipoli

campaign, and the tension between free speech and hate speech.

The festival is committed to supporting local writers and there are a number of events, many of which are free, that showcase the diverse talent in the region. For those interested in advancing their own writing there are opportunities to learn more. You will also note that the festival program begins on Friday and includes the final events of the week-long kids program. Aimed at secondary school students, the morning sessions feature Melina Marchetta and Garth Nix, as well as three local writers – Claire Dunn, Wendy James and Ed Wright. Thank you to Newcastle Region Library staff for helping to manage the kids program.

The Newcastle Writers Festival is built on a heartening network of support – from our enthusiastic volunteers and facilitators to funding partners. I extend my appreciation to the festival's key sponsors: City of Newcastle, University of Newcastle, and Newcastle NOW. And also to our media partners: Newcastle Herald and 1233 ABC.

I would also like to acknowledge a new sponsor, Copyright Agency Limited and welcome back Hunter Writers Centre.

MacLean's Booksellers is once again managing the festival bookshop and local company Scion Sound is also returning to ensure audiences hear every word.

I would also like to thank the festival board members for their hard work and support: Jenny Blackford, Sally Ebert, Amy Hurrell, Sheree Kable, Katrina McKelvey, and Sharon Roberts.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to create this year's program and I look forward to seeing you at Newcastle City Hall. Please say hello and don't hesitate to give me your valued feedback.

Enjoy!

FOLLOW US #nwf15



Facebook
facebook.com/
newcastlewritersfestival



Twitter
@newwritersfest



Instagram
@newcastlewritersfestival

OPENING NIGHT

THE BOOK THAT CHANGED ME

7pm Friday, 20th March, 2015

Concert Hall, Newcastle City Hall, King St

Tickets \$35

GUEST SPEAKERS



Jessica Rudd



Helen Garner



Michael Robotham



Caroline Baum

HOSTED BY

MC James Valentine



Newcastle Writers Festival

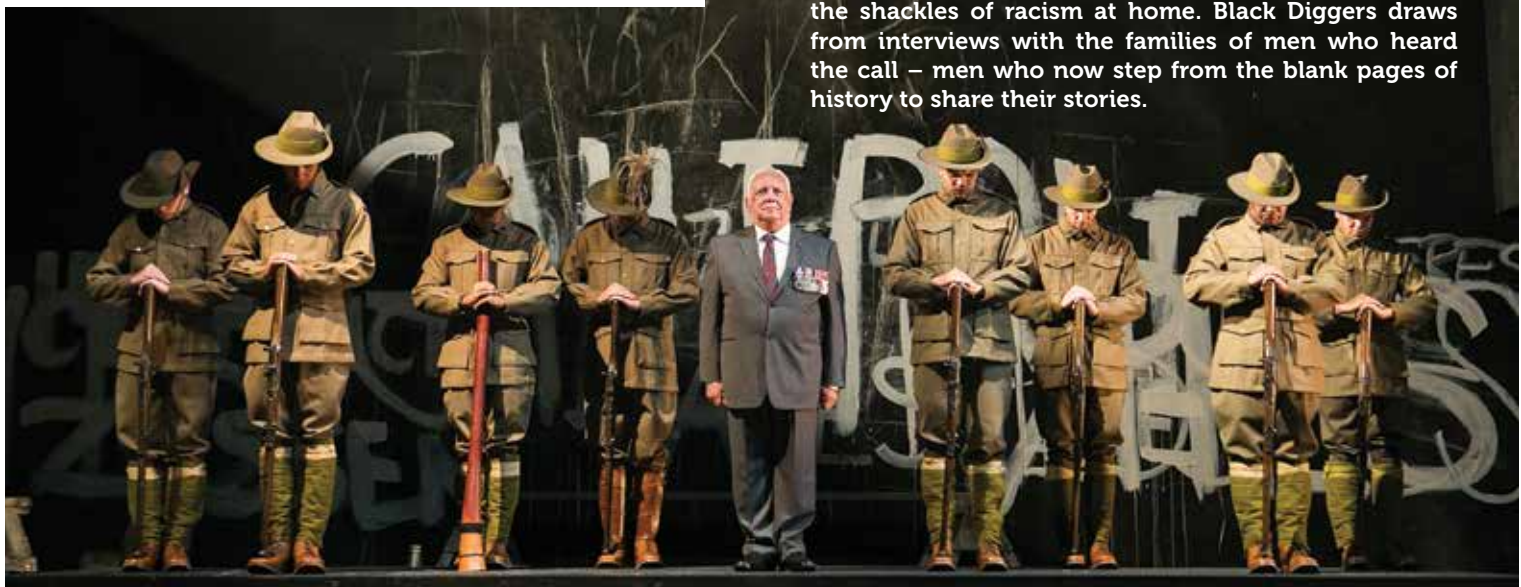
FRIDAY 20 March

CITY HALL CONCERT HALL	HUNTER ROOM	NEWCASTLE REGION LIBRARY THEATRETTE	NEWCASTLE REGION LIBRARY LOVETT GALLERY
SECONDARY SCHOOL PROGRAM		10.30am-4.30pm	10am-1pm
9.30am-10.30am	9.15am-10.00am	WORKSHOP	WORKSHOP
<p>The Search for Identity Melina Marchetta's debut novel <i>Looking for Alibrandi</i> provides insight into the life of a young person on the brink of adulthood. Marchetta discusses the central theme of her award-winning book. For Years 9 to 12.</p> <p>Tickets: \$10 per student Bookings + enquiries: library@ncc.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Into the Wild Claire Dunn, a Novocastrian, left her role as an environmental campaigner and embarked on a journey of self-discovery while living for a year in the bush in a self-made hut, the focus of her memoir <i>My Year Without Matches</i>. For Years 10 to 12.</p> <p>Tickets: \$10 per student Bookings + enquiries: library@ncc.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Writing as Therapy With Claire Dunn and David Roland. See page 9 for details.</p> <p>Tickets: \$115 Limited to 15 places</p>	<p>Romancing the Page With Anne Gracie. See page 9 for details.</p> <p>Tickets: \$65 Limited to 15 places</p>
11am-12pm	10.30am-12pm	11.00am-12.30pm	
<p>Creating New Worlds Garth Nix talks about his bestselling books for children and young adults. He will tell stories and read from his work. For Years 7 to 12.</p> <p>Tickets: \$10 per student. Bookings + enquiries: library@ncc.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>WORKSHOP in Newcastle Room</p> <p>Discover Your Voice A creative writing workshop for senior English students. Hosted by Wendy James and Ed Wright, this class will help you locate and develop your distinctive creative voice. Paper, pens and an untamed imagination required. (Limited to 30 students.) For Years 11 to 12.</p> <p>Tickets: \$20 per student Bookings + enquiries: library@ncc.nsw.gov.au</p>	CIVIC THEATRE	
		<p>Black Diggers A performance of Queensland Theatre Company's production, <i>Black Diggers</i>, which centres on the experiences of Indigenous Australian soldiers in World War I. For Years 9 to 12.</p> <p>Tickets: School groups \$25 per student Bookings: Call 4974 2077 or download a form at www.civictheatre.com.au Non-school bookings via Ticketek.</p>	

BLACK DIGGERS



BY TOM WRIGHT

One hundred years ago, about a thousand Indigenous Australians took up arms to fight in World War I. For them, battle on a Gallipoli beach was an escape from the shackles of racism at home. *Black Diggers* draws from interviews with the families of men who heard the call – men who now step from the blank pages of history to share their stories.



FRIDAY 20 March

FESTIVAL PROGRAM

CITY HALL CONCERT HALL	HUNTER ROOM	CUMMINGS ROOM	MULUBINBA ROOM	WORKSHOPS & SPECIAL VENUES
12.30pm-1.30pm	12.30pm-1.30pm	12.30pm-1.30pm	12.30pm-1.30pm	1.30pm-2.15pm
<p>Home & Away Former foreign minister Bob Carr discusses life on the road and the journeys that he regards as career highlights. Hosted by Aaron Kearney. Tickets: \$22</p> 	<p>Reconstructing a Life From the Archives A guide for writers of biography with Christine Bramble, highlighting use of World War I archives. Free session</p>	<p>Forever Young Award-winning YA writer Melina Marchetta in conversation with Megan Buxton. Tickets: \$22</p>	<p>Home Grown An hour with Hunter Region community publisher Catchfire Press, including readings from the recent anthology, <i>Watermark</i>. Free session</p>	<p>CIVIC THEATRE</p> <p>Black Diggers Director's Talk Queensland Theatre Company's acclaimed artistic director Wesley Enoch discusses the men who inspired the play and the challenges of bringing their stories to life on stage. Tickets: Complimentary with purchase of a school group ticket to the play. Bookings: Call 4974 2077 or download a form from www.civictheatre.com.au</p> 
	2pm to 3pm	1.45pm to 3.15pm	2pm to 2.30pm	
	<p>True Light and Shade John Maynard discusses an Aboriginal perspective of convict artist Joseph Lycett. Hosted by Sarah Johnson. Free session</p>	<p>A Celebration of Poetry From and About the Hunter Readings by poets who feature in the wide-ranging anthology, <i>A Slow Combusting Hymn</i>. Hosted by Jean Kent. Free session</p>	<p>UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE PROFESSORS TALK</p> <p>What empirical research is telling us about creativity and writing With Assoc Prof Phillip McIntyre. Free session</p>	
3.30pm-4.30pm	3.30pm-4.30pm	3.30pm-4.30pm	2.45pm to 3.15pm	
<p>Verse by Verse: A discussion about narrative poetry. With Julie Chevalier, Jennifer Compton and Beth Spencer. Hosted Judy Johnson. Free session</p>	<p>Bringing the Past to Life: The challenge of writing historical fiction. With Robyn Cadwallader and Blanche d'Alpuget. Hosted by Meredith Jaffé. Tickets: \$22</p>	<p>Strength in Numbers: What can a writing group do for you? With Lake Macquarie Writers' Group members Sue Matynia, Jan Mitchell and Lynda Visman. Hosted by Terry Colling. Free session</p>	<p>UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE PROFESSORS TALK</p> <p>The humanities in uncertain times With Prof Roger Markwick. Free session</p>	

5pm-6pm

THE PRESS BOOK HOUSE - 462 Hunter Street

Idea Bombing Newcastle

In the era of digital media, how relevant are print publications? We are asking our audience to engage in the 'idea bombing' format with some of Newcastle's prominent independent print media providers in an intimate environment. Featuring representatives from *Newcastle Mirage*, *The Follower* newspaper, *White Magazine* and *2hrs North*. Coffee and sweets available.

Free event.

Idea Bombing Newcastle seeks to engage the community, foster creative ideas and promote ways of turning these ideas into reality. We aim to bring a uniquely Novocastrian flavour to creative exchange.

7pm-8.30pm















OPENING NIGHT EVENT - Concert Hall, Newcastle City Hall

The Book That Changed Me with Helen Garner, Jessica Rudd & Michael Robotham

Hosted by Caroline Baum. ABC Radio's James Valentine is the MC.

Tickets: \$35

SATURDAY 21 March

CITY HALL CONCERT HALL	HUNTER ROOM	CUMMINGS ROOM
<p>10am-11am</p> <p>Keys to the Kingdom Popular fantasy author Garth Nix talks to Magdalena Ball about his best-selling Old Kingdom series and the key to his writing success. Tickets: \$22</p>  <p>Garth Nix</p>	<p>10am-11am</p> <p>Across Cultures Queensland Theatre Company's acclaimed artistic director Wesley Enoch in conversation with Jill Emberson. Tickets: \$22</p>  <p>Wesley Enoch</p>	<p>10am-11am</p> <p>The World in a Glass of Hunter Wine The leaders of a significant University of Newcastle research project on the origins and impact of Hunter wine reveal the tall - and true - tales swirling in your favourite drop. With John Germov, Julie McIntyre and Jay Tulloch. Free session</p>  
<p>11.30am-12.45pm</p> <p>The Treatment of Asylum Seekers: Australia's Heart of Darkness? With Munjed Al Muderis, Aran Mylvaganam, David Manne, Georgina Ramsay, and Rosie Scott. Hosted by Felicity Biggins. Free session</p>   <p><i>Sponsored by the Uni of Newcastle's School of Humanities & Social Science</i></p>	<p>11.30am-12.30pm</p> <p>A Life Less Ordinary Blanche d'Alpuget talks to Meredith Jaffe about her colourful writing career, including the life-changing biography of Bob Hawke and her historical fiction. Tickets: \$22</p>  <p>Blanche d'Alpuget</p>	<p>11.30am-12.30pm</p> <p>Newcastle Writ Large Staff and students from the University of Newcastle's Creative Writing program read from works-in-progress, which are set in the grunge and gravitas of Newcastle. With Michael Sala, Amy Lovat and Samantha Dagg. Hosted by Keri Glastonbury. Free session</p>  
<p>1.30pm-2.30pm</p> <p>Bob Brown Reflects: 'It is a fortunate life if a person feels more optimistic than ever before. That's me.' Introduced by City of Newcastle councillor Therese Doyle. Tickets: \$22</p>	<p>1.30pm-2.30pm</p> <p>The Thrill of It Michael Robotham has said he was destined to write his 10th book <i>Life or Death</i>. He talks to Jaye Ford about his enduring passion for pacy plots and suspense. Tickets: \$22</p>	<p>1.30pm-2.30pm</p> <p>Romance is Not a Dirty Word It is the world's highest-selling genre so why isn't Romance taken more seriously? With Fiona McArthur, Kelly Hunter and Anne Gracie. Hosted by Kaz Delaney. Free session</p>
<p>3pm-4pm</p> <p>Yes, Minister: What is driving the popularity of the political novel? With Paul Daley, Steve Lewis, Chris Uhlmann, and Jessica Rudd. Hosted by Ed Wright. Tickets: \$22</p>	<p>3pm-4pm</p> <p>Travels in the Heart of Australia Don Watson talks to David Leser about <i>The Bush</i>, the literary-historical odyssey that took him around the country. Tickets: \$22</p>	<p>DISCUSSION AND BOOK LAUNCH</p> <p>Newcastle-raised writer Marion Halligan discusses her new novel <i>Goodbye Sweetheart</i> and her diverse writing life. Hosted by Keri Glastonbury. Free session</p>  
<p>4.30pm-5.30pm</p> <p>Outward Bound The significance of connecting with wild places, near and far. With Bob Brown, Claire Dunn and Favel Parrett. Hosted by Phil Ashley-Brown. Tickets: \$22</p>	<p>4.30pm-5.30pm</p> <p>Seeking Refuge Fleeing Saddam Hussein's brutal regime, Dr Munjed Al Muderis travelled to Australia via Indonesia in a boat laden with asylum seekers. He talks to Carol Duncan about his extraordinary journey. Tickets: \$22</p>	<p>4.30pm-5.30pm</p> <p>From the Heart Women poets discuss inspiration, motivation, themes and the writing process. With Melinda Smith, Jenny Blackford and Jean Kent. Hosted by John Knight. Free session</p> 
<p>6pm-7pm</p> <p>The Lives of Others Award-winning writer Helen Garner spent eight years documenting the infamous case of Robert Farquharson, the father who drove his car into a dam, drowning his three young boys. She talks to Caroline Baum about the challenges of writing her highly acclaimed account, <i>This House of Grief</i>. Tickets: \$25</p> 		<p>PITT-STREET-POETRY</p>  <p>Melinda Smith</p>

SATURDAY 21 March

MULUBINBA ROOM

10am-11am

DISCUSSION AND BOOK LAUNCH

Not Your Typical Mothers' Group

When everything at home is chaotic and a glass of wine isn't enough, a bad mother can always call an emergency meeting of The Bad Mothers' Club. As general secretary, Newcastle writer Annemarie Fleming has gathered a collection of minutes and shares them in her new book.

Hosted by Christina Gerakiteys.

Free session

11.30am-12.30pm

Beyond the Crime Scene

Best-selling crime writers P.M. Newton and Wendy James discuss what happens to victims of crime and their families long after the headlines have been forgotten.

Hosted by Megan Buxton.

Free session

1.30pm-2.30pm

Going it Alone

Navigating the complexities of self-publishing, both digital and print. With Greg Field, Nim Gholkar and Francesca Suters.

Hosted by Linda Drummond.

Free session

3pm-4pm

The WIP Session

Writing is a lonely pursuit. If you live in the Hunter and are busy with a project - novel, short story, memoir, poem, etc - come along and read from your work-in-progress and meet other writers.

Co-ordinated by Jacquie Svenson.

Register your participation at:

admin@newcastlewritersfestival.org.au and include WIP in the subject field.

Free session



WORKSHOPS & SPECIAL VENUES

10am-12.30pm

Nesca House, Cnr Auckland & King Sts

The Complex Art of Love Poetry with Anthony Lawrence

Writing love poetry that resonates with our readers and illuminates our concerns; that avoids the pitfalls of sentimentality and cliché... to achieve this we need to harness our writing skills and employ them with fierce observation and concentration.

We will study some wonderful, wide-ranging examples of love poetry and discuss why they work. We will then begin work on a poem, moving through a couple of drafts. This will involve individual writing time and a group workshop where Anthony will guide you through a number of crucial, exciting stages.

This workshop is ideal for beginner writers but also for more experienced poets.

Tickets: \$55
Limited to 12 places.

1.30pm-4.00pm

AGOSTI ESPRESSO - 7 Darby Street

The Big Launch

Join an impressive line-up of poets as they launch and read from their books.

Order of appearance: John Stokes, Jean Kent, Jennifer Compton, Jan Dean and Beth Spencer.

Free event

6pm-7pm

THE PRESS BOOK HOUSE - 463 Hunter St

BOOK LAUNCH

Celebrate the launch of Newcastle poet Ivy Ireland's new collection, *Porch Light*.

Refreshments will be served. All welcome.

Free event

8pm

CIVIC THEATRE

Black Diggers

A Queensland Theatre Company production that tells the stories of the Indigenous men who joined World War I battlefields.

Tickets:

\$46 - A special rate for Newcastle Writers Festival ticket holders.

\$56 - for non-NWF ticket holders.

visit www.ticketek.com.au



SUNDAY 22 March

CITY HALL CONCERT HALL	HUNTER ROOM	CUMMINGS ROOM
<p>10am-11am</p> <p>Les Murray: Waiting for the Past. One of Australia's greatest poets reads from his new volume of poems, <i>Waiting for the Past</i>. Introduced by festival director Rosemarie Milsom. Tickets: \$22</p>  <p>Les Murray</p>	<p>10am-11am</p> <p>The CNN Effect The 24-hour news cycle and a seemingly infinite number of online options mean that consumers can get their news just about anywhere. But are there winners and losers? With Erik Jensen, Christina Koutsoukos and Chris Uhlmann. Hosted by Paul Scott. Free session</p>	<p>10am-11am</p> <p>Beyond Memorials: The complicated legacy of the Gallipoli campaign. With Paul Daley, Carolyn Holbrook and John Maynard. Hosted by Scott Bevan. Tickets: \$22</p>
<p>11.30am-12.45pm</p> <p>The View from the Top Award-winning journalist Geraldine Doogue discusses her book <i>The Climb</i>, which gets to the heart of what it means to be a woman in power in Australia. Hosted by Jill Emberson. Tickets: \$22</p> 	<p>11.30am-12.30pm</p> <p>Art and Life Scott Bevan discusses his biography of William Dobell, which centres on the artist's Wangi Wangi period. Hosted by Gavin Fry. Free session</p>	<p>11.30am-12.45pm</p> <p>Readings from ABC Open 500 words project ABC Open Hunter Producer Anthony Scully facilitates a reading of short stories by selected contributors to the 500 Words project. Free session</p>
<p>1.30pm-2.30pm</p> <p>The Big Read: Some of Australia's most respected poets take to the stage. With Julie Chevalier, Jennifer Compton, Judy Johnson, Jean Kent, Anthony Lawrence, David Musgrave, Melinda Smith, and John Stokes. Hosted by Linsay and John Knight. Free session</p>	<p>1.30pm-2.30pm</p> <p>Blurred Lines: Biography with a difference. Erik Jensen and David Leser set out to write about key figures, but found themselves inextricably entwined in the narrative. Hosted by Ed Wright. Tickets: \$22</p>	<p>1.30pm-2.30pm</p> <p>This Writing Life Three diverse authors talk about their inspiration, motivation, and writing practice. With Brooke Davis, P.M. Newton and Don Watson. Hosted by Rosemarie Milsom. Tickets: \$22</p>  <p>Brooke Davis</p>
<p>3pm-4.30pm</p> <p>DISCUSSION AND BOOK LAUNCH</p> <p>Radical Lives To celebrate the launch of <i>Radical Newcastle</i>, three Novocastrians discuss their experiences of radicalisation. With Vera Deacon, Daniela Heil and John Maynard. Hosted by Nancy Cushing. Free session</p> <p>The University of Newcastle's Vice-Chancellor Caroline McMillen will officially launch <i>Radical Newcastle</i>.</p>	<p>3pm-4pm</p> <p>How I Rescued My Brain When psychologist David Roland suffered a stroke, doctors wrongly diagnosed a breakdown. Amid the fallout, he took charge of his rehabilitation, which was anything but conventional. Hosted by Paul Bevan. Tickets: \$22</p> 	<p>3pm-4pm</p> <p>War of Words Where, if at all, do we draw a line between free speech and hate speech? With Russell Blackford, Jane Caro and Tim Wilson Hosted by Joe Mintoff. Tickets: \$22</p>



SUNDAY 22 March

MULUBINBA ROOM

10am-11am

Novascapes: Readings by local writers who feature in the Hunter Region's inaugural speculative fiction anthology.

Hosted by Cassandra Page.

Free session



11.30am-12.30pm

Through the Eyes of a Child

What inspires a writer to create a young protagonist and what are the keys to making them convincing to the reader?

With Brooke Davis and Favel Parrett.

Hosted by Courtney Collins.

Tickets: \$22

1.30pm-2.30pm

Politics and Porkies: Sorting fact from fiction.

With Steve Lewis, Dee Madigan, and Jane Caro.

Hosted by Paul Bevan.

Tickets: \$22



Dee Madigan

3pm-4pm

The Next Level: How to take your writing from hobby to publication.

Practical tips from a Newcastle writers' group.

With Maree Gallop, Margaret Jackson and Aiden Walsh.

Hosted by Jessie Ansons.

Free session



Anthony Lawrence

Anthony Lawrence has published 14 books of poems, the most recent being *Signal Flare* which was published in 2013 by Puncher & Wattman. His books and individual poems have won many major awards including the Josephine Ulrick Award, the Queensland Premier's Award, the New South Wales Premier's Award, the Newcastle Poetry Prize and the Gwen Harwood Memorial Award. He teaches at Griffith University, Gold Coast, and lives on the far north coast of New South Wales.

WORKSHOPS

Romancing the Page with Anne Gracie

Friday, 20 March // 10am to 1pm // Tickets: \$65 // Limited to 15 participants.

LOVETT GALLERY, NEWCASTLE REGION LIBRARY

Romance is not a matter of simply following a formula; like all popular fiction it must delight and surprise readers. It is character-driven genre fiction and adding a thread of romance to a story in another genre will extend the appeal of that book – if you do it well.

Learn what readers and publishers want from a romance title. Anne will focus on plot construction and share tried and true devices to make sure your work is fresh and free from cliches. Learn how skilled writers create characters who pack an 'emotional punch' and have strong reader appeal. Bring writing materials. Morning tea will be provided.



Anne Gracie

Anne Gracie is published by Berkley USA (PenguinPutnam) and Penguin Australia and is working on her 17th book. She is a former president of Romance Writers of Australia, has twice won the Romantic Book of the Year (Australia) and the National Reader's Choice Award (USA), is a five time finalist in the prestigious RITA Award (USA) and has twice been listed in Library Journal's (USA) best books of the year. www.annegracie.com

Writing as Therapy with Claire Dunn and David Roland

Friday, 20 March // 10.30am to 4.30pm // Tickets: \$115 // Limited to 15 participants.

NEWCASTLE REGION LIBRARY, THEATRETTE

David and Claire wish to provide a gentle environment in which they explore ways of using writing to move through difficult emotions, integrate past events, and heighten positive experiences. Life writing creates narrative, and narrative can lead to resolution by turning the brain's implicit memories into explicit ones.

Exercises will include James Pennebaker's writing to heal exercises, journaling with a purpose, narrative integration, self-compassion and gratitude exercises. Be prepared to spend a large part of the day writing and giving feedback about your writing process.

Your level of writing skill is unimportant and there will not be pressure to read out what you have written. Please bring plenty of writing materials. You will leave this workshop with a bag full of new writing tools.

Please note: Afternoon tea will be provided, but you are advised to pack your lunch or take advantage of nearby eateries on Darby Street.



Claire Dunn

Claire Dunn is a writer, educator, barefoot explorer and journalist. She is a *Newcastle Herald* columnist and writes regularly for *The Sydney Morning Herald*. Claire left her former role as an environmental campaigner and embarked on a journey of self-discovery while living for a year in the bush, the subject of her memoir *My Year Without Matches*. www.clairedunn.com.au

David Roland has a PhD in clinical psychology. He is an honorary associate with the School of Medicine at the University of Sydney, a member of the Australian Psychological Society, and a founder of the Australian branch of the Compassionate Mind Foundation. His most recent book is *How I Rescued My Brain: A Psychologist's Remarkable Recovery From Stroke and Trauma*.



David Roland

The Complex Art of Love Poetry with Anthony Lawrence

Saturday, 21 March // 10am to 12.30pm // Tickets: \$55 // Limited to 12 participants

LEVEL 3, NESCA HOUSE, CNR AUCKLAND AND KING STREETS

Writing love poetry that resonates with our readers and illuminates our concerns; that avoids the pitfalls of sentimentality and cliché... to achieve this we need to harness our writing skills and employ them with fierce observation and concentration.

We will study some wonderful, wide-ranging examples of love poetry and discuss why they work. We will then begin work on a poem, moving through a couple of drafts. This will involve individual writing time and a group workshop where Anthony will guide you through a number of crucial, exciting stages. **This workshop is ideal for beginner writers but also for more experienced poets.**

Biographies



Munjed Al Muderis

In 1999, Munjed Al Muderis was a young surgical resident working in Baghdad when a squad of military police marched into the operating theatre and ordered the surgical team to mutilate the ears of three busloads of army deserters. That day, Munjed's life changed forever. He escaped to Indonesia, where he boarded a filthy, overcrowded boat, bound for Australia. Munjed is now one of the world's leading osseointegration surgeons. The account of his extraordinary journey, *Walking Free*, was published in 2014.

Jessie Ansons

Jessie Ansons is a Newcastle writer. Her short stories have been published in three hard-copy books and five eBooks and she is currently working on her first novel. She blogs at www.jessieansons.com. Jessie placed second in the 2013 *Newcastle Herald* Short Story competition.

Phil Ashley-Brown

Phil Ashley-Brown is the station manager of 1233 ABC Newcastle. He has worked extensively as a reporter and travelled with colleague Geoff Overmyer to Casey Station, Antarctica in December 2012. The stories were broadcast on ABC Local Radio nationally and on Radio National. He published the blog *Summer on the Ice* and found the experience of travelling to Antarctica exhilarating and life changing.



Caroline Baum

Caroline Baum is a well known journalist and broadcaster. She is editorial director of Booktopia and she produces *The Buzz*, a monthly newsletter selection of book recommendations and associated video interviews with up-and-coming and established writers.

Magdalena Ball

Magdalena runs the *The Compulsive Reader* (compulsivereader.com). Her stories, editorials, poetry, reviews and articles have appeared in a number of printed anthologies and journals. She is the author of poetry books, novels, and a nonfiction book

The Art of Assessment. She also runs a radio show, *The Compulsive Reader Talks*.

Paul Bevan

Paul Bevan has worked in radio for more than 25 years, producing and presenting current affairs programs. For the past five years, Paul has presented *Drive* for ABC 1233. Paul has an arts degree with honours from the University of Newcastle with a major in psychology. He lives with his family in Lake Macquarie.



Scott Bevan

Scott Bevan trained as a journalist at the *Newcastle Herald* and graduated from the University of Newcastle. He is a television presenter and journalist for the ABC. He has written two plays and four non-fiction books, including *Battle Lines: Australian Artists at War*. His most recent book is *Bill: The Life of William Dobell*.

Felicity Biggins

Felicity Biggins began her career as a journalist at the then *Newcastle Morning Herald* in the late '70s. After completing her cadetship and graduating with honours in Drama at the University of Newcastle, she moved to the UK, gaining an MA in Theatre Studies from the University of Leeds. Since returning to Australia in 1986 she has worked for a number of ABC radio programs and is now a lecturer in communications at the University of Newcastle. With her husband playwright Carl Caulfield she runs a small theatre company called *Stray Dogs*.

Jenny Blackford

Jenny Blackford's poems and stories have been published in *Westerly*, *Cosmos*, *Quadrant* and more. Her poetry prizes include first place in the Humorous Verse section of the 2014 Henry Lawson awards, and third place in the ACU Prize for Literature 2014. In late 2013, Pitt Street Poetry published an illustrated pamphlet of her cat poems, *The Duties of a Cat*.

Russell Blackford

Russell Blackford is a Conjoint Lecturer in the School of Humanities and Social Science at the University of Newcastle. His many books include *Freedom of Religion and the Secular State* (2012) and *Humanity Enhanced: Genetic Choice and the Challenge for Liberal Democracies* (2014). He is a Fellow of the US-based Secular Policy Institute and a Laureate of the International Academy of Humanism.

Christine Bramble

Now a freelance historian and writer, Christine has been a teacher and museum educator. Author of *Sisters of the Valley: First World War Nurses from Newcastle* and the Hunter Region and co-author of *Broadmeadow to Villers-Bretonneux: People of the Hunter and the Great War*, Christine is currently working on a biography of Matron Ida Greaves RRC. Her website, *Great War Nurses from the Hunter*, was recently selected for archiving in Pandora.

Megan Buxton

Megan Buxton is the president of the Hunter Writers Centre. She taught English in secondary schools for almost 30 years and has also taught at the University of Newcastle in the School of Education. Now retired she is able to indulge her love of writing and reading; in particular, she is an avid, long-time reader of crime fiction.



Bob Brown

Bob Brown is a former senator and parliamentary leader of the Australian Greens. His new book, *Optimism*, is published by Hardie Grant.

Robyn Cadwallader

Robyn Cadwallader has published numerous prize-winning short stories, as well as a book of poetry and a non-fiction book based on her PhD thesis concerning attitudes to virginity and women in the Middle Ages. Formerly an academic at Flinders University, she now lives near Canberra. Her debut novel, *The Anchoress*, is published in March and the publishing rights have been sold internationally.



Jane Caro

Jane Caro is an author, lecturer, mentor, social commentator, columnist, workshop facilitator, speaker, broadcaster and award-winning advertising writer. She runs her own communications consultancy and lectures in Advertising Creative at The School of Communication Arts at the University of Western Sydney.



Bob Carr

Bob Carr is a former Premier of New South Wales and a former Senator, serving as Minister of Foreign Affairs. His most recent book, *Diary of a Foreign Minister*, was published in 2014 by NewSouth Books. His previous books are *My Reading Life* (2008) and *Thoughtlines* (2002).

Julie Chevalier

Julie Chevalier writes poems and short stories. *Darger: His Girls*, was awarded the Alec Bolton Prize and was shortlisted for the WA Premier's Poetry Prize. *linen tough as history* was also published by Puncher & Wattmann. *Permission to Lie*, a collection of short stories, was published by Spineless Wonders. She is co-editor of *Cracking the Spine, Ten Australian Stories and How They Were Written, Small Wonder and Stoned Crow* (Spineless Wonders).

Courtney Collins

Courtney Collins is a Newcastle writer. Her debut novel, *The Burial*, was inspired by the life of female bushranger Jessie Hickman and has been optioned for a feature film by Pure Pictures. Her second novel will be published in 2016.

Jennifer Compton

Jennifer Compton is a Melbourne poet and playwright who also writes prose. Her poem 'Now You Shall Know' won the Newcastle Poetry Prize in 2013. A book of the same name was published by Five Islands Press late last year. *And Mr Clean And The Junkie* has just been published by Makaro Press. Her stage play *The Death Of Books* is awaiting development.

Nancy Cushing

Nancy Cushing is a co-editor of *Radical Newcastle* with James Bennett and Erik Eklund. Now a senior lecturer in History at the University of Newcastle, she completed a PhD on perceptions of Newcastle there in 1995. She has continued her fascination with the city, publishing a number of articles on its history and heritage and co-founding the Newcastle Hunter Studies group in 2013.

Samantha Dagg

Samantha Dagg was born and raised in Newcastle. At the time of writing this bio she was undertaking a Masters in Creative Writing at the University of Newcastle, though she hopes she has finished by now.

Blanche d'Alpuget

Blanche d'Alpuget is the author of novels, biographies, essays, reviews and articles for Australian and American publications including the *New York Times*. She has won many prizes including the PEN Golden Jubilee Award, *The Age* Novel of the Year Award and both the NSW and South Australian Premiers' Award for Non-fiction. Her novels include *Monkeys in the Dark*, *Turtle Beach* and *Winter in Jerusalem*. Her non-fiction includes *Robert J Hawke: A Biography*, *On Longing* and *Hawke: The Prime Minister*.

Brooke Davis

Perth writer Brooke Davis' debut novel *Lost & Found* was published to wide acclaim in 2014. Inspired by the tragic death of her mother, the novel explores the impact of grief. The translation rights have been sold into 16 countries and major deals have been confirmed in the United States and Great Britain.



Paul Daley

Author and journalist Paul Daley's books have been finalists in major literary awards, including the Manning Clark House Cultural Awards and the Prime Minister's History Prize. He is the winner of the Walkley Award for Investigative Journalism and the Paul Lyneham Award for Press Gallery journalism. He is the author of *Beersheeba: A Journey Through Australia's Forgotten War* and the political thriller, *Challenge*.

Vera Deacon

Vera Deacon grew up on Moscheto Island in the Hunter River and lived with her family in a number of camps for the unemployed during the 1930s Depression. She has led a long life of activism in the cause of social justice. A writer of award-winning local history and fictional works, she supports a number of causes including conservation, Indigenous education and the preservation of local historical records.



Paul Bevan

Jan Dean

Paint Peels Graffiti Sings by Newcastle poet Jan Dean was selected in competition for translation by Flying Island Books, Macau for its Pocketbook series. A former teacher, Jan's publication credits include *Southerly*, *Hecate*, *Quadrant*, *The Australian* and anthologies from Catchfire Press, Roland Robinson and the Newcastle Poetry Prize. Jan's previous collection *With One Brush* (IP) was shortlisted for the Mary Gilmore Award.

Kaz Delaney

Kaz Delaney is the author of the young adult novel, *Dead, Actually*, and its sequel *Almost Dead*. She is also the author of acclaimed titles *My Life as a Snow Bunny* and *Princesses Don't Sweat*. She, and her alter ego Kerri Lane, have written more than 60 books for adults and young people.



Geraldine Doogue

Geraldine Doogue is a respected journalist and broadcaster, host of Radio National's *Saturday Extra* and ABC TV's *Compass*. She has won two Penguin Awards for excellence in broadcasting from the Television Society of Australia and a United Nations Media Peace Prize. Her most recent book is *The Climb: Conversations with Australian Women in Power* (Text Publishing).

Linda Drummond

Linda Drummond is a Newcastle-based journalist, blogger and social media marketer. Linda set up her blog *PinkPatentMaryJanes* in 2008. Subtitled "A little bit of what I fancy", Linda's blog looks at life through the eyes of a Newcastle-lover. A journalist with more than 20 years experience, Linda's work has been published on topics such as health, fitness, parenting, travel, beauty and lifestyle. Linda is currently working on a range of travel eBooks to be published in late 2015.



Blanche d'Alpuget



Carol Duncan

Carol Duncan is a former ABC journalist and presenter with more than 25 years experience in the radio industry. Preferring to call herself a 'storyteller', Carol is continuing her love of communication by working with organisations to share their own stories more effectively.

Claire Dunn

Claire Dunn is a writer, educator, barefoot explorer and journalist. She is a Newcastle Herald columnist and writes regularly for The Sydney Morning Herald. Claire left her former role as an environmental campaigner and embarked on a journey of self-discovery while living for a year in the bush, the subject of her memoir *My Year Without Matches*.

Wesley Enoch

Wesley Enoch is originally from Stradbroke Island (Minjeribah) and is a proud Noonuccal Nuugi man. He is the artistic director of the Queensland Theatre Company and a renowned director and writer for the stage. He has received the Patrick White Playwright's Award and been short-listed for the NSW and Victorian Premiers' literary awards.

Jill Emberson

Jill Emberson hosts the morning program for ABC 1233 in Newcastle. Jill and her team have won several prestigious awards. In May 2012, a three-part series on heroin uncovered a shocking two-year waiting list for methadone treatment in the Hunter. The series won a Local Radio Award for Outstanding Coverage of a Local Story, a Northern NSW MEAA Award for Excellence in Journalism and was nominated for a Walkley Award for Excellence in Journalism.

Greg Field

Greg Field owned and ran a bookstore for many years. After selling his store, he took a part time job as a lifeguard, started writing, and went back to university to become



Wesley Enoch

a high school teacher. Greg self-published the murder mystery, *Death on Dangar Island*, in 2014.

Jaye Ford

Jaye Ford is author of four suspense novels. Her first thriller, *Beyond Fear*, won best debut and readers' choice awards at the 2012 Sisters in Crime Awards and was the highest selling debut crime novel in Australia that year. Followed by *Scared Yet?*, *Blood Secret*, and last year's *Already Dead*, her stories are set in the Hunter and have been translated into eight languages.

Gavin Fry

Gavin Fry is Newcastle-based artist, arts writer, publisher and museum professional. His museum appointments include Senior Curator of Art, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Deputy Director, Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney and Director of Newcastle Museum 1999 to 2011. He is the author of 20 books on Australian art, history and military subjects. His most recent book is *Pro Hart: Life & Legacy*.



Annemarie Fleming

When everything at home turns to chaos and a glass of wine isn't enough, a bad mother can always call an emergency meeting of The Bad Mothers' Club. As general secretary, Newcastle writer Annemarie Fleming has gathered a collection of minutes from these meetings and now shares them with you in her new book, *The Collected Minutes of the Bad Mothers' Meetings*, which will be launched at the festival.

Maree Gallop

Maree Gallop is a Newcastle fiction writer, nurse and community volunteer. Her work and life experiences are reflected in her short stories, which have won local and national competitions. *Borrasca* in the e-book *Mirrors* is one of her five published stories.



Jill Emberson

Biographies

Nim Gholkar

Nim Gholkar was born and raised in Mumbai, India. She graduated in English Literature from University of Mumbai before moving to Australia in 1996. Her blog *Nim's Niche* is a kaleidoscope of musings on life. She was a guest columnist for a community newspaper in Sydney before devoting herself to her debut novel *Unravelling Anjali: Diary of an Immigrant Bride*, the first of a trilogy. www.nimsniche.com.au



Helen Garner

Helen Garner's first novel, *Monkey Grip*, was published in 1977, won the 1978 National Book Council Award, and was adapted for film in 1981. She has published novels, short stories, essays, and feature journalism. Her most recent book, *This House of Grief*, is published by Text.



Christina Gerakiteys

Christina's earliest memories of reading include hiding under her covers with a torch, reading Alfred Hitchcock thrillers or Nancy Drew mysteries. Christina is a founding member of The Women of Calibre Book Club, which meets every month. Christina's belief is that reading sparks imagination and once that is ignited, all things are possible.



John Germov

As head of the University of Newcastle's Wine Studies Research Network, Professor John Germov brings his world-class expertise on health sociology and the sociology of food and nutrition to this new field of study. He is Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty of Education and Arts at UON and the author of 20 academic books. For more information about the Wine Studies Research

Network see www.newcastle.edu.au/research-and-innovation/centre/education-arts/wineresearch

Anne Gracie

Anne Gracie is published by Berkley USA (PenguinPutnam) and Penguin Australia and is working on her 17th book. She is a former president of Romance Writers of Australia, has twice won the Romantic Book of the Year (Australia) and the National Reader's Choice Award (USA), is a five-time finalist in the prestigious RITA Award (USA) and has twice been listed in Library Journal (USA) best books of the year. annegracie.com



Keri Glastonbury

Keri Glastonbury is a senior lecturer in creative writing at The University of Newcastle, poet and essayist. She particularly enjoys supervising and supporting post-graduate students to complete a major creative work and encourages anyone with a burning desire to write to consider enrolling in the program.

Daniela Heil

Daniela Heil is an anthropologist who has lived in Newcastle since 2009. She is a founding member of the Newcastle Inner City Residents Alliance (NICRA) and is passionate about contributing to preventing inappropriate development in the inner city. Daniela is Senior Lecturer in Anthropology at the University of Newcastle.



Carolyn Holbrook

Australia is spending more than any other nation on World War I commemoration. Carolyn Holbrook, author of *Anzac: The Unauthorised Biography*, asks why. Carolyn is a research fellow at Monash University. She is a former journalist and policy adviser in federal government.

Marion Halligan

Born and raised in Newcastle, Marion Halligan is one of Australia's most important writers, with a long list of literary prizes to her credit. She has been short-listed for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and the Miles Franklin Literary Award, and has won the Nita B. Kibble Award, the

Steele Rudd Award and the Geraldine Pascall Prize for critical writing. Her new novel, *Goodbye Sweetheart*, will be launched at the festival.

Kelly Hunter

Accidentally educated in the sciences, Kelly Hunter has always had a weakness for fairy tales, fantasy worlds and losing herself in a good book. Although she enjoys living and working in different parts of the world, she still calls Australia home and is currently residing in Newcastle. She is a three-time Romance Writers of America Rita finalist, and a USA Today Bestselling author. www.KellyHunter.net.



Ivy Ireland

Ivy Ireland runs The Press Book House, a Newcastle bookstore café, with her family. Ivy sometimes teaches Creative Writing at the University of Newcastle, where she completed her PhD in 2012. Ivy was awarded the Australian Young Poet Fellowship in 2007 and her poems have been published in various magazines and anthologies. Her new collection of poems, *Porch Light*, is published by Puncher & Wattmann and will be launched at the Newcastle Writers Festival.

Margaret Jackson

Margaret Jackson is a Newcastle writer and the founding member of a local writers group. She has a number of contributions in the ABC Open 500 words projects, and has a short story published in the eBook, *Mirrors*. Margaret is currently editing her 22,000 word novella. Occasionally she blogs at www.margsslicesoflife.com.au.

Wendy James

Newcastle's own Wendy James is an accomplished writer of novels and short stories. Her most recent novel, *The Lost Girls*, was published in 2014. In 2006, her debut novel, *Out of the Silence*, won the Ned Kelly Award for first crime fiction and was short-listed for the Nita May Dobbie Award for women's writing. James writes about women's lives: their domestic and interior lives as well as the bigger picture – the intersection of the political and the personal. She lives in Newcastle.

Meredith Jaffé

Meredith Jaffé writes a weekly literary column for the online women's magazine, *The Hoopla*. She has been a member of the judging panel that selects the long-list for the Australian Book Industry Awards and has chaired panels, presented workshops

and led debate teams at various writers' festivals. She also volunteers at The Footpath Library where she runs the national EPIC! writing competitions for school children.

Judy Johnson

Judy Johnson has written five poetry collections, two novels and a verse novel, *Jack*, which won the Victorian Premier's Award and was on both the Sydney and Melbourne University syllabuses. Her most recent books are *Stone Scar Air Water*, shortlisted for the WA Premier's Award, and a serialised e-book novel, *The Ripper's Net*, informed by the life of a Melbourne murderer thought in some circles to be Jack the Ripper.

Sarah Johnson

Sarah Johnson is the curator at Newcastle Art Gallery. Sarah was previously the curator and programs coordinator at Manly Art Gallery & Museum from 2004 to 2012. Prior to this she worked at the Powerhouse Museum, The Australian National Maritime Museum and as education program assistant at Newcastle Region Museum.



Erik Jensen

Erik Jensen is the author of *Acute Misfortune: The Life and Death of Adam Cullen*. He is editor of *The Saturday Paper*. He has worked as a journalist and editor at the *Sydney Morning Herald*, where he won the Walkley Award for Young Print Journalist of the Year and the UNAA's Media Peace Prize. His work has appeared in various publications, including *The Monthly* and *New Statesman*.

Aaron Kearney

Aaron Kearney is an award-winning broadcaster, journalist and sports commentator with the ABC. He is the host of the 1233 ABC Newcastle *Breakfast Show*, an A-League soccer commentator and writer.

Christina Koutsoukos

Christina Koutsoukos spent almost three decades in the media during which she worked in a number of roles including current affairs presenter and news and features producer. She now teaches journalism at the University of Newcastle and her research interests include the reporting of religion and journalism practice and training.

John Knight

John Knight founded Pitt Street Poetry with Linsay Knight in mid 2012. The idea for the press came from their lifelong friend, Australian

poet John Foulcher. Their first publication was a pocket-sized reprint of Foulcher's first book *Light Pressure* from 1983. This was followed by poetry books from Jenny Blackford, Tim Cumming, Luke Davies, Jean Kent, Lesley Lebkowicz, Geoff Page, Ron Pretty, Melinda Smith, Mark Tredinnick and Jakob Ziguras.

Linsay Knight

Linsay Knight is widely respected as a leading expert in, and contributor to, children's literature in Australia. As the former Head of Children's Books at Random House Australia, she nurtured the talent of numerous authors and illustrators. She is passionate about poetry and in 2012 she and her husband, John, launched the poetry imprint Pitt Street Poetry specialising in new Australian collections and previously out-of-print classics.



Jean Kent

Jean Kent grew up in rural Queensland and now lives at Lake Macquarie. Awards she has won for her poetry include the Anne Elder, Dame Mary Gilmore and Wesley Michel Wright Prizes. In 2014, with Kit Kelen, she was co-editor of *A Slow Combusting Hymn: Poetry From and About Newcastle and the Hunter Region*. Her fifth full-length collection of poems, *The Hour of Silvered Mullet*, is published by Pitt Street Poetry and will be launched at the festival.

Anthony Lawrence

Anthony Lawrence has published 13 books of poems, the most recent being *Signal Flare* which was published in 2013 by Puncher & Wattman. His books and individual poems have won many major awards including the Josephine Ulrick Award, the Queensland Premier's Award, the New South Wales Premier's Award, the Newcastle Poetry Prize and the Gwen Harwood Memorial Award. He teaches at Griffith University, Gold Coast.

Lake Macquarie Writers' Group

Lake Macquarie Writers' Group is a branch of the Fellowship of Australian Writers (FAW). Members strive to improve their writing by attending critique groups for comment and feedback on their work. Every member participates in a positive manner at critique meetings and at general meetings, during which workshops are held.

David Leser

David Leser has been a Middle East and Washington D.C. correspondent as well as feature writer in Australia for the Murdoch, Packer and Fairfax presses. He has received a number of awards for his journalism. His most recent book, *To Begin to Know*, centres on his father, Bernie Leser, who started *Vogue Australia* and went on to lead the Conde Nast group of magazines.

Steve Lewis

Steve Lewis had been reporting federal politics since 1992 and has survived the near collapse of the Fairfax media group, three prime ministers, Mark Latham and a career switch from the *Australian Financial Review* to the News Limited tabloids. He is the co-author with journalist Chris Uhlmann of *The Mandarin Code* and *The Marmalade Files*.

Amy Lovat

Amy Lovat is a PhD student in creative writing at the University of Newcastle, a freelance writer and editor. Her novella-in-progress explores the lives and relationships of Novocastrian 20-somethings mixed up with music and church, sex and drugs. Amy's research centres on the coming-of-age in Young Adult fiction, and how a search for identity is not exclusive to the teen years. She will be presenting her research at 2 international conferences in 2015.

Dee Madigan

Dee Madigan is an award-winning creative director. She is a panellist on *The Gruen Planet* (ABC TV) and appears on Sky's *The Contrarians*, PM Live and *The Perrett Report*. She can also be heard regularly on ABC Radio, and writes for a range of publications. She is the author of *Hard Sell: The Tricks of Political Advertising*.



David Manne

David Manne is a human rights lawyer and migration agent, and executive director of the Refugee & Immigration Legal Centre (RILC). He has worked in various capacities assisting refugees and asylum seekers for more than 20 years. David sat on the Board of the Refugee Council of Australia for seven years, and currently sits on a number of other non-government Boards, including the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture Ethics Committee, and peak Government consultative bodies.

Melina Marchetta

Melina Marchetta's novels have been published in 18 countries and 17 languages. Melina's first novel, *Looking for Alibrandi*, swept the pool of literary awards for young adult fiction when it was published. Melina's second novel *Saving Francesca*, won the CBCA Book of the Year Award for Older Readers, followed by *On the Jellicoe Road*, which won the American Library Association's Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature.

Roger Markwick

Roger Markwick is Professor of Modern European History and Head of the School of Humanities and Social Science at the University of Newcastle. He is the co-author of *Soviet Women on the Frontline in the Second World War* (Palgrave-McMillan, 2012), which was shortlisted for the 2013 NSW Premier's History Awards.



John Maynard

Professor John Maynard is a Worimi man from the Port Stephens region of New South Wales. He is currently a Director at the Wollotuka Institute of Aboriginal Studies at the University of Newcastle and Chair of Indigenous History. He has held several major positions and served on numerous prominent organisations and committees. John's publications have concentrated on the intersections of Aboriginal political and social history, and the history of Australian race relations. His most recent book is *Light and Shade: An Aboriginal Perspective of Joseph Lycett's Art*.

Fiona McArthur

Fiona McArthur has written 33 books in the past 15 years but hasn't forgotten it took her 10 years to sell her first book. She has been a Romance Writers of Australia Romantic Book of the Year finalist, and a US Cataramance Readers Choice finalist. Fiona is also a midwife and lives on the mid-north coast of NSW. www.FionaMcArthurAuthor.com

Julie McIntyre

Historian Julie McIntyre uses the lens of wine studies to explore questions ranging from colonial ambition within global currents of history to fashion for wine styles. Her book *First Vintage: Wine in Colonial New South Wales* (2012) won Gourmand Publishing's 2013 Best Australian Drinks History and was shortlisted



Dee Madigan



Amy Lovat



Marion Halligan



Anne Gracie



Aaron Kearney

Biographies

for three further prizes including the 2013 NSW Premier's History Awards.

Phillip McIntyre

Assoc Prof Phillip McIntyre's latest book *Creativity and Cultural Production: Issues for Media Practice* is published by Palgrave MacMillan in the UK. He is Head of Discipline for Communication and Media in the School of Design, Communication and Information Technology at the University of Newcastle.

Joe Mintoff

Joe Mintoff is a senior lecturer in philosophy at the University of Newcastle with teaching and research interests in moral philosophy.

David Musgrave

David Musgrave is a poet, publisher, novelist and critic who lectures in Creative Writing at the University of Newcastle. His poetry has received many awards in Australia, including the Newcastle Poetry Prize twice, and has been widely anthologised in Australia and overseas. He is a board member of Australian Poetry Limited and the publisher at Puncher & Wattmann.



Les Murray

Les Murray lives in Bunyah, near Taree in NSW. He has published some 30 books. His work is studied in schools and universities around Australia and has been translated into several languages. Les Murray's new volume of poems, *Waiting for the Past*, is his first in five years.

Aran Mylvaganam

Aran was born in Nagakovil in northern Sri Lanka. On 22 September, 1995, Aran's school was bombed by the Sri Lankan Air Force. His brother and scores of friends were killed. Between 1995 and 1997 he lived in a refugee camp in Udayarkaddu before coming to Australia as a 13-year-old unaccompanied refugee in 1997. He was detained in Villawood Detention Centre for three months. In 2011 he

founded the Tamil Refugee Council. Aran currently works as a union organiser with the Finance Sector Union and is a spokesperson for the Tamil Refugee Council.



Garth Nix

A full-time writer since 2001, popular fantasy writer Garth Nix previously worked as a literary agent, marketing consultant, book editor, book publicist, book sales representative, bookseller, and as a part-time soldier in the Australian Army Reserve. Garth's books include the award-winning young adult fantasy novels *Sabriel*, *Lirael* and *Abhorsen*. His fantasy novels for children include *The Ragwitch*; the six books of *The Seventh Tower* sequence; *The Keys to the Kingdom* series; and the *Troubletwisters* series. Garth's most recent book, *Clariel*, is a prequel to the Old Kingdom trilogy.

P.M. Newton

P.M. Newton joined the NSW Police Force in 1982. She spent the next 13 years working in and around Sydney in various departments – first in uniform, then as a detective. When she had eventually had enough of meeting people for the first time on the worst day of their lives, Newton resigned. Her first novel, *The Old School*, won the Sisters in Crime Davitt Award and the Asher Literary Award, and was shortlisted for the Indie Award for Debut Fiction and the Ned Kelly Award for Best First Fiction.

Cassandra Page

Cassandra Page is a Newcastle author with a penchant for speculative fiction in all its forms. Her first anthology, *Novascapes*, was originally envisioned as an annual platform for previously unknown authors to get their names in print. She is currently preparing *Novascapes Volume 2* for publication.

Favel Parrett

Favel Parrett's career was launched in 2011 with the critically-acclaimed

debut *Past the Shadows*. A heart-breaking novel, it was sold internationally, shortlisted in the prestigious Miles Franklin Award and won the Dobbie Literary Award. Her new novel, *When the Night Comes*, is published by Hachette.

Michael Robotham

Before writing best-selling thrillers, Michael Robotham was an investigative journalist in Britain, Australia and the United States. He is the pseudonymous author of 10 best-selling non-fiction titles involving prominent figures in the military, the arts, sport and science. His most recent book is *Life and Death*. He lives in Sydney with his wife and daughters.

David Roland

David Roland has a PhD in clinical psychology. He is an honorary associate with the School of Medicine at the University of Sydney, a member of the Australian Psychological Society, and a founder of the Australian branch of the Compassionate Mind Foundation. His most recent book is *How I Rescued My Brain: A Psychologist's Remarkable Recovery From Stroke and Trauma*.



Jessica Rudd

Jessica Rudd had three career changes in as many years – law, PR, politics – but is now going steady with her life as a writer. She hopes *Ruby Blues*, sequel to *Campaign Ruby*, will give her readers as many laughs as she had writing it. Jessica is based in Brisbane.

Rosie Scott

Rosie Scott is an internationally published novelist, who has also worked in many other fields centring on human rights and social justice. She also writes poetry, essays, and short stories. Her most recent book, *A Country Too Far: Writing on Asylum Seekers*, was co-edited with Tom Keneally and includes work

by Anna Funder, Raimond Gaita, Les Murray and Christos Tsiolkas. She founded the campaign against children in detention, *We're Better Than This*.

Paul Scott

Paul Scott teaches public affairs and communication at the University of Newcastle. He has won teaching and learning awards for innovative learning initiatives linking students with non-profit organisations and providing submissions to government inquiries. Paul has produced award-winning features for the ABC and *Inside Sport* and has written for *The Australian* and the *Sun-Herald*. He writes a fortnightly opinion column in the *Newcastle Herald*.



Michael Sala

Michael Sala grew up moving between Holland and Australia. Much of his autobiographical first novel *The Last Thread* was set in Newcastle. In 2013, it won the UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing in the NSW Premier's Awards, and the Commonwealth Book Prize (Pacific Region.) He is currently working on his second novel, which is set entirely in Newcastle, and lectures in creative writing at the University of Newcastle.



Melinda Smith

Melinda Smith's fourth poetry collection, *Drag down to unlock or place an emergency call* (Pitt St Poetry, 2013) won the 2014 Prime Minister's Literary Award for Poetry. Her work has appeared in Australian



Francesca Sutera



Michael Robotham



Aiden Walsh



Jay Tulloch

and international journals and anthologies and is currently featured in an exhibition at Old Parliament House. Her mother's family hails from the Hunter Valley and she has many holiday memories of Newcastle. She lives in Canberra.

Beth Spencer

Beth Spencer's latest books are *Vagabondage* (UWAP), a verse memoir about the year she lived in a campervan, and *The Party of Life* (Flying Islands/ASM). A previous book of fiction, *How to Conceive of a Girl*, was runner up for the Steele Rudd Award. She is a past winner of *The Age* Short Story Award. She has also written numerous cross-genre pieces for ABC Radio, newspapers and journals. She lives in Terrigal. www.bethspencer.com

John Stokes

Poet John Stokes has published widely in Australia, Europe, Japan and the US. He has won or been shortlisted for many major prizes including the Blake Prize for Poetry and the Newcastle Poetry Prize. His book credits include *A River in the Dark* (Five Island Press), *Dancing in the Yard at Eden* (Orta San Giulio), and, most recently, *Fire in the Afternoon* (Halstead Press), which will be launched at the festival.

Francesca Suters

Francesca Suters lives in Lake Macquarie with her husband and three children. She has a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws from the University of Newcastle and

works part-time in a corporate role. Francesca self-published her debut novel, *Returning*, in 2014 and is currently working on the sequel. She also enjoys blogging at *Francesca Writes Here*. www.francescasuters.weebly.com

Jacquie Svenson

Jacquie Svenson is a Newcastle-based lawyer who enjoys reading and writing trashy novels with bite. She has completed her fourth novel, *Blackout*, a chick lit environmental thriller focusing on terrorism.

Jay Tulloch

A life in wine production has made Jay Tulloch one of the Hunter Valley's best known wine legends. His family this year celebrates 120 years in the Hunter wine industry. From harvesting grapes as soon he could walk to managing iconic brands such as his own Tulloch label, there is little Jay does not know about wine. With vintage completed for 2015, he is looking forward to sharing his stories at the festival.

Chris Uhlmann

Chris Uhlmann is one of Australia's best-known and most respected political broadcasters. He has a deserved reputation for his fearless pursuit of the nation's politicians through his work at the ABC. He is the co-author with fellow political journalist Steve Lewis of *The Mandarin Code* and *The Marmalade Files*.

Aidan Walsh

Aidan Walsh's short story *Reunification* recently won first place at Conflux, the Australia national science fiction convention. He has just finished his first novel, a swashbuckling regency fantasy, and is now working on his second book. He curates a slowly growing encyclopaedia for his fantasy world at <http://unpathedwaters.com> and tweets (lazily) @AidanRWalsh.



James Valentine

James Valentine is a broadcaster, writer, MC and musician. He presents *Afternoons* on 702 ABC Sydney, 1233 ABC Newcastle and across ABC Local Radio NSW. He writes regularly for *The Australian* and a weekly column for the *North Shore Times*. He's the author of six books including the *JumpMan* series for young adult readers, *The True History of Stuff* for children and *The Form Guide* and *Spotfull* for adults.

Tim Wilson

Tim Wilson was appointed Australia's Human Rights Commissioner in February 2014. As Commissioner

he is focused on promoting and advancing traditional human rights and freedoms, including free speech, freedom of association, worship and movement and property rights.

Ed Wright

Ed Wright is the best-selling author of six popular histories, a book of poems and an award-winning novella. He also writes a column on Australian Fiction for *The Australian* newspaper. He has a Ph.D. in Literature from the University of Sydney and is currently a conjoint lecturer in creative writing at the University of Newcastle, where he also teaches.



Don Watson

Don Watson is one of Australia's most distinguished writers. His best-selling account of his time as Paul Keating's speechwriter, *Recollections of a Bleeding Heart*, won several awards, as did his 2008 release *American Journeys*. Don's most recent book is *The Bush: Travels in the Heart of Australia*.

Book Keepers at Back to Back Galleries

A group exhibition at Back to Back Galleries curated by Margaret McBride. This exhibition is held in conjunction with the 2015 Newcastle Writers Festival.

Following the success of SUBTEXT, which was held during last year's festival, 16 Hunter artists have created visual interpretations of the written work of select festival guests. All are welcome to view work by Brett Alexander, Jane Calthorpe, Brian Cox, Jan Downes, Caroline Hale, Varelle Hardy, Katharine Heinrich, Ann-Maree Hunter, Barry Maitland, Margaret McBride, Sylvia Ray, Julie Reid, Sue Stewart, Helen Stronach, Sharon Taylor and Sharon Tompkins.

The exhibition commences on Friday, 6 March, at Back to Back Galleries, Bull Street, Cooks Hill and continues until 22 March.

The opening event will be held on 6 March at 6pm. All welcome.



Official bookseller of the Newcastle Writers Festival

MacLean's Booksellers festival bookshop is located on the Lower Ground Floor in the Banquet Room of the Newcastle City Hall.

Festival authors will be available for signings at the conclusion of their sessions.

MacLean's
BOOKSELLERS

Your local independent bookseller

FESTIVAL PARTNERS



CELEBRATING
50 YEARS
1965-2015



FESTIVAL MEDIA PARTNERS



1233 ABC
Newcastle

FESTIVAL SPONSORS



HUNTER
WRITERS
CENTRE



FOLLOW US

#nwf15



Facebook
facebook.com/
newcastlewritersfestival



Twitter
@newwritersfest



Instagram
@newcastlewritersfestival