

# Big skies, Open minds

1-3 November 2024

BLUE

MOUNTAINS

WRITERS'

FESTIVAL

**VARUNA**

The National Writers' House

Markus Zusak  
Noni Hazlehurst  
Liane Moriarty  
Gina Chick  
Yumi Stynes

Pip Williams  
Tony Birch  
Shankari Chandran  
Chris Hammer  
Nardi Simpson

Sara M Saleh  
Benjamin Stevenson  
Alexis Wright  
Michelle de Kretser  
Dr Karl and many more

[www.bluemountainswritersfestival.com.au](http://www.bluemountainswritersfestival.com.au)





## The Blue Mountains Writers' Festival is proudly presented by Varuna, the National Writers' House

Based in Katoomba, Varuna is the foremost institution for literature development in Australia. Originally the home of writers Eleanor Dark and Dr Eric Dark, the house and gardens of Varuna were gifted to the Australian public in 1989 by their son, Mick Dark, to be used as a retreat for writers.

Each year, over 300 writers participate in residencies and professional development programs at Varuna, and many hundreds more readers and writers participate in its workshop programs and literary events, including the Blue Mountains Writers' Festival.

[www.varuna.com.au/support](http://www.varuna.com.au/support)

*The Festival is held on the unceded lands of the Dharug and Gundungurra peoples and pays respect to the traditional custodians of Country, as well as elders past and present. We acknowledge First Nations traditional custodians and recognise their sovereign connections to land, water, skies, Country and culture.*





# Welcome

When I first moved to the Blue Mountains, what struck me most was the sky – the sheer scale of it. Just an hour or two from the city, the stars seemed brighter, the clouds bigger, the air more crisp. Living here has afforded me a new approach to my creativity, space to think big and engage more thoughtfully with the world. This is what reading and writing offer us, too. A sense of possibility, the capacity to consider different perspectives, and the opportunity to look at our surroundings with fresh eyes.

My hope is that the 2024 Blue Mountains Writers' Festival, and the incredible authors we've assembled, offer you the chance to expand your horizons and deepen your focus, just as I have been able to in this spectacular place.

Our team works incredibly hard to pull this Festival together because, like you, we love books. We also love bookish people, and the discussions, debates and laughter that happens when you fill

a room with a community passionate about creativity and ideas. Thank you to everyone who makes this festival happen. From authors to vollies, from sponsors to crew, and of course to the tireless baristas at The Carrington. We can't wait to spend the weekend with you all.

*Maeve Marsden*

Creative Director

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Executive Director: *Veechi Stuart*

Venue Management: *Jaala Hallett*

Artist Liaison: *Wei Clerkin*

Marketing and Ticketing: *Chris Cannell*

Program Advisor: *Amy Sambrooke*

Accounts: *Kathy Dobson*

Volunteer Coordinator: *Anita Hoving*

Interns: *Lauren Tabone and Annabelle Burrell*

Chair: *David Hammon*

Volunteers: Too numerous to list, and joining us from near and far! We couldn't do the festival without you.



# Writers in the Sky at Scenic World

Sail through the air at sunset in the Scenic World Skyway, accompanied by poets, authors and artists, who'll entertain and delight you throughout your journey.

Join **Benjamin Stevenson** and **Miles Merrill** for a choose-your-own-adventure crime fiction comedy, at *Everyone in the Skyway Has Killed Someone*.

**Friday 1 November 5:30pm**



Listen to three authors explore opportunity and trust, sharing personal stories of risk in *Take a Chance on Me*, featuring **Emily Maguire**, **Tony Birch** and **Siang Lu**, hosted by festival director **Maeve Marsden**.

**Friday 1 November 6:10pm**



Delve deeper into poetry, community and how we mark history with **Jazz Money** and **Charmaine Ledden-Lewis** in *Abundant Sunsets*.

**Friday 1 November 6:50pm**



One Scenic World event is included in our Festival Gold Pass. Subject to availability, single tickets are also available. Tickets for *Writers in the Sky* include a complimentary drink and light snacks.

# Among the Trees at Scenic World

Take a heart-starting morning ride on the steepest railway in the world, before a meandering 30-minute walk through the ferns and eucalypts to the Scenic World Rainforest Room. As the birds serenade you in this open-air space, writers **Viki Cramer**, **Dave Witty** and **David Lindenmayer** will share their stories and knowledge of the trees that tower above.

Combining rigorous scientific inquiry with an artist's capacity for awe and wonder, don't miss this unique opportunity to look anew at the trees and environments that sustain us, and consider how we might work together to preserve their futures.

**Sunday 3 November 7:30am – 9:30am**

*The Scenic Railway is not wheelchair accessible.*





Breakfast with  
**Craig Reucassel**  
702AM or the ABC listen app

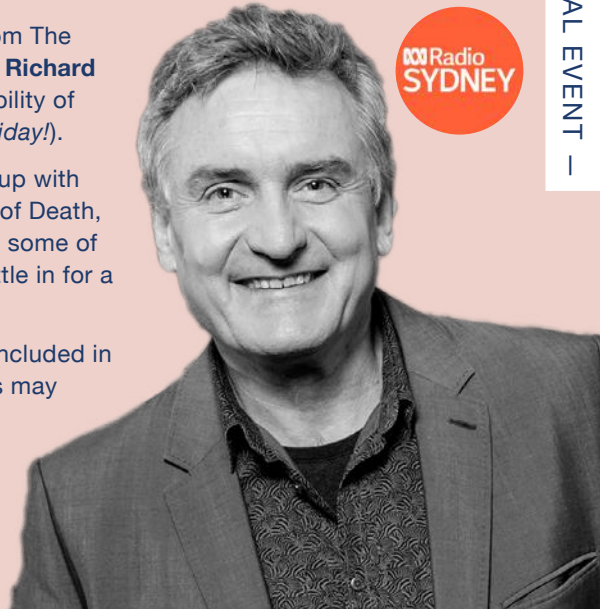
# Thank God It's Friday!

In a special festival broadcast live from The Carrington, join ABC Radio Sydney's **Richard Glover** for all the fun and unpredictability of the infamous TGIF (*Thank God It's Friday!*).

Laugh alongside a star-studded line-up with all the hilarity of the infamous Wheel of Death, listen to Richard in conversation with some of our brilliant Festival authors, then settle in for a drink in the Carrington Lounge.

Tickets to *Thank God It's Friday* are included in our Festival Gold Pass. Single tickets may be available in September, subject to availability.

**Friday 1 November**  
**5:00pm to 6:30pm**



— SPECIAL EVENT —



# We Are the Stars

with Gina Chick

## The Mick Dark Talk for the Future

— SPECIAL EVENT —

The inaugural winner of *Alone Australia*, **Gina Chick** captured the hearts of the nation, surviving 67 days alone in the Australian wilderness. Her memoir, *We Are the Stars*, tells the extraordinary tale that led her there. A rewilding facilitator of many years, Gina is deeply committed to remembering the wisdom of our hunter-gatherer ancestors, living by internal authority, and discovering ways to be connected to the vast web of life that is the nervous system of our living planet.

The *Mick Dark Talk for the Future* is an annual keynote address on the environment that honours the legacy of ardent environmentalist Mick Dark, who in 1989 gifted Varuna, the National Writers' House, to the writers of Australia.

Held in collaboration with the Blue Mountains Conservation Society, we are honoured to welcome this indomitable adventurer to deliver this prestigious address.

**Sunday 3 November**  
**5:00pm to 6:00pm**



Blue Mountains  
Conservation  
Society

Presented by  
Varuna, the National  
Writers' House and  
the Blue Mountains  
Conservation  
Society.



# Bedtime Stories

— SPECIAL EVENT —



Get ready for bed (pyjamas optional) as a collection of festival talent entertain and delight in the cosy surrounds of The Carrington, cup of hot chocolate (or whisky) in hand. Only at the Blue Mountains Writers' Festival can you book a room in the festival venue, the very place you've spent the day, engaged by readings, discussions and fierce debates. Wind down at these intimate evening salons, featuring poetry, comedy, music and storytelling, hosted by festival director, **Maeve Marsden**.

**Friday 1 November, 8pm – 9pm**

Featuring **Noni Hazlehurst, Kate Fagan, Dominic Hoey** and **Miles Merrill**.

**Saturday 2 November, 8pm – 9pm**

Featuring **Yumi Stynes, Dobby, Nardi Simpson** and **Ceridwen Dovey**.



8 Noni Hazlehurst



Dominic Hoey



Dobby



Nardi Simpson



# Beers and Books

— SPECIAL EVENT —



Pairing bestselling books with an award-winning brew? It's a no-brainer. Kick back for Sunday arvo beers (and a fried pickle or two) at **Mountain Culture Brewery**, just a stone's throw from our festival hub. Chat with your favourite writers about knotty topics and big ideas, with more relaxed, casual vibes than your usual author talk.

**SEX AND CONSENT** with **Yumi Stynes** and **Dr Melissa Kang**

**Sunday 3 November, 1:30pm – 2:30pm**

**NEWS AND POLITICS** with **Rick Morton** and **Matilda Boseley**

**Sunday 3 November, 3pm – 4pm**

*The upstairs room at Mountain Culture Brewery is not wheelchair accessible*



Yumi Stynes



Dr Melissa Kang



Rick Morton



Matilda Boseley

# Festival highlights

## VILLAINY AND VICE

### Jack Heath and Louise Milligan with James Valentine

What drives us to read – and write – about villainy and vice? Our worst selves, our worst deeds, our greatest fears... What makes crime so damn compelling?

**Saturday 2 November, 10am – 11am**



## NONI HAZLEHURST with Sarah Macdonald

In her funny and opinionated memoir, *Dropping the Mask*, Australian icon Noni Hazlehurst finally tells her own extraordinary story.

**Saturday 2 November, 10am – 11am**



## WHEN COPS ARE CRIMINALS Veronica Gorrie with Evelyn Araluen

Award-winning author and former police officer Veronica Gorrie discusses the widespread problem of police criminality and corruption, with candour, honesty, bravery and rage.

**Saturday 2 November, 11:30am – 12:30pm**



## MARKUS ZUSAK with Amy Sambrooke

Internationally bestselling author Markus Zusak discusses his new memoir, a tender love letter to the dogs he has learned to live with, and our human need for connection and disorder.

**Saturday 2 November, 3:30pm – 4:30pm**



## PRAISEWORTHY Alexis Wright with Ivor Indyk

Winner of the 2024 Miles Franklin Award and 2024 Stella Prize, Alexis Wright discusses *Praiseworthy*, “the most ambitious and accomplished Australian novel of this century”. (*New York Times Book Review*)

**Saturday 2 November, 3:30pm – 4:30pm**





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## PIP WILLIAMS with Kate Evans

One of Australia's greatest storytellers, Pip Williams joins ABC Radio National's Kate Evans for a wide-ranging conversation about life, history and writing, and her latest bestseller, *The Bookbinder of Jericho*.

**Sunday 3 November, 10am – 11am**

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## POETRY IS NOT A LUXURY: Sara M Saleh, Kate Fagan and Bilal Hafda with Jazz Money

Inspired by Audre Lorde's assertion that poetry is "a vital necessity of our existence", four writers discuss class, community and survival in their work, each experimental in form and expansive in vision.

**Sunday 3 November, 2pm – 3pm**

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## MICHELLE DE KRETZER with Felicity Plunkett

One of a select group of writers to be awarded the prestigious Miles Franklin twice, Michelle de Kretzer's latest book *Theory & Practice* is a mesmerising account of desire and jealousy, truth and shame.

**Sunday 3 November, 2pm – 3pm**

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## TRUMP'S AUSTRALIA Bruce Wolpe with John Barron

Political insider Bruce Wolpe and host of ABC TV's *Planet America* John Barron feature in this unmissable session on US politics and its impact on Australia, only a few days out from one of the biggest and most significant elections in US history.

**Sunday 3 November, 3:30pm – 4:30pm**

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## LIANE MORIARTY with Kate Mildenhall

Blockbuster books, film adaptations, and TV series with HBO and Hulu, Liane Moriarty has done it all. Her latest book *Here One Moment* is a clever page-turner about free will and destiny, grief and love.

**Sunday 3 November, 3:30pm – 4:30pm**

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# Written in the Stars

— SPECIAL EVENT —

Explore the dark skies of Dharug and Gundungurra land, away from the city lights, led by local astrophysicist **Dr Dimitri Douchin**. Embellished with celestial readings as part of the Festival, this award-winning stargazing tour will commence soon after sunset at

Wentworth Falls. Highlights include naked-eye astronomy, laser-guided constellation storytelling, and state-of-the-art telescope viewing of the Moon, planets, star clusters and nebulae.

**Saturday 2 November, 8pm – 9:30pm**

## MOUNT VIC FLICKS

Latest films,  
local charm.

[mountvicklicks.com.au](http://mountvicklicks.com.au) • [reservations@mountvicklicks.com.au](mailto:reservations@mountvicklicks.com.au)

4787 1577 • Harley Ave, Mt Victoria NSW



# The Festival at a Glance – Friday 1 November

## GRAND DINING ROOM THE CARRINGTON

**Thank God It's Friday**  
with Richard Glover  
5:00pm to 6:30pm

## BALLROOM THE CARRINGTON



## SCENIC WORLD



**Everyone in the Skyway  
has Killed Someone** with  
Benjamin Stevenson and  
Miles Merrill

5:30pm to 6:00pm



**Take a Chance on Me**  
with Emily Maguire, Tony  
Birch and Siang Lu

6:10pm to 6:40pm



**Abundant Sunsets**  
with Jazz Money and  
Charmaine Ledden-Lewis

6:50pm to 7:20pm



**Bedtime Stories** with  
Noni Hazlehurst, Kate  
Fagan, Dominic Hoey  
and Miles Merrill.  
8:00pm to 9:00pm



# The Festival at a Glance – Saturday 2 November

## KATOOMBA COMMUNITY HALL

## GRAND DINING ROOM

9:00 to  
9:30

Welcome to Country

10:00 to  
11:00

**NONI HAZLEHURST**  
with Sarah Macdonald

• *In partnership w/ Hotel Mountain Heritage*

**VILLAINY AND VICE**

Jack Heath and Louise Milligan with James Valentine

11:30 to  
12:30

**JIM MOGINIE** with Richard Glover

**WHEN COPS ARE CRIMINALS**

Veronica Gorrie with Evelyn Araluen

• *In partnership with the First Nations Australia Writers Network (FNAWN)*

12:45 to  
1:45

**ASK A SILLY QUESTION, GET A CLEVER ANSWER**

Dr Karl and David Lindenmayer with Bianca Nogrady

• *In partnership with Blue Mountains Gazette*

2:00 to  
3:00

**REFUGE**

Shankari Chandran and Jordana Silverstein with Nadine Cohen

**MURDER IN THE MOUNTAINS**

Hayley Scrivenor and Benjamin Stevenson

3:30 to  
4:30

**MARKUS ZUSAK**

with Amy Sambrooke

• *In partnership with Theo Poulos Real Estate*

**THE YEAR I MET MY BRAIN**

Matilda Boseley with Yumi Stynes

5:00 to  
6:00

**ADAPT OR PERISH**

Peter Goldsworthy and Pip Williams with Sarah Macdonald

• *In partnership with Benetatos White*

**CULTS, CLUBS AND PYRAMID SCHEMES**

Lech Blaine, Ernest Price and Karen Viggers with Hayley Scrivenor

8:00 to  
9:00





Please note that last-minute cancellations could occur and this program is subject to change

## BALLROOM

## BAROQUE ROOM (18+ Only)

on the Carrington Lawn

### A FINAL RECKONING

Jen Craig with Shaun Prescott

### RAPTURE/POLITICA

Yumna Kassab and Emily Maguire with Kate Evans

### IN TRANSLATION

Siang Lu and Yu Shi  
(18+ Only)

### POVO Stories from the Lucky Country

(Free session) with Sara M Saleh, Adam Novaldy Anderson, Winnie Dunn, Victor Guan Yi Zhou, Adrian Mouhajer and Natalia Figueroa Barroso (18+ Only)

### TONY BIRCH with Kate Evans

• In partnership with Megalong Valley Tearooms

### HOME TRUTHS

Lech Blaine and Veronica Gorrie with Maeve Marsden  
(18+ Only)

**PRAISEWORTHY** Alexis Wright (over Zoom) with Ivor Indyk

### MIGRATION AND MATRIACHS

Peter Polites and Winnie Dunn  
(18+ Only)

**WOVEN – FIRST NATIONS POETIC CONVERSATIONS** Evelyn Araluen, Dobby and Jazz Money, with Anahera Gildea, Cassandra Barnett and Nils Rune Utsi

### NATURE IS HEALING

Nadine Cohen and Rebecca Huntley  
(18+ Only)

### BEDTIME STORIES

Yumi Stynes, Ceridwen Dovey, Dobby and Nardi Simpson



# The Festival at a Glance – Sunday 3 November

	KATOOMBA COMMUNITY HALL	GRAND DINING ROOM
10:00 to 11:00	<b>PIP WILLIAMS</b> with Kate Evans • <i>In partnership with Out of the Blue</i>	<b>THE STORY OF ROBODEBT</b> Rick Morton with Amy Sambrooke
11:30 to 12:30	<b>LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE</b> Michelle Brasier and Peter Goldsworthy with James Valentine	<b>WORDS AS WEAPONS</b> Evelyn Araluen, Sara M Saleh and Jordana Silverstein with Souheir Edelbi
12:45 - 1:45		
2:00 to 3:00	<b>DR KARL</b> A Periodic Tale • <i>In partnership with The Fairmont Resort</i>	<b>ALWAYS WAS, ALWAYS WILL BE</b> Thomas Mayo with Charmaine Ledden-Lewis
3:30 to 4:30	<b>LIANE MORIARTY</b> with Kate Mildenhall • <i>In partnership with LOT 101</i>	<b>TRUMP'S AUSTRALIA</b> Bruce Wolpe with John Barron • <i>In partnership with the Whitlam Institute</i>
5:00 to 6:00	<b>WE ARE THE STARS</b> The Mick Dark Talk for the Future with Gina Chick • <i>In partnership with the Blue Mountains Conservation Society</i>	<b>CHRIS HAMMER</b> with Renee Krosch

## Sunday Special Events

7:30 to 9:30	<b>AMONG THE TREES</b> with Viki Cramer, Dave Witty and David Lindenmayer at Scenic World
1:30 to 2:30	<b>BEERS AND BOOKS Sex and Consent</b> with Yumi Stynes and Dr Melissa Kang • <i>In partnership with Mountain Culture Brewery</i>
3:00 to 4:00	<b>BEERS AND BOOKS News and Politics</b> with Rick Morton and Matilda Boseley • <i>In partnership with Mountain Culture Brewery</i>



Please note that last-minute cancellations could occur and this program is subject to change

## BALLROOM

### WILD IMAGININGS

Kate Mildenhall and Siang Lu

### NARDI SIMPSON

with Cheryl Leavy

### CRITIC SWALLOWS BOOK

(FREE session) James Jiang, Yumna Kassab and Ivor Indyk

### MICHELLE DE KRETZER

with Felicity Plunkett

### FAME, MONEY AND MUSIC

Dominic Hoey with Nick Solo

## VARUNA POETRY CIRCLE

## BAROQUE ROOM (18+ Only)

### MOTHER AND SON

Tony Birch, Peter Polites and Ernest Price (18+ Only)

### TREES AND GALAXIES

Ceridwen Dovey and Dave Witty with Renee Krosch (18+ Only)

• *In partnership w Blue Mountains Stargazing*

### POETRY IS NOT A LUXURY

Sara M Saleh, Kate Fagan and Bilal Hafda with Jazz Money (18+ Only)

### QUEERSTORIES

Michelle Brasier, Cheryl Leavy, Adrian Mouhajer and Charlie Villas with Maeve Marsden (18+ Only)

## STORY FACTORY'S PRESCRIPTION POETRY BOOTH

12pm – 2pm at The Carrington Hotel

For thousands of years, people have understood the benefits of reading and writing. Responding to a list of common worries, Western Sydney students wrote appropriate poetic cures: for a remedy to revitalise your broken heart, a cure for the blister on your heel and everything in between. Let the students and staff of Story Factory provide healing and literary nourishment to soothe whatever ails you.



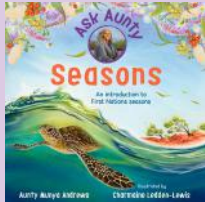
# Kids' Program – Saturday 2 November

9am – 9:30am

## Welcome to Country

*The Carrington Lawn*  
– All ages –

Families are invited to join us on the Carrington Lawn for the Festival Welcome to Dharug and Gundungurra land.



9:30am – 10:15am

## Ask Aunty

*Blue Mountains Cultural Centre amphitheatre*  
– Recommended ages 1-8 –



Join **Charmaine Ledden-Lewis** for an exploration of First Nations seasons and bush survival skills. Contribute to a collaborative mural celebrating local seasons, and enjoy readings with Charmaine, as well as **Cheryl Leavy**, author of *Yanga Mother*, a poetic celebration of motherhood and First Nations languages

10:15am – 12pm

## Book Swap with Blue Mountains Parents for Climate

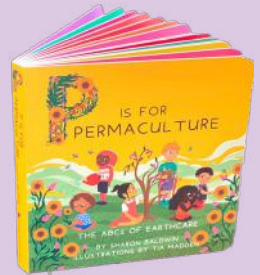
*Blue Mountains Cultural Centre amphitheatre*  
– All ages –



Save money and reduce your consumption by joining in our Festival book swap. Bring three books that your kids no longer read and go home with new (to you!) pre-loved books from other local families.

Kicking off with a reading from **Sharon Baldwin's** *P is*

for *Permaculture*, kids can come and go as they like, and participate in fun craft activities using old books.



10:30am – 11:30am

## Animals Weird and Wonderful with Sami Bayly

*Katoomba Library*  
– Recommended ages 3-10 –



Join **Sami Bayly** for a jam-packed session about nature, science and animals, complete with drawing demonstrations and creative activities. You'll hear incredible animal adaptation stories, learn a bunch of fun collective nouns and maybe even discover a gross fact or two!





11:45am – 12:30pm

## ABC Disability with Paralympian Sarah Rose

Katoomba Library

— Recommended ages 5+ —

Join three-time Paralympian swimmer Sarah Rose, author of *ABC Disability*, a big-hearted guide to disability that's full of words to know and questions to ask about life with disability. Ask Sarah about her sporting career and how it feels to win a medal on the world stage, and enjoy readings of her wonderful book celebrating what makes each of us unique.



12:45pm – 1:45pm

## Ask A Silly Question, Get A Clever Answer

with Dr Karl, Professor David Lindenmayer and Bianca Nogrady

Katoomba Community Hall

— Recommended ages 5-95 —

Tickets \$7.50 / \$5.00

Don't miss this incredible chance to ask burning questions about climate change and the environment, with three people who REALLY know what they're talking about: **Dr Karl**, **Professor David Lindenmayer** and **Bianca Nogrady**, who between them have published 102 books about science!



2pm – 2:45pm

## The Lost Ghosts of Katoomba Library

Katoomba Library

— Recommended ages 7-14 —

Lovers of spooky tales and clever mysteries are invited to join author of *The Lost Ghosts of Lawson*, **Anthony Mann**, and Creative Director of Word Travels, **Miles Merrill**, to discover their inner ghostbuster. Go on a ghost hunt through Katoomba Library to see what – or whooooo – you can find, then write your own ghost story set in the Blue Mountains.



# The Festival Workshops

## Find Your Story, Find Your Voice with Emily Maguire

Learn to find story ideas hiding in plain sight, discover ways to supercharge your imagination and practice overcoming fear and self-consciousness in this hands-on writing workshop with Stella Prize and Miles Franklin-shortlisted author **Emily Maguire**.

**Friday 1 November, 1:30pm – 4:30pm**

*Workshop Room, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre*



## Experiments in Poetic Form with Felicity Plunkett

Understand what it is that makes the best poems work, and use prompts and creative exploration to begin drafting your own new poems, with **Felicity Plunkett**, poet, critic and former Poetry Editor at UQP.

**Friday 1 November, 1:30pm – 4:30pm**

*Seminar Room, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre*



## Pitching to Literary Journals with James Jiang

Aspiring critics and essayists are invited to join **James Jiang**, Editor of the *Sydney Review of Books*, for this extended industry workshop on the art of pitching. • *Sponsored by Sydney Review of Books.*

**Saturday 2 November, 10:00am – 1pm**

*Workshop Room, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre*



## Write the Perfect Crime with Jack Heath

Dive deep into the world of crime fiction with bestselling author **Jack Heath**. Discover how to craft flawed detectives and sinister perpetrators, richly textured settings, twists that leave readers gasping, and stylish, economical prose.

**Saturday 2 November, 1:30pm – 4:30pm**

*Seminar Room, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre*



## Underneath the Poetree: A Lyric Writing Workshop

Lyrics. Raps. Prose. Poetry. In this workshop with award-winning artist, poet and songwriter **Nick Solo**, you'll explore the Venn diagram between these forms and the creative processes involved in their creation.

**Saturday 2 November, 1:30pm – 4:30pm**

*Workshop Room, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre*



## Writing Nature at Varuna with Viki Cramer

This workshop led by writer and ecologist **Viki Cramer** explores how different ways of knowing – from scientific information to sensory metaphor – can be used to build evocative descriptions of landscape, place, plants, animals and more.

**Saturday 2 November, 10:00am – 1pm**

*Varuna, the National Writers' House, 141 Cascade Street Katoomba*





## Sense Memory and Memoir with Kris Kneen

Award-winning memoirist **Kris Kneen** teaches you how to lift your work from the mundane into an immersive, sensual, whole-body experience. Bring your memoir to life for your readers.

**Sunday 3 November, 9:30am – 12:30pm**

*Seminar Room, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre*



## An Illustrated Tale with Sami Bayly

Discover your inner artist, or your inner child, and create beautiful illustrations to accompany your own writing, with illustrator **Sami Bayly**.

**Sunday 3 November, 9:30am – 12:30pm**

*Workshop Room, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre*

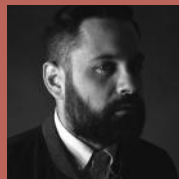


## Editing Your Own Work with Peter Polites

Hone your editing skills and learn new editing strategies in this hands-on workshop with award-winning novelist **Peter Polites**.

**Sunday 3 November, 1:30pm – 4:30pm**

*Multipurpose Room, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre*



## Defamation Law for Writers

Join the Arts Law Centre of Australia for an overview of Australian defamation law and recent cases, as well as tips on how to balance defamation risk and expression as a writer in Australia.

**Sunday 3 November, 1:30pm - 2:30pm**

*Seminar Room, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre*

***There is no charge for this workshop, but registration is required.***



## Legal Issues 101 for Writers

Join the Arts Law Centre of Australia for this workshop that will outline some practical tips for writers in avoiding scandals or other legal pitfalls.

**Sunday 3 November, 3:00pm - 4:00pm**

*Seminar Room, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre*

***There is no charge for this workshop, but registration is required.***



## Workshop Ticket Information

Workshop tickets are not included in the gold, silver or bronze passes and can be purchased at [bluemountainwritersfestival.com.au](http://bluemountainwritersfestival.com.au). Tickets are \$95 or \$90 concession, and places are limited.

# WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



Writing and Society  
Research Centre

## MA in Literature and Creative Writing

The Writing and Society Research Centre offers a nationally leading **Master of Arts in Literature and Creative Writing** taught by eminent authors, critics and editors.

The MA is a challenging, rigorous and industry-focused degree that combines critical research and creative work. Students are guided by publishing writers to produce works of literary scholarship or creative writing across a diverse range of styles including fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, literary criticism, screenwriting and scriptwriting.

Our Centre is unique in Australia in the way it combines scholarship, authorship, publishing expertise and community engagement. Celebrated writers, scholars and editors working

in the Centre include Alexis Wright, Felicity Castagna, George Haddad, Luke Carman, Kate Fagan, Mette Jakobsen, James Jiang, Anthony Uhlmann and Tegan Bennett Daylight.

The Centre houses the highly decorated literary press **Giramondo Publishing** and Australia's pre-eminent literary review site, the *Sydney Review of Books*. Doctoral programs of study in Literature and Creative Writing are also available. We are ranked above world standing in the study of literature and creative arts practice.

In short, the **Writing and Society Research Centre** is one of the best places nationally either to become a writer or to think in a critical and scholarly way about writing.

For more information contact: [writing@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:writing@westernsydney.edu.au)

# Festival Map





## Venues

The majority of events will be held in Katoomba at **The Carrington Hotel** at 15-47 Katoomba Street or the **Katoomba Community Hall** at 81-83 Katoomba Street. **The Baroque Room** is part of The Carrington complex and is accessed via the circular driveway rather than the hotel itself.

Workshops and the Children's Program will be held at the **Blue Mountains Cultural Centre** and **Blue Mountains Library, Katoomba Branch** at 30 Parke Street.

***Writers in the Sky*** and ***Among the Trees*** will be held at **Scenic World**, on the corner of Violet Street and Cliff Drive, Katoomba. The Skyway is wheelchair accessible, but please note that the Scenic Railway is not wheelchair accessible.

***Beers and Books*** will be held in **Mountain Culture's** Katoomba brewery at 23-25 Parke Street. While the main venue has flat access, unfortunately the upstairs space where Beers and Books will be held is not wheelchair accessible.





# Accessibility

The Blue Mountains Writers' Festival strives to make every event as accessible as possible. To find more information about access for each venue, please go to the Festival website.

All events except *Beers and Books* at Mountain Culture and *Among the Trees* at Scenic World are wheelchair accessible.

The Festival will have Auslan interpreters available for the weekend and will schedule them into sessions on request. Audience members can check a box requesting Auslan interpreters when they book a ticket. Portable T-loops will be available in both the Grand Dining Room and Katoomba Community Centre stages.

All events in the Grand Dining Room at The Carrington and Katoomba Community Centre will have real-time captions.

Registered/accredited assistance animals are welcome at all Festival events and venues.

The Blue Mountains Writers' Festival is a member of the Companion Card scheme.

We have received funding this year to offer a 50 per cent discount on a limited number of Festival passes and tickets. This ticket is available for patrons on a Disability Support Pension, or for those whose income is severely impacted by their disability or a lack of access. Please note that these tickets are limited and subject to availability.

Accessible toilets are located at the Carrington Hotel, Katoomba Community Hall, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, as well as Scenic World.

If you have individual access requirements that aren't covered by the above, please contact us at [hello@bluemountainwritersfestival.com.au](mailto:hello@bluemountainwritersfestival.com.au) and let us know how we can help you.



# Festival Ticketing

Book now at: [www.bluemountainswritersfestival.com.au/tickets](http://www.bluemountainswritersfestival.com.au/tickets)



## Gold Pass

Friday, Saturday and Sunday

**Adult \$269 or \$245 concession**



## Silver Pass

Saturday and Sunday

**Adult \$199 or \$184 concession**



## Bronze Pass

Saturday or Sunday

**Adult \$115 or \$105 concession**



## Locals Bronze Pass

Sunday only (for residents of Blue Mtns and Lithgow LGAs)

**Adult \$100 or \$90 concession**



## Single Event Tickets

Tickets range from **\$20 to \$27.50 (full rate)** or from **\$17.50 to \$25 (concession)**

Special Events are ticketed separately. Please visit our website for pricing and information.



## 4-Ticket Multipack

**Adult \$90 or \$82.50 concession**

Please note that you can't use a multipack ticket to book workshops, special events or sold out events

Discounts are available for a limited number of tickets to those on the Disability Support Pension. We also have MobTix prices for First Nations audience members.



# Acknowledgements

Varuna, the National Writers' House and the Blue Mountains Writers' Festival are grateful to our donors, sponsors and funders for their generous support.

We couldn't do it without you!



Photo: Chris Cannell

## Bronze Sponsors



## Media Partners



## Festival Partnerships & Funding Bodies

Community Bank  
Katoomba & Upper Blue Mountains



## Event Partners and Gold Sponsors



MEGALONG



## Silver Sponsors

