

BLUE  
MOUNTAINS  
WRITERS'  
FESTIVAL

**VARUNA**  
The National Writers' House

# Blue Mountains Writers' Festival

21-23 October 2022

*Varuna sits on the Country of the Darug and Gundungurra peoples, and pays respect to traditional owners and elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect First Nations traditional owners, custodians and elders throughout Australia and recognise their sovereign connections to land, water and culture.*

# Thank God it's Friday!

— SPECIAL EVENTS —

## Live at The Carrington with Richard Glover

Join ABC Radio Sydney's **Richard Glover** for all the fun and unpredictability of TGIF (*Thank God It's Friday!*).

ABC Radio  
SYDNEY



.....  
**Friday 21 October,**  
**5:00pm – 6:30pm**  
Grand Dining Room,  
The Carrington Hotel  
Tickets \$10

## Writers in the Sky

### Singing the Land with Nardi Simpson and James Valentine

Listen to storyteller and musician **Nardi Simpson** while suspended in a cable car over the Jamison Valley.



Nardi Simpson

.....  
**Saturday 22 October,**  
**6:00pm – 7:00pm**  
Scenic World  
Tickets \$55.00 / \$50.00

## Writers in the Sky

### Murder and Mayhem with James Valentine and Chris Hammer

Ready to concoct a murder mystery while perched in a cable car? Enjoy the ride with **James Valentine** and crime writer genius **Chris Hammer**.



Chris Hammer



James Valentine

.....  
**Saturday 22 October, 7:00pm – 8:00pm**  
Scenic World  
Tickets \$55.00 / \$50.00

# The Festival Workshops

<i>Description</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Venue</i>
<b>One-on-One Writer Conversations with Dr Carol Major ‘The Book Whisperer’</b>	Friday and Sunday (one-on-one sessions, eight available)	Various	Circular Room, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre
<b>From the Page to the Screen: Screenwriting Workshop with Guy Edmonds</b>	Saturday	10am to 1pm	Multipurpose Room, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre
<b>Reflective Writing for Wellbeing with Hilton Koppe</b>	Saturday	10am to 1pm	Seminar Room, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre
<b>Your Story, Your Voice: Writing Workshop with Emily Maguire</b>	Saturday	2pm to 5pm	Multipurpose Room, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre
<b>The Craft of Creative Non-Fiction: Writing Workshop with Rick Morton</b>	Saturday	2pm to 5pm	Seminar Room, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre
<b>Perfect Your Pitch! With Catriona Menzies-Pike</b>	Saturday (one-on-one sessions, eight available)	Various	Circular Room, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre
<b>How to Write About – and With – Art with Anwen Crawford</b>	Sunday	10am to 1pm	Multipurpose Room, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre
<b>The Art of Redrafting: Writing Workshop with Felicity Plunkett</b>	Sunday	1pm to 4pm	Seminar Room, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre
<b>Yanmangun murugu – Darug language workshop</b>	Sunday	9:30am to 10:15am; 2pm to 2:45pm	The Avalon



# The Festival at a glance – Saturday

	Marquee at The Carrington Hotel	Grand Dining Room at The Carrington Hotel
9:30	<b>Love Objects:</b> Emily Maguire with Sarah Macdonald 9:30am – 10:30am	<b>Living Vulnerably:</b> Rick Morton and George Haddad 9:30am – 10:30am
10:00		
10:30		
11:00	<b>The Rise and Rise of China: Truth, Lies or Scaremongering</b> with Louisa Lim, Alex Joske and Linda Jaivin 11:00am – 12.15pm	<b>Talking Story and Human Connection</b> with Tony Birch and Anne-Marie Te Whiu 11:00am – 12 noon
11:30		
12:00		
12:30	<b>FREE EVENT: Deadly Science</b> Corey Tutt and Cassie McCullagh 12:30pm – 1:15pm	<b>FREE EVENT: Leaping into Waterfalls</b> with biographer Bernadette Brennan. Hosted by Michelle de Kretser 12:15pm – 1:15pm
1:00		
1:30	<b>Outback Noir: Getting the Dirt on Crime Fiction</b> with Hayley Scrivenor and Chris Hammer 1:30pm – 2:30pm	<b>Writing for Change</b> with Anwen Crawford, Eunice Andrada and Kate Fagan 1:30pm – 2.30pm
2:00		
2:30		
3:00	<b>Creative Couples: Debra Oswald and Richard Glover in Conversation</b> 3:00pm – 4:00pm	<b>Take Me to the River</b> with Grace Karskens, Jasmine Seymour and Leanne Mulgo Watson 3:00pm – 4:00pm
3:30		
4:00		
4:30	<b>A Life of Writing: Helen Garner in Conversation with Tegan Bennett Daylight</b> 4:30pm – 5:30pm	<b>The Full Catastrophe: Stories From When Life was so Bad it was Funny.</b> Hosted by Sarah Macdonald & Rebecca Huntley 4:30pm – 6:00pm
5:00		
5:30	<b>Scenic World Writers in the Sky – Singing the Land</b> with Nardi Simpson and James Valentine 6:00pm – 7:00pm	

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

## Ballroom at The Carrington Hotel

## Other venues

<p><b>First Nations Spec Fiction</b> with Ellen van Neerven, Mykaela Saunders, Gina Cole &amp; Rudi Bremer 9:30am – 10:30am</p>	<p><b>FREE EVENT: Cooee Mittagarr Storytime and Craft</b> 10:15am – 11:00am Katoomba Library</p>	<p>KIDS</p>
<p><b>A Blade of Light:</b> Rowan Ricardo Phillips, Catherine Phil MacCarthy and Felicity Plunkett 11:00am – 12 noon</p>	<p><b>Archibald In-Conversation with James Valentine and artists.</b> Ticketed separately \$15. 11:00am – 12:30pm, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre</p>	
	<p><b>FREE EVENT: That's not a Llama - it's Macca the Alpaca!</b> 11:30am to 12:15pm, Katoomba Library</p>	<p>KIDS</p>
	<p><b>The Sky's the Limit:</b> Writing Workshop for 10-12 Year Olds 1:30pm – 2:30pm, Katoomba Library</p>	<p>KIDS</p>
<p><b>Why Poetry Matters:</b> Ellen van Neerven and Felicity Plunkett 1:30pm – 2:30pm</p>	<p><b>FREE EVENT: Why did Mr Chicken Cross the Road?</b> To meet Leigh Hobbs, Author- Illustrator 2:30pm – 3:30pm, Springwood Community Hub</p>	<p>KIDS</p>
<p><b>On Film:</b> Filmmaker Al Clark in Conversation with David Stratton 3:00pm – 4:00pm</p>	<p><b>FREE EVENT: Get Drawing</b> with Deadly Duo Charmaine Ledden-Lewis and Dub Leffler 3:00pm – 4:00pm, Katoomba Library</p>	<p>KIDS</p>
<p><b>On Loss and Healing:</b> Carol Major with Pip Williams 4:30pm – 5:30pm</p>	<p><b>FREE EVENT: Under the Spotlight: New Work from Western Sydney,</b> 3:00pm – 4:30pm, Baroque Room at The Carrington Hotel</p>	

**Scenic World Writers in the Sky – Murder and Mayhem** with James  
Valentine and Chris Hammer 7:00pm – 8:00pm

# The Festival at a glance – Sunday

	Marquee at The Carrington Hotel	Grand Dining Room at The Carrington Hotel
9:30	<b>Human Rights, Art and Philosophy</b> with Behrouz Boochani, Nam Le and Safdar Ahmed 9:30am – 10:30am	<b>Death, Love and Rituals:</b> Jackie Bailey with Mary Anne Butler 9:30am – 10:30am
10:00		
10:30		
11:00	<b>Hope in the Time of Climate Change:</b> Rebecca Huntley, Joëlle Gergis, James Bradley and Delia Falconer 11:00am – 12.15pm	<b>Tearing Down Ageism, Racism and Misogyny:</b> Michelle de Kretser in Conversation with Bernadette Brennan 11:00am – 12 noon
11:30		
12:00		
12:30		<b>FREE EVENT: The Telling of Forgotten Stories</b> with Deirdre O'Connell and Michelle Cahill 12:15pm – 1:00pm
1:00		
1:30	<b>The Power of Language:</b> Pip Williams with Tegan Bennett Daylight 1:30pm – 2:30pm	<b>Queerstories</b> with Maeve Marsden, George Haddad, Anne-Marie Te Whiu and more 1:15pm – 2.30pm
2:00		
2:30		
3:00	<b>A Bloody Good Chat with Thomas Keneally &amp; Meredith Curnow.</b> Talking Life, Writing and History 3:00pm – 4:00pm	<b>Open Secrets: How Does Writing Happen?</b> With Anwen Crawford, Sunil Badami, Eda Gunaydin & Luke Carman 3:00pm – 4:00pm
3:30		
4:00		
4:30	<b>The Mick Dark Talk for the Future</b> with Costa Georgiadis 4:30pm – 5:30pm	<b>Shattering the Silence:</b> Nardi Simpson with Tony Birch 4:30pm – 5:30pm
5:00		
5:30	<b>Food Co-op Market Garden Opening Party</b> (fringe event) 5:30pm – 10:30pm	

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

**Ballroom  
at The Carrington Hotel**

**The Avalon**

<p><b>The Fugitive:</b> Simon Tedeschi in Conversation with Felicity Plunkett 9:30am – 10:30am</p>	<p><b>Yanmangun murugu – We Walk Together:</b> Darug language workshop 9:30am – 10:15am</p>	<p>9:30 10:00 10:30</p>
<p><b>More to Crime Than Meets the Eye</b> with Maeve Marsden, Nicola White and Hayley Scrivenor 11:00am – 12 noon</p>		<p>11:00 11:30</p>
<p><b>A Place for the Imagination</b> with Leigh Hobbs and Sheryl Cootes 12:15pm – 1:15pm</p>	<p><b>FREE EVENT: In Case of Fire</b> Poetry Readings with Blue Mountains Poets 12 noon – 1:30pm</p>	<p>12:00 12:30 1:00</p>
<p><b>Acts of Reckoning</b> with Ashley Hay, Thomas Mayor and Jane Gleeson-White 1:30pm – 2.30pm</p>	<p><b>Yanmangun murugu – We Walk Together:</b> Darug language workshop 2:00pm – 2:45pm</p>	<p>1:30 2:00 2:30</p>
<p><b>Strength, Resilience, Power</b> with Amani Haydar. Hosted by Fiona Murphy 3:00pm – 4:00pm</p>		<p>3:00 3:30 4:00</p>
<p><b>Desire, Wonder and Adventure:</b> Tegan Bennett Daylight with Anne Casey-Hardy and Evelyn Conlon 4:30pm – 5:30pm</p>		<p>4:30 5:00 5:30</p>



# With thanks to our Sponsors, Funders and Venue Partners

