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Berry
Writers Festival
25-27 October 2024

Festival Program

The Berry Writers Festival acknowledges the
Dharawal and Dhurga language-speaking groups
who are traditional owners of this area.
We acknowledge their customs and culture, which
have nourished, and continue to nourish, this land.
And we extend our respects to Elders, past,
present, and future.

Because Words Matter
berrywritersfestival.com.au

Artistic Director's Statement

In a time of rapid and challenging change -- in global and environmental stability; in our ability to engage in civil discourse with one another; in grappling with AI and its effects; in debating whether truth still exists -- the power of the written word is, more than ever, important.

It touches our hearts and entertains through fiction and poetry; reveals and examines history; allows us to tell the stories of our lives and the lives of others, some of those whose experiences we may not share; and provides a window into the complexities of science and medicine, and the systems that govern us and in which we participate as citizens.

In short, words do matter because, in books and poetry, they open up the world to us. It is that spirit of openness, inclusivity, and exploration that animates the 2024 Berry Writers Festival, which we trust will provide those who are joining us this weekend with two days of memorable experiences.

We look forward to welcoming our authors and speakers, our audiences, and our community to celebrate writers and writing with us in beautiful Berry this spring.



Mary Cunnane

Festival President's Statement

Fundamentally, I believe in the Berry community. The Berry Writers Festival has quickly become a key part of its fabric and is important to its evolving identity.

It is an occasion for a diverse range of people to come together and be entertained, educated, and challenged. And an opportunity as well to nourish our souls and expand our horizons, encouraging as it does reflection on the past and contemplation of the future.

To our donors, sponsors, volunteers, and commercial partners, thank you for supporting our ambitious festival. Every single one of you is key to its continued success.

To authors, speakers, and moderators, it is a huge honour to host you -- thank you for participating.

To the 2024 committee, thank you for your hard work, integrity, passion, and good humour.

Finally, to all, welcome. We hope your experience this weekend makes you want to return again and again.



James Robinson



Workshops: FRI, 25 OCTOBER

BERRY COURTHOUSE

STUDIO 34

WESLEY HALL, BERRY UNITING CHURCH

9AM-12PM

Kick-start Your Novel

Presented by: Alicia Thompson

A session for those who may not have any writing underway and are seeking a way 'in'. It covers all the building blocks of a novel: character, dialogue, setting and plot.

Writing for Life: The Basics of Memoir & Biography

Presented by: Jacqueline Kent

Through discussion, sharing of information and class exercises, this three-hour workshop will deal with some of the most important aspects of writing memoir, autobiography and biography.

Writing for the Screen: Elements of Story

Presented by: Nicole Dade

Through discussion, sharing of information and class exercises, this three-hour workshop will deal with some of the most important aspects of writing memoir, autobiography and biography.

LUNCH

1-4PM

The Business of Writing Your Book

Presented by: Bernadette Foley

Publishing professional Bernadette Foley will take you inside the world of publishing and how it works.

Be Your Own Editor

Presented by: Amy Lovat

This workshop is for writers with a manuscript in progress, who are looking for ways to bring their characters to life so they leap off the page and become imprinted in the mind of the reader.

Self-Publish Your Children's Book

Presented by: Kate Stead

Do you have a children's story in your mind? Perhaps one you read to your children or grandchildren? Discover the step-by-step process of creating and publishing your book yourself, broken down into easy and achievable actions.

4-5.30PM

Drawing Stories: A Special Workshop for Ages 6-12

Presented by: Anita Ahmadizadeh

The Drawing Stories Workshop provides a nurturing and imaginative educational opportunity for young readers and aspiring writers.

5.30-9.30PM

Festival Opening Celebration

Opening Address by: David Marr

Featuring a smoking ceremony performed by Gadhungal Marring and Welcome to Country by Uncle Gerry Moore and Auntie Delia Lowe.

Program Changes

Please note: While every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this program, sometimes unforeseen changes beyond our control can occur. Please rest assured any updates will be promptly posted on our website.



Berry
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Author Sessions & Conversations: SAT, 26 OCTOBER

BERRY SCHOOL OF ARTS

SCOTS' HALL

STUDIO 34

9-10AM

Thorny Characters: A Celebration of Fractious Women in Fiction

Featuring: Holly Wainwright & Sally Hepworth
Moderated by: Amy Lovat

Dark Materials: The Secrets of Political Fiction

Featuring: Nicholas Jose & Clinton Fernandes
Moderated by: Paul Daley

The Letters of Elizabeth Harrower & Shirley Hazzard: A Conversation with Susan Wyndham

Featuring: Susan Wyndham & Rachel Kent

10.30-11.30AM

History Matters & So Does How it is Told

Featuring: Marc Fennell, David Marr & Alison Bashford
Moderated by: Christina Slade

Mother Load: The Act of Creation, Pain, & Elation

Featuring: Rachael Mogan McIntosh, Ariane Beeston & Nina Wan
Moderated by: Tori Haschka

The Literary & Visual Arts: How They Interact

Featuring: Kirli Saunders & Judith Nangala Crispin
Introduced by: Rachel Kent
Moderated by: Jerome Comisari
Presented in partnership with **BUNDANON**

12-1PM

Conversations That Count: Risk, Reward, Friendship & Contentment

Featuring: Grace Tame & Daisy Turnbull

"Thoughts that Breathe & Words That Burn": Three Poets

Featuring: Julie Janson, Omar Sakr & Nicole Smede
Moderated by: Suzanne Burdon

Beyond Sustainability: Regenerative Agriculture & Our Future

Featuring: Rebecca Sullivan, Charles Massy & Fiona Weir
Moderated by: Georgina Reid

LUNCH

2-3PM

What is the World Coming To? AI & Its Discontents

Featuring: Tracey Spicer, Toby Walsh & Seumas Miller
Moderated by: Christina Slade

The Serious Business of Romantic Comedy

Featuring: Jessica Dettmann, Ceridwen Dovey & James Colley
Moderated by: Tori Haschka

Julie Janson & Kim Scott: In Conversation

Featuring: Julie Janson & Kim Scott
Moderated by: Helen Elliott

3.30-4.30PM

How to be Alone: In Conversation

Featuring: Gina Chick & Holly Wainwright

Medicine: The Next Twenty Years

Featuring: Johanna Westbrook, Nicholas Talley & James Best
Moderated by: Mary Moran

Examined Lives: On Memoir & Meaning

Featuring: Kate Legge & Helen Elliott
Moderated by: Dorothy Driver

5-6PM

Masters of Crime & Suspense

Featuring: Dinuka McKenzie, Hayley Scrivenor & Michael Robotham
Moderated by: Suzanne Leal

To Thine Own Self Be True: Identity & Authenticity

Featuring: Kaya Wilson, Alice Pung, Jacqueline Kent & Kirsty Jagger
Moderated by: Nigel Featherstone

The Taste of Australia: Ancient Food & Modern Palates

Featuring: Rebecca Sullivan, Damien Coulthard & Adam Liaw
Presented In partnership with **BANGALAY DINING**

6-10PM

An Evening of Words & Music

Hosted by: Marc Fennell
In Conversation with: Tim Minchin

Featuring live music performances by: Lenka, Kane Calcite, and Kay Proudlove

Location: Berry School of Arts

Author Sessions & Conversations: SUN, 27 OCTOBER



BERRY SCHOOL OF ARTS		STUDIO 34	BERRY COURTHOUSE
9-10AM	Life in the Australian Landscape: Experiences, Exploration, History Featuring: Ryan Butta, Anna Broinowski & Sonia Henry Moderated by: Suzanne Leal	Three Industry Leaders Discuss the Future of Publishing Featuring: Meredith Curnow, Catherine Drayton & Elizabeth Weiss Moderated by: Mary Cunnane	SPECIAL FREE EVENT: New Voices of the South Coast: A Showcase for Debut Writers In collaboration with the South Coast Writers Centre, the festival will host two free un-ticketed sessions of New Voices of the South Coast: A Showcase for Debut Writers featuring new and emerging local literary talent. Hosted by Meredith Jaffé and Allison Tait. Panel 1: Traditionally Published 11am-12.30pm Featuring: Siobhan O'Brien Maxine Fawcett Kell Woods Mitch Jennings & Jodie Lamanna Moderator: Meredith Jaffé
10.30-11.30AM	Journalism & Truth: Do They Have a Future Together? Featuring: Ed Coper, Lenore Taylor, Chris Masters & Jennifer Robinson Moderated by: Christina Slade	Book to Screen: Originality, Adaptation & Audience Featuring: Penny Chapman, Marc Fennell & Courtney Collins Moderated by: Alice Tynan	
12-1PM	Two Writers, Two Readings Featuring: J.M. Coetzee & Ceridwen Dovey Moderated by: Nicholas Jose	Speaking, Singing, Reading, Country Featuring: Kirli Saunders, Nardi Simpson & Kim Scott Moderated by: Julie Janson	
LUNCH			
2-3PM	The Age of Rage: Is Civility Dead & Buried? Featuring: Omar Sakr, Hannah Ferguson & Judith Nangata Crispin Moderated by: Nigel Featherstone	Holding up a Mirror: the Drama of the Domestic Featuring: Ali Lowe, Karen Viggers & Eleanor Elliott Thomas Moderated by: Suzanne Burdon	SPECIAL FREE EVENT: New Voices of the South Coast: A Showcase for Debut Writers Panel 2: Independent Press & Self Publishing 2-3.30pm Featuring: Diana Plater Elisa Cristallo Liv Lorkin & Camille Booker Moderator: Allison Tait  Due to the heritage status of the Courthouse, disability access is not available to the building or its facilities.
3.30-4.30PM	Sex, Money & Big Feelings: Post-Pandemic Novels Featuring: Jessie Stephens, Madeleine Gray & Bri Lee Moderated by: Madeleine Genner	The Enchantment of the Impossible: The Power of Speculative Fiction Featuring: Kate Mildenhall, John Morrissey & Michael Thompson Moderated by: Nathan Luff	

Book Signings

Following each session there will be a book signing at the Berry School of Arts. However, after the following sessions that take place at 5-6PM on Saturday, 26

Book Signings

Following each session there will be a book signing at the Berry School of Arts. However, after the following sessions that take place at 5-6PM on Saturday, 26 October, the book signings will be held at Scots' Hall:

Masters of Crime & Suspense

To Thine Own Self Be True: Identity & Authenticity

The Taste of Australia: Ancient Food & Modern Palates



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Special Events

New Voices of the South Coast: A Showcase for Debut Writers

FREE UN-TICKETED EVENT

In collaboration with the South Coast Writers Centre, the festival will host two sessions of **New Voices of the South Coast: A Showcase for Debut Writers** on Sunday, 27 October featuring new and emerging local literary talent. Hosted by Meredith Jaffé and Allison Tait.

A NOTE ABOUT ACCESSIBILITY

Due to the heritage status of the Courthouse, disability access is not available to the building or its facilities.

Panel 1: Traditionally Published:

SUNDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2024 | 11am-12.15pm

Berry Courthouse, Victoria St.

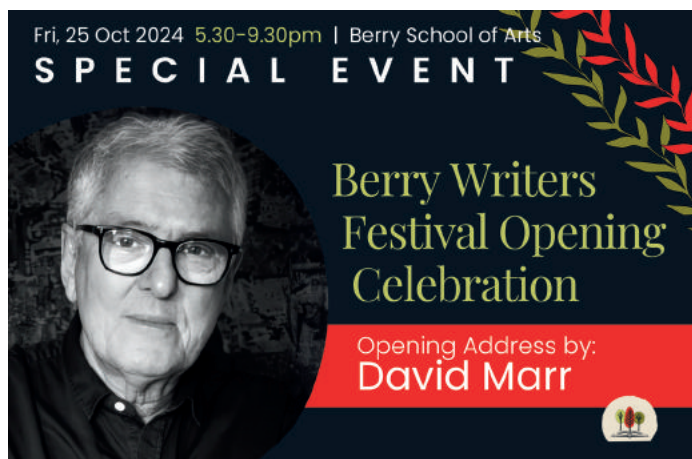
How do authors approach traditional publishers and get their manuscript accepted? What happens next? Five debut authors introduce their books and discuss what the publishing process is like with a traditional publishing house.

Panel 2: Independent Press & Self-publishing:

SUNDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2024 | 2-3.30pm

Berry Courthouse, Victoria St.

There are many ways to publish a book, including working with independent presses or taking the initiative and publishing yourself. This panel of debut authors discuss their new books and the process.



Festival Legacy

We are proud of the lasting legacy this festival creates within the wider Berry community, affording, as it does, significant cultural impact and enrichment. Bringing the festival to life requires an extraordinary effort from a dedicated team. The 2024 committee—James Robinson, Mary Cunnane, Stephanie Kemp, Nuala Higgins, Colleen Fry, Christa Wood, and Ian Carroll—has worked tirelessly for months to make this legacy possible. From programming and marketing to logistics and event management, there is a very big effort involved.

We would also like to give special recognition to our

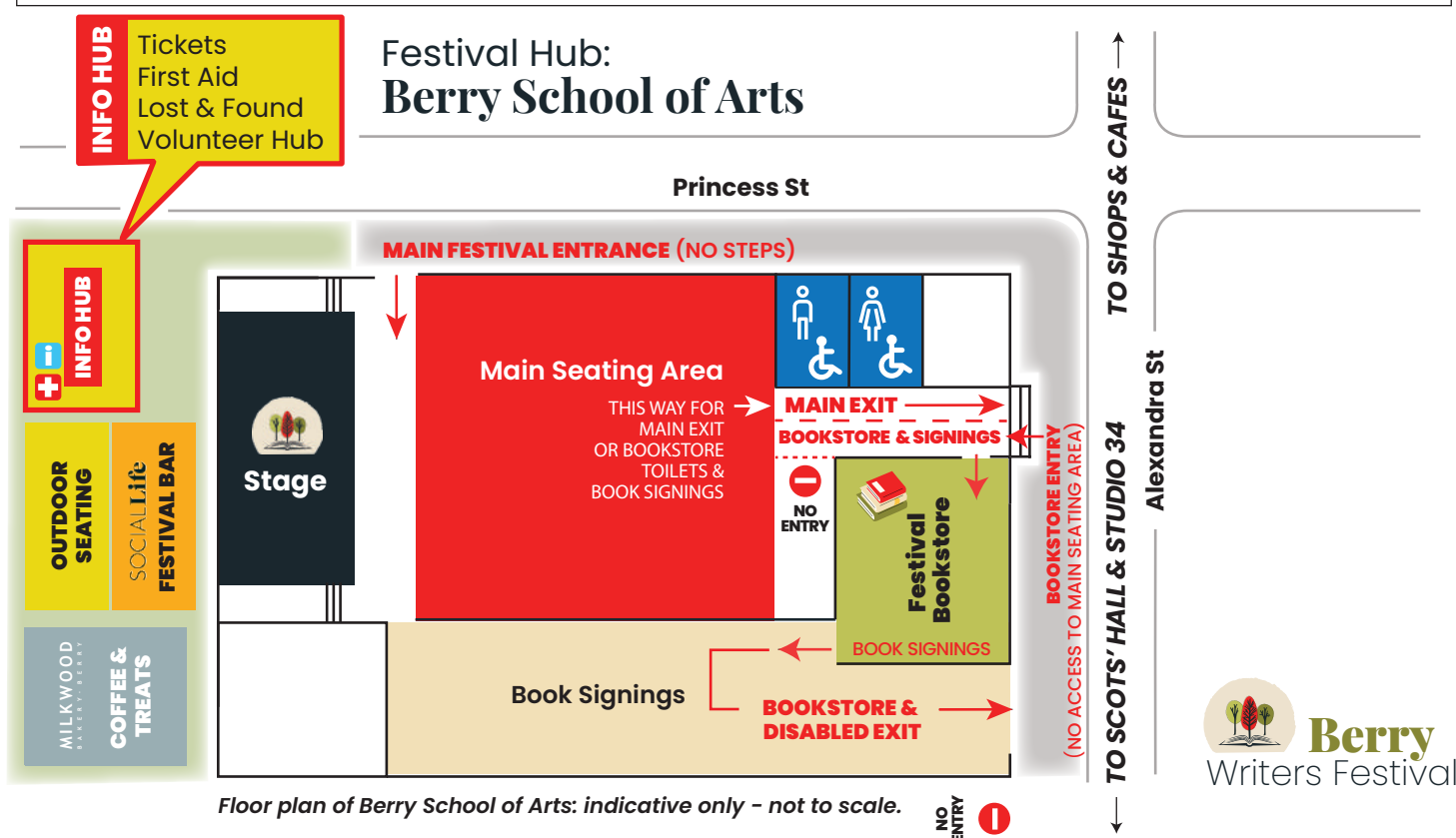
honorary committee members: Dave Jordan, Jo Bolam, Angela Lie, Barbara Vickery, Nathan Luff, and Catherine Hutchinson, and especially to Tori Haschka, our Associate Artistic Director, whose contribution has been multi-faceted and critical. Their skills, expertise, and patience have been invaluable in shaping the festival's impact. Without their support, this legacy wouldn't have been possible.

To everyone else who has contributed in countless ways, though we can't name you all, know that your efforts have been essential and we thank you deeply.

Supporting Young Writers and Artists with Free Schools Program

As part of our commitment to giving back to the community, the festival committee is delighted to have been able to provide a special program, offered without charge, to a number of local primary schools. We could not have done this without the generosity of donors Helen and Toby Greenacre and Stephanie and Dale Kemp, to whom we offer our heartfelt thanks.

On Schools Day, 24 October, three talented children's book authors – Charmaine Ledden-Lewis, Maryam Master, and Nathan Luff (who also coordinated the program) presented talks to the students of Berry Public School, Kangaroo Valley Public School, Bomaderry Public School, Nowra East Public School and Falls Creek Public School, where they also led writing and illustration workshops.



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SOCIALLife

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(SCW) SOUTH COAST
WRITERS CENTRE



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