

# ADELAIDE W WRITERS' W WEEK 2021 27 FEB – 4 MAR

Submit your questions via email at [awwquestions@adelaidefestival.com.au](mailto:awwquestions@adelaidefestival.com.au)  
or Twitter using [#awwlivestream](https://twitter.com/awwlivestream)



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## Live Streaming Schedule

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SENIORS CARD

|  |         |  |
|--|---------|--|
| <b>M<br/>O<br/>N<br/>D<br/>A<br/>Y</b>                   | 9.30am  | <b>Witness: An Investigation into the Brutal Cost of Seeking Justice</b> Louise Milligan   |
|  | 10.45am | <b>The Time of Our Lives: Growing Older Well</b> Robert Dessaix  |
|  | 12 pm   | <b>The Believer: Encounters with Love, Death and Faith</b> Sarah Krasnostein   |
|  | 1.15pm  | <b>The Inner Self: The Joy of Discovering Who We Really Are</b> Hugh Mackay  |
|  | 2.30pm  | <b>Lateral Histories</b> Chris Flynn & Laura Elvery  |
|  | 3.45pm  | <b>Honeybee</b> Craig Silvey   |
| 1 Mar  | 5pm     | <b>The Ratline: Love, Lies and Justice on the Trail of a Nazi Fugitive</b> Philippe Sands  |
| <b>T<br/>U<br/>E<br/>S<br/>D<br/>A<br/>Y</b>             | 9.30am  | <b>The Details: On Love, Death and Reading</b> Tegan Bennett Daylight  |
|  | 10.45am | <b>Apeirogon</b> Colum McCann  |
|  | 12 pm   | <b>The Insider</b> Christopher Pyne  |
|  | 1.15pm  | <b>The Shadow King</b> Maaza Mengiste  |
|  | 2.30pm  | <b>The Rise of Independent Media</b> Peter Fray, Margaret Simons, Michael West   |
|  | 3.45pm  | <b>Return to Uluru</b> John Carty, Mark McKenna  |
| 2 Mar  | 5pm     | <b>The Price of Free Speech</b> Malcolm Knox, Patrick Mullins  |
| <b>W<br/>E<br/>D<br/>N<br/>E<br/>S<br/>D<br/>A<br/>Y</b> | 9.30am  | <b>The River Runs Dry</b> Richard Beasley, Grant Rigney, Margaret Simons   |
|  | 10.45am | <b>Infinite Splendours</b> Sofie Laguna  |
|  | 12 pm   | <b>The Palace Letters</b> Jenny Hocking  |
|  | 1.15pm  | <b>Twilight of Democracy: The Failure of Politics and the Parting of Friends</b> Anne Applebaum  |
|  | 2.30pm  | <b>Land of Mates and Favours: Australia's Crony Capitalism</b><br>Richard Denniss, Cameron Murray, Marian Wilkinson  |
|  | 3.45pm  | <b>City Series: A Double Event</b> Matthew Condon, Sophie Cunningham, Paul Daley,<br>Delia Falconer, Kerryn Goldsworthy, Tess Lea, Peter Timms, David Whish-Wilson |
| 3 Mar  |         |  |
| <b>T<br/>H<br/>U<br/>R<br/>S<br/>D<br/>A<br/>Y</b>       | 9.30am  | <b>Reframing the Classics</b> Natalie Haynes   |
|  | 10.45am | <b>There Goes the Neighbourhood</b> Chongyi Feng, Geoff Raby   |
|  | 12 pm   | <b>Show Me Where it Hurts</b> Kylie Maslen   |
|  | 1.15pm  | <b>What Just Happened?</b> Danielle Celermajer, Gabrielle Chan, Richard McGregor   |
|  | 2.30pm  | <b>What Happens Next?</b> Emma Dawson, Richard Denniss, Gideon Haigh   |
|  | 3.45pm  | <b>Leading Lady: Lowitja's Legacy</b> Stuart Rintoul   |
| 4 Mar  | 5pm     | <b>The Lonely Century: Coming together in a World That's Pulling Apart</b> Noreena Hertz   |

9.30am



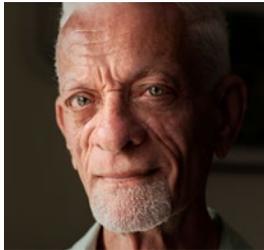
## WITNESS AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE BRUTAL COST OF SEEKING JUSTICE

**Louise Milligan**

Born of Louise Milligan's own brutal experience as a witness in the Cardinal Pell case, *Witness* is at once a gripping, powerful, meticulously researched critique of our criminal justice system, and an eloquent and empathetic argument for change. Including the accounts of victims retraumatised by their courtroom experience alongside expert opinions and analysis from legal practitioners including defence counsel, prosecutors, judges and academics, *Witness* lays bare the flaws of our adversarial system, and the devastating impact they can have on the delivery of justice.

**Chair: Natasha Cica**

10.45am



## THE TIME OF OUR LIVES GROWING OLDER WELL

**Robert Dessaix**

Robert Dessaix's new book is an essential companion for those pondering how to age well, and cogitating on what life is all about anyway. *The Time of Our Lives* posits that a rich inner life is key to both and enables readers to share in Robert's sharp, expansive, witty exploration of his own inner world. Reflecting on time, religion, painting, dancing, family and more, this is a wise and timely exploration of the challenges and possibilities of ageing.

**Chair: Peter Rose**

12.00pm



## THE BELIEVER ENCOUNTERS WITH LOVE, DEATH AND FAITH

**Sarah Krasnostein**

Sarah Krasnostein's first book, *The Trauma Cleaner*, was a runaway bestseller and swept literary prizes nationally. Her new book is *The Believer*, an exploration of the power of belief. In it, she listens to the "human song of longing for the unattainable", with each note in the song a story of unshakeable and often unfathomable faith. The stories are told to her by six extraordinary individuals – including Death Doulas, Ghostbusters, Creationists and survivors of domestic violence – individuals Sarah meets, follows, interrogates and seeks to understand in this profound and deeply compassionate book.

**Chair: Rebecca Huntley**

1.15pm



## THE INNER SELF THE JOY OF DISCOVERING WHO WE REALLY ARE

**Hugh Mackay**

Hugh Mackay has made a lifelong study of the attitudes and behaviours of Australians, researching who we are, and why we behave as we do, for nearly sixty years. In his potent new book, *The Inner Self*, Hugh returns to his psychology roots and turns his gaze inwards, bypassing our socially constructed identities to explore our deeper, more private sense of self. He invites us to find a path to psychological freedom by answering that most challenging and confronting of questions: Who am I, really?

**Chair: Natasha Mitchell**

2.30pm



## LATERAL HISTORIES

**Chris Flynn  
Laura Elvery**

Can works of fiction inform us more effectively than non-fiction? Chris Flynn and Laura Elvery's audacious works illuminate history and offer critiques of today. Chris's fantastical novel *Mammoth* is narrated by the fossilised remains of a 13,000 year old wise-cracking mammoth. Each of the twenty short stories in Laura Elvery's collection *Ordinary Matter* is inspired by a Nobel Prize-winning female scientist. With their lateral approach to history, these unlikely starting points have resulted in richly rewarding and wildly imaginative outcomes.

**Chair: Danielle Clode**

3.45pm



## HONEYBEE

**Craig Silvey**

After the blockbuster success of *Jasper Jones*, Craig Silvey's highly anticipated new novel is *Honeybee*. Chronicling the coming of age of its transgender narrator, Sam, the story opens with Sam and another despairing soul standing on an overpass ready to end it all. Sam and Vic save each other and their tentative friendship gives them their first reason to live. Equal parts heartbreaking and heartwarming, *Honeybee* is a deeply empathetic novel of identity, vulnerability and masculinity.

**Chair: Yves Rees**

5.00pm



## THE RATLINE LOVE, LIES AND JUSTICE ON THE TRAIL OF A NAZI FUGITIVE

LIVE STREAMED FROM  
LONDON, UK

**Philippe Sands**

From the award-winning author of the celebrated *East West Street* comes the real life thriller *The Ratline*, a mesmerising biography of a devoted husband, father and war criminal. The story of the life and mysterious death of Nazi leader turned fugitive Otto von Wächter, the richly detailed and beautifully crafted *The Ratline* draws on the family archives of Otto's son and Philippe's friend Horst to explore humanity's capacity for love and evil, and ask if one can redeem the other.

**Chair: Rick Sarre**

9.30am



## THE DETAILS ON LOVE, DEATH AND READING

**Tegan Bennett Daylight**

Part memoir, part love letter to her favourite books and authors, Tegan Bennett Daylight's first collection of essays, *The Details*, evokes Blake's observation that one can see "a World in a Grain of Sand." The detail is the point, she writes. Drawing on noted authors including Jane Austen, George Saunders, S. J. Perelman and particularly Helen Garner, Tegan skillfully blends observations about writing and reading with recollections from her own life, from the profound to the everyday, to moving, inspiring and sometimes hilarious effect.

**Chair: Geordie Williamson**

10.45am



## APEIROGON

LIVE STREAMED FROM  
NEW YORK, USA

**Colum McCann**

Colum McCann's profoundly moving masterpiece, *Apeirogon*, is based on a true story of a friendship between "An Israeli, against the Occupation. A Palestinian, studying the Holocaust." United by the devastation of losing a daughter to political violence, Bassam Aramin and Rami Elhanan together tell their daughters' stories over and over, to anyone that will listen, in an attempt to bring a peaceful resolution to the endless conflict. Colum's radically empathetic novel is infused with both desperate hope and poetic power.

**Chair: Sophie Cunningham**

*Supported by Culture Ireland*

12.00pm



## THE INSIDER

**Christopher Pyne**

When his father died unexpectedly at 59, Christopher Pyne learned that life is short in the toughest possible way. He became a man in a hurry, and fought his way into Federal Parliament at the tender age of 25, knifing his erstwhile mentor to get there. A confidante to and tactician for multiple Prime Ministers, Christopher rose to become one of SA's most powerful – and entertaining – political figures. In *The Insider: The scoops, the scandals and the serious business within the Canberra bubble*, he writes with verve, wit and candour about what Annabel Crabb calls "a truly bonkers period of political history."

**Chair: Sally Warhaft**

1.15pm



## THE SHADOW KING

LIVE STREAMED FROM  
NEW YORK, USA

**Maaza Mengiste**

Shortlisted for the Booker Prize, *The Shadow King* is a powerful, poetic book about women soldiers during the Italian-Ethiopian war of 1935, the first main conflict of World War II. Drawing on the life of Maaza's own grandmother, it tells the story of Hirut, whose daring plan saves morale when Emperor Selassie goes into exile, only to end up a prisoner of one of Italy's most brutal officers. A captivating study of female power with an indelible, inspirational heroine at its heart.

**Chair: Linda Jaivin**

2.30pm



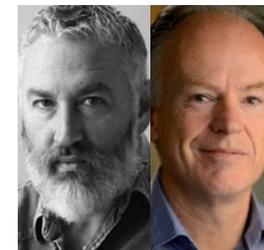
## THE RISE OF INDEPENDENT MEDIA

**Peter Fray  
Margaret Simons  
Michael West**

With over half a million Australians joining Kevin Rudd's call for a Royal Commission into News Corp and the concentration of media power in this country, Australians are increasingly turning to other, more independent outlets for their news. Editor-in-Chief of veteran online newsletter *Crikey!* Peter Fray, independent journalist and media analyst Margaret Simons and founder of *michaelwest.com.au*, business writer Michael West discuss the rise of independent media and what we gain – and lose – from the increased proliferation of new media.

**Chair: Paul Barclay**

3.45pm



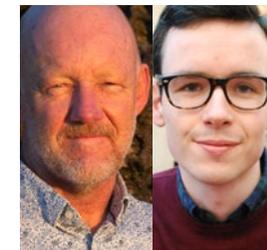
## RETURN TO ULURU

**John Carty  
Mark McKenna**

When historian Mark McKenna set out to write a history of Uluru, he had no idea where the story would take him. Researching the shooting death of an Aboriginal man by policeman Bill McKinnon, Mark uncovered shocking evidence that was typical of Australian frontier justice, and astonishing in its contemporary resonance. With support from the families of key individuals, and the assistance of SA Museum, Mark uncovered critical new evidence, and *Return to Uluru* became a true crime story of the most explosive kind, and an important exploration of what truth telling and reconciliation means in practice.

**Chair: Jared Thomas**

5.00pm



## THE PRICE OF FREE SPEECH

**Malcolm Knox  
Patrick Mullins**

Do Australians extend the right of free speech only to those we agree with, saying things we approve of? In *Truth is Trouble*, Malcolm Knox documents the curious case of how footballer Israel Folau became the centre of our free speech debate. Patrick Mullins' *The Trials of Portnoy*, recounts the pervasive literary censorship of our puritanical past, brought to an abrupt end with *Portnoy's Complaint* and Penguin's brave decision to publish and be damned. Malcolm and Patrick discuss our history of censorship and today's fraught debate around bigotry and cancel culture.

**Chair: David Marr**

9.30am



## THE RIVER RUNS DRY

Richard Beasley  
Grant Rigney  
Margaret Simons

The Murray-Darling Basin is dying. Despite its catastrophic plight, and the devastating findings of the South Australian Royal Commission, policy is corrupted, neglected or ignored. Richard Beasley draws on his experience as Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission in *Dead in the Water*, a book that is simultaneously hilarious and deadly serious, and very, very angry. Margaret Simons' celebrated Quarterly Essay, *Cry Me A River* (QE77), is both a portrait and explanation of our current predicament. Grant Rigney is the Director of the Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations.

Chair: **Natasha Mitchell**

10.45am



## INFINITE SPLENDOURS

Sofie Laguna

Gifted youngster Lawrence enjoys an idyllic childhood in regional Victoria, where he lives with his widowed mother and young brother at the foot of the Grampians. After taking his first painting class, he dives obsessively into an exhilarating world of light, colour and art, and thrives. But his world is shattered by the arrival of an interloper, and a devastating incident that follows. Sofie Laguna's extraordinary and compassionate new book, *Infinite Splendours*, is a luminous and heartbreaking meditation on art, trauma, and innocence lost.

Chair: **Linda Jaivin**

12.00pm



## THE PALACE LETTERS

Jenny Hocking

Distinguished historian Jenny Hocking fought for over a decade for access to correspondence between Governor General John Kerr and Buckingham Palace about the sacking of Gough Whitlam. Classified by the Palace as "personal correspondence", Jenny finally secured their release in June 2020 following a landmark High Court judgment that decreed they were Commonwealth records. In her new book, *The Palace Letters*, Jenny discusses the implications of the Letters and their release for transparency and accountability in our democratic system, and for Australian democracy itself.

Chair: **Mark McKenna**

1.15pm



## TWILIGHT OF DEMOCRACY THE FAILURE OF POLITICS AND THE PARTING OF FRIENDS

LIVE STREAMED FROM  
LONDON, UK

Anne Applebaum

Pulitzer prize-winning author and historian Anne Applebaum deconstructs the psychology and motivations of today's crazed conspiracy theorists and populists in *Twilight of Democracy*, an incisive examination of the longstanding struggle between democracy and dictatorship. Drawing on experience and high-level relationships forged across Europe and America, and an exemplary understanding of contemporary and historical politics, *Twilight of Democracy* is a confronting and illuminating analysis of a polarised world.

Chair: **Sally Warhaft**

2.30pm



## LAND OF MATES AND FAVOURS AUSTRALIA'S CRONY CAPITALISM

Richard Denniss  
Cameron Murray  
Marian Wilkinson

Does Australia have a problem with rent-seekers, well-connected insiders who have their snouts firmly in the public trough, enriching themselves and their mates at the expense of the rest of us? Why is it that the majority of our Rich-Listers accrued their wealth from favourable treatment in heavily regulated industries? The Australia Institute's Chief Economist Richard Denniss, co-author of *Games of Mates* (with Paul Frijters), Cameron Murray and Marian Wilkinson (*The Carbon Club*) examine the cosy club of political insiders and this particularly Australian way to make money.

Chair: **Michael West**

3.45pm



## CITY SERIES: A DOUBLE EVENT

Matthew Condon, Sophie Cunningham,  
Paul Daley, Delia Falconer, Kerryn Goldsworthy,  
Tess Lea, Peter Timms, David Whish-Wilson

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the iconic City Series and the publication of updated versions on our eight capital cities, this special double event chaired by the infinitely expert George Megalogenis examines what makes each of our cities special through the eyes of authors who love and know them. As we emerge from the Great Lockdowns of 2020, when we were forced to stay home, and individual State borders slammed shut one after the other, it seems particularly appropriate to look at the personality of each capital – their skylines, cultures, architecture, and natural surrounds – and explore how they have changed over the last decade, and how they shape, excite, attract or infuriate their residents.

First we hear from Kerryn Goldsworthy (Adelaide), Sophie Cunningham (Melbourne), David Whish-Wilson (Perth) and Peter Timms (Hobart), and then Delia Falconer (Sydney), Matthew Condon (Brisbane), Paul Daley (Canberra) and Tess Lea (Darwin), before all authors return to the stage for questions from the audience and each other.

Don't miss this literary and cultural audit of the state of our cities, and their relationship to each other and the country.

Chair: **George Megalogenis**

9.30am



## REFRAMING THE CLASSICS

LIVE STREAMED FROM LONDON, UK

Natalie Haynes

With her acclaimed BBC radio series just commissioned for a seventh series, broadcaster, author, stand up comedian and classicist Natalie Haynes is celebrated for taking those pillars of our cultural understanding, the Greek myths, and retelling them from the female perspective. Her novel, *A Thousand Ships*, centres Creusa's experience of the Trojan War and in her most recent book, the eloquent and witty essay collection *Pandora's Jar*, Natalie "gives voice to the women, girls and goddesses who, for so long, have been silent."

Chair: Tom Wright

10.45am



## THERE GOES THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Chongyi Feng  
Geoff Raby

Insults flying via Twitter, lobsters dying on the tarmac in Shanghai, Ministers' phone calls snubbed by their counterparts: how has our relationship with China come to this? Former Australian Ambassador to China Geoff Raby explores China's newly assertive place in the world and the implications for Australia in his new book, *China's Grand Strategy and Australia's Future in the New Global Order*. He is joined by Chongyi Feng to discuss what – if anything – can be done to repair this critical geopolitical and economic relationship.

Chair: Richard McGregor

12.00pm



## SHOW ME WHERE IT HURTS

LIVING WITH INVISIBLE ILLNESS

Kylie Maslen

Shortlisted for this year's Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, Kylie Maslen's *Show Me Where It Hurts* explores the impact of chronic illness on the lives of sufferers, and is marked by its eloquence, candour and generosity. Drawing on her own life and illness, Kylie documents the experience of living with pain with humour and courage, detailing its impact across such areas as housing, dating and work, and building her readers' understanding through pop cultural references ranging from Frida Kahlo to Sally Rooney to Sponge Bob Squarepants.

Chair: Jane Howard

1.15pm



## WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

Danielle Celermajer  
Gabrielle Chan  
Richard McGregor

It began with Australia ablaze and ended with a scramble to avoid the latest cluster of the cluster\*\*\*\* that was COVID-19. In between were floods, flailing democracies, dodged accountabilities, and a weird fugue that swallowed April – July. It's no wonder we emerged from 2020 wondering: "What just happened?". Sophie Cunningham's *Fire Flood Plague* pondered just that. She facilitates a conversation with contributors Richard McGregor and Gabrielle Chan, joined by Danielle Celermajer, whose essay collection *Summertime: Reflections on a vanishing future* is an urgent elegy for looming loss.

Chair: Sophie Cunningham

2.30pm



## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Emma Dawson  
Richard Denniss  
Gideon Haigh

Even before we emerged blinking from Iso and the year that was 2020, we started to ask, "What Happens Next?". Executive Director of Per Capita Emma Dawson co-edited an anthology with this title, exploring how we can ensure we learn the right lessons from the COVID crisis. She is joined by Chief Economist of the Australia Institute Richard Denniss and Gideon Haigh, whose book, *The Momentous, Uneventful Day: a requiem for the office* looks at the implications 2020's flight from the office has had on our working lives.

Chair: Paul Barclay

3.45pm



## LEADING LADY LOWITJA'S LEGACY

Stuart Rintoul

Described by Noel Pearson as "the most outstanding Aboriginal leader of the contemporary era", Lowitja O'Donoghue navigated an early life of loss, racism and servitude to become the first Chair of Australia's best attempt to facilitate self-determination for its Indigenous peoples, ATSIC. She was a lead negotiator on the Native Title Act with Paul Keating, who later called her a "leader with an unfailing instinct for enlargement". Stuart Rintoul's impressive, authorised biography of this important Australian leader is informed by meticulous research and a strong personal relationship with his subject.

Chair: Simone Tur

5.00pm



## THE LONELY CENTURY

COMING TOGETHER IN A WORLD THAT'S PULLING APART

LIVE STREAMED FROM LONDON, UK

Noreena Hertz

Described by *The Observer* as one of the "world's leading thinkers", global economist Noreena Hertz dissects the contemporary epidemic of loneliness in *The Lonely Century*. This meticulously researched and highly readable book describes how we have become alienated from each other, and analyses the structures, influences and trends that cause and exacerbate our isolation. *The Lonely Century* is an urgent message about one of the most far-reaching issues of our time.

Chair: Natasha Cica