

ADELAIDE W WRITERS' W WEEK 2022 5 – 10 MAR 2022

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Live Streaming Schedule

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SENIORS CARD

M O N D A Y	9:30am	The Artful Dickens John Mullan
	10:45am	Growing Up in Australia Anita Heiss, Benjamin Law, Fiona Murphy and Alice Pung
	12pm	Compounding Damage Michael Bradley, Rachel Doyle and Saxon Mullins
	1:15pm	The Luminous Solution Charlotte Wood
	2:30pm	Australia's War on Whistleblowers Bernard Collaery, David McBride and Jennifer Robinson
	3:45pm	Continuous Creation: The Poetry of Les Murray
	7 Mar 5pm	After Story Larissa Behrendt
T U E S D A Y	9:30am	My Body Keeps Your Secrets Lucia Osborne-Crowley
	10:45am	Bad Energy Ian Lowe and Jeremy Moss
	12pm	Good International Citizenship: The Case for Decency Gareth Evans
	1:15pm	7½ Christos Tsiolkas
	2:30pm	Wild Abandon Emily Bitto
	3:45pm	A Bloody Good Rant Thomas Keneally
	8 Mar 5pm	The Right to Sex Amia Srinivasan
W E D N E S D A Y	9:30am	The Legend of Charmian Clift Tanya Dalziel, Paul Genoni and Polly Samson
	10:45am	Signs and Wonders: Dispatches from a Time of Beauty and Loss Delia Falconer
	12pm	Violeta Isabel Allende
	1:15pm	Keeping It Tense J.P. Pomare and Christian White
	2:30pm	Love Stories Trent Dalton
	3:45pm	The Reckoning Jess Hill and Grace Tame
	9 Mar 5pm	The Death of Dr Duncan Tim Reeves
T H U R S D A Y	9:30am	Fulfillment: Winning and Losing in One-Click America Alec MacGillis
	10:45am	Mortals: How the Fear of Death Shaped Human Society Rachel Menzies and Ross Menzies
	12pm	Grift, Lies and Influence Fiona McLeod and Michael West
	1:15pm	The Magician Colm Tóibín
	2:30pm	Into Her Own Hands Jane Caro and Debra Oswald
	3:45pm	History, Storytelling and the Collective Imagination Tom Griffiths and Bruce Pascoe
	10 Mar 5pm	Devotion Hannah Kent

9:30AM



THE ARTFUL DICKENS

John Mullan

LIVE STREAMED FROM
LONDON, UK

"What is so good about Dickens' novels?" asks John Mullan – and then proceeds to answer in thirteen essays of exquisite prose. From Dickens' evocation of the senses, particularly taste and smell, to his inventiveness with names; from the melodrama of *Little Dorrit* to the high-mindedness of *Hard Times*, Mullan's Dickens emerges as a shapeshifter and conjuror extraordinaire. Whether you know your *Twist* from your *Copperfield*, or you're a complete Dickens newbie, *The Artful Dickens* is a riveting read and brings a welcome focus to one of the English language's greatest minds.

Chair: Linda Jaivin

10:45AM



GROWING UP IN AUSTRALIA

Anita Heiss, Benjamin Law, Fiona Murphy and Alice Pung

In 2008, Black Inc published *Growing Up Asian in Australia*, a collection of stories from Asian Australians about what it was like to grow up as an outsider in your own country. The *Growing Up* series has been entertaining, informing and inspiring readers across the country ever since. To celebrate the release of a compilation anthology, the editors of the Asian, Queer and Aboriginal editions, and a contributor to the Disabled edition, come together to celebrate the diversity of our nation, captured so movingly and delightfully in this important series.

Chair: Anton Enus

12:00PM



COMPOUNDING DAMAGE

Michael Bradley, Rachel Doyle and Saxon Mullins

Events of the last year have brought a renewed and urgent focus on the experiences of women seeking redress after experiencing harassment or assault. With exhausting regularity, the perpetrator is protected at the expense of the victim, with the justice system and corporate culture accused of exacerbating trauma. In their books *System Failure* and *Power and Consent*, Michael Bradley and Rachel Doyle draw on their legal experience to highlight the flaws in our current laws. Advocate and survivor Saxon Mullins was instrumental in changing the definition of consent in NSW.

Chair: Sophie Black

1:15PM



THE LUMINOUS SOLUTION

Charlotte Wood

In her latest book, *The Luminous Solution: Creativity, Resilience and the Inner Life*, Charlotte Wood shares the insights into creativity she has gained over her long career in literature, paying close attention to her own mind, to the world around her and to the way she and others work. Her message is powerful: "A rich inner life is not just the preserve of the arts. The joys, fears and profound self-discoveries of creativity ... I believe to be the birthright of every person on this earth."

Chair: Kerry Goldsworthy

2:30PM



AUSTRALIA'S WAR ON WHISTLEBLOWERS

Bernard Collaery, David McBride and Jennifer Robinson

Australia's recent treatment of high-profile whistleblowers has been shockingly punitive. Three lawyers speak from intimate experience. Bernard Collaery has faced an ongoing four-year ordeal for representing Witness K, a former ASIS officer who alleged the Commonwealth illegally spied on impoverished neighbour Timor Leste for private commercial gain. David McBride faces life in prison after the Government elected to pursue charges against him for revealing the allegations of war crimes in Afghanistan that led to the Brereton Report. Jennifer Robinson represents Wikileaks founder and abandoned Australian citizen Julian Assange.

Chair: Andrew Fowler

3:45PM



CONTINUOUS CREATION: THE POETRY OF LES MURRAY

The late Les Murray was our unofficial poet laureate – irascible, generous, thoughtful, refractory. His poetry was so influential it rewrote our vernacular. He moves us as he is effortlessly profound. In this special event, veteran of the Australian stage Peter Carroll performs a broad survey of Les's verse, from his early work in the Sydney years to selections from the newly released posthumous *Continuous Creation*. Joseph Brodsky described Les as "quite simply, the one by whom the language lives." In this presentation by another of our national treasures, the language lives on.

Introduced by Peter Goldsworthy

5:00PM



AFTER STORY

Larissa Behrendt

Recently honoured with the 2021 Human Rights Medal, Larissa Behrendt is a filmmaker, advocate, law academic and author. Her latest novel, *After Story*, captures many of her interests in a poignant examination of family relationships, racism and the justice system. When a mother and daughter try to reconnect on a literary tour of England, it first serves to widen the chasm between them. A sprawling, cerebral and compassionate tale – with the literary tour a perfect backdrop for booklovers – this impressive novel of reclamation gives hope that fraught relationships can heal.

Chair: Clare Wright

9:30AM



MY BODY KEEPS YOUR SECRETS

Lucia Osborne-Crowley

"Despite our best efforts," writes Lucia Osborne-Crowley, "the body finds a way to express what the mind cannot." The author of *I Choose Elena* returns with *My Body Keeps Your Secrets* in which she interviews other women and non-binary people from diverse backgrounds about the impacts of their respective traumas on their bodies, interweaving the results with rigorous research and her own story. She explores the weight of shame and the process of reclaiming a whole self in this deeply empathetic and intelligent book.

Chair: Sophie Black

10:45AM



BAD ENERGY

Ian Lowe and Jeremy Moss

Two brilliant books concerned with the morality intrinsic to energy policy. In *Long Half-Life*, Emeritus Professor of Science, Technology and Society Ian Lowe demolishes nuclear energy, arguing it is indivisible from the industry's role in weaponry, and that the issue of waste has never been solved. Political philosopher Jeremy Moss's *Carbon Justice* posits we have a responsibility to recognise and combat the moral harm done by the mining and exporting of our fossil fuels. Far from being a minor contributor to climate change, he contends, our massive exports of fossil fuels make us one of its key drivers.

Chair: Natasha Mitchell

12:00PM



GOOD INTERNATIONAL CITIZENSHIP: THE CASE FOR DECENCY

Gareth Evans

As our Foreign Minister from 1988 – 1996 and President of the Brussels-based International Crisis Group thereafter, Gareth Evans is uniquely qualified to discuss the importance of good international citizenship in our interconnected world. Outlining four key tenets to assess a country's record – foreign aid generosity, reaction to conflicts and their consequences, response to human rights violations, and contribution to global crises – he finds Australia wanting on all of them. His essay is a call for change and decency in the way we engage with the world.

Chair: Kerry O'Brien

1:15PM



7½

Christos Tsiolkas

In Christos Tsiolkas's first foray into autofiction, *7½*, his protagonist Christos declares he is tired of the lofty ambitions many novelists hold for their writing on politics, sexuality, race, history, gender, morality or the future. "All of them now bore me," he declares. Instead, he will write about beauty. His powerful memories of the past, the strange present in which he tries to write – surrounded by the magnificently evoked natural world – and the novel on which he embarks are masterfully woven together into one compelling whole.

Chair: Michael Williams

2:30PM



WILD ABANDON

Emily Bitto

Following heartbreak, self-absorbed young Melbourne boy Will flees to New York in search of adventure and forgetting. When wild hedonism doesn't help, and with his visa and money fast running out, Will finds himself in Littleproud, Ohio, working for Wayne Gage, Vietnam veteran, amateur shaman and collector of exotic animals. Emily Bitto's follow up to her Stella Award-winning *The Strays* is a clever, complex tale, full of opulent writing and meditations on human nature and our relationship with the natural world.

Chair: Claire Nichols

3:45PM



A BLOODY GOOD RANT

Thomas Keneally

For over fifty years, Tom Keneally has been writing about everything that makes us tick – and the contentious, disputed land that is 'Australia'. In his new collection of thought-pieces, he moves seamlessly between deep questions of our past and moments of private revelation. *A Bloody Good Rant* is exactly what it says it is – a bit of ratbagery, some judicious hindsight, and a generous serve of wisdom. The author of *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith*, *Schindler's Ark* and *Corporal Hitler's Pistol* gets a few things off his chest.

Chair: Angela Savage

5:00PM



THE RIGHT TO SEX

Amia Srinivasan

Described by *The New York Times* as "quietly dazzling", Amia Srinivasan's *The Right to Sex* is a landmark examination of the politics and ethics of sex. "A truly inclusionary politics," Amia writes, "is an uncomfortable, unsafe politics." Moving beyond questions of consent, and the notion of wanted or unwanted sex, this formidable collection re-centres the second-wave feminist idea of the personal as political in thrilling new ways, asking us to interrogate what it is that shapes our expectations and desires.

Chair: Clare Wright

Supported by the British Council

9:30AM



THE LEGEND OF CHARMIAN CLIFT

Tanya Dalziell, Paul Genoni and Polly Samson

**POLLY SAMSON LIVE
STREAMED FROM
LONDON, UK**

To celebrate the new edition of her classic texts, *Mermaid Singing* and *Peel Me a Lotus*, Polly Samson (*A Theatre for Dreamers*) and Tanya Dalziell and Paul Genoni (*Half the Perfect World: Writers, Dreamers and Drifters on Hydra, 1955-1964*) discuss the life and literary legacy of Charmian Clift. Glorious accounts of the bohemian life Charmian, husband George Johnston and their family led in Greece, these two books encapsulate the vivid, passionate and outrageously talented woman who was years ahead of her time.

Chair: Sophie Cunningham

10:45AM



SIGNS AND WONDERS: DISPATCHES FROM A TIME OF BEAUTY AND LOSS

Delia Falconer

"Is it true the world's going to die soon?" the young daughter of Walkley Award-winning writer Delia Falconer asks her. Delia struggles for an answer. This exquisite series of essays from one of our finest writers contemplates the way climate change is impacting not just our natural environment but our culture. They movingly capture a natural world infused with a deep sense of loss, and intimations of doom, along with Delia's profound sadness at the damage we have wrought on our wounded world.

Chair: Kerry Goldsworthy

12:00PM



VIOLETA

Isabel Allende

**LIVE STREAMED FROM
CALIFORNIA, USA**

Literary superstar Isabel Allende's latest novel is a family saga bookended by two pandemics – the Spanish flu and the COVID-19 coronavirus. 100-year-old Violeta del Valle recounts her life story to her grandson in a letter, a life marked by the dramatic events of the 20th Century. Encompassing war, the Great Depression, the rise and fall of tyrants, and the fight for women's rights, *Violeta* is an extraordinary story about a passionate woman caught up in the grand sweep of history. It is another epic tale, both inspiring and emotional, from one of the biggest selling authors of our time.

Chair: Claire Nichols

1:15PM



KEEPING IT TENSE

J.P. Pomare and Christian White

When his debut crime novel, *The Nowhere Child*, became a runaway blockbuster, Christian White's life was transformed. More success followed with another bestseller, a feature film and a Netflix TV series. His latest book is *Wild Place*, set in the Australian bayside suburbia of 1989 when a teenager goes missing. J.P. Pomare is following in Christian's footsteps, with his literary thrillers winning awards and legions of fans, and being optioned for screen adaptation. His most recent novel is *The Last Guests*, a page-turning tale of suspense exploring ideas of surveillance and voyeurism.

Chair: David Sly

2:30PM



LOVE STORIES

Trent Dalton

The genesis of Trent Dalton's *Love Stories* was a blue Olivetti typewriter and a street corner in the Brisbane CBD. After inheriting the typewriter from the mother of a friend, Trent took to the streets and solicited real stories from passers-by: "Sentimental writer collecting love stories. Do you have one to share?" The result is a warm, poignant, funny and deeply humane book that weaves the many stories that were shared about love in all its guises with generous memories of Trent's own special moments.

Chair: Ashley Hay

3:45PM



THE RECKONING

Jess Hill and Grace Tame

2021 was a year of reckoning. When Grace Tame accepted the Australian of the Year Award in January 2021, she exhorted survivors of sexual violence, long silenced by shame and law, to use their voices and "make some noise". They've been doing just that ever since. Grace and Jess Hill, author of *Quarterly Essay 84: The Reckoning: How #MeToo is Changing Australia*, discuss the dramatic events of the last fifteen months, their impact on contemporary politics, and how the fight for women's justice has reshaped the nation.

Chair: Jo Dyer

5:00PM



THE DEATH OF DR DUNCAN

Tim Reeves

It's fifty years since the infamous drowning of law academic Dr George Duncan in the River Torrens, a crime and outrage that triggered a police cover-up, a Scotland Yard investigation and pioneering gay law reform. As the Adelaide Festival premieres a new oratorio about the still unsolved case, *Watershed: The Death of Dr Duncan*, award-winning author and acknowledged authority on the subject Tim Reeves publishes the definitive account of the devastating case that rocked the state and changed the nation.

Chair: David Marr

9:30AM



FULFILLMENT: WINNING AND LOSING IN ONE- CLICK AMERICA

Alec MacGillis

LIVE STREAMED FROM
BALTIMORE, USA

There is a price to be paid for convenience. The one-click wonder of Amazon comes at a cost. In *Fulfillment: Winning and Losing in One-Click America*, Alec MacGillis sets out to explore what that cost is for the "America that fell in the company's lengthening shadow", namely the places where Amazon's influence proved pernicious. Alec tells a chilling but utterly gripping dystopian tale of the pervasive destructive impact of Amazon on American life and many of its cities.

Chair: Royce Kurlmelovs

Supported by the Consulate of the
United States

10:45AM



MORTALS: HOW THE FEAR OF DEATH SHAPED HUMAN SOCIETY

Rachel Menzies and Ross
Menzies

This affirming book is less about death than how to counteract the fear of it and live a better life. Psychologists Rachel and Ross Menzies examine the many ways humans grapple with the dread of our demise, from the good, such as enduring art, to the bad, such as rampant consumerism and overpopulation. Insightful, illuminating and generous, *Mortals: How the Fear of Death Shaped Society* gives us the tools to overcome the fear of our own immortality – death anxiety – to enjoy our life while we have it.

Chair: Rick Sarre

12:00PM



GRIFT, LIES AND INFLUENCE

Fiona McLeod and
Michael West

As we lurch from one scandal of misspent public money to the next, transparency and accountability in public life have never seemed rarer. Fiona McLeod is Chair of the Accountability Round Table. Her book, *Easy Lies and Influence*, documents how community interests have been undermined. Through his fiercely independent news site, Michael West is known for following the money, highlighting those corporations exercising insidious power over our democracy. They ask: where have we gone wrong and what should we do now?

Chair: Royce Kurlmelovs

1:15PM



THE MAGICIAN

Colm Tóibín

LIVE STREAMED FROM
LOS ANGELES, USA

From *The Heather Blazing* to *The Master*, Colm Tóibín is acclaimed for his skill at entering the mind of the writer. In *The Magician*, he turns his perspicacious eye to Thomas Mann. Outwardly genteel, inwardly tormented, cautious yet impatient, suspicious of the powerful but welcomed in their homes, Colm's Mann is a writer who withdraws from a world losing its sanity but finds himself dragged back into the mess of the times. Desire, exile, family – the themes are ambitious, but in Colm's deft hands, a superbly crafted epic has emerged.

Chair: Caroline Baum

2:30PM



INTO HER OWN HANDS

Jane Caro and Debra Oswald

The strong female protagonists in Jane Caro's *The Good Mother* and Debra Oswald's *The Family Doctor* take matters into their own hands. Debra's Paula is a dedicated suburban GP, devastated by the murder of a friend and her children by their estranged husband and father. Jane's Miriam is a successful businesswoman whose life is upended when her daughter's marriage turns sour. These provocative, urgent novels brim with fury, grief and deep love as they explore what happens when you are tested to the limit, and ask when is it justified to fight fire with fire?

Chair: Ashley Hay

3:45PM



HISTORY, STORYTELLING AND THE COLLECTIVE IMAGINATION

Tom Griffiths and
Bruce Pascoe

With its descriptions of the sophisticated economic and socio-political livelihoods of many First Nations' communities, Bruce Pascoe's 2014 multi-award-winning *Dark Emu* called for a reconsideration of pre-colonial Aboriginal Australia. Confronting criticism from some who reject its portrayal of Aboriginal agriculturalists, and following the COVID-cancellation of their anticipated Melbourne Writers' Festival session, Bruce and eminent historian Tom Griffiths (*The Art of Time Travel*) come together to consider the productive conversation emerging around Australia's understanding of Aboriginal histories, and discuss the best way to deepen our shared knowledge of our nation's vital first stories.

Co-presented with Melbourne
Writers' Festival

5:00PM



DEVOTION

Hannah Kent

After the runaway success of her first two novels, Adelaide's own Hannah Kent returns with *Devotion*, a story of the 19th Century Lutherans who migrated from Prussia to South Australia via a dangerous sea voyage. There are many types of love empathetically drawn – mothers and daughters, sibling and friends – but at the heart of the novel is the love story between narrator Hanne and her friend Thea. Hanne can hear nature's music, and in this lush lyrical book, it becomes the poignant score to her great, majestic love.

Chair: Anton Enus