

NT Writers' Festival

**WORD
STORM**

DARWIN

- the fabric of family

PROGRAM

5 – 8 MAY 2016

Browns Mart



NORTHERN TERRITORY Writers' Centre

ntwriters.com.au



The NT Writers' Centre brings you

NT Writers' Festival WORD STORM

in Darwin and in Alice Springs
on alternate years.

We also offer year-round workshops,
support and opportunities for writers.

Membership is \$55/\$45 conc. Per year

Darwin
08 8941 2651

Alice Springs
08 8952 3810

www.ntwriters.com.au

Our patrons: Tessa Pauling and Ted Egan

Our life members: Sandra Thibodeaux, Mary Anne Butler,
Marian Devitt, Steve Holliday, Helen Pavlin (dec),
Dr Allan Skertchly (dec), Andrew McMillan (dec).



THE BOOKSHOP

DARWIN

GET LOST IN OUR WORLD OF BOOKS

Official Festival Book Seller
1/30 Smith Street Mall and
weekend pop-up at Brown's Mart
during the festival.

www.bookshopdarwin.com.au

TICKETS

Book online via www.ntwriters.com.au
Tickets will also be available from the
festival box office during the days of
the festival, located at Brown's Mart.
Tickets for the panel discussions and
book talks will only be available from
the box office during the festival.
\$15 for a panel pass (see as many
panels and author talks as you like
for the day).

WORD STORM DARWIN

WELCOME

As the Minister for Arts and
Museums, I am delighted to welcome
you to the NT Writers Festival:
Wordstorm 2016, presented by the
NT Writers' Centre.

Since 1998 the Festival has built
a unique reputation for gathering
Indigenous Australian, South East
Asian and regional voices for a cel-
ebration of words, culture and ideas.

This year, set in the luscious Top
End, writers and readers alike will
gather from communities across
Australia to converse, hone their
craft and connect with writing and
storytelling through this year's theme;
Fabric of Family.

The Northern Territory Government
is very proud to support our region's
rich and exciting literary culture.

I invite you to join us for another
highly anticipated program of great
writers and writing.

Gary Higgins

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CHANNEL 9. PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE NT WRITERS' FESTIVAL: WORDSTORM 2016.

WWW.9NEWS.COM.AU/DARWIN



Welcome to the NT Writers' Festival: Wordstorm Darwin 2016.

The most enjoyable aspect of my job as executive director of the NT Writers' Festival has been to program this year's festival, with the theme "The Fabric of Family".

The most daunting aspect of my job has been to choose which authors to feature, as it's a theme that encompasses nearly everything literature has to offer. I thank the NTWC's program officer Fiona Dorrell, and the rest of the NTWC team, for their invaluable input and support in getting this festival up and happening.

Memoir has come out as a feature of this year's festival, but perhaps that's understandable due to the theme, as who can talk about their life without talking about their family – whether biological or chosen.

I'm very proud that this festival can showcase the talents of writers, poets and spoken word artists from across the Northern Territory, while also including visits from inspirational writers from interstate and Indonesia, who can broaden our knowledge and understanding of story-telling in its many forms.

I hope everyone enjoys something in the festival's program, and is inspired to read a new book, listen to some



poetry and spoken word, pass on an anecdote that they've heard, or just explore new creative ideas.

Sally Bothroyd

The Wordstorm Festival team

Festival Director: Sally Bothroyd

Assistant Creative Producer:
Fiona Dorrell

Program co-ordinator: Cora Diviny

Assistant co-ordinator: Sarah Hope

Production Team:

Robbie Hoad, Kristy Schubert

Schools program co-ordinator:

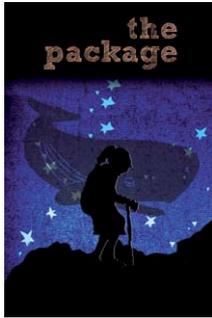
Laurie May

Design: Tina Tilhard

Bookkeeper: Hamish McDonald

Volunteer co-ordinator:

Jennifer Dowling



The Package.

The Package is a wordless story of love, motherhood and ageing. Haunting, intricate and essentially human, this one-hour hybrid show combines puppetry, animation and masks to bring you a moving tale of the arrival (and departure) of life's most important packages.

Conceived by Alice Springs' artist, Katelnd Griffin, and co-devised with Robbie Hoad and Kristy Schubert. Sure to resonate with all ages. Parental guidance recommended for children (10yrs+).

Friday, May 6, 7.30pm,
Saturday, May 7, 10.30am.
(Followed by Q & A with
the creative team)
Browns Mart Theatre
\$35/\$30 NTWC members

Mother's Day Brunch with Richard Glover

The popular ABC broadcaster and author Richard Glover discusses his most recent book *Flesh Wounds*, a memoir.

Richard Glover's favourite dinner-party game is called 'Who's Got the Weirdest Parents?' It's a game he always thinks he'll win. There was his mother, a deluded snob, who made up large swathes of her past. There was his father, a distant alcoholic, who ran through a gamut of wives, yachts and failed dreams. And there was Richard himself, a confused teenager, vulnerable to strange men, trying to find a family he could belong to.

Part poignant family memoir, part rollicking venture into a 1970s Australia, this is a book for anyone who's wondered if their family is the oddest one on the planet. The answer: No. There is always something stranger out there.

Sunday, May 8, 10.30am
Treetops Restaurant, Travelodge
Mirambeena Resort
64 Cavenagh Street, Darwin
\$55/\$50 NTWC members (includes a
glass of champagne on arrival)

In Conversation with Magda Szubanski

She's one of Australia's best-loved comedians and actors. Magda Szubanski first arrived on our TV screens in the 1980s in sketch comedy shows *D-Generation* and *Fast Forward*. Later she cemented her place in Australia's TV history by creating the character Sharon for the hit show *Kath and Kim*. She's also an internationally recognized actress for her roles in the *Babe* movies.

Her memoir *Reckoning* recounts her rise to fame, her struggle in reconciling her true self with her public image, but also tells the story of her

father Peter, a Polish refugee whose wartime actions left an indelible mark on himself and his family. On many "must read lists" since it came out in 2015, don't miss this chance to hear Magda Szubanski tell of her journey from entertainer to writer, and what she found out about her family along the way.



Saturday, May 7, 8pm
The Christ Church Cathedral,
2 Smith Street, Darwin.
\$40/\$35 NTWC members

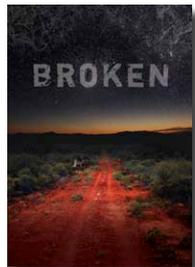


THURSDAY 5 MAY

Book Launch: Mary Anne Butler, *Broken*

Fresh from winning the prestigious Victorian Prize for Literature, Mary Anne Butler's play *Broken* has been published by Currency Press. *Broken* tells a story of a woman who is in a car crash, and begins to fall in love with a man who helps her, while his wife is simultaneously struggling with her own issues.

5-6.30pm
Browns Mart Courtyard
Free



Festival Opening

Join the NT Writers' Centre team at the official launch of Wordstorm for 2016. Authors, NT Writers' Centre members, and book lovers are invited to celebrate the start of three days of literary fun. The launch will feature poetry from well-loved Darwin writer and community leader Kathy Mills, music from South African singer/storyteller Valanga Khoza, and give you a taste of some of the writers whose work will feature during the festival including: Tony Birch, Marie Munkara, Mary Anne Butler, Laurie May and Zohab Zee Khan.

Night
Event

6.30-8pm
Browns Mart Courtyard
Free

Get your fix of ink, wash and water colour at the Browns Mart Courtyard where non-fiction and reportage comics by cartoon-journalist, Eleri Mai Harris will be on display from Thursday through to Sunday.

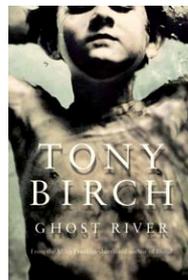


FRIDAY 6 MAY

Author talk: Tony Birch

Victorian author Tony Birch is one of Australia's leading voices in fiction, known for the poetry, short story and novel form. His latest book *Ghost River* comes hot on the heels of *The Promise*, his second collection of short stories. His 2012 novel *Blood* was short-listed for the Miles Franklin Literary Award. It followed *Shadow-boxing* in 2006 and the short story collection *Father's Day* in 2009. He is the first recipient of the Dr Bruce McGuinness Indigenous Research Fellowship at Victoria University.

12noon-1pm
Darwin City Library
Free



Book launch: Marie Munkara, *Of Ashes and Rivers that Run to the Sea*

Born in Arnhemland, but now living in Brisbane, Marie Munkara is returning to Darwin for the launch of her third book, a memoir *Of Ashes and Rivers that Run to the Sea*. Marie's first book, *Every Secret Thing* won the David Unaipon Award in 2008 and then the NT Book of the Year in 2010, and it was followed in by 2014 by *A Most Peculiar Act*. One of the Northern Territory's leading indigenous voices, Marie Munkara's work is known for its wicked humour as well as its irreverent focus on Australian society.

5-6pm
The Northern Territory Library
Free



FRIDAY 6 MAY

NT News Live on Fridays

The popular Live on Fridays returns for 2016, with live music and bar.

5-7pm
Browns Mart Courtyard
Free

The Package

See Feature Events, page 6

7.30pm
Browns Mart Theatre
\$35/\$30 NTWC members

Night
Event

A Letter To My Family.

An open mic night for writers of all kind, with MC + DJ James Mangohig, and featuring South Africa singer/storyteller Valanga Khosa, Beth Yahp and other special guests. Pull at heartstrings or make us laugh with a poem, short piece of prose, or even a rant about that crazy uncle or aunt. Tell us what family means to you.

Night
Event

9pm-late
Happy Yes, Browns Mart
Entry by gold coin donation



WEEKEND PROGRAM

Kim's Cubby

Readings and activities for children and parents. Kim's Cubby is named in honour of NT author Kim Caraher. Featuring NT authors Diane Lucas, Irena Kobald, Paul Seden, Johanna Bell, Sandra Kendell, Jacinda Brown, Lauren Holmes and Sarah Body. Supported by Mike Caraher, Liz and Sam Thompson, and the Darwin International Airport.

10am-4pm (Saturday and Sunday)
Go to www.ntwriters.com.au for a more detailed schedule of the authors.
Civic Park
Free

SATURDAY 7 MAY

Book launch: Linda Wells, *Kultitja: Memoir of an Outback Schoolteacher*

Linda Wells captures the joy, the wonder and the hardships of life as a schoolteacher at Mount Allan community. She then describes the complexities of a cross-cultural desert relationship, the good times and the bad.

9am
Browns Mart Courtyard
Free

The Package

See Feature Events, page 6
Followed by a Q&A with the show's creators Katelnd Griffin, Robbie Hoad and Kristy Schubert.

10.30am
Browns Mart Theatre
\$35/\$30 NTWC members

Writing Memoir: What's mum going to say?

Panel discussion

When writing memoir, it's almost impossible to avoid talking about your family, and there's no way to hide their identity. What impact does this have on the way people write about their lives? Do writers edit out parts to protect the feelings of brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, husbands, wives or children? How much time has to pass before dirty laundry can be safely aired? Can it ever be safely aired?

Toni Tapp Coutts
Richard Glover
Magda Szubanski
Marie Munkara
Chair: Julia Christensen
11.30am

Browns Mart Courtyard
\$15 for a panel pass (see as many panels and author talks as you like for the day)

SATURDAY 7 MAY

A focus on new Indonesian literature

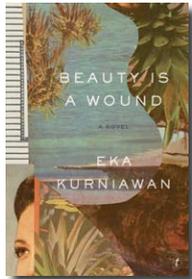
Author talk with Eka Kurniawan and
Eliza Vitri Handayani

Hailed as a successor to Indonesia's greatest writer, Pramoedya Ananta Toer, Eka Kurniawan has recently come to international attention with the translation of his family saga *Beauty is a Wound* into English. Telling the story of comfort woman-turned prostitute Dewi Ayu and her four daughters, the novel includes supernatural happenings that have seen the author also compared to Gabriel Garcia Marquez. *From Now on Everything is Going to be Different* is Eliza Vitri Handayani's first novel to be published in English, and is about two friends trying to live up to and/or escape the expectations of their

families. She has also published short stories, essays and translations in leading Indonesian literary outlets as well as in the Asia Literary Review, Griffith Review and Asymptote Journal. She is the founder of InterSastra, an Indonesian literary translation initiative.

Hosted by Sandra Thibodeaux.
12.30pm

Browns Mart Theatre
\$15 for a panel pass (see as many panels
and author talks as you like for the day)



Family fractured

Panel discussion

How do people write their story after the loss of family connections? Some connections are lost due to past government policies of removing Aboriginal children from family, other connections are lost due to societal pressures, illness and poverty.

Kieran Finnane
Cathryn Tilmouth
Tony Birch
David Hardy
Chair: Charlie King

1pm

Browns Mart

\$15 for a panel pass (see as many panels
and author talks as you like for the day)

Graphic Novels: Expanding the literary family

Panel discussion

Is the book we usually know it doomed? Do we need to look to other forms of literature to keep people reading and buying books? The graphic novel is on the rise, and after the runaway success of *Fifty Shades of Grey*, should writers be turning to the erotic novel as a way of attracting readers?

Christine Black
Toni Griffin
Eleri Mae Harris
Levin Diatschenko
Chair: Stuart Gluth

2.15pm

Browns Mart Courtyard

\$15 for a panel pass (see as many panels
and author talks as you like for the day)

The family recipe

Panel discussion

Families meet over the dinner table, grandmothers pass on recipes, and Christmas dinners are the scene of many a family drama. How does food help us write about family, in all its intricacy of ingredients and flavours.

Toni Tapp Coutts
Beth Yahp
Chris Raja
Eliza Vitri Handayani
Chair: Liz Trevaskis

3.30pm

Browns Mart Courtyard

\$15 for a panel pass (see as many panels
and author talks as you like for the day)

SATURDAY
7 MAY

Seabreeze Festival collaboration

Corrugated Iron will be touring two locally written and produced children's plays through regional and remote Northern Territory schools this year. The plays, *Dog Dog* by Sarah Hope, and *Milly the Detective* by Damien A Pree have both been written specifically for young Territorians. They are ending the tour with a public showing as part of Wordstorm. Come and join the fun as Dog Dog tries to find a friend and Milly tries to find her way out of a haunted house.

3-4pm *Dog Dog*
5-6pm *Milly the Detective*
Community Village
18 Bauhinia St, Nightcliff
Free

**Spoken word stage:
Seabreeze Festival**

The NT Writers' Festival will have a pop-up stage at the Seabreeze Festival in Nightcliff featuring spoken word artists, both local and visiting. Poems, rants, raves and more. Spoken word can make you cry, make you laugh, but will always

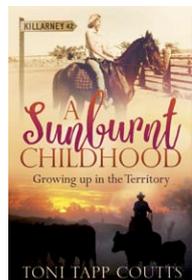
make you think. Featuring slam poet masters Zohab Zee Khan, Fred van't Sand, Steve Holliday, Laurie May and more.

4-6pm
Nightcliff Foreshore
Free

**Book launch:
Toni Tapp Coutts,
*A Sunburnt Childhood***

Toni Tapp grew up on the massive Killarney Station, where her stepfather, Bill Tapp, was a cattle king. But there was no big house - Toni and her family lived in a shack that had no electricity and no running water. She grew up with the Aboriginal people who lived and worked on the station, and got into scrapes with her ever-increasing number of siblings. When she was sent to boarding school all she wanted to do was go back to the land she loved, despite the fact that her parents' marriage was struggling as Bill Tapp succumbed to drink and June Tapp refused to go under with him.

5pm
Browns Mart Courtyard
Free



**THE BIG READ
NT POETRY**

Eleven poets, five minutes each. Experience the latest in Australian poetry, and some classics from the Northern Territory archive. Each poet will read a favourite poem from the works of NT poets of the past, and will follow that up with a poem or two of their own. Featuring poets Sandra Thibodeaux, Tony Birch, Kaye Aldenhoven, Leni Shilton, David James, Laurie May, Micki Teng, Matt Heffernan, Julie U'ren, Maureen O'Keefe, Rosemary Plummer, and hosted by Overland poetry editor Toby Fitch.

6.30pm
Browns Mart Theatre
\$25/\$20 NTWC members

**Magda Szubanski:
In conversation.**

Hosted by Rebecca McLaren.
See Feature Events, page 7



8pm
Christ Church Cathedral
\$40/\$35 NTWC members



WORDSTORM PROGRAM PLANNER

VENUES

Browns Mart Theatre
12 Smith St, Darwin
Browns Mart Courtyard
12 Smith St, Darwin

Civic Park
Corner Smith Street and Harry
Chan Avenue, Darwin

Christ Church Cathedral
2 Smith St, Darwin

Darwin City Library
Civic Centre,
Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin

NT Library
Parliament House, Corner of
Bennett and Mitchell St, Darwin

Treetops Restaurant, Travelodge
Mirambeena Resort
64 Cavenagh St, Darwin

THURSDAY 5 MAY

Book Launch - Mary Anne Butler
Broken
Browns Mart Courtyard
5-6.30pm. Free

Festival Opening
Browns Mart Courtyard
6.30-8pm. Free

FRIDAY 6 MAY

Author Talk - Tony Birch
Darwin City Library
12noon-1pm. Free

Book Launch - Marie Munkara
Of Ashes and Rivers that Run to the Sea
Northern Territory Library
5-6pm. Free

The Package
Browns Mart Theatre
7.30-8.30pm. \$35/ \$30 NTWC Member

A Letter To My Family Open Mic
Happy Yess, Browns Mart
9pm-late. Gold coin donation

SATURDAY 7 MAY

Book Launch - Linda Wells
Kultitja: Memoir of an Outback Schoolteacher
Browns Mart Courtyard
9-10am. Free

Kim's Cubby
Civic Park
10am-4pm. Free

The Package
Browns Mart Theatre
10.30-11.30am. \$35/\$30 NTWC Member

Writing Memoir: What's mum going to say? - Panel
Browns Mart Courtyard
11.30-12.30pm. \$15 Panel Pass

A focus on new Indonesian literature
Browns Mart Theatre
12.30-1.30pm. \$15 Panel Pass

SATURDAY 7 MAY

Family Fractured - Panel
Browns Mart Courtyard
1-2pm. \$15 Panel Pass

Graphic Novels: Expanding the literary family - Panel
Browns Mart Courtyard
2.15-3.15pm. \$15 Panel Pass

The Family Recipe - Panel
Browns Mart Courtyard
3.30-4.30pm. \$15 Panel Pass

Seabreeze Festival Collaboration: Dog Dog
Community Village, 18 Bauhinia St,
Nightcliff
3-4pm. Free

Seabreeze Festival Collaboration: Milly the Detective
Community Village, 18 Bauhinia St,
Nightcliff
5-6pm. Free

Spoken Word Stage: Seabreeze Festival
Nightcliff Foreshore
4-6pm. Free

Book Launch - Toni Tapp Coutts
A Sunburnt Childhood
Browns Mart Courtyard
5-6pm. Free

The Big Read: NT Poetry
Browns Mart Theatre
6.30-8pm. \$25/\$20 NTWC Member

In Conversation with Magda Szubanski
Christ Church Cathedral
8pm-9.15pm. \$40/\$35 NTWC Member

SUNDAY 8 MAY

Kim's Cubby
Civic Park
10am-4pm. Free

Mother's Day Brunch with Richard Glover
Treetops Restaurant
10.30am-12.30pm. \$55/\$50 NTWC Member

The country that comes with family - Panel
Browns Mart Courtyard
11am -12noon. \$15 Panel Pass

Book Launch - Desert Writing
Browns Mart Courtyard
1.30-2.30pm. Free

Depicting Family in YA Literature - Panel
Browns Mart Courtyard
2.30-3.30pm. \$15 Panel Pass

Adaptation: Moving between branches of literature's family tree - Panel
Browns Mart Courtyard
3.30-4.30pm. \$15 Panel Pass

The NT Writers' Festival's Great Comedy Debate and closing night party.
Browns Mart Theatre
5-7pm \$15 or Panel Pass

WORKSHOPS

Workshop Program Sat-Sun pp.20-21
Bookings essential: ntwriters.com.au

SUNDAY 8 MAY

Mother's Day brunch with Richard Glover

See features, page 6

10.30am-12.30pm

Treetops Restaurant, Travelodge
Mirambeena Resort

\$55/\$50 NTWC members (includes
glass of champagne on arrival)

The country that comes with family

Panel discussion

How intertwined is family with place? Indigenous Australians have links to country that are as strong as blood ties. Is it the same for other cultures? What ties to country come with family ties?

Maureen O'Keefe
Rosemary Plummer

Irena Kobald
Valanga Khoza

Leni Shilton

Chair: Rebecca McLaren

11am

Browns Mart Courtyard

\$15 for a panel pass (see as many panels
and author talks as you like for the day)

Book launch: *Desert Writing: Stories from Country*

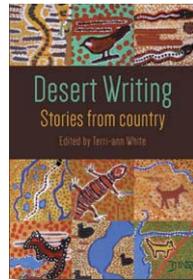
In September 2013, just before the weather turned even more intense, a group of intrepid writers made their way to three Australian desert settings to work with groups and individuals wishing to write. Both Aboriginal people with a profound connection to country and residents of more recent arrival who had made the choice to live in remote places participated in workshops.

Tennant Creek was one of the locations, and the resulting book, published by UW Press, features work by Marie Munkara, Ktima Heathcote, Rosemary Plummer, Maureen O'Keefe and David Curtis.

1.30pm

Browns Mart Courtyard

Free



Depicting Family in YA Literature

Panel discussion

YA Literature is one of publishing's biggest markets, and novels within the genre cover a myriad of themes and subjects. Join some of the Northern Territory's most successful YA authors as they discuss the depiction of family in novels pitched at a teenage audience.

Barry Jonsberg

Clare Atkins

Joanne van Os

Derek Pugh

Chair: Lisa Pellegrino

2.30pm

Browns Mart Courtyard

\$15 for a panel pass (see as many panels
and author talks as you like for the day)

Adaptation: Moving between branches of literature's family tree

Panel discussion

How do you turn a play into a novel, or a novel into a screenplay? What about a short story into a TV show? A group of writers discuss the art of adaptation.

Liesl Egan

Mary Anne Butler

Courtney Collins

Jane Hampson

Chair: Adam Steer

3.30pm

Browns Mart Courtyard

\$15 for a panel pass (see as many panels
and author talks as you like for the day)

The NT Writers' Festival's Great Comedy Debate and closing night party.

Are journalists the bastard children in the great literary family?

It's a question that everyone's asked themselves, with journalists happily mangling the English language on a daily basis. But at least they're getting their work published and getting paid for it, I hear you say! These are the opposing camps: who will win?

See some of the NT's most argumentative hacks pitted against award-winning scribes and poets. Drinks are also on hand, as we bid farewell to the 2016 NT Writers' Festival!

5pm

Browns Mart Courtyard

Entry with Sunday panel pass, or \$15

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Workshops will only go ahead with sufficient numbers. Please book early:

www.ntwriters.com.au

Short story – Tony Birch

Short story is one of literature's most challenging forms. How do you draw a reader in quickly, build a world succinctly, and create memorable characters in paragraphs rather than pages? Learn from master craftsman Tony Birch, who has published two collections of short stories and won innumerable awards.

Saturday, 9am-12noon

The Hub: Darwin City Library

\$80/\$70 NTWC members

Editing your own work – Beth Yahp

Writing is the first stage, but what's next? Beth Yahp's editing workshop focuses on the second stage: how to structure your writing and refine your story, ideas and sentences. This workshop will cover what editors do (reverse-engineering of your text) and how to present your work for publication.

Dr Beth Yahp is a lecturer in creative writing at the University of Sydney.

Saturday, 9am-12noon

Frog Hollow Conference Room

Frog Hollow Centre for the Arts

56 McMinn St, Darwin

\$80/\$70 NTWC members

Writing memoir – Joanne van Os

Every life has its stories. A memoir can cover a person's whole life, or just a small section, and it can be about yourself, or someone else, but is usually from a personal perspective. It's a genre that's growing in popularity, with readers enjoying stories of ordinary people's extraordinary lives. Joanne van Os' memoir *Outback Heart* was published in 2007. Since then she's gone on to write many books, across several genres. In this workshop she'll seek to inspire, instruct and help you get started. For anyone's who's ever thought about writing a memoir.

Sunday, 9am-12noon

Harbour Room, Christ Church

Cathedral

\$80/\$70 NTWC members

ALL CUT UP: Collage Poetry Workshop with the poetry editor from Overland Toby Fitch

The word collage comes from the French verb *coller* and refers literally to "pasting, sticking, or gluing", as in the application of wallpaper. In French, *collage* is also slang for an affair, a liaison, or an adventure. This workshop is a hands-on poetry free-for-all – a class of experimentation that will teach you the subversive act of collage writing, how to do it ethically, and how cut-ups can help induce, or even replace, that illusive thing called "inspiration" when writing your poems.

Sunday, 9.30-11.30am

Frog Hollow Conference Room

Frog Hollow Centre for the Arts

56 McMinn St, Darwin

\$50/\$45 NTWC members



The art of oral storytelling with SPUN

With SPUN Creative Director Johanna Bell, and SPUN Creative Producer Jess Ong.

Are you interested in creating powerful, personal stories? Join the producers of *SPUN: True Stories Told in the Territory* to unpack the art of oral storytelling and work out what makes an extraordinary story. Travel across the globe and into the lives of strangers, all the while, listening and learning about how to craft a truly compelling story. Learn about authentic voice, story structure, reeling in an audience and how to make your story relatable in under 7 minutes. And once you've learnt the tricks, have a go at crafting your own story. You just never know where it might end up! For anyone and everyone who loves a good story.

Sunday, 1-4pm

Harbour Room, Christ Church Cathedral

\$80/\$70 NTWC members

2016 FESTIVAL WRITER BIOS

(ALPHABETISED)

Kaye Aldenhoven is the author of the only poetry book in Darwin libraries that is regularly stolen. Passionate about country, plants, birds, and family, her work is considered and sensual. She has read in India, Thailand, Wollongong, Ubud and Tasmania, has published three collections, and twice won the NT Literary Award for Poetry.

Clare Atkins' debut novel *Nona & Me* was written while living in Arnhem Land. It was an Honour Book in the 2015 Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Award for Older Readers, longlisted for the 2015 Inky Awards and Highly Commended for the Victorian Premier's Award 2015. She has worked as a scriptwriter for successful television series including *Wonderland*, *Winners and Losers*, *All Saints* and *Home & Away*.

Johanna Bell has a background in social research and project management, she works as a producer for ABC radio and when life allows, she writes picture books. She is the Creative Director of SPUN, a project she started to celebrate local stories, spark conversations and connect people through storytelling.

Tony Birch is the author of five fiction works; *Shadowboxing* (2006), *Father's Day* (2009), *Blood* (2011), *The Promise* (2014) and *Ghost River* (2015). His first poetry collection, *Broken Teeth* will be published in May 2016. He has a PhD in History and and Master of Arts in Creative Writing, both from the University of Melbourne. He is currently the Bruce MacGuinness Research Fellow in the Moondani Balluk Academic Unit at Victoria University in Melbourne.

Dr Christine Black is a Senior Research Fellow at the Northern Institute at Charles Darwin University. She has a doctorate in jurisprudence from the Griffith University Law School. Her most recent research focuses on graphic novels and comics. Her second academic book with Routledge Publications - *A Mosaic of Indigenous Ethical Thought: Legendary Tales and other Writings* will come out early next year.

Sarah Body is a Darwin-based writer and artist. Her picture book is called *Mermaid in Humpty Doo*.

Mary Anne Butler is a Darwin based playwright whose play *Broken* won the 2016 Victorian Prize for Literature, the 2016 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Drama and the 2014 NT Literary Award. *Broken* premiered to a 2015 sold out season

at Browns Mart Theatre with a 2016 Sydney season at Darlinghurst Theatre. *Highway of Lost Hearts* premiered at 2012 Darwin Festival to a sold out season with a 2013 return season by demand, and 2014 three-month Australian tour. Both plays are published by Currency Press.

Courtney Collins is an Australian novelist and screenwriter. Her debut novel, *The Burial*, is being adapted as a feature film with the support of Screen Australia. Her second novel, *The Walkman Mix* will be released in Australia and overseas in early 2017. She is currently developing a TV series for US television.

David C. Curtis an Indigenous writer, has been writing for several years with numerous projects in progress, featuring bush themes and science fiction in particular. His first story, *What a Fright*, won the Indigenous category in the NT Literary Awards in 2008. David has been published in *This Country Anytime Anywhere*, an anthology of Indigenous writers published by IAD Press, with the short story *On the Wildman*. Other publications include, *What Kind Dreaming*, in the digital anthology *Black & Write!* through the QLD Writers Centre, and *Fall from Isen*, a short story published digitally with Review of Australian Fiction.

Levin A. Diatschenko Levin A. Diatschenko is a novelist, editor and playwright. Various referred to as "The Kafka of 'The Outback'" (Arnold Zable) and "The Suburban Borges" (Rak Razam), his work could be described as magical realism, hard-boiled surrealism, and mystic fable. Since 2004 Levin has published seven books, written one movie (now in production), and has had five plays produced. He also edits, produces, and writes for an independent magazine called *The Veil*, which is devoted to Philosophy, Ethics, and Mysticism.

A self-confessed book nerd, **Leisl Egan** wrote her first short story when she was five. It was adorably terrible. After many years of working on her talent, she now writes for ABC3 and churns out short fiction. In 2013 she won an International award for her short story 'Punchline'.

Kieran Finnane is a journalist and arts writer. She has lived in Alice Springs since 1987. A founding journalist of the Alice Springs News, she also contributes arts writing and journalism to national publications. Her book of long-form journalism, *Trouble: on trial in Central Australia*, will be published in June 2016 by UQP.

Toby Fitch is a poet based in Sydney. He is poetry editor of *Overland* and program director for

the Australian Poets' Festival. He also works as a bookseller at Gleebooks, a teacher of creative writing at the University of Sydney, and runs the Sappho Books poetry night. His books of poetry include *Rawshock*, which won the Grace Leven Prize for Poetry, *Jerilderies* and *The Bloomin' Notions of Other & Beau*.

Richard Glover has written a number of bestselling books, including *In Bed with Jocasta*, *The Mud House*, and *George Clooney's Haircut and Other Cries for Help*. His recent book, the acclaimed memoir *Flesh Wounds* (published in 2015), was voted by viewers of ABC Televisions' *The Book Club* as one of their Top 5 favourite books of the year. Richard also writes a weekly column for the Sydney Morning Herald and presents the Drive show on ABC 702.

KateInd Griffin is a performer, writer, illustrator, theatre and film maker who is based in Alice Springs. Having studied a Graduate Diploma in screenwriting at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School, her productions include short films, animations, circus shows, physical theatre and an 18 month old baby. *The Package* debuted in the Alice Desert Festival at the Totem Theatre in 2014 and was again performed at Araluen Arts Centre in 2015.

Toni Griffin lives in Darwin. Born and raised in the NT, she's a Territorian through and through. She loves escaping to the worlds she creates and hopes to continue to do so for many years to come. She's a single mother of one and works full time. When she's not writing you can just about guarantee that she will be reading one of the many MM authors she loves.

Jane Hampson is an award-winning Australian screenwriter who works across film, TV and the web. With a background in journalism she is drawn to stories that mine marginal histories and inspire social change. In 2016, she was invited to attend the CineStory TV/Digital Retreat in Idyllwild, California on the basis of the pilot for *Lady From the Sea*.

David Hardy is a freelance writer and long-time singer in Brisbane's Lesbian and Gay Pride Choir. In 2014 he was awarded a PhD in Indigenous Knowledges at Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education. Beyond exploring the diversity of expressions of his Indigenous and queer identity, David's writing also draws on his career as a former diplomat in Poland, Indonesia, the Philippines and Samoa.

Hailing from Tasmania, **Eleri Harris** is a journalist, cartoonist, editor and graduate of The Center for Cartoon Studies in Vermont, USA. Working in mostly historical, non-fiction and reportage comics, Eleri's original pieces have appeared in print and online at The Nib, ABC Digital, Grapple Annual No. 2 and Narrative.ly.

Ktima Heathcote is a powerhouse woman responsible for much of the literary activity that takes place in Tennant Creek – the middle of the desert in the middle of the NT – from photocopying, to coordinating Barkly Writers' Ink. Once a Tabloid journalist in London, she also writes short stories and poetry, most recently contributing to *Desert Writing* (UWA Publishing 2016).

Matthew Heffernan is an Indigenous/Irish man, who was introduced to poetry through song writing and Hip Hop culture. Hailing from Alice Springs but calling Darwin home, Matthew writes from the perspective of love, curiosity and strength. In addition to being invited to perform on various stages around Australia, Matthew is also one of six commissioned poets invited to contribute to the Red Room Poetry Object 2016.

Robbie Hoad is an eclectic NT theatre maker, musician, socially

engaged artist, film maker and clown. His antics as Territory funk icon Barry Brown are notorious. He has been part of numerous projects with Corrugated Iron Youth Arts, Darwin Theatre Company, Red Hot Arts, Darwin Festival and Wide Open Space. He is co-director of Wagtale Creative, the NT version of The Goodies (Anything, Anytime!)

Steve Holliday is a poet and long-time supporter of poetry in Darwin via the Poetry Cup. He's also a life member of the Northern Territory Writers' Centre.

Lauren Holmes is originally from Coffs Harbour in NSW and currently resides in Darwin with her partner, son and 2 dogs. Lauren has worked with young children for over 10 years where she developed an interest in children's picture books and began writing them. *Silly Sausage*, illustrated by her cousin Gillian Shaw, is her first published work.

Sarah Hope is a playwright and emerging producer of independent theatre. Sarah produced her first play *The Hoist* as part of Brown's Mart's 2014 Shimmer Season. She recently finished an Advanced Diploma of Screenwriting at AFTRS. The latest play *Dog Dog* was written especially for young Territorians.

David James is a member of THE MOB, a group of South London poets, artists and musicians that have been writing, publishing and performing since the early 1960's and are still active in the UK today. He has lived in Darwin since 1985 and has worked world wide as a radio producer/documentary maker.

Barry Jonsberg is a multi-award winning international author of 17 books for Young Adults and children. Most recently, his novel *My Life as an Alphabet* won the 2013 Gold Inky, the Children's Peace Literature Award and the 2014 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards and was short-listed for the 2014 Adelaide Festival Awards and the Prime Minister's Literary awards. Barry lives in Darwin with his wife, children and a psychotic dog. His books have been published in the USA, the UK, France, Poland, Germany, Hungary, Turkey, Brazil and China.

Sandra Kendell is a local author and illustrator of children's picture books. She creates stories that celebrate some of our most fascinating native animals. Sandra is the author of five published children's books.

Zohab Zee Khan is an educator, spoken word poet, motivational speaker, musician and hip-hop artist.

Since 2006, he has been building a formidable career in spoken word poetry, culminating in taking out the title of the Australian Poetry Slam Champion in 2014.

Irena Kobald's book *My Two Blankets*, was winner of the 2015 Children's Book Council Award for Picture Books. She is a multi-lingual Austrian immigrant to Australia, who now teaches in remote NT communities.

Valanga Khoza was born in the Limpopo province of South Africa and grew up in Alexandra, a black township in Johannesburg. Since moving to Australia in 1976, he's been telling stories and singing songs about his homeland, South Africa. His children's book *Gezani and the Tricky Baboon*, was illustrated by Sally Rippin. He's currently writing his memoir.

Eka Kurniawan was born in 1975 and is the author of novels, short stories, essays, movie scripts, and graphic novels. He has been described by the Jakarta Post as 'one of the few influential writers in Indonesia.' Eka lives in Jakarta with his wife and daughter. His most recent novel to be translated to English is *Beauty is a Wound*.

Diane Lucas came to live in Kakadu in 1983. Her connections with Indigenous people and country, and having children, has greatly influenced and inspired her writing. She has 5 children's books published, a CD of songs and is a contributing author to, *A Natural History and Field Guide to Australia's Top End*.

Alice Springs' poet **Laurie May** challenges norms and explores identity, her own, her family's and the developing cultural identity of Australia. Hailing from the Gulf of Carpentaria this now desert rat performs around Australia and New Zealand, running youth poetry and performance workshops. Laurie is the Festival Director for the Red Dirt Poetry Festival in Alice Springs and dabbles in dodgy burlesque.

Kathy Mills was born in Katherine, but was taken away from her family and sent to the Kahlin compound in Darwin. She is a poet, songwriter and respected Aboriginal leader, particularly in the area of education. She was also the first woman to serve on the Northern Land Council.

Of Rembarranga, Tiwi and Chinese descent, **Marie Munkara** was delivered on the banks of the Mainoru River in Arnhemland by her two grandmothers and spent her early

years on Bathurst Island. Her first novel *Every Secret Thing* won the David Unaipon Award in 2008 and the NT Book of the Year in 2010. She has published two children's books *Rusty Brown* and *Rusty and Jojo* and her second novel *A Most Peculiar Act*. Marie's memoir *From Ashes and Rivers that Run to the Sea* has just been published by Penguin.

Rosemary Plummer Narrurlu is a Waraungu woman who grew up at Alekareng in the Barkly Tablelands. Her writing has appeared in anthologies and collected works such as *Selected Poems from Tennant Creek* (2000), *This Country Anytime Anywhere* and *Bruno's Song and Other Stories from the Northern Territory*. In 2014 Rosemary was Cultural Adviser on the Northern Territory Library's Tennant Creek Baby Board Book, and narrator on the accompanying DVD. Most recently she contributed to *Every Hill Got a Story and Desert Writing*.

Maureen Jipyiliya Nampijimpa O'Keefe is a Warlpiri woman, born and raised in Ali-Curung, south-east of Tennant Creek. Maureen's short stories and poems appear in *This Country Anytime Anywhere* and in the Red Room's *The Disappearing App*. Maureen was a guest poet at the 2011 Sydney Writers' Festival

and last year was a recipient of an Australian Indigenous Creator scholarship with Magabala Books. Most recently she was published in *Desert Writing* (UWA Publishing 2016). She is a translator and interpreter.

Jess Ong is a bit of a busy body and likes to ask a lot of questions, a curiosity that serves her well in her role as Creative Producer for SPUN; when digging for stories and new best friends. With a background in communications and digital marketing, she works in the arts and is a producer and freelancer.

Damien A. Pree is a multi-skilled and dynamic local theatre maker. Since arriving in Darwin in 2003, Damien has worked in a variety of capacities with Darwin Theatre Co, Brown's Mart, Corrugated Iron, Chambers Crescent Theatre and Satu Bulan. Between 2007 and 2011 Damien was Associate Artist and Indigenous Projects Officer with Corrugated Iron Youth Arts. He has written numerous plays for young people including *Milly The Detective*.

Derek Pugh writes travelogues, science, and history books, including *Turn Left at the Devil Tree*, *Tambora*, and *The Owner's Guide to the Teenage Brain*. His current project, Fort Dundas, tells the story of the first British

settlement in the north of Australia, in 1824. Pugh lives in Darwin with a growing family, researching, teaching, and writing with enthusiasm.

Christopher Raja migrated to Melbourne from Kolkata in 1986, and now lives and works in Alice Springs. His co-authored play *The First Garden* was published by Currency Press in 2012 and shortlisted for the Chief Minister's book of year in 2014. His debut novel, *The Burning Elephant* was published by Giramondo Publishing in 2015.

Paul Seden is descended from the Wuthathi and Muralag people of North Queensland. He grew up in Darwin, loves to draw and tell stories and has a passion for sport and the outdoors. His work with Indigenous kids in Darwin and remote communities in the NT was the inspiration for his first picture book, *Kick with My Left Foot*, (Allen and Unwin, 2014). Paul's latest picture book, *Crabbing with Dad* (Magabala Books, April 2016) was inspired by family fishing adventures. It is the first book he has both written and illustrated.

Kristy Schubert is a multi-talented, multi-disciplined performer, artist and arts worker. Her work on *The Package* includes puppet making, puppeteering, co-devising, music

composition and recording and more. Working in Central Australia since 2005, she is known for bringing insight and innovation to fields of mental health promotion, family wellbeing, education access and arts coordination.

Leni Shilton is a poet, teacher and researcher. Her poetry has twice won the NT Literary Awards and in 2015 was short-listed in the University of Canberra Poetry Prize. Her writing is published in journals and anthologies in Australia and internationally. Most recent publications are found in *Communion #3*, *Swamp Writing*, *Art Monthly* and *Axon*. Her writing has taken her to Ireland and Spain where she has presented at conferences and attended writing residencies. In February this year she completed a PhD in creative writing through Southern Cross University.

Magda Szubanski is one of Australia's best known and most loved performers. She began her career in university revues, then appeared in a number of sketch comedy shows before creating the iconic character of Sharon Strzelecki in ABC-TV's *Kath and Kim*. She has also acted in films (*Babe, Babe: Pig in the City, Happy Feet, The Golden Compass*) and stage shows. *Reckoning* is her first book.

Toni Tapp Coutts, the eldest of ten children, grew up on Killarney Station, 270 kilometres south west of Katherine. A well-known Territorian, she has had many stories published in NT anthologies and self-published the biography *Bill Tapp - Cattle King A Sunburnt Childhood*, (Hachette Australia 2016) is a fascinating story of childhood, survival and people from different worlds coming together in an ancient land.

Micki Teng is a wide-eyed dreamer who was born in Japan and raised in Southeast Asia. As a result, she feels more strongly about cultural issues than anything else and secretly believes that she can change the world one day. Her first performance poem, "Yellow", won her the Kath Manzie Youth Award at the NT Library Literary Awards in 2015 and the highly political poem has been her strength ever since.

Sandra Thibodeaux is a poet and playwright. She has published four collections of poetry with the most recent being *DIRTY H2O* (Mulla Mulla Press). In 2011, Sandra was Australian Poetry's Poet-in-Residence. She has written over a dozen plays that have been staged as part of festivals and broadcast on Radio National. Frequently collaborating with Indonesian artists,

Sandra is currently in development for *The Age of Bones* (Jaman Belulang). She lectures in Literary Studies and Creative Writing at Charles Darwin University.

Julie U'Ren lives in Darwin. She returned to the Northern Territory in 2013 after living for many years in Central Victoria. She is a lecturer, researcher and community worker and a prolific writer of flash fiction. Julie's poetry and short stories explore how place and people can change us.

NT resident since 1976, **Joanne van Os**' first book was best-selling memoir *Outback Heart*, published in 2005. Children's novels followed: *Brumby Plains*, *Castaway*, and *The Secret of the Lonely Isles* (shortlisted for the 2012 Territory Read Children's Literature awards). Her first general fiction novel, *Ronan's Echo*, about the battle of Fromelles in WW1 and the excavation of buried soldiers in 2010, was published in 2014. She is currently working on a new book.

Fred van't Sand is a Darwin-based poet who's been active in spoken word and slam poetry for many years. In 2015 he represented the Top End at the Poetry Slam Championships in Sydney.

Eliza Vitri Handayani's novel *From Now on Everything is Going to be Different* is her first to be published in English. She has also published short stories, essays and translations in leading Indonesian literary outlets as well as in the *Asia Literary Review*, *Griffith Review* and *Asymptote Journal*. She is the founder of InterSastra, an Indonesian literary translation initiative.

Linda Wells spent her childhood in Melbourne but has lived for many years now in Alice Springs. She runs a business offering guided walking tours of the town and writes. Linda's publications include *Still a Town Like Alice*, a recent history of the town that she wrote on commission for the Alice Springs Town Council and a number of short stories and poems. Her memoir *Kultitja* has just been published by Ginninderra Press.

Beth Yahp is an award-winning author, editor and creative-writing teacher. She has published short fiction, travel and memoir in Australia, South-East Asia and Europe. Her novel *The Crocodile Fury* is translated into several languages. Beth has just released, *Eat First, Talk Later*, a family memoir set in Malaysia. She has taught creative writing and creativity workshops at the University of Technology, Macquarie University, the American University of Paris,

and currently at the University of Sydney. Her first collection of short stories, *The Red Pearl and other Stories*, is forthcoming with Vagabond Press later this year.

THANKYOU'S:

Thanks to the NT Writers' Centre board: Maria Scarlett, Fred van't Sand, Linda Wells, Michelle Coleman, David James, Jo McGill, Darrel Trueman, Lesley Major and Glenn Morrison, Browns Mart, and all our partners and sponsors listed over page who enabled this festival to happen.

Thanks also to NT Optometrists Karama and Creative Jewellers for making donations to the festival.

Special thanks to our wonderful volunteers and panel facilitators, the Indonesian Consulate, Damien Pree, local media, the Darwin community and all participating writers.

COVER IMAGE

The fishnet used for this program's cover image is by Patricia Marrfurra AM, from Merrepen Arts Weavers.

The beautiful weavings made by the highly skilled women of Nauiyu Community are the works of inter-generational teaching, tradition and story-telling.

Each piece has a purpose – dilly, fishnets, baskets and mats. Collection of plant material is best done just after Wet Season when the plants are

soft and moist. Ladies cut the middle leaves – the fresh growth – take them back to their homes, sit together, strip the leaves to expose the soft material, and roll this on their legs into weaving fibres.

This takes hours of time. These fibres are then dyed using natural plant materials – seeds, leaves, roots and ash.



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