



PROGRAM

IWERRE-ATHERRE  
CROSSINGS

# NT WRITERS' FESTIVAL ALICE SPRINGS 18-21 MAY 2017

Stories crossing at the heart of the country



[ntwriters.com.au](http://ntwriters.com.au)

The NT Writers' Centre brings you

## NT WRITERS' FESTIVAL

in Alice Springs, and

**WORDSTORM**  
in Darwin on alternate years.

We also offer year-round workshops, talks and opportunities for writers at all stages of their craft, including residencies and mentorships.

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

Alice Springs  
08 8952 3810

[www.ntwriters.com.au](http://www.ntwriters.com.au)

### NT Writers' Centre

Executive Director – Sally Bothroyd  
Alice Springs Program Manager –  
Fiona Dorrell

### NT WRITERS' FESTIVAL

Festival Director – Dani Powell  
Program Co-ordinator –  
Shrike O'Malley  
Production Team –  
Rob Hoad, Kristy Schubert

### Alice Springs Office

Ph 08 8952 3810  
[alice@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:alice@ntwriters.com.au)



THE NT WRITERS' FESTIVAL  
WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE  
THE ARRERNTJE PEOPLE AS THE  
TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE  
LAND WE ARE MEETING ON,  
MPARNTWE, ALICE SPRINGS.

## IWERRE-ATHERRE CROSSINGS NT WRITERS' FESTIVAL ALICE SPRINGS

### CROSSINGS | IWERRE-ATHERRE

For the past eight months I've been caught in the current of Crossings | Iwerre-atherre.

I was drawn to the word 'crossings' for its multiple meanings – linguistic, cultural and geographic crossings; of borders and boundaries; of migrations, movements and diasporas; of hybridity and living-together-in-difference.

Alice Springs or Mparntwe is home to the Arrernte people, whose stories are embedded in country, carried by song and memory, in spoken and written words. As the geographical centre so many stories cross here.

It wasn't until I met with a group of Arrernte women at Akeyulerre that the theme came into focus. In Arrernte, they said, iwerre-atherre means two roads meeting, neither blocking nor erasing the other; two-way learning or travelling together. From this point the two languages would travel together, neither a bracketed explanation of the other.

So, in the spirit of iwerre-atherre, I have hoped to create a festival where stories cross, languages are multiple,



and the idea of the writer isn't a given; where songwomen sit beside writers – all storytellers; story-holders. I know this is only a beginning.

There are too many amazing guests to mention here – Indonesian writer, Agustinus Wibowo; prolific and passionate writer Bruce Pascoe; award-winning Kim Mahood; senior songwomen from the Gulf Country and Yuendumu, and prize-winning field biologist and writer, Tim Low; inspirational poets Eunice Andrada, Abe Nook, Anthony Lawrence and Michelle Cahill. Writers from across Australia meet in the Centre, and come into conversation with a prolific line up of local authors.

Welcome to the journey of Crossings | Iwerre-Atherre.

**Dani Powell** Festival Director 2017

## TICKETS

**ONLINE:** [ntwriters.com.au](http://ntwriters.com.au)

**IN PERSON:**

**Red Kangaroo Books, or at  
Festival until sold out.**

All events have limited capacity so  
pre-book to avoid disappointment.

### SPECIAL OFFERS:

**Weekend Pass \$125/\$80** NTWC/Conc

**Day Pass (Saturday or Sunday)**

**\$70/\$45** NTWC/Conc

**All other sessions individually  
ticketed.**

### Official Festival Book Seller

79 Todd Mall, 9am-5.30pm week days  
and 9am-3pm weekends and pop-up  
shop at OPBG during Festival  
[www.redkangaroobooks.com](http://www.redkangaroobooks.com)



## WELCOME FROM LAUREN MOSS

As the Northern Territory's Minister for Tourism and Culture, I am delighted to welcome you to the NT Writers' Festival 2017.

Since 1998 the NT Writers' Centre has been presenting festivals with a focus on Indigenous Australian, South East Asian and regional voices.

This year the festival is set in the unique beauty of Alice Springs, and it will celebrate words, culture and ideas, connecting with the theme of *Crossings* | *Iwerre-Atherre*.

The Northern Territory Government is very proud to support our region's rich and exciting literary culture, and I'm excited to see such a diverse program.

*Lauren Moss*

**Lauren Moss**

NT Minister for Tourism + Culture

## WELCOME TO THE NT WRITERS' FESTIVAL

The NT Writers' Centre exists to support writers from all parts of the Northern Territory, and also strives to promote our unique and rich history of literature and storytelling for the benefit of readers across Australia and worldwide.

The NT Writers' Centre could not operate without the continued support of the NT Government, and the Australia Council, and we thank all our funders and sponsors for their commitment to the Territory's literary culture.

We also value our membership, and hope our many Central members are able to come and enjoy the inspiring program on offer at this year's festival.

Thanks also to the NT Writers' Centre board, led by Professor Martin Jarvis, Alice Springs Program Manager Fiona Dorrell, Festival Co-ordinator Shrike O'Malley, and most of all to the Festival Director Dani Powell.

*Sally Bothroyd*

**Sally Bothroyd** Executive Director  
NT Writers' Centre



## The NT Writers' Festival - Satellite Sessions

For the first time ever, we are taking the festival program across the Northern Territory with festival sessions livestreaming direct from Alice Springs to libraries and other venues across the NT. For more information and a full list of Satellite locations visit

[www.ntwriters.com.au](http://www.ntwriters.com.au)

## From Alice to Mparntwe

*Guided tour of Arrernte country*

Alice Springs is built on Arrernte country, at a place called Mparntwe, belonging to the Mparntwe-arenye people. Doris Stuart Kngwarreye, Apmereke-artwye for Mparntwe, would like to invite you as writers and storytellers to join with her on a guided tour, through her homeland, Mparntwe.

Cost: By donation. Kngwarreye sees these tours as part of her sacred duty of looking after country and feels setting a price will cheapen it. Any donations will be used to cover costs and to assist Doris and her families to continue to live and work for their country.

Bus departs Alice Springs Public Library  
Friday 19 May, 1.30-4pm  
Strictly limited capacity –  
prior bookings only, [ntwriters.com.au](http://ntwriters.com.au)

## Crosslines – stories crossing the heart of the country

Not so much a line up as a circle of writers. Not so much a reading as a performance from several outstanding storytellers and writers whose stories come from near and far to intersect here. Bring your swag and picnic and settle in for a poetic picnic under the desert sky as we traverse country and continents, tracing literary and migratory lines through Europe, Central and South-East Asia, from Sudan to Central Australia, to see how storylines intersect. Featuring Agustinus Wibowo, Lizzie Marrkilyi Ellis, Anthony Lawrence, Michelle Cahill, Leni Shilton, Penny Drysdale, Abe Nouk. Hosted by Craig San Roque with Alistair Jackson on electric fiddle.

Mezze Picnic hampers for sale at the  
Bean Tree café until 6.30pm!

Olive Pink Botanic Garden (OPBG)  
Tuncks Rd  
Friday 19 May, 6-8.30pm  
\$30/\$25 NTWC/Conc

## Dark Emu Dinner

Let the country speak its own quiet poetry as we gather for sunset beneath the ranges at Madigan's, in the Alice Springs Desert Park.

Prepare for a feast of words and bush foods, featuring special festival guest Bruce Pascoe. Author of over 20 books, Bruce is a Bunurong, Tasmanian and Yuin man based in Victoria. Bruce's recent book *Dark Emu* (Magabala Books 2014) won the Book of the Year as well as the Indigenous Writer's Prize in the 2016 NSW Premier's Literary Awards.

In *Dark Emu* Bruce draws on the diaries of early explorers as evidence that Aboriginal people were sowing, harvesting, irrigating and storing food.

Includes poetry readings and the short film *Walk To Gather Learn To Gather*, courtesy of Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa.

Catered by Kungkas Can Cook, with native foods collected from country.

Madigan's, Alice Springs Desert Park  
Saturday 20 May, 6-9pm  
\$85/\$75 NTWC/Conc  
Limited capacity – presale tickets  
only. Bookings essential.  
[ntwriters.com.au](http://ntwriters.com.au)

Night  
Event

## Crossing Country

*A storied walk along a sandy river*

Sold-out at the last writers' festival, we bring you again the writers' walk along the banks of the Todd River.

Led by local journalist and author of *Writing Home: Walking, Literature and Belonging in Australia's Red Centre*, Glenn Morrison, the walk follows the river for 4 kms along its shady banks from the CBD to the historic Alice Springs Telegraph Station.

Along the way four local writers and storytellers – Veronica Dobson, Fiona Walsh, Alex Nelson and Pat Ansell-Dodds – will each offer a particular perspective of the country to begin to build a sense of the Centre's multi-layered history: the landscape of the totemic ancestors, its settlement through conflict, the river's desert ecology, and a generation lost.

Let walking help shed the usual filters through which we see and perceive the world anew – for things look different at four kilometres an hour.

Sunday 21 May  
8-11am  
\$60/\$55 NTWC/Conc  
Strictly limited capacity – presale  
tickets only. Bookings essential.  
[ntwriters.com.au](http://ntwriters.com.au)

## WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Wednesday 17-Wednesday 24 May

**Workshops will only go ahead with sufficient bookings, so register early. All bookings essential (unless indicated) at [ntwriters.com.au](http://ntwriters.com.au)**

### Young Writers' Workshop *Me and My Place* – Felicity Castagna

This workshop with award-winning author of YA novel *The Incredible Here and Now* and *No More Boats*, Felicity Castagna, encourages young writers to write about their world by examining the community they live in. Young people will consider the techniques used by writers to convey 'a sense of place' and learn how to apply these to their own writing. For ages 7-12 years.

Alice Springs Public Library  
Wednesday 17 May, 3.30-5pm  
Free, limited numbers. Bookings essential: Danielle Schaeche  
Ph: 8950 0508

### Getting into Place – Felicity Castagna

*Level: Beginners, General*

Place doesn't need to be backdrop; it can be the main character, the driving force, it can shape your plot line and get your reader hooked into a story they won't want to put down. Felicity Castagna helps you to consider the techniques used by writers to convey 'a sense of place' and learn how to apply these to your own writing. If you're writing fiction, memoir, creative non-fiction or travel writing this workshop is for you.

Alice Springs Public Library  
Wednesday 17 May, 6.30-8.30pm  
\$50/\$45 NTWC/Conc

### Creative Non-fiction – Kim Mahood

*Level: Beginners, General*

Literary journalism, stream-of-consciousness rant, tell-all memoir, discursive essay – creative non-fiction has entered the literary arena as one of the most dynamic forms of contemporary writing. What is creative non-fiction? How does the writer negotiate the issue of subjective truth and other people's privacy? How 'creative' is it possible to be before the work becomes fiction?

Participants will discuss the genre, learn to identify the techniques of creative non-fiction, and carry out one or two short writing exercises.

The Residency, crn Parsons & Hartley  
Saturday 20 May, 2-5pm  
\$65/\$60 NTWC/Conc

### Creative Non-fiction Masterclass – Kim Mahood

Kim returns in July to offer a two day masterclass directed towards people who have a non-fiction work in progress which they want to develop.

1-2 July 2017  
Further information and bookings  
[ntwriters.com.au](http://ntwriters.com.au)

### The Art of Seeing – Anthony Lawrence

*Level: Beginners, General*

Don't miss this chance to work with acclaimed Australian poet Anthony Lawrence. This workshop assists poets to enter into negotiations with all their senses, and offers skills and strategies to unlock your vision.

Through a close reading of selected poems, and exercises that demand your critical and emotional attention, *The Art of Seeing* will change your ideas about how you see the world.

Olive Pink Botanic Garden (OPBG)  
Blakeman's Shelter  
Saturday 20 May, 2-4pm  
\$50/\$45 NTWC/Conc

### Art of Seeing Masterclass – Anthony Lawrence

*Level: Advanced, practising writers*

*The Art of Seeing* masterclass is offered on Wednesday 24 May after the Writers' Festival. See website for details.

Alice Springs Public Library  
Wednesday 24 May,  
5.30-8.30pm  
\$65/\$60 NTWC/Conc

## Picture Book Meet Up Ask Me Anything – Johanna Bell

Thinking of writing or illustrating a picture book? Or working on a picture book idea? Come and meet Johanna Bell, the author behind *Too Many Cheeky Dogs* and *Go Home Cheeky Animals!* She assures us you can ask her anything and she'll do her best to come up with an answer. Or if you're not the asking type, just grab a coffee and listen to the discussion. Super casual. Anyone welcome!

OPBG, Bean Tree Café (meet under the pergola, east end)  
Saturday 20 May, 1.15-2.15pm  
Free

## Singing in Language

Music is an important tool in language preservation, story-telling and keeping culture strong. MusicNT and NT Writers' Centre proudly invite you to join community elders from the Gulf Country to listen and learn songs in language.

Note that this session is for women only, all ages welcome.

Open Space, OPBG  
Saturday 20 May, 1.30-2.30pm, Free

## Create Your Own Cheeky Character – Johanna Bell

*For children (4-7 yrs & 8-12 yrs)*

Work with the author of *Too Many Cheeky Dogs* and *Go Home Cheeky Animals!* to create your own cheeky characters. Learn about the tricks that writers use for creating characters and discover the secret ingredient that every character must have. Once you have your character, have fun imagining the places they'll go and the mischief they'll get up to.

Blakeman's Shelter, OPBG  
4-7 yr olds (children must be accompanied by a carer)  
Sunday 21 May, 9.30-10.30am  
8-12 yr olds  
Sunday 11.30-12.30pm  
\$15 per session

## Nature town: Writing the Local Landscape – Meg Mooney & Nicole Gill

*Level: General (young people welcome 14+)*

What many of us love about living in Alice Springs is how the natural and urban worlds intersect. Walking, riding your bike or even driving, you spot a huge golden orb spider web, a mob of tiny blue butterflies under a mulga tree, a procession of caterpillars crossing the road.

What is nature writing and how does it overlap with science writing? Is writing about urban areas nature writing?

Bring your laptops and digital cameras/smartphones for a workshop where you get to explore the botanic gardens and write *in situ*. Upload your writing on the ecology of Alice to a free blog. With Alice Springs natural scientist and poet Meg Mooney and Tasmanian environmental writer Nicole Gill.

Ancient Landscapes Shelter, OPBG  
Sunday 21 May, 12.50-2.50pm  
\$50/\$45 NTWC/Conc  
(\$25 for under 18s)

## Start at the Heart – Kaye Aldenhoven, Julie U'ren, Kaye Hall

*Level: Beginners, General*

Three Top End writers present 'Start at the Heart' exploring 'truth' in memory, landscape as character, deep diving, and forces that change us. A grab bag of tools, inspiration and writing exercises for writers of fiction and non-fiction, poetry and short story. BYO paper and pens.

Blakeman's Shelter, OPBG  
Sunday 21 May, 3-5pm  
\$50/\$45 NTWC/Conc

We would like to thank  
the writers who have been  
working in schools this festival  
– Eunice Andrada (Red Room  
Company), Felicity Castagna,  
Sanya Yorth, Johanna Bell,  
Meg Mooney & Nicole Gill.



## Knowledge Intersections

Exploring the Research  
of Central Australia

### A one-day research symposium showcasing Central Australian Research - Thursday 18 May

This event will take place in the same week as the 2017 NT Writers' Festival in Alice Springs. We have adopted the theme 'Knowledge Intersections' in harmony with the festival theme, 'Crossings | Iwerre-Atherre'.

Researchers from across the central Australian region will share how the local research work they are doing reflects these thematic ideas.

This is a free event but places are limited.



**Batchelor  
Institute**

Hosted by Batchelor Institute  
at the Desert Peoples Centre  
Desert Knowledge Precinct - Alice Springs

For more information visit: [go.batchelor.edu.au/knowledge-intersections](http://go.batchelor.edu.au/knowledge-intersections)

THURSDAY 18 MAY

ALL  
WELCOME

### Festival Opening

Please join us in the gardens for a truly special opening of the 2017 NT Writers' Festival - Alice Springs, with an Arrernte welcome at sunset. We are honoured to have songwomen from the Gulf Country here as special guests of the festival who tonight will share some of their own songs. Enjoy a sample of

short readings from festival guests including Bruce Pascoe, Agustinus Wibowo, Eunice Andrada and Abe Nouk, and writers from Central Australia as we embark upon the journey of *Crossings* | Iwerre Atherre.

Olive Pink Botanic Garden (OPBG)  
5.30-7pm  
Free

### The Yarning Chair - Lizzie Marrkilyi Ellis

The Alice Springs Public Library presents the Yarning Chair - where you get to put down your books and listen to life stories that inspire.

Born in the Western Desert at the time of first contact, Lizzie Marrkilyi Ellis grew up to become an educator, interpreter and linguist and has recently published her memoir *Pictures from my memory: my story as a Ngaatjatjarra woman* (Aboriginal Studies Press).

Alice Springs Public Library  
12-1pm  
Free. No bookings required

### Mixtape Memoirs

Music is a powerful cue for potent memories. In the tradition of this popular Emerging Writers' Festival event, tonight we bring you a brilliant line up of writers who will take to the stage to share something from the soundtracks of their lives. Join us for a night of music and memoir in a tiny tin shed theatre.

Writers include Sylvia Neale, Catherine Satour, Christopher Raja, Felicity Castagna, Nicole Gill, Jo Dutton, Glenn Morrison.

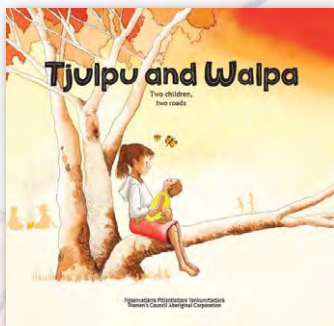
Totem Theatre, ANZAC Oval Reserve  
8-9.30pm  
\$20/\$15 NTWC/Conc

Night  
Event

THURSDAY 18 MAY

### Book launch: *Tjulpu and Walpa* – NPY Women's Council

*Tjulpu and Walpa* is the story of two girls who travel down very different paths. *Tjulpu* (Pitjantjatjara) is the bird that sings. Tjulpu's story is about a girl who had all the love and support she needed to grow up strong, healthy and happy. *Walpa* is the wind. Walpa's story is about a girl who was blown around from place to place. This book weaves together stories from senior Indigenous women dedicated to bringing positive change for their families and communities.



The Uti Kulinjaku project is a group of ngangkari (traditional healers), senior Indigenous women, and western health professionals exploring mental health concepts from both Indigenous and western perspectives. [www.npywc.org.au](http://www.npywc.org.au) or email [ukinfo@npywc.org.au](mailto:ukinfo@npywc.org.au) for information.

The Residency  
10.30-11.30am  
Free. No bookings required

### Crossings and Borders – Agustinus Wibowo

NT Writer's Festival are proud to be hosting Indonesian travel writer and photographer as a special guest of the festival.

Agustinus' first book *Selimut Debu* (*A Blanket of Dust*) soon became a best-seller. It chronicles his journey in the war-torn Afghanistan. *Selimut Debu* was followed by *Garis Batas* (*Borderlines*) – a reflection on the meaning of borders.

Then after ten years wandering the world, he wrote *Titik Nol* (*Zero: When the Journey Takes You Home*). Part travel book, part memoir, *Zero* has pioneered a new genre in Indonesian travel literature by allowing readers to experience the writer's physical, spiritual and emotional journey.

Today he will talk about his life and writing and his obsession with borders – political borders, geographical borders, psychological borders – and identities, with local journalist Glenn Morrison.

Alice Springs Public Library  
12-1pm  
Free. No bookings required



### From Alice to Mparntwe

Guided tour of Arrernte country by Doris Stuart Kngwarreye –  
Apmereke-atwye for Mparntwe.  
See Feature Events (p. 6)

Bus departs Alice Springs Public Library  
1.30-4pm  
Limited capacity. Bookings essential  
[ntwriters.com.au](http://ntwriters.com.au)

FRIDAY 19 MAY

## Book launch: Ptilotus Press – Carol Adams & Frank Byrne

Join the Alice Springs-based publishing group Ptilotus Press as they launch their new *Inland Writers* series of short works by Central Australian writers. The first two in the series, both memoir, will be launched this evening – one by local artist Carol Adams, and the other by Kimberley-born Frank Byrne, supported by Frances Coughlan and Gerard Waterford.

Ptilotus Press was established in 1996 by a dedicated collective of writers, who are devoted to the publication of Central Australian writing.

Bean Tree café, OPBG  
5-5.45pm  
Free

**Note: The Bean Tree café will remain open until 6.30pm selling picnic hampers for those going to Crosslines at 6pm.**



## Crosslines – stories crossing the heart of the country

A poetic picnic under the desert sky featuring Agustinus Wibowo, Lizzie Marrkilyi Ellis, Anthony Lawrence, Michelle Cahill, Leni Shilton, Penny Drysdale, Abe Nouk. Hosted by Craig San Roque with Alistair Jackson on electric fiddle. Picnic hampers for sale at Bean Tree café.

See Feature Events (p. 6)

Olive Pink Botanic Garden  
(open space)  
6-8.30pm  
\$30/\$25 NTWC/Conc

## WEEKEND PROGRAM

All daytime events at Olive Pink Botanic Garden (OPBG), Tuncks Rd

SATURDAY 20 MAY

## Up with the Birds

*Poetry readings at the café*

Early birds come one and all to hear how our feathered companions have crossed the hearts and minds of poets. Featuring Anthony Lawrence, Meg Mooney, Bruce Pascoe, Kaye Aldenhoven.

Bean Tree café, OPBG  
8-8.45am  
Free

## Book launch: Ayeye thiye-akerte – Arrernte stories about birds, Therese Ryder

Arrernte artist Therese Ryder extends her creative repertoire to place *thiye mape* 'birds' amid Arrernte landscapes in this exquisite book published by Batchelor Press. Combining painting, writing and voice recordings, the book offers an Arrernte perspective on birds as part of the natural world, describing their behaviour, diet and habitat, and their role in a traditional diet. Therese's stories also give readers a glimpse of the cultural significance of birds as messengers and spirits. The book has a companion App, so you can hear Therese read her stories and listen to the bird calls!



Gallery, OPBG  
9-9.45am  
Free

## Tim Low – Birds and Us

When ravens snatch food scraps from rubbish bins, and bower birds decorate with trinkets, they are continuing a relationship to humans that goes back more than 40,000 years...

Biologist and author of the best-selling books *Where Song Began* and *The New Nature*, Tim Low, talks about Australian bird-human relationships across time.

Gazebo, OPBG

10-10.45am

\$15/\$10 NTWC/Conc

## the territory in between – online journal

*the territory in between* is an online journal for writing and art about Central Australia founded by a collective of local artists and writers. It aims to ask questions about the territories we mark for ourselves, why and how we do this and what spaces this creates in between?

Founding member Ahmed Adam and contributors discuss the territories we occupy and how we negotiate the space between cultures.

Gallery, OPBG

10-10.30am

Free

## The Writing and Work of Two Lives Crossing

A dynamic conversation and multimedia presentation about cross-cultural collaboration between senior Arrernte linguist, educator and writer, Veronica Dobson (AM) and research scientist, ethnoecologist and media artist, Fiona Walsh – guided by Wardaman woman, researcher and social scientist, Josie Douglas.

These three women share a passion for Country and its entwined human and plant ecology. For each of them caring for country must include the sharing of traditional, local and scientific knowledge.

Gallery, OPBG

11-11.45am

\$15/\$10 NTWC/Conc

## Crossing Country: recovering, remapping, retelling

Country itself might be seen as a palimpsest, embedded with the strata of stories, sometimes lost or erased. This panel brings together four writers who each scrape the surface of place to recover, remap and retell new and fascinating records of this country.

Bruce Pascoe, Kim Mahood, Charlie Ward, Felicity Castagna

Gazebo, OPBG

12-1pm

\$15/\$10 NTWC/Conc

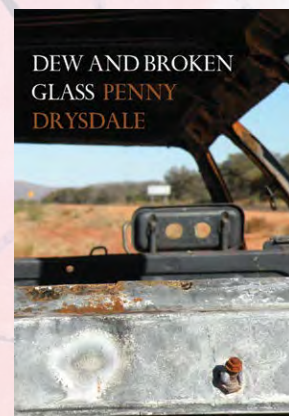
## Book launch: dew and broken glass, Penny Drysdale

Local author Penny Drysdale's debut collection of poetry by Recent Work Press breaks open the prison of self to lay bare the many contradictions in contemporary Australian relationships. A credit card, a mouse trap, a discarded car battery, a pile of children's clothing, all become an opportunity to examine aspects of ourselves we usually confine to the dark.

Gallery, OPBG

1.15-2.00pm

Free



**IWERRE-ATHERRE  
CROSSINGS NT  
WRITERS'  
FESTIVAL  
ALICE SPRINGS**

**PROGRAM  
PLANNER**

**THURSDAY 18 MAY**

**The Yarning Chair – Lizzie Marrkilyi Ellis**  
Alice Springs Public Library  
No bookings required.  
12-1pm Free

**Festival Opening**  
Olive Pink Botanic Garden  
5.30-7.00pm Free

**Mixed Tape Memoirs**  
Totem Theatre  
7.30-9.30pm

**Book launches**

**Panels**

**Talks**

**Presentations**

**Journeys on country**

**Events**

**WORKSHOPS**

Workshop Program  
Wed17-Wed 24 May pp.8-11  
Bookings essential: [ntwriters.com.au](http://ntwriters.com.au)

**FRIDAY 19 MAY**

**Book launch – Tjulpu and Walpa, NPY Women's Council**  
The Residency, Cnr Parsons & Hartley St  
10.30-11.30am Free

**Crossings and Borders – Agustinus Wibowo**  
Alice Springs Public Library  
No bookings required.  
12-1pm Free

**From Alice to Mparntwe – Guided tour of Arrernte country**  
Departs Alice Springs Public Library  
1.30-4pm. Bookings essential.

**Book launch – Ptilotus Press**  
Bean Tree Café, OPBG  
5-5.45pm Free

**Crosslines – stories crossing the heart of the country**  
Olive Pink Botanic Garden  
6-8.30pm

**SATURDAY 20 MAY**

**Up with the Birds**  
Poetry readings at the Bean Tree café  
8-8.45am Free

**Book launch – Ayeye Thipe-akerte (Arrernte stories about birds)**  
Therese Ryder  
Gallery, OPBG; 9-9.45am Free

**Tim Low: Birds and Us**  
Gazebo, OPBG; 10-10.45am

**the territory in between – online journal**  
Gallery, OPBG; 10-10.30am Free

**The Writing and Work of Two Lives Crossing – Veronica Dobson & Fiona Walsh, with Josie Douglas**  
Gallery, OPBG; 11-11.45am

**Crossing Country: recovering, remapping, retelling**  
Gazebo, OPBG; 12-1pm

**Book launch – dew and broken glass, Penny Drysdale**  
Gallery, OPBG; 1.15-2pm Free

**No More Boats – Felicity Castagna & Humble – Abe Nouk**  
Gazebo, OPBG; 1.45-2.45pm

**Gulf Country Songbook: Yanyuwa, Marra, Garrwa and Gudanji Songs**  
Gallery, OPBG; 3-4pm

**Cross Currents: the trace of past places, stories and mythologies**  
Gazebo, OPBG; 4.15-5.15pm

**Dark Emu Dinner – Bruce Pascoe**  
Madigan's, Alice Springs Desert Park  
6-9pm Bookings essential

**Reading Rooms**  
The Residency, Cnr Parsons & Hartley St  
7.30-9pm Bookings essential

**SUNDAY 21 MAY**

**Crossing Country**  
Storyed walk; 8-11am  
Bookings essential

**Book launch – Yurntumu-wardingki juju-ngaliya-kurlangu yawwulyu: Warlpiri women's songs from Yuendumu**  
Gallery, OPBG; 9.30-10.15am Free

**Memoir – Lizzie Marrkilyi Ellis & Renee McBryde**  
Gazebo, OPBG; 10.30-11.30am

**Mixed Feelings – graphic novel by CMS Polly Farmer Foundation students**  
Gallery, OPBG; 11-11.30am Free

**Crossing Forms: pushing the boundaries of books**  
Gazebo, OPBG; 11.45am-12.45pm

**Short fictions – Michelle Cahill & Michael Giacometti**  
Gallery, OPBG; 11.45am-12.45pm

**Book launch – The Crying Place, Lia Hills**  
Gallery, OPBG; 1-1.45pm Free

**Q&A: Why these stories of trouble? – Kieran Finnane**  
Gazebo, OPBG; 1.45-2.45pm

**Language Crossings**  
Gazebo, OPBG; 3- 4pm

**Reading the Past – Tim Low**  
Gallery, OPBG; 3- 4pm

**Homecomings, Memoir and Landscapes – Kim Mahood & Agustinus Wibowo**  
Gazebo, OPBG; 4.15-5.15pm

**Endnotes at the Bean Tree Café**  
Bean Tree Café, OPBG; 5.30-8pm Free entry. Café open for dinner until 7pm. Bar open.

## **No More Boats – Felicity Castagna & Humble – Abe Nouk**

*No More Boats* is the latest novel from Felicity Castagna, author of the multi-award winning novel, *The Incredible Here and Now*. Set during the Tampa Crisis, *No More Boats* explores Australia's long history of invasion anxiety through the eyes of a postwar Italian migrant whose life begins to unravel while his TV insists that the nation is being flooded, inundated and overrun by migrants.

Sudanese-born Abe Nouk was illiterate when he and his family arrived in Australia in 2004, as UN High Commission designated refugees. Now an award-winning spoken-word artist and poet, Abe talks about his first collection, *Humble*, and the power of language.

Gazebo, OPBG  
1.45-2.45pm  
\$15/\$10 NTWC/ Conc

## **Gulf Country Songbook: Yanyuwa, Marra, Garrwa and Gudanji Songs**

Affectionately called 'the singing book' this multimedia, multilingual publication literally sings! Senior songwomen Dinah Norman a-Marrngawi, Jemima Miller a-Wuwarlu, Marjorie Keighran Managirri and others join with co-author and creative producer Karin Riederer, to present this beautiful book published by Waralungku Arts. Not to be missed!

Gallery, OPBG  
3-4pm  
\$15/\$10 NTWC/Conc

## **Cross Currents: the trace of past places, stories and mythologies**

What of the countries and cultures, languages and landscapes, stories and mythologies that flow through our bloodlines and storylines – sometimes freely, sometimes like cross currents, pulling us this way and that?

Eunice Andrada, Christopher Raja,  
Craig San Roque, Michelle Cahill

Gazebo, OPBG  
4.15-5.15pm  
\$15/\$10 NTWC/Conc

## **Dark Emu Dinner**

Bush food dinner featuring special festival guest author Bruce Pascoe.

Catered by Kungkas Can Cook, with native foods collected from country.

See Feature Events (p. 7)

Madigan's, Alice Springs Desert Park  
6-9pm  
\$85/\$75 NTWC/Conc  
Limited capacity – presale tickets  
only. [ntwriters.com.au](http://ntwriters.com.au)

## **Reading Rooms**

Shhh! Once the social and administrative hub of the early township of Alice Springs, host to visiting dignitaries (including the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh!), the Residency will tonight become a house of reading, where several writers will give intimate readings from recent works, in honour of the quiet space of reading. Including Eunice Andrada, Lia Hills, Michael Giacometti, Leni Shilton, Ted Egan, Michelle Cahill.

The Residency  
7.30-9pm  
\$20/\$15 NTWC/Conc  
Limited capacity – presale tickets  
only. [ntwriters.com.au](http://ntwriters.com.au)

SUNDAY 21 MAY

## Crossing Country

A storied walk along a sandy river  
See Feature Events (p. 7)

8-11am

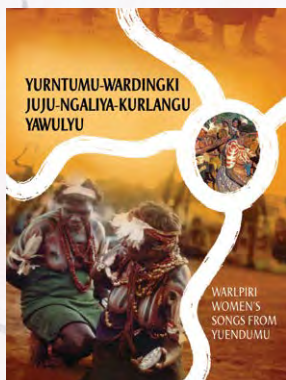
\$60/\$55 NTWC/Conc

Strictly limited capacity – presale  
tickets only. Bookings essential.  
ntwriters.com.au

### Book launch: *Yurntumu-wardingki juju-ngaliya-kurlangu yawulyu* *Warlpiri women's songs from Yuendumu*

*Yawulyu* are a genre of song that has been passed down through generations of Warlpiri women. This extraordinary book not only details 63 songs from four different *yawulyu* song series – documenting their rhythms, sung words, translations and accompanying stories – but includes audio-links and film.

The *juju-ngaliya* of Yuendumu have made this book so that their songs and knowledge can be remembered and performed by future generations of Warlpiri women.



Presented by anthropologist Georgia Curran, senior *juju-ngaliya* 'ritual expert' Lorraine Nungarrayi Granites and translator and educator Barbara Napanangka Martin, with others.

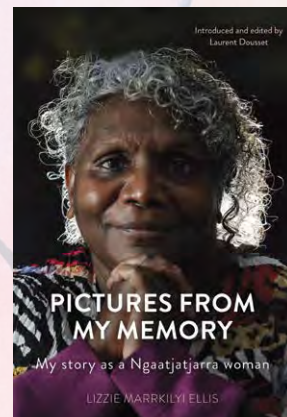
Gallery, OPBG  
9.30-10.15am  
Free

### Two memoirs – Lizzie Marrkilyi Ellis *Pictures from my memory: my story as a Ngaatjatjarra woman* & Renee McBryde *The House of Lies*

Born in the bush at the time of first contact, Lizzie Marrkilyi Ellis' vivid personal reflections are recorded in a memoir published by Aboriginal Studies Press (2016), offering both an historical record and profound emotional insight into her unique experience of being woven between cultures.

First time author and local writer Renee McBryde's *The House of Lies* (Hachette) is at once a book about family secrets, murder, sexual assault and domestic violence; Renee's is a gripping story of the struggle to accept the truth and her true identity, to forge a life on her own terms.

Gazebo, OPBG  
10.30-11.30am  
\$15/\$10 NTWC/Conc



## **Mixed Feelings – a graphic novel by Centralian Middle School (CMS)**

Central Australia is a place of mixed cultural stories, all living in close proximity to one another. Sometimes these stories get on well together, sometimes not.

*Mixed Feelings* is a graphic novel about Pam a young Indigenous woman who happens to have a father who can time travel. Setting out to find out how western scientific and cultural stories are woven together they test their own mettle as they meet the phantoms of their past, present and future.

CMS Polly Farmer Foundation students present their first chapter on the inland sea, as experienced from Simpsons Gap.

*Mixed Feelings* graphic novel was created by students of Centralian Middle School (CMS) Polly Farmer Foundation. CMS 'Follow the Dream' - Polly Farmer Program provides education support to Indigenous students. A range of enrichment tasks and tuition are provided to support students to successfully graduate and achieve their post-secondary goals.

Gallery, OPBG  
11-11.30am  
Free

## **Crossing Forms: pushing the boundaries of books**

In many Aboriginal communities books are now being used to preserve, pass on and rejuvenate what was once passed down orally. But how to translate an oral tradition into a written form? Join the creators of these new forms of publishing that upturn common notions of author, reader and reasons for writing.

Karin Riederer, Barbara Martin  
Georgia Curran, Julia Burke

Gazebo, OPBG  
11.45-12.45pm  
\$15/\$10 NTWC/Conc

## **Short fictions – Michelle Cahill & Michael Giacometti**

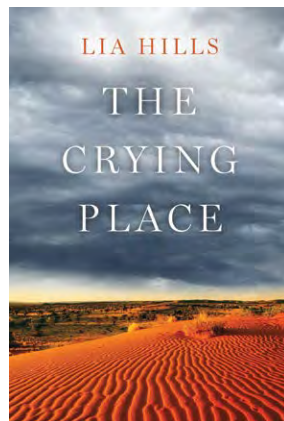
Two new collections of short fiction that traverse geographies, literatures, locations and time to take us across the thresholds of the possible. Visiting poet, essayist and fiction writer Michelle Cahill talks about *Letter to Pessoa* (Giramondo) with local writer Michael Giacometti whose debut collection is forthcoming from Spineless Wonders.

Gallery, OPBG  
11.45-12.45pm  
\$15/\$10 NTWC/Conc

## **Book launch – Lia Hills *The Crying Place***

Join Melbourne-based poet, novelist and translator Lia Hills for the launch of *The Crying Place* (Allen & Unwin, 2017) – a haunting, luminous novel about love, country, and the varied ways in which we grieve. In its portrayal of the borderlands where worlds come together, and the past and present overlap, it speaks of the places and moments that bind us.

Gallery, OPBG  
1-1.45pm  
Free



## **Q&A: Why these stories of trouble when there are so many stories to tell?**

### **– Kieran Finnane**

Kieran Finnane is a longtime Alice Springs journalist and arts writer. Her book, *TROUBLE: On Trial in Central Australia* (UQP, 2016), takes a compassionate yet unflinching look at some of the deep disorder in our region. Professor Marcia Langton has welcomed it as 'powerfully explanatory'. This facilitated Q&A is a chance for the community to respond and ask questions of the writer.

Gazebo, OPBG  
1.45-2.45pm  
\$15/\$10 NTWC/Conc

## Language Crossings

Publishing in standardised languages arguably leads to wider readership, greater connectivity and perhaps even empathy across cultures and borders. But what is lost in translation? What is left of multilingualism? Writers, linguists, educators and publishers talk about language, the base element of writing.

Lia Hills, Lizzie Marrkilyi Ellis, Terri-ann White, Agustinus Wibowo

Gazebo, OPBG

3-4pm

\$15/\$10 NTWC/Conc

## Reading the Past –Tim Low

In Central Australia rare plants have survived millions of years of drying by hiding on cool south facing cliffs – often these appear in Albert Namatjira's paintings. Ferns survive in gorges, and on the edge of the Simpson Desert grows waddywood, the rare and sacred tree that has spines left over from when it was chewed by megafauna. These plants tell us about a past that was very different. Biologist and author Tim Low takes us on a journey that will become an important part of his next book.

Gallery, OPBG

3-4pm

\$15/\$10 NTWC/Conc

## Homecomings, Memoir & Landscapes – Kim Mahood & Agustinus Wibowo

A fitting end to this festival of crossings with a closer look at cartography, borders, landscapes and memories.

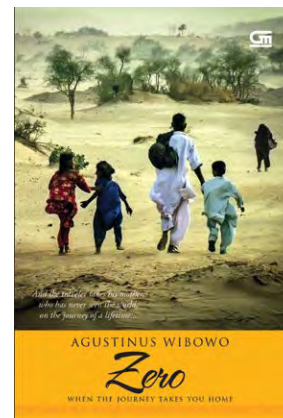
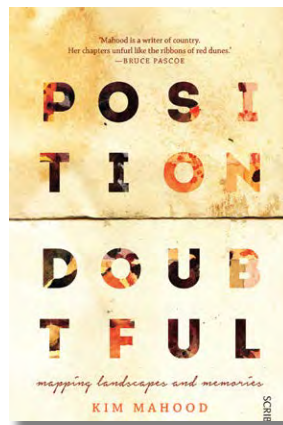
*Position Doubtful: mapping landscapes and memories* is writer and artist Kim Mahood's long-awaited second book, described as 'a shimmering, evocative memoir' (BOOKS+PUBLISHING) and 'an extraordinary excavation of the relationship, past and present, between settlers and indigenous Australians' (*The Monthly*).

*Titik Nol (Zero: When the Journey Takes You Home)*, is Indonesian travel writer and photographer Agustinus Wibowo's third book and first to be translated into English. After ten years wandering into English, *Zero* is the story of coming home and facing a reality he has always feared. His mother is dying. Part travel book, part memoir, *Zero* has pioneered a new genre in Indonesian travel literature by allowing readers to experience the writer's physical, spiritual and emotional journey.

Gazebo, OPBG

4-5pm

\$15/\$10 NTWC/Conc



## Endnotes at the Bean Tree Café

Enough said! Join us for drinks and dinner in the Bean Tree Café as the sun sets on the NT Writers' Festival – Alice Springs for another two years.

Bean Tree Café, OPBG

5.30-8.00pm

Free entry. Dinner and drinks available for purchase.

Café open til 7pm



## NT WRITERS' FESTIVAL 2017 WRITERS & STORYTELLERS

**Ahmed Adam** is an independent filmmaker and photographer living and working in Central Australia. He is also the founding editor of local art and writing online journal *the territory in between*. Born in Sudan, Adam considers his major influences thinkers such as Deluze and Guattari.

**Carol Adams** is originally from South Australia, and has now lived and worked in Central Australia for the past thirty-five years. She is a music teacher, painter and writer.

**Kaye Aldenhoven** is passionate about country, NT plants, NT birds, NT history, her family. Kaye has read her work in India, Thailand, Wollongong, Ubud, Tasmania, Newcastle, and Shoalhaven. She has published three collections – *Skin*, *Botanica Erotica* and *In my Husband's Country*. Kaye has twice won the NT Literary Awards for Poetry.

**Eunice Andrada** is a poet and teaching artist based in Sydney. Featured in *The Guardian*, CNN and other media, her poetry has also been performed in diverse international stages, from the Sydney Opera House to the UN Climate Negotiations in Paris. She was awarded the John Marsden & Hachette Australia Poetry Prize in 2014. In 2016, she was honoured by Australian Poetry as the first of their 30 Under 30 Poets. Her first collection of poetry is forthcoming.

**Johanna Bell** lives in Darwin. She has created two picture books with Tennant Creek artist Dion Beasley. In 2016, Johanna won the Northern Territory Literary Award for best short story and was runner-up in *Overland* magazine's national short fiction competition. She is currently working on a collection of inter-linked short stories, a fiction for 9-12 year olds and a picture book about grief. Johanna is also Creative Director of the sellout live storytelling event *SPUN: True Stories Told in the Territory*.

**Julia Burke** has worked for Aboriginal organisations in Central Australia for the past twenty-two years in digital content development, social history, communications and program development. Projects include Ara Irititja, walyaku.org.au (Central Land Council), Ngangkari Work Anangu Way (NPY Women's Council) and forthcoming autobiography of Yankunytjatjara woman, Nura Nungalka Ward.

**Frank Byrne** was born on Christmas Creek station in the Kimberley in 1937, the son of a Gooniyandi woman and Irish stockman. He was taken from his Aboriginal mother when he was 6 years old because he was of mixed race, and spent the next 9 years at Moola Bulla settlement and then Beagle Bay mission. Frank's writing is supported by Frances Coughlan and Gerard Waterford and the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress.

**Michelle Cahill** is an award-winning poet who writes fiction and essays. Her latest books are *Letter to Pessoa* (Giramondo) and *The Herring Lass* (Arc). She won the Val Vallis Poetry Award, the Hilary Mantel International Short Story Prize and was shortlisted the Elizabeth Jolley Prize among several others. She was a fellow at Kingston University and a Visiting Scholar in Creative Writing at UNC, Charlotte. She has written essays on race and cultural diversity for *Sydney Review of Books*, *The Weekend Australian* and *Cordite*.

**Felicity Castagna** is the author of the award-winning novel *The Incredible Here and Now*, and its stage adaptation, to be premiered at The National Theatre of Parramatta in 2017. Her collection of short stories *Small Indiscretions* was named an ABR book of the year. She holds a PhD from Western Sydney University and has served as the National Ambassador for Literacy and as a director at WestWords. *No More Boats* (Giramondo 2017) is her latest novel.

**Georgia Curran** is an anthropologist who has for the last twelve years worked with a core group of senior women from Yuendumu recording and documenting Warlpiri songs (yawulyu) to assist in their inter-generational transmission. Georgia is currently a research associate at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music where she continues her interests in repatriating ceremonial recordings and utilising these as ways to inspire community-led revitalisation of song traditions.

**Veronica Perrule Dobson AM** is an Eastern Arrernte woman highly respected for her cultural and linguistic knowledge. Veronica co-authored a dictionary of Arrernte. She is the author of *Arelhe-Kenhe Merethene: Arrernte traditional healing* (2007), and a co-author of *Anperrnventye kin and skin: talking about family in Arrernte* (2013).

**Patricia Ansell Dods** is an Arrernte and Anmatjere woman, a Flinders University Lecturer, and artist. Patricia was the winner of the 1990 NT Literary Awards for an essay about her father's country, Undoolya. Taken from her parents near Ti Tree when she was about four years old, writing her story helped Pat understand her family history and to acknowledge her identity as an Undoolya (Arrernte) and Anmatjere woman.

**Josie Douglas** is a researcher and social scientist. Her research experience includes investigating Indigenous livelihood strategies, Aboriginal knowledge concepts, customary, commercial bush food use, and remote education. She has worked in community-controlled Aboriginal organisations, Commonwealth agencies and the university sector. Josie is a Wardaman woman from the Top End who has lived and worked for many decades in Alice Springs on the lands of the Arrernte people.

**Penny Drysdale** grew up in Maryborough, Victoria. She studied psychology and law and has worked on social justice and cultural projects throughout her varied career. She moved to Alice Springs in 2010 where she currently works for the Akeyulerre Healing Centre established by Arrernte elders to practise and celebrate culture and ensure it is passed on to the next generations. Penny won the NT Literary Awards Poetry Prize in 2015 and was a finalist in 2011 and 2012.

**Jo Dutton** is the author of three novels. *On the Edge of Red* (Transworld 1998) *Out of Place* (Random House 2006) and *From Alice with Love* (Allen and Unwin 2013). Her current novel *Wrecked* is under consideration with Allen and Unwin. Her short stories and poetry have been widely published to critical acclaim.

**Ted Egan AO** is an Australian folk musician and writer of over ten books, who served as Administrator of the Northern Territory from 2003 to 2007. In 1993 he became a member of the Order of Australia for 'an outstanding record of service to the Aboriginal people and an ongoing contribution to the literary heritage of Australia, through song and verse'. He has since been promoted to an Officer of the Order.

**Lizzie Marrkilyi Ellis** is a Ngaatjatjarra educator, interpreter and linguist from the Western Desert. She is currently an Australian Research Council Discover Indigenous Fellow at the Australian National University where she is working on a project documenting Western Desert speech styles and changing modes of communication across generations.

**Sue Fielding** lives in Alice Springs. Her work explores cross-cultural life, the natural world and its current crisis, and the big experiences of life. She is published nationally, and her work is recognized in a number of awards and fellowships. Sue is a member of the Pilotus Press publishing group. In 2012, she was an Australian Poetry Poet in-residence at the Olive Pink Botanic Garden. She is currently working on a collection of poetry.

**Kieran Finnane** is a founding journalist of the Alice Springs News, established in 1994, and now online. She studied in Sydney and Paris, arts and film studies. Kieran moved to Alice Springs in 1987. Her arts writing and journalism has been published in *Griffith REVIEW*, *Inside Story*, *Art Monthly Australia* and *Artlink*. Her book of long form journalism, *TROUBLE: On Trial in Central Australia*, was published in 2016 (UQP).

**Michael Giacometti** has been a computer programmer and trekking guide, an arts worker and bus driver. Michael won the NT Literary Award for Poetry 2012, and his stories have been published in *Meanjin*, *Island*, *Wild*, and several anthologies including *Cracking the Spine: ten short Australian stories and how they were written* (Spineless Wonders 2014). His debut collection of short fiction will be published by Spineless Wonders in 2017.

**Nicole Gill** is a Tasmanian writer and environmental management specialist, whose writings on the environment, humans and other animals have featured in *The Monthly*, *Island*, *The Guardian* and *The Best Australian Science Writing*. She was shortlisted for the 2016 Bragg UNSW Press Prize for Science Writing. Her first book for children, *Animal Eco-Warriors*, will be published through CSIRO Publishing in June 2017.

**Lorraine Nungarrayi Granites** is a senior *juju-ngalya* 'ritual expert' who is central to the organisation of performances of *yawulyu* in Yuendumu today. She has acquired a deep knowledge of this genre of song through a lifetime of participation in *yawulyu* events. She is passionate about passing this knowledge on to younger generations of Warlpiri women and has interests in engaging with new technologies to assist this process.

**Kaye Hall** works as a writer and editor in Darwin. She draws from her own journey to write raw and revealing poems, short stories and scripts. She was threatened with legal action over her first published work, *Room To Be* (Linq Vol 32, No 2, 2005) and so it was 10 years before her second piece made it into print, *Mirror Mirror* (2015 NT Literary Awards, Works by Winners & Finalists).

**Lia Hills** is a Melbourne-based poet, novelist and translator. Her debut novel, *The Beginner's Guide to Living*, was shortlisted for the Victorian, Queensland and Western Australian Premiers' Literary Awards and has been translated into several languages. Other works include her award-winning poetry collection *the possibility of flight* and her translation of Marie Darrieussecq's acclaimed novel, *Tom is Dead*. *The Crying Place* is her latest novel.

**Marjorie Keighran Managirri** is a Garrwa singer, artist and senior member of the Wurdaliya clan, whose freshwater country is near the Queensland border, south-east of the remote town of Borroloola where she now lives. Marjorie was an active initiator of the *Gulf Country Songbook*, and a major contributor. She says she was put here to sing, and her Yanyuwa family often invite her to sing with them. Marjorie also features in several Garrwa animations.

**Anthony Lawrence** has published sixteen books of poems. His books and individual poems have won many awards, including the Philip Hodgins Memorial Medal; The Kenneth Slessor Poetry Prize (NSW Premier's Award for Poetry); Josephine Ulrick Poetry Prize; Newcastle Poetry Prize; the Blake Poetry Prize; Judith Wright Calanthe Award; Gwen Harwood Memorial Award.

**Tim Law** is a field biologist, writer, environmental consultant, and wildlife photographer. He is the prize-winning author of six previous books, including *Feral Future* and *The New Nature*, and a frequent contributor to *Wildlife Australia* magazine. He lives in Brisbane, Australia.

**Kim Mahood** is the author of two non-fiction books, the recently-published memoir *Position Doubtful*, and the multi award-winning *Craft for a Dry Lake*, published in 2000. She wrote the much-circulated essay 'Kartiya are like Toyotas – white workers on Australia's cultural frontier', and her work is published in art, literary and current affairs journals. Kim grew up in Central Australia, and is a regular visitor to Alice Springs.

**Barbara Napanangka Martin** has worked all her life as a teacher at the Yuendumu School. She continues to assist at the school's Bilingual Resource Development Unit (BRDU) as well as working on other community-based cultural projects. She is a skilled Warlpiri to English transcriber and translator and has also engaged with senior women to figure out ways of representing traditional oral stories in written form.

**Laurie May** is a Central Australian poet hailing from the Gulf of Carpentaria. Forever searching for an understanding of her own identity Laurie explores themes of family, poverty and heartache and the 'new' Australian identity. Laurie represented Alice in the Australian Poetry Slam in 2012 and has gone on to perform at festivals and stages and run workshops throughout Australia and New Zealand.

**Renee McBryde** majored in Community Welfare at university. She has worked in the community services sector for the last fifteen years, primarily working with disadvantaged children. Renee currently works in Child Protection for the Northern Territory government. She also teaches various Community Welfare courses to upskill other professionals within the sector. Renee lives in Alice Springs with her husband and children. *The House of Lies* is her first book.

**Jemima Miller a-Wuwarlu** is a senior Yanyuwa woman of the Mambaliya-Wawukariya clan, and a key contributor to the *Gulf Country Songbook*. She has been involved in many innovative cultural productions, and has been an important teacher of Yanyuwa culture and language, on her traditional lands of Wubunjawa, and around Australia. Jemima is a descendant of several highly regarded Yanyuwa singers and composers. She lives in Borroloola, NT.

**Meg Mooney** has lived in central Australia for 30 years, working with remote Aboriginal communities most of that time. Her third poetry collection, *Being Martha's Friend*, was published by Ginninderra Press in 2015. Her other books are *For the dry country: writing and drawings from the Centre* (Ptilotus Press), a collaboration with artist Sally Mumford; and *The Gap*, co-winner of The Picaro Poetry Prize in 2010.

**Glenn Morrison** is a journalist living in Alice Springs where he divides his time between a weekly newspaper column, media and cultural research, and producing for local radio. In 2015 he earned a PhD from Macquarie University, and in 2016 lectured in journalism at the University of Sydney. He is the author of *Writing Home: Walking, Literature and Belonging in Australia's Red Centre* (MUP 2017) and is working on a trade book version for September release.

**Sylvia Purrrle Neale** is an Eastern Arrernte woman born in Alice Springs. She is a grandmother and a great-grandmother. She doesn't regard herself as a poet but as someone who puts her thoughts and feelings down in writing. Her work is published in *Voice from the Heart* (1995) and *This Country Anywhere Anytime* (2010).

**Alex Nelson** is a lifetime resident of Alice Springs. He grew up at the AIB Farm and CSIRO, and was educated at the Convent School and ASHS. The swirling changes of the Whitlam era and NT self-government prompted a keen interest in politics and current affairs which morphed into an appreciation of the importance and relevance of history. He contributes frequently to local media.

**Abraham 'Abe' Nouk** is the founder and director at Creative Rebellion Youth. Sudanese-born Abe was illiterate when he and his family arrived in Australia in 2004, as UN High Commission designated refugees, and is now an award-winning spoken-word artist and poet, MC and author whose craft developed from a realisation of the freedom of speech. He self-published *HUMBLE*, his first collection, in 2013.

**Dinah Norman a-Marrngawi** is a multi-lingual Yanyuwa educator and senior Law woman. She is an author of the *Gulf Country Songbook*, and was instrumental in shaping the book's written and digital Yanyuwa content. Dinah has contributed to the making of ground-breaking albums and films, and the accuracy of the *Yanyuwa Encyclopaedia*, and has performed at places including the Sydney Opera House. Dinah was born in a canoe travelling from her Wuyaliya country of South West Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Today she lives in Borroloola, NT.

**Maureen Jipilyiya 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. She is a translator and interpreter.

**Bruce Pascoe** is a Bunurong, Tasmanian and Yuin man based in Gipsy Point, a remote corner of Far East Gippsland in Victoria. The author of over 20 books, his Young Adult novel, *Fog a Dox* (Magabala Books 2012), won the 2013 Prime Minister's Young Adult fiction Award. In 2016, his non-fiction book, *Dark Emu* (Magabala Books 2014) won the Book of the Year and the Indigenous Writer's Prize in the NSW Premier's Literary Awards.

**Christopher Raja** migrated to Melbourne from Kolkata in 1986, and now lives and works in Alice Springs. He is the co-author of the play *The First Garden* (Currency Press, 2012) and author of the novel, *The Burning Elephant* (Giramondo, 2015).

**Karin Riederer** is a co-author and the creative producer of *Gulf Country Songbook: Yanyuwa, Marra, Garra and Gudantji Songs*, a book she published on behalf of Waralungku Arts in Borroloola, NT. Karin is a creative engineer of cultural initiatives, exhibitions and festivals, pursuing ideas that evolve from thoughtful community engagement. She has extensive arts worker experience in urban and remote communities, and is a former book publisher, editor and publicist.

**Craig San Roque** lives in Central Australia. He has many published works on psychological and inter-cultural issues. He also composes performance works developed from classic mythic story lines on themes of local issues, mixed relations and cultural preservation. Craig and Joshua Santospirito produced the graphic novel *A Long Weekend in Alice Springs* (NT Literary Award winner). They are now working on *Sydney/Purgatorio*, an historical crime story set in East Sydney.

**Therese Ryder** is a well known artist and language teacher. She learned how to read and write her Arrernte language in workshops run by Gavan Breen in 1983. She has worked on many language projects, including the *Eastern and Central Arrernte Dictionary*, the *Keringke* book about Arrernte artists at Ltyentye Apurte, the murals on the walls of the Yeperenye Shopping centre, and many gospel translation projects.

**Catherine Satour** is a singer, performer, tv presenter, producer and writer. Music is in her blood, having played her first gig at 9 years old at Amoonguna with her father Bonna Lawrie and his legendary band Coloured Stone. An Arrernte and Mirning woman, she shares experiences of love and place through songs that fuse rock and soul.

**Leni Shilton** is a poet, teacher and researcher. She has won the NT Literary Awards numerous times, and in 2015 was short-listed in the University of Canberra Poetry Prize. In 2016 she completed a PhD in creative writing based on the life of little-known Central Australian figure Bertha Strehlow. Leni is a founding member of Ptilotus Press, a local publishing initiative which promotes Central Australian writing.

**Doris Stuart Kngwarreye**'s family has lived alongside the Todd River for countless generations. Alice Springs, or Mparntwe, was her father's traditional ground. She is an Mparntwe-arenye woman – Apmereke artweye (traditional owner) for Mparntwe and speaks Central Arrernte.

**Margaret Kemarre Turner** belongs to the Akarre people (Arrernte). Margaret is an interpreter, artist and author, and has taught language and culture at the Institute for Aboriginal Development. She is the co-author/translator of *Iwenhe Tyerrtye: What It Means to Be an Aboriginal Person* (2010) with Barry McDonald and *Bush Foods: Arrernte Foods of Central Australia* (1996) with Shawn Dobson and John Henderson.

**Julie U'Ren** lives in Darwin. She is a lecturer, researcher and community worker. Julie is a prolific writer of flash fiction. Her poetry and short stories explore how place and people can change us. She was a finalist in the NT Literary Awards Southern Cross Flash Fiction Award, 2016.

**Mavis Timothy a-Muluwamarra** is a Yanyuwa translator, interpreter and cultural broker. She has been involved in many initiatives that assist the flow of Yanyuwa knowledge as well as cross-cultural understandings, including the *Gulf Country Songbook*, the award-winning album Ngambala Wiji li-Wunungu, and digital animations of Yanyuwa songlines. Mavis grew up travelling with her family, learning the knowledge and ways of her Rumburriya country, including Vanderlin and North islands. She lives in Borroloola.

**Fiona Walsh** lives in Alice Springs. Her writings, photographs and films share a love of ecology and interrelations to human and spiritual worlds. Her 2017 article and photo essay 'Caterpillars as Big as Mountains' distils these interests. As an Ethno-Ecologist, she works with Aboriginal people on bush food, burning and environmental programs. Fiona co-edited the awarded book *Planning for Country: Cross-cultural approaches to decision-making on Aboriginal lands*. She was an invited panelist at WOMAD 2017.

**Charlie Ward** is a writer and historian, based in Darwin. He worked in the Gurindji communities of Kalkaringi and Daguragu between 2004 and 2006 and then as a researcher with the Stolen Generations' Link-up program in Alice Springs. Now an oral history interviewer with the National Library of Australia, Charlie's work has appeared in journals including *Griffith Review*, *Meanjin* and *South-erly*. *A Handful of Sand* is his first book.

**Terri-ann White** has spent her working life around books and ideas: as a bookseller, writer, teacher and workshop presenter, editor, festival organizer and now publisher. The one driving constant is her passion for the unique voice in writing, and her evangelical promotion of great books. She is currently Director of UWA Publishing.

**Agustinus Wibowo** is an Indonesian travel writer and photographer. He started a 'Grand Overland Journey,' in 2005 from Beijing, and dreamed to reach South Africa totally by land. His journey took him across Himalaya, South Asia, Afghanistan, Iran and ex-Soviet Central Asian republics. He was stranded and stayed for three years in Afghanistan. His third book, *Zero: When the Journey Takes You Home*, has pioneered a new genre in Indonesian travel literature. He can speak sixteen languages.

**Sanya Yorth** is a Social Worker and Performing Writer residing in Mparntwe (Alice Springs). Born and raised in South Western Sydney, Sanya now lives and works in the outback with Australia's First Nations Peoples. Sanya is a two-time Australian Poetry Slam National Finalist whose honest and heartfelt poetry invokes truth, justice, love and possesses the transformative power to inspire political and social change.

## THANKS TO

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