

writers' festival

EYE OF THE STORM

— finding home

PROGRAM

17–20 SEP 2015

**OLIVE PINK BOTANIC GARDEN,
ALICE SPRINGS**

 NORTHERN TERRITORY Writers' Centre

ntwriters.com.au



The NT Writers' Centre
brings you

EYE OF THE STORM
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

Darwin

08 8941 2651

Alice Springs

08 8952 3810

alice@ntwriters.com.au

www.ntwriters.com.au

NT Writers' Centre

Executive Directors – Sally Bothroyd
and Michelle Crowther

Eye of the Storm

Creative Producer – Dani Powell
Assistant Program Coordinator –
Fiona Dorrell

Production Team – Rob Hoad,
Cy Starkman, Kristy Schubert,
Aaron Fredric

Alice Springs Office

Ph 08 8952 3810

alice@ntwriters.com.au

Eye of the Storm would like to
acknowledge the Arrernte people
as the traditional owners of the
land we are meeting on, Mparntwe,
Alice Springs.

writers' festival

EYE OF THE STORM

WELCOME

Welcome to Eye of the Storm 2015.

As Minister for Arts and Museums, I am delighted to support the *Eye of the Storm* writers' festival in Alice Springs, presented by the Northern Territory Writers' Centre.

The *Eye of the Storm* celebrates the tradition of storytelling located in Alice Springs and connects the Northern Territory with the writing community across Australia.

This Festival is an important opportunity for writers to gather, celebrate their craft, and share ideas and stories in the culturally rich centre of Australia. It is the Northern Territory's contribution to the national conversation about "Finding Home".

The Northern Territory Government is very proud to provide support of \$165 000 per annum to the Writers' Centre to develop and showcase contemporary Northern Territory writing.

I invite you to enjoy every minute of this very special event.

CONTENTS

WELCOME	3
TICKETS	4
FINDING HOME	5
FEATURE EVENTS	6
THURSDAY	8
FRIDAY	9
SATURDAY	11
PROGRAM PLANNER	16
SUNDAY	18
WORKSHOP PROGRAM	21
WRITERS & STORYTELLERS	23



Gary Higgins

Minister for Arts and Museums

CONTENTS – WELCOME 3

Welcome delegates to 2015 NT Writers' Festival – the Eye of the Storm.

It's with pleasure that I welcome delegates to this festival as it's great to see people come to Alice Springs and be inspired by our fantastic landscapes. It's also great to see local talent showcased and have locals learn from locals. So I congratulate the NT Writers' Centre who have organised this event, they have ensured an impressive program filled with talented writers to engage our imagination. In Alice we have a thriving creative arts scene. It's made up of many different genres and forms, from the



traditional to the contemporary. It's important to have and to cultivate creativity in our community, as it helps us to both preserve and celebrate our culture and diversity. I hope you enjoy your time at the festival and in Alice Springs.

Damien Ryan
Mayor, Alice Springs

Red Kangaroo Books



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.redkangarooobooks.com

TICKETS

ONLINE: ntwriters.com.au
IN PERSON: Red Kangaroo
Books, or at Festival until sold out.
(Of *Cows, Women and War* online only.)
All events have limited capacity so
pre-book to avoid disappointment.

SPECIAL OFFERS – online only **NTWC Member Festival Pass**

All events (except *From Alice to Mpartwe & Walking, Writing and Ways of Seeing*) **\$150**

Non Member Offers:
Become NTWC member and get
1x panel free. **\$55/\$45 conc.**

3 x Panels and Presentations \$35

2 x Night Events \$35

FINDING HOME

When I came on board to develop the Eye of the Storm this year I picked up the threads of conversations, meetings, early planning and thinking that had been undertaken by the outgoing Executive Director of NT Writers' Panos Couros, last year in consultation with a group of local writers passionate about this place and the stories and writing that comes from it by those who live here and those who have traveled through.

I embraced the theme of *Finding Home*, a theme both evocative and provocative. Themes of home and belonging and the search for sanctuary filter through so much of the literature of our time as people migrate, or are forced to move on account of conflict, dispossession or poverty. For some this has meant homelessness while others see themselves belonging to an international community without borders, a community enriched by digital publishing.

Where indeed is home? Is it the place of our ancestors, the house we grew up, or more a state of being where the seeking stops and one is finally at home in the world? Of course there is no answer, only perspectives.



These questions are what we hope to stimulate through this festival, to give focus to thinking and reading and conversation over these four days and beyond.

Alice Springs, or Mparntwe, is home to the Arrernte people and this was foremost in my mind as I developed this program. I hope you can come to some of the events where home is considered particularly from the perspective of Aboriginal people in this region, such as Doris Stuart Kngwarreye's exclusive tour through her homeland, Mparntwe, on Friday or book talks by Veronica Dobson and Margaret Heffernan, on Saturday morning following a session featuring writers and storytellers of the region – *Apmere Ngura Ngurra Ngurraji Home*.

I hope you can start with these special events as a foundation for this Eye of the Storm festival and join with local and guest writers and storytellers on the journey of *Finding Home*.

Dani Powell

Creative Producer, Eye of the Storm

FEATURE EVENTS

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-artweye for Mparntwe, would like to invite you as writers and storytellers to join her on a guided tour, through her homeland, Mparntwe.

Cost: Priceless. Kngwarreye sees these tours as part of her sacred duty of looking after country and feels that setting any price for this experience will cheapen it. However any donations will be gratefully accepted and will be used to cover costs and to assist Doris and her families to continue to live and work for their country.

Writing: Participants are asked to respond with writing to be read in October at Watch this Space artist-run contemporary gallery.

This tour will depart from the Alice Springs Public Library following Ellen van Neerven's book talk.

Of Cows, Women and War

Performance

Of Cows, Women and War was written by Ajak Kwai and Bagryana Popov, based on the unpublished book by Ajak Kwai, with music written by Kwai. The stories touch on all the areas of Dinka people's lives before and during the war in Sudan. Stories of landscapes and courting rituals, of family tradition and pride. Stories of forced marriage, and why cows are a curse for girls. Stories of loss, and the high price women and children pay in war.

Performed by Ajak Kwai

Director/Dramaturg:

Bagryana Popov

Music by Elliott Folvig

and King Marong

Designed by

Adrienne Chisolm

Assistant Director:

Bridget Balodis

Image by Nik Harrison

Come and taste Mogahid's delicious zalabia (Sudanese donuts) before the show from 5.45pm at the Gazebo.



Depart Alice Springs Public Library

Friday 18 Sep

1.30pm-4pm

By donation

Limited capacity. Bookings essential.

ntwriters.com.au

Olive Pink Botanic Garden (outdoors)

Saturday 19 Sep

6pm for 6.30pm start-7.30pm

\$45/\$40 NTWC/conc

Limited capacity. Bookings essential.

ntwriters.com.au

Walking, Writing and Ways of Seeing

A walk along the Todd River

Walking in nature has been variously appreciated and embraced as stress-relieving, spiritual and inspiring. But walking can also be a cultural act, even political, and its role in how we perceive our world is profound. For things look different at 4km an hour. This workshop considers walking and writing as a fresh way of seeing and producing places through text. It encourages writers to slow down, to let walking help shed the usual filters through which we see, and to perceive the world anew.

This guided walk will follow the Todd River for 4 kms along its shady banks from the CBD to the historic Alice Springs Telegraph Station. Along the way four local writers – Linda Wells, Dr Veronica Dobson, Dr Peter Latz and Pat Ansell-Dodds – will each offer a particular perspective of the

country which may 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.

Through the act of walking, and your writing of it, you may find your own way into this unique part of Australia, and yourself.

The walk will be lead by Dr Glenn Morrison – a journalist and author living in Alice Springs since 1998, Glenn has recently completed a PhD about walking and ideas of frontier and home in the literature of Central Australia.

Sunday 20 Sept

8am-11am

\$45/\$40 NTWC/conc

Limited capacity. Bookings essential.

ntwriters.com.au

More information upon booking.

THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

Festival Opening

Gather before the sun goes down at Olive Pink Botanic Garden to open the 2015 Eye of the Storm writers' festival. Be welcomed to Arrernte country by Pat Ansell-Dodds and hear writers from the festival line-up read short pieces on the festival theme 'Finding Home'. Featuring Candy Royalle, Ali Cobby Eckermann, Maureen Nampijimpa O'Keefe, Michael Mohammed Ahmad, Rod Moss, Kim Mahood and Jo Dutton, with music by local singer/songwriter Catherine Satour and special guest Sudanese singer, songwriter and storyteller Ajak Kwai.

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

The Dirty Word

This year The Dirty Word plays host to the Alice Springs heats of the Australia Poetry Slam! Two minutes, just you, no props, one mic ... your chance to tell it how it is. The winner will fly to Sydney to represent the arid zone in the Australian Poetry Slam finals at the Sydney Opera House. The Dirty Word provides a platform for all poets and people, storytellers and strangers to come together and hear each other tell poems, stories, truths and laughs.

Everyone is welcome at The Dirty Word. Come on down and share your story!

Contact Laurie May at thedirtywordasp@gmail.com for more information.

Totem Theatre, Anzac Oval Reserve
8pm sign up for 8.30pm prompt start
\$10/\$5 NTWC/conc

Night
Event

FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

From Alice to Mparntwe

Guided tour of Arrernte country

See Feature Events (p.6).

Depart Alice Springs Public Library
1.30pm-4pm
Limited capacity. Bookings essential
ntwriters.com.au

PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAM

Thursday 17 September

Creative Book Making combining writing and visual elements – Diane Lucas. Ages 6-12.

3.30pm-5pm

Free

Bookings required

Friday 18 September

Baby Rhyme Time with author Diane Lucas. Diane Lucas will lead this special presentation of Baby Rhyme Time based on her own songs and stories for babies. For parents and babies aged 0-2.

10.15am-10.45am

Free

No bookings required



Book talk – Ellen van Neerven *Heat and Light*

Ellen van Neerven is a Yugambeh writer living in Brisbane. Her short story collection *Heat and Light* won the 2013 David Unaipon Award and was shortlisted for the 2015 Stella Prize, the NSW Premier's Literary Awards, and the Dobbie Literary Award.

12pm-1pm

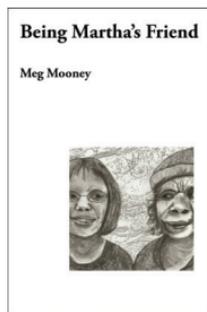
Free

No bookings required

FRIDAY
18 SEPTEMBER

Book launch – Meg Mooney
Being Martha's Friend

Meg's third poetry collection is about friendship and belonging, and country and time. The collection focuses on Meg's friendships with Aboriginal people from remote communities in Central Australia, and trips out bush with these people.



Gallery, Olive Pink Botanic Garden
4.30pm-5.30pm
Free

The Poetics of
Place and Home

Poetry readings

Let accomplished musicians Michelle Goodwin and Bec Matthews set the scene and stir the air with cello and kora (African harp) while the sun

Night
Event

sets, the wine bar opens and a stellar line-up of poets from the Centre and festival guests reflect on home, country, identity and place.

Bar open from 5.45pm.

Bean Tree café, Olive Pink

6pm-7.30pm

\$20/\$15 NTWC/conc

Mix tape memoirs

Emerging Writers' Festival are bringing back the memories with the hugely popular Mixtape Memoirs. Hear six writers – Ellena Savage, Sophie Allan, Dea Anugrah, Celestine Rowe, Leni Shilton, Kelly-Lee Hickey – reflect on 'Music from Home' and mull over the music that defines them. From lullabies to high school graduation songs, wedding waltzes to the musical soundtrack the whole family knew by heart, these brilliant writers will share the soundtracks of their lives.

Join us for a night of performances and music, and learn about where these writers came from, and how their defining musical memories have shaped who they are today.

Totem Theatre, Anzac Oval Reserve

8.30pm-10pm

\$20/\$15 NTWC/conc

Night
Event

WEEKEND PROGRAM

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

SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

Apmere Ngura Ngurra Ngurraji Home

Presentation

Alice Springs or Mparntwe is on the traditional country of the Arrernte people who are connected through kinship and ceremony with Aboriginal people throughout the region. Join with Aboriginal people to listen to stories of Central Australia – old stories remembered and new stories written – and to hear about what home means to them. Including writers Sylvia Neale and Margaret Kemarre Turner, and stories from contributors to the recent Central Land Council book *Every Hill Got a Story*, Christobel Swan, Rene Kulitja, Rosemary Plummer Narrurlu and more.

MC: Josie Douglas

Book Talks: Veronica Dobson & Margaret Heffernan

This special session features readings from the published writings of Veronica Dobson: *Arelhe-Kenhe Merrethene: Arrernte Traditional Healing* and *Anpernirrentye Kin and Skin – Talking about family in Arrernte* (with John Henderson, IAD Press, 2013), as well as the recently completed supported autobiography of Margaret Heffernan. Both respected Arrernte elders, linguists and educators, their stories rekindle the spirit and provide wisdom and inspiration to everyone who wants to better understand the complexity of living in contemporary Central Australia. Meg Mooney and Franny Coughlan will support this session.

Gazebo, OPBG

9.30am-10.45am

\$15/\$10 NTWC/conc

Gazebo, OPBG

10.45am-11.30am

Free

SATURDAY
19 SEPTEMBER

Yankunytjatjara Wangka Project

Multimedia presentation

Join us for a special multimedia presentation and reading of children's books in the Yankunytjatjara language, recently revitalised by the artwork of Joshua Santospirito.

The Yankunytjatjara Wangka Project, in collaboration with the Mimili Anangu School, Mimili Maku Art Centre and the Mobile Language Team, has been striving since 2012 to maintain the Yankunytjatjara language of the Western Desert region by working closely with senior Yankunytjatjara speakers to record the language and build it into the school.

The Yankunytjatjara Wangka Project has developed great resources such as a website – wapar.com.au – and the books you will see today. The project hopes to continue up-skilling language teachers in the classroom to utilise the resources and build on their language skills.

Gallery, OPBG

11.45am-12.15pm

Free

Exhibition – Joshua Santospirito, Yankunytjatjara Wangka Project

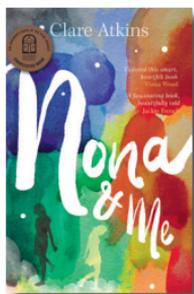
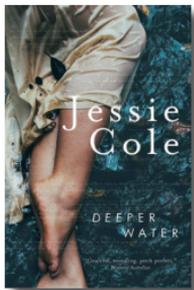
Artwork from the children's books illustrated by Joshua Santospirito will be displayed throughout the festival on the Gallery walls at Olive Pink Botanic Garden as well as the Alice Springs Pubic Library.



Book Talks: *Deeper Water* Jessie Cole & *Nona and Me* Clare Atkins

Described by the Australian as 'a fine and elegantly written novel from an impressive writer' *Deeper Water* is the story of a young woman awakening to the untold possibilities of life and love after she saves a stranger from a raging creek and takes him into her family home where they must stay until the waters recede.

Nona and Me is a young adult novel about a fifteen-year-old growing up in the remote NT community of Yirrkala, who finds herself torn between her Aboriginal sister and her new friends in the nearby mining town of Nhulunbuy.



Making Home/ Making Visible

Presentation/Panel discussion

Writing and storytelling give us portholes into the lives of others, enabling us to venture outside the margins and into new terrain. This presentation looks at two programs working to make visible the people, places, concerns, that reside in the fringes, and off the beaten literary track. Join members of SWEAT-SHOP, housed at the University of Western Sydney, to hear about the literary work emerging from their ground-breaking programs and Ellen van Neerven who will talk about black&write! – a bold, inspiring national project designed to nurture talent, flex the creative imagination and change the landscape of Indigenous writing in Australia.

Ellen van Neerven
Luke Carman
Michael Mohammed Ahmad
Peter Polites

Chair: Jo Dutton

Gazebo, OPBG
12.30pm-1.30pm
Free

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

SATURDAY
19 SEPTEMBER

Drawing Story

Presentation/Panel discussion

Join us for a multimedia extravaganza of visual narratives, featuring writer/artists whose works weave together time, place and history from the everyday. We're delighted to launch Joshua Santospirito's new graphic novella, *Swallows* – a story of migration and the mapping of stories in our landscapes and cities, and revisit his previous graphic novel *The Long Weekend in Alice Springs* with Craig san Roque.



Don't miss the graphic reading of German artist Jan Bauer's stunning debut novel *The Salty River* – an autobiographical comic book about a 450 km walk along the Larapinta Trail and on to Yuendumu – and an unexpected love story . . . And follow the narrative trail of award-winning local writer and artist Rod Moss

as he takes us through a series of paintings about life here that find resonance with a series of Western masterpieces.

Rod Moss
Jan Bauer
Joshua Santospirito
Craig San Roque



Gallery, OPBG
3pm-4.15pm
\$15/\$10 NTWC/conc

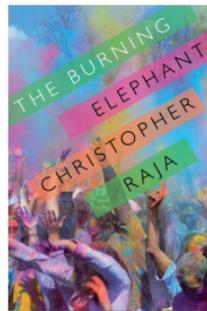
Book launch

Inside My Mother Ali Cobby
Eckermann & *The Burning Elephant*
Christopher Raja

Announcing two exciting new titles from Giramondo Publishing. *Inside My Mother* is the new poetry collection from prize-winning Yankunytjatjara/Kokatha poet Ali Cobby Eckermann – 'both a political

and personal collection, angry and tender, propelled by the need to remember' (Readings).

The Burning Elephant is the debut novel of Christopher Raja, which tells of the tensions in a family against the backdrop of the social tensions in India before and after the assassination of Indira Gandhi and the violence that leads to migration to Australia.



Bean Tree café, OPBG
4.30pm-5.30pm
Free

Of Cows, Women and War

Performance

See Feature Events (p.6)

**Night
Event**

OPBG

6pm for 6.30pm start-7.30pm

Limited capacity. Bookings essential.
ntwriters.com.au

Rooftop Rants and Readings

A special late-night festival edition on the rooftop of Epilogue featuring Sweatshop writers Peter Polites and Luke Carman, and short readings from Kim Mahood, Ellen van Neerven and Jessie Cole, local spoken word performer Steve Hodder Watt and performance poet extraordinaire Candy Royalle. All of this mixed with steel string and classical guitar and the soulful harmonies of Dion and Jonathan from Apakatajah playing original acoustic desert music. With a finale appearance by Ajak Kwai and Elliott Folvig from *Of Cows, Women and War* to take you through the roof – if there was one. Food and drinks available.

**Night
Event**

Epilogue Lounge, upstairs
8.30pm-10.30pm
\$20/\$15 NTWC/conc

SATURDAY 15

writers' festival

PROGRAM PLANNER

VENUES

Alice Springs Public Library
cnr Leichhardt Tce & Gregory Tce

Olive Pink Botanic Garden (OPBG)
Tuncks Rd

Totem Theatre
Wills Tce, Anzac Oval Reserve

Epilogue Lounge
1/58 Todd St (Todd mall)

Monte's
cnr Todd St & Stott Tce

THURSDAY 17 SEP

Creative Book Making
Diane Lucas
Alice Springs Public Library
Bookings required.
3.30pm-5pm Free

Festival Opening
Olive Pink Botanic Garden
5.30pm-7pm Free

The Dirty Word
Totem Theatre
8pm sign up/8.30pm start
\$10/\$5 NTWC/conc

FRIDAY 18 SEP

Baby Rhyme Time
Diane Lucas
Alice Springs Public Library
No bookings required.
10.15am-10.45am Free

Author talk – Ellen van Neerven
Heat and Light
12pm-1pm Free

From Alice to Mparntwe
Guided tour of Arrernte country
Alice Springs Public Library
1.30pm-4.00pm Bookings required.

Book launch
Meg Mooney
Gallery, OPBG
4.30pm-5.30pm Free

The Poetics of Place and Home
Poetry readings
Bean Tree café, OPBG
6pm-7.30pm \$20/\$15 NTWC/conc

Mixtape Memoirs
Emerging Writers' Festival event
Totem Theatre
8.30pm-10pm \$20/\$15 NTWC/conc

WORKSHOPS

Workshop Program Sat-Sun pp.21-22
Bookings essential: ntwriters.com.au

SATURDAY 19 SEP**Apmere Ngura Ngurra Ngurraji Home***Presentation*

Gazebo, OPBG

9.30am-10.45am \$15/\$10 NTWC/conc

Book Talks: Veronica Dobson & Margaret Heffernan

Gazebo, OPBG

10.45am-11.30am Free

Yankunytjatjara Wangka Project*Multimedia presentation*

Gallery, OPBG

11.45am-12.15pm Free

Book Talks: Jessie Cole & Clare Atkins

Gazebo, OPBG

12.30pm-1.30pm Free

Making Home/Making Visible*Presentation/Panel discussion*

Gazebo, OPBG

1.45pm-2.45pm \$15/\$10 NTWC/conc

Drawing Story*Presentation*

Gallery, OPBG

3pm-4.15pm \$15/\$10 NTWC/conc

Book launch

Ali Cobby Eckermann &

Christopher Raja

Bean Tree café, OPBG

4.30pm-5.30pm Free

Of Cows, Women and War*Performance*

OPBG

6pm for 6.30pm start-7.30pm

\$45/\$40 NTWC/conc

Bookings essential: ntwriters.com.au

Rooftop Rants and Readings

Epilogue Lounge, upstairs

8.30pm-10.30pm \$20/\$15 NTWC/conc

SUNDAY 20 SEP**Walking, Writing and Ways of Seeing***A walk along the Todd River*

8.00am-11.00am \$45/\$40 NTWC/conc

Bookings essential: ntwriters.com.au

Emerging Writers' Festival breakfast

Bean Tree café, OPBG

8.30am-9.30am Free

Home Truths*Panel*

Gazebo, OPBG

9.45am-11.00am \$15/\$10 NTWC/conc

Finding Home and Healing*Panel*

Gazebo, OPBG

11.15-12.30pm \$15/\$10 NTWC/conc

Book Talks: Lorna Hendry & Mark MacLean

Gazebo, OPBG

12.45pm-1.45pm Free

Sunday Shorts – Akeyulerre

Gallery, OPBG

12.45pm-2pm Free

Walking Home*Panel*

Gazebo, OPBG

2pm-3.30pm \$15/\$10 NTWC/conc

Leaving Home

Gazebo, OPBG

3.45pm-5pm \$15/\$10 NTWC/conc

LitKwiz, Last Words, Last Drinks*Closing night event*

Monte's

7.00pm-late

\$25/\$20 NTWC/conc

SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

Walking, Writing and Ways of Seeing:

A walk along the Todd River
See Feature Events (p.7).

Bookings essential.

8.00am-11.00am

Limited capacity. Bookings essential.
ntwriters.com.au

Emerging Writers' Festival breakfast

Meet other emerging writers for breakfast at the Bean Tree Café to talk about your work, hear about publishing ideas and publications, review last night's show and readings ... Meet the crew from the Emerging Writers' Festival and the writers they've brought to Alice. Buy your own breaky and the Bean Tree Café will give you a free coffee. All welcome.

Bean Tree café, OPBG

8.30am-9.30am

Free

Home Truths

Panel discussion

What part does writing play in how we see a place and what is the responsibility of the writer in this process of place-making? What is the difference between writing as an outsider and writing from the inside? Journalists, scriptwriters, novelists, poets: who is telling the home truths and how exactly are they doing it?

Kim Mahood

Clare Atkins

Steve Hodder Watt

Bob Gosford

Chair: Rohan Barwick

Gazebo, OPBG

9.45am-11am

\$15/\$10 NTWC/conc

Finding Home and Healing

Panel discussion

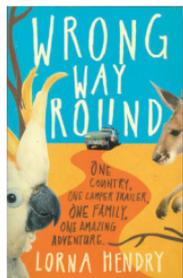
Many writers and storytellers have spoken about home as a healing place but what if home cannot be recovered or returned to? In this session writers talk about the experience of dislocation, dispossession and displacement from home and ask, can a sense of home be rebuilt?

Ajak Kwai
Kruger family/Gerard Waterford
Christopher Raja
Ali Cobby Eckermann
Chair: Penny Drysdale

Gazebo, OPBG
11.15am-12.30pm
\$15/\$10 NTWC/conc

Book Talks: *Wrong Way Round* Lorna Hendry & *Five Boxes* Mark MacLean

Wrong Way Round is the story of a family who packed their lives into a camper trailer and took off around Australia for a three-year adventure. *Five Boxes* is a book about digging through the contents of his teenage bedroom thirty years after writer Mark MacLean left his home in England. It's a book about our stuff and the things we hold on to.



Gazebo, OPBG
12.45pm-1.45pm
Free

Sunday Shorts – Akeylerre

Short films showing the activities of Akeylerre Inc, a local service developed by Aboriginal people to acknowledge and promote Indigenous knowledge, practice and expertise recognised as being integral to the well being of the community. Storytellers and writers from Akeylerre will be reading at 'Apmere Ngura Ngurra Ngurraji Home' (see p.11).

Gallery, OPBG
12.45pm-2pm
Free

Walking Home

Panel discussion

What is it to find a place on foot? To walk the country, to follow the creek, to cross this country before cars were heard? What is it to know a place at 4 km/hour and what stories come from this perspective and pace? From a love story set on the Larapinta Trail, a long walk from Bonney Well to Barrow Creek, across to the sites of the Mediterranean, and back to the urban drains of Newcastle, in this session we'll be talking all things walking and the imprint of walking on writing and story. (continued over)

SUNDAY
20 SEPTEMBER

Maureen Nampijimpa O'Keefe
Rosemary Plummer Narrurlu
Craig San Roque
Mark Maclean
Jan Bauer

Chair: Glenn Morrison

Gazebo, OPBG
2pm-3.30pm
\$15/\$10 NTWC/conc

Leaving Home

Panel discussion

Place of departure, place of arrival, place of return. This session considers staying and leaving, the rooted and uprooted, and the influence of each on writing. Writers talk about home bound to country and the boundless home whose roots reach out to grow in other places and ask, in this era of uprootedness, with fewer people living out their lives where they are born, what does it mean to be 'at home'?

Lorna Hendry
Jessie Cole
Kim Mahood
Jo Dutton

Chair: Alex Barwick

Gazebo, OPBG
3.45pm-5pm
\$15/\$10 NTWC/conc

**LitKwiz, Last Words,
Last Drinks**

**Night
Event**

Closing night event

Hear the last words from the lips of the poets, have a drink with fellow writers and newfound friends. Then leave words aside and let the acoustic rhythms of master Gambian percussionist King Marong and Safara pull you onto the dance floor before the 2015 Eye of the Storm closes ... til next time.

Litquiz

Think the lovechild of *Rockwiz* and *Spicks and Specks* raised on a healthy diet of literature – from kids' books to young adult fiction, it's multiple-choice from poetry to pulp. Two teams to get us started. One will emerge as the brains trust that new teams are (or anyone is) invited to challenge to emerge as the ultimate winner.

Come early, sign up at the door and either strut your literary genius or bluff your way to the top.

Then stick around for King Marong and Safara.

Dinner menu and drinks available.

7.00pm til late
\$25/\$20 NTWC/conc
Monte's

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Workshops will only go ahead with sufficient numbers, please register early!
Bookings essential – ntwriters.com.au

Creative Non-fiction – Kim Mahood

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? These are some of the questions up for discussion in the workshop. Participants will also analyse a piece of writing to identify the techniques of creative non-fiction, and carry out one or two short writing exercises.

Chifley Alice Resort
Saturday 1pm-4pm
\$65/\$60 NTWC/conc

Spit and polish: editing your own work – Lorna Hendry

Do you have the first draft of a novel, or a manuscript you want to self-publish or submit to a publisher?

Editing will make your words and ideas shine. In this workshop we will look at the three different stages of editing and talk about how (and when) to apply them to your own work.

Gallery, OPBG
Saturday 9:45am-11:15am
\$35/\$30 NTWC/conc

Children's story-making – Diane Lucas

In these workshops Diane Lucas will use words, song, clay and puppetry to help younger people find ways to tell, write, draw stories, inspired by the place around them. More information about what to bring provided upon booking.

4-8 year olds Sat 10.45am-11.45am
8-14 year olds Sat 12.30-1.30pm
Blakeman Shelter, OPBG
\$10/\$5 NTWC/conc

Unte nthenharen? Where do you come from? – Mark MacLean

Australia is a nation of movers. We fly in and fly out; we tree-change and sea-change; we move to connect with the bush or to flee the carnage of lives gone wrong in different towns and cities. Wherever we go, we leave behind a past and come to terms with a new place that we might call 'home'.

This workshop focuses on writing about what we use to build a sense of the place around us – the things around us through which we learn to see that place as ‘home’. It might be a mosaic, or the tree you planted after the birth of your child, or the lover’s name carved into a wooden lintel. This is a practical workshop with writing, reading and sharing as its focus.

Hut 1, OPBG

Saturday 11.00am-1.00pm

\$50/\$45 NTWC/Conc

Tell your story without words – Jan Bauer

In this workshop graphic novelist Jan Bauer will take you on a crash course in the basics of visual storytelling and explain to you why it is so important that you sign up for this right now. This is your launch pad to start drawing your own comics so bring whatever you like to draw with and get inspired. Pencils and paper provided.

Gallery, OPBG

Saturday 12.30pm-2.30pm

\$50/\$45 NTWC/Conc

Writing about country – Meg Mooney

Nature writing is an established genre in Europe and North America but there is still not an extensive body of work published in this genre from Australia. For local writer Meg Mooney, writing about Central Australia’s sandplains, ranges, gorges, plants, animals, and its people, has been part of the process of finding home. At this workshop, Meg will share writing from her favourite nature writers, in both prose and poetry, for discussion. Participants are asked to bring their own writing about country, for reading and discussion.

Blakeman Shelter, OPBG

Saturday 2pm-4pm

\$50/\$45 NTWC/Conc

It’s all about me: writing a memoir – Lorna Hendry

Everyone has a story to tell. In this workshop we will talk about how to identify, refine your story and craft it into a compelling memoir. We’ll discuss the ethical considerations of writing about real people and events, and look at how you can bring your personal style to your writing.

Gallery, OPBG

Sunday 10am-12am

\$50/\$45 NTWC/Conc

EYE OF THE STORM 2015 WRITERS & STORYTELLERS

Michael Mohammed Ahmad is the director of SWEATSHOP and a doctoral candidate in the University of Western Sydney Writing and Society Research Centre. His debut novel is *The Tribe* (Giramondo 2014).

Sophie Allan is a freelance writer and editor, and the Founding Editor-in-Chief of Chart Collective, a publication that explores the ways our stories are woven into environment and place.

Pat Ansell-Dodds is an Eastern Arrernte woman and winner of the 1990 NT Literary Award for an essay about her father's country, Undoolya, and her connection to that place. Patricia was taken from her parents near Ti Tree when she was about four years old. Writing her story helped Pat understand what happened to her family and to acknowledge her identity as an Undoolya (Arrernte) and Anmatjere woman.

Dea Anugrah is a writer based in Jakarta, Indonesia. His poems and stories have appeared in various publications, including *Koran Tempo*, *Media Indonesia*, *Murmur*, and *Griffith Review* (Aus). His book of poetry, *Misa Arwah & puisi-puisi lainnya* was published in February this year. Dea is currently working on a short story collection.

Clare Atkins' debut novel *Nona & Me* was written while living in Arnhem Land, and has been short-listed for the 2015 Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Award for Older Readers and the 2015 Inky Awards. She has worked as a scriptwriter for television series including *Wonderland*, *Winners and Losers*, *All Saints* and *Home & Away*.

Jan Bauer is a graphic novelist from Hamburg, Germany. His first book, *The Salty River* (2015) is an autobiographical comic book about Jan's walk on the Larapinta Trail in Central Australia. When not walking the desert or drawing comics Jan works as a freelance animation artist and as an illustrator. He has taught at Bauhaus Universität, Weimar and currently teaches at the Berliner Technische Kunstschule, Hamburg. Jan is supported by the Goethe-Institut Australia.

Luke Carman is the associate director of SWEATSHOP and a doctoral candidate in the University of Western Sydney Writing and Society Research Centre. His debut book *An Elegant Young Man* (Giramondo 2013) won a NSW Premier's Literary Award this year.

Ali Cobby Eckermann is a Yanku-nytjatjara/Kokatha woman born on Kurna land. Her first book of poetry *little bit long time* was published by the Australian Poetry Centre in 2009. Her publications since include: *Kami*, 2010; *His Fathers Eyes*, 2011; *Ruby Moonlight*, 2012 (which won the Deadly Award for Outstanding Achievement in Literature); *Love Dreaming & Other Poems*, 2012; *Too Afraid To Cry*, 2013; *Inside My Mother*, 2015.

Jessie Cole grew up in an isolated valley in Northern NSW. Her first novel *Darkness on the Edge of Town* was shortlisted for the 2013 ALS Gold Medal, and her work has also appeared in *Best Australian Essays*, *Meanjin*, *Kill Your Darlings*, *Island Magazine*, *The Lifted Brow*, *Good Weekend*, and the *Guardian*. Her latest novel, *Deeper Water*, is 'a compelling examination of our relationship with nature'. (ABR)

Dr 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 Merrethene: Arrernte traditional healing* (2007), and a co-author of *Iwenhe tyerrtye : what it means to be an Aboriginal person* (2010) and *Anpernirrentye kin and skin : talking about family in Arrernte* (2013).

Penny Drysdale is a poet living in Alice Springs. She works on social justice and cultural projects, including for the Akeyulerre Healing Centre established by Arrernte elders. Penny won the NT Literary Awards Poetry Prize in 2015. She has just completed her first manuscript of poetry entitled 'dew and broken glass'.

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 Uwin 2013). She is currently completing a fourth novel, *Wrecked*.

Sue Fielding is an Alice Springs based poet. Her work is published in local and national publications, including *Fishtails in the Dust* (Ptilotus

Press), *Metabolism: the Australian Poetry Members Anthology*, *Australian Love Poems 2013* and *Sotto* magazine. She was the Café Poet-in-residence at the Bean Tree café in Alice Springs during 2012. Sue is currently undertaking a MA and working on a collection of poetry.

Michael Giacometti has been published in *Meanjin* and several anthologies, including *Cracking the spine: ten short Australian stories and how they were written* (Spineless Wonders 2014). In 2008 he became the first (and only) person to walk across the Simpson Desert, solo and unsupported, from east to west. Currently he is writing a collection of haiku and an outback gothic novel. His collection of short stories will be published by Spineless Wonders in 2016. He lives in Alice Springs.

Bob Gosford is a lawyer and writer who has written for Crikey.com since 2006 and has run the Crikey.com blog 'The Northern Myth' since 2008. He has written widely on NT and Australian politics and diverse other topics including doping in sport, ethnobiology and one of his favourites, the road-kill along our highways and back-roads.

Margaret Heffernan is responsible for developing the written form of Arrernte, in collaboration with linguist Gavan Breen. Margaret developed the Arrernte orthography at Batchelor where she received her diploma in linguistics, then went on to teach at IAD. Margaret has recently completed her autobiography, supported by Gerard Waterford and Franny Coughlan. Margaret wrote down her own stories to help young people understand their traditions as part of keeping Arrernte families and language strong.

Lorna Hendry was a graphic designer until she took off in a 4WD to travel around Australia with her partner and two young sons. That trip turned into a three-year adventure and along the way Lorna discovered a passion for writing. Her memoir, *Wrong Way Round*, was published by Hardie Grant in April 2015. Lorna is now a freelance writer, editor and teacher.

Kelly-lee Hickey is an award winning writer, performer and community cultural development artist living and working in the Northern Territory. She has worked extensively using collective narrative

and story telling to connect communities in urban and remote areas in both Australia and Indonesia, with projects including *A Stitch In Time* and *Vessels for Stories*.

Rene Kulitja was born at Ernabella in 1958. She is a well-known artist – her painting has featured on a Qantas plane. Rene is a chairperson of Maruka Arts, an arts centre her parents helped to establish in 1984. She is a contributor to the Central Land Council's recent book *Every Hill Got a Story*.

Ajak Kwai's haunting melodic voice is distinctly African, whether she is singing in Arabic, Sudanese or English. Music is the vehicle for her stories of extraordinary life experiences as a refugee. Ajak has written and performed with many well-known Australian musicians including Nicky Bomba, Martin Tucker and Chris Basile. Ajak released an album in 2008. Ajak's vibrant afro soul style songs have seen her in demand with many festivals including Byron Bay, Apollo Bay, National Folk Festival, Port Fairy, Melbourne International Festival.

Dr Peter Lutz is a botanist and author of *Bushfire and Bush Tucker: Aboriginal Plant Use in Central Australia* (2004). Born in Alice Springs during World War Two, Peter grew up in Hermannsburg where he developed a life-long passion for bush tucker, the central Australian landscape, and its animals and plants. His latest book is a biography of Moses Tjalkabota, an Arrernte man and first Aboriginal pastor of Central Australia, called *Blind Moses: Aranda man of high degree and Christian evangelist* (2014).

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

Mark MacLean writes about connections to place. Stories such as 'Unte nthenharenye?/Where do you come from?' (from his collection *The New Landscape*) are drawn from his time living in Central Australia in the 1980s and 90s. His book *A Year Down the Drain* describes the people he met and the places he discovered

exploring the stormwater drains of Newcastle, NSW. In his new book, *Five Boxes*, Mark reflects on our connection to the past through our possessions.

Kim Mahood is the author of *Craft for a Dry Lake*, which won several awards for non-fiction including The Age Book of the Year and the NSW Premier's Literary Award. She wrote the much-circulated essay 'Kartiya are like Toyotas', and is a regular contributor to the *Griffith Review*. She is currently working on a non-fiction book due for publication in 2016.

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.

Meg Mooney is a natural scientist and poet who has been in Central Australia for 28 years. Meg is launching her latest book, *Being Martha's Friend*, Ginninderra Press, at Eye of the Storm. Meg's other books are *For*

the dry country: writing and drawings from the Centre, a collaboration with artist Sally Mumford, Pilotus Press, 2005; and *The Gap*, co-winner of The Picaro Poetry Prize in 2010.

Dr Glenn Morrison is a journalist, author and musician living in Alice Springs. He came to Central Australia in 1998 to play at the opening of a new pub and stayed. Glenn has been writing about the region ever since and has won several major awards for his work. He recently finished a PhD in cultural studies at Macquarie University on walking and the idea of home in the literature of Central Australia.

Rod Moss has maintained a consistent practice of painting and writing since settling in Alice Springs in the early 1980s. His works have featured in local exhibitions, interstate and in America. His two published works of memoir, *Hard Light of Day* (2010) and *One Thousand Cuts: Life and Art in Central Australia* (2013), document life in and around Alice Springs. Both have won the Territory Book of the Year and the first also won the Prime Minister's non-fiction Book of the Year.

Rosemary Plummer Narrurlu is a Warumungu woman who grew up at Alekareng in the Barkly Tablelands. Her writing has appeared in *Southerly* and *Northerly*, 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. She is a contributing storyteller to *Every Hill Got a Story* (Hardie Grant, 2015).

Sylvia Purrrle Neale is an Eastern Arrernte woman, grandmother and great-grandmother, born in Alice Springs. Sylvia has always been involved in her Arrernte community and she says she is still learning the knowledge and spiritual wisdom from her community. 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 Anytime Anytime* (2010).

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. She is a translator and interpreter.

Peter Polites is associate director of SWEATSHOP. His work has appeared in *Overland*, *The Lifted Brow* and *Seizure*. He is currently working on a manuscript that is part noir, part melodrama, part queer and all Western Sydney.

Bagryana Popov is a theatre maker who works in an interdisciplinary way, collaborating with highly acclaimed artists and with communities. She directed two sell-out seasons of *Cafe Scheherezade* at fortyfivedownstairs, *Sarajevo Suite* at La Mama, and *Of Cows, Women and War*, co-created with Ajak Kwai (La Mama Explorations 2014). Internationally she has directed for the National Theatre of Macedonia, and performed in Bulgaria and Hungary.

Christopher Raja migrated to Melbourne from Kolkata in 1986, and now lives and works in Melbourne and Alice Springs.

His short story 'After the Wreck' was adapted for radio and broadcast on ABC Radio National in 2007. His co-authored play *The First Garden* played at the Olive Pink Botanic Garden in 2011 and was published by Currency Press in 2012. *The Burning Elephant* (Giramondo, 2015) was written under a New Work grant awarded by the Literature Board of the Australia Council.

Celestine Rowe is originally from the western desert community of Papunya. She writes lyrical activist slam poetry and has been winner and runner up in Central and South Australian slams. Currently, she is working with *Rhyming the Dead* – a project by the Sydney-based Red Room Poetry Company.

Candy Royalle is a performance artist, poet, storyteller, educator, creative collaborator and vulnerability advocate. She shares confronting, political, human and heart wrenching narratives to audiences all over the world. Candy has been awarded numerous prizes. She has been published in multiple journals and

anthologies and appeared alongside many of Australia's and the world's greatest poetic voices.

Dr Craig San Roque is the author of *Placing Psyche, Exploring Cultural Complexes in Australia* (Spring Journal Books, 2011), the almost 'cult classic' graphic novel with Joshua Santospirito *The Long Weekend in Alice Springs* and performance text *Sugarman/Dionisos*. His new performance work, including *Persephone's Dog* planned for September 2015, revisions European cultural myth.

Joshua Santospirito is a multimedia artist, musician, mental health nurse and writer who lives in Hobart, Tasmania. His prime obsessions revolve around language, culture, anthropology and psychology. Josh's published works include *The Long Weekend in Alice Springs* (2013) and *Swallows* part one (2015). He has also been published in several magazines such as *Meanjin*, and *Island*.

Ellena Savage is an editor at *The Lifted Brow*, a columnist at *Eureka Street*, and a PhD candidate at Monash University. Her essays and criticism, which have appeared in the pages of periodicals such as *The Guardian*, *Meanjin*, *Overland*, *Junkee*,

and *The Australian*, examine the intersections of politics, feminism, and literature.

Leni Shilton has lived in Central Australia for many years where she has worked as a creative writing lecturer, a prison educator and a bush nurse. She is a poet and her work is published in journals and anthologies, most recently in *Women's Work*, *Art Monthly*, *Axon* and *Swamp*. She is currently completing a PhD in creative writing through Southern Cross University.

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 – Apmerekke-artweye (traditional owner) for Mparntwe and speaks Central Arrernte.

Christobel Swan is one of the last remaining speakers fluent in the Pertame (Southern Arrernte) language. For more than 30 years she has worked as a translator and interpreter in the health and legal sectors. She is a contributor to the Central Land Council's recent book *Every Hill Got a Story*.

Margaret Kemarre Turner

belongs to the Akarre people (Arrernte) and was born in the Spotted Tiger region of Harts Range in Central Australia. Margaret Kemarre Turner is an elder, qualified interpreter, artist and author, and has taught language, culture and cross-cultural courses 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.

Ellen van Neerven is a Yugambeh writer living in Brisbane. Her short story collection *Heat and Light* won the 2013 David Unaipon Award and was shortlisted for the 2015 Stella Prize, the NSW Premier's Literary Awards, and the Dobbie Literary Award.

Gerard Waterford is a social worker and counsellor with Central Australian Aboriginal Congress in their Social & Emotional Wellbeing Program. He has completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring in History. Gerard co-authored *Alone on the Soaks: The Life and Times of Alec Kruger* (IAD Press, 2006).

Steve Hodder Watt is a Lardil man from Mornington Island, Queensland. A writer and performer Steve co-wrote *Barracking*, the story of racial interactions and bonding through AFL football. Steve's spoken word pieces have been published in *Going Down Swinging* and the Red Room's *The Disappearing App*. Steve has worked in Indigenous Media and publishing in Central Australia for over 20 years.

Linda Wells is a teacher, writer and story teller in Alice Springs where she runs *Foot Falcon Tours*, a walking tour of the town that takes in heritage sites, historic buildings, the natural environment and the streets of the CBD. Linda is a writer of poetry and fiction and also the author of *Still a Town Like Alice*, a commissioned and entertaining history of Alice Springs from 1986 to 2008.

Kimberley Zeneth's (nee Mann) first book was *Awake During Anaesthetic* (National New Poets Program 2009). In addition to a Fiction Fellowship at Varuna, projects include poetry installation 'Skin of the Text' for Adelaide Fringe and Wirranendi Sculpture Trail commissioned by Adelaide City Council.

THANKS TO:

NT Writers' Centre Board of Directors, Alice Springs Advisory Group – Leni Shilton, Michael Giacometti, Kimberley Zeneth, Pat Ansell Dodds, Penny Drysdale, Meg Mooney, Jo Dutton, Glenn Morrison, Sue Fielding and Ktima Heathcote – Alice Springs Town Council, Kate Burbeck and Felicity Thorne at Alice Springs Public Library, Olive Pink Botanic Garden, Bean Tree Café, Dan Murphy, Lucy Stewart and all our partners and sponsors listed over page who enabled this festival to happen.

Special thanks to our wonderful volunteers and panel facilitators, local media, the Alice Springs community, and all participating writers.

Program artwork: Images from Jan Bauer's graphic novel *The Salty River*, published by Twelve Panels Press.

Design by Tina Tilhard.



Australian Government



Proudly sponsored by
Northern Territory
Government



Alice Springs

TOWN COUNCIL



Alice Springs

PUBLIC LIBRARY



EMERGING
WRITERS'
FESTIVAL
2015



CHIFLEY

ALICE SPRINGS RESORT



Red
Kangaroo
Books



THE
RED
ROOM
COMPANY

POETRY IN UNUSUAL
AND USEFUL WAYS



CHARLES
DARWIN
UNIVERSITY



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY



GOETHE
INSTITUT



UQP



Black Inc.



GIRA
MOND



CENTRAL
LAND
COUNCIL



barklyregionalarts
www.barklyarts.com.au

