



**NT Writers Festival**  
Mparntwe Alice Springs  
**26-29 Aug 2021**

*anpernirrentye* everything is connected

Program

## TICKETS & RSVPs

### Online

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

### In person

Red Kangaroo Books or at festival until sold out.

Please book ahead to avoid disappointment.

NTWC members pay concession price on all tickets!

### Buy more and save

Buy 3 or 5 tickets to panels and talks across the weekend program and receive a discount!

Buy 3 tickets and save 10%

Buy 5 tickets and save 15%

### All Talk Pass

Available until Aug 19 or sold out.

Includes all panels, book talks and Storytime.

Excludes feature events and workshops.

\$160/\$130 NTWC + Conc

## Keeping COVID-Safe

Australia is still experiencing the impacts of COVID-19, and the health and safety of our artists, volunteers, staff and audience is our top priority. Here are some ways to keep COVID-safe and help us to implement our COVID-19 Safety Plan:

- Please check in before entering the site/venues using The Territory Check In app.
- Keep your distance (1.5m between strangers).
- Follow hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

- Please note: only cashless payment will be accepted at all NT Writers Festival events.
- Most importantly, if you are unwell, please stay home. All tickets are transferable and can be passed on to a friend or family member.

In the event that public health advice changes, updates will be posted on our website [ntwriters.com.au](http://ntwriters.com.au) and ticket-holders will be contacted.

Cover photograph © Mike Gillam

Northern Territory Writers Festival acknowledges the Arrernte people as the Traditional Custodians of Mparntwe, the country on which the festival is being held. We recognise Australia's First Nations people as the first and rightful storytellers and keepers of knowledge of our land and pay our respects to Elders – past, present and emerging.

### CONTENTS

<b>Tickets</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Welcome</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Program Planner</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Workshop Program</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Index of Artists</b>	<b>23</b>

# NT Writers Festival Program

## 26-29 Aug 2021

The NT Writers Festival returns to Mparntwe | Alice Springs this year with writers and storytellers responding to the theme *Anpernirrentye Everything is connected.*



## Welcome

In the midst of the great social, environmental and political upheaval of recent years, I was thinking about what we draw upon as humans to make sense of things, and to hold together as individuals, and as communities. I approached senior Arrernte linguist and author Veronica Dobson to discuss these ideas and to find a festival theme that might make sense across cultures. The word Veronica offered was *anpernirrentye*, which describes the Arrernte relationship system, and maps connections between people, animals, land, language and culture. It positions us in relationship with everything else.

These relationships hold us, but they also carry responsibilities. And some may say the forgetting or disregard of these relationships has led us into the trouble we are in now.

Guided by Veronica's map of *anpernirrentye*, which she will speak of during the festival, I have curated this program to provoke and progress the

conversation around interconnectedness, by bringing writers together whose work illuminates this theme.

I would like to thank this year's festival advisory committee — Sylvia Purrurle Neale, Leni Shilton, Meg Mooney and Gabriel Curtin — as well as my colleagues at the NTWC for helping me to arrive at what I hope is an inspirational and thought-provoking program of writings about our relationships with family, kin and community; with country and other species; with the past, present and future; and the connectedness between local and global concerns.

It is a strange thing to be writing a festival program months out, in such changeable times. But regardless of what transpires, this program also forms a testament to our times.

**Dani Powell**

2021 Artistic Director, NT Writers Festival

## Message from Natasha Fyles

I am very pleased to welcome you to the 2021 NT Writers Festival.

This year's festival takes place at the iconic Olive Pink Botanic Gardens, Alice Springs.

The NT Writers Festival celebrates the communities, languages and environment of this spectacular region and its wonderful people. It supports the development of unique story telling.

This year's festival theme 'anpernirrentye | everything is connected' draws from the Arrernte concept of anpernirrentye, the Arrernte relationship system which describes the way in which everything is connected to everything else — people, animals, land, languages and culture.

Since this Festival began in 1999, it has attracted some of the country's most acclaimed writers, thinkers and storytellers — and the 2021 event is no different.



Congratulations to the fantastic team at the NT Writers' Centre on bringing together this year's program of incredible stories, language and culture at the NT Writers Festival, 26–29 August 2021.

**The Hon Natasha Fyles MLA**  
Minister for Major Events

## Message from Fiona Dorrell

It's my deep honour to welcome you to this year's NT Writers Festival program, exploring our 2021 theme *Anpernirrentye | Everything is connected*. As the NT Writers' Centre's flagship event, every year, our program brings together a selection of nationally acclaimed Australian writers alongside brilliant local writers and storytellers to share and celebrate the unique stories of this place, and thought-provoking conversations that cannot be had elsewhere. NTWF would not be possible without the support of our major funders: Arts NT, the Australia Council, the Community Benefit Fund, the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, and the Northern Territory Major Events Company, as well as our many sponsors, supporters and partners from amongst the business community, and the arts and community sector both locally and interstate.

My hugest thanks to our passionate and dedicated team — Rita Horanyi, Mx. Sly,



Tam Hanson, Hamish McDonald and of course, to the exceptional Dani Powell, who has returned this year to take creative carriage of the program for the fourth time, and whose thoughtful, collaborative and site-responsive programming has set the distinct and intimate tone of the NTWF since her first program in 2015.

Lastly, on behalf of all of us at the NTWC, a big thank you to the writers and storytellers who will offer their hearts and minds up to us throughout this program. It's you who inspire, provoke, and teach us, and keep us coming back each year.

**Fiona Dorrell**  
Acting Executive Director | NT Writers' Centre

## NT Writers' Centre



Want discounted  
festival tix?  
Become an NTWC  
member today!



JOIN NOW

Events | Workshops | Opportunities  
[ntwriters.com.au](http://ntwriters.com.au)

### NT Writers Centre & Festival Staff

Acting Executive Director — Fiona Dorrell  
Festival Artistic Director — Dani Powell  
Festival Manager — Rita Horanyi  
Alice Springs Program Coordinator —  
Tam Hanson  
Development Manager — Mx. Sly  
Production Manager — Matt Woodham  
Front of House Coordinator — Anneke Rose  
Graphic Design — Tina Tilhard

#NTWF2021

the **BEAN**  
TREE cafe

- gourmet home-style cooking -

### Cafe Opening Hours

Thurs-Sun  
7.30am-2.00pm

### Dinner

Fri & Sat only  
6.00-9.00pm

## THURSDAY 26 August



### FESTIVAL OPENING

Come and enjoy the afternoon glow of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden for the opening of the 2021 NT Writers Festival, and begin with us the journey of Anpernrrentye | Everything is Connected. Opening with Arrernte song and dance, audiences will be treated to readings from festival guests, including Evelyn Araluen, Danielle Celermajer, Penny Drysdale, Rick Morton and Craig Silvey.

Open air, Olive Pink Botanic Garden  
5.30-7.00pm  
Free. Bar open. Food available.

### Book Launch: *Politics and Poetics: race relations and reconciliation in Australian Literature* — Adelle Sefton-Rowston

The 1990s saw a renewed surge of support for reconciliation, with protests as well as policy change occurring across the country. Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians began imagining race relations in new ways, and articulations of place, belonging, and being together were informing literature of a unique genre. Please join Dr Adelle Sefton-Rowston to launch her new work of literary scholarship, with Tanya Heaslip, followed by a Q&A with Adelle and FNAWN Chair, Yvette Holt.

Red Kangaroo Books  
12.30pm  
Free

### HOMELANDS, HEARTLANDS, BETWEEN LANDS

Immerse yourself in words and music as an electric line-up of writers take to the stage, their words woven together by musician and producer Kuya James (aka James Mangohig). Featuring Victoria Alondra, Evelyn Araluen, Rain Chudori, Léuli Eshrāghi, Dina Indrasafitri, Alice Pung, Christopher Raja and Omar Sakr, this night is devoted to writings on connection and disconnection — to place, homelands and ancestral countries.

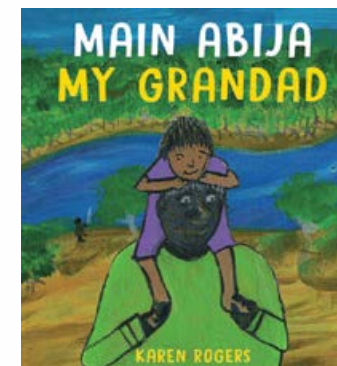
Marquee, OPBG  
8.00pm. Doors open 7.45pm.  
\$25/\$20 NTWC + Conc

## FRIDAY 27 August

### Library Storytime with Karen Rogers

Bring your little ones to this special session of Storytime with Ngukurr Elder and artist Karen Rogers. With stunning artwork by the author and a story told in both Kriol and English, Karen's first picture book *Main Abija | My Grandad* is a heart-warming story about her childhood in a remote community in South East Arnhem Land, and a beautiful celebration of a special relationship between a child and her grandfather. 'My grandfather touched my heart,' says Karen. 'I hope everybody can have a chance to love one grandparent that way.'

NTWF gratefully acknowledges the support of Airnorth who have made Karen's appearance at this year's festival possible.



Alice Springs Public library  
11.00am  
Free

### Talk: *One Hundred Days* — Alice Pung

Join one of Australia's most celebrated authors, Alice Pung, in conversation with ABC journalist Alex Barwick about her powerful new novel, *One Hundred Days*. Described as 'a fractured fairytale', *One Hundred Days* explores the tensions of a mother-daughter relationship and the faultlines between love and control.



Alice Springs Public library  
12.00-1.00pm  
Free. Registrations essential.

**FROM ALICE TO MPARNTWE**

A guide to Arrernte Country in three acts

Alice Springs is built on Arrernte country, at a place called Mparntwe, belonging to the Mparntwe-arenye people.

Doris Stuart Kngwarreye, Apmereke – artweye (traditional custodian) for Mparntwe, would like to invite writers and storytellers to join her and her friends for afternoon tea in the very heart of her country.

Gather in a significant place of celebration, compromise and caretaking, and journey from Alice to Mparntwe, hearing about Country through Doris' eyes.

This collaborative storytelling event incorporates Arrernte students from the Alice Springs Language Centre and friends from the Alice Springs Landcare group.

Location provided upon booking.  
2.00-4.00pm  
Limited capacity.  
Bookings essential.  
\$30/\$25 NTWC + Conc

**Talk: Rethinking the 'reluctant reader' – Phil Kettle**

For teachers, parents and carers

Author of over 200 books for young people, Phil Kettle's main passion and motivator is helping kids to learn. In this special session for teachers and parents, carers and librarians, Phil shares his insights about rethinking the idea of the 'reluctant reader', how to develop good reading habits, and how to help children become excited by reading.

Alice Springs Public Library  
4.00-5.00pm  
Free. Registrations essential.

**HEARTH – CAMPFIRE STORIES**

Settle in for an essential Central Australian experience of storytelling by the fire, under a radiant desert sky. From sand stories to visual stories to song, a special line-up of storytellers, poets and writers will illuminate the festival's theme: tracing connections between past and present, people and place, country and kin. Featuring Veronica Dobson, Fiona Foley, Tanya Heaslip, Rick Morton, Maureen Nampijimpa O'Keefe, Karen Rogers, Nardi Simpson and Arrernte poets from the collection *Arelhekenhe Angkentye*.

With music by composer and songwriter Dave Crowe (aka Resin Moon).

Rug up! Bring swags, blankets and even your own picnic.

Open air, OPBG  
Doors open 6.15pm  
\$30/\$25 NTWC + Conc  
Bar open. Food available.

**Book Launch: *The Last Muster* – Leonie Norrington**

Join us to celebrate award-winning children's author Leonie Norrington as she launches a revised edition of *The Last Muster*, rewritten under the supervision of June Oscar AO.

Set on a cattle station on Bunuba country in the Kimberley, *The Last Muster* follows the adventures of two teenagers, one of Bunuba heritage and one of European, who struggle to find a way for both their families to stay on the country they love. *The Last Muster* will be launched by Jo Dutton.

Bean Tree Café, OPBG  
5.00-6.00pm  
Free



# SATURDAY 28 August

## FIRST NATIONS STORYTIME

A special storytime for children as well as adults, featuring readings by First Nations authors from the NT, followed by a discussion about how and why they made their books, and the importance of language, visual art, and passing stories on.

Warlpiri writer and artist Maureen Nampijimpa O'Keefe will share her charming book *Mum's Elephant*; Ngukurr Elder, author and artist Karen Rogers will read her stunning story *Main Abija* | *My Grandad*, written in both Kriol and English; and local authors from Children's Ground will read from their beautiful bilingual books for children — *Iwenhe Nenhe? What's This?*, *Apmwe Iwenhe? What Snake?*, and *Our Languages*.

Gallery, OPBG  
9.30-10.45am  
\$15/\$12 NTWC + Conc  
Children free

## Panel: Family, Kin, Community

Four brilliant writers consider the many ways we belong to one another — the bonds and binds of these connections, and their power to harm as well as heal.

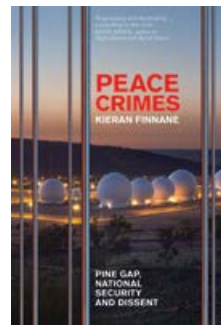
Rick Morton, Alice Pung,  
Christopher Raja, Nardi Simpson  
Chair: Alex Barwick

Marquee, OPBG  
10.00-11.15am  
\$15/\$12 NTWC + Conc

## Talk: *Peace Crimes* – Kieran Finnane

For three decades, journalist and author Kieran Finnane has written with depth and insight about life in Central Australia. Her latest book, *Peace Crimes*, situates Alice Springs — as host to the Pine Gap military base — in a global context, materially and morally, and weaves core events into a multi-faceted reflection on our responsibilities to one another and to country.

Join Kieran in conversation with academic and activist, Amanda Tattersall — co-founder and chair of GetUp, and founder of the Sydney Alliance and Changemakers.



Marquee, OPBG  
11.30am-12.15pm  
\$15/\$12 NTWC + Conc

## Panel: Writing from the Wreckage

Fire as reckoning; pandemic as portal. Systems — both human and natural — are on the brink of collapse. But through these crises, the interconnectedness between all things has been illuminated. How can we harness this understanding of our relationship with the country, other species, and with each other, to create real change?

Evelyn Araluen, Danielle Celermajer,  
Laura Jean McKay, Fiona Walsh  
Chair: Kelly Lee Hickey

Marquee, OPBG  
12.45-2.00pm  
\$15/\$12 NTWC + Conc

## Talk: *Honeybee* – Craig Silvey

*Honeybee* is the much anticipated, much debated, new novel by the bestselling author of *Jasper Jones*. *Honeybee* is the story of Sam: a solitary, resilient young person battling to overcome trauma and to navigate the world as their true self. Join Craig in discussion with trans masculine, non-binary and queer; long-term resident of Mparntwe, Teddy McDiarmid.



Marquee, OPBG  
2.15-3.00pm  
\$15/\$12 NTWC + Conc

## Panel: Interconnected Histories

History is an unfinished manuscript, continually being written and revised, as more stories are brought to light. Meet four writers concerned with uncovering the untold histories of frontier relationships and encounters that challenge the accepted Australian story.

Catherine Bishop, Fiona Foley, Eleanor Hogan, Mark McKenna  
Chair: Lisa Stefanoff

Marquee, OPBG  
3.15-4.30pm  
\$15/\$12 NTWC + Conc

## Book launch: *A Dangerous Daughter* – Dina Davis

Set in 1950s Australia, and drawn from true events from the author's life, *A Dangerous Daughter* is at once a story about the shame and blame of an eating disorder and about changing attitudes towards mental illness. Join Dina Davis for the launch of her inspirational novel about the power of the mind to heal. Launched by Tanya Heaslip.



Bean Tree Café, OPBG  
3.15-4.15pm  
Free

# Program Planner

## Events, Journeys on Country

## Panels, Book Talks

## Book Launches

## VENUES

### Olive Pink Botanic Garden (OPBG)

Tuncks Road

### Araluen Arts Centre

61 Larapinta Drive

### Museum of Central Australia

4 Memorial Avenue

### Bean Tree Café, OPBG

Tuncks Road

### Alice Springs Public Library

Corner Gregory Terrace & Leichhardt Terrace

### Red Kangaroo Books

79 Todd Street

## WORKSHOPS

See pp. 21-22 for the full program of workshops on offer this festival.

Please note that the information in this program was correct at the time of printing. For program updates please check [ntwriters.com.au](http://ntwriters.com.au)

## THURSDAY, 26 August

**Book Launch: *Politics and Poetics* – Adelle Sefton-Rowston**  
Red Kangaroo Books  
12.30pm

**Festival Opening**  
Olive Pink Botanic Garden (OPBG)  
5.30–7.00pm

**Homelands, Heartlands, Between Lands**  
Marquee, OPBG  
8.00pm. Doors open 7.45pm.

## FRIDAY, 27 August

**Storytime with Karen Rogers**  
Alice Springs Public Library  
11.00am

**Talk: *One Hundred Days* – Alice Pung**  
Alice Springs Public Library  
12.00–1.00pm

**From Alice to Mparntwe**  
2.00–4.00pm  
Bookings essential.

**Talk: Rethinking the 'reluctant reader' – Phil Kettle**  
Alice Springs Public Library  
4.00–5.00pm  
Bookings essential.

**Book Launch *The Last Muster* – Leonie Norrington**  
Bean Tree Café  
5.00–6.00pm

**Hearth – Campfire Stories**  
Open air, OPBG  
Doors open 6.15pm

## SATURDAY, 28 August

**First Nations Storytime**  
Gallery, OPBG  
9.30–10.45am

**Panel: Family, Kin, Community**  
Marquee, OPBG  
10.00–11.15am

**Talk: *Peace Crimes* – Kieran Finnane**  
Marquee, OPBG  
11.30am–12.15pm

**Panel: Writing from the Wreckage**  
Marquee, OPBG  
12.45–2.00pm

**Talk: *Honeybee* – Craig Silvey**  
Marquee, OPBG  
2.15–3.00pm

**Panel: Interconnected Histories**  
Marquee, OPBG  
3.15–4.30pm

**Book launch: *A Dangerous Daughter* – Dina Davis**  
Bean Tree Café  
3.15–4.15pm

**Book Launch: *Tough Tantalizing or Tasty* – Peter Latz**  
Bean Tree Café  
4.30–5.30pm

**Sundown Poetry**  
Open air, OPBG  
5.30–7.00pm

**Cuttings – A Play by Jo Dutton**  
Araluen Arts Centre  
8.00pm

**Animalia – Night in the Museum**  
Museum of Central Australia  
8.00pm. Doors open 7.30pm.

## SUNDAY, 29 August

**Crossing Country – a storied walk**  
8.00–11.00am  
Bookings essential.

**Guwayu – First Nations Poetry Readings**  
Bean Tree Café  
9.00–9.45am

**Talk: *Return to Uluru* – Mark McKenna**  
Marquee, OPBG  
10.00–11.00am

**Talk: *My Year of Living Vulnerably* – Rick Morton**  
Marquee, OPBG  
11.15am–12.00pm

**Book Launch: *Living in Hope* – Frank Byrne**  
Open air, OPBG  
12.00–12.45pm

**Full of Sound and Fury: Troublesome Women of Central Australia**  
Gallery, OPBG  
12.45–1.45pm

**Griffith Review 73: Hey, Utopia!**  
Marquee, OPBG  
12.45–1.45pm

**Talk: *Song of the Crocodile* – Nardi Simpson**  
Marquee, OPBG  
2.00–2.45pm

**Panel: Diversifying Publishing – new roads and inroads**  
Marquee, OPBG  
3.00–4.15pm

**Growing Up in Small Town Australia**  
Marquee, OPBG  
4.30–5.30pm

**Endnotes**  
Bean Tree Café  
6.00pm

**SUNDOWN POETRY**

## Poetry readings

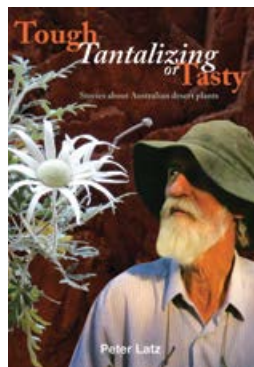
A selection of the festival's finest poets will usher in the evening, with offerings on the 2021 festival theme — Anpernirrentye | Everything is connected. Featuring Victoria Alondra, Evelyn Araluen, Gabriel Curtin, Penny Drysdale, Kelly Lee Hickey, Meg Mooney, Sylvia Purrurle Neale, Brian Obiri-Asare, Shele Parker, Omar Sakr and Leni Shilton. With classical guitarist Christopher Brocklebank. Presented in partnership with Australian Poetry via the Cultural Fund.

MC: Léuli Eshrāghi

Open air, OPBG  
5.30pm. Doors open 5.00pm.  
Bar open. Café open for dinner.  
\$20/\$15 NTWC + Conc

**Book Launch: Tough Tantalizing or Tasty – Peter Latz**

*Tough Tantalizing or Tasty* allows us glimpses into Peter's extraordinary life. It is about Australian desert plants, their habits and habitats; Peter's great respect for Aboriginal people's knowledge and use of plants; the significant work undertaken with and by fellow botanical scientists; and about Peter's many adventures criss-crossing his beloved desert.



Bean Tree Café, OPBG  
4.30-5.30pm  
Free

**CUTTINGS**

## A play by Jo Dutton

*Cuttings* is a new theatre work by local author Jo Dutton, with Jodi Kopp, directed by Maude Davey. *Cuttings* explores the many varied and valid ways that women strive to maintain control of their bodies as they navigate life. First performed in 2020 as a work in progress, *Cuttings* is minimalist theatre, powerfully executed by a local cast that reflects the diversity of our community. It will stay with you for a long time.

Presented with the support of Arts NT through the Northern Territory Government.

Araluen Arts Centre  
8.00pm  
\$30/\$25 NTWC + Conc  
Bookings: Araluen Box Office 8951 1122  
Bar open from 7pm.

**ANIMALIA**

## Night in the Museum

Join us for an intimate evening in the Museum of Central Australia, in honour of animal species passed and passing. Hear stories from local people and poets about Central Australian mammals made extinct by settlement — recorded by ground-breaking mammalogist, author and photographer Hedley Finlayson, and remembered by Indigenous people of this region. Presenters include Kiwirrkurra ranger, Jodie Ward, Dr Ken Johnson and poet Meg Mooney, followed by award-winning author of the *The Animals in That Country*, Laura Jean McKay, and philosopher and author Danielle Celermajer, who will speak to multispecies perspectives in writing, and storytelling in the face of the cataclysmic biodiversity losses of our times.



Museum of Central Australia  
8.00pm. Doors open 7.30pm.  
Bar open at Araluen Arts Centre from 7.00pm.  
\$40/\$35 NTWC + Conc

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# SUNDAY 29 August

## CROSSING COUNTRY

### A storied walk

A guided walk along the dry Todd River, punctuated by encounters with local writers and storytellers who will offer different perspectives, histories and other provocations, asking participants to shed the usual filters and see and hear the country anew.

The walk will allow time for listening, reflection and writing, and will end at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station, where walkers will be ferried back to town by bus.

The walk will be led by writer and performer Betty Sweetlove, with Pat Ansell Dodds, Felicity Hayes, Linda Wells and Fiona Walsh.

8.00-11.00am  
\$60/\$50 NTWC + Conc  
Limited capacity. Bookings essential.

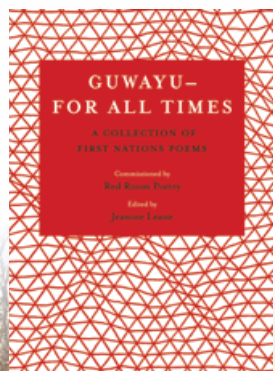
Please note: The walk covers 4km along uneven ground. Further details provided upon booking.

## Guwayu Poetry Readings

*Guwayu* — a Wiradjuri word — means *still and yet and for all times*. *Guwayu — For All Times* is a groundbreaking collection, commissioned by Red Room Poetry, featuring 36 First Nations poets and 12 First Nations languages.

Please join Wiradjuri writer, poet and editor of this stunning collection, Jeanine Leane, and contributors Evelyn Araluen, Yvette Holt and Maureen Nampijimpa O'Keefe and start the day with poetry.

NTWF gratefully acknowledges the support of Red Room Poetry for sponsoring this special event as a part of their inaugural Poetry Month and to the First Nations Australia Writers Network (FNAWN) for supporting Jeanine Leane's appearance at this year's festival.

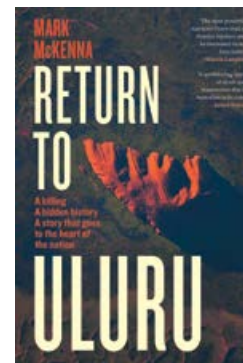


Bean Tree Café, OPBG  
9.00-9.45am  
Free

## Talk: Return to Uluru — Mark McKenna

In *Return to Uluru*, historian Mark McKenna brings new evidence to the historical case of a white police officer fatally shooting an Aboriginal man at Uluru in 1934. Together with member of the Uluru family, Harry Wilson, and David Batty — who, as a young filmmaker in 1986, was asked to film a testimony of the event by a member of the murdered man's family — Mark will talk about his compelling book, truth-telling and resetting the historical record.

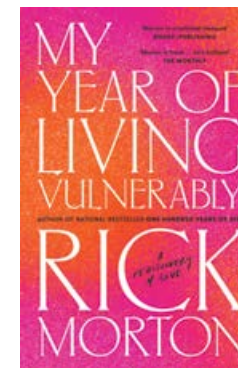
Mark McKenna, Harry Wilson,  
David Batty  
Chair: Russell Goldflam



Marquee, OPBG  
10.00-11.00am  
\$15/\$12 NTWC + Conc

## Talk: My Year of Living Vulnerably — Rick Morton

In early 2019 Rick Morton was diagnosed with complex post-traumatic stress disorder, a diagnosis that set him on a journey to rediscover love and to get better. Not cured, not fixed. Just, better. Grounded in the personal, *My Year of Living Vulnerably* spans continents and cultures, offering sharp and often witty observations, reportage and insights into contemporary society and its failings. Today Rick discusses the themes of his new book — love, connection, loneliness, masculinity and trauma — with NTWC Program Manager Rita Horanyi, the seeds of which can be found in his critically acclaimed memoir, *One Hundred Years of Dirt*.



Marquee, OPBG  
11.15am-12.00pm  
\$15/\$12 NTWC + Conc

### Book Launch: *Living In Hope* – the complete memoirs of Frank Byrne

The Byrne family and Mparntwe/ Alice Springs' Running Water Community Press (formerly Pilotus Press) invite you to the launch of *Living In Hope: the complete memoirs of Frank Byrne*. With vivid truth-telling, Stolen Generation survivor Mr Byrne recounts his life-long search for his mother across the central western deserts, and the love, struggle and adventure he experienced along the way. Written with Franny Coughlan and Gerard Waterford, this edition completes the short extract published before Mr Byrne's death in 2017.



Open air, OPBG  
12.00–12.45pm  
Free

### FULL OF SOUND AND FURY: TROUBLESOME WOMEN OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

Afternoon readings and arias

Daisy Bates, Annie Lock, Ernestine Hill and Olive Pink were problematic white women who thought Aboriginal lives mattered, and who challenged the boundaries of female behaviour. Join historian Catherine Bishop and writer Eleanor Hogan as they read from and discuss their new books, *Too Much Cabbage and Jesus Christ: Australia's 'Mission Girl' Annie Lock* and *Into the Loneliness: The Unholy Alliance of Ernestine Hill and Daisy Bates*.

With arias from the forthcoming Olive Pink Opera performed by Kristina Kidd.  
MC: Megg Kelham

Gallery, OPBG  
12.45–1.45pm  
\$20/\$15 NTWC + Conc

### Griffith Review 73: Hey, Utopia!

Explore other ways the world could be with renowned Indigenous visual artist and writer Fiona Foley, changemaker and co-founder of GetUp! Amanda Tattersall, and sociologist and writer Danielle Celermajer, using time travel, imagination, and the stories we tell ourselves about our futures and our past. Join them in conversation with Ashley Hay, editor of *Griffith Review*.

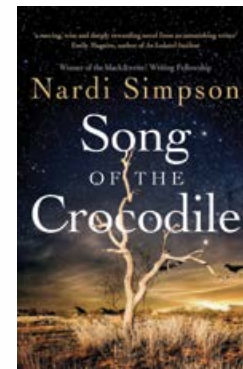
Danielle Celermajer, Fiona Foley, Amanda Tattersall  
Chair: Ashley Hay

Marquee, OPBG  
12.45–1.45pm  
\$15/\$12 NTWC + Conc

### Talk: *Song of the Crocodile* – Nardi Simpson

Nardi Simpson is a Yuwaalaraay storyteller, musician and composer from NSW's north-west freshwater plains. Her debut novel, *Song of the Crocodile*, won the Black&Write Fellowship (2018) and was shortlisted for the 2021 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, Indie Book Award and Stella Prize, and long-listed for the Miles Franklin. Nardi joins writer and Festival Director Dani Powell to discuss this powerful portrayal of a family living in a community on the outskirts of a small Australian town, reckoning with the impacts of dispossession, racism and poverty that ripple across four generations.

NTWF gratefully acknowledges the support of First Nations Australia Writers Network (FNAWN) for supporting Nardi's appearance at this year's festival.



Marquee, OPBG  
2.00–2.45pm  
\$15/\$12 NTWC + Conc

### Panel: Diversifying Publishing – new roads and inroads

What are some of the interventions and innovations afoot to make Australian publishing a more inclusive, receptive and non-tokenistic place, and how far further can the industry go?

Jeanine Leane, Brian Obiri-Asare, Omar Sakr, Adelle Sefton-Rowston  
Chair: Evelyn Araluen

Marquee, OPBG  
3.00–4.15pm  
\$15/\$12 NTWC + Conc

### GROWING UP IN SMALL TOWN AUSTRALIA

In 2009 Craig Silvey wrote *Jasper Jones*. This young adult novel, set in a small Australian town in the 1960s, attracted numerous awards and quickly became a classic. What was it about this tale of young people navigating smalltown prejudices, secrets, friendship and first love that captivated such a broad audience? Where do small towns exist in our collective imagination and how well does this reflect the lived experience of those who grow up in them? And what is the place of the writer as witness to lives otherwise unseen? Join Craig for our final festival conversation with acclaimed journalist, author and editor of the forthcoming anthology, *Growing Up in Country Australia*, Rick Morton.

Marquee, OPBG  
4.30–5.30pm  
\$20/\$15 NTWC + Conc

## ENDNOTES

Now that all is said and done, please join us for drinks and dinner at the Bean Tree Café as the sun sets on the NT Writers Festival for another year.

Bean Tree Café, OPBG  
6.00pm

Free entry. Dinner and drinks available for purchase.

## THANK YOU!

NT Writers Festival would like to acknowledge the following people for their energy, enthusiasm and support:

The NTWC board members Tanya Heaslip, Dina Davis, Renee McBryde, Jill McGarry, Shona Ford, Joanna Henryks, Michelle Bates, Fred van't Sand and Peter Summersby; Brian Tucker; Alice Springs festival advisory group – Leni Shilton, Meg Mooney, Sylvia Neale, Gabriel Curtin, as well as Fiona Walsh, Alina Iser and Michael Cawthorn; Ian Coleman and OPBG staff; Winwin and the Bean Tree Café crew; Dan Murphy, Lucy Stewart, Rachael McGuirk and Celia Otley.

Enormous thanks to all of the writers who have spent time in our schools this year, offering primary and secondary students an incredible range of workshops and presentations: Craig Silvey, Alice Pung, Omar Sakr, Shele Parker and Leonie Norrington. A big thank you to the Children's Book Council of Australia for supporting the participation of children's author Phil Kettle and illustrator Marc McBride across the program. Special thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers.

## Workshops

We are excited to present an array of wonderful workshops this festival for a range of ages and interests. Note that workshops will only go ahead with sufficient bookings, so please register early. Capacities are limited, and bookings are essential.

**Gathering Ground: Shimmer**  
**– Kelly Lee Hickey**

I wake most days to the sound of Arlpatye (Australian Ringnecks) in my backyard. Some mornings they throw dates from the neighbours' palms at my fence, other days they hop between trees, chatting and calling to kin. As the climate changes, and country with it, I wonder what the future of the arid lands holds for different creatures? How will we live together as everything changes? Gathering Ground workshops blend practical philosophy with generative writing. With Deborah Bird Rose's essay 'Shimmer' as our guide, participants will walk and write their way through questions of connection and responsibility in a climate changed world.

Blakeman's Shelter, OPBG  
Saturday 28 August  
9.00-11.00am  
\$50/\$40 NTWC + Conc

**Writing History – Eleanor Hogan**

Once you've trawled through the archives and assembled your notes, how do you start writing a history? Why write this particular historical story now? Who are you writing for? Who gets to tell a story? How to accommodate diverse voices and perspectives? Participants will be encouraged to develop their own approach to a historical project through reading extracts from historical writing and experimenting with writing techniques.

The Alice Springs Collection,  
Alice Springs Public Library  
Saturday 28 August  
10.00am-12.00pm  
\$50/\$40 NTWC + Conc

**Publishing a Book: Ready to Take the Plunge? – Terri-ann White**

Are you ready? Is your manuscript publishable? How do you most effectively approach a publisher, and choose the most appropriate one? What should you expect after you submit your proposal? After 14 years at UWA Publishing, writer and publisher Terri-ann White has established Upswell Publishing, a small independent imprint. She is a regular guest of NTWF. Join Terri-ann for a candid discussion about the remarkable and often perilous adventure that is the publishing process.

Gallery, OPBG  
Saturday 28 August  
11.30am-1.30pm  
\$50/\$40 NTWC + Conc

## Deep Listening | Generative Writing – Kuya James

Music is a powerful cue for creativity. In this one-hour workshop, multi-faceted music producer Kuya James offers a special DJ set that lets you experience the way music can transport you to different places. This workshop is designed to heighten and expand your awareness of sound, and to explore deep listening as a source of creativity. As you listen you may want to write a word, or 100 words. Afterwards there will be optional discussion and sharing time, facilitated by Kuya James. No phones, no talking.

Gallery, OPBG  
Saturday 28 August  
2.00-3.00pm  
\$30/\$25 NTWC + Conc

## You Can be a Writer – Phil Kettle

### Children's Writing Workshop

Phil Kettle has written over 200 books for children and young people. In this workshop, Phil talks about why he writes and why children should write, before exploring where ideas come from, how to plan a story and develop characters, how to create a problem and find a solution, and the process of editing.

Please bring paper, pencils, a clipboard, and your imagination. (NTWF will have extras!)  
Age range: 8+

Gallery, OPBG  
Sunday 29 Aug  
10.00-11.30am  
Free. Bookings essential.

## How to Draw Your Dragon – Marc McBride

### Children's Illustration Workshop

Marc has illustrated over 50 books, including Emily Rodda's Deltora Quest series. During this workshop, Marc will paint a dragon using ideas from participants, and explain the process of creating an artwork. With Marc's guidance, participants draw along, designing a creature of their own, using simple shapes and lines.

Please bring paper, pencils, a clipboard, and your imagination. (NTWC will have extras!)  
Age range: 8+

Blakeman's Shelter, OPBG  
Sunday 29 August  
10.00-11.30am  
Free. Bookings essential.

## Reconnecting Poetry Workshop – Penny Drysdale

'Everything is connected', but what happens when we lose the feeling of connection? How do we find our way back to self, other, the world? Through a series of practical writing exercises, this workshop explores writing and poetry as a way of reengaging and reconnecting when life feels flat and our connections seem tenuous. The workshop is open to anyone who wants to be reenergised through writing, regardless of writing experience.

Gallery, OPBG  
Sunday 29 August  
2.15-4.15pm  
\$50/\$40 NTWC + Conc

# Index of Artists

- Adelle Sefton-Rowston 6, 19  
Alice Pung 6, 7, 10  
Amanda Tattersall 10, 18  
Arelhekenhe Angkentye poets:  
Amelia Kngwarraye Turner 9  
Sharon Ampetyane Alice 6  
Shirley Kngwarraye Turner 14  
Sylvia Purrurle Neale 14  
Theresa Penangke Alice 6  
Tisha Perrurle Carter 9  
Ashley Hay 18  
Betty Sweetlove 16  
Brian Obiri-Asare 14, 19  
Catherine Bishop 11, 18  
Children's Ground authors:  
Anna-Maria Palmer 10  
Cassandra Neil 10  
Felicity Hayes 10, 16  
Leonie Palmer 10  
Marita McMilliam 10  
Marlene Rubuntja 10  
MK Turner 10  
Rosario Young 10  
Veronica Perrule Dobson 9, 10  
Christopher Brocklebank 14  
Christopher Raja 6, 10  
Craig Silvey 6, 11, 19  
Danielle Celermajer 6, 11, 15, 18  
Dave Crowe 9  
David Batty 17  
Dina Davis 11  
Dina Indrasafitri 6  
Doris Stuart Kngwarreye 8  
Eleanor Hogan 11, 18, 21  
Evelyn Araluen 6, 11, 14, 16, 19  
Fiona Foley 9, 11, 18  
Fiona Walsh 11, 16  
Gabriel Curtin 14  
Harry Wilson 17  
James Mangohig 6, 22  
Jeanine Leane 16, 19  
Jodie Ward 15  
Jo Dutton 9, 15  
Karen Rogers 7, 9, 10  
Kelly Lee Hickey 11, 14, 21  
Ken Johnson 15  
Kieran Finnane 10  
Kristina Kidd 18  
Laura Jean McKay 11, 15  
Leni Shilton 14  
Leonie Norrington 9  
Léuli Eshraghi 6, 14  
Linda Wells 16  
Marc McBride 22  
Mark McKenna 11, 17  
Maureen Jipyiliya Nampijimpa O'Keefe 9, 10, 16  
Meg Mooney 14, 15  
Nardi Simpson 9, 10, 19  
Omar Sakr 6, 14, 19  
Pat Ansell Dodds 16  
Penny Drysdale 6, 14, 22  
Peter Latz 14  
Phil Kettle 8, 22  
Rain Chudori 6  
Rick Morton 6, 9, 10, 17, 19  
Running Water Press (Ptilotus Press) 18  
Shele Parker 14  
Tanya Heaslip 6, 9, 11  
Terri-ann White 21  
Victoria Alondra 6, 14

