

Adelaide Writers' Week 2025

1 - 6 March

Text only guide

Welcome

Peter Malinauskas MP

PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The renowned Adelaide Writers' Week returns in 2025, 65 years since its inception. This remarkable, uniquely free event offers thought-provoking debate, providing a platform for an extraordinary array of local and international writers. The week-long celebration of literature invites audiences to engage with an array of diverse voices and perspectives. Special thanks go to Louise Adler AM for curating her third program, ensuring this year's event will be as captivating and inspiring as ever. It remains a must-attend Festival for anyone passionate about the written word, thoughtful discussion and respectful debate.

Andrea Michaels MP

MINISTER FOR ARTS

Adelaide Writers' Week is one of the world's most significant literary festivals. It is an extraordinary celebration of literature and an incredible free event that showcases the power of writing and reading. This year, attendees can look forward to exciting new initiatives including Schools Day and podfest, which will further expand the Festival's reach. With powerful conversations tackling the issues and ideas shaping our world, Adelaide Writers' Week provides a platform for thought-provoking discussions and meaningful connections. It is a celebration of writing, inviting people from all walks of life to engage with the world of literature.

Tracey Whiting AM

CHAIR, ADELAIDE FESTIVAL

Adelaide Writers' Week wouldn't be possible without the significant support it receives. Special thanks go to our philanthropic supporters, particularly The Literati donor circle, whose generosity helps bring the event to Australia's reading public. The Government of South Australia and corporate partners also play a crucial role in making this celebration of literature a reality. Additionally, my heartfelt appreciation goes to Adelaide Writers' Week Director, Louise Adler AM and the dedicated teams at Adelaide Writers' Week and Adelaide Festival, whose hard work and commitment ensure the success of this extraordinary event year after year.

Acknowledgement of Country

Ngadlu tampinhi, Kurna Miyurna yaitya yarta-mathanya Wama Tarntanyaku. Ngadlu tampinhi purkarna pukinangku, yalaka, tarrkarritya. Parnaku yailtya, parnaku tapa purruna, parnaku yarta ngadlu tampinhi. Yalaka Kurna Miyurna parnaku yailtya, tapa purruna, yarta kuma puru martinhi, puru warri-apinhi, puru tangka martulayinhi.

We acknowledge the Kurna people are the traditional custodians of the Adelaide Plains and pay respects to Elders past and present. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kurna people living today.

Keep Adelaide Writers' Week FREE

AWW25 will feature 140+ sessions with 200+ writers, all FREE. We need your help to continue this tradition.

Established in 1960, Adelaide Writers' Week is the largest free literary festival in the world and the only one in Australia. Much has changed since the 1960s – for the better and the worse.

Over the past decade, the costs of presenting our program have risen dramatically, while funding and sponsorship of the arts nationally have declined.. This year we are asking you, our devoted patrons, to make a donation if you can on each day you join us and help keep AWW free. \$5 a day will help us reach our target of \$75,000 and ensure we can continue to deliver Australia's best literary festival.

Ways to help keep Adelaide Writers' Week FREE

Scan this code NOW

Donate in the Garden

Donate on our website

Join us in 2025

Adelaide Writers' Week takes place in the heart of Kurna Meyunna Yerta – Tartanya (red kangaroo place) on the banks of the Karrawirra Parri (red gum forest river). The main program of events is free to attend and is held outdoors in the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden and Torrens Parade Ground, located between King William Road, Victoria Drive and Kintore Avenue in Adelaide. Sessions take place across three main stages (East Stage, West Stage and North Stage) and in the Torrens Tent. This year's program also includes ticketed events in the Drill Hall and the Adelaide Town Hall, and the inaugural podfest.

Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden

The Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden opened on 19 April 1941 from funds raised by the Women's Centenary Council to honour South Australian women pioneers. It was designed and built by landscape gardener Elsie Cornish and includes a sculpture by Ola Cohn a sundial designed by George Dodwell. The founding trustees are listed on a plaque at the entrance to the Garden. The Garden is maintained by the City of Adelaide with the current trustees of the Pioneer Women's Memorial Trust.

Adelaide Writers' Week attendees are asked to respect the grounds at the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden by avoiding garden beds, paying attention to signage and following instructions from volunteers.

We thank the trustees of the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden and Heritage South Australia for allowing us to use the site for so many years.

For more information, please visit our website:

adelaidefestival.com.au/writers-week

A Message from Louise Adler AM, Director

Words Matter

George Eliot in her novel *Daniel Deronda* observes “it is a common sentence that knowledge is power; but who hath duly considered or set forth the power of ignorance?”

A survey of contemporary literary preoccupations suggests that truth and the feelings we bring to reading are unsettling propositions. What we know and what we don't know and how deeply we hold on to our convictions – informed or ill-informed – in these tumultuous times, will be at the heart of our conversations in 2025. The writers of fiction, non-fiction and poetry joining us at AWW25 are therefore, unsurprisingly, focused on discontent in ourselves as individuals, within families and beyond to within communities and between nation-states. The 2025 Festival will take place in the aftermath of the US and UK elections and forthcoming elections in Europe and Australia. Writers' attention, in fiction and non-fiction, will necessarily turn to the role of language in a landscape that appears, paradoxically, to be characterised by deepening divisions and at the same time consensus among a political class committed to the status quo. That consensus is affirmed by an increasingly impoverished and compromised media, beset by a litany of woes: plummeting numbers of readers, a skeletal and increasingly inexperienced newsroom and the consequences of 'being on the drip', and all the while the unregulated social media inflames, misinforms and fuels paranoia. AWW has long been able to host civil and generous conversations that inform, engage and inspire our audience. In these turbulent times, AWW25 will continue that tradition.

Thank you

Thank you to the following people and groups for their support, enthusiasm and contributions: Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Høj AC, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Mark Scott AO, Darren Goodsir, The Literati donor

circle and book club, the Special Women who know who they are, Richard Denniss, Anna Chang, Maxine McKew AM, Prof. Glyn Davis AC, Caroline Michel DBE, Peter Straus, Ann Mossop, Chip Rolley, Erin Vincent, Jackie Ryan, Anna Taylor and the talent bank at the ABC.

Director's Choice

Streamed from our place to yours

Our selection of Director's Choice sessions can be streamed from home. It's the perfect option for people who can't make it to Adelaide Writers' Week or are having difficulty choosing between sessions on the day. Director's Choice tickets are available for \$15 per event and must be purchased in advance. Events can be viewed live from their scheduled start and for one week thereafter.

For more information or to book your tickets, please visit adelaidefestival.com.au/writers-week

9:30AM, SAT 1 MAR

Boys and Men and Aussie Rules

Helen Garner with Nicole Abadee

10:45AM, SAT 1 MAR

It's Christmas 1962 and a Baby Arrives...

Niall Williams with Kate Evans

12PM, SAT 1 MAR

Fiction, Memoir and the Boundaries of Art

Michelle de Kretser with Georgina Godwin

3:45PM, SAT 1 MAR

How the People of Yirrkala Changed the Course of Australian Democracy

Clare Wright with Kerry O'Brien

9:30AM, SUN 2 MAR

Dirrayawadha: Resistance, Resilience and Love During the Frontier Wars

Anita Heiss with Nicole Abadee

12PM, SUN 2 MAR

Dog Days

Markus Zusak with Nicole Abadee

1:15PM, SUN 2 MAR

Crimes Against Humanity

Tobias Buck, Geoffrey Robertson and Dorcy Rugamba with Gareth Evans

3:45PM, SUN 2 MAR

Politics: Is It a Laughing Matter?

Annabel Crabb and John Crace with Cathy Wilcox

10:45AM, MON 3 MAR

On Grief

Geraldine Brooks with Bob Carr

12PM, MON 3 MAR

Espionage, Seduction and Intrigue

Rachel Kushner with Claire Nichols

5PM, MON 3 MAR

Foreign Bodies: Pandemics, Vaccines and the Health of Nations

Sir Simon Schama with Norman Swan

1:15PM, TUE 4 MAR

Race and Racism

Wesley Lowery and Amy McQuire with Larissa Behrendt

2:30PM, TUE 4 MAR

A Tech Love Story

Kara Swisher with Eliza Harvey

5PM, TUE 4 MAR

Narcissistic Villains and Asphyxiating Families

Charlotte Mendelson with Sarah L'Estrange

10:45AM, WED 5 MAR

The Men Who Killed the News

Eric Beecher with John Lyons

12PM, WED 5 MAR

History Lessons

Orlando Figes, Bettany Hughes, Matthew Longo and Dava Sobel

1:15PM, WED 5 MAR

Working for the Brand: How Corporations are Destroying Free Speech

Josh Bornstein with Joe Aston

2:30PM, WED 5 MAR

Chameleon: A Memoir of Art, Travel, Ideas and Love

Robert Dessaix with Susan Wyndham

3:45PM, WED 5 MAR

Balcony Over Jerusalem: Israel, Iran and the New Middle East

John Lyons with Bob Carr

9:30AM, THU 6 MAR

The Chairman's Lounge: The Inside Story of How Qantas Sold Us Out

Joe Aston with David Penberthy

10:45AM, THU 6 MAR

Europe and the Challenge of Russia

Orlando Figes with Robert Dessaix

12PM, THU 6 MAR

American Whitelash: A Changing Nation and the Cost of Progress

Wesley Lowery with Rachel Perkins

1:15PM, THU 6 MAR

**Diva: Reimagining Maria Callas and Aristotle Onassis' Scandalous
Affair**

Daisy Goodwin with Pip Williams

3:45PM, THU 6 MAR

The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

Bettany Hughes with Georgina Godwin

Schools Day

Fri 28 Feb

Once upon a time, in the lush grounds of the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden, primary and secondary students were inspired, delighted and challenged through thoughtful discussion of literature and ideas.

Join award-winning authors as they share insights into their writing process, invite students to consider new perspectives and encourage them in their own creative pursuits and learnings.

Schools Day is a ticketed event and all sessions must be pre-booked. For more information visit adelaidefestival.com.au/adelaide-writers-week/schools-day

Community Live Streaming

Streamed from the East Stage

Thanks to the Office for Ageing Well and Seniors Card, we will be live streaming select Writers' Week sessions at participating libraries, community centres, retirement villages and schools across the state from Mon 3 Mar to Thu 6 Mar.

If your organisation would like to host community live streaming, please email awwinfo@adelaidefestival.com.au

For a list of participating libraries, please visit our website: adelaidefestival.com.au/writers-week

Breakfast with Papers

Sat 1 Mar – Thu 6 Mar
8AM Daily / West Stage

Breakfast with Papers is the way Adelaide Festival starts its mornings.

In 2025, this much-loved fixture will greet each day of Writers' Week in the beautiful surrounds of the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden.

Join Adelaide's own Tory Shepherd of The Guardian, Jonathan Green of Radio National and their special guests as they interrogate the morning media and turn an amused and critical eye on current events.

The full schedule will be available at adelaidefestival.com.au/2025-bwp

The Australia Institute

Sun 2 Mar

9:30AM – 2:15PM / West Stage

The Australia Institute is the nation's leading independent think tank, whose high-impact research changes minds and creates more informed debate of the issues that matter. The Australia Institute is partnering with Writers' Week in 2025 to offer answers on some of the policy questions facing Australia today. Join Australia Institute Executive Director Richard Denniss and the team for a series of provocative, courageous and unmissable discussions.

podfest

ADELAIDE WRITERS' WEEK

True Crime: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

Dan Box, Hedley Thomas, Meshel Laurie and Rachael Brown

SAT 1 MAR 12PM / THE DRILL HALL

Tickets: \$29 *Transaction fees apply.*

Why do true crime stories fascinate us? Join podcasting icons Hedley Thomas, Rachael Brown, Meshel Laurie and moderator Dan Box for an inside look at the stories that chill, captivate and inspire change. Whether you're a true crime obsessive or simply curious, this panel offers a fascinating deep dive into one of podcasting's most compelling genres.

If You're Listening

Matt Bevan

SAT 1 MAR 2:30PM / THE DRILL HALL

Tickets: \$29 *Transaction fees apply.*

Join Matt Bevan, host of *If You're Listening*, for a live show blending wit, insight and captivating storytelling. Known for unpacking global news with sharp analysis, Matt will explore seismic changes on the horizon by uncovering surprising stories from the past. Expect jawdropping revelations, sharp humour and the kind of storytelling that will leave you questioning everything you thought you knew about the world.

Double A Chatter

Amanda Keller and Anita McGregor

SAT 1 MAR 3:45PM / THE DRILL HALL

Tickets: \$29 *Transaction fees apply.*

One is an Australian media legend who doesn't shy away from toilet humour on the radio. The other? A forensic psychologist with a proper job. Together, Amanda Keller and her best friend Anita McGregor bring their sharp wit, warm wisdom and endless curiosity for a live podcast that is as relatable as it is hilarious. From the things we're all secretly

wondering, to the moments that make life wonderfully weird, Amanda and Anita tackle it all with the perfect blend of smarts and humour.

Ladies, We Need to Talk: How to live dangerously

Yumi Stynes with Anna Broinowski, Gina Chick and Jessie Tu

SUN 2 MAR 2:30PM / THE DRILL HALL

Tickets: \$29 *Transaction fees apply.*

Ready to step outside your comfort zone? Join Yumi Stynes, host of the 2024 Podcast of the Year *Ladies, We Need to Talk*, for an electrifying conversation with three fearless women who embrace life on the edge. Gina Chick, Jessie Tu and Anna Broinowski share stories of bravery, mischief and breaking boundaries.

Black Magic Woman

Mundanara Bayles

SUN 2 MAR 3:45PM / THE DRILL HALL

Tickets: \$29 *Transaction fees apply.*

Step into the world of Black Magic Woman with Mundanara Bayles. Through intimate conversations, Mundanara amplifies the voices of First Nations people, celebrating their stories, resilience and culture. From the beauty and challenges of Indigenous life, to the enduring power of connection, it's an uplifting hour of honesty, heart and wisdom. *Black Magic Woman* bridges cultural divides and inspires a better understanding of Australia's rich First Nations heritage.

Not Stupid

Julia Baird and Jeremy Fernandez

TUE 4 MAR 6:15PM / ADELAIDE TOWN HALL

Tickets: \$39 *Transaction fees apply.*

Too busy – or overwhelmed – for the news? Join Julia Baird and Jeremy Fernandez for a special live recording of their hit ABC podcast, *Not Stupid*. Join them for a chat that's packed with sharp insights, unexpected internet rabbit holes and far too much talk about poetry and cake. Whether you're a news junkie, or news avoidant, you'll walk away feeling *Not Stupid*.

All In The Mind: The Magic of Memory

Sana Qadar

WED 5 MAR 6:15PM / THE DRILL HALL

Tickets: \$29 *Transaction fees apply.*

Memory is the story of who we are – defining our past, shaping our present and guiding our future. But what if you could train your brain to remember better, recall faster and even reshape your memories? Join Sana Qadar, neuropsychologists and memory athletes for a live, mindexpanding journey into how our brains store, enhance and sometimes fail us.

Book Cheat

Dave Warneke

THU 6 MAR 6:15PM / THE DRILL HALL

Tickets: \$29 *Transaction fees apply.*

Don't have time to read the classics? Fear not because comedian Dave Warneke has done the hard work for you. In this live show, Dave tells his comedy guests about the plot of a classic book, so you'll leave being able to bluff your way through a convo at your next fancy dinner party. Previous books covered include *A Tale of Two Cities*, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, *Wuthering Heights*, *The Grapes of Wrath* and many more.

podfest program curator: Monique Bowley

Fri 28 February

TICKETED EVENT

The AWW Great Debate: True Friends Stab You in the Front (with thanks to Oscar Wilde)

7:30PM / ADELAIDE TOWN HALL

Are there two more witty and argumentative national icons than Annabel Crabb and David Marr? No, but that's not the question for our Great Debate. Instead, as captains of two stellar teams, they will duke it out. On Team Crabb: champion debater Nick Ryan and Australia's former most entertaining politician – the Hon. Christopher Pyne. On Team Marr: another champion debater, Louise Milligan, and The Wit of Westminster – political sketch writer John Crace. Adjudicating, mediating, keeping the score and making sure everyone plays nicely – Magistrate John Wells.

TICKETS

A Res \$49, Friends \$42, Conc \$39, U30 \$30, Student \$25

B Res \$39, Friends \$32, Conc \$29, U30 \$25, Student \$20

Transaction fees apply.

Book at adelaidefestival.com.au/writers-week

Saturday 1 March

Breakfast with Papers

8AM / West Stage

See page 7.

Paranoia, Mania and Monsters in the Soviet Union

Paranoia, Mania and Monsters in the Soviet Union

9:30AM / NORTH STAGE

In Malcolm Knox's chilling black comedy *The First Friend*, a gangster mob is in control of a global superpower. He talks to Sue Turnbull about this satire of life in Stalinist Russia.

Boys and Men and Aussie Rules - DIRECTOR'S CHOICE (see page 6)

Helen Garner

9:30AM / EAST STAGE

Australia's most iconic author, Helen Garner, talks to Nicole Abadee about her latest book, *The Season*, a reflection on the theatre of footy, masculinity and cheering on her grandson.

The World After Gaza: A History

Pankaj Mishra

9:30AM / WEST STAGE

Pankaj Mishra sees the polarised response to Gaza as a clash between the West's view of the Holocaust as a unique moral reference point and the rest of the world's traumatic experience of colonialism. He explains his views to Michelle de Kretser.

Love, War and Friendship

Catherine McKinnon

10:45AM / NORTH STAGE

Catherine McKinnon, a Miles Franklin Award–shortlisted author, talks to Sarah L'Estrange about her latest work of historical fiction. *To Sing of War* is a richly layered novel about people trying to make a difference in a time of global danger.

It's Christmas 1962 and a Baby Arrives... - DIRECTOR'S CHOICE (see page 6)

Niall Williams

10:45AM / EAST STAGE

Internationally bestselling author Niall Williams talks to Kate Evans about his latest novel, *Time of the Child*, a tale of familial love and the fortitude of small-town Irish life.

Uses for Obsession

Ben Shewry

10:45AM / WEST STAGE

Acclaimed chef Ben Shewry of Attica opens up to Annabel Crabb about his memoir *Uses for Obsession*, which details a toxic hospitality culture, an oppressive restaurant review system and the author's own unwavering pursuit of perfection.

What's Good for Your Kids?

Norman Swan

12PM / WEST STAGE

A call-out to anxious parents and grandparents to join Sarah Martin as she asks Dr Norman Swan what to do about sleep, diet, school refusal, social media, what genetics determine and what you can and can't change.

Fiction, Memoir and the Boundaries of Art - DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

(see page 6)

Michelle de Kretser

12PM / EAST STAGE

One of Australia's most esteemed writers, Michelle de Kretser, discusses her seventh novel, *Theory and Practice*, with Georgina Godwin. It is a genrebending, dazzlingly inventive and witty story about what we know and what we feel.

When a Killer Stalks a City

Mandy Beaumont

12PM / NORTH STAGE

Award-winning writer Mandy Beaumont takes us inside the mind of a killer and the terror that grips a community in her novel *The Thrill of It*. Aided and abetted by the doyenne of crime fiction reviewing, Sue Turnbull, Beaumont dissects how to write about fear.

What's the Big Idea?

Richard Denniss

1:15PM / NORTH STAGE

Australia faces myriad challenges, with climate change, housing affordability, fraying democratic institutions, riskaverse policies and a divisive public discourse just a few of the problems we must confront. The question is, are we? Join Richard Denniss and Senator Barbara Pocock as they apply some big ideas to the future.

A Song of Time

Stan Grant

1:15PM / EAST STAGE

Journalist and author Stan Grant's new book is *Murriyang*, a meditation on love, art and the memories, history and relationships that have

shaped him. He tells Anton Enus about the spiritual practice and grace that underpin the book.

Unravelling Memories and Buried Secrets

Diana Reid

1:15PM / WEST STAGE

In *Signs of Damage*, bestselling and multi-award-winning novelist Diana Reid writes about memory, morality and the difference between understanding someone and explaining them. She talks to Nicole Abadee about her latest novel.

Words to Sing the World Alive

Anita Heiss, Cheryl Leavy, Thomas Mayo and Jared Thomas

2:30PM / NORTH STAGE

First Nations thinkers and writers Anita Heiss, Cheryl Leavy, Thomas Mayo and Jared Thomas share words that are significant and essential to them. Discover words that evoke the connection of fathers and sons, of creation and sovereignty, of trust and power – words that sing our world alive.

The State of the Nation – LATE NIGHT LIVE

Bob Carr, Rebecca Huntley and Rick Morton

2:30PM / EAST STAGE

Has the Australian myth of a fair go finally been broken? Are we as divided as ever by class, ethnicity and identity? Join Bob Carr, Rick Morton and Rebecca Huntley in a discussion chaired by *Late Night Live's* David Marr.

Keir Starmer: The Biography

Tom Baldwin

2:30PM / WEST STAGE

Journalist and former Labour Party senior policy adviser Tom Baldwin explains the complexities and contradictions of Sir Keir Starmer, Labour's most workingclass leader in a generation to Steve Bracks.

A Woman's Worst Nightmare

Louise Milligan

3:45PM / NORTH STAGE

Multi-award-winning investigative journalist Louise Milligan talks with Sue Turnbull about writing her first novel, *Pheasants Nest*, in the slivers of time left to her between calling the powerful to account.

How the People of Yirrkala Changed the Course of Australian Democracy - DIRECTOR'S CHOICE (see page 6)

Clare Wright

3:45PM / EAST STAGE

Professor Clare Wright discusses her latest work with Kerry O'Brien. *Näku Dhäruk: The Bark Petitions* is the story of a founding document in Australian democracy and the birth of the landrights movement.

Australia's Housing Mess and How to Fix It

Alan Kohler

3:45PM / WEST STAGE

Australia's favourite financial journalist, Alan Kohler, has much to say about the country's enduring housing crisis and the solutions we need. He shares the thinking in his book *The Great Divide* with Richard Denniss.

Why is What Women Want Still a Question?

Alyx Gorman and Lucia Osborne-Crowley

5PM / NORTH STAGE

Journalists Lucia Osborne-Crowly and Alyx Gorman reflect on this hardy perennial with *The Guardian's* Sian Cain.

We Are the Stars

Gina Chick

5PM / EAST STAGE

In conversation with David Leser, *Alone Australia* inaugural winner Gina Chick discusses her memoir, *We Are the Stars*, about a self-described misfit with a preference for bare feet.

Depraved New World

John Crace

5PM / WEST STAGE

5PM / WEST STAGE Bestselling author John Crace and his much-loved companion Herbert Hound offer a lacerating and hilarious account of postBrexit Britain, from the fall of BoJo through the ensuing series of clusterf*cks, in Crace's latest book, *Taking the Lead*. Join him in conversation with Tory Shepherd.

TICKETED EVENT

SOLD OUT

The Book Nerd's Quiz of Quizzes

Hosted by Julia Zemiro

7PM / THE DRILL HALL

Join our host, beloved quizmistress, Julia Zemiro, for an evening of literary trivia. Which novel won Richard Flanagan the Booker Prize in 2014? Where is *Boy Swallows Universe* set? Who is the Nobel Laureate who calls Adelaide home? And what colour is the sheep in Mem Fox's bestselling children's book? It is a night of frivolity, performance and literary prowess that will see the crowning of Adelaide's biggest bookworm.

TICKETS

GA Table Seating \$49

Book at adelaidefestival.com.au/writers-week

Sunday 2 March

Breakfast with Papers

8AM / WEST STAGE

See page 7.

Young Readers' Day takeover of the North Stage

See page 18.

Dirrayawadha: Resistance, Resilience and Love During the Frontier Wars - DIRECTOR'S CHOICE (see page 6)

Anita Heiss

9:30AM / EAST STAGE

Anita Heiss, the awardwinning author of 23 books, talks to Nicole Abadee about her latest historical novel, *Dirrayawadha*, a tribute to the courage of the Wiradyuri nation and the enduring power of love.

How to Fix the Housing Crisis

Maiy Azize, Alan Kohler, Amy Remeikis and Jordan van den Lamb

9:30AM / WEST STAGE

The Australian Dream used to be to own your own home, but young people are being increasingly locked out of home ownership. In fact, young people today are on track to be the first generation to be worse off than their parents. How did we as a nation get here and how do we

fix it? Alan Kohler, Maiy Azize, Amy Remeikis and Jordan van den Lamb discuss the issues with chair Natasha Mitchell.

Drawing a Line

Mandy Beaumont, Louise Milligan and Michael Robotham

10:45AM / EAST STAGE

Does a moral compass matter in crime fiction? What if a protagonist is untested by ethical boundaries? Does erasing the line between right and wrong help or hinder a story? Crime novelists Michael Robotham, Louise Milligan and Mandy Beaumont discuss these ideas with Beejay Silcox.

Australia's Carbon Capture: Releasing Fossil Fuels' Grip on Our Democracy

Ross Garnaut, Sarah Hanson-Young, Polly Hemming and Royce Kurmelovs

10:45AM / WEST STAGE

The influence of the gas and coal industry on our politicians and policymakers is an open secret in Australia. What is less well understood is why this small industry, with little economic significance, wields such apparent power and how easy it would be to free our democracy from its grip. Polly Hemming, Royce Kurmelovs, Ross Garnaut and Sarah Hanson-Young talk through the issues with chair Natasha Mitchell.

Dog Days - DIRECTOR'S CHOICE (see page 6)

Markus Zusak

12PM / EAST STAGE

Markus Zusak's family has taken on three feral dogs over the years. The author of *Three Wild Dogs* speaks with Nicole Abadee (who has met those dogs) about the havoc they have wreaked but also the deep love they have given and received.

The United States: Down and Out?

Allan Behm, Nick Bryant, Van Jackson and Emma Shortis

12PM / WEST STAGE

The international community is busy coming to terms with the re-election of President Trump, but he is a symptom of American malaise, not its cause. Americans are neither willing nor able to save themselves from themselves – in a fundamental sense, America is down and out. But it has enormous resilience, which it needs to empower, and it has close friends, like Australia, that can offer practical assistance in designing and implementing the political and social reforms that are necessary if America is to become truly great. Join Allan Behm, Emma Shortis, Nick Bryant and Van Jackson in conversation with chair Natasha Mitchell.

Where's the Centre Left in the Age of Trumpmuskovie?

Tom Baldwin, Bob Carr, Kim Carr, John Crace and Peter Malinauskas

12PM / THE DRILL HALL

Democracies can die from the failure of collective dreaming. Have centreleft parties both in Australia and abroad lost the capacity to advocate and deliver on large-scale ambitions? Some blame the bullish oppositionism of conservatives and the Greens, but have Labor here and Labour in the United Kingdom lost the art of the 'Big Idea' and their transformative impulses? Maxine McKew tests the theory with South Australian Premier Peter Malinauskas, Bob Carr, Kim Carr, John Crace and Tom Baldwin.

TICKETED EVENTS

America, America

11AM / THE DRILL HALL

David Remnick (live stream) has been the Editor of *The New Yorker* for over 25 years. He has interviewed every statesperson of note, written

seven books and helped shape the American national conversation. He joins 7.30's Sarah Ferguson for a conversation about The United States' place in the world.

TICKETS \$39

Transaction fees apply.

Book at adelaidefestival.com.au/writers-week

Mistakes Were Made

12:30PM / ADELAIDE TOWN HALL

Join Richard Fidler, Sarah Kanowski and a stellar cast of authors as they tell us the stories of other people's blunders and confess to some of their own.

TICKETS \$39

Transaction fees apply.

Book at adelaidefestival.com.au/writers-week

Islamophobia: What's the Problem?

Waleed Aly, Susan Carland and Mr Aftab Malik - Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia in Australia

3:30PM / ADELAIDE TOWN HALL

The social landscape in Australia is fragmenting, evidenced in part by a spike in Islamophobia not seen since the post-9/11 years. What is – and isn't – Islamophobia? How did we get here? And how should we respond?

TICKETS

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B Res \$39, Friends \$32, Conc \$29, U30 \$25, Student \$20

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Crimes Against Humanity - DIRECTOR'S CHOICE (see page 6)

Tobias Buck, Geoffrey Robertson and Dorcy Rugamba

1:15PM / EAST STAGE

The catalogue of crimes against humanity should engender both collective and individual shame, but has it? Who should we hold responsible? And has bringing the criminals to account made any difference to their victims? Tobias Buck, Geoffrey Robertson and Dorcy Rugamba discuss these questions with Gareth Evans.

Writing to Change the World

Amy McQuire, Anna Spargo-Ryan (live stream) and Clare Wright

1:15PM / WEST STAGE

When some of the institutions fundamental to democracy are struggling both here and overseas, when it feels like progress is slipping and hard-won rights are being wound back, how can the power of writing show us a way forward? Amy McQuire, Clare Wright and Anna Spargo-Ryan offer ideas for working our way out of some of the wicked problems of our time, in discussion with chair Alice Grundy.

LATE NIGHT LIVE

The State of the Self

Julia Baird, Geraldine Brooks and Rachel Kushner

2:30PM / EAST STAGE

Despite the promise that we were "all in it together", the COVID-19 pandemic led to a flight from sociability: life no longer lived in any collective sense but as atomised individuals and a retreat to interiority in the name of self-care and safety. While escape from social life may have been a relief for some, has it exacerbated a neoliberal culture of hyperindividualism, narcissism and alienation? Julia Baird, Geraldine

Brooks and Rachel Kushner join a discussion chaired by *Late Night Live's* David Marr.

The Men of the Media

Martin Baron, Eric Beecher and Alan Rusbridger

2:30PM / WEST STAGE

Kim Williams chairs a discussion with Martin Baron, Eric Beecher and Alan Rusbridger on the blokes with ink in their veins and asks what happens when the ink runs out and the presses grind to a halt.

Politics: Is It a Laughing Matter? - DIRECTOR'S CHOICE (see page 6)

John Crace and Annabel Crabb

3:45PM / EAST STAGE

Is the political sketch a form of truth-telling, a way to hold politicians to account? Cathy Wilcox, one of our finest cartoonists, talks with two masters of the political sketch genre, John Crace and Annabel Crabb, about how its writers have an ear for irony and are equalopportunity sceptics.

Lord of the Flies Meets Picnic at Hanging Rock

Nikki Gemmell

3:45PM / WEST STAGE

In conversation with Natasha Stott Despoja, award-winning and bestselling author Nikki Gemmell discusses her latest determinedly feminist literary thriller, *Wing*. It's the story of four girls and their teacher who disappear for four days and refuse to explain what happened.

What's on Your Bookshelf?

Charlotte Mendelson, Pankaj Mishra and Niall Williams

5PM / EAST STAGE

Kate Evans and Cassie McCullagh ask Niall Williams, Charlotte Mendelson and Pankaj Mishra about which books and writers have shifted their thinking or their work and which books they return to or even actively write 'against'.

The Future of the Mainstream Media

Alan Rusbridger and Mark Scott

5PM / WEST STAGE

Legendary former *Guardian* editor Alan Rusbridger and Mark Scott, former managing director of the ABC and now Vice Chancellor of the University of Sydney, talk to Jonathan Green about the state of the modern media and why it is that journalists are routinely viewed as unethical and untrustworthy.

TICKETED EVENT

Sir Simon Schama On Antisemitism

The event will be introduced by the Premier of South Australia, Peter Malinauskas.

7:30PM / ADELAIDE TOWN HALL

For millennia Jews have been "...the other of convenience. We are the dark mirror in which the wish fulfilment of other societies takes it out on people who are said to represent its opposite." Join us for this Writers' Week highlight as Sir Simon Schama delivers the 2025 oration *On Antisemitism*.

TICKETS

A Res \$59, Friends \$50, Conc \$47, U30 \$35, Student \$25

B Res \$39, Friends \$32, Conc \$29, U30 \$25, Student \$20

Transaction fees apply.

Book at adelaidefestival.com.au/writers-week

Young Readers' Day

Sunday 2 March

Dive into a world of wonder and imagination this Young Readers' Day!

NATURE PLAY SA ACTIVITIES

9:30AM – 1PM

Whether your child is enchanted by beautifully illustrated picture books, thrilled by dynamic graphic novels or swept away by epic tween adventures, our **Kids' Program** has something for all bookworms to explore!

KIDS' PROGRAM IN THE TORRENS TENT

9:30AM Yanga Mother - Cheryl Leavy

10AM Can You Teach a Fish to Climb a Tree? - Jane Godwin

10:30AM Guess What We Are Doing Today? - Luke Springer
and Chris Kennett

11AM Story Trove: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know
About the Tooth Fairy (and Some Things You Didn't)

11:30AM School of Monsters - Sally Rippin and Chris Kennett

12:15PM Aggie Flea is NOT a Liar! - Tania Ingram

1PM Leo and Ralph - Peter Carnavas

1:45PM Wurrtoo - Tylissa Elisara

2:30PM Bravepaw - Lili Wilkinson

3:15PM Brightest Wild - Tania Crampton-Larking

4PM The Raven's Eye Runaways - Claire Mabey

Our **YA readers** can explore a variety of genres with writers of thrilling dystopias, heartwarming romances and thought-provoking fantasies – something for everyone. This day promises exclusive access to the voices you love and new ones you'll adore.

MIDDLE GRADE & YA ON THE NORTH STAGE

9:30AM Is My Phone Reading My Mind? - Dr Matt Agnew

10:45AM The World Between Blinks - Amie Kaufman

with Audrey Menz

12PM Unhallowed Halls - Lili Wilkinson with Claire Mabey

1:15PM Talking About Love - Sophie Gonzales and Erin

Gough with Anthony Nocera

2:30PM The Order of Masks - Alina Bellchambers

with Audrey Menz

3:45PM Immortal Dark - Tigest Girma with Jessica Alice

Adelaide Writers' Week 2025 Schedule

Adelaide Writers' Week holds its main program of events at the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden across the East Stage, West Stage and North Stage. Main stage sessions are free and run for approximately one hour, including time for questions. Most sessions are followed by a book signing.

Young Readers' Day events are held in the Torrens Tent and on the North Stage (more information on page 18). Special events are ticketed and held in Adelaide Town Hall and The Drill Hall, as indicated.

This schedule is correct at the time of printing but changes will occur. For the updated schedule, please see the signage on-site or check our website at **adelaidefestival.com.au/writers-week**

Monday 3 March

Breakfast with Papers

8AM / WEST STAGE

Blurring the Boundaries between Fact and Fiction

Jamieson Webster

9:30AM / NORTH STAGE

What does the rise and fall of autofiction suggest about contemporary subjectivity? Is 'lived experience' the only form of truth available to the neoliberal author, be it the patient on the analyst's couch or the modern novelist? Can audiences no longer suspend disbelief? Psychoanalyst Jamieson Webster and literary critic Leo Robson discuss the problem.

Righting Wrongs

Stephanie Palmer, Geoffrey Robertson and Kenneth Roth (live stream)

9:30AM / EAST STAGE

Is shaming an effective weapon in the fight to protect human rights from the whims and scheming of autocrats and inhumane governments? Geoffrey Robertson and Stephanie Palmer debate the issue with Gareth Evans.

Being Jewish after the Destruction of Gaza

Peter Beinart (live stream)

9:30AM / WEST STAGE

Columnist and journalist Peter Beinart says, "I still believe in the metaphor of Jews as a family. But it has been corrupted. Our leaders have turned our commitment to one another into a moral sedative." He discusses these issues with Debbie Whitmont.

Love, Loss and MDMA Therapy

Rebecca Huntley

10:45AM / NORTH STAGE

Rebecca Huntley talks about her new memoir, *Sassafras*, an account of her quest to overcome trauma and the unconventional path she took towards healing. Join her in conversation with Maxine McKew.

On Grief - DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Geraldine Brooks

10:45AM / EAST STAGE

In conversation with Bob Carr, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks talks about the sudden death of her husband, Tony Horwitz, and her attempt to make sense of the void in her new memoir, *Memorial Days*.

Conscious Coupling

Christine Breen, Anne Buist, Graeme Simsion and Niall Williams

10:45AM / WEST STAGE

Katrina Strickland talks to with Niall Williams, Christine Breen, Anne Buist and Graeme Simsion about the who, what, when, where and why of couples who write books together.

TICKETED EVENT

The Book Thief – 20th Anniversary

Markus Zusak

11AM / ADELAIDE TOWN HALL

Markus Zusak's international bestseller *The Book Thief* will be 20 years old in 2025. It has won numerous awards, been translated into more than 63 languages, sold 17 million copies and was adapted into a 2013 feature film. Join Markus Zusak as he reflects on the extraordinary

success of this novel, his writing process and why the novel still resonates today.

TICKETS \$39

Transaction fees apply.

Book at adelaidefestival.com.au/writers-week

Return of the Repressed

Michael Robotham

12PM / NORTH STAGE

Master storyteller Michael Robotham talks to Sue Turnbull about his latest thriller, *Storm Child*, in which a nightmare of buried memories and psychic wounds comes roaring back to life.

Espionage, Seduction and Intrigue - DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Rachel Kushner

12PM / EAST STAGE

Rachel Kushner, a Booker Prize-shortlisted author whose partner describes her as "Spinoza with lipstick", talks to Claire Nichols about her latest novel, *Creation Lake* – variously acclaimed by critics as *Slow Horses* meets *Killing Eve*, a Le Carréan *Kill Bill* and a dazzling reinvention of the spy novel.

A One-Man Anthology

Shaun Micallef

12PM / WEST STAGE

Shaun Micallef talks to Alexander Ward AM about his new anthology, *Slivers, Shards and Skerricks*, a dizzying collection of prose, plays, philosophy, poetry and parody by one of Australia's "most intelligent and more handsome Renaissance men."

Between Colonial Archives and Indigenous Memory

Natalie Harkin and Jackie Huggins

1:15PM / NORTH STAGE

Natalie Harkin talks with Jackie Huggins and Jo Case about her new work *Apron-Sorrow/ Sovereign-Tea*, a history of Aboriginal domestic service and unwaged labour in South Australia that is imbued with the concept of archival justice.

The Forever War: America's Unending Conflict with Itself

Nick Bryant

1:15PM / EAST STAGE

Nick Bryant, author of *The Forever War*, discusses with Richard Fidler the history of contemporary America's polarisation and whether the nation's political future will be dictated by its violent political past.

Self-Interested, Controlling, Delusional: The Problem of Public Writing

Lauren Oyler

1:15PM / WEST STAGE

Critic and Novelist Lauren Oyler joins Nicole Abadee to explore the self-aggrandisement and selfexoneration inherent in public writing, as well as literary criticism and Oyler's latest essay collection, *No Judgement*.

For the Love of a Small Patch of Land

Christine Breen and Niall Williams

2:30PM / NORTH STAGE

After co-writing four memoirs, Christine Breen and Niall Williams decided to write *In Kiltumper: A Year in an Irish Garden*, an intimate, meditative account of a period in their lives when they confronted many challenges, from illness to wind turbines. They explain to Amanda Vanstone how tending to a small patch of land brought them peace, space for contemplation, and the inkling of a sense of control.

LATE NIGHT LIVE

The State of the World

John Crace, Masha Gessen and Wesley Lowery

2:30PM / EAST STAGE

Has the rise of leaders like Orbán, Trump and Netanyahu finally put paid to the liberal fantasy that fascism, ultranationalism and xenophobia were symptoms of a political malaise consigned to the 19th century? Masha Gessen, Wesley Lowery and John Crace join *Late Night Live's* David Marr to discuss the state of the world.

What's Next?

Thomas Mayo and Kerry O'Brien

2:30PM / WEST STAGE

The Voice to Parliament referendum was an opportunity for meaningful Indigenous recognition. Thomas Mayo and Kerry O'Brien reflect on the defeat of this modest proposal. Are we mean-spirited? Are we naysayers who lack the empathy to redress profound wrongs? Did advocates fail to effectively prosecute their case? And what is the way forward?

Witnessing the Trial of Ghislaine Maxwell

Lucia Osborne-Crowley

3:45PM / NORTH STAGE

Author, essayist and journalist Lucia Osborne-Crowley talks to Fran Kelly about her new book, *The Lasting Harm*, her account of the Maxwell trial and a devastating critique of a criminal justice system that fails abuse survivors.

When the Tech Bros Come to Town

Kara Swisher

3:45PM / EAST STAGE

We have arrived at a disturbing global inflection point where a handful of companies might rewrite the truth. Marc Fennell of Radio National's *Download This Show* interrogates Silicon Valley interrogator Kara Swisher.

2025 MUD Literary Prize

3:45PM / WEST STAGE

The MUD Literary Prize celebrates a debut novel of literary fiction. Past winners have included Trent Dalton and Pip Williams. Hear from the 2025 winner with chair David Sly. Special thanks to the MUD Literary Club for their support and contribution to Adelaide Writers' Week.

Exit Wounds: A Story of Love, Loss and Occasional Wars

Peter Godwin

5PM / NORTH STAGE

Award-winning foreign correspondent and writer Peter Godwin and his sister Georgina Godwin discuss his memoir *Exit Wounds*, reflecting on their family's legacy of exile and loss and his changing relationships with the women who have shaped his life.

Foreign Bodies: Pandemics, Vaccines and the Health of Nations -

DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Sir Simon Schama

5PM / EAST STAGE

Sir Simon Schama talks to Norman Swan about his latest cultural history, *Foreign Bodies*, an investigation of disease and vulnerable human societies caught between the fear of contagion and scientific innovation.

Robodebt: A Moral Vacuum and a Multi-Billion-Dollar Government Shakedown

Rick Morton

5PM / WEST STAGE

Award-winning journalist Rick Morton talks to Tory Shepherd about his book, *Mean Streak*, a compelling but horrifying account of the “venality, incompetence and cowardice” behind Australia’s shameful Robodebt scandal.

TICKETED EVENTS

An Evening with Anthony Horowitz

Anthony Horowitz (live stream) with Axel Clark and Andrew Knight

6:15PM / THE DRILL HALL

What do the Alex Rider series, Sherlock Holmes, James Bond, an unemployed former detective, the long-running television series *Foyle’s War*, Agatha Christie’s *Poirot and Midsomer Murders* have in common? They are all written by Anthony Horowitz, an author with a prodigious work ethic. Join master drama writer Andrew Knight (*SeaChange, Rake, Jack Irish*) and Axel Clark, 14-year-old fan of the Alex Rider novels and history podcaster, as they discover the man who reinvented the spy genre.

TICKETS \$39

Transaction fees apply.

Book at adelaidefestival.com.au/writers-week

Why Words Matter

Masha Gessen

7:30PM / ADELAIDE TOWN HALL

Masha Gessen, one of the world's most influential intellectuals and a convicted criminal in absentia according to Vladimir Putin, reflects on the uses and abuses of language in Kyiv, Mar-a-Lago and Gaza.

Marshall McLuhan in the 1960s coined the phrase "the medium is the message". In conversation with Tony Jones, Masha Gessen explores how Trump, Putin and Netanyahu have exploited the proliferation of platforms, ignored the evidence and played with the polity's susceptibility to fear.

TICKETS

A Res \$59, Friends \$50, Conc \$47, U30 \$35, Student \$30

B Res \$49, Friends \$42, Conc \$39, U30 \$30, Student \$25

Transaction fees apply.

Book at **adelaidefestival.com.au/writers-week**

Tuesday 4 March

Breakfast with Papers

8AM / WEST STAGE

The Autistic Experience and the Power of Storytelling

Clem Bastow and Jo Case

9:30AM / NORTH STAGE

Join Clem Bastow and Jo Case as they talk about their co-edited anthology of autistic genderdiverse and women writers, *Someone Like Me*, an exploration of autistic people's experiences and hardships.

Final Verdict: A 21st-Century Holocaust Trial

Tobias Buck

9:30M / EAST STAGE

Tobias Buck talks to fellow journalist Debbie Whitmont about reporting on the trial of a former SS camp guard, the problem of collective guilt and 'memory culture' in modern-day Germany.

Australian War Myths

Mark Dapin

9:30AM / WEST STAGE

Award-winning author and historian Mark Dapin talks to Mike Carlton about the focus of his new book, *Lest* – the myths that underpin Australian military history and why the record needs to be set straight.

Bullet, Paper, Rock: A Memoir of Words and Wars

Abbas El-Zein

10:45AM / NORTH STAGE

In *Bullet, Paper, Rock*, awardwinning author Abbas El-Zein discusses the political, linguistic and psychological conflicts that have shaped his life. He is joined in conversation by Molly Murn.

How the Glow of Radium Lit a Path for Women in Science

Dava Sobel

10:45AM / EAST STAGE

Bestselling writer Dava Sobel reflects on about the genius, politics and passions of the most famous woman in the history of science, as captured in her new book, *The Elements of Marie Curie*. Join her in conversation with Sarah Kanowski.

Everyone's a Critic

Lauren Oyler and Beejay Silcox

10:45AM / WEST STAGE

"I know what I like" is a common refrain when opinions are voiced about books, artworks, films, food and much else besides. So where does that leave the critic? Beejay Silcox and Lauren Oyler discuss whether any authority is allowed to critics in a world ruled by personal beliefs and perspectives.

The Laws of Synchronicity

Ruby Todd

12PM / NORTH STAGE

It is 1997 and in a small Australian town in the back of beyond, a young funeral attendant is planning her suicide. Her plans are interrupted by the discovery of a comet, a cult and a flurry of conspiracy theories. *The New Yorker* hailed *Bright Objects* as one of the best books of 2024. Ruby Todd explains more to Sian Cain.

The Art of Misremembering

Geraldine Brooks and Peter Godwin

12PM / EAST STAGE

Memoirs are an opportunity to rewrite history. Geraldine Brooks and Peter Godwin explore with Richard Buckham what can be forgotten in the act of writing a memoir.

Violence, Power and Families

Jessie Tu

12PM / WEST STAGE

Join novelist Jessie Tu as she talks to Sarah L'Estrange about the challenges of writing about families and the problems they can engender in successive generations.

Solitude, Friendship and the Vagaries of Life

Brian Castro

1:15PM / NORTH STAGE

The hero of Brian Castro's 10th novel is in his mid-70s, a migrant, thrice-divorced, a one-time postman and professor, now a writer living alone in the Adelaide Hills. His days are filled with reflections on his life and what he calls "the mannered and meditative inaction of age". Castro discusses his new novel, *Chinese Postman*, with Molly Murn.

On Breathing

Jamieson Webster

1:15PM / WEST STAGE

Psychoanalyst and author Jamieson Webster talks to Sarah Kanowski about her latest book, *On Breathing*, a meditation on care, dependence and what it means to breathe in an age of ecological catastrophe.

Race and Racism - DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Wesley Lowery and Amy McQuire

1:15PM / EAST STAGE

Not so long ago, some imagined we had arrived at a post-racial world. It turned out to be fantasy as Australians voted against recognising First Nations people, Trump declared that Haitian immigrants were eating the pets of America and then Israeli defense minister Yoav Gallant decided Gazans were 'human animals'. Wesley Lowery and Amy McQuire discuss with Larissa Behrendt how the fear of the 'other' is all too easily stoked.

An Escape to Freedom and the Collapse of the Iron Curtain

Matthew Longo

2:30PM / WEST STAGE

The winner of the 2024 Orwell Prize for Political Writing, Matthew Longo, talks to Annabelle Quince about *The Picnic*. An improbable historical event, this pan-European outing involved goulash, beer and 600 East Germans on the border between Hungary and Austria.

A Tech Love Story - DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Kara Swisher

2:30PM / EAST STAGE

Award-winning journalist Kara Swisher takes us inside Silicon Valley and the legacy of its tech bros who promised to "move fast and break things". She speaks with Eliza Harvey, the Executive Producer of the ABC's Q&A.

The Story of a Girl-Pope

Emily Maguire

2:30PM / NORTH STAGE

What can a legendary woman from the medieval past teach us about our present? Emily Maguire, whose latest novel is *Rapture*, talks about

ambition, power and cultural transgression – on and off the page – with critic Beejay Silcox.

Preventing Crime

Rick Sarre

3:45PM / NORTH STAGE

Emeritus Professor Rick Sarre, in conversation with Dr. Rachel Spencer, discusses the problems with the current deterrence approach and why social justice needs to be at the heart of crime prevention – issues he details in his new book *Preventing Crime*.

Hazzard and Harrower: The Letters

Brigitta Olubas and Susan Wyndham

3:45PM / EAST STAGE

Brigitta Olubas and Susan Wyndham talk to Richard Buckham about the genius of Shirley Hazzard, one of the greatest writers in the English language, and the treasure trove of letters she left the reading public.

Three Men and a Baby

Tom Lamont

3:45PM / WEST STAGE

Award-winning journalist Tom Lamont discusses his debut novel with Debbie Whitmont. *Going Home* is a story about three men, each ill-prepared for fatherhood, who are thrust into parenthood following a sudden death.

2025 Stella Prize Longlist Announcement

5PM / NORTH STAGE

Be among the first to discover the 2025 Stella Prize longlist. Join the Judging Panel – Debra Dank, Astrid Edwards, Leah-Jing McIntosh and

Rick Morton – for an illuminating discussion about the best literature produced in Australia.

Narcissistic Villains and Asphyxiating Families – DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Charlotte Mendelson

5PM / EAST STAGE

Marriages are fascinating to the nosy, according to the writer Charlotte Mendelson. Her latest novel, *Wife*, is a searing account of relationship breakdowns and family collapse, as she explains to Sarah L'Estrange.

Minority Rule

Ash Sarkar (live stream)

5PM / WEST STAGE

Join Ash Sarkar as she takes Mark Kenny on a tour of the culture wars – the irrational fear that minorities want to oppress majority populations. Sarkar argues it is the media barons, hedge fund managers and CEOs who have fuelled fear and weaponised identity politics in a calculated strategy to keep us divided.

TICKETED EVENT

Insiders

with David Speers

6:15PM / THE DRILL HALL

For more than 23 years, *Insiders* has been unmissable television for political tragi-comics and anyone wanting to stay up to date with federal politics. Host David Speers returns to Adelaide Writers' Week to speak with the Premier of South Australia, Peter Malinauskas, and a panel of Australia's sharpest journalistic minds to dissect the week in politics. They'll be joined by Mike Bowers and one of the country's finest cartoonists, Cathy Wilcox, for *Talking Pictures*.

TICKETS \$29

Transaction fees apply.

Book at adelaidefestival.com.au/writers-week

Wednesday 5 March

Breakfast with Papers

8AM / WEST STAGE

Splinter Journal: Unravelling Reality

Writers SA

9:30AM / NORTH STAGE

Can a literary journal help us understand or even change our reality? Editor of new Tarntanyabased journal *Splinter*, Farrin Foster, and issue one writers Hossein Asgari, Karen Wyld and Anthony Nocera, discuss the evolving purpose of literary journals and how it dovetails with their work in *Splinter*.

"Paki, Writer, Cripple: Who Am I Now?"

Hanif Kureishi and Dr. Michelle Johnson

9:30AM / EAST STAGE

In a two-part conversation, Hanif Kureishi first will join Julia Baird to discuss his memoir *Shattered* and the catastrophic accident that changed his life. Julia Baird and Dr Michelle Johnson, emergency physician and author, will then share their reflections on the task of writing about broken bodies, despair and hope.

Iconic Women

Daisy Goodwin and Dava Sobel

9:30AM / WEST STAGE

Marie Curie and Maria Callas were legends in both their professional and private lives. Bestselling writers Dava Sobel and Daisy Goodwin take us inside these remarkable women's worlds, in company with Katrina Strickland.

Writing Home: Writers on Place

Writers SA

10:45AM / NORTH STAGE

Place is more than a setting. It is an evocation, a provocation and possibly a temptation. In both fiction and non-fiction, Jannali Jones, Jennifer Mills and Jessica White have all written about places, real, imagined and disputed. Join them for a conversation about placemaking with language.

Exile, Nostalgia and Letting Go

Téa Obreht (live stream)

10:45AM / WEST STAGE

The critically acclaimed, bestselling author of *The Tiger's Wife* and *Inland*, Téa Obreht, tells Jo Case about her latest novel, *The Morningside*, a haunting, dystopian story about war, climate refugees and magic.

The Men Who Killed the News - DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Eric Beecher

10:45AM / EAST STAGE

Crikey owner and former News Corp and Fairfax editor Eric Beecher talks to fellow journalist and author John Lyons about the narcissistic and megalomaniacal media moguls who have undermined journalism, democracy and truth.

The Death of Dora Black

Lainie Anderson

12PM / NORTH STAGE

Lainie Anderson talks to Jane Howard about her immersive three-year investigation of the World War I-era story of South Australian detective duo Kate Cocks and Ethel Bromley, which resulted in her debut murder mystery, *The Death of Dora Black*.

History Lessons - DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Orlando Figes, Bettany Hughes, Matthew Longo and Dava Sobel

12PM / EAST STAGE

Judging by the death and destruction we are witnessing in the 21st century, it seems humanity has learnt nothing from the past century, be it the horrors of the world wars or the seemingly endless conflagrations in the Middle East. Orlando Figes, Bettany Hughes, Matthew Longo and Dava Sobel talk to Annabelle Quince about whether they despair as they document the past, or see their task as exhorting our generation to make the world a more humane place.

Datsun Angel

Anna Broinowski

12PM / WEST STAGE

Anna Broinowski chats to Jo Case to talk about her new memoir, *Datsun Angel*, the confronting story of a sex, drugs and violence-fuelled adventure through the savage Australian outback of the 1980s.

Shining Like the Sun

Stephen Orr

1:15PM / NORTH STAGE

Stephen Orr discusses the complex interconnections of family and community, memory and place, commitment and contribution in *Shining Like the Sun* with Walter Marsh.

Working for the Brand: How Corporations are Destroying Free Speech – DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Josh Bornstein

1:15PM / EAST STAGE

Josh Bornstein and Joe Aston consider the subject of Bornstein's book *Working for the Brand* – how major corporations have become the most powerful institutions in the world and the implications for democracy, freedom of speech and the future of politics.

The Silent Service

Mike Carlton

1:15PM / WEST STAGE

Mike Carlton shares stories of the little-known Australian submariners of the 20th century with Bob Carr. His latest book, *Dive!*, is a chronicle of courage, espionage and political manoeuvring.

The End and Everything Before It

Finegan Kruckemeyer

2:30PM / NORTH STAGE

Finegan Kruckemeyer is an award-winning playwright, whose works have been performed on six continents and in eight languages. Farrin Foster talks to Finegan about his astonishing debut novel *The End and Everything Before It*.

Chameleon: A Memoir of Art, Travel, Ideas and Love

Robert Dessaix

2:30PM / EAST STAGE

Writer, translator and broadcaster Robert Dessaix talks to Susan Wyndham about his book of memories, *Chameleon*, a personal history of what really matters in life – art, sex and death.

A Woman of a Certain Age

Deborah Callaghan

2:30PM / WEST STAGE

Former publisher and literary agent extraordinaire Deborah Callaghan talks to Mark Dapin about *The Little Clothes*, her provocative new novel about the vicissitudes of middle age.

Hazel Rowley Memorial Lecture 2025: Legend v Facts: A

Biographical Dilemma

3:45PM / WEST STAGE

Australian writer Frank Moorhouse was legendary in Australian literary and cultural life.

But what if the facts contradict the legend?

Join Clare Wright in conversation with Matthew Lamb for this year's Hazel Rowley Memorial Lecture about sorting the legend from the facts.

Hear how Matthew grappled with this in his brilliant biography, *Frank Moorhouse: Strange Paths*.

The announcement of the 2025 Hazel Rowley Literary Fellowship winner will follow.

The Wedding Party

Rebecca Heath

3:45PM / NORTH STAGE

A group of old friends, a grieving mother, a lying bride and a sweltering Australian beach. Rebecca Heath talks to Walter Marsh about her third psychological thriller, *The Wedding Party*.

Balcony Over Jerusalem: Israel, Iran and the new Middle East –

DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

John Lyons

3:45PM / EAST STAGE

As Global Affairs Editor of the ABC, John Lyons travels widely around the Middle East, including to Iran, Israel and Lebanon. In conversation with Bob Carr, the former foreign affairs minister, Lyons explains the dramatic changes to the region – including the future of Iran, the fall of the Assad regime the new incarnations of Hezbollah and Hamas.

Voyagers: Our Journey into the Anthropocene

Lauren Fuge

5PM / NORTH STAGE

Lauren Fuge, a science writer and traveller, explores with Farrin Foster what it is that drives us to traverse seas and continents, from the fjords of the Pacific Northwest to the geology of outback Australia to the edges of the known universe.

The Circus Returns

Nick Harkaway (live stream)

5PM / EAST STAGE

Nick Harkaway, the son of John le Carré, is the author of eight novels. His latest book, *Karla's Choice*, continues George Smiley's story. In conversation with Michael Robotham, Harkaway explores the challenge of writing in the shadow and light of his father's literary legacy.

When Betty Turned One Hundred

Debra Oswald

5PM / WEST STAGE

With *One Hundred Years of Betty*, Debra Oswald has written a 'whole of life' novel, the story of the determinedly curious Betty from 1928 to 2028. In conversation with Helen Pitt, Oswald explores writing across an entire century.

Thursday 6 March

Breakfast with Papers

8AM / WEST STAGE

The Chairman's Lounge: The Inside Story of How Qantas Sold Us Out - DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Joe Aston

9:30AM / EAST STAGE

Joe Aston, award-winning journalist and author of *The Chairman's Lounge*, joins David Penberthy to discuss the delusion, greed and shameless profiteering that brought to ground one of the nation's most iconic brands.

What Will Survive of Us?

Howard Jacobson (live stream)

9:30AM / WEST STAGE

Booker Prize-winning author Howard Jacobson talks to Georgina Godwin about the questions at the heart of *What Will Survive of Us?* – whether love can survive marriage, betrayal and the passage of time.

Europe and the Challenge of Russia - DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Orlando Figes

10:45AM / EAST STAGE

Award-winning author Orlando Figes hopes to remind us of “the unifying force of European civilisation, which Europe's nations will ignore at their peril”. He discusses the making of modern Europe with Robert Dossaix.

"We Were Elsewhere People"

André Aciman (live stream)

10:45AM / WEST STAGE

Bestselling author André Aciman shares with Richard Buckham his abiding preoccupation with the themes of exile, longing and memory – themes that inhabit his new memoir about his teenage life, *My Roman Year*.

American Whitelash: A Changing Nation and the Cost of Progress -

DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Wesley Lowery

12PM / EAST STAGE

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Wesley Lowery and Rachel Perkins discuss the violent backlash that has ensued after every period of racial progress in the United States.

Grief

Nova Weetman

12PM / WEST STAGE

According to Marcel Proust, "grief develops the power of the mind." Jonathan Green tests the proposition with Nova Weetman, who has written a memoir, *Love, Death and Other Scenes*, about the death of her partner, the playwright Aiden Fennessy, during COVID.

Diva: Reimagining Maria Callas and Aristotle Onassis' Scandalous Affair - DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Daisy Goodwin

1:15PM / EAST STAGE

Bestselling author Daisy Goodwin talks to Pip Williams about her epic novel *Diva*, on the love affair between the most celebrated opera singer of all time and one of the world's richest men.

How Johnny Voghel Escaped a Dead-End Job

Leo Robson

1:15PM / WEST STAGE

Leo Robson is a well-known British essayist and critic who has just written his first novel, *The Boys*. He talks to Lauren Oyler about writing a comedy about confusion and loss – a generational saga that takes place over a fortnight.

Guns, Drugs and a Young Woman Dead on the Money

Ronni Salt (live stream)

2:30PM / EAST STAGE

Ronni Salt talks to Wendy Harmer about her new book, *Gunnawah*, a crime thriller set deep in the heart of outback Australia during the era of Gough Whitlam, pub brawls and flared jeans.

Putin's War on Women

Sofi Oksanen

2:30PM / WEST STAGE

Sofi Oksanen, librettist for *Innocence*, acclaimed Finnish playwright and bestselling novelist blends family history and journalistic rigour in *Same River, Twice* to reveal Russia's history of weaponising sexual violence against women – and its links to genocide in Ukraine, misogyny within Russia itself and imperialism on the world stage. Under Putin, she tells Jo Case, women are under threat.

The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World – DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Bettany Hughes

3:45PM / EAST STAGE

Award-winning historian, author and broadcaster Bettany Hughes talks to Kate Evans about her journey by land and sea in search of the ancient "test cases of the human imagination."

Leaps of Faith

Ceridwen Dovey and Zeynab Gamieldien

3:45PM / WEST STAGE

Whether it's religious, political, societal, philosophical or spiritual in nature, the act of believing can be a lodestar, a comfort, a ritual, a guiding principle or a reason for living. Join *Griffith Review 86* contributors Ceridwen Dovey and Zeynab Gamieldien as they explore what faith can tell us about our desires, our values and ourselves, in conversation with editor Carody Culver.

Writing a Childhood

Tom Lamont and Téa Obreht (live stream)

5PM / EAST STAGE

Is there something special or distinctive about the child narrator? As readers, we can assume these characters are innocent and that their perspective is flawed or at least unreliable. What do their authors think? Join Tom Lamont and Téa Obreht in conversation with Jonathan Green.

No Place Like Home

Brooke Boland, Winnie Dunn and Lia Hills

5PM / WEST STAGE

There's no place like home, although home isn't always a place. It could be a feeling, an instinct, a language, a person, a memory; it could be somewhere we long to return to or can't wait to escape. Join *Griffith Review 87* contributors Brooke Boland, Winnie Dunn and Lia Hills as they explore the myriad material consequences of home, from the

picket fence to the political arena, in conversation with editor Carody Culver.

ABC Radio Live

12:30PM – 3PM / NORTH STAGE

Join ABC Radio Adelaide *Drive* presenter, Jo Lavery live from Adelaide Writers' Week.

TICKETED EVENT

A Living National Treasure: Tim Winton

7PM / ADELAIDE TOWN HALL

Join us to celebrate the publication of Tim Winton's 13th novel. *Juice* according to Winton means "human resilience and moral courage". The question he asks us all to consider is do we have the fortitude to do what's required to save the planet? One of Australia's greatest storytellers talks to Richard Fidler about writing, climate change and the dystopian future that awaits us.

TICKETS

A Res \$59, Friends \$50, Conc \$47, U30 \$35, Student \$30

B Res \$49, Friends \$42, Conc \$39, U30 \$30, Student \$25

Transaction fees apply.

Book at adelaidefestival.com.au/writers-week

Join The Literati

Adelaide Writers' Week is regarded as one of the world's most significant literary festivals, known for its beautiful outdoor setting and free program featuring Australian and international authors.

We invite you to join The Literati, a group of like-minded supporters who are passionate about keeping this iconic event vibrant and accessible to all. Together, we can build on the more than 65-year legacy of Adelaide Writers' Week, for this and future generations of book lovers.

Members of The Literati receive special invitations to events during Adelaide Writers' Week and Adelaide Festival and to a monthly Book Club hosted in Adelaide by Louise Adler AM.

To join The Literati with an annual minimum donation of \$2,000, please contact Philanthropy Manager Hannah Bone at hbone@adelaidefestival.com.au or on **08 8216 4478** or join online at adelaidefestival.com.au/the-literati

THANK YOU TO THE LITERATI

Rina Auciello; Anna Baillie-Karas & Jason Karas; Judith Bissland; Mark Blumberg; Rob Brookman AM & Verity Laughton; Dr Natasha Chow & Dr Robin Nicholson; Dr Natasha Chow with Dr Sonja Latzel, Dr Elizabeth Murphy, & Dr Helen Parry in memory of Dr Annabelle Mahar; Ross Dillon & Sue Dillon; Alexander Downer AC & Nicola Downer AM; Kate Duggan & Tom Duggan; Dr Jane Elliot AM; Brigid & Nick Emmett; Dr Noel Grieve & Janet Grieve OAM; Christine Guille & Chris Guille; Amanda Harkness & Karen Barrett; Sam Harvey; Amanda Hayes; Carol & Mark Hill-Ling; Juliet Hugo; K&S Langley Family; Dr Sonja Latzel; Professor Mark Lawrence; Pam McKee; Sally McMichael; George Morstyn & Rosa Morstyn; James & Mena Muecke; Nunn Dimos Foundation; Pamela O'Donnell; Maria Panagiotidis; Alison Smallacombe & David Smallacombe; Chris Waltham; Robina Weir; Anonymous.

Access

We make every effort to ensure Adelaide Festival and Adelaide Writers' Week events are accessible to our whole audience. To find out more about our access program, please visit adelaidefestival.com.au/access

Wheelchair Access

The Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden is wheelchair accessible. A power recharge station is available.

Sign Interpreting

Auslan interpretation is available on request. Please complete an Auslan request form at adelaidefestival.com.au/access. Requests must be submitted by **Mon 17 Feb**.

Hearing Loop

An induction Hearing Loop is installed at East, West and North stages.

National Relay Service

Contact Adelaide Festival through the National Relay Service on **133 677** then **08 8216 4444** or via relayservice.com.au

Access Parking

Limited access parking is available at Torrens Parade Ground adjacent to the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden. Parking must be pre-booked. To book or find out more, please email access@adelaidefestival.com.au or call **08 8216 4444**.

Water for Assistance Dogs

Water bowls for assistance dogs are available across the Adelaide Writers' Week site.

Sustainability

Adelaide Festival is a pioneer of sustainability in the arts. As part of the Festival, Adelaide Writers' Week is committed to reducing our impact on the environment.

- Program guide reuse: After using this program guide, please reuse or recycle it.
- Eco-commute: Opt to walk, bike or take public transport if you can.
- Mindful consumption: Minimise food waste by sharing or taking leftovers home.
- Waste wise: Use the venue's three-bin system for proper waste disposal.
- Reusable essentials: Pack a reusable water bottle, napkin and coffee cup, eliminating single use items.