

FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER- AVALON RSL CLUB

FESTIVAL OPENING NIGHT COCKTAIL PARTY - CELEBRATING AUSSIE GENRE FICTION

6:30pm
to
9pm

Join us for an exclusive evening of cocktails, nibbles, and rubbing shoulders with some of the festival's authors. We will also have a fascinating chat with two of the festival founders, authors Sandie Docker and Cassie Hamer, discussing why they started the festival, the bumpy road to getting here, and the power of storytelling and why it's so important to champion Australian stories from crime, historical, women's fiction, and romance.

Ticket includes session, nibbles, and drink on arrival. Subsequent drinks at own expense.

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER - AVALON RECREATION CENTRE

MAIN HALL

9:30am
to
9:45am

FESTIVAL WELCOME
SHORT STORY WINNER ANNOUNCED

9:45am
to
10:45am

CRAFTING ACROSS GENRES

Kate Forsyth & Pamela Hart

Kate Forsyth and Pamela Hart have written almost 100 books between them. They talk about writing in many different genres and ages groups - including mystery, historical fiction, fantasy, romance and more. Take a peek inside their incredible imaginations and discover the challenges and joys of writing for such varied audiences.

Facilitator: Valerie Khoo - director, Australian Writers' Centre

Supported by The Australian Writers' Centre

ACTIVITY ROOM 2

MAKING LIGHT OF THE DARK

Megan Albany & Joanna Nell

Megan Albany and Joanna Nell skilfully craft novels exploring the complicated nuances of characters facing some of life's big questions. At times heart-wrenching, hilarious, and irreverent, these stories have the power to find hope amidst the despair. Discover how these two authors balance between light and dark.

Facilitator: Cassie Hamer - author and former journalist

BOOK SIGNING - ACTIVITY ROOM 1

11:15am
to
12:15pm

MICHAEL ROBOTHAM

In Conversation with Claudine Tinellis

Join two times Gold Dagger winner Michael Robotham in conversation with one of Australia's top book podcasters, Claudine Tinellis, as they discuss Michael's work and incredible crime writing career spanning 20 years, multiple awards and 25 languages. Hear how he transitioned from journalist to best-selling author, how he crafts his tense, action-packed novels, where he gets his inspiration from, and what it's like to see his work come alive on screen.

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BOOK SIGNING - ACTIVITY ROOM 1

1:30pm
to
2:30pm

NOW AND THEN

Sandie Docker & Vanessa McCausland

Novels that weave the secrets and experiences of the past, with the consequences of the 'now', hold a certain fascination for readers. Through interweaving multiple timelines & exploring memory, authors Sandie Docker and Vanessa McCausland deftly delve into how our history affects our present, with all the emotion that comes with looking at a character's life now and then.

Facilitator: Jo Riccioni - author and book seller

FESTIVAL BOOK CLUB

Free Session

In conjunction with Avalon Community Library, join hosts Cassie Hamer and Anna Loder from NBRF and Meg Dunn, Avalon Community Library President, in a lively discussion about *When the Crawdads Sing*. Read the book, see the trailer and come along to discuss the nitty gritty of this literary phenomenon. What did you think of 'the twist'? What is a Crawdad? No question is off limits.

(spoiler alert - twists and the ending will be discussed)

BOOK SIGNING - ACTIVITY ROOM 1

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER - AVALON RECREATION CENTRE

MAIN HALL

ACTIVITY ROOM 2

3pm
to
4pm

TALES FROM THE PAST

Julie Bennett, Tania Blanchard & Lauren Chater

Whether it's exploring the 'real life' of their family, or hidden mysteries of the past, writers of historical fiction often weave elements from the imagined together with historical record into stories relevant today. Authors Julie Bennett, Tania Blanchard and Lauren Chater will discuss how they shine a light on stories shadowed by history.

Facilitator: Pamela Cook - author and podcaster, Writes4Women

Brought to you by Royal Motor Yacht Club Broken Bay - Newport

THRILLING NEW VOICES

Rae Cairns, Ali Lowe & Dinuka McKenzie

Meet some of the newest voices in Australian fiction, melding intense family dynamics with deathly outcomes. With backdrops ranging from flood-ravaged northern NSW, to the violent streets of Northern Ireland, to the pristine Northern Beaches of Sydney, Rae Cairns, Ali Lowe and Dinuka McKenzie show us the lengths some of us will go to, that we never thought possible.

Facilitator: Valerie Khoo - director, Australian Writers' Centre

Brought to you by Royal Motor Yacht Club Broken Bay - Newport

BOOK SIGNING - ACTIVITY ROOM 1

4:30pm
to
5:30pm

AUSSIE BLOCKBUSTER WRITING

Candice Fox & Michael Robotham

Watching their global bestsellers come to life on the screen is becoming a common occurrence for authors Candice Fox and Michael Robotham. Hear from these master storytellers as they discuss delving into the dark side, which found one of our panellists being slammed up against a wall in a US hotel, and the other knee to knee with a serial killer in a US prison. From ghost-writing, to collaborating with James Patterson, Michael & Candice will have you riveted to your chair, just as their writing has you riveted to every page.

Facilitator: Suzanne Leal - author and literary award judge

SECRETS FROM BEHIND THE MICROPHONE

Free Session

Pamela Cook, Valerie Khoo & Claudine Tinellis

A behind-the-scenes look at what goes into making some of Australia's most popular writing podcasts. Pamela Cook from *Writes4Women*, Valerie Khoo from *So You Want to be a Writer* and Claudine Tinellis from *Talking Aussie Books*, discuss the secrets to what makes a good podcast and share some stories about what goes on when the mic is off.

Facilitator: Rosemary Puddy - podcaster, The Book Podcast

BOOK SIGNING - ACTIVITY ROOM 1

SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER- AVALON RECREATION CENTRE

10am
to
11am

ESCAPE TO THE DARK SIDE

B.M Carroll, Petronella McGovern and Nicola Moriarty

The rise of domestic noir is taking the literary world by storm. And Australian authors are at the forefront of the wave. What is it about this genre that has readers hooked? Find out from authors B.M Carroll, Petronella McGovern and Nicola Moriarty as they discuss what attracts them to this genre, how they draw their readers in and how they keep us on the edge of our seats, right to the very last page.

Facilitator: Claudine Tinellis - author and podcaster, Talking Aussie Books

MATTERS OF THE HEART

Clare Fletcher, Penelope Janu, & Annie Seaton

Love is the bond that ties us together, but love is more than a kiss here and a happily ever after there - it can heal, cause pain and change our lives. Join authors Clare Fletcher, Penelope Janu, and Annie Seaton, as they delve into the inner workings of the human heart and discuss how they bring complex emotions to life on the page, allowing readers to form a deep connection with their stories.

Facilitator: Pamela Cook - author and podcaster, Writes4Women

Brought to you by the Australian Romance Readers Association

BOOK SIGNING - ACTIVITY ROOM 1

SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER- AVALON RECREATION CENTRE

MAIN HALL

ACTIVITY ROOM 2

JUDY NUNN

In conversation with Sandie Docker

11:30am
to
12:30pm

Join one of Australia's most beloved storytellers, Judy Nunn, in conversation with women's fiction author, Sandie Docker, as they look at Judy's varied storytelling career, from stage to screen to page. With over 1 million copies of her books sold world-wide, and 16 best-selling novels under her belt, hear how Judy continues to craft engaging Australian stories, often tapping into parts of our story we didn't know existed.

Festival Partner



Palm Beach Avalon Beach Newport

BOOK SIGNING - ACTIVITY ROOM 1

LIFE BETWEEN THE PAGES

Jessica Dettmann, Cassie Hamer & Holly Wainwright

1:45pm
to
2:45pm

Whether a piercing exploration of family and marriage, or a sensitive portrayal of the world we live in, Jessica Dettmann, Cassie Hamer and Holly Wainwright turn a mirror on life in all its intimate detail with touching sensibility and brilliant comic timing. Discover how they craft characters whom we can all recognise in ourselves, or someone we know, and what it takes to explore life through a lens of compassion & humour.

Facilitator: Claudine Tinellis - author and podcaster, Talking Aussie Books

WALKING THROUGH HISTORY

Belinda Alexandra, Emily Madden & Mary-Anne O'Connor

Stories set in and around historical events are popular with fiction writers and readers. What is it about these periods of history that hold our fascination years, decades, and even longer after the event? Why is it important these stories are told? Hear from authors Belinda Alexandra, Emily Madden, and Mary-Anne O'Connor about why they choose to explore these pieces of history and why historical stories resonate so strongly with readers.

Facilitator: Jo Riccioni - author and bookseller

BOOK SIGNING - ACTIVITY ROOM 1

KILLER READS

Tim Ayliffe, Chris Hammer & Benjamin Stevenson

3:15pm
to
4:15pm

Australian readers can't get enough of crime stories, and Australian authors Tim Ayliffe, Chris Hammer and Benjamin Stevenson are at the forefront of this crime wave. Join them as they explore why readers are so fascinated with this genre and how, as writers, they keep their stories fresh and engaging.

Facilitator: Claudine Tinellis - author and podcaster, Talking Aussie Books

THE AGONY AND ECSTASY OF PUBLISHING A BOOK

Free session

Beverley Cousins, Jo Mackay, Sandie Docker & Cassie Hamer

Join publishers Bev Cousins (Penguin Random House) and Jo Mackay (HO), and authors Sandie Docker and Cassie Hamer as they discuss the rollercoaster ride from first draft to finished book. Where do novel ideas come from, who decides what gets published and the process of turning a manuscript into a novel, how we deal with rejection (both as authors and publishers) and all the messy bits in between.

BOOK SIGNING - ACTIVITY ROOM 1

FESTIVAL GREAT DEBATE

THE BOOK IS ALWAYS BETTER THAN THE MOVIE

Free Session

Join some of your favourite festival authors and entertainment personalities as they fight to the death (ok, only bragging rights are actually up for grabs) to answer the age-old question that has pined book lovers and movie goers against each other since the dawn of the silver screen.

Affirmative Team

Julie Bennett
Dinuka McKenzie
Bruce Venables

MC

Michael
Robotham

Negative Team

Holly Wainwright
Tim Ayliffe
Judy Nunn

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