2024 PROGRAM

NORTHERN BEACHES READERS FESTIVAL INC

Where book lovers and authors unite

scan to purchase tickets

FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER - AVALON RSL CLUB

6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

FESTIVAL OPENING NIGHT COCKTAIL PARTY – CELEBRATING AUSSIE GENRE FICTION

Join us for an exclusive evening of cocktails, nibbles and rubbing shoulders with some of the festival's authors, facilitators and organisers to celebrate the opening of the 2024 festival.

Ticket includes finger food, and a welcome drink on arrival. The bar will be open for the duration of the cocktail party, should you wish to purchase additional beverages.

SOLD OUT

SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER - AVALON RECREATION CENTRE

www.nbrf.com.au

TIME	MAIN HALL	ACTIVITY ROOM 2	ACTIVITY ROOM 4
9:30 am to 9:45 am	**FESTIVAL WELCOME & SHORT STORY WINNER ANNOUNCED**		
9:45 am to 10:45 am	**THE SUSPENSE IS KILLNG ME** **Sulari Gentill, Kelli Hawkins, Ashley Kalagian Blunt** Our love of books that make us squeeze our eyes tightly shut and forget to breathe is ever-increasing. Join triple-threat thriller writers Sulari Gentill, Kelli Hawkins, and Ashley Kalagian Blunt on a journey to the dark side, exploring the motivation behind their stories and how they keep readers frantically turning the page. **Facilitator**: Tim Ayliffe - author and former journalist	**STORIES THAT DON'T PLAY BY THE RULES** **Clare Fletcher, Abra Pressler, Justin Smith** We all love a comfort read but what readers love even more is a novel that surprises, delights us and challenges our ways of thinking. Meet three authors - Clare Fletcher, Abra Pressler and Justin Smith - who have mastered all the rules of fiction but also proven that it's far more interesting when you break them. **Facilitator**: Cassie Hamer - author and former journalist	**CRIME WRITING WORKSHOP WITH CANDICE FOX** **9:45 am - 1:00 pm** Get set to write your best-selling novel. Candice Fox delivers a masterclass of all things crime fiction, from heart wrenching victims to terror-inducing villains, heroes we root for, twists that make us gasp and settings we remember. Candice is an award-winning and #1 New York Times bestselling author and experienced workshop presenter. There is no one better equipped to guide you in all things crime writing. Max number of participants is 15, so make sure you book early SOLD OUT
	BOOK SIGNING - ACTIVITY ROOM 1		
11:15 am to 12:15 pm	**MICHAEL ROBOTHAM** **in conversation with Sandie Docker** With his latest novel, *Storm Child*, two times Gold Dagger winner Michael Robotham celebrates 20 years as a published author. Join festival director, Sandie Docker, in conversation with Michael as they discuss the twists and turns of his latest release, and take a look back at his incredible writing career as one of Australia's most successful and beloved authors. ***Brought to you by Avalon Community Library***	**WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS** **Amal Awad, Maxine Fawcett, Karina May** Life has a way of throwing us off course when we least expect it. Authors Amal Awad, Maxine Fawcett and Karina May explore themes of relationships, love, and women pushing boundaries to re-discover themselves when all seems lost. They take us behind the façade of middle-age perfection to reveal the out of control reality confronting women today. **Facilitator**: Amy Lovat - author; co-founder Secret Book Stuff ***Brought to you by LJ Hooker - Avalon, Palm Beach***	
	BOOK SIGNING - ACTIVITY ROOM 1		
1:30 pm to 2:30 pm	**WRITING WOMEN BACK INTO HISTORY** **Tea Cooper, Julie Janson, Alli Parker** For too long history has been his-story, but the work of authors such as Tea Cooper, Julie Janson and Alli Parker are putting the female perspective back into our consciousness. What was life like for women of early colonial Australia? Or in WWII occupied Japan? Join us as we journey back in time to discover her-story. **Facilitator:** Claire van Ryn, author	**CAUGHT BETWEEN WORLDS** **Winnie Dunn, Will Kostakis, Saman Shad** Does the desire to belong mean ignoring where you come from? Or does identifying with one culture over another result in disconnection? Join Winnie Dunn, Will Kostakis and Saman Shad as they discuss the rising popularity of stories that explore the challenges of staying true to yourself in a cross-cultural upbringing. **Facilitator**: Claudine Tinellis - author; podcaster, Talking Aussie Books	**YOU *CAN* ASK THAT** **Sandie Docker, Cassie Hamer, Penelope Janu** Do romance writers act out their sex scenes? Are all authors millionaires? What if you hate your cover or your editor wants to kill-off your favourite character? Join authors Sandie Docker, Cassie Hamer and Penelope Janu as they answer all the questions that readers shouldn't ask, but often do. Attendees can submit questions anonymously prior to the panel. ***Festival Fiver Session***
	BOOK SIGNING - ACTIVITY ROOM 1		

NORTHERN BEACHES READERS FESTIVAL INC

Where book lovers and authors unite

2024 PROGRAM

scan to purchase tickets

Proudly Supported by northern beaches council

SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER - AVALON RECREATION CENTRE www.nbrf.com.au

TIME	MAIN HALL	ACTIVITY ROOM 2	ACTIVITY ROOM 4
3:00 pm to 4:00 pm	**ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT** **Candice Fox, JP Pomare, Greg Woodland** Desolate townships, menacing characters, dark truths and even darker lies - this is the rich seam of fiction mined by crime writers Candice Fox, JP Pomare and Greg Woodland. Take a journey to the grim side of life, a side that leaves readers craving more, long after they have turned the final page. **Facilitator:** Rae Cairns - author ***Brought to you by Penguin Random House Australia***	**FUN FEISTY & FABULOUS : THE RISE OF THE 50+ HEROINE** **Amanda Hampson, Joanna Nell, Tricia Stringer** Older women have not always attracted heroine status in literature, but authors Amanda Hampson, Joanna Nell and Tricia Stringer are re-writing the narrative. Join them for an insightful discussion about their brave, clever, flawed and funny characters, and the rising interest in relatable women who know who they are and what they want. **Facilitator**: Penelope Janu - author ***Brought to you by Royal Motor Yacht Club Broken Bay***	**A WRITER, AN EDITOR & A PUBLISHER WALK INTO A BAR** How do publishers choose which books to acquire? What can writers do to get their attention? What role does an editor play? Join writer, Claudine Tinellis, as she chats with Catherine Hill, editor at Penguin Random House and Catherine Milne, publisher at Harper Collins, as they delve into the process that sees a manuscript evolve into a published book. If your dream is to land a book deal, this session is for you. ***Festival Fiver Session***
	BOOK SIGNING - ACTIVITY ROOM 1		
4:30 pm to 5:30 pm	**MESSED UP MILLENNIALS** **Madeleine Gray, Amy Lovat, Jessie Stephens** They've grown up in a dot com world where everything, except happiness, is available at the click of a button. Meet authors Madeleine Gray, Amy Lovat, and Jessie Stephens, who've struck a major cultural chord with twenty-something-year-old protagonists as they confront the messiness of life, love and dawning adulthood in an age of uncertainty. **Facilitator:** Michelle Barraclough - podcaster, Writers Book Club Podcast	**FANTASTIC TALES** **Kate Forsyth, Jo Riccioni, Kell Woods** Greek goddesses, freedom-fighting crusaders and not-so-wicked witches - they are tales as old as time that are still attracting new and growing audiences. Readers love a fantastic tale that takes us into other worlds and in this session we hear from three of the best storytellers in the business - Kate Forsyth, Jo Riccioni and Kell Woods. **Facilitator:** Pamela Cook - author; podcaster, Writes4Women ***Brought to you by Australian Writers' Center***	**BOOK CLUB : *LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY*** **Meg Dunn, Cassie Hamer, Anna Loder** It's the novel that took the world by storm and continues to top bestseller lists. But what do readers really think of *Lessons In Chemistry*? Are we meant to believe such a life is possible? Join Avalon Library's Meg Dunn, author Cassie Hamer, and book-seller extraordinaire Anna Loder for this lively discussion of a publishing phenomenon. *Spoiler Alert : any twists and the ending will be discussed* ***Festival Fiver Session***
	BOOK SIGNING - ACTIVITY ROOM 1		
6:00 pm	**Close of Day 1**		

Bronze Sponsor

FICTION HQ

Panel Sponsors

Penguin Random House Australia

RMYC BROKEN BAY

awc AUSTRALIAN WRITERS' CENTRE World-class writing courses

AVALON COMMUNITY LIBRARY

LJ Hooker

Festival Bookseller

HARRY HARTOG BOOKSELLER

Media Partners

Better Reading

Today's AUSSIE BOOKS

NORTHERN BEACHES READERS FESTIVAL INC

Where book lovers and authors unite

2024 PROGRAM

scan to purchase tickets

Proudly Supported by northern beaches council

SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER - AVALON RECREATION CENTRE

www.nbrf.com.au

TIME	MAIN HALL	ACTIVITY ROOM 2
10:00 am to 11:00 am	**KILLERS IN PLAIN SIGHT** **Jo Dixon, Jack Heath, Benjamin Stevenson** 'Keep your friends close and your enemies closer,' goes the saying. But what if your friends are your enemies? And what if one of them has murderous intentions? Hear from authors Jo Dixon, Jack Heath and Benjamin Stevenson, who write mysteries where the danger comes not from those we don't know, but those we do. **Facilitator:** Cassie Hamer - author and former journalist	**CHEF'S KISS : OUR LOVE AFFAIR WITH FOOD IN FICTION** **Sophie Beaumont, Vanessa McCausland, Maya Linnell** What is it about the magical combination of food and fiction that has readers salivating for more? Join Sophie Beaumont, Maya Linnell and Vanessa McCausland as they discuss how food can inform a character, propel a storyline or shape the meaning of the novel - and have us readers running to the kitchen for a snack. **Facilitator:** Cheryl Akle - Director, Better Reading
	BOOK SIGNING - ACTIVITY ROOM 1	
11:30 am to 12:30 pm	**SHANKARI CHANDRAN** **in conversation with Claudine Tinellis** Join 2023 Miles Franklin Award winner Shankari Chandran and book podcaster Claudine Tinellis as they discuss Shankari's rise to prominence through her award-winning novel *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens* and more recent release, *Safe Haven*. Exploring dispossession, national identity and community, Shankari's writing holds a mirror to societal shame whilst offering us hope that things can change.	**A TOUCH OF MAGIC** **Jane Tara and Michael Thompson** Meet the authors who use the 'other-worldly' to shine a light on dysfunction in the real world. Uplifting and relatable, the protagonist in Jane Tara's novel fights to be seen while Michael Thompson's main character fights to be remembered. Delve into why their highly original stories are taking Australian and international readers by storm. **Facilitator:** Valerie Khoo - director, Australian Writers' Centre
	BOOK SIGNING - ACTIVITY ROOM 1	
1:45 pm to 2:45 pm	**DARK PLACES** **Chris Hammer, Hayley Scrivenor, Darcy Tindale** What Jane Harper started with *The Dry* has morphed into a global appetite for Australian crime set in extreme landscapes. Each year, bodies continue to pile up with more Australian writers penning successful novels in the genre. Join Darcy Tindale, Chris Hammer and Hayley Scrivenor as they travel from dry towns to sheer cliffs and discuss whether the bubble of this publishing phenomenon will ever burst. **Facilitator:** Claudine Tinellis - author; podcaster, Talking Aussie Books ***Brought to you by Penguin Random House Australia***	**PAST LIVES AND PRESENT CHALLENGES** **Julie Bennett, Sandie Docker, Claire van Ryn** When the past and present collide, it makes for powerful storytelling. Especially when secrets buried long ago impact the now. Join Julie Bennett, Sandie Docker and Claire van Ryn as they discuss the trials and joys of writing multiple timelines, and the secrets to creating casts of characters who connect across generations as deeply as they connect with readers. **Facilitator:** Kaneana May - author ***Brought to you by Penguin Random House Australia***
	BOOK SIGNING - ACTIVITY ROOM 1	

Bronze Sponsor

FICTION HQ

Festival Bookseller

HARRY HARTOG BOOKSELLER

Panel Sponsors

Penguin Random House Australia

RMYC BROKEN BAY

awc AUSTRALIAN WRITERS' CENTRE

LJ Hooker

Media Partners

Better Reading

Talking AUSSIE BOOKS

ACTIVITY ROOM 4

CLIMB INSIDE YOUR CHARACTER'S SKIN WORKSHOP WITH PAMELA COOK

1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

'You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view...until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.' Atticus Finch, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

As writers we need to understand our characters, inside and out.

In this workshop we'll go deep, looking at what makes our characters who they are, how to use their experiences to create a page-turning plot, and how to show their emotions to create empathy with our readers.

SOLD OUT

cont.....

NORTHERN BEACHES READERS FESTIVAL INC

Where book lovers and authors unite

2024 PROGRAM

scan to purchase tickets

Proudly Supported by northern beaches council

SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER - AVALON RECREATION CENTRE www.nbrf.com.au

TIME	MAIN HALL	ACTIVITY ROOM 2
3:15 pm to 4:15 pm	**TACKLING BIG ISSUES IN FICTION** **Tim Ayliffe, Michael Brissenden, Kate Solly** The challenges of the world seem enormous - regional wars, climate change, shifting geopolitics, destabilised democracies and a rise in radicalised politics with racist overtones. What role can fiction play in all of this? Hear from Tim Ayliffe, Michael Brissenden and Kate Solly - three authors who confront the world's big issues in a way that entertains, thrills and moves us. **Facilitator:** Cassie Hamer - author and former journalist	**CHARACTERS WHO MAKE US FEEL** **Emma Grey, Amy Hutton, Penelope Janu** Reading, like life, is a personal pursuit. Contemporary novels about issues of our time allow readers to delve into a fictional character's psyche while reflecting on their own. Join celebrated authors Emma Grey, Amy Hutton and Penelope Janu in a wide-ranging discussion on the memorable and relatable characters they create from the messiness of everyday life. **Facilitator:** Claudine Tinellis - author; podcaster, Talking Aussie Books

...workshop cont

Join Pamela as we put our characters on the psychologist's couch and find out what makes them tick.

Max number of participants is 15, so make sure you book early.

BOOK SIGNING - ACTIVITY ROOM 1

4:45 pm to 5:30 pm

Festival Closing Event

BATTLE OF THE BOOKISH BRAINS : A TRIVIA CONTEST LIKE NO OTHER

Come and watch the fun as five fabulous festival authors battle it out for bookish trivia supremacy and the chance to take home the coveted NBRF Bookish Brains Quiz Champion Trophy.

To make it even more interesting, we are giving FIVE audience members the chance to join the authors on stage and help clinch victory for their team.

Five teams of two will fight for their right to be crowned champions in a fun-filled, highly competitive round of trivia.

An event not to be missed.

Participating authors: Ashley Kalagain Blunt, Maya Linnell, Kate Solly, Benjamin Stevenson, Greg Woodland

Quiz Master: Michael Robotham

Free Event - but bookings essential.

5:30 pm **Festival Close**

Bronze Sponsor

FICTION HQ

Festival Bookseller

HARRY HARTOG BOOKSELLER

Panel Sponsors

Penguin Random House Australia

RMYC BROKEN BAY

awc AUSTRALIAN WRITERS' CENTRE

LJ Hooker

Media Partners

Better Reading

Talking AUSSIE BOOKS