



Sorrento
Writers Festival

April 25—28

New Edition

2024



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Welcome



Welcome to the 2024 Sorrento
Writers Festival

Call us old-fashioned, but we love a printed program. And we hope you enjoy browsing through these pages while you plan your Festival experience.

In 2023, we staged the first Sorrento Writers Festival. With ambition, audacity and a degree of fear, we put together a program of 94 events and invited 144 speakers to join us in our beautiful coastal town.

We then turned to the community (and quite a few family and friends) and invited them to join us. What followed was four days of extraordinary energy, meaningful discussions, plenty of laughs, some solemn moments and a few tears.

Unexpectedly, in our first year, we became Victoria's biggest writers festival (based on number of events and speakers). And over the past 12 months we have cemented our position as a new not-for-profit cultural organisation with a solid foundation and an exciting future.

This year, more than 190 speakers will visit Sorrento. They will speak at 130 events and cover a raft of issues – from democracy, leadership and partisan politics to cookbooks and why we have too many in our kitchen cupboards.

In 2024, we are talking romance novels, war novels, crime novels, First Nations songlines and storylines, truth-telling and what next after The Voice. Plus, we will take a deep dive into historical fiction and how it helps us better understand the past – and the present.

The Talking Footy night is back. So, too, the annual Words & Music Concert. And anyone who loves gardening, art, performance, business, sport, TV, advertising and journalism, poetry, literature, biography, Miles Franklin and the plays of William Shakespeare – well, the Sorrento Writers Festival 2024 has your Anzac weekend sorted.

Our long-term goal is to improve reading and literacy among children, to ignite their imagination and prompt inquiry. The students at Sorrento's two schools –

St Joseph's and Sorrento Primary School – are important members of our community and so once again, children's book authors and illustrators will visit their classrooms as part of our four-day gathering.

The Sorrento Writers Festival mission is to bring writers and readers together. The goal is to provide safe environments in which to have important and respectful conversations. And it all happens in beautiful Sorrento village.

Vibrant democracies thrive on civilised public discourse. They grow when people share ideas and listen respectfully to the other side's views. How else will we learn? How else can we create a better world?

In recent times, sadly, it is often the verbal jab, the bitter comment, the angry tone, the lack of compassion and empathy and, sometimes, the bald lie, that makes the headline. We are not interested in those kinds of headlines. Last year, Sorrento proved this is a place of welcome. Our Festival is inclusive. It's a place where we listen to one another. It's a place where ideas flourish.

We can't wait to get started. So thank you for joining us and we hope *our* festival becomes *your* festival.

Corrie Perkin
Founder and Director
Sorrento Writers Festival

The Sorrento Writers Festival takes place on the land of the Boon Wurrung people, members of the great Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and we acknowledge the traditional lands on Monmar and its many sacred sites on the Mornington Peninsula.

sorrentowritersfestival.com.au

Share your moments with us #sorrentowf2024
and @sorrentowritersfestival.com.au

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A year ago, the Sorrento Writers Festival exploded into our local cultural landscape, becoming one of Australia's top literary events in its first year, and introducing our beautiful Mornington Peninsula to a whole new cohort of cultural tourists!

The Sorrento Writers Festival and similar events nurture our sense of belonging, purpose and identity. Success is to be found in the breadth and inclusion of its pursuit of vibrant discussion, its challenge to traditional perspectives, the embellishment of our curiosity, and its openness and acceptance of the colourful debate of old and new ideas. In achieving balance, it shouts a warm invitation to all – an objective I pursued relentlessly in my time on the Board of the Australia Council, and through engagement in Australia's cultural policy for more than two decades.

The Sorrento Writers Festival has already become a significant pillar in the intellectual architecture of both Victoria and Australia. I salute the vision, determination and tireless hard work of Corrie Perkin, and her team, in creating this remarkable event in the most beautiful part of Australia.

I look forward to seeing you at the Festival!

Zoe McKenzie MP
Federal Member of Parliament
for the seat of Flinders.

This year's Festival is set to be even bigger, with more than 190 participants animating local venues across the Peninsula from the Sorrento Bowls Club to the globally recognised Sorrento Continental. Early bird tickets sold out in days, and more than 160 volunteers signed up – indicating our local community has embraced the festival with both pride and excitement.

In 2024, we will be treated to award-winning authors, demographers, political, arts, sport and culture commentators, academics, musicians, journalists and other leaders in their field. The discussions will range across diverse topics, from the future of democracy to the art of the cookbook.

Message from Sorrento *Writers Festival* President



Large community events such as the Sorrento Writers Festival are the sum total of the people who support them. The stronger the ties and the deeper each person's commitment, the more likely the organisation will achieve success and thrive.

Our dreams for the Festival – to become one of the top five literary events in Australia and to act as a beacon for Mornington Peninsula literacy and education programs – are real. And they are achievable. But only if we continue to work with our community and offer experiences that are impactful and positive.

I am indebted to our Festival committee – Narelle Cormack, Rose Donohoe, Nicholas Martin and Mandy Rethus – and our sub-committee colleagues. Their wisdom and experience guide our Festival with assuredness. I also congratulate Festival Founder and Director Corrie Perkin for her remarkable vision and unwavering commitment, and for once again providing an outstanding program that will appeal to all attendees.

And I thank our supporters – those who donate, those who give time, those who buy tickets, buy books and become as excited as we do when April rolls around.

On behalf of the committee, I thank you for being a part of our large Festival family. On with the show!

Peter Inge OAM

Last year's inaugural Festival was a financial and creative success. In 2024, we continue to grow in size, scope and ambition. But we are only as good as the community we serve. Without our participating writers and speakers, our 150-plus volunteers, our individual donors and philanthropic foundations and our remarkable government and corporate partners, there would be no Sorrento Writers Festival.

With more than 130 events and 190 speakers coming to Sorrento, we require an experienced management and operations team, a fiscally responsible and wise committee, and significant financial support.

Sorrento *Writers Festival*

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The Sorrento Writers Festival is an annual gathering of great ideas. It is a catalyst to bring writers and readers together. Our core mission is to provide opportunities for mutually respectful and civilised discussions in safe and welcoming environments. Our speakers and audiences celebrate diverse ideas, new thinking, creative practice, commitment and purpose, and the freedom to discuss. Thank you for joining us in this purpose.



Our Festival Hub is the newly restored Continental Sorrento, with many of our guests staying at the Intercontinental Sorrento within The Continental Sorrento precinct. The Sorrento Writers Festival is grateful for this extraordinary partnership gift and we cannot wait to introduce our world-class Sorrento venue to Festival visitors.

The Continental Sorrento

The Continental Sorrento has been the most famous landmark of Victoria's sought-after seaside town of Sorrento since 1875. Retaining the beloved heritage character, the icon has been reimagined as a lifestyle precinct that brings a piece of luxury to everyone with a highly curated collection of experiences. The Continental Sorrento is one of the Mornington Peninsula's most sought-after event destinations with incredible corporate event spaces transporting you to a world of luxury.

Sorrento Writers Festival will hold events in three incredible event spaces at The Continental Sorrento:

- Halcyon Hall
- The Ballroom
- The Barlow Room

ADDRESS
1-21 Ocean Beach Road
Sorrento, Victoria, 3943



Sorrento Portsea RSL

Founded in 1919, we have a long tradition as a local hub for celebrations, commemorations and community support. We are home to the renowned Tom Katz live music venue as well as the fabulous Sorrento Thai Restaurant and we are very excited to welcome The Kitchen Sorrento also, just in time for summer.

Like Sorrento and Portsea, Jack's Bar & Lounge and The Terrace are cool in summer and warm in winter and are great spaces for an event or a casual drink with friends in a relaxed environment. Sorrento Portsea RSL is proudly community-based, volunteer-run and not for profit. There are no gaming machines – our club is fully supported by the hard work of our people and the generosity of our members and visitors.

ADDRESS
3 Hurley Street
Sorrento, Victoria, 3943



Ellen Grant Hall, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

The Ellen Grant Hall is situated on church property. The limestone St Andrew's Church was built in 1888 (it is one of only three intact limestone churches left on the Peninsula) and the timber Ellen Grant Hall was built in 1937.

ADDRESS
43 Kerferd Ave,
Sorrento, Victoria, 3943



Sorrento Sailing Couta Boat Club (SSCBC)

Sorrento Sailing Couta Boat Club (SSCBC) is located at the southern end of the Mornington Peninsula, easily accessible from Melbourne. Home to the largest fleet of Couta Boats in Australia, we enjoy racing every weekend from November to June.

Our Clubhouse enjoys spectacular panoramic views of Port Phillip Bay, with expansive decks and lawn areas enjoyed by Members and their guests.

ADDRESS
3154 Point Nepean Road,
Sorrento, Victoria, 3943



Sorrento Community Centre

Sorrento Community Centre aims to create a healthy, connected and vibrant community. The centre brings people together to connect, learn, grow and strengthen. Through consultation and collaboration, the centre delivers community-driven programs. Programs vary and include social, educational, recreational and support activities.

ADDRESS
860-868 Melbourne Road,
Sorrento, Victoria, 3943



Sorrento Golf Club

The Sorrento Golf Club is a premium venue for hosting a variety of events, from weddings and corporate functions to golf tournaments and charity events. With its picturesque location, well-manicured grounds, and excellent facilities, the club provides a stunning backdrop for any event. The club's experienced events team works closely with clients to ensure that every detail is taken care of, from the setup and decor to the menu and entertainment, making the Sorrento Golf Club a top choice for hosting memorable events.

ADDRESS
18 Langford Road
Sorrento, Victoria, 3943



Sorrento Museum

The Nepean Historical Society established its Museum in the Mechanics' Institute, Melbourne Road, Sorrento. The building, which is classified by the National Trust, was built of local limestone in 1876/90. A multi-purpose Heritage Gallery, including multimedia and lecture facilities, was added in 1994.

ADDRESS
827 Melbourne Road
Sorrento, Victoria, 3943



Sorrento Bowls Club

Sorrento Bowls Club is an iconic destination on the Mornington Peninsula and offers personalised barefoot bowls sessions year round, plus competitive pennant and social bowls from September until July. The oldest club on the peninsula, we've been welcoming locals and tourists alike since 1934.

ADDRESS
Hotham Road
Sorrento, Victoria, 3943



The Baths

The Baths restaurant is located on the Sorrento foreshore with breathtaking views stretching across Port Phillip Bay. The fully licensed restaurant offers casual relaxed dining every day for lunch, dinner, snacks, weddings and corporate events.

ADDRESS
3278 Point Nepean Rd,
Sorrento, Victoria, 3943



Portsea SLSC

Uniquely located on the cliff face of Portsea Back Beach, the Portsea Surf Life Saving Club is a newly refurbished state of the art, architecturally designed surf lifesaving club and event space.

ADDRESS
Back Beach Road
Portsea, Victoria, 3944



Antipodes Bookshop & Gallery

Antipodes Bookshop & Gallery is a beautiful space in the coastal community of Sorrento located on the Mornington Peninsula. It is a place where books and art merge, and where locals and visitors alike are welcomed.

ADDRESS
138 Ocean Beach Road,
Sorrento, Victoria, 3943



Events Map



Accommodation

- 01 The Continental Sorrento
- 02 Hotel Sorrento

Places to shop

Bookshop

- 01 Antipodes Gallery & Bookshop
- 02 Avenue Bookstore Festival Pop-Up

Gifts & Homewares

- 03 Cape Merchants (Sorrento Writers Festival Merchandise Store)
- 04 Cape Outdoor
- 05 Coastal Living
- 06 Big Chair Living Sorrento Provincial Home Living

Fashion

- 07 Debs Boutique
- 08 Emia Fashion
- 09 Herman Store Sorrento
- 10 Cable Melbourne
- 11 Cross Classics Sorrento
- 12 Viktoria & Woods Sorrento
- 13 Husk Sorrento
- 14 Country Road — Sorrento
- 15 Saltwater Trading
- 16 Sorrento Collective

Places to eat

- 01 The Atrium
- 02 The Conti Bar
- 03 Audrey's
- 04 Itali.co Sorrento
- 05 Bistro Elba
- 06 Sage Sorrento
- 07 Sardo Sorrento

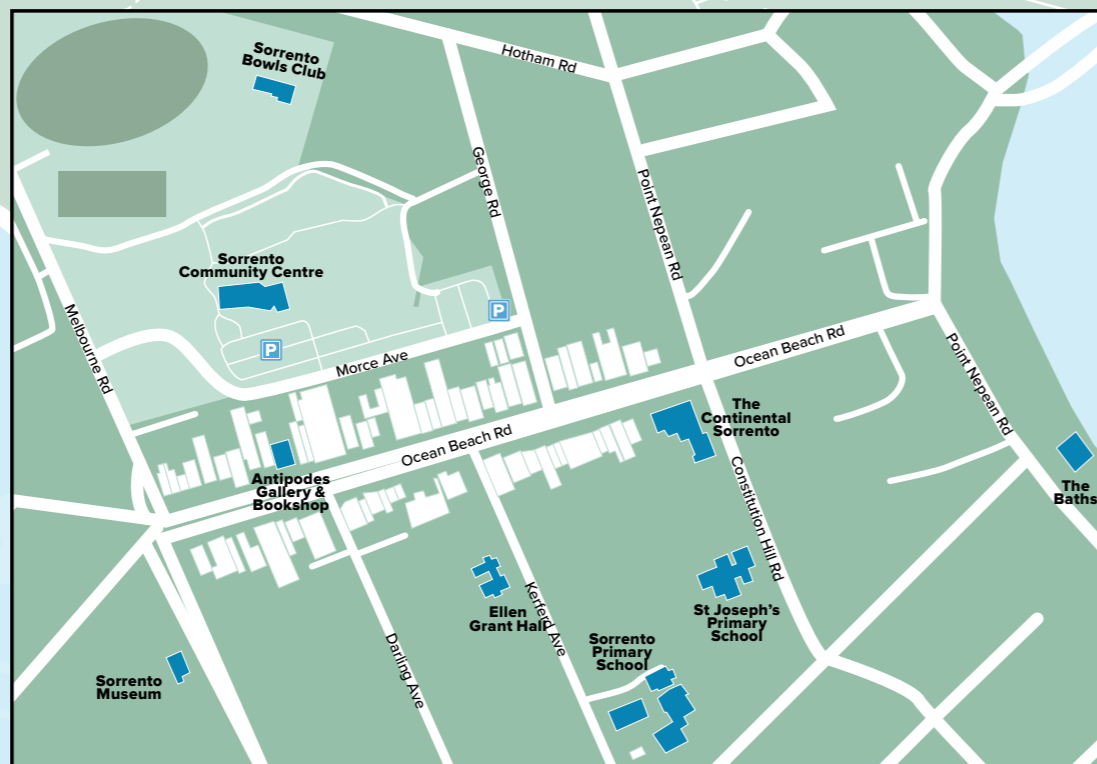
Places to get coffee

- 01 The Atrium
- 02 The Sisters Kitchen Garden Cafe
- 03 Baked in Portsea
- 04 Buckley Sorrento
- 05 Stringers Sorrento
- 06 St Pauls General Store
- 07 Flat Blk
- 08 Le Capucin

Festival venues

- 01 Portsea Surf Life Saving Club
- 02 Sorrento Golf Club
- 03 Sorrento Bowls Club
- 04 Sorrento Community Centre
- 05 The Continental Sorrento
- 06 Antipodes
- 07 Sorrento Museum
- 08 The Baths
- 09 St Joseph's Primary School
- 10 Sorrento Primary School
- 11 Montalto
- 12 Sorrento Sailing and Couta boat Club
- 13 Ellen Grant Hall
- F Sorrento Ferry stop

*Locations are indicative, please check exact location yourself

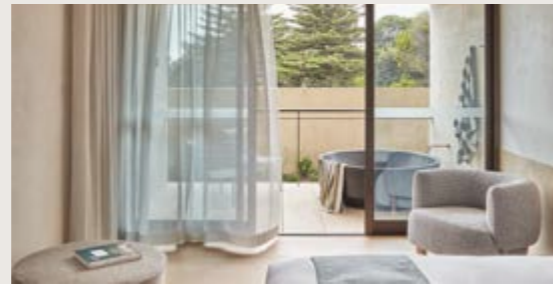
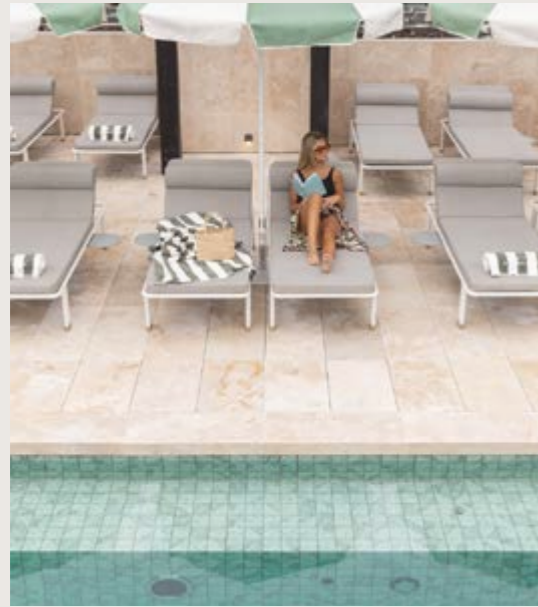


Access to the reserve is available from both Hotham and Melbourne Roads.
The club is at the north end of the reserve.

Community Centre
Access via the car park at the front of the Community Centre is the most convenient.

HOTEL SORRENTO

EXPERIENCE A NEW LEVEL OF LUXURY ACCOMMODATION IN SORRENTO



Set on the clifftops with magic views of Port Phillip Bay and a two-minute stroll to the township, Hotel Sorrento is the ideal way to experience the Mornington Peninsula. Our range of rooms and suites offer contemporary design, spacious living and luxury interiors.



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26th - 28th April

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visitmp.org/artsheritagetrail

VisitMorningtonPeninsula.org



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SORRENTO MORNINGTON PENINSULA

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Reservations: 03 5935 1212
Sorrento.InterContinental.com

Proud Supporter of Sorrento Writers Festival



Founding Partner

Anzac Day / Wednesday April 24

- Special separate ticketed SWF event
- Non-SWF ticketed ancillary events
- Free event

Time	Venue	Sorrento-Portsea RSL	Sorrento Museum
3pm—4pm		Gallipoli: How One Campaign Defined a Nation Judith Brett and Patrick Carlyon with Michael Cathcart (M)	
4pm—5pm		War Stories. Our writer friends read words from the battlefields Patrick Carlyon, Inala Cooper, Hannie Rayson and Michael Veitch with Corrie Perkin (M)	
5.30pm—7pm		Don't Shoot The Messenger live podcast recording with Caroline Wilson, Corrie Perkin and guests with Caroline Wilson, Corrie Perkin and guests including Marg Downey	The Soldier's Letter: A personal view of the Great War Michael Veitch, narrated by Clive Smith Followed by Museum drinks

On Anzac Day, lest we forget

Our commitment to the people of the Mornington Peninsula to schedule the Sorrento Writers Festival at the end of April means that in some years, it will fall on Anzac Day.

Back in 2022 when the Sorrento Writers Festival was still just an idea, we wondered whether we should try to work around this important national day. But after chatting with our friends at the Sorrento-Portsea RSL, we decided that there might be meaningful ways in which we could link Festival attendees with local Anzac traditions.

Perhaps through the telling of stories, we could honour past and present servicemen and women. And, just as the annual Essendon-Collingwood Anzac Day clash prompts a packed MCG to pause and reflect, maybe our writers festival, in our very own Sorrento venues, could also pay tribute to this important day.

On Anzac Eve, Wednesday April 24, from 3pm to 4pm, historian Judith Brett and journalist Patrick Carlyon will discuss 'Gallipoli: How one campaign defined a nation' with historian and broadcaster Michael Cathcart.

At 4pm, Festival Director Corrie Perkin will host 'War Stories: Our writer friends read words from the battlefields'. Joining Corrie will be Patrick Carlyon, Inala Cooper, Hannie Rayson and Michael Veitch. Each writer will read a piece of fiction, or a letter, a poem, a newspaper article or historical account that reflects on the terrible impact of war and conflict.

We are especially delighted to welcome award-winning *Herald Sun* journalist Patrick Carlyon, son of Les Carlyon who wrote the outstanding 2001 tome *Gallipoli* and, in 2006, *The Great War*. Patrick's 2003 book for younger readers, *The Gallipoli Story*, remains an accessible and early introduction to World War I. Patrick will also visit our local primary schools to chat with students and teachers.

The Sorrento Museum will host an important event at 5.30pm on Wednesday April 24, when actor, broadcaster and author of several war history books Michael Veitch presents 'The Soldier's Letter'. With museum president Clive Smith, Michael will read a letter from Portsea resident Alfred Keys, who was born at the Quarantine Station, to his father. The date is May 1915 and Alfred provides a first-hand account of his landing at Anzac Cove with the 5th Battalion AIF.

The Sorrento Dawn Service on Anzac Day is a poignant event held each year on the Port Phillip Bay foreshore beside the war memorial monument. After the ceremony, the crowd is invited to the Sorrento-Portsea RSL for breakfast and, once again, festival-goers are welcome to join in (a gold coin donation is the entry fee).

At 11.30am, the Anzac Day March takes place down Sorrento's main street followed by a brief ceremony at the foreshore cenotaph. And then at 1pm, the Festival officially begins with a session at The Continental Sorrento titled 'War and Words: Why documenting conflict and terrorism matters'.

Joining this panel are award-winning investigative journalist Nick McKenzie, award-winning photo-journalist Andrew Quilty, and Michael Veitch.

Led by moderator Sally Warhaft, the panel will discuss the importance of documenting conflict via newspapers and magazines, books, photography and art, as well as the role of the internet and citizen journalism in capturing a world at war.

We conclude Anzac Day with the Barry Jones Oration, this year delivered by celebrated historian and writer Don Watson. Don's oration, which is a ticketed event and starts at 5.15pm, will discuss democracy's fragility and the urgency to protect it. This topic seems a fitting end to an important day. We hope you'll be part of it with us.

Corrie Perkin
Sorrento Writers Festival Director

PLEASE NOTE: program changes are not uncommon and we thank our audiences for their understanding. Please check sorrentowritersfestival.com.au each day for any changes to the program.

Thursday Highlights

Can Faith Heal An Angry World?

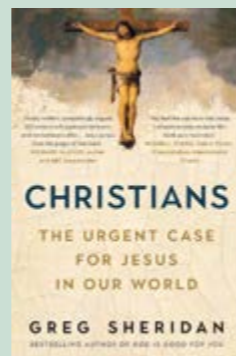
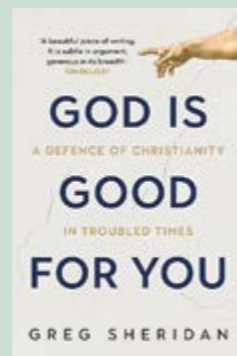
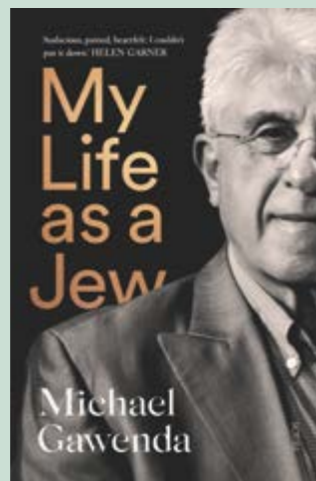
Thursday April 25
1pm-2pm

Ellen Grant Hall

Michael Gawenda and Greg Sheridan with Amanda Smith (M)

Two giants of Australian journalism – award-winning feature writer and former *Age* editor Michael Gawenda, and *The Australian's* foreign editor Greg Sheridan – have both written books about the role of faith in their lives. In this session, they will explore themes connected to their religious practice, the role of religion in local and global politics, and how lives might be enhanced by spiritual belief and traditions.

Michael and Greg are exceptional communicators with vast experience in covering local and world affairs. With seasoned broadcaster and former Radio National *Life Matters* host Amanda Smith in the interviewer's chair, this will be a compelling conversation.



On April 6, 1924, *A Passage to India* by E.M. Forster made its much-anticipated debut. Considered one of the author's finest novels, it is set in British Raj India at a time of a growing Indian independence movement.

A *New York Times* review published in August of that year described Edward Morgan Forster as "indubitably one of the finest novelists living in England today" and said "*A Passage to India* is one of the saddest, keenest, most beautifully written ironic novels of the time."

It was E.M. Forster's last published novel, and yet he lived for another 46 years. Why did he stop telling stories when he was at the peak of his power and the height of his popularity?

Posed this question, our panel has dug deep to discover what went on in Forster's life to prompt this drastic and abrupt halt. University of Melbourne students Lottie Dalton and Miranda Guy have jumped at the chance to investigate. So, too, our dear Festival friend Barry Jones who, at 91, still loves a challenge. While studying in England in the 1950s, Barry corresponded with Forster who, by that stage, was busy writing book reviews, short stories and comment pieces for various literary publications. He will tell us more on April 25.



Portrait of E.M. Forster by Roger Fry, Oil on Canvas, 1911

The E.M. Forster Project: Investigating why one of the world's great authors stopped writing novels

Thursday April 25
2.30pm-3.30pm

The Ballroom, The Continental Sorrento

University of Melbourne students Lottie Dalton and Miranda Guy, and Barry Jones with Corrie Perkin (M)

Thursday Highlights



Dynamic Workplaces, good leaders and avoiding office politics — is it possible, and how to get there

Thursday April 25 at 2.30pm and Saturday April 27 at 1.30pm

Sorrento Museum

Mim Bartlett and Bernard Salt with Julia Banks (M)

In this post-COVID, remote working, Great Resignation, labour-disrupted world, our panel discusses how companies large and small can adapt to maximise potential, productivity and profit, and bring out the best in their teams — and themselves.

Our speakers — lawyer, former Federal MP and leadership advocate Julia Banks, psychotherapist and executive coach Mim Bartlett and demographer, author and newspaper columnist Bernard Salt — will discuss these important issues across two sessions. For anyone interested in current and future workplace practice, this one is for you.



The Barry Jones Oration by Don Watson and the presentation of the 2024 Sorrento Creative Writing Prize

Thursday April 25
5.15pm-6pm

Halcyon Hall, The Continental Sorrento

It is with great pleasure that we announce historian and writer Don Watson will deliver this year's Barry Jones Oration.

One of the pillars of this year's Festival program is democracy, its fragility and its future. As he prepares for the publication of his book on the history of America, Don Watson continues his lifetime investigation into what makes politicians tick, and why ambition and the selfish desire for power so often get in the way of good governing.

The Barry Jones Oration is named in honour of academic, lawyer, writer, former federal science minister and social activist Barry Jones.

After Don's address we will announce the winner of the Sorrento Creative Writing Prize. Worth \$5000, the prize is funded and awarded each year by Future Leaders and its founder Dr Helen Sykes.

The event will be followed by an Acknowledgement of Country with Lionel and Skyla Lauch of Living Country, and Opening Night Drinks.



Poetry Soiree: Free your mind, the rest will follow

Thursday April 25
5pm-6pm

The Barlow Room, The Continental Sorrento

Omar Sakr and Richard King with Jock Serong (M)

The Barlow Room on the ground floor of The Continental Sorrento is the venue for this special Thursday night poetry session. Writer Jock Serong will ask Susie Anderson, Omar Sakr and Richard King about their work, their poetry styles and the topics that float their creative boats.

Special separate ticketed SWF event

Non-SWF ticketed ancillary events

Free event



Venue	Halcyon Hall (The Continental Sorrento)	The Grand Ballroom (The Continental Sorrento)	Barlow Room (The Continental Sorrento)	Sorrento Museum	Ellen Grant Hall	Antipodes Bookshop
Time	1pm-2pm	2.30pm-3.30pm	4pm-5pm	5.15pm-7.30pm		
	In Conversation Anna Funder (via Zoom) with Celia Hirsh (M)	War and Words: Why documenting conflict and terrorism matters Nick McKenzie, Andrew Quilty and Michael Veitch with Sally Warhaft (M)	Chapter One: How novels begin and where my ideas come from Mark Brandi, Anne Buist and Graeme Simsion with Laura Macdonald (M)	Please Read Me A Story: The importance of bringing children and books together Michael Carr-Gregg, Michael Earp, Jane Godwin and Anna Walker with Nicole Hayes (M)	Can Faith Heal An Angry World? Michael Gawenda and Greg Sheridan with Amanda Smith	
	In Conversation Dervla McTiernan with Jaclyn Crupi <i>Presented by The Wheeler Centre, The Williamstown Literary Festival and Sorrento Writers Festival</i>	The EM Forster Project: Investigating why one of the world's great authors stopped writing novels University of Melbourne students Lottie Dalton and Miranda Guy, and Barry Jones with Corrie Perkin (M)	The Migration Story in Contemporary Fiction Kgshak Akec, Leah Kaminsky, Ian Roberts and Saman Shad with Inala Cooper (M)	Dynamic Workplaces and Good Leaders: How do we find them? How do we create them? Mim Bartlett and Bernard Salt with Julia Banks	In Conversation Alex Miller with Michael Shmith (M)	
	How To Grow Old It ain't for the faint-hearted Michael Carr-Gregg, Karen Inge and Bernard Salt with Hannie Rayson (M) <i>This session is supported by Village Glen</i>	Nice Place For a Murder: The role of small towns and close-knit communities in crime fiction Shelley Burr, Aoife Clifford and Adrian Hyland with Tim Byrne (M)		After Lizzie and Darcy Great lovers and sizzling romance in contemporary fiction Michael Earp, Madeleine Gray, Saman Shad and Graeme Simsion with Jaclyn Crupi (M)	Other People's Lives (i): Three writers discuss their approach to biography Judith Brett, Sarah Krasnostein and Walter Marsh with Michael Cathcart (M)	
	The Barry Jones Oration by Don Watson Plus: Presentation of the Sorrento Creative Writing Prize by Helen Sykes of Future Leaders <i>This event includes Opening Night Drinks after the award presentation.</i>	5.15pm – 6.30pm Dear Mum, You're In My Book: The challenges of writing memoir Robyn Davidson, Helen Elliott, Alex Miller and Rachelle Unreich with Ramona Koval (M) <i>This session is supported by Village Glen</i>	5pm-6pm Poetry Soiree Free your mind, the rest will follow Omar Sakr and Richard King with Jock Serong (M)	5.15pm-6.30pm The George Coppin Story Simon Plant, Clive Smith and Fiona Gruber (M) discuss the American years of Sorrento's most famous founding father <i>This event will be followed by drinks at the Museum</i>		7pm-9pm Story Slam with Jane Hone A community, open-mic event where storytellers gather to share five-minute stories on the night's theme which is "Journeys" — without notes.

Thursday April 25

Thursday April 25

16

Sorrento Writers Festival

You wouldn't read about it!



The beautiful library at Village Glen Retirement Community is absolutely state-of-the-art, with thousands of books, and there's barista coffee in CJ's lounge, right next door.

Of course, when you are not reading, there's bowls, golf, the gym, the pool, croquet... all in a wonderful garden setting.



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Sorrento Writers Festival



The Morning Feed with Tom Wright

Friday, Saturday and Sunday April 26, 27 and 28
8.15am-9am

[Halcyon Hall, The Continental Sorrento](#)

For many years, the Adelaide Writers Week 'Breakfast With Papers' session has delighted audiences. What a way to kick off a festival day: a clever host, a couple of savvy writers and a plethora of news stories from that morning's newspapers.

We love this idea, so we're going to do a Sorrento version with director and producer Tom Wright. Called 'The Morning Feed', our 45-minute chat with Inala Cooper and Michael Gawenda (Friday), John Lyons and Niki Savva (Saturday) and Erik Jensen and Amy Remeikis (Sunday) will cover news stories from that morning. Grab a coffee and a croissant and join us in Halcyon Hall for this stimulating start to the day.

This session is supported by Pitcher Partners



Friday art attack Modernism x 3

Friday April 26
8.15am-11.30am

[The Ballroom, The Continental Sorrento](#)

Last year's Friday art morning was a big hit, so we decided to do it again in 2024. This year our three morning sessions in The Ballroom are dedicated to Modernism, its local heroes and promoters. We explore the patrons, artists and architects who helped create suburbs like Beaumaris, artists colonies like John and Sunday Reed's Heide and the McLelland family home on Long Island, Frankston, and those who fuelled the imaginations of 20th century art critics like Alan McCulloch.

The three Modernism sessions feature Heide Museum of Modern Art artistic director Lesley Harding, Heide head curator Kendrah Morgan, art historian Jane Eckett, interior designer Fiona Austin, curator and author Rodney James, and artist Greer Honeywill.

This session is supported by Kay & Burton



Come In, The Water's Fine Three of Australia's hottest new novelists discuss their debut fiction

Friday April 26
9am-10am

[Sorrento Bowls Club](#)

Kgshak Akec, Abby Corson and Steph Vizard with Nicole Hayes (M)

Our three debutante novelists talk with author, writing coach and podcaster Nicole Hayes about what it's like to have your book published, and what's next in their storytelling journeys.



In Conversation Stephanie Alexander with Celia Hirsh

Friday April 26
10.30am-11.30am

[Halcyon Hall, The Continental Sorrento](#)

Since the mid-1960s, Stephanie Alexander has been a celebrated leader of Australia's world-class culinary industry. As a restaurateur and chef, cookbook writer (she just published her 18th book), fresh food advocate and creator of the Stephanie's Kitchen Garden Foundation, Stephanie has influenced thousands of Australians in their food choices and their approaches to cooking.

One of these fans is our own Celia Hirsh, journalist, writer and talented home cook. On Friday in the Halcyon Hall, Celia will interview Stephanie about her remarkable career, the highs and lows, and how she finds the ideas to create an 18th cookbook.

This session is supported by St Clare, Kew part of VMCH



The Golden Age of Detective Stories: How a generation of 20th century British and American writers transformed the genre

Friday April 26
3pm-4pm

[Sorrento Sailing and Couta Boat Club](#)

Anne Buist, Amanda Hampson and Jennifer Kloester with Fiona Gruber (M)

Murder mysteries and crime fiction have been around since the late 19th century, but a publishing boom occurred between the 1920s and 1954, mainly in Britain and the US. Known as the Golden Age, this period fostered some brilliant writers and saw the rise of the detective novel as we know it today.

Join our panel as they discuss the global impact of Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, Margery Allingham, Dashiell Hammett, Raymond Chandler and others.



Understanding Rupert: The influence and legacy of media proprietor Rupert Murdoch

Friday April 26
3pm-4pm

[The Ballroom, The Continental Sorrento](#)

Ronald Macdonald, Paddy Manning, Walter Marsh and Sally Young with Corrie Perkin (M)

"Yesterday Mr (Robert) Maxwell called me a moth-eaten kangaroo. I haven't got to that stage," media proprietor Rupert Murdoch told a shareholders' meeting in 1969. And so, more than five decades, billions in turnovers, four wives and multiple acquisitions later, Rupert Murdoch remains the world's most powerful media identity.

What makes Rupert tick? Our panel goes right back to the days of young Rupert growing up at nearby Cruden Farm, the Adelaide years, the birth of *The Australian* in the 1960s, the assault on London and then the US, the evolution of News Corp, succession planning and family politics.

Friday April 26

- Special separate ticketed SWF event
- Non-SWF ticketed ancillary events
- Free event



Friday April 26

Friday April 26
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Sorrento Writers Festival

Friday April 26
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Venue	Halcyon Hall <small>(The Continental Sorrento)</small>	The Grand Ballroom <small>(The Continental Sorrento)</small>	Barlow Room <small>(The Continental Sorrento)</small>	Ellen Grant Hall	Sorrento Bowls Club	Sorrento Sailing Couta Boat Club	Sorrento Community Centre	The Baths & Gallery Australia <small>21 Morce Ave Sorrento</small>
8:15am-9am	The Morning Feed: Join our chat about the news of the day Inala Cooper and Michael Gawenda with Tom Wright (M) <i>This session is supported by Pitcher Partners</i>	Modernism (i) The Art Breakfast: The Heide crowd, its impact and influence on modern Australian art Jane Eckett, Lesley Harding and Kendrah Morgan with Corrie Perkin (M) <i>This session is supported by Kay & Burton</i>						
9am-10am	Truth: War's first casualty? John Lyons, Nick McKenzie, Andrew Quilty, and Sally Young with Ian Henderson	Modernism (ii) How mid-century architecture changed domestic life Fiona Austin, Patricia Callan and Greer Honeywill with Fiona Gruber (M) <i>This session is supported by Kay & Burton</i>		It Was a Dark and Stormy Night Page-turner novels and why we love them Shelley Burr, Aoife Clifford, Garry Disher and Adrian Hyland with Liz Porter (M) <i>This session is supported by Coote Family Lawyers</i>	Come In, The Water's Fine Three of Australia's hottest new novelists discuss their debut fiction Kgshak Akec, Abby Corson and Steph Vizard with Nicole Hayes (M)	In Conversation Michael Gawenda with Ramona Koval (M)	Digging Deep Finding the Courage To Tell My Story Jan Cochrane-Harry, Robyn Davidson, Lech Blaine and Grace Tame with Sally Warhaft (M)	
10.30am-11.30am	In Conversation Stephanie Alexander with Celia Hirsh (M) <i>This session is supported by St Clare, Kew (VMCH)</i>	Modernism (iii) Mid-Century Australian Art: The heroes, the promoters and the exiles Lesley Harding, Rodney James and Kendrah Morgan with Charlotte Guest (M) <i>This session is supported by Kay & Burton</i>	Books As Objects and Art Forms In this Chat GPT, Generative AI world, is there still a place for the book? Chong Weng-Ho, Kate Mildenhall and Margo Neale with Tom Wright (M) <i>This session is supported by ArtFuel</i>		The Plot Thickens: Three fiction writers reveal their storytelling process Melissa Ashley, Mark Brandi and Dervla McTiernan with Hannie Rayson	Romance Novels: From Jane to Georgette and beyond, they remain the publishing world's great sellers. Why? Madeleine Gray, Jennifer Kloester, Saman Shad and Christos Tsiolkas with Michael Shmith (M) <i>This session is supported by Coote Family Lawyers</i>	Telling Australia's History Judith Brett, Inala Cooper, Kate Fullager and Don Watson with Michael Cathcart (M)	
12 noon-1pm	The 200th Anniversary of Australia's First Free Press: Are we still free? Eric Beecher, Catharine Lumby and Sally Young with Randal Macdonald (M)	The Legacy of Holocaust Stories In fiction and non-fiction, 20 th Century European Jewish history still resonates Michael Gawenda, Leah Kaminsky and Rachelle Unreich with Liz Porter (M)		Writers on Children's Writing Four children's authors and illustrators discuss the process of creating books for kids Jane Godwin, Anna Walker and Andrea Rowe with Nicole Hayes (M) <i>This session is supported by the Mornington Peninsula Foundation</i>	Writers on Writing Three authors discuss their work, their writing journey and their creative process Melissa Ashley, Karen Viggers and Chris Womersley with Laura Macdonald (M) <i>This session is supported by the Mornington Peninsula Foundation</i>	The Power of Us v It's All About Me How To Build Cohesive and Connected Communities Lucinda Holdforth, Jack Manning Bancroft and Bernard Salt with Stephen Lunn (M) <i>This session is supported by Village Glen</i>	Books as Game Changers: Three authors reflect upon their own books, and the work of others Sarah Krasnostein and Christos Tsiolkas discuss with Chloe Hooper (M)	Talking Politics 2024: The Annual Political Lunch Paddy manning, Amy Remeikis and Laura Tingle with Barrie Cassidy (M)
1.30pm-2.30pm	Unlocking Australia's Potential How First Nations learnings can help us thrive, understand and connect Jack Manning Bancroft, Thomas Mayo and Margo Neale with Inala Cooper (M)	My Home Turf: How my location inspires my writing Tony Birch, Mark Brandi and Helen Elliott discuss with Jock Serong (M)		Australia 2024: Who Are We, What Do We Like, What Are We Thinking and What Are We Buying? Ross Honeywill, Jamila Rizvi and Bernard Salt with Stephen Lunn (M) <i>This session is supported by ArtFuel</i>	In Conversation Charlotte Wood with Ramona Koval (M)	Between Us: Two friends discuss the ties that bind Deborah Conway and Caroline Wilson (M)	The Art of the Cookbook (and why do I have so many on my shelf?) Stephanie Alexander, Julia Busuttill-Nishimura and Belinda Jeffery with Jaclyn Crupi (M) <i>This session is supported by Hotel Sorrento</i>	
3pm-4pm		Understanding Rupert: The influence and legacy of media proprietor Rupert Murdoch Randal Macdonald, Paddy Manning, Walter Marsh and Sally Young with Corrie Perkin (M)	Writers on Writing Three authors discuss their work, their writing journey and their creative process Adrian Hyland, Saman Shad and Richard King with (M) Sam Lane <i>This session is supported by the Mornington Peninsula Foundation</i>	Climate, Crisis and Cop28: Have we lost the war? Peter Christoff and John Hewson with Kate Mildenhall (M)	Other People's Lives (ii) : The art of writing biography Troy Bramston, Kate Fullager and David Marr with Michael Veitch (M)	The Golden Age of Detective Stories: How a generation of 20 th Century British and American writers transformed the genre Anne Buist, Amanda Hampson and Jennifer Kloester with Fiona Gruber (M)	Australia's Role on the World Stage: Key role or bit player? Sam Roggeveen and Greg Sheridan with Jon Faine (M)	2pm-3pm In conversation Artist Katherine Hattam with Chloe Hooper & Gallery Australia  <small>Scan to book</small>
4.30pm-5.30pm		4.30pm-6pm Talking Footy: event with Sam Lane, Mike Sheahan and Caroline Wilson with Steve Perkin (M) <i>Tickets are \$35 and includes a drink on arrival (then cash bar)</i>	"Cripes You Can't Say That" What is free speech and what are we afraid of? Dennis Glover and Lucinda Holdforth with Hannie Rayson	In Conversation Chris Hammer and Dervla McTiernan with Tim Byrne (M)	Pinot and Poetry Susie Anderson, Richard King and Omar Sakr discuss their art with Jaclyn Crupi (M) <i>This event will be followed by Barefoot Bowls, a free event staged by the Sorrento Bowls Club. All welcome and drinks at bar prices</i>			Twilight Drinks and artist talk with exhibiting artist Lisa Roet
6pm-7pm		6.15-7.30pm The Story Lab: Over Friday night drinks, watch a story come to life in real time as our writers pitch their synopsis Ben Ball, Chris Hammer, Dervla McTiernan, Hannie Rayson and Jock Serong, with Jane Hone (M) <i>Drinks available at bar prices</i>						

PLEASE NOTE: program changes are not uncommon and we thank our audiences for their understanding. Please check sorrentowritersfestival.com.au each day for any changes to the program.

Saturday Highlights



In Praise of Hilary Mantel

Saturday April 27
8.15am-9am

[Halcyon Hall, The Continental Sorrento](#)

Bill Hamilton and Nicholas Pearson with Jonathan Green (M)

Join Radio National host and Hilary Mantel fan Jonathan Green as he chats via Zoom to Bill Hamilton and Nicholas Pearson about the extraordinarily talented Dame Hilary Mantel, who died in 2022. Bill Hamilton was the literary agent and long-time friend of the late writer, and Nicholas Pearson was her publisher for 20 years. We hope you'll join us for this very special tribute event.



My Creative Journey: How our three artists found the courage and inspiration to create

Saturday April 27
1.30pm-2.30pm

[Ellen Grant Hall](#)

David McAllister, Lisa Roet and Omar Sakr discuss with Michael Shmith (M)

At what point does a person decide to dedicate his/her/their life to the pursuit of art? And what are the challenges, disappointments, joys and angst that accompany the creative process? Ballet dancer and former Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet and author David McAllister, visual artist Lisa Roet and poet, novelist and essayist Omar Sakr discuss the evolution of their craft with former Age Arts Editor Michael Shmith.

Lunch with the Good Ones: Story matters in the Big Sell

Saturday April 27
12 noon-1pm

[Sorrento Bowls Club](#)

Good One Creative with Russel Howcroft (M)

Festival Director Corrie Perkin was first drawn to the work of Melbourne-based agency Good One Creative because of the many inventive ways they apply storytelling to advertising and social media campaigns. So why not stage a session that celebrates words as promotion tools and asks: Who is leading the long-form storytelling revolution? The audience or the marketers?

And if this session goes a bit off piste, we are certain you'll enjoy the discussion between respected advertising executive and radio host Russel Howcroft and his Good One companions.

This session is supported by Project Hutton



Saturday Highlights



Creating Real Change Through Truth-telling, Songlines and Shared Knowledge

Saturday April 27
1.30pm-2.30pm

[Halcyon Hall, The Continental Sorrento](#)

David Marr, Thomas Mayo and Margo Neale with Natasha Mitchell (M)

This important discussion takes its inspiration from Australia's First Nations communities' request for truth-telling, recognition and equity. We welcome journalist and author David Marr, whose new book *Killing For Country: A Family Story* reveals his ancestral connection to the brutal Native Police; Indigenous leader, advocate and author Thomas Mayo, and Professor Margo Ngawa Neale, Senior Indigenous Curator and Head of the Centre for Indigenous Knowledges at the National Museum of Australia. The discussion is chaired by ABC RN *Big Ideas* presenter Natasha Mitchell.



USA Today: Looking ahead to the November election

Saturday April 27
3pm-4pm

[Sorrento Community Hall](#)

Sam Roggeveen, Don Watson and Bruce Wolpe with Heather Ewart (M)

"The prospect of a Biden-Trump rematch shows how far US democracy has fallen — and we have no one to blame but ourselves," wrote the *Wall Street Journal* last December.

Our panel of esteemed Washington watchers — Sam Roggeveen, director of the Lowy Institute's International Security Program; historian and writer Don Watson; Bruce Wolpe, a senior fellow at the United States Studies Centre in Sydney, and moderator Heather Ewart, an ABC TV presenter and former Washington correspondent for the network — will share their views about the forthcoming presidential election. Not to be missed.



A Reading of Hannie's Play: What a work-in-progress roundtable looks like

Saturday April 27
4.30pm-5.45pm

[The Ballroom, The Continental Sorrento](#)

Marg Downey, Jane Montgomery Griffiths and Libbi Gorr with Hannie Rayson (M)

Several months ago, award-winning playwright Hannie Rayson finished her new play (we'll let her reveal its title). Its main characters are three women of a certain age, and it explores a dilemma each confronts with a different view. What will these three friends learn about one another, and how strong or fragile are those ties that bind?

When we told Hannie we might just have two fabulous actors in our midst and could we perhaps do a bit of a reading at the Sorrento Writers Festival, the answer was, "Yes!" And so, Marg Downey and Libbi Gorr — plus our fabulous audience whose feedback we value — will together experience the Hannie Rayson stage magic.

When Words Fail Art Succeeds

Artists discuss their books and literary inspiration.

Saturday 27th
5pm-7pm

Come and join us to hear our three exhibiting Artists talk about their books and literary inspiration.

Lisa Roet, Noel Fermanis and Katherine Hattam in Conversation

**Antipodes Bookshop & Gallery
138 Ocean Beach Rd, Sorrento**



TO BOOK
SCAN THE
QR CODE



Saturday April 27

Special separate ticketed SWF event

Non-SWF ticketed ancillary events

Free event



Saturday April 27

Venue	Halcyon Hall <small>(The Continental Sorrento)</small>	The Grand Ballroom <small>(The Continental Sorrento)</small>	Barlow Room <small>(The Continental Sorrento)</small>	Ellen Grant Hall		Sorrento Bowls Club	Portsea Surf Life Saving Club	Sorrento Golf Club	Sorrento Community Centre	& Gallery Australia <small>21 Morce Ave Sorrento</small>
Time										
8.15am-9am	The Morning Feed John Lyons and Niki Savva with Tom Wright (M) <i>This session is supported by Pitcher Partners</i>	In Praise of Hilary Mantel Bill Hamilton and Nicholas Pearson via Zoom from the UK with Jonathan Green (M)					<i>A small shuttle is available at the PSLSC car park for anyone with mobility issues</i>			
9am-10am	Toward 2030 Who will be the world's superpowers and major players? John Lyons, Sam Roggeveen and Ilaria Walker with Natasha Mitchell (M)	In Praise of Roses The allure of the world's favorite flower Fiona Brockhoff, Jac Semmler and Pip Steele Wareham with Corrie Perkin (M)	Writers on Writing Three authors discuss their work, their writing journey and their creative process Melanie Joosten, Amy Brown and Liam Pieper with Tim Byrne <i>This session is supported by the Mornington Peninsula Foundation</i>	Characters, I've Killed A Few Why we write crime fiction Sarah Bailey, Chris Hammer and Amanda Hampson with Steve Perkin (M)		Other People's Lives (iii): Three writers discuss their approach to biography. Catharine Lumby, Paddy Manning and Clare Wright with Jamila Rizvi (M)	Unpacking Australian Literature Why telling our own stories matters Tony Birch, Jock Serong and Charlotte Wood discuss with Sarah L'Estrange (M) <i>This session will be recorded as part of ABC RN's Big Weekend of Books</i>		In Conversation Kate Grenville with Ramona Koval (M)	
10.30am-11.30am	Between Us Two friends discuss the ties that bind Julia Banks and Grace Tame with Sam Lane (M)	Thank you, Bacchus The joy of cooking and sharing a meal with others Julia Busuttill-Nishimura, Jaclyn Crupi, Karen Inge and Belinda Jeffery with Celia Hirsh (M)		Call My Agent: How to get in the door, noticed, read, remembered and published Ben Ball, Kate Mildenhall and Liam Pieper with Irma Gold (M)		Storytelling on Stage Wesley Enoch, David McAllister and Hannie Rayson with Michael Shmith (M)	In Conversation: Gail Jones with Fiona Gruber (M)	10am – 11am: In Conversation John Hewson with Jon Faine (M)	Journalism or Fake News How did we find ourselves in an era of mistruths and misinformation Nick McKenzie, Louise Milligan and Niki Savva with Sally Warhaft (M)	
12 noon-1pm	How To Talk About War and Conflict: A conversation between John Lyons and Magda Szubanski	The Life and Legacy of Stella Maria Miles Franklin Kgshak Akec, Amy Brown, Monique diMattina and Clare Wright with Fiona Sweet (M)	In Conversation Wendy Harmer with Tom Wright (M)	Once Upon a Time How historical fiction helps us understand the past, the present – and ourselves Melanie Joosten, Leah Kaminsky and Jock Serong with Peter Wilmoth (M)		Lunch with The Good Ones Lunch Matters in The Big Sell A dive into what makes successful advertising in 2024 Good One Creative with Russel Howcroft (M) <i>This session is supported by Project Hutton</i>	After Attenborough, Who or What Will Save Our Planet? Peter Cristoff, Joelle Gergis and Kylie Soanes with Amanda Smith (M)	Between Us: Two friends discuss the ties that bind Lindsay Fox and Bill Kely with Barrie Cassidy (M)	The Good, The Bad and the Underwhelming: What does good political leadership look like Lech Blaine, Troy Bramston and Niki Savva with Brendan Donohoe (M)	
1.30pm-2.30pm	Creating Real Change Through Truth-telling, Songlines and Shared Knowledge David Marr, Thomas Mayo and Margo Neale with Natasha Mitchell	From Front Page to Bestseller: How easy is it to flick the switch from journalism to fiction? Chris Hammer, Wendy Harmer, Louise Milligan and Chris Womersley with Steve Perkin (M)		My Creative Journey David McAllister, Lisa Roet and Omar Sakr discuss with Michael Shmith (M)		The Art of Office Politics What's the post-covid game and how do we play it? How do you avoid or stop toxic workplace behaviour? And how do promote good leadership and flourishing organisations? Julia Banks, Mim Barlett and Bernard Salt with Corrie Perkin (M)	Inspired by Real Events How Novelists Weave Fact Into Their Fiction Melissa Ashley, Dennis Glover and Kate Grenville with Irma Gold (M)		Crooks I Have Known Betty King, Nick McKenzie and John Silvester with Libbi Gorr (M) <i>This session is supported by Thomson Geer Lawyers</i>	
3pm-4pm	Between Us Marg Downey and Magda Szubanski with Corrie Perkin (M)	Rewilding, Renewing and Rethinking How we are applying new ideas to save our environment Fiona Brockhoff, Peter Christoff, Jac Semmler and Kylie Soanes with Jonathan Green (M)	Writers on Writing Three authors discuss their work, their writing journey and their creative process Kgshak Akec, Sarah Bailey and Tony Birch, with Nicole Hayes (M) <i>This session is supported by the Mornington Peninsula Foundation</i>	Living in the Future AI, Chat GPT and the changing face of learning Jon Faine, Richard King and Zoe McKenzie with Peter Wilmoth (M)		The Accountability Roundtable Why truth, facts and accountability are more important than ever Lucinda Holdforth, Barry Jones, John Hewson and Peter Singer with Sally Warhaft (M)	The Leap From Page to Screen Exploring the nuanced process in-between. Shaun Grant, Michael Lucas and Christos Tsiolkas with Laura Macdonald (M)		USA Today Looking ahead to the November election Sam Roggeveen, Don Watson and Bruce Wolpe with Heather Ewart (M)	
4.30pm-5.30pm	4.30pm-5.45pm A Reading of Hannie's Work-In-Progress Play Marg Downey, Libbi Gorr and Jane Montgomery Griffiths with Hannie Rayson (M)			From The Top Setting standards in Parliament House Julia Banks, Troy Bramston, Kate Jenkins and Amy Remeikis with Jamila Rizvi (M)		Tall Tales of True Crime Why we can't get enough Gideon Haigh, and John Silvester discuss with Jon Faine (M)			The Art of the Essay Sarah Krasnostein, David Marr and Laura Tingle with Ramona Koval (M)	
6pm-7pm	6pm-7pm In Conversation: Ann Cleeves via Zoom from the UK with Jason Steger (M) <i>Join us with a glass of wine for this special event</i>	6pm-8.30pm Words & Music Monique diMattina performs 'Stella' followed by Deborah Conway and Willy Zygier								5pm-7pm When Words Fail Art Succeeds Artists discuss their books and literary inspiration.

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Sunday Highlights

Breakfast with the Bots and the Bard

Sunday April 28
8am-9am

[The Ballroom and Barlow Room,](#)
[The Continental Sorrento](#)

The Bots: Dave King, Richard King,
Zoe McKenzie with Libbi Gorr (M)

The Bard: Wesley Enoch and Barry Jones
and Jane Montgomery Griffiths with Michael
Cathcart (M)

Can AI write like Shakespeare? Probably not – although he/she/they/it will give it a red hot go. And what would the Bard make of an English literature lesson delivered by a talking bot who can quote any passage from any Shakespeare play?

Our two Sunday morning breakfasts have a lot more in common than a first glance might suggest. But we are asking our guests to make a choice. Grab a coffee and a muffin and join us for one of two amazing sessions with some of the country's finest and most knowledgeable minds.



Image by vecstock on Freepik

Sunday Highlights

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Sorrento Writers Festival



Photo by Tyson Bennett on Unsplash

The Back Page: Sports writing, cracking good stories and how to capture legendary moments

Sunday April 28
9am-10am

[Sorrento Bowls Club](#)

Gideon Haigh and Sam Lane
with **Caroline Wilson (M)**

Join our journalist legends as they discuss the sports writing genre. From footy to horse racing, cricket, tennis, golf and beyond, this panel has something for everyone who enjoys the thrill of a contest and a chase.

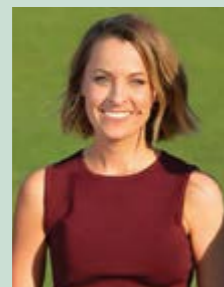


Photo by Benjamin Child on Unsplash

For all Festival book purchases and author signings, please visit **Avenue Bookstore** at Sorrento Writers Festival Level One, The Continental Sorrento / avenuebookstore.com.au

Sunday Highlights



Burning Issues Dressed Up As Fiction: How novels help us understand our world

Sunday April 28
12 noon-1pm

[Ellen Grant Hall](#)

Liam Pieper, Jessie Stephens, Karen Viggers
and **Chris Womersley with Jason Steger (M)**

Join Age literary editor Jason Steger as he delves into the power of novels and their ability to help us make sense of contemporary themes and issues.

Our four writers each bring to this session their outstanding books and diverse range of work. From the pitfalls of celebrity culture to the parent politics of junior sport, stories of mental breakdown and mental health, family breakdown and neighbourhood violence, we are reminded that fiction can find its power through so many contemporary and often everyday human experiences. If you are a writer or aspiring storyteller, this session is for you.

Sunday Highlights

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Sorrento Writers Festival



Photo by Benjamin Child on Unsplash

Boards Behaving Badly

Sunday April 28
1.30pm-2.30pm

[Halcyon Hall, The Continental Sorrento](#)

Kate Jenkins, Stephen Mayne, Nick McKenzie and Nick Reece
with **Peter Inge (M)**

Why do so many organisations find good governance a difficult reach? It's 2024 and yet sexism, discrimination and racism still exist in Australian workplaces. Why? And when a company stuffs up, wouldn't it be easier to just admit liability and apologise rather than cover up wrong doings?

Considering these important matters is a terrific team of investigators and ethical leaders: former Sex Discrimination Commissioner Kate Jenkins, founder of crikey.com, journalist and shareholder advocate Stephen Mayne, award-winning journalist Nick McKenzie and Melbourne Deputy Lord Mayor and public policy fellow at the Melbourne School of Government at the University of Melbourne Nick Reece.

Sorrento Writers Festival President, board director, lawyer and human rights specialist Peter Inge will lead the discussion.

This session is supported by Thomson Geer Lawyers.

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8.15am-9am	The Morning Feed Erik Jensen and Amy Remeikis with Tom Wright (M) <i>This session is supported by Pitcher Partners</i>	Breakfast With The Bard A celebration of the 400 th anniversary of Shakespeare's First Folio Wesley Enoch, Barry Jones and Jane Montgomery Griffiths with Michael Cathcart (M)	Breakfast With The Bots Does AI rob us of our creativity and humanity? Dave King, Richard King, Zoe McKenzie with Libbi Gorr (M)			
9am-10am	After the Referendum, What Happens Next? Troy Bramston, Wesley Enoch, Thomas Mayo and Laura Tingle with Jon Faine (M)	Love, Lust and Literature Exploring matters of the heart in books and other art forms Barry Jones and Christos Tsiolkas with Michael Shmith (M)	Genre-Switching Look what happens when writers try new tricks Louise Milligan, Jock Serong and Chris Womersley discuss		The Back Page Sportswriting, cracking good stories and how to capture legendary moments Gideon Haigh, Sam Lane and Caroline Wilson with Steve Perkin (M)	The Power of the Podcast How they impact storytelling, record history and generate vital discussion John Silvester, Jessie Stephens and Hedley Thomas with Jonathan Green (M)
10.30am-11.30am	Australian Politics: Toward the 2025 Election Lech Blaine, Erik Jensen, Amy Remeikis and Niki Savva with Brendan Donohoe (M)	Your ABC: An Endangered Species? Jon Faine, and Ranald Macdonald with Libbi Gorr (M)		In Conversation William McInnes with Amanda Smith (M)	In Conversation David Marr with Barrie Cassidy (M)	Writers on Writing Three authors discuss their work, their writing journey and their creative process Dennis Glover, Gail Jones and Myfanwy Jones with Laura Macdonald (M) <i>This session is supported by the Mornington Peninsula Foundation</i>
12 noon-1pm	We Are Sick Of Feeling Unsafe: Feminism's next challenge Rosie Batty, Kate Jenkins and Catharine Lumby with Jamila Rizvi (M)	When Good People Happen to Great Causes How to help important issues grow wings Nick Reece, Lyn Swinburne, Grace Tame and Clare Wright with Heather Ewart (M) <i>This event is supported by Human Cogs</i>		In Conversation Nam Le with Sarah L'Estrange (M)	How My Life and My Story Became a Bestseller What happens when your story takes on a new life Dassi Erlich, Miimi Kwa and Magda Szubanski with Hannie Rayson (M)	Burning Issues Dressed Up As Fiction: How novels help us understand our world Liam Pieper, Jessie Stephens, Karen Vlggers and Chris Womersley with Jason Steger (M)
1.30pm-2.30pm	Boards Behaving Badly How elitism, sexism, cover-ups and stuff-ups can ruin a company's reputation Kate Jenkins, Stephen Mayne, Nick McKenzie and Nick Reece with Peter Inge (M) <i>This session is supported by Thomson Geer Lawyers</i>	The Trump Phenomenon Can 2016 really happen again? Ilaria Walker and Bruce Wolpe with Cameron Stewart (M)	In Conversation Hedley Thomas with Stephen Lunn (M)	The Power of Editorials: Do people still listen? Should they listen? Eric Beecher, Erik Jensen and Laura Tingle with Jon Faine (M)	The Newsreader Unpacked Why this ABC series made brilliant TV Marg Downey, Michael Lucas, William McInnes and Lisa Millar with Tom Wright (M)	
3pm-4pm	Democracy Is Fragile: How Did This Happen and What Must We Do? John Hewson,, Niki Savva, Don Watson and Bruce Wolpe with Barrie Cassidy (M)	Words Matter: How writing can create understanding, build bridges and changes lives Kate Grenville, Nam Le and Thomas Mayo with Michael Shmith (M)	The Healing Power of Writing The magic of catharsis and the power of facing past trauma Alexandra Collier, Dassi Erlich, Mimi Kwa and Nova Weetman with Amanda Smith (M)	In Conversation: Peter Singer with Michael Cathcart (M)	In Conversation: Rosie Batty with Sam Lane (M)	
4.30pm-5.30pm	Festival concludes with farewell drinks					

Sunday April 28
28
Sorrento Writers Festival

Sunday April 28
29
Sorrento Writers Festival



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Children's Program



The Children's Program kicks off on Wednesday April 24 with a special talk by Patrick Carlyon. His book, *The Gallipoli Story*, will be thought-provoking for the older students and in perfect time for Anzac Day on Thursday April 25.

On Friday April 26, students will be visited by writer and illustrator Jess Racklyeft (*Australia: Country of Colour, I'm Your Favourite Book*), local author Andrea Rowe (*Jetty Jumping, Sunday Skating*), the team of writer Jane Godwin and illustrator Anna Walker (*A Life Song, Don't Forget*), writer Nicole Hayes (*Ozzy Rules! Little Legends series*) and writer Wendy Orr (*Cuckoo's Flight, Nim's Island*). They will participate in combined events for prep to grade six students at both St Joseph's and Sorrento Primary School.

Over the weekend of April 27 and 28, Antipodes Bookshop and Gallery in Ocean Beach Road will also host children's author visits and story readings.

We sincerely thank Festival donors whose specific interest is our Children's Program. Our goal over the next year is to increase such connections with local schools in the southern Mornington Peninsula region by uniting more writers and illustrators with their young fans. We are thrilled to be hosting these special events and thank all the amazing authors who are taking part.

The Sorrento Writers Festival's mission to improve literacy and enhance learning through books and reading continues in 2024. This year, our Children's Program will bring seven talented writers to St Joseph's and Sorrento Primary Schools, with more than 350 students involved.

Taste

Sorrento

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"In life we make progress by conflict and in mental life by argument and disputation. If you care about the points of agreement and civility, then, you had better be well equipped with points of argument and combativity, because if you are not then the "centre" will be occupied and defined without your having helped to decide it."

– **Christopher Hitchens, "Letters to a Young Contrarian"**
Published by Basic Books, Hachette Book Group (2005)

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Sorrento *Writers Festival*

STORY SLAM

WITH JANE HONE

STORY SLAM IS A COMMUNITY,
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OR HEAR FIVE-MINUTE TRUE
STORIES ON THE NIGHT'S THEME OF
'JOURNEYS'

Thursday 25th April

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Bookings Essential



Our Speakers and Moderators

Speakers and Moderators

Kgshak Akec

Born in South Sudan, Kgshak Akec moved to Australia with her family as a six-year-old and settled in Sydney. Speaking only Arabic, she quickly learned English and 20 years later, saw her novel, *Hopeless Kingdom*, shortlisted for the 2023 Miles Franklin Literary Award.

Stephanie Alexander AO

After studying to become a librarian, Stephanie Alexander opened her first restaurant in 1964 and over the past six decades has become a major force in the Australian food industry as a restaurateur and author of 18 books.

Susie Anderson

Susie Anderson is a poet and writer of nonfiction, and has been widely published online and in print. In 2018 she was runner-up in the Overland Poetry Prize and in 2019 was awarded a Neilma Sidney grant.

Melissa Ashley

An award-winning author of historical fiction and one collection of poetry, Melissa Ashley is a Brisbane local who conducts writing courses, and is a regular speaker and host at numerous writers festivals around Australia.

Fiona Austin

A resident of Melbourne's Bayside, Fiona Austin is an interior designer who combined her passion for history and writing to help compile *Beaumaris Modern – Modernist Homes in Beaumaris* and its follow-up, *Beaumaris Modern II*, two books detailing the history of houses and their owners.

Sarah Bailey

Sarah Bailey's debut novel, *The Dark Lake*, won the 2018 Davitt Award and the 2018 Ned Kelly award for best crime debuts. Two other novels in the series are *Into The Night* and *Where The Dead Go*, while *The Housemate*, published in 2021, is being developed for television.

Ben Ball

Ben Ball is the Publishing Director at Scribner/Simon and Schuster. Ben joined S&S in 2019 after 12 years at Penguin Random House and is considered one of Australia's most intuitive and successful publishers.

Julia Banks

A former Liberal MP in the House of Representatives, Julia Banks is a successful author. Her book *Power Play* won a nomination in the 2022 Australian Book Industry awards.

Mim Bartlett

A psychotherapist with a law degree and 23 years' experience as an executive coach, social justice advocate, fundraiser and mentor, Mim Bartlett was one of the winners of the *Australian Financial Review* and Westpac 100 Women of Influence awards.

Rosie Batty

After losing her son in 2014, killed by his father, Rosie Batty became a national advocate for women and children who are victims of violence. Rosie was Australian of the Year in 2015 and she continues her tireless work as a leader against domestic violence. Her new book *Hope* is released in April.

Eric Beecher

Eric Beecher is chairman and co-founder of Private Media and is a former editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Melbourne Herald* and co-founder of Text Media.

Tony Birch

The first recipient of the Dr Bruce McGuinness Indigenous Research Fellowship in 2015, Tony Birch has, at last count, written four novels, five short fiction collections and two poetry books.

Lech Blaine

After surviving a car crash in 2009, Lech Blaine, a journalist, went on to write the acclaimed *Car Crash – A Memoir* which was published in 2021. His second book will be published this year.

Troy Bramston

A senior writer and columnist with *The Australian*, Troy Bramston has written or edited 11 books, among them *Rudd, Gillard and Beyond* (in 2014), *The Wran Era* (2006) and *The Hawke Government – A Critical Retrospective* (2003).

Mark Brandi

Mark Brandi's best-selling novel, *Wimmera*, won two major awards for crime writing. His second and third novels were critically acclaimed, while his fourth novel, *Southern Aurora*, was published last year.

Judith Brett AM

Judith Brett is Emeritus Professor of Politics at La Trobe University. Judith's 2017 biography of Alfred Deakin won the 2018 National Biography Award. Her next book, *From Secret Ballot to Democracy Sausage: How Australia got Compulsory Voting*, was shortlisted for the 2019 Queensland Literary Awards.

Fiona Brockhoff

One of Australia's best known garden designers, Fiona Brockhoff's acclaimed book, *With Nature*, was published in 2022.

Amy Brown

Amy Brown is a New Zealand-Australian writer, poet and teacher whose debut novel *Stillwater* was shortlisted for the 2022 Victorian Premier's Prize for an Unpublished Manuscript.

Anne Buist

A researcher and practising psychiatrist specialising in women's mental health, Professor Anne Buist has been a regular author of psychological thrillers since 2015.

Shelley Burr

An author of crime thrillers, Shelley Burr's latest novel, *Wake*, is a best seller and multi-award winner. When not writing, Shelley's passion is permaculture and, in particular, soil science.

Julia Busuttill Nishimura

The author of three top-selling cookbooks, Julia's recipes are influenced by her Maltese heritage, her Japanese family and time spent living in Italy.

Tim Byrne

Tim Byrne is a freelance arts journalist and theatre critic. He is also a respected bookseller and author interviewer.

Patricia Callan

A design expert, Patricia Callan is the founder of Modernist Australia, an online archive of local mid-century architecture. She is author of *The New Modernist House*.

Patrick Carlyon

A Walkley Award-winning journalist with the *Herald Sun*, Patrick Carlyon is author of *The Gallipoli Story* and co-author of *Lawyer X*.

Michael Carr-Gregg

Michael is a respected speaker and one of Australia's leading authorities on teenage behaviour. He has written a number of books and appears regularly on radio and television.

Barrie Cassidy

Former ABC television journalist and presenter, and author of several books, Barrie was awarded a Melbourne Press Club Lifetime Achievement award in 2018.

Michael Cathcart

Historian Michael Cathcart is an author and long-time ABC presenter whose programs include Radio National's *Arts Today* and the *Radio National Quiz*.

Chong Weng-Ho

Born in Malaysia and now based in Melbourne as an artist and graphic designer, Chong has designed more than 90 covers for assorted publications. In 2013, he was inducted into the Australian Book Design Hall of Fame.

Peter Christoff

Peter Christoff is a political scientist and Associate Professor who teaches on issues related to climate change and environmental policy at Melbourne University. He has written numerous books and papers related to the world in which we live.

Aoife Clifford

Born in London and now based in Melbourne, Aoife is the author of two bestselling literary crime novels, *Second Sight* and *All These Perfect Strangers*, for which she has won numerous literary awards. Her latest novel is *When We Fall*.

Jan Cochrane-Harry

Jan Cochrane-Harry is an artist and writer who worked for many years in managerial roles and also in the philanthropic sector. Jan is completing her memoir, which will shock and inspire adult readers.

Alexandra Collier

After a decade writing plays in New York, Alexandra Collier returned to Melbourne and in 2023 wrote her memoir, *Inconceivable: Heartbreak, Bad Dates and Finding Solo Motherhood*. She also writes screenplays and contributes to several newspapers and magazines.

Deborah Conway AM

One of Australia's finest recording artists, Deborah Conway won the 1992 ARIA for Best Female Artist. A prolific songwriter, she last year released her memoir *Deborah Conway – Book Of Life*.

Inala Cooper

Inala Cooper is a Yawuru woman with German and Irish heritage, from Rubibi/Broome. She has a masters degree in human rights law and is the Director of Murrup Barak, the Melbourne Institute for Indigenous Development at the University of Melbourne. Inala's first book, *Marrul: Aboriginal Identity & the Fight for Rights*, was published in 2022.

Abby Corson

After writing for newspapers, magazines and television, Corson is now venturing into novels, with her debut thriller, *The Concierge*, released in January this year.

Jaclyn Crupi

A writer, editor and bookseller, Jaclyn Crupi's world is books, reading and writing. The author of several books, including the new bestseller *Pasta Love*, Jaclyn is also a talented interviewer and moderator.

Lottie Dalton

Lottie Dalton is a student of Literature and History at the University of Melbourne. She is passionate about writing, and won the junior prose sections of the Boroondara literary awards in 2018. Lottie hopes to continue her studies after university with a Masters of Teaching.

Speakers and Moderators

Robyn Davidson

Robyn Davidson is an award-winning author and essayist who has travelled and published widely. Her books include *Tracks*, *Desert Places*, and her recent memoir *Unfinished Woman*.

Monique diMattina

Melbourne composer, musician and music teacher Monique diMattina is the creator of *Stella*, a musical about the life of Australian literary hero Stella Maria Miles Franklin. A selection of *Stella* pieces will be performed at the Festival's Words & Music Concert on Saturday, April 27.

Garry Disher

Garry Disher is one of Australia's most prolific and successful novelists. He has won four German and three Australian awards for best crime novel of the year, and been longlisted twice for a British CWA Dagger award. In 2018 Garry received the Ned Kelly Lifetime Achievement Award.

Brendan Donohoe

Award-winning journalist Brendan Donohoe was Channel Seven Melbourne's State Political Editor for 30 years. He is also a former Victorian Government deputy director of communications.

Marg Downey

Marg Downey is an Australian actress whose stage, film and television career spans more than three decades. Her current role as Evelyn Walters in the ABC hit series *The Newsreader* earned Marg a *Best Supporting Actress in a Drama* nomination at this year's AACTA Awards.

Michael Earp

Michael Earp is a non-binary writer, editor and bookseller. For 20 years they have worked between bookselling and publishing as a children's and young adult specialist. They have a masters in children's literature and a teaching degree and previously served as committee chair for the #LoveOzYA campaign.

Jane Eckett

Jane Eckett is an art historian, curator and author. She is the co-editor of *On Bunurong Country: Art and Design in Frankston*, which documents the rich and diverse artistic heritage of the Frankston district.

Helen Elliott

Helen Elliott is a book reviewer, writer and editor whose 2023 memoir *Eleven Letters to You* tells the story of growing up in pre-feminism suburban Melbourne.

Wesley Enoch AM

Professor Wesley Enoch AM is a proud Quandamooka man from Minjerribah, an internationally acclaimed playwright, director and artistic director. Wesley is the Indigenous Chair in the Creative Industries for QUT and is also on the board of the *Annamila* First Nations Foundation.

Dassi Erlich

One of three sisters who successfully brought sexual assault charges against their former high school principal, Malka Leifer, Dassi Erlich is author of *In Bad Faith*, her memoir of life growing up in an ultra-Orthodox Jewish sect.

Heather Ewart

Heather Ewart is an award-winning journalist and the popular host of ABC TV's *Back Roads*. During her four decades as an ABC journalist, Heather worked as a foreign correspondent posted to London, Washington and Brussels as well as other senior reporting roles.

Stephanie Exton

As CEO of the Mornington Peninsula Foundation, Stephanie Exton has applied her pioneering approach to systemic change led by the local community. Under her leadership, MPF funds local initiatives through direct relationships in support of its mission to break the cycle of economic disadvantage on the peninsula.

Jon Faine AM

Former long-time award-winning ABC radio presenter Jon Faine is also a lecturer, columnist, Melbourne Museums board member and Vice Chancellors Fellow at University of Melbourne Law School. He has written several books, including his 2022 bestseller *Apollo and Thelma: A True Tall Tale*.

Lindsay Fox AC

Lindsay Fox founded his trucking company in 1956. More than six decades later, Linfox leads the way as Asia Pacific's largest privately owned logistics company, involving more than 24,000 people across Australia, New Zealand and south-east Asia.

Kate Fullagar

A professor of history, Kate Fullagar is the author and editor of several books relating to the 18th century world, particularly the British Empire and the many indigenous societies it encountered.

Anna Funder

Anna Funder is the multi-award-winning author of *Stasiland* and *All That I Am*, which won the Miles Franklin Award in 2012. *Wifedom*, her acclaimed book about George Orwell's first wife, Eileen Blair, was published last year.

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Speakers and Moderators

Michael Gawenda

A three-time Walkley Award-winning journalist, Michael Gawenda was editor-in-chief of *The Age* for seven years until 2004. He has written several books, among them *My Life As A Jew*.

Joëlle Gergis

Dr Joëlle Gergis is an award-winning Australian National University climate scientist and writer. Her research focuses on providing a long-term historical context for assessing recently observed climate variability and extremes. Joëlle's latest book, *Humanity's Moment: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope*, was published in 2023.

Dennis Glover

An academic, columnist, policy adviser and speechwriter, Dennis Glover has written several books, including *An Economy is Not a Society*, *The Art of Great Speeches* and *Orwell's Australia*. His latest novel, *Thaw*, retells the Scott of the Antarctic story with contemporary resonance in the age of climate change.

Jane Godwin

Jane Godwin has written more than 30 books for children. She is one of Australia's best-known and most decorated children's book authors and is published internationally.

Irma Gold

Irma Gold is a Mornington Peninsula award-winning author and editor. Passionate about childhood literacy, Irma is an Ambassador for the ACT Chief Minister's Reading Challenge. She is also co-host of the writing podcast, *Secrets from the Green Room*, with Craig Cormick.

Libbi Gorr

Television personality, radio broadcaster and actor, Libbi Gorr has also authored two books, *The A-Z of Mummy Manners: An Etiquette Guide for Managing Other Children's Mothers* and *The Bedtime Poem For Edible Children*.

Shaun Grant

A graduate from RMIT in creative screenwriting, Shaun Grant's debut feature film, *Snowtown*, won the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts award for best adapted screenplay. His other work includes *Deadline Gallipoli*, the adaptation of *Jasper Jones*, *True History of the Kelly Gang* and *Penguin Bloom*.

Madeleine Gray

Madeleine Gray is an arts writer and book critic, as well as a PhD candidate in English Literature at the University of Manchester. Her debut novel, *Green Dot*, was published in 2023 and became one of the hits of the Australian summer.

Jonathan Green

For more than four decades, Jonathan Green has worked as a journalist, editor and broadcaster across a raft of mastheads including *The Canberra Times*, the *Melbourne Herald*, *The Herald Sun* and *The Age*. He presents *Blueprint for Living* on ABC Radio National.

Kate Grenville AO

An author who has published 15 books, including fiction, non-fiction, biography and books about the writing process, Kate Grenville won the Orange Prize for *The Idea of Perfection*. In 2006, her historical novel *The Secret River* won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize.

Fiona Gruber

Fiona Gruber is an author and regular contributor to print media on arts and culture, and her work has also appeared in the UK's *Times Literary Supplement*. She appears regularly on ABC radio arts programs and is a sought-after moderator and events host.

Miranda Guy

Miranda Guy is a third-year English Literature student at the University of Melbourne with a keen interest in Edwardian literature. She is a 2023 winner of the ABC Heywire writing competition.

Gideon Haigh

The author of more than 50 books, many of them on cricket, and others on business and crime, Gideon Haigh has been a journalist for 40 years. He has done so without a blog, a tweet, or Facebook.

Charlotte Guest

Charlotte Guest is a books industry professional with over ten years experience across bookselling and publishing. Her poetry, essays and short fiction have been published in national literary journals and in 2023 she was awarded a PhD in Creative Writing from Deakin University.

Bill Hamilton

Bill Hamilton is the most senior literary agent at A.M. Heath, having joined in 1983. He is well known for representing many top authors, among them Hilary Mantel, the bestselling author of *Wolf Hall* and *Bring Up The Bodies*.

Chris Hammer

A former journalist, Chris Hammer is now one of Australia's most successful crime fiction writers, with many fans around the world. His first novel, *Scrublands*, won the John Creasey Award at the UK Crime Writers' Association Dagger Awards in 2019. *The Tilt* won the 2023 Danger Award for best crime fiction. *The Seven* was shortlisted for the 2024 Fiction Indie Book Award.

Amanda Hampson

A New Zealander who now lives in Melbourne, Amanda Hampson is the author of seven novels and two non-fiction books. She has been writing professionally for more than 30 years.

Lesley Harding

An expert on modernist and contemporary Australian art, Lesley Harding has co-authored three books. She is currently artistic director at Heide Museum of Modern Art in Melbourne.

Wendy Harmer

A former Melbourne journalist, Wendy Harmer became a full-time stand-up comedian in the 1980s. For 11 years she co-hosted 2Day FM's top-rating *Breakfast Show* and was co-host of ABC Radio Sydney's morning/breakfast shows from 2016 to 2021. Wendy is the author of eight books including the successful *Pearlie in the Park* series for children. Her memoir, *Lies My Mirror Told Me*, was published last October.

Nicole Hayes

Nicole Hayes is an author, podcaster and teacher. *Ozzy Rules!* is her latest book, and she created AFL junior series Little Legends. She writes regular columns and hosts educational workshops.

Ian Henderson

Local Mornington Peninsula identity, Ian Henderson is a retired journalist and TV presenter. Ian presented Melbourne's ABC TV's 7pm news from 1992 to 2018. He is also a former president of the Melbourne Press Club.

John Hewson AM

Leader of the Federal Liberal Party from 1990 to 1994, John Hewson has been a columnist for the *Australian Financial Review* since 2004. He is also a regular commentator for numerous other publications, including the national weekly *The Saturday Paper*, and on radio and television.

Celia Hirsh

Celia Hirsh is a journalist, broadcaster and podcaster who also contributes questions to the weekly quiz show *Have You Been Paying Attention?* Celia is also a keen cook, food and cookbook lover.

Lucinda Holdforth

Lucinda Holdforth is a speechwriter, speechwriting coach and author. She worked for the Hawke-Keating Labor government until 1996 and was speechwriter to deputy Prime Minister Kim Beazley. She has written five books.

Jane Hone

A lifestyle journalist and copywriter who has written for numerous magazines and websites, Jane Hone is also a yoga teacher. Jane is also a sought-after Story Slam host who lives on the Mornington Peninsula.

Greer Honeywill

Dr Greer Honeywill is an award-winning, multi-disciplinary artist, researcher, writer and curator, with an art practice in Melbourne.



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Speakers and Moderators

Ross Honeywill

Ross Honeywill is a social scientist, corporate adviser and author whose most recent book, *Being NEO: Embrace your inner NEO and change the world*, was published last year.

Chloe Hooper

Chloe Hooper's first novel *A Child's Book of True Crime* was short-listed for the Orange Prize for Fiction. In 2006 she won a Walkley Award for her writing on the inquest into the death in custody of Cameron Doomadgee and this later became *The Tall Man*, her 2008 award-winning book-length account of the case. Between books, Chloe works on film projects and writes widely about culture and politics. She is currently working on a new novel.

Russel Howcroft

Former advertising agency executive and former Chairman of the Advertising Federation of Australia, Russel Howcroft is now co-host of 3AW's Breakfast program. He is also Chair of the Jim Stynes Foundation.

Adrian Hyland

An award-winning author of non-fiction and crime fiction, Adrian Hyland's first book, *Diamond Dove*, won the 2007 Ned Kelly Award for Best First Novel.

Karen Inge

A leading Australian dietician, Karen Inge is also an award-winning author of books on eating for health, fitness, sport and wellbeing. She contributes regularly on radio and television.

Peter Inge OAM

Peter Inge is a lawyer, human rights and migration specialist, and Managing Director of the Zig Inge Group. Peter serves on several industry and not-for-profit boards. He is President of the Sorrento Writers Festival.

Rodney James

An award-winning curator and writer specialising in 19th and 20th century art, Rodney James contributes articles for numerous art magazines. His latest book, *Letters To A Critic: Alan McCulloch's World of Art*, was published in 2023.

Belinda Jeffery

Belinda Jeffery has worked as a chef, television food presenter, freelance writer, restaurant reviewer and cooking teacher. Her extensive list of books includes *The Salad Book*, *The Country Cookbook* and *Mix & Bake*.

Kate Jenkins AO

For seven years Kate Jenkins was Australia's Sex Discrimination Commissioner. Her 2020 *Respect@Work* report to the Commonwealth Government was hailed as a landmark national inquiry into sexual harassment in workplaces. She is Chair of Creative Australia's Creative Workplaces Council.

Erik Jensen

An award-winning journalist and author, Erik Jensen is founding editor of national weekly *The Saturday Paper* and editor-in-chief of Schwartz Media. He is the author of several books, among them an acclaimed biography of artist Adam Cullen, *Acute Misfortune*.

Barry Jones AC

Teacher, lawyer, academic, former state and federal MP, polymath and author, Barry Jones was Australia's longest-serving minister for science from 1983 to 1990. At the age of 91, he is an official 'living national treasure'. The Sorrento Writers Festival's annual oration is named in Barry's honour.

Gail Jones

Award-winning author Gail Jones is one of Australia's most celebrated writers. She has written two short story collections and nine novels, and her work has been translated into several languages.

Myfanwy Jones

Myfanwy Jones' debut novel, *The Rainy Season*, was published in 2009. Her second novel, *Leap*, was shortlisted for the 2016 Miles Franklin Award. Her stories and essays have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies. Her latest novel, *Cool Water*, was published in February.

Melanie Joosten

Social worker Melanie Joosten is the author of two novels and a book of essays. Her psychological thriller, *Berlin Syndrome*, won the *Sydney Morning Herald* Best Young Novelist Prize and the 2012 Kathleen Mitchell Award for the best book by an Australian writer under 30.

Leah Kaminsky

Leah Kaminsky is a physician and award-winning writer. Her debut novel, *The Waiting Room*, won the Voss Literary Prize. *The Hollow Bones* won both the Literary Fiction and Historical Fiction categories of the 2019 International Book Awards, and the 2019 American Book Fest's Best Book Award for Literary Fiction.

Bill Kelty AC

Bill Kelty is a non-executive board member of the Linfox Group. For more than 30 years he was at the forefront of industrial relations. A former trade union official and ACTU secretary, Bill was responsible for many significant industrial relations policies and practice in a range of industries.

Betty King KC

Jurist Betty King KC began her career as a criminal barrister, working in both defence and prosecutions. She was a member of the National Crime Authority, a Judge on the County Court of Victoria, and a Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria, where her first case involved the notorious 'Gangland murders'. She was also chair of Victoria's independent Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board.

Dave King

Dave King is the CEO and founder of Move 37, a Melbourne-based creative artificial intelligence start-up. He is passionately optimistic about the capacity for creative humans to discover new ways of working with machines. Dave has spent the past 20 years creating product, media and technology, and believes emergent technologies can help humans and machines achieve more than either could alone.

Richard King

An author, critic and poet, Richard King has been published in most mainstream Australian newspapers. His first book, *On Offence: The Politics of Indignation*, was published in 2013.

Jennifer Kloester

Academic and author Jennifer Kloester has written extensively about bestselling British novelist Georgette Heyer. Jennifer is also the author of young adult novels and the paranormal *Jane Austen's Ghost*. Her latest work, *The Novels of Georgette Heyer – A Celebration*, was published last year.

Ramona Koval

Ramona Koval is a writer, journalist, and former broadcaster. She is an Honorary Fellow in the School of Communication and Creative Arts at Deakin University. She is the author of several books, including *By the Book: A Reader's Guide to Life* and *A Letter To Layla*.

Sarah Krasnostein

An award-winning writer and critic, Sarah Krasnostein has written two acclaimed titles, *The Trauma Cleaner* and *The Believer*, which was named by the New Yorker as a Best Book of 2022. She contributed to the *Writers On Writers* series with her offering *Sarah Krasnostein on Peter Carey*.

Mimi Kwa

Mimi Kwa has spent 20 years on air with Channel 9 and the ABC and has been a contributing writer for numerous outlets, including Mamamia, SBS and *New Idea*. Her memoir, *House of Kwa*, was published in 2021.

Sam Lane

Sam Lane is a respected broadcast journalist, interviewer, host and author. Her award-winning work spans print, television, podcast and radio. Samantha is currently writing the story of sports luminary, Erin Phillips, due for release later this year.

Nam Le

Born in Vietnam in 1978, Nam Le migrated to Australia with his parents as a boat refugee before the age of one. Educated at Melbourne Grammar, he graduated from the University of Melbourne and became a lawyer. His acclaimed debut, *The Boat*, a collection of short stories, was published in 2009.

Sarah L'Estrange

Sarah L'Estrange has worked for more than 10 years in arts and literature broadcasting at RN. She was a producer on Radio National's *Books and Arts* and she currently produces *The Book Show*. She has made features for *The History Listen* and *Hindsight* and produced and presented the series, *Animal People*, on RN.

Amanda Lohrey

A much-celebrated writer and novelist, Amanda Lohrey has won numerous awards, including the 2021 Miles Franklin Award for *The Labyrinth*.

Michael Lucas

A multi-award-winning screenwriter, Michael Lucas has written or contributed to *Not Suitable For Children*, *Offspring*, *Wentworth*, *Sisters*, *Wrong Girl* and *The Newsreader*, among other programs.

Catharine Lumby

Professor Catharine Lumby is an academic, author and journalist. She is currently Chair of the Department of Media and Communications at University of Sydney and last year published an acclaimed biography of writer Frank Moorhouse.

Stephen Lunn

Social Affairs Editor at *The Australian*, journalist Stephen Lunn has also worked in public policy advocacy and practised as a lawyer in Australia and the UK.

John Lyons

Currently Global Affairs editor at the ABC, senior journalist and former foreign correspondent, John Lyons has won three Walkley Awards. He was the 1999 Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year.

Speakers and Moderators

Laura Macdonald

After studying screenwriting at Boston University, Laura Macdonald began her career in New York where she worked for *Filmmaker Magazine*, *indieWIRE*, *RES Magazine* and the *Silicon Alley Reporter*. A producer, creative director, film and literary festival manager and screenwriter, Laura is part of the 2024 Sorrento Writers Festival operations team.

Ranald Macdonald AO

Media commentator, former newspaper executive, and journalism academic, Ranald Macdonald is also a former ABC radio host and a passionate ABC advocate.

Jack Manning Bancroft

A systems designer, behavioural economist and founder of award-winning educational program Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME), Jack Manning Bancroft was named New South Wales' Young Australian of the Year in 2010. He is also a published children's author with *The Eagle Inside*.

Paddy Manning

Journalist Paddy Manning is the author of several award-winning books, including biographies of Malcolm Turnbull and Nathan Tinkler. His most recent release, the best-selling *The Successor: The High-Stakes Life of Lachlan Murdoch* was published in 2022. He is also the creator and presenter of the podcast *Rupert: The Last Mogul*.

David Marr

David Marr is a multi-award-winning journalist, author of numerous books, and a respected political and social commentator. His areas of expertise include Australian politics, the law, censorship, the media and the arts. He also writes for *The Monthly*, *The Saturday Paper*, and *Guardian Australia*.

Walter Marsh

An author, journalist and editor who writes predominantly on history and culture, Walter Marsh has written for numerous outlets and on many subjects, from food to politics to the arts. His *Young Rupert: The Making of the Murdoch Empire* was published in 2023.

Thomas Mayo

Writer and First Nations campaigner, Thomas Mayo is well-known for his passionate and articulate advocacy for constitutional recognition of The Voice. He is the author of *Finding The Heart of the Nation*, *Dear Son*, and the best-selling children's books *Finding our Heart* and *Freedom Day*. With veteran journalist Kerry O'Brien, he also wrote *The Voice to Parliament Handbook*, published in the lead-up to the 2023 referendum.

Stephen Mayne

A self-described shareholder activist, Stephen Mayne is also a journalist and created the online independent news service *Crikey* in 2000, which he later sold. Stephen also launched the website *The Mayne Report* in 2007 and is a regular commentator on ABC Radio.

David McAllister

After a distinguished dancing career and two decades as Artistic Director of the Australian Ballet, David McAllister is now working and mentoring with local and international dance companies. His 2020 memoir, *Soar: A Life Freed By Dance* was followed in 2023 with *Ballet Confidential*.

Janelle McCulloch

A journalist, editor and author, Janelle McCulloch has edited and written for many home and lifestyle magazines while also authoring and providing photos for more than 25 books. She is currently writing a book on roses.

William McInnes

As well as being a recognised Australian actor for his roles in *SeaChange*, *Blue Heelers*, and *The Newsreader*, William McInnes has also written six books.

Nick McKenzie

Celebrated investigative journalist Nick McKenzie writes primarily for *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*, while also breaking stories for *Four Corners* and *60 Minutes*. He has won a record 16 Walkley Awards, and has been named Australian Journalist of the Year on four occasions.

Zoe McKenzie

In May 2022, Zoe McKenzie was elected federal member for Flinders. A former lawyer, board director and businesswoman, Zoe takes her particular interests in education, the arts and the environment to Canberra. She was recently appointed to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security which oversees Australia's intelligence agencies, reviews national security bills, and conducts regular statutory reviews into the nation's security legislation.

Dervla McTiernan

Starting her working career as a lawyer in Ireland, Dervla McTiernan's first crime thriller, *The Ruin*, was published in 2018. Now living in Australia, Dervla's novels have won numerous awards and become international bestsellers.

Kate Mildenhall

Kate Mildenhall's first novel, *Skylarking*, was published in 2016, her second, *The Mother Fault*, in 2018, and her third, *The Hummingbird Effect*, in 2023. She co-hosts *The First Time*, a podcast about the first time you publish a book.

Lisa Millar

A television news presenter, journalist and Walkley Award winner, Lisa Millar has been a foreign correspondent in London and Washington for the ABC. Her memoir, *Daring To Fly*, was released in 2021, while her second book, *Muster Dogs*, a companion book to the television series of the same name, came out early this year.

Alex Miller

Alex Miller is twice winner of the Miles Franklin Award – in 1993 for *The Ancestor Game* and in 2003 for *Journey to the Stone Country*. In recognition of his impressive body of work, and in particular for his novel *Autumn Laing*, he was awarded the Melbourne Prize for Literature in 2012.

Louise Milligan

Louise Milligan is an investigative reporter for the ABC. Her exclusive stories for the ABC's 7.30 program on the allegations against George Pell won her two Quill Awards, while her book, *Cardinal: The Rise and Fall of George Pell*, published in 2017, won the Walkley Book Award. Her follow-up book, *Witness*, was critically acclaimed. Louise has just published her first novel, *Pheasants Nest*.

Natasha Mitchell

Natasha Mitchell is an award-winning ABC journalist, radio presenter, podcaster and documentary maker. She founded one of the ABC's first podcasts, *All In The Mind*, which she hosted and produced for a decade.

Kendrah Morgan

Kendrah Morgan has been a curator at Heide Museum of Modern Art since 2003. She has lectured in art history and co-authored four books, among them *Mirka and Georges: A Culinary Affair*, published in 2018.

Brian Nankervis

Brian Nankervis is an Australian writer, actor, radio host, television producer and comedian. He is one of the co-creators of the music quiz show *RockWiz* and hosts the annual Sorrento Writers Festival Literary Trivia Night.

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Speakers and Moderators

Margo Neale

Margo Ngawa Neale is Head of the Centre for Indigenous Knowledges at the National Museum of Australia. She has written and edited numerous publications, including the *Oxford Companion to Aboriginal Art and Culture* and the acclaimed *First Knowledges* series.

Wendy Orr

Canadian-born, Mornington Peninsula-resident Wendy Orr has written more than 40 books. Her latest *Cuckoo's Flight* is part of the Bronze Age series. *Nim's Island* and *Nim At Sea* became films

Corrie Perkin

Award-winning journalist Corrie Perkin is also an editor, writer, MC, podcaster and Founder and Director of the Sorrento Writers Festival.

Steve Perkin

A journalist for 50 years, Steve Perkin has covered sport and general news and written daily columns for *The Age* and the *Herald Sun*. A former *Sunday Age* sports editor, he was also executive producer of Channel 9's *The Footy Show* for three years. Steve has written three novels, as yet unpublished.

Liam Pieper

Liam Pieper is a freelance journalist and author of several books, among them *The Toymaker*, published in 2017, and *Sweetness and Light*, which came out in 2020. His new novel *Appreciation* has just arrived in bookshops.

Simon Plant

Simon Plant is an arts reporter and food reviewer for the *Herald Sun*. He recently finished a book, *Entertaining Mr Coppin*, a look at the life of George Coppin, philanthropist, famous Sorrento figure, and father of the theatre in Victoria.

Liz Porter

Liz Porter is a true crime author, novelist and freelance writer. Her first forensic science book, *Written On The Skin: An Australian forensic casebook*, shared the 2007 Ned Kelly Prize for best true crime book. A regular public speaker on crime and forensic science, Liz has a PhD at La Trobe University.

Andrew Quilty

A noted war reporter and winner of nine Walkley awards, photo-journalist Andrew Quilty last year released his book *This is Afghanistan 2014-2021*, a visual record of his nine years in that complex and war-ravaged country. His first book, *August in Kabul*, was published in 2022.

Jess Racklyeft

Jess Racklyeft is an illustrator and author of children's picture books, and creator of artistic works including paintings, prints and stationery. She previously worked in publishing before becoming a full-time illustrator.

Hannie Rayson

Multi-award-winning playwright, screenwriter, presenter and author, Hannie Rayson's works include *Hotel Sorrento*, *Inheritance* and *Life After George*, the first play to be nominated for the Miles Franklin Literary Award. Hannie's new play will be featured during the Sorrento Writers Festival.

Nicholas Reece

Melbourne Deputy Lord Mayor, Nicholas Reece is also the former chairman of global men's health charity *Movember*, which has raised nearly \$1.2 billion for prostate cancer and men's mental health.

Amy Remeikis

Amy Remeikis is a political reporter with the *Guardian* and author of the best-selling book *On Reckoning*, published in 2021. She is a regular contributor to *The Project*, *The Drum*, *Insiders* and *ABC Radio*.

Jamila Rizvi

An adviser and commentator on gender equality issues, Jamila Rizvi is the author of *Not Just Lucky*, a career manifesto for millennial women, and editor of *The Motherhood*, an anthology of letters about life with a newborn. Jamila is also a Wheeler Centre board member.

Ian Roberts

A former CEO of the Melbourne International Festival of the Arts, Geelong Performing Arts Centre and Arts Centre Melbourne, Ian Roberts' novel, *The Celestials*, was released last year to critical acclaim.

Lisa Roet

Lisa Roet is an Australian artist who lives and works in Melbourne. She studied at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. In 2005, she received the McClelland Sculpture Prize. The sculpture, *White Ape*, is now part of the collection of the McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery.

Sam Roggeveen

Sam Roggeveen is director of the Lowy Institute's International Security Program. He was the founding editor of *The Interpreter* and editor of the *Lowy Institute Papers*. He is the author of *The Echidna Strategy: Australia's Search for Power and Peace*, published last year.

Andrea Rowe

Mornington Peninsula-based children's author, copywriter and strategic communications adviser Andrea Rowe is the founder of the Peninsula Writers Group. Her children's books have won the CBCA Picture Book of the Year-Early Childhood and the Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year-5-8 year-olds.

Omar Sakr

Omar Sakr is a contemporary Arab Australian poet, novelist and essayist born in western Sydney to Lebanese and Turkish Muslim migrants. His newest collection, *Non-Essential Work*, is out now.

Bernard Salt

One of Australia's leading social commentators, Bernard Salt is a columnist, author and futurist who uses demographic and social data to interpret how society and business are changing.

Niki Savva

Niki Savva is a political commentator, a best-selling author and spent several years as adviser to former Liberal Treasurer Peter Costello. Her most recent book, *Bulldozed*, won the 2023 Australian Political Book of the Year.

Jac Semmler

The author of *Super Bloom: A field guide to flowers for every gardener* (2022) and *Super Bloom Handbook* (2023), horticulturalist and garden designer Jac Semmler incorporates planting, art, education and design in her work. She is the founder of Super Bloom Plant Practice and lives on the Mornington Peninsula.

Jock Serong

Jock Serong is the author of six novels and the winner of several awards including the ARA Historical Novel Prize, the Ned Kelly Award for First Fiction and Britain's Staunch Prize which is given to thrillers where no women are victims of violence. He is a former solicitor and a current board member of The Wheeler Centre.

Saman Shad

Pakistan-born Saman Shad's debut novel, *The Matchmaker*, was one of 2023's bestsellers for local publisher Penguin Australia. A former scriptwriter for BBC radio and a regular contributor to *The Guardian* and SBS, Saman is currently working on her second novel.

Mike Sheahan OAM

Sorrento resident Mike Sheahan is one of Australian media's most celebrated journalists. His long career in newspapers and at the AFL included 18 years as chief football writer at the *Herald Sun*. He is also a former Fox Footy panel member and radio commentator.

Greg Sheridan AO

Greg Sheridan is *The Australian's* foreign editor. The author of eight books, Greg's most recent bestselling book, *Christians, the urgent case for Jesus in our world*, makes the case for the historical reliability of the New Testament and explores the lives of early Christians and contemporary Christians. As foreign editor, Greg specialises in Asia and America.

Peter Singer AC

Peter Singer is an Australian moral philosopher and Emeritus Ira W. DeCamp Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University. He specialises in applied ethics, approaching the subject from a secular, utilitarian perspective. Peter is the author of several books, including his latest work, *The Buddhist and the Ethicist: Conversations on Effective Altruism*.

Amanda Smith

Amanda Smith is a former ABC Radio National presenter whose program credits include *The Sports Factor*, *Life Matters* and *The Body Sphere*.

Clive Smith

President of the Nepean Historical Society at The Sorrento Museum, Clive Smith is a long-time Sorrento-Portsea resident and friend of the Sorrento Writers Festival.

Michael Shmith

Michael Shmith is a former *Age* arts editor and opera critic and a former communications director of the Australian Ballet. Michael is also an author, editor and writer.

Graeme Simson

Graeme Simson is the author of the 2013 international hit *The Rosie Project*, which was followed by *The Rosie Effect* and *The Rosie Result*. In 2014, Graeme co-wrote *Two Steps Forward* with his wife Anne Buist. Its sequel, *Two Steps Onward*, was published in June 2021.

John Silvester

Multi-award-winning journalist John 'Sly of the Underworld' Silvester has been reporting on crime from the cop stations, courthouses, back alleys and gangster mansions of Melbourne for more than 40 years. A regular on 3AW's breakfast program, his book *Naked City* was published late last year.

Kylie Soanes

Kylie Soanes is a conservation biologist whose mission is to save species in urban areas where bright lights, noise and hard surfaces reign. Kylie is based at the University of Melbourne where she completed her PhD in 2015.

Speakers and Moderators

Jason Steger

British-born Australian journalist Jason Steger is *The Age's* long-serving literary editor and a former ABC TV *First Tuesday Book Club* panel member.

Jessie Stephens

Jessie Stephens is a Sydney-based writer and podcaster. She is an executive editor at women's media company Mamamia and co-hosts Mamamia's flagship podcast and winner of Australia's Best Podcast Series *Mamamia Out Loud*. Her debut book, *Heartsick*, was an international bestseller.

Cameron Stewart

Award-winning journalist Cameron Stewart is chief international correspondent at *The Australian*. The paper's Washington correspondent covering North America from 2017 until early 2021, he is a former winner of the Graham Perkin Award for Australian Journalist of the Year.

Fiona Sweet

Fiona Sweet is the executive director and CEO of Stella, the organisation that oversees the running of the annual Stella Prize for female writers as well as other initiatives that promote gender equality in Australian literature and publishing. Fiona is the former artistic director and CEO of the Ballarat International Foto Biennale and the inaugural director of the National Centre for Photography.

Lyn Swinburne AO

A former teacher and the founder of Breast Cancer Network Australia, Lyn Swinburne is a leader in driving effective advocacy and cultural change. She serves on several boards and is a former chair of Melbourne's Royal Women's Hospital.

Magda Szubanski AO

Magda Szubanski is one of Australia's most recognised and successful film and television actors. Her 2016 book *Reckoning* – the first instalment in her memoir series – won numerous literary awards including the Australian Book Industry Awards 2016 Book of the Year, the Indie Award for Non-Fiction and the Douglas Stewart Prize for Non-Fiction in the 2016 NSW Premier's Literary Awards. Magda's next memoir instalment will be published later this year.

Grace Tame

Advocate and activist Grace Tame is the founder of The Grace Tame Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation funding initiatives that work to prevent and respond to sexual abuse of children and others. Grace was the 2021 Australian of the Year and is the author of *The Ninth Life of a Diamond Miner*.

Hedley Thomas

Hedley Thomas is a Walkley award-winning investigative journalist and author. With producer Slade Gibson, he won a Gold Walkley for the podcast series *The Teacher's Pet*, a 14-episode investigation of the unsolved disappearance of Sydney mother Lynette Dawson in 1982.

Laura Tingle

For more than 40 years, award-winning journalist Laura Tingle has reported on Australian politics and business for mastheads including the *Australian Financial Review*, *The Australian* and *The Age/Sydney Morning Herald*. Laura is now chief political correspondent for 7.30 and is the author of four *Quarterly Essays*. She is the president of the National Press Club of Australia.

Christos Tsiolkas

Author, playwright, essayist and film reviewer Christos Tsiolkas has written eight novels and been shortlisted for several significant literary awards. His latest novel, *The In-Between*, was published in October 2023.

Rachelle Unreich

A journalist whose work has appeared in *Harper's Bazaar*, *Elle*, *Rolling Stone* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Rachelle Unreich is the author of *A Brilliant Life*, her own mother's story of surviving the Holocaust.

Michael Veitch

Author, actor and broadcaster Michael Veitch has written 11 books on the topics of history, military history, travel and Australia's role in the Pacific War. His most recent book, *Australia's Secret Army*, was published in 2022.

Karen Viggers

The author of five novels, Karen Viggers is also a veterinarian and podcaster. Her most recent book, *Sidelines*, was published this year.

Steph Vizard

Steph Vizard is an Australian writer and lawyer. After studying literature at Oxford University, she worked in publishing in London. Her debut romantic comedy, *The Love Contract*, won the 2022 Harper Collins Banjo Prize.

Anna Walker

Anna Walker is an award-winning illustrator and author of many picture books for children published around the world. *Florette* was the *New York Times*/New York Public Library Best Illustrated Picture Book in 2018.

Ilaria Walker

Ilaria Walker is Asia Pacific editor of Monash University's *360info*, which supplies content to other publishers via its newswire service. Ilaria is based in Melbourne.

Sally Warhaft

Melbourne broadcaster, anthropologist and writer Sally Warhaft is a former editor of *The Monthly* magazine, and editor of the best-selling collection *Well May We Say... The Speeches That Made Australia*. She is also the host of the Wheeler Centre's Fifth Estate series of media-related interviews and panel sessions.

Don Watson

Celebrated author, historian and former speechwriter to Prime Minister Paul Keating, Don Watson will deliver the 2024 Sorrento Writers Festival's annual Barry Jones Oration. Don is a multi-award-winning author whose books include *Recollections of a Bleeding Heart*, *Death Sentence* and *The Bush* and, most recently, *The Passion of Private White*. He is currently writing a book on American history that is set to be published later this year.

Nova Weetman

Nova Weetman is an award-winning author of books for children and young adults, including *The Edge of Thirteen*, winner of the Australian Book Industry Award in 2022. Her new memoir, *Love, Death & Other Scenes*, reflects on Nova's experiences of love and loss following the death of her partner, playwright Aidan Fennessy, during the 2020 COVID lockdown.

Peter Wilmoth

Peter Wilmoth is a Melbourne-based journalist, writer and publisher. For many years he was a feature writer at *The Age* and *The Sunday Age* and has co-written several biographies as well as the popular social history *Glad All Over: The Countdown Years 1974-1987*.

Caroline Wilson

Caroline Wilson is a Walkley award-winning sports journalist whose weekly football column appears in *The Age*. She is also a Channel Nine and 3AW broadcaster and is the co-creator and co-presenter of the successful *Don't Shoot the Messenger* podcast. Caroline's numerous awards include a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Australian Sports Commission in 2010, the Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year Award in 2013, and the Melbourne Press Club's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2021.

Bruce Wolpe

Bruce Wolpe is a senior fellow at the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney. A former Fairfax executive, a former senior adviser to Prime Minister Julia Gillard and a Democrats US Congress staff member in Barack Obama's first presidential term, Bruce is a regular contributor on US politics in the Australian media and is the author of *Lobbying Congress: How The System Works*.

Chris Womersley

Journalist Chris Womersley is an award-winning author of six crime fiction novels. He also writes short stories, poetry and book reviews.

Charlotte Wood AM

An award-winning author, Charlotte Wood has written seven novels and three books of non-fiction. Her latest novel, *Stone Yard Devotional*, was published last year.

Tom Wright

Actor, director and writer Tom Wright is a former associate director of the Sydney Theatre Company. Productions of his work have been staged in Pakistan, Belgium, Canada, the US, the UK, China and New Zealand, as well as throughout Australia.

Sally Young

A professor of political science at the University of Melbourne, Sally Young has written seven books on Australian politics and media. Her latest, the acclaimed *Media Monsters: The Transformation of Australia's Newspaper Empires*, was published last year.

Willy Zygiel

A musician, producer and composer, Willy Zygiel has been recording since 1985. He has produced and arranged music for many Australian films and documentaries and recently released an album with his wife, Deborah Conway.

Festival Patrons

The Sorrento Writers Festival thanks our wonderful Patrons. Kate Baillieu, Diane Balnaves, Michael Kirby, Marcia Langton, Marigold Southey and David Williamson are our keen advocates and great supporters. They represent a vast range of interests, community work, professional experience and talents, and we thank them for their contribution to our Festival, and to Australian cultural and community life.



Kate Baillieu

Kate Baillieu grew up on the Point King beach and has spent a lifetime advocating the natural beauty and community spirit of the Sorrento-Portsea region. A former journalist, Kate is still deeply connected to the publishing world.



Diane Balnaves

Diane Balnaves has a longstanding passion for helping others and supporting the arts. Since establishing The Balnaves Foundation in 2006 with her late husband Neil Balnaves AO and their children, she has been actively involved in the Foundation and sits on the board of Trustees.



Michael Kirby AC CMG

Michael Kirby is an international jurist, educator and former High Court judge. His list of accomplishments, awards and recognitions is vast, and he is deeply committed to human rights advocacy. From the Festival's inception, Michael has been a keen supporter of the Sorrento Writers Festival's mission to create safe places for meaningful and stimulating conversations.



Lady Marigold Southey AC

Marigold Southey is a long-time supporter of health care, medical research and the arts. She was president of Philanthropy Australia between 2000 and 2006 and is a former president of the Myer Foundation. Lady Southey served as Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria from 2001 to 2006 and is a life-long Sorrento resident.



Professor Marcia Langton AO

Marcia Langton is an anthropologist, geographer and author who, since 2000, has held the Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies at the University of Melbourne. Marcia's specific areas of interest and advocacy include cultural collections, First Nations heritage and issues, and the resources industries' impact on Indigenous communities.



David Williamson AO

David Williamson is a Melbourne-born, Queensland-based playwright whose first plays were performed at La Mama in 1967. His vast body of work and extraordinary stage and screen career includes some of Australia's most-loved plays and films.

Our Festival Hub

The 2024 Sorrento Writers Festival Hub is once again at The Continental Sorrento, one of the Mornington Peninsula's oldest and most beautiful buildings.

Across four days, The Continental Sorrento will be the venue for many of our events. It is also the home of Avenue Bookstore's Festival Bookshop (Level 1) where you can browse and buy books, meet your author heroes, have books signed and just chill between sessions.

Sorrento Writers Festival merchandise will also be available to purchase at the bookstore, and at the box office on Level 2.

The Continental Sorrento is a great place for a drink or a meal. Under the guidance of acclaimed chef Scott Pickett, the food offerings range from fine dining at Audrey's restaurant to the café-style menu at Atrium on Level 1 to more casual bistro food in the Beer Garden, the Front Bar and the alfresco street promenade area (which has heaters and is an ideal place to stop on a sunny day).

Where to buy a coffee on your way to a session? The Beer Garden will be open from 8am and serving coffee and muffins, croissants etc. We'll also be running the coffee cart on Level 2, as well as two mobile bars upstairs on Friday and Saturday nights.

And don't forget The InterContinental Sorrento attached to The Continental Sorrento. It's a great place to stay and offers a raft of facilities to our visiting guests.

The Sorrento Writers Festival thanks The Continental Sorrento and The Intercontinental Sorrento for their support and friendship. We treasure our partnership and look forward to a busy and happy time in April.

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Avenue Bookstore is proud to be part of the 2024 Sorrento Writers Festival. Come and visit us at The Continental Sorrento, right near The Atrium Café. In Melbourne, please visit our stores in Albert Park, Elsternwick and Richmond.

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Thank you



The Sorrento Writers Festival Committee would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to this year’s funding partners. Without your commitment and your support, there would be no festival.

We have a brilliant group of generous individuals and family donors, plus respected foundations such as The Balnaves Foundation, the Sidney Myer Fund and the Margaret Lawrence Bequest, who support the Festival’s mission. You have all given so generously and we thank you for your friendship.

Thank you also to our business and government partners Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, the Mornington Peninsula Regional Tourism Board and Visit Victoria. Our Festival is all about creating connections and authentic partnerships, and we greatly appreciate your financial support.

Please visit our Donor and Partner pages to acknowledge the immense contribution of our financial supporters. They are a wonderful team and deserve all our applause.

We also thank the many writers, academics, poets, journalists, arts practitioners and community leaders who are coming to our Festival. Without their books, newspaper articles and comment pieces, their research, their storytelling, their creative practice, their intellect and their energy, Australia would be a poorer place.

I would especially like to thank the Honourable Barry Jones, AC FAA FAHA FTSE FASSA FACE FRSA, for his friendship and mentorship. The Sorrento Writers Festival is delighted to host the annual oration named in Barry’s honour. His advocacy for education, democracy, the arts, science and the environment inspires me every day to do better.

To our tiny-but-mighty team of Laura Macdonald, Isabel Pinkster and Fiona Poletti, plus our IT partners I-Nex – and in particular Mark de Raad and Ruth Conry – the PR team at Project Hutton, sound and staging specialists Mark Bollenberg and Tim Koren and their teams, Jane McCubbin on special events and all the Friends of the Festival – my thanks for all you have done to make Fest 2024 a success.

Heartfelt thanks to our volunteers, led by the highly organised and remarkable Melinda Williams. From manning entrances and checking tickets to carting signs in their cars, sweeping out village halls and setting up chairs, our volunteer army and its sense of welcome is the secret to the festival’s success.

Thank you to The Continental Sorrento, our much-loved Festival Hub, and The InterContinental Sorrento for hosting so many of our guests. And thank you to the Pitt Family at Hotel Sorrento for supporting our cause with accommodation.

For four days each year, The Continental Sorrento Festival Hub is home to Avenue Bookstore’s pop-up shop. A big shout-out to Chris Redfern and his team for once again creating a fabulous pop-up bookshop so our audiences can browse and buy, meet their writer heroes and have their books signed.

Sorrento is very lucky to have its own independent bookstore. We say thank you to Antipodes for embracing the Festival, supporting our schools program and welcoming so many writer visitors to your beautiful shop and inviting them to your Meet The Author sessions.

Finally, on behalf of everyone who attends this year’s event, I would like to thank the Sorrento Writers Festival Committee: President Peter Inge, Treasurer Narelle Cormack, Rose Donohoe, Nicholas Martin and Mandy Rethus. Every day, our Committee has applied extraordinary collective wisdom, experience and ideas to make this Festival work. We owe them – and our sub-committee colleagues – a great debt. For me personally, it is a privilege to be in their company.

Corrie Perkin
Festival Director

Friends of the Festival

We thank our Friends of the Festival – a group of remarkable women who bring their time, support, wisdom, families, friends and contacts, and diverse talents to help our Festival grow.

Helen Blythe	Jane Hiscock	Melinda Williams
Tania Brougham	Trudy Johnson	Caroline Wilson
Dene Buxton	Julie Kantor AO	Mandy Yencken
Mary Clark	Jane Kinsman	Anita Ziemer
Chris Clough	Anna Koren	
Caroline Cornish	Georgie Lynch	
Pia Di Mattina	Jane McCubbin	
Marg Downey	Susie Nathan	
Paige Fitzroy	Sophie Patten	
Rosemary Geer	Kate Shelmerdine	
Celia Hirsh		

And thank you to our 2023 speakers who kindly waived their appearance fee (in full or in part) so our Festival can survive and thrive:

Chris Barry	Eddie McGuire AM
Eric Beecher	Allan Myers AC KC
Primrose Bright	Nicholas Reece
Fiona Brockhoff	Sally Rippin
Mary Ryllis Clark	John (Jack) Rush AO RFD KC
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Garry Disher	Jock Serong
Laureate Professor Peter Doherty AC	Lindy Shelmerdine
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Megan Hess	Marigold, Lady Southey AC
Dr Barry Jones AC	Jason Steger
Dave King	Christos Tsiolkas
Professor Marcia Langton AO	Jayne Tuttle
Chip Le Grand	Caroline Wilson
Tim L’Estrange	Sarah Winman
The Honourable Patricia Macdonald	
Ranald Macdonald AO	

Festival Team

Sorrento Writers Festival

The Sorrento Writers Festival Incorporated is a registered not-for-profit charity. The entity is run by a Committee of Management with the assistance of financial advisory firm, the Kearney Group. We are fiscally responsible, we believe in good governance, regular reporting back to stakeholders, and although we plan within our means, we dream big. And we give back to the community; the Festival will be an employer of casual staff, volunteers and interns keen to gain experience in the events-books-culture-hospitality spaces. Our goal is to become a best-practice community cultural organisation, and one that engenders pride and respect.

Business Address

Sorrento Writers Festival Incorporated's registered business address is c/o Kearney Group, Suite 137/425 Smith St, Fitzroy VIC 3065

Postal Address

Sorrento Writers Festival Incorporated
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PO Box 277
Sorrento, Victoria, 3943

Email Address

hello@sorrentowritersfestival.com.au

The Sorrento Writers Festival Team

Committee of Management

President: Peter Inge OAM

Festival Director: Corrie Perkin

Treasurer: Narelle Cormack

Rose Donohoe

Nicholas Martin

Mandy Rethus

Sub-Committees

Communications: Rose Donohoe (Chair), Will Carter, Lib Hutton, Corrie Perkin

Finance: Narelle Cormack (Chair), Peter Inge, Nicholas Martin, Corrie Perkin

Fundraising: Peter Inge (Chair), Nicholas Martin, Corrie Perkin, Fiona Poletti

Operations: Mandy Rethus (Chair), Coco Carter, Laura Macdonald, Corrie Perkin, Isabel Pinkster, Melinda Williams

Program: Corrie Perkin (Chair), Francesca Carter, Rose Donohoe, Laura Macdonald, Mandy Rethus

Operations Team

Festival Founder, Director and CEO: Corrie Perkin

Operations and Programming: Laura Macdonald

Festival Coordinator: Isabel Pinkster

Partnerships and Stakeholders: Fiona Poletti

Volunteers: Melinda Williams

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Our Donors

We are grateful to all our donors — big and small — for investing in us, and helping to grow and sustain our Festival and its programs. Your generosity will support our long-term commitment to encourage literacy and learning in our community, and spark important national conversations.

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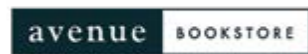
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Merchandise

What's a Writers Festival without a take-home souvenir?

Jasmin Tulk, our official Sorrento Writers Festival logo designer, and the team from Monte Store have created this brilliant Festival tote bag, plus our Festival t-shirt (S, M, L, XL).

The canvas tote bag is \$39

The crew-neck short-sleeve 100% cotton t-shirt is \$45

You will find our merch at the main box office desk at The Continental Sorrento, Level 2.



Sorrento Writers Festival

Future Leaders

Creative Writing Prize

2024

The \$5000 Sorrento Creative Writing Prize will be announced on Thursday, April 25, at the conclusion of the Barry Jones Oration, just prior to Opening Night Drinks.

The Festival thanks Future Leaders, a national philanthropic initiative that focuses on leadership and the future of Australia, for this generous prize. And congratulations to all entrants for their creativity and engagement.

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