

WOLLONGONG
WRITERS
FESTIVAL



CAN
WORDS
CHANGE
THE
WORLD?

FRI 24
—SUN 26
NOV 2⁰17

**where the
stories are*

FESTIVAL PROGRAM

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW

Visit www.wollongongwritersfestival.com

Please try to book tickets in advance, even for free events. Full-day tickets for the main festival weekend are available at a discounted price.

TICKET CONCESSIONS

Wollongong Writers Festival reserves

a number of tickets for financially

disadvantaged people.

Please contact our program manager in advance if you are unable to attend an event due to financial constraints:
program@wollongongwritersfestival.com

WE HAVE A KIDS PROGRAM!

Check our website for more details.

www.wollongongwritersfestival.com



NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

We spark conversation, showcase writers, embrace audiences. We are a festival by and for Wollongong, and the world.

2017 is my first year heading up Wollongong Writers Festival, and I am immensely proud, not only of everything the organisation has achieved to date, but because this year's program represents what we do best.

Our 2017 theme is 'Can Words Change the World?'

The focus of this program is the social change that writers can effect, and is also a nod to the power of narrative to change lives and spark revolution. It gets to the heart of today's issues, among them politics, women's experiences in public and online spaces, institutional corruption and abuse, living as a political act and the power of the stories we tell ourselves. You'll leave invigorated, potentially outraged, and with a bag full of books.

HAYLEY SCRIVENOR

Director, Wollongong Writers Festival

AUGUST

PROGRAM LAUNCH

**Merlinda Bobis, Caroline Baum
& MC Adam Norris**

FRIDAY 18 AUGUST // 7PM // FREE

WOLLONGONG ART GALLERY 46 BURELLI ST, WOLLONGONG

Merlinda Bobis, winner of the 2016 Christina Stead Prize for Fiction, New South Wales Premier's Literary Award for *Locust Girl: a Lovesong*, is in conversation with **Caroline Baum**, renowned journalist, to launch the 2017 program and party.

SEPTEMBER

OH GOD GET OUT GET OUT IN CONVERSATION

Bill Moran & Lorin Elizabeth

FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER // 6.30PM FOR 7PM // \$10

JANE'S 40 FLINDERS ST, WOLLONGONG

Bill Moran talks to Lorin Elizabeth from Enough Said Poetry Slam about life, touring the world and his debut book of poetry *Oh God Get Out Get Out*. It is a collection of poems that walk through the haunted house of trauma and illness and loss, organise it, and return us to a world that is once again habitable.

SEPTEMBER

WE CAN WORK IT OUT COLLABORATION WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER // 1—4PM // FREE

**CLIFTON SCHOOL OF ARTS
338 LAWRENCE HARGRAVE DR, CLIFTON**

**PRESENTED BY HAYLEY SCRIVENOR AND
WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL CULTURAL SERVICES**

Interested in collaborating? Whether you've got a pre-existing project, or you'd like to meet a range of artists interested in interdisciplinary collaboration, come along to this free workshop for writers and artists of all stripes, part of Wollongong City Council's Creative Dialogues workshop series.

WRITING AND LIVING AS A POLITICAL ACT

**Winnie Dunn with Clementine Ford
& Ellen van Neerven**

TUESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER // 6—7.30PM // \$25

WOLLONGONG ART GALLERY 46 BURELLI ST, WOLLONGONG

Clementine Ford and Ellen van Neerven speak with Winnie Dunn about their writing, advocacy and experiences, and discuss the ways in which living their lives can be a political act.

OCTOBER

ZINE THERE, DONE THAT

ZINE FAIR

SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER // 10AM—3PM // \$2 ENTRY

THIRROUL INSTITUTE RAILWAY HALL
14 RAILWAY PARADE, THIRROUL

Presented by Molly Lasker, *Zine There, Done That* aims to reignite Wollongong's interest in DIY publishing and the zine. Thirroul Railway Hall will be packed with zine-sters from the Illawarra and beyond. Come down, buy a zine or two.

HEADSPACE ZINE: IN THEIR OWN WORLDS

LAUNCH

Clementina Velasco & Joel Burrows

TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER // 5—6.30PM // FREE

JANE'S 40 FLINDERS ST, WOLLONGONG

Young people have been working hard at **Headspace Wollongong** for six weeks writing and producing prose and poetry for their zine. If you love zines, poetry or want to support the creativity of young people come and listen to them read their work.

NOVEMBER

ONLY: A SINGULAR MEMOIR

IN CONVERSATION

Caroline Baum & Charlotte Wood

SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER // 3—4.30PM // \$20

THIRROUL COMMUNITY CENTRE
352/358 LAWRENCE HARGRAVE DR, THIRROUL

Helen Garner calls *Only: a singular memoir* 'a rich and rollicking tale that deepens into the tenderest of daughterly tributes'. **Charlotte Wood** and **Caroline Baum** discuss Caroline's book, a fascinating and moving memoir about being an only child in a very unusual family. Not to be missed.

WOLLONGONG COMEDY

Cameron James & Supports

SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER // 8PM FOR 8.30PM
PRESALE \$15/\$20 DOOR

THE BUILDERS BASEMENT BAR 61 CHURCH ST, WOLLONGONG

Cameron James is an up-and-coming standup comedian of decent acclaim (ABC, Triple J, RAW Comedy Runner Up) and a failed musician (several bands).



"Funny, clever, packed full of punchlines, and delivered with relaxed confidence. If you're a fan of funny, well told stories (or even Austin Powers), you'd do no better than this show!" ~ THE MUSIC

WWW.WOLLONGONGCOMEDY.COM.AU
FACEBOOK.COM/WOLLONGONGCOMEDY

NOVEMBER

WRITING THE FUNNY STUFF

WORKSHOP Stu Macpherson

WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER // 6.30PM—9PM
\$25/\$20 CONC

JANE'S 40 FLINDERS ST, WOLLONGONG

Local comedy legend **Stu Macpherson** is at it again. This interactive workshop will cover how to write a punchline, examine what words are funnier than others and ask if it's worth keeping the language simple. By the end of the workshop, the group will have written a 5-minute stand up set.

WWW.WOLLONGONGCOMEDY.COM.AU
FACEBOOK.COM/WOLLONGONGCOMEDY

ENOUGH SAID PRESENTS: YOU'VE CHANGED

PERFORMANCE POETRY

Candy Royalle, Enough Said SlamMasters
& more

THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER // 6.30PM FOR 7PM // \$10

JANE'S 40 FLINDERS ST, WOLLONGONG

Three acclaimed spoken word poets perform new work about words that have changed their world in a showcase extraordinaire from the folks at **Enough Said Poetry Slam**.

Headlining the show is one of Australia's most prominent performing writers, **Candy Royalle**. She is a multi-award winning storyteller, activist, educator, singer and vulnerability advocate.

FESTIVAL WEEKEND: FRIDAY

WOLLONGONG WRITERS FESTIVAL LAUNCH

Can Words Change the World?

FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER // 7PM—8.30PM // FREE

WOLLONGONG ART GALLERY 46 BURELLI ST, WOLLONGONG

Join us as the main festival weekend is launched by Wollongong's Lord Mayor, **Gordon Bradbery**. There'll be a cabaret performance and art auction featuring **Liberte La Femme**, the announcement of the **2017 Short Story prize** and poetry from the Cocoon Floatation float tank poet, **Bella Luna**.

Please come along and enjoy the company, food and wine—we'd love to see you at this free event.

FESTIVAL WEEKEND: SATURDAY

A HUNDRED SMALL LESSONS IN CONVERSATION & BOOK LAUNCH Ashley Hay & Caroline Baum

SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER // 12.30PM—2PM // \$15

WOLLONGONG ART GALLERY 46 BURELLI ST, WOLLONGONG

Caroline Baum talks to Ashley Hay about her newly-released lyrical novel *A Hundred Small Lessons*. Luminous and deeply affecting, this book is about the many small decisions—the invisible moments—that come to make the lives of two mothers from different generations converge in one hot, wet summer.

HOLDING THE SPACE: PUBLIC WOMEN

PANEL Winnie Dunn with Shakira Hussein, Lynnette Lounsbury, Tracey Spicer & Fiona Wright

SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER // 2.15PM—3.30PM // \$20

WOLLONGONG ART GALLERY 46 BURELLI ST, WOLLONGONG

Women writers speak to the pressure of being female in public life. The discussion will range over women negotiating the hazards of the post-9/11 terrain, the lack of female representation, body image and illness, and workplace harassment.

This panel's unique perspective on feminism, multiculturalism, race and religion is one that we urgently need.

OUTSIDE IN

PANEL Alice Grundy with George Haddad, Jane Jervis-Read & Marlee Jane Ward

SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER // 3.30PM—5PM // \$15

JANE'S 40 FLINDERS ST, WOLLONGONG

Some of the greatest works in the English language are novellas. This event celebrates 'short' novels and ask three authors how it feels to go from writing on the fringe to being adopted by the mainstream.

Alice Grundy from *Seizure* talks to novella authors about their award-winning work on sexuality, race and disability.

MEDITERRANEAN: A YEAR AROUND A CHARMED AND TROUBLED SEA

TALK Huw Kingston

SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER // 5PM—6.30PM // \$10

JANE'S 40 FLINDERS ST, WOLLONGONG

In 2015 Huw Kingston returned from his grandest adventure to date. Beginning from and returning to Gallipoli, Huw sea kayaked, walked, cycled and rowed a boat 14,000 kilometres through 17 countries. Huw sought to highlight the heart-wrenching plight of children in Syria.

Come along and listen to his fascinating adventures.

FESTIVAL WEEKEND: SATURDAY

WALKING THE WORLD WITH TIM COPE

IN CONVERSATION Nik Ozoliņš

SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER // 7PM—8PM // \$10

JANE'S 40 FLINDERS ST, WOLLONGONG

Tim Cope is an Australian adventurer, author, filmmaker, trekking guide, and public speaker, and is famous for his epic adventures. He cycled from Moscow to Beijing when he was just 20, encountering everything from frostbite to being arrested in China, to pushing his bike across 10,000km of desert.

Come along and listen to Tim talk to **Nikolajs Ozoliņš** about his adventures and his books.

WOLLONGONG COMEDY

Dave Eastgate & Supports

SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER // 8PM FOR 8.30PM
PRESALE \$15 / \$20 DOOR

THE BUILDERS BASEMENT BAR 61 CHURCH ST WOLLONGONG

Australia's hottest musical comedy genius, **Dave Eastgate**, takes you on this hilarious, high energy musical safari.



"...a genius to his timing—a talent not to be underestimated."

~ THREE WEEKS UK

WWW.WOLLONGONGCOMEDY.COM.AU
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FESTIVAL WEEKEND: SUNDAY

SEXY WORDS: AUSTRALIAN ROMANCE WRITING

PANEL Diane Cassar with
Alyssa Montgomery, Kasey Millstead,
Pamela Cook & JL Perry

SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER // 12.15PM—1.30PM // \$10

WOLLONGONG ART GALLERY 46 BURELLI ST, WOLLONGONG

Love Romance? Get to know four writers of Romance books you'll want on your TBR list. They're all talented women who explore different parts of Australian culture with characters that sizzle like an Aussie summer's day.

A HISTORY OF ABORIGINAL ILLAWARRA BEFORE COLONISATION

IN CONVERSATION
Les Bursill OAM & Mike Donaldson

SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER // 1PM—2PM // \$10

JANE'S 40 FLINDERS ST, WOLLONGONG

Les Bursill OAM is an author, archaeologist and Elder in Residence at UOW's Nowra Campus.

At this event, he talks with **Mike Donaldson**, co-author of *A History of Aboriginal Illawarra before Colonisation* about Les's stewardship of more than 800 Aboriginal archaeological sites north of Wollongong.

The book is based on the stories from Aboriginal Elders, works already published and investigations of archaeological sites.

FESTIVAL WEEKEND: SUNDAY

CREATIVE DIALOGUES WITH THE SOUTH COAST WRITERS CENTRE

IN CONVERSATION

Women in Prison: Then and Now

SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER // 1PM—2PM // \$10

WOLLONGONG ART GALLERY 46 BURELLI ST, WOLLONGONG

Join Rike Krishnabhakdi-Vasilakis, the director of South Coast Writers Centre, for a conversation with UOW researchers, Professor Louella McCarthy and Dr Jane Carey.

The conversation will explore McCarthy and Carey's latest research on female colonial convicts and the intersection of girls' and women's reformatories and prisons.

ROCKET READINGS WITH SOUTH COAST WRITERS CENTRE

Michelle Cahill & Caitlin Maling

SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER // 1.45PM—3.30PM // \$10

WOLLONGONG ART GALLERY 46 BURELLI ST, WOLLONGONG

Rocket Readings is a lively poetry event. Our featured poets at this special festival edition are Michelle Cahill and Caitlin Maling.

Michelle Cahill has written on race and cultural diversity. Her most recent poetry collection is *The Herring Lass*. Caitlin Maling's first collection of poems, *Conversations I've Never Had*, was released in 2015. *Border Crossing* was published in February 2017.

The featured poets are followed by an open mic section with a three-minute limit.

LIFE, DEATH, FAITH, FRIENDSHIP IN CONVERSATION

Ailsa Piper & Tony Doherty

SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER // 2.15PM—3.30PM // \$10

JANE'S 40 FLINDERS ST, WOLLONGONG

An email written from a priest to an author saying how much he enjoyed her latest book was the catalyst for an enduring friendship. Over the years the pair have discussed everything from dinner party menus and shoes to family, faith, grief and love.

Social researcher Hugh Mackay says Ailsa Piper and Tony Doherty's book *The Attachment* is '... the chronicle of an unlikely but beautiful friendship that will inspire you to value your own friendships more highly, and to nurture them more carefully'.

READING AND WRITING IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

PANEL Lex Hirst & Penguin Random House Authors

SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER // 3.45PM—5.30PM // \$10

JANE'S 40 FLINDERS ST, WOLLONGONG

With the lines between fact and fiction becoming blurred, most of us can't decide if we want to stand up and protest or hide under a pillow until the worst of it has passed. So how does this apply to the way we read and write? Should we be reading to escape reality, or to arm ourselves with the grim reality of the world? Is it possible to do both at once?

ANNUAL
SHORT
STORY
PRIZE

WOLLONGONG
WRITERS
FESTIVAL *

1ST PRIZE
\$1000

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For more information and to enter go to www.wollongongwritersfestival.com

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Find program updates and tickets at
www.wollongongwritersfestival.com

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