

'HIDDEN LIFE OF SUBURBS'

www.willylitfest.org.au

Literary Festival

WILLIAMSTOWN LITERARY FESTIVAL 1-3 MAY 2009

This year the Williamstown Literary Festival will take place at two venues:

Williamstown Town Hall
Supper Room, Tent One and Tent Two
104 Ferguson Street, Williamstown 3016
Melways Ref: 56 C 8

Williamstown Mechanics Institute
Theatre and Reading Room
5 Electra Street, Williamstown 3106
Melways Ref: 56 C 9



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www.willylitfest.org.au

PROGRAM

HERITAGE WALK

Hal Porter Heritage Walk

FRIDAY 2.00PM DEPARTS: HOBSONS BAY VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE – COMMONWEALTH RESERVE, NELSON PLACE, WILLIAMSTOWN.

Follow in the footsteps of one of Australia's finest writers and his formative years as a young teacher at Williamstown. Conducted by John Bedcroft, one of Williamstown's excellent tour guides, the walk covers important locations where Hal lived and worked, ending with scrumptious afternoon tea at Captains Retreat B&B in Ferguson Street, the former rooming house where Hal Porter penned portions of his famous biographical trilogy.

Cost is \$8 or \$6 with a concession card. Concessions are available for students, seniors and health care card holders. Book online at www.hobsonsbaytickets.com.au.

LITERARY SOIREE

FRIDAY 7.00PM-10.00PM
THEATRE – WILLIAMSTOWN MECHANICS INSTITUTE

The winners of the *Ada Cambridge Prize for Biographical Short Story Writing* and the *Seagull Poetry Prize* will be announced. The anthologies of short-listed and winning stories and poems will be sold and attendees can chat to the writers over drinks and nibbles.

Gold Coin Donation (except for Weekend Pass Holders)

Bookings essential: Phone 9932 4170 or drop into any branch of the Hobsons Bay Libraries.

THEATRE – Williamstown Mechanics Institute

A different perspective of suburbs – Andrew Rule

SATURDAY 10.30AM – 11.30AM

Andrew has broken or covered some of the most notorious stories in the suburbs. Since his first book, the crime classic *Cuckoo*, he has written and edited a series of best-selling true crime books. He is well placed to talk about the hidden life of suburbs, as well as the highlights and lowlights of a career spent reporting on the dark side.

The life examined: Doing it in Brunswick – Marcia Langton

SATURDAY 11.45AM – 12.45PM

A heart-warming and resonant exploration of black/white race relations in the suburbs.

Procrastination and creativity – Catherine Deveny

SATURDAY 1.30PM – 2.30PM

How do you get from inspiration to finished manuscript and keep your sense of humour? Well-known and controversial journalist Catherine will take you through the process.

Scavenger hunt – Kerry Greenwood

SATURDAY 2.45PM – 3.45PM

Kerry will discuss the importance of research to her work.

Sense of place – Garry Disher and Nick Gadd

SATURDAY 4.00PM – 5.00PM

Garry and Nick will explore creativity, ideas, memory and place, and reveal how they create evocative backdrops for their stories.

Killer Koalas from outer space - Andy Griffiths (sponsored by Mayoral Program)

SUNDAY 10.00AM – 11.00AM

Come along and find out everything you wanted to know about Andy and Killer Koalas from outer space.

Plodding: the writer and the street - Steven Conte

SUNDAY 1.30PM – 2.30PM

Spend an hour with Steven Conte, one of the most applauded new voices in fiction. Steven will tell how

dreams came true for a struggling writer, who had washed dishes, poured beers and posed nude, when he won Australia's newest and richest literary prize – the Prime Minister's award for fiction – with his first book, *The Zookeeper's War*.

Hidden lives of families – Sophie Laguna, Lia Hills and Amra Pajalic

SUNDAY 11.45AM – 12.45PM

Sophie, Lia and Amra will discuss their work, the writing process, and the question of family as a source of inspiration.

When is too much assimilation not enough? – Dmetri Kakmi, Arunesh Choubey and Alice Pung

SUNDAY 2.45PM – 3.45PM

What motivates a writer? Is it personal tragedy, the search for meaning, the quest to define and express one's identity? Find out what motivates these inspired and inspiring writers.

You're all welcome. Come in – Denise Scott and Jane Clifton

SUNDAY 4.00PM – 5.00PM

Come along for a Laugh-out-loud session with Denise and Jane where they will discuss family in their work, their observations and experiences, the art of being a working parent and how they have held it all together to follow their career dreams.

READING ROOM – Williamstown Mechanics Institute

Can suburban life be the stuff of poetry? – Dr Tom Clark (Panel Facilitator)

Paul Mitchell, Helen Cerne, Lee Kofman

SATURDAY 11.30AM-12.30PM

The pen is mightier than the crime – Andrew Rule, Nick Gadd and Jarad Henry

SATURDAY 1.15PM – 2.15PM

Calling all crime fiends and aspiring writers! Andrew Rule, Nick Gadd and Jarad Henry discuss combing the lanes and streets of the suburbs to breath life into the crime genre.

The suburbs on the small screen – Robyn Butler and Wayne Hope

SATURDAY 2.30PM – 3.30PM

Robyn Butler and Wayne Hope produce and write the comedy series 'The Librarians'. Where do they get their ideas? Surely not their local library! Hear them talk about the latest series to be shown later in 2009.

At the edge of the city – Peter Taylor, Michele Finney and Sandy Mackinnon

SATURDAY 3.45PM – 4.45PM

Peter Taylor, Michele Finney and Sandy Mackinnon discuss the reality of non-fiction writing, publishing and reading – why are we so fascinated with the truth?

The characters you meet – Corinne Fenton

SUNDAY 11.30AM -12.30PM

Corinne Fenton will talk about the story behind the writing of her award-winning picture book *Queenie: One Elephant's Story*, the people she has met since the book was published, and how she came to write about the legend, *The Dog on the Tuckerbox*.

'Making it real': from Queen Kat to Somebody's Crying, a writer's journey – Maureen McCarthy (sponsored by Hobsons Bay Libraries)

SUNDAY 1.15PM – 2.15PM

Every life is a story worth telling.

Who is behind the door? Surprise!

SUNDAY 2.30PM – 3.30PM

The suspense is building as we wait to find out who is behind the door.



FEATURED AUTHORS

Marcia Langton

Marcia is one of Australia's leading authorities on contemporary social issues in Aboriginal affairs. Marcia has published extensively on issues including land rights and resource management. She also contributes to film and art criticism.

Andrew Rule

Andrew has an illustrious career as a journalist and has written, co-written, edited and published many books, including the *Underbelly* true crime series and the *Chopper* series, which inspired the successful feature film.

Martin Flanagan

Martin has written feature stories, weekly columns, opinion pieces, essays, profiles and colour pieces for *The Age* for more than twenty years. He has published more than nine books including *One of the Crowd*, *The Call* and *The Game in the Time of War*.

Steven Conte

Steven was born rural New South Wales. In 2008 his debut novel *The Zookeepers War* was awarded the inaugural Prime Minister's Literary Award for Fiction. *The Zookeeper's War* is a striking first novel, imbued with the melancholy of a collapsing world-Nazi Germany in the last years of the Second World War. www.stevencoate.com

Catherine Deveny

Catherine is a comedy writer, columnist and stand-up comedian. She writes weekly opinion columns and television reviews for *The Age* and her television credits include 'Rove Live', 'Good News Week', 'Full Frontal' and 'Skithouse'. In 2007 she was named as one of the 100 most influential Melbournians by *The Age (Melbourne) Magazine*.

Garry Disher

Garry is the author of more than forty titles – fiction, children's books, anthologies and textbooks – and the Wyatt thrillers and Challis & Destry police procedurals. Her has won numerous awards, including the German Crime Prize (twice) and the 2007 Ned Kelly Award for Best Crime Fiction, for *Chain of Evidence*. His latest book is *Blood Moon*, set on the Mornington Peninsula during Schoolies Week.

Nick Gadd

Nick's first novel, *Ghostlines*, won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an unpublished manuscript in 2007. Part thriller, part psychological realism, and part ghost story, *Ghostlines* was published by Scribe in 2008 and was selected as 'Read of the Week' by *The Sunday Age*.

Kerry Greenwood

Kerry has written twenty novels, a number of plays, including *The Troubadours* with Stephen D'Arcy, is an award-winning children's writer and has edited and contributed to several anthologies. In 1996 she published a book of essays on female murderers called *Things She Loves: Why Women Kill*.

Andy Griffiths

Andy is one of Australia's funniest writers for children. His books have sold over 4 million copies worldwide, have featured on the *New York Times* bestseller lists, and have won over forty Australian children's choice awards.

Jane Clifton

Jane is the genuine show-business all-rounder. Actress, singer and, more recently, published crime novelist, Jane is often asked if there is anything she can't do, to which she simply replies, 'Ballet and making money.'

Before there were books, there were stories – Jackie Kerin

SUNDAY 3.45PM – 4.45PM

During an hour of talking 'story', Jackie will cover working as a storyteller, the difference between written stories and spoken stories, and her latest project, Tellable Australian Tales.

SUPPER ROOM – Williamstown Town Hall

Sports unplugged – Gideon Haigh and John Harms

SATURDAY 11.30AM – 12.30PM

Gideon and John will discuss what they think about when they write about sport, and what they think about when they don't!

Rotunda in the West comes to the Williamstown Literary Festival – Martin Flanagan in conversation with Bruno Lettieri

SUNDAY 10.00AM – 11.00AM

Martin, journalist with *The Age*, talks about the importance of stories, Australian culture, newspapers and sports journalism, in conversation with Bruno, who teaches writing at Victoria University.

Walk the walk: Talk the talk – Kate Cole-Adams and Jacinta Halloran

SUNDAY 11.30AM – 12.30AM

First-time novelists have expectations thrust upon them, or perhaps they thrust them upon themselves. Take a walk with Kate and Jacinta as they take you through their journeys as first-time novelists.

Writers and Promotion – Claire Saxby, Corinne Fenton and Glenda Millard

SUNDAY 1.15PM – 2.15PM

It's hard work writing a book. It's hard work finding a publisher. But once the book is written and published, the rest is easy... isn't it? Three children's writers discuss some of the myths and realities of book promotion and how to walk the line between promotion and showing off.

People's Choice Awards - MC Philip Merfield (sponsored by Port of Melbourne Corporation)

PROSE: SATURDAY 2.30PM – 4.00PM

POETRY (POEMS SHOULD HAVE A NAUTICAL THEME):

SUNDAY 2.30PM – 4.00PM

The People's Choice Awards are amongst our most popular sessions each year. Writers can read a small extract from their own work and the audiences judge the winners. Join a fabulous line-up of writers as they share the magic of their written words. Poets, novelists, short-story writers, song writers – anyone who loves to write – are invited to read. Others are invited to listen and then nominate the reader whose work they have most enjoyed. The winners of The People's Choice Awards will be the readers who get the most votes at each session.

Note: There is a limit of 4 minutes per reading, and spaces are allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis. If you wish to participate, SIGN UP at www.willylitfest.org.au. Please specify if you want to read prose or poetry.

TENT ONE – Williamstown Town Hall

Writing workshop – Sarah Brenan and Tess Moloney Working with an editor (sponsored by the Society of Editors (Victoria) Inc.)

SATURDAY 10.00AM – 11.15AM

Children's and teenage fiction editor Sarah and educational editor Tess discuss the editing process. Why is the editor so vital to a book's success? Can an editor help you get published?

Please bring writing materials.

Writing workshop – Garry Disher Does your idea have legs? How to find, assess and develop ideas for stories

SATURDAY 11.30AM – 12.30PM

Unlock your creative potential and dramatically improve the quality of your writing. Garry will explore how to develop an idea and turn it into a novel or story. *Please bring writing materials.*

Poetry workshop - Tara Mokhtari Writing poetry about the everyday

SATURDAY 1.30PM – 3.30PM

Poetry is in motion everywhere. Poets are photographers with words, capturing pieces of poetry in the everyday, observe vigilantly what goes on around us, eavesdropping on rush-hour train arguments, watching the world walk by from laneway cafes... This poetry workshop is dedicated to writing the poignant moments of the everyday, and communicating our unique visions of the suburbs and the universe!

Please bring writing materials.

Writing workshop –John Bartlett Writing short stories: trusting the unexpected

Saturday 3.45pm – 5.30pm

This two-hour workshop, for aspiring writers and those with little experience, is an opportunity to use a series of activities and exercises to awaken the subconscious 'writer' and reveal unexpected fragments of writing before shaping them into more polished work for possible publication. *Bring writing materials and an open and lively imagination.*

Writing Workshop – Lucia Nardo Picture this!

SUNDAY 10.30AM – 12.30PM

Using magazine images, Lucia will guide you through a select, cut, and paste process to produce a focussed writing plan in visual form. You'll see how your compiled pictures are worth a thousand words. Fun, freaky, fabulous! *Please bring writing materials.*

TENT TWO – Williamstown Town Hall

Illustration workshop for children – Leigh Hobbs (sponsored by Hobsons Bay Libraries)

SESSION ONE – CHILDREN AGED TEN TO TWELVE YEARS

SATURDAY 10.00AM – 11.00AM

SESSION TWO – CHILDREN AGED FIVE TO NINE YEARS

SATURDAY 11.30AM – 12.30AM

Sharpen your pencil and imagination when you join this popular children's book author and illustrator for an illustration workshop. Most famous for his picture book *Old Tom*, Leigh will let you into the secrets of drawing Old Tom and then guide you in creating an original character of your own!

Bookmaking workshop for children – Juliette Kent (sponsored by Hobsons Bay Libraries)

There's a hole in my suburb

SATURDAY 1.30PM – 3.30PM

Have you ever wanted to make your own book and create your own story? 'There's a hole in my...' opens up a world of creative, imaginative possibilities. Local illustrator/artist Juliette will present a creative bookmaking workshop for children aged five to 12 years. She has a wealth of experience as an illustrator of children's books, including an exhibition of her work in London.

Writing workshop – Sofie Laguna Creating compelling characters

SUNDAY 1.00PM – 2.00PM

Character development is a craft that all writers must master to become better storytellers. Sofie will focus on all aspects of character development as she discusses how to create and develop memorable protagonists, antagonists, minor characters, sidekicks, and even engaging archetypes! *Please bring writing materials.*

CONTINUED OVERLEAF >>>



FEATURED AUTHORS

Gideon Haigh

Gideon has been a journalist for twenty-five years. He has written twenty-one and edited six books. He writes mainly for *The Monthly*, *The Guardian* and *Cricinfo*.

John Harms

John has written books about football, cricket, horse-racing and rugby league and is a contributor to *The Age*. His books include *Confessions of a Thirteenth Man*, *Memoirs of a Mug Punter*, *Loose Men Everywhere* and *The Pearl: Steve Renouf's Story*. His most recent book *The Footy Almanac 2007* is a game-by-game account of the 2007 AFL season.

Leigh Hobbs

Leigh is an author and artist perhaps best known for the children's books he has written featuring his characters, Old Tom, Fiona the Pig, Horrible Harriet, The FREAKS in 4F and Mr Chicken - who is soon to feature in the book *Mr Chicken Goes to Paris*.

Sophie Laguna

Sophie has worked across the mediums of radio, television and film. With the Flying Bookworm theatre company, Sophie really connected with children, which led to her pursuing children's book writing. Recently, Sophie has branched out into adult fiction with her debut novel *One Foot Wrong*.

'The Librarians' – Robyn Butler and Wayne Hope are 'The Librarians'

Both have produced, written and starred in many local productions, including 'The Micallef Show', 'Small Business' and 'Stupid Stupid Man'.

Alice Pung

Despite working as a solicitor, Alice devotes a lot of her time to working with primary and secondary school students, as both mentor and instructor. She is passionate about youth issues, and believes in the power of humour. Her novel *Unpolished Gem* has received almost universal acclaim.

Maureen McCarthy

Maureen became a full-time writer after a career in teaching. Her novels have been shortlisted for numerous awards and include the *In Between* series, which was adapted from scripts. Her bestselling and much-loved book *Queen Kat, Carmel and St Jude get a life* was made into a highly successful four-part mini-series for ABC TV.

Denise Scott

Denise is a well-loved Melbourne-based stand-up comedian, actor and radio and TV personality who has been making people laugh for years with her blend of personal stories and topical observations. She has appeared regularly on TV shows such as 'Full Frontal', 'The Today Show', 'The Big Gig' and 'Spicks and Speck's (ABC).

AUTHORS

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| John Bartlett | Sarah Brenan |
| Helen Cerne | Arunesh Choubey |
| Tom Clark - BA, PhD | Kate Cole-Adam |
| Corinne Fenton | Michele Finey |
| Robin Grove | Jacinta Halloran |
| Jarad Henry | Lia Hills |
| Juliette Kent | Jackie Kerin |
| Lee Kofman | Sandy Mackinnon |
| Glenda Millard | Tara Mokhtari |
| Tess Moloney | Lucia Nardo |
| Amra Pajalic | Claire Saxby |
| Peter Taylor | |

TENT TWO – Williamstown Town Hall

**Workshop – Robin Grove
The Hidden life of language**

SUNDAY 2.15PM – 3.15PM

'The hidden Life of Language' looks at ways in which language always says more than we mean, carries unexpected histories inside its simplest words, conceals as often as it reveals, and is arguably the most powerful of all human inventions. The session will also help you to get the most out of novels, paint in oils, and talk dirty. PS. probably water-colours, rather than oils.

**Book Group - The Slap by Christos Tsiolkas –
Discussion led by Warren Whitney**

SUNDAY 1.00PM – 2.00PM

At a suburban barbecue, a man slaps a child who is not his own. This event has a shocking ricochet effect on a group of people, mostly friends, who are directly or indirectly influenced by the event. In this 'startling' novel, Christos Tsiolkas turns his unflinching and all-seeing eye onto that which connects us all: the modern family and domestic life in the twenty-first century. The Slap is told from the points of view of eight people who were present at the barbecue. The slap and its consequences force them all to question their own families and the way they live, their expectations, beliefs and desires.

**Book Group – Ghostlines by Nick Gadd –
Discussion led by Vin Maskell**

SUNDAY 2.15PM – 3.15PM

Ghostlines, a crime novel by Yarraville resident Nick Gadd, opens with a train accident at the notorious Yarraville train station level crossing and follows suburban journalist Philip Trudeau on an investigation that involves the Melbourne art world. Both Yarraville and Footscray feature heavily throughout the book. Nick Gadd shows Yarraville in both the present day and in the 1950s, when the suburb was a known industrial area.

PARKING

Parking is available at the rear of the Williamstown Town Hall and on street near the Mechanics Institute. Please note all parking restrictions. *Disability access to all venues*

CAR OR TAXI

Williamstown is a 10 minute drive from the city over the West Gate Bridge.

TRAINS

Take the train to North Williamstown Station, a short walk down Ferguson Street will take you to the Williamstown Town Hall.

Take the train to Williamstown Beach Station, a short walk down Pasco Street will take you to the Williamstown Mechanics Institute.

BUSES

MELBOURNE BUS LINK - ROUTE 223
Yarraville station/Williamstown - Highpoint

SITA COACHES - ROUTE 472
Williamstown - Moonee Ponds

SITA COACHES - ROUTE 471
Williamstown - Sunshine

FERRIES

ST KILDA-WILLIAMSTOWN
On weekends from St Kilda Pier to Gem Pier, Williamstown

BICYCLE

The bike path is a shared walk/ride. An easy 8km from St Kilda to West Gate Park. Cross the Yarra River on the punt (weather permitting) & follow the foreshore 5km south to Williamstown. PUNT HOURS: WEEKENDS 10AM - 5PM

TICKETS

DAY PASS

Full Fee: \$17 incl. processing fee

Concession: \$12 incl. processing fee

Youth (13-18): \$7 incl. processing fee

Child (3-12): \$5 incl. processing fee

WEEKEND PASS

Full Fee: \$27 incl. processing fee

Concession: \$20 incl. processing fee

Youth (13-18): \$9 incl. processing fee

Child (3-12): \$7 incl. processing fee

Day and Weekend Passes available for purchase from the Williamstown Library, 104 Ferguson Street, Williamstown, or book online www.willylitfest.org.au

WORKSHOP & SOIREE BOOKING

A pass must be purchased to reserve a seat in a workshop. Workshop tickets can be reserved by calling 9932 4170 or at any branch of the Hobsons Bay Libraries. Workshop seating is limited so please reserve your seat early.

All bookings are final and no refunds or exchanges will be given.

BOOKSTORE

The Williamstown Literary Festival will feature a comprehensive bookstore.

All available titles by all participating authors will be available to purchase at the bookstore and participants will make themselves available at the bookstore to sign copies of their work after each of their session.

VOLUNTEER ENQUIRIES

To volunteer at the Festival please go to www.willylitfest.org.au or leave a message for our volunteer coordinator Liz Whitfield on 03 9397 6787

MEDIA & PUBLICITY ENQUIRIES

For media and publicity enquiries please contact Melissa Wallace 0437 362 089

Williamstown Literary Festival
1 – 3 May 2009

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

For general enquiries please contact Angela Altair on 0409 121 028

Hobsons Bay Libraries on 9932 4170

Visit: www.willylitfest.org.au

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