

# FESTIVAL PROGRAM

willy lit fest



## SATURDAY 17 JUNE

10.00am – 11.00am

### Laughing Yoga

Start your festival with a smile. Join positivity expert **Ros Ben-Moshe** (*The Laughter Effect*) for a guided laughing yoga class and learn the fascinating science of why laughter really is the best medicine.

The Supper Room

**Full \$22 Conc \$20 Early \$15**

### A Country of Eternal Light

Grief is complicated. **Paul Dalgarno** (*A Country of Eternal Light*) speaks to **Angela Savage** about remaining wanted by our loved ones, dead or alive, and reckoning with our pasts.

The Chamber

**Full \$22 Conc \$20 Early \$15**

### Book Launch:

#### *Beyond Lawson*

Join **Leigh Hay**, **Mick Coventry**, **Margaret Ryan** and **James Thomas** to celebrate the centenary of The Henry Lawson Memorial & Literary Society Inc. by launching *Beyond Lawson*, a collection of contemporary poems inspired by the works of Henry Lawson.

Meeting Room One

**Free event, bookings required**

### Could ChatGPT write a novel?

AI language models like ChatGPT can generate text based on prompts. Its ability to write a coherent and emotionally engaging novel is...

We ask **Rhett Davis**, **Declan Fry** and **ChatGPT** whether AI could write a novel.

Meeting Room Two

**Full \$22 Conc \$20 Early \$15**

10.00am – 12.00pm

### Dream Writing Workshop

Learn how to extrapolate meaning from your subconscious with poet **Manisha Anjali** (*Neptune*). Turn dreams, visions and hallucinations into prose.

Committee Room

**Full \$30 Conc \$28 Early \$25**

11.00am – 11.30am

### Ukulele Dolls

A group of music-loving women with an innovative combination of ukuleles, washboard and vocal harmonies.

The Hub

11.30am – 12.30pm

### Writing against 'the Cult of Forgetfulness'

Australia's colonial history is an act of violence against First Nations People. In order to move with care and hope into a shared future, how do we write through the 'cult of forgetfulness'? Join **Jock Serong** (*The Settlement*) and **Declan Fry** as they tackle the 'not my problem' mindset.

The Supper Room

**Full \$22 Conc \$20 Early \$15**

### It's Just a Question of Smiling More

**Toni Jordan** (*Prettier if She Smiled More*) and RN's **Jacinta Parsons** (*Question of Age*) unpack the patriarchy with hilarity and cutting observations, focussing on the slip in time when women of 'a certain age' begin to seem invisible.

The Chamber

**Full \$22 Conc \$20 Early \$15**

### Not Quite Murder in Williamstown

**Elizabeth Coleman** (*A Routine Infidelity*) and **Katherine Kovacic** (*Seven Sisters*) discuss madcap murders, Phryne Fisher and psychological thrillers – with a particular lens on the criminal side of Williamstown. **Moderated by Emily Spurr**

Meeting Room Two

**Full \$22 Conc \$20 Early \$15**

12.45pm – 1.15pm

### Lines at Lunchtime

Hear from two judges of our Ada Cambridge Poetry Prize, **Andy Jackson** (*Human Looking*) and **Gayelene Carbis** (*I Have Decided to Remain Vertical*) read from their recent collections in this free lunchtime event.

The Hub

**Free event, no bookings required**

1.30pm – 2.30pm

### Psychogeography of Williamstown

Over two years, **Nick Gadd** and his wife Lynne circled the city of Melbourne on foot, starting in Williamstown and ending in Port Melbourne. Their walk was a meditation on lost histories embedded in place, in old buildings, derelict factories, scraps of graffiti. Join Nick for a recreation of his early walk and grasp an ephemeral Hobsons Bay.

Meet at the Book Room outside the Williamstown Library

**Full \$22 Conc \$20 Early \$15**

### Witchcraft in the 21st Century

Historically, witches have sat outcast by patriarchal society, but novels about witches are on the rise. Join **Eliza Henry-Jones** (*Salt and Skin*) and practising witch **Rijn Collins** (*Fed to Red Birds*) for a discussion on the role of witchcraft in the 21st century.

**Moderated by Rochelle Siemienowicz** (*Fallen*)

The Supper Room

**Full \$22 Conc \$20 Early \$15**

### Who Writes a Recipe?

Three independent food writers, publishers and chefs: **Rushani Epa** (*Coloumary*), **Sasha Gattermayr** (*Tart*) and **Ella Mittas** (*Ela Ela*) discuss food writing in an era where recipes can be found online; their food is more family and feeling. **Moderated by Jess Ho**

The Chamber

**Full \$22 Conc \$20 Early \$15**

### Welcoming Native Bees into your Garden

Join **Emma Cutting** (*The Pollinator Handbook*) for a fun and practical introduction to native bees, welcoming them to your green patch and street gardening. Learn about planting for biodiversity as active citizenship. A friendly session for both adults and children.

Meeting Room Two

**Full \$22 Conc \$20 Early \$15**

### Write Now and Out Loud: 88 Ways to Find Your Voice and Finish Your Book

Someone is waiting for the gift only your book can give. Join local award-winning author **Louise Karch**, M.Ed. and special guests **Leanne Gordon** and **Daniel Burns** for a *Write Now and Out Loud* power session. Come write, laugh, and fuel your inner author with wisdom and chocolate. (Bring your laptop or journal).

Committee Room (90 mins)

**Full \$30 Conc \$28 Early \$25**

3.00pm – 4.00pm

### Enclave and Blak Futurisms

What dystopia occurs when we ignore our shared humanity? **Claire G. Coleman**, master of speculative fiction, explores a future of surveillance, disruption and segregation that echoes the horrors of our colonial past. **Claire G. Coleman** in conversation with **Hella Ibrahim** (*Unlimited Futures*) discuss speculative-fiction as an act of decolonisation and a re-imagining of so-called Australia.

The Supper Room

**Full \$22 Conc \$20 Early \$15**

### First Time Podcast talks Sad Girl Novels

First Time Podcast tackles the trials and triumphs of publishing. In a live episode recording, **Katherine Collette** talks to **Pip Finkemeyer** about *Sad Girl Novel(s)* and finding the perfect balance of delusion and ambition needed to write a novel.

The Chamber

**Full \$22 Conc \$20 Early \$15**

### Homemade Apothecary

Learn to ferment for good with **Sharon Flynn** (*Wild Drinks*). In this seminar learn to infuse, brew and ferment delicious and nutritious things to drink, from mead to kombucha.

Meeting Room Two

**Full \$22 Conc \$20 Early \$15**

### Festival Book Club

Join our special festival book club discussion of *Murder in Williamstown* by Kerry Greenwood. Have a cup of tea, a scone and join our host for a book chat.

The Hub

**Free event, bookings required**

4.30pm – 5.30pm

### Book Launch:

#### *Dot Circle and Frame*

*Dot Circle and Frame* by John Kean reveals the origins of Australia's most internationally significant art form. Return to Papunya (a remote Aboriginal community in Central Australia) with **John Kean** and **Gaye Sculthorpe** in 1971 and meet the exceptional cohort of 'painting men': Kaapa Tjampitjinpa, Tim Leura, Clifford Possum and Johnny Warangula.

The Supper Room

**Free event, bookings required**

### Book Launch:

#### *Artful Women*

Come and meet Artful Women, a work of poetry that explores the art and lives of women artists and writers ignored by history. **Helen Cerne** will read from this personal and political collection. Launched by **Enza Gandolfo** (*The Bridge*).

The Gallery, Williamstown Library

**Free event, bookings required**

### It's Never 'Just' a Love Story

'Women's fiction' is a derogatory term used to dismiss romance as an airport read, full of feelings not facts – but a little bit of love should never undermine the story. Join local legend and historical fiction writer **Alison Stuart**, **Genevieve Novak** (*Crushing*) and **Nicola Marsh** – a New York Times bestseller – to discuss loving romance.

The Chamber

**Full \$22 Conc \$20 Early \$15**

### Cautionary Tales for Excitable Girls

**Anne Casey-Hardy** discusses the terrifying thrills of innocence, from a place of experience.

In conversation with **Angela Savage**

Meeting Room Two

**Full \$22 Conc \$20 Early \$15**

5.45pm – 6.45pm

### The Adas Award Ceremony

Join us for the announcement of the winners of the Ada Cambridge Poetry, Biographical Prose and Young Adas Prizes, and the Jennifer Burbidge Short Story Award. Winners will read excerpts from their pieces.

The Hub

**Free event, bookings required**