

SCONE
LITERARY
FESTIVAL



Program

MARCH

13-15

2020

Notes

Welcome to the Upper Hunter



Over many years, volunteers have vigorously raised funds and very generously contributed their time to build this important festival. I commend the Scone Literary Festival committee on their enterprise, development and growth; in no small part thanks to their patron Phillip Adams. The growth is also attributable to the attractiveness of the Upper Hunter as a location where they have unmasked incredible cerebral celebrities.

The festival brings a fantastic culture to our community and in these particularly tough times brought about by drought, it is a welcome relief to have community events such as this festival to encourage and support entertainment and mental well-being.

In 2019, Upper Hunter Shire Council was approached to lend support to the festival and we unanimously and enthusiastically did so.

As a destination we offer fresh air, wide open spaces, heritage architecture and – even in drought – magnificent countryside that has inspired making noteworthy writers.

Come along in March 2020, bring an open mind and maybe a pen and journal to start your own story.

Wayne Bedggood

Mayor

President's Welcome



In March 2019, the SLF committee and some of its founding 'parents' got together to do some good old fashioned planning, starting with 'why do we exist, what's our purpose?' It became very clear very quickly that our purpose was to promote the "love of words" in all its literary forms, and that we would do that in ways that stimulated great conversation and debate. And while we have ambitious plans for our future, we made a promise to keep our intimacy and informality; to quote David Marr, a guest at the 2018 Festival: "So rare these days: a literary festival both ambitious and intimate."

We also see ourselves playing a major role in the revitalisation of Scone post by-pass. As Scone grows, we will grow too. The Upper Hunter Shire Council rewarded our growth plans with a significant investment for which we are most grateful. With that 'seed' funding has come a revamp with a new logo, a new website and a new program with two annual events – The Patrick White Oration in November and the three-day Festival in March.

We are thrilled to present our 2020 Program which we hope you will not only enjoy but find rewarding, stimulating and fun. Book early as we do have limited seating – at least for 2020. There are single ticket sessions, day passes, a full weekend pass – the best value – as well as our fundraiser, The Bush Poets' Breakfast, back by popular demand.

The Scone Literary Festival thrives on hard work, enthusiasm and a great deal of faith. We enjoy wonderful support in our community and I want to acknowledge our partners and supporters, without whom this Festival, now in its sixth year, could not thrive. Thank you to my fabulous committee for all your hard work and support.

I look forward to seeing you at the March Festival. We very much appreciate your support. To the Love of Words.

Janie Jordan

President of the Scone Literary Festival



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



For the love of words



FRIDAY

March 13



WORKSHOP



SINGLE TICKET EVENT



FUNDRAISER



ENTERTAINMENT

10.30am - 11.30am

SESSION 1: YOUNG READERS PROGRAM

Venue: **Scone Library**

Sophie Masson, AM, award winning children's author with illustrator, **Kathy Creamer**.
Hosted by: **Paula Stevenson**

10.30am - 12.30pm

SESSION 2: YOUNG READERS PROGRAM

Venue: **Murrurundi Library**

Samantha Tidy - join Samantha for an interactive workshop based on her celebrated book, *The Day We Built The Bridge*. Hosted by: **Peter Carlin**

10.30am - 3.00pm

Primary Writers Workshop

Venue: **Scone Grammar School**

Facilitated by UNLOAD Creative Writing Hub - open to years 5 and 6 students with a keen interest in writing from all primary schools in the shire.

High School Music Writing Workshop

Sharing the love of words through music storytelling

Venue: **Scone Grammar School**

UHSC high schoolers will have the chance to learn how to tell powerful, potentially award-winning stories through music with singer, songwriter, producer, author, playwright and Australian Idol winner, Power FM Radio Breakfast **co-host: Damien Leith**

10.00am - 11.30am

BUSH POETS SESSION AT STRATHEARN



Venue: **Strathearn Retirement Village, Gundy Road, Scone**

A first for Strathearn and the Scone Literary Festival presenting our fabulous bush poets over morning tea.

12.00pm - 2.00pm

MERRIWA LITERARY LUNCH



Venue: **CWA, 159 Bettington Street, Merriwa**
Cost: **\$35.00 per person**



SLF presents first major satellite event with Australian rural fiction writers, Nicole Alexander and Richard Anderson for a lively discussion on Crime and History in the Bush. This event is a partnership with Upper Hunter Library in association with CWA. Enjoy the fabulous hospitality and food from the CWA and have the chance to get involved.

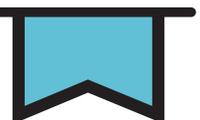
6.30pm for 7.00pm

FESTIVAL DINNER



Venue: **Kingdon Street, Scone**
Cost: **\$100.00 per person**

This is the first Festival dinner for the community; one long table outside the Scone Arts and Crafts Hall in Kingdon Street where we will share food and swap stories. Guests are invited to come dressed as their favourite book character! Prizes will be awarded! Dinner will feature local wines, and some local produce. Special guest speaker to entertain us.



SATURDAY

March 14



WORKSHOP



SINGLE TICKET EVENT



FUNDRAISER



ENTERTAINMENT

9.00am - 9.30am

WELCOME MORNING TEA & BOOK SIGNING

Venue: Scone Arts and Crafts Main Hall

9.30 am - 9.40am

OFFICIAL OPENING AND WELCOME TO COUNTRY

9.40am - 10.30am

HISTORY, POLITICS AND BIG INTERVIEWS



Cost: \$25.00 Single ticket event

Kerry O'Brien in conversation with Phillip Adams.

With support from Hunter Writers Centre

HUNTER
WRITERS
CENTRE



10.35am - 11.30am

ETHICS IN AN AGE OF DOUBT: HOW DO WE BUILD AN ETHICAL SOCIETY?

Venue: Scone Arts and Crafts Main Hall

You don't have to look far today to find ethical failures causing widespread social disruption: fake news, the growing power of tech companies, dishonest political campaigning, child sex abuse scandals and cover ups within religious institutions and the rise of alt-right agitators giving new license to racism, misogyny and hatred. What are the building blocks for social growth in a disrupted age? Do we need an ethical infrastructure to help us navigate through these difficult times? And how should individual agitators, critics and commentators engage with institutions and the public to build social cohesion and a better society?

Father Rod Bower, Kerry O'Brien, Jane Caro in conversation with Dr. Matt Beard, The Ethics Centre

11.30am - 11.40am

BREAK

11.40am - 12.30pm

WORDS AND SYMBOLS: REDEFINING GENDER

Venue: Scone Arts and Crafts Main Hall

In the wake of #MeToo, gender imbalance and how women and men are differently damaged by our stratified gender expectations, this esteemed panel is sure to crack open the conversation about gender equality.

Jane Caro, Georgie Dent, David Leser Hosted by: Nicole Abadee

12.30pm - 1.20pm

LUNCH

Including book signing and Pop-Up Poetry

After lunch audience splits into separate sessions at Court House Theatre and Arts & Crafts Hall.

SATURDAY

March 14



WORKSHOP



SINGLE TICKET EVENT



FUNDRAISER



ENTERTAINMENT

1.30pm - 2.30pm - SESSIONS

Food For Thought

Venue: [Scone Arts and Crafts Main Hall](#)

Is regenerative agriculture the future of food? Some pundits say that it is the necessary path forward to resolve many of the current problems in our food system. Who better than a food writer and chef, a scientist and a regenerative farmer to discuss this important topic?

Matthew Evans, Gillian Sanbrook, Julian Cribb Hosted by: **Barbara Sweeney**

Crime, Bushrangers, Rural Life And Crime In The Australian Bush

Venue: [Court House Theatre](#)

Australian rural crime stories are rating their socks off. Why? Is it that fascination with criminal and aberrant behaviour, our voyeur nature, the battle between good and evil?

This panel will explore the phenomenon including our fascination of Australian bushrangers.

Chris Hammer, Greg Powell, Emma Viskic, Chief Justice Greg James QC, AM Hosted by: **Jamelle Wells**

2.30 pm - 3.30pm - SESSIONS

The Misreporting And The Cancer Of Distrust: Bodies And Lies Of Science.

Venue: [Scone Arts and Crafts Main Hall](#)

Science writing: is it proving anything? Is it another form of fake news? This panel will address misinformation and the fallacy of evidence-based science.

Patrice Newell, Julian Cribb, James Whelan Hosted by: **Magdalena Ball**

The Power Of Words: Sharing Life Experiences

Venue: [Court House Theatre](#)

These wonderful authors will share the stories of their lives – from literally breaking badly to navigating fame of winning a reality TV contest.

Georgie Dent, Samantha Tidy, Alexandra Joel, Damien Leith Hosted by: **Karen Crofts**

3.30pm - 3.50pm

AFTERNOON TEA, POP-UP POETRY

3.50pm - 5.00pm

WHAT BOOKS WOULD YOU CHANGE THE ENDING AND WHY

Venue: [Scone Arts and Crafts Main Hall](#)

Richard Glover and panel of guest speakers discuss important life moments.

5.30pm - 7.30pm

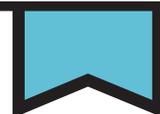
SPECIAL EVENT: SOIRÉE SPECIAL TICKET EVENT



Venue: [Arts and Crafts Gardens](#)

Cost: \$50.00 per person

Come along and enjoy a beautiful evening of food, wine and music under the stars with the fabulous Stiff Gins. We will also be revealing the winners of this year's High School Writing competition.



SUNDAY

March 15



WORKSHOP



SINGLE TICKET EVENT



FUNDRAISER



ENTERTAINMENT

7.30am - 9.00am

SPECIAL EVENT: BUSH POETS BREAKFAST



Venue: Scone Arts and Crafts Gardens

Cost: \$20.00 per person.

Join some of the Upper Hunter's best bush poets in the gardens of Scone Arts & Crafts and enjoy breakfast and a coffee before Day 2 kicks off. Money raised will go to local causes in Scone and the Surrounds.

Winners of Farmers Writing Contest will be announced.

9.15am - 10.05am

WORDS FROM WINX!



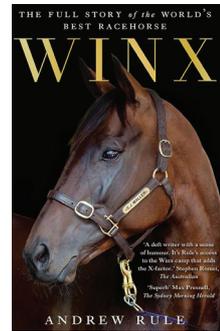
Venue: Scone Arts and Crafts Main Hall

Cost: \$25 per person

Records were broken and the hearts of a nation captured.

Winx was more than a world-beating racehorse; she gave hope and enjoyment to millions around the world. In this exclusive session, Winx's official biographer, Andrew Rule will share his thoughts and insights into the legend that is Winx.

Hosted by: Kate Mailer, Sponsored by: Yarraman Park Stud



10.10am - 11.00am

AUSSIE, AUSSIE, AUSSIE, OI, OI, OI: WHY DO WE LOVE SPORT SO MUCH?

Venue: Scone Arts and Crafts Main Hall

Australia is often seen as a sport-obsessed nation, its people besotted with watching and playing sport. This panel will discuss the central role of sport in Australian popular culture.

Gideon Haigh, Andrew Rule, Helene O'Neill, Hosted by: Dr Jess Richards

11.00am - 11.15am

BREAK

11.15am - 12.15pm

RICHARD GLOVER AND THE LAND BEFORE AVOCADOES

Venue: Scone Arts and Crafts Main Hall

Richard will present his hilarious view of Australia with a discussion on contemporary Australian life. He's bound to have a comment or two on ethics, sport and food. It will be a fun way to wrap up the formal proceedings before we head into the workshops.

12.15pm to 1.30pm

LUNCH & BOOK SIGNING POP-UP POETRY

SUNDAY

March 15



WORKSHOP



SINGLE TICKET EVENT



FUNDRAISER



ENTERTAINMENT

1.30pm - 3.30pm - WRITING WORKSHOPS

Workshop 1 – Podcasting with Writes4Women



Venue: Scone Arts and Crafts Main Hall

Cost: \$30.00 per person

Learn how to take advantage of the podcasting trend and use it to your greatest marketing and writing advantage. There are many ways the podcasting boom can be a brilliant tool for writers and this workshop is all about giving writers the inside track on how to make the most of it.

Workshop 2 – Sophie Masson AM



Venue: Hall 2

Cost: \$30.00 per person

The journey of a book: from lightbulb idea to the bookshop. Sophie will share her immense experience of writing and publishing award-winning books. She has been published internationally and authored over 60 books for children, young adults and adults.

1.30pm - 3.30pm

LAZY SUNDAY AFTERNOON 'BOOK CLUB'

Venue: Scone arts and Crafts Centre Gardens

Cost: FREE

Everyone welcome! Please come along and discuss your latest and greatest reads with fellow book lovers.



OUR GUESTS



Sophie Masson AM

Born in Indonesia of French parents, and brought up in France and Australia, Sophie is the award-winning and internationally-published author of over 60 books for children, young adults and adults. Her latest books (all 2019) include a historical novel for older readers, *War and Resistance* (Scholastic Australia), as well as three picture books, *There's a Tiger Out There* (illustrated by Ruth Waters, Little Hare); *On my Way* (illustrated by Simon Howe, Scholastic Australia) and *Join the Armidale Parade* (illustrated by Kathy Creamer, Little Pink Dog Books). A former Chair of the Australian Society of Authors and current Chair of the New England Writers' Centre, Sophie is a recent (2019) PhD graduate from the University of New England, and a founding partner and publishing director of acclaimed children's book publisher, Christmas Press.



Samantha Tidy

Samantha (Sam) is a writer of children's, young adult and adult fiction. Her most recent adult novel, *The Happiness Jar*, won the ACT Writing and Publishing Award for Fiction, among several other award nominations. Samantha's picture book, *The Day We Built the Bridge*, was published by MidnightSun in February 2019 and *Our Bush Capital*, a children's book about Canberra, is due out February 2020. Samantha has a Masters in Creative Writing, and is currently a recipient of artsACT funding, writing a children's book on a little known moment in regional NSW history – Albury's contribution to the 1934 MacRobertson Air Race. Other titles include *Cappuccino Diva*, *The Blue Polar Bear* and *The Flying Dream*. Originally from Western Australia, she now makes her home in the ACT.



Kathy Creamer

Kathy is a children's illustrator and writer who has been published by Oxford University Press, Reed International, Julia Gabriel Communications, September 21, Christmas Press, Second Look and other organisations. She has an MA in Children's Book Illustration from the renowned Cambridge School of Art at Anglia Ruskin University in England. Kathy has also run her own successful publishing company in the UK, where she published over eighteen picture books for a range of high net-worth private clients. Having immigrated to Australia twelve years ago, she recently moved to Armidale, and with her husband Peter, has set up Little Pink Dog Books Children's Publishing.



Damien Leith

Damien first captured the hearts of the Australian public in the 2006 reality television show *Australian Idol* which he went on to win. Since then he has enjoyed platinum selling albums and multiple awards including ARIAs, MTV Australia Video Music Awards, Helpman Awards, won 2016 APRA Songwriter of the Year, 2017 APRA Golden Guitar winner for song of the year with Travis Collins (*Call Me Crazy*). In addition to his incredible musical successes, he has also hosted multiple television shows, published two novels with Harper Collins; *One More Time* (2007) and *Remember June* (2009). He has released his own kids storytime app called 'Bedtime Stories' which has over 14 original stories he told his own children and he recently wrote and filmed his very first screen play which he stars in; 'Just Ruby' is a full feature film and will be released mid-2020. He is now an Upper Hunter local and is breakfast radio co-host with Stolzy on 98.1 Power FM.

OUR GUESTS



Richard Anderson

Richard Anderson is a second-generation farmer from northern New South Wales. He has been running a beef-cattle farm for twenty-five years, but has also worked as a miner and had a stint on the local council. Richard is the author of two rural-crime novels, *Retribution* and *Boxed*, both published by Scribe. He lives with his wife, four dogs, and a cat.



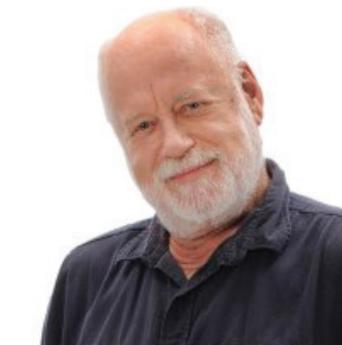
Nicole Alexander

A fourth-generation grazier, Nicole Alexander returned to her family's property in the early 1990s. She is currently the business manager there. Nicole has a Master of Letters in creative writing and her novels, poetry, travel and genealogy articles have been published in Australia, Germany, America and Singapore. She is the author of nine novels: *The Bark Cutters*, *A Changing Land*, *Absolution Creek*, *Sunset Ridge*, *The Great Plains*, *Wild Lands*, *River Run*, *An Uncommon Woman* and *Stone Country*.



Kerry O'Brien

One of Australia's most respected journalists with six Walkley awards including the Gold Walkley and the Walkley for the outstanding leadership in journalism. In a career spanning more than fifty years, Kerry has worked for newspapers, television and a wire service, and as a foreign correspondent. Thirty-three years of those years were at the ABC where he cut his teeth on the trail-blazing current affairs programs, *This Day Tonight* and *Four Corners*. He was the inaugural presenter of *Lateline* for six years and presenter of *7.30* for 15 years, and the presenter for *Four Corners* for five. His acclaimed four-part interview series with former Prime Minister, Paul Keating led to his best-selling book, *Keating*. Kerry has honorary doctorates from the University of Queensland and the Queensland University of Technology.



Phillip Adams AO FAHA FRSA

One of Australia's 100 national living treasures, Phillip has a long and distinguished career as author, broadcaster, humourist and journalist. Wikipedia describes him as an "Australian humanist, social commentator, public intellectual and farmer." He hosts *Late Night Live Radio National* four nights a week and he also writes a weekly column for *The Weekend Australian*. Phillip has had careers in advertising and film production and has served on many non-profit boards including *WikiLeaks*, *Greenpeace Australia*, *Ausflag*, *Care Australia*, *Film Victoria*, *National Museum of Australia*, both the *Adelaide* and *Brisbane* festivals of ideas, the *Montsalvat Arts Society* and the *Don Dunstan Foundation*. He is Patron of the *Scone Literary Festival*.



OUR GUESTS



Fr. Rod Bower

Known as much for his witty and often controversial signs as he is for social justice, The Venerable Rod Bower is a passionate and outspoken advocate for social justice. Fr Rod is an Anglican priest, Rector of Gosford where he has served for 20 years and Archdeacon for Justice Ministries and Chaplaincy in the Diocese of Newcastle. He is an ambassador for the Refugee Council of Australia and serves on the board of the Samaritans Foundation. Fr. Rod received the 2016 Doha International Award for Interfaith Dialogue and was named Abyssinian of the year by the Muslim Community and was a finalist nominee for the 2018 Human Rights Medal. He is the author of 'Outspoken'.



Dr Matt Beard

Matt is a moral philosopher with a background in applied and military ethics. He has taught philosophy and ethics at university for several years, and has been extensively published in academic journals, book chapters and is a sought after speaker at both national and international conferences. In 2016, Matt won the Australasian Association of Philosophy prize for media engagement, recognising his "prolific contribution to public philosophy". He is columnist with New Philosopher magazine and ABC Life, and a podcaster on the ABC's Short & Curly program, an award-winning children's ethics podcast.



Georgie Dent

Georgie is a journalist, author, former lawyer and one of the leading voices for women in Australia. She is the contributing editor of Women's Agenda, a columnist in The Sun Herald & The Age on Sunday, contributes to Marie Claire, appears regularly on television and is a passionate advocate for gender equality and mental health. She has appeared on Radio National, ABC's Lateline, The Drum, Channel 9's Today Show, Weekend Sunrise, The Project, Studio 10 and Sky News. In May 2019 her first book, a memoir titled Breaking Badly - her raw and honest account of falling apart - was published and was reprinted on the same day due to 'unprecedented' demand.



David Leser

David is a Walkley award winning Australian journalist, author, public interviewer and writing mentor. A former Middle East and North American correspondent, he has been a journalist for 40 years and became widely known in Australia for his in-depth profiles and stories on social and political issues. He has interviewed everyone from Meryl Streep and Ayaan Hirsi Ali to Gina Rinehart, Alan Jones and the Dalai Lama. David is the recipient of numerous awards for his journalism and his memoir 'To Begin To Know: Walking in the Shadows of my Father', was short-listed for the National Biography Award in 2015. David's new book Women, Men and the Whole Damn Thing - about toxic masculinity in the age of #MeToo - was published by popular demand by Allen & Unwin in August 2019.

OUR GUESTS



Karen Crofts

Karen is Director of the Hunter Writers Centre and holds a Master's degree in Writing from the University of Newcastle. She facilitates writing courses and offers 1:1 mentoring and structural editing. She delivers writing workshops in schools throughout the Hunter to primary and secondary students as a fully qualified English teacher with current accreditation. Karen is passionate about connecting the Arts with important social issues of the Hunter: homelessness, disability, grief and loss.



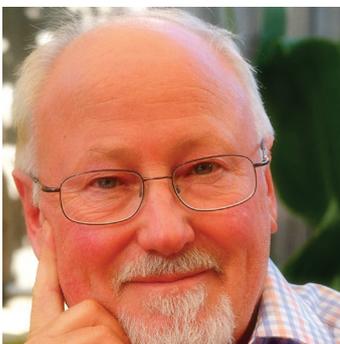
Matthew Evans

Matthew has worked in the food industry for over 30 years. He is the author of 12 food books and a widely published feature writer. His latest books are *On Eating Meat*, a manifesto on ethical eating, and *The Commons*, a cook book exploring the real-life joys of farm life over the seasons. He is a chef by trade, an advocate for sustainable seafood and is a strong believer in knowing and trusting what you eat; *Fat Pig Farm* is an extension of this philosophy. Matthew is the presenter of the SBS television show *Gourmet Farmer* and the two documentary series *What's the Catch?* and *For the Love of Meat*.



Gillian Sanbrook

Gillian (Gill) is an agricultural powerhouse. Not only is she pioneering regenerative practices on Bibbaringa, her cattle farm near Albury, she is coordinating *Earth Canvas*, a major artistic project that brings together artists to work with regenerative farmers with an exhibition slated for the National Gallery. Gillian believes healthy people and communities stem from healthy soil, and she is a passionate advocate for what regenerative agriculture can do to improve food production. She has always been passionate about working with nature to produce a livelihood – working as a jillaroo, journalist, wool producer, wool manufacturer, and now regenerative farmer who has planted over 60000 trees on Bibbaringa.



Julian Cribb

Julian is an author, journalist, editor and science communicator. He is principal of Julian Cribb & Associates who provide specialist consultancy in the communication of science, agriculture, food, mining, energy and the environment. His career includes appointments as newspaper editor, scientific editor for *The Pic credit: J. Carl Ganter* Australian newspaper, director of national awareness for Australia's science agency CSIRO, member of numerous scientific boards and advisory panels, and president of national professional bodies for agricultural journalism and science communication. His published work includes over 8000 articles, 3000 media releases and eight books. He has received 32 awards for journalism. His internationally-acclaimed book, *The Coming Famine* explores the question of whether we can feed humanity through the mid-century peak in numbers and food demand.



OUR GUESTS



Gideon Haigh

A prolific writer, Gideon is an English-born Australian journalist who writes about sport (especially cricket) and business. In his journalistic career, he has contributed to over 70 newspapers and magazines, writing for The Age, The Australian, The Guardian, The Times and the Financial Times. Haigh has authored 19 books and edited seven more. He's written about the history of cricket including The Cricket War and Summer Game, biographies including Mystery Spinner (of Jack Iverson), which was The Cricket Society's "Book of the Year", short-listed for the William Hill Sports Book of the Year and dubbed "a classic" by The Sunday Times. His business-related topics include The Battle for BHP, Asbestos House and Bad Company. Haigh won the John Curtin Prize for Journalism in the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards in 2006 for his essay "Information Idol: How Google is making us stupid", which was published in The Monthly magazine. His most book, Crossing the Line: How Australian Cricket Lost Its Way discusses the ball tampering scandal.



Chris Hammer

One the leaders in the popular wave of Australian crime writers with a major award, a Dagger, under his belt for his debut novel, Scrublands. Chris has been a journalist for over twenty-five years working as an international correspondent for SBS TV's flagship current affairs program Dateline, the chief political correspondent for The Bulletin and a senior political journalist for The Age. His non-fiction book, The River, published by Melbourne University Publishing in 2010 to critical acclaim, was the recipient of the ACT Book of the Year Award and was shortlisted for the Walkley Book Award and the Manning Clark House National Cultural Award.



Emma Viskic

A celebrated crime novelist, Emma is a classically trained clarinetist who performed with José Carreras and Dame Kiri Te Kanawa. She is author of the critically acclaimed Caleb Zelic series. Resurrection Bay won the 2016 Ned Kelly Award for Best First Fiction, as well as an unprecedented three Davitt Awards: Best Adult Novel, Best Debut, and Readers' Choice. It was iBooks Australia's Crime Novel of the Year and was shortlisted for the UK Crime Writers' Association Gold Dagger and New Blood awards. Its sequel, And Fire Came Down, won the 2018 Davitt Award for Best Novel.



Chief Justice Greg James QC, AM

Chief Justice Greg James, one of the youngest Queen's Counsel ever appointed in NSW, is recognised as one of Australia's leading Appellate Court Counsel. A very prominent Criminal Counsel, James has been involved in some of the most notorious trials in Australia. They include the legal proceedings in the aftermath of the 1970 Bathurst Gaol Riots; as well as lead counsel for the Bandidos Motorcycle Club during the Milperra Massacre, one of the largest single trials in Australian history. James was also involved in prosecuting Nazi war crime cases – the only cases brought against suspected Nazi war criminals in Australia. He was appointed as a part-time Commissioner for the NSW Law Reform Commission and Counsel for Veterans during the Royal Commission into British nuclear tests in Australia. In 2012 he was appointed as a Member of General Division of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to judicial education, mental health law reform, international relations and administration of criminal justice.

OUR GUESTS



Jamelle Wells

Jamelle Wells is an ABC television and radio Newsreader and the Senior Court Reporter for New South Wales. She works across television, radio and online. Jamelle has covered some of Australia's highest profile cases including the ICAC inquiries into former NSW Labor Government Ministers, the Gordon Wood, Keli Lane and Jeffrey Gilham murder trials, Australia's longest running terrorism trial and the church sex abuse inquiries. She has also covered cases involving billionaire Gina Rinehart and the trial of singer Leonard Cohen's former partner Keli Lynch in Los Angeles. Before Jamelle joined the ABC in 2002 she was a Newsreader for stations including 2GB and 2WS and the editor of My Business Success magazine. She is author of The Court Reporter, ABC Books.



Patrice Newell

In 1986 she gave up a high-profile career with the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) and Nine Network where she co-hosted Today, to live on the land and run a 4,000 hectare (40 km²) property, known as Elmswood, in the Hunter Region, New South Wales. Patrice is an advocate for sustainable agriculture which she talks about in her books The Olive Grove, The River, Ten Thousand Acres - A Love Story, Tree to Table: Cooking with Australian Olive Oil and Who's Minding the Farm, in this climate emergency. Patrice earned her doctorate at the University of Newcastle in Environmental Science: A strategic assessment of the potential for a new pyrolysis industry in the Hunter Valley. She is a Conjoint Fellow at University of Newcastle; founding member and president of the Hunter Olive Association; president Hunter Waterkeeper.



Magdalena Ball

Magdalena is a novelist, poet, reviewer, interviewer, and the editor of Compulsive Reader. She has been widely published in literary journals, anthologies, and is the author of several books of poetry and fiction, the latest of which is Unreliable Narratives published in 2019 by Girls on Key Press. In addition to her writing, Magdalena is a Research Support Lead for a multinational company, and regardless of what she's doing, will usually be found with a book or two in one form or another, sneaking time for reading.



Richard Glover

Richard Glover's most recent book is "The Land Before Avocado: Journeys in a lost Australia" It's been described by Hugh Mackay as "warm, wise and very, very funny", and by Annabel Crabb as "Hilarious and horrifying, the ultimate intergenerational conversation starter". Richard is also author of "Flesh Wounds – a comic romp for anyone whose family was not what they ordered." He writes regularly for the Sydney Morning Herald and The Washington Post, and presents the comedy show Thank God It's Friday on ABC local radio.



OUR GUESTS



Stiff Gins

Stiff Gins combine stunning harmonies and wicked senses humour to transport listeners to a world of joy, spirit and song. Their moniker is a reclamation of an offensive reference to Aboriginal women, a banner to guide their music in the direction of strength and pride. Three albums and countless breathtaking shows later, the name has become synonymous with musical excellence. Fresh off the stage from their epic visual theatre project Spirit of Things: Sound of Objects they are forging forward. In their twentieth year they soar into their most intriguing music making yet with a new recording and sound design project in the works.



Kate Mailer

Kate was born and raised on a property east of Scone. After completing her studies, she commenced practising as a solicitor in Scone and has done so now for over 20 years, the last 7 years as a sole practitioner. Her other life involves assisting her husband run their thoroughbred broodmare farm just out of Scone. This additional “career” has resulted in an ever increasing interest in the complex and sometimes controversial but always fascinating thoroughbred racing and breeding industry. Having had the pleasure of delivering a “Winx Oration” during the Horse Festival in Scone in 2019, Kate is delighted and honoured to be hosting a discussion with Andrew Rule. In her spare time of which there is little, Kate attempts to finish reading her current book club book!



Andrew Rule

Andrew’s rural links are strong. Not only did his writing career kick start with a winning essay from a country Agricultural Society, he was born and raised in the country - rural Victoria. That \$5 prize from the country show saw him into a newspaper job and he’s been writing for living almost ever since. Not only has Andrew written one of the most famous biographies – the celebrated equine athlete - he’s won a Gold Walkley and Gold Quill, been judged Graham Perkin Journalist of the Year and inspired highly acclaimed television series – Chopper and Underbelly. His prolific journalistic career has seen him cover the biggest and smallest of stories, from Port Arthur massacre, the Ash Wednesday and Black Saturday bush fires to the war in Afghanistan and the Bali bombing, picnic race meetings and the London Olympics. He claims to be the only award-winning journalist in Australia to have ridden the winner of a horse race!



Jessica Richards

Jessica (Jess) is currently a lecturer in Sport Management in the School of Business at Western Sydney University. Her research and teaching interests broadly focus on the sociology of sport and sport business management with a particular emphasis on sport fandom, sports marketing and stadium geography. She is currently a reviewer for journals in the field of sports, sports management and social research and sits on the board for the Western Sydney Academy of Sport.

OUR GUESTS



Helene O'Neil

Helene is employed by the Diocese Maitland Newcastle as a Family Ministry Coordinator and successfully combines her passions of faith and sport. She is also sports chaplain to Cooks Hill SLSC. Helene is a sports commentator with 1233 ABC Newcastle; ABC Grandstand and also Upper Hunter ABC where she has broadened her knowledge to include polocrosse, camp drafting and information on rodeos. Her sporting background includes past Australian badminton champion; state representation in squash; Hunter rep in indoor cricket, hockey and touch football. She is a Level 2 rugby league coach and a former employee of the ARL and Newcastle Knights. Helene is the newly appointed Chair of Northern NSW Football which includes the area from the Queensland border through to the Hawksbury and all areas of western NSW. Apart from sport, sport and more sport Helene is an avid crime reader and loves live theatre as well as the great outdoors.



Jane Caro

Jane AM, is a Walkley Award winning Australian columnist, author, novelist, broadcaster, advertising writer, documentary maker, feminist and social commentator. She has published twelve books, including three novels "Just a Girl" "Just a Queen" and "Just Flesh & Blood", a trilogy on Elizabeth Tudor, and a memoir "Plain Speaking Jane". Her latest book "Accidental Feminists" was launched in February. Her latest documentary 'New Dads' screened on ABC1 in August.



Alexandra Joel

Alexandra is a former editor of the Australian edition of Harper's Bazaar and Portfolio. While occupying a number of other executive positions in the media industry, she also contributed feature articles, interviews and reviews to national and metropolitan publications. She is the author of Parade: The Story of Fashion in Australia and Best Dressed: 200 Years of Fashion in Australia. Both detail the development of fashion, style and national identity. Her recent book, Rosetta: A Scandalous True Story, has been optioned for the screen by a major US-owned production company. With an honours degree from the University of Sydney and a graduate diploma from the Australian College of Applied Psychology, she has also been a practising counsellor and psychotherapist. Alexandra has two children and lives in Sydney with her husband. She is a keen student of art, fashion, history and politics and is exceedingly fond of Paris.



Gregory (Greg) Powell

Local Hunter Valley author and retired school teacher, Greg combined his interest in bushwalking and history to explore historical and scenic regions on foot and to produce extensive books on Australia's bushrangers. Bushranger Tracks: Beyond the Legends, follows on from his first book Bushranger Tracks (New Holland 2016) and continues his passion for Australian history and in particular, the bushranging era. The two books, now covering the five states with the most bushranger activity are the most extensive set of books detailing bushranger sites ever published.



OUR GUESTS



Barbara Sweeney

As Food & Words founder, Barbara organises food events with a literary bent. This includes the Food & Words writers' festival, book launches, author talks, food writing workshops and cooking classes, where the recipes and tips used are those gleaned from a lifetime of reading cookbooks. She writes about food, farmers and artisan food producers for newspapers and magazines and is a judge at the National Honey Show.



James Whelan

James is an activist educator committed to building powerful social movements that bring about social and environmental justice. James has worked with small and large civil society organisations as a strategist and community organiser. He has also been a researcher and lecturer at several Australian universities, publishing widely on popular education and social movements, participatory democracy and environmental politics. James' community and academic passions blend in his work as director of the Change Agency, a not-for-profit which provides education, training, facilitation and action research support for social change groups in Australia and the Pacific. James has facilitated campaign planning, decision-making and evaluation workshops and meetings with hundreds of social movement organisations in the Australia-Pacific region. He lives in Newcastle on the land of the Awabakal people.



Nicole Abadee

Nicole is the books writer for the Australian Financial Review Magazine. She also writes about books for Good Weekend and the Australian Book Review. Nicole appears regularly as a facilitator at writers' festivals and other literary events, and she also works as a literary consultant.

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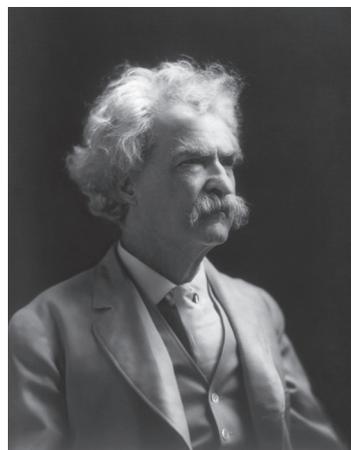


STRONG LITERARY HERITAGE

**As our Patron, Phillip Adams says,
“we punch above our weight.”**

Our literary links are very strong indeed to literary geniuses of the ilk of Patrick White, Australia’s only Nobel Laureate (for Literature), and Judith Wright, who was nominated for the 1967 Nobel Prize for Literature. Other notable, if not famous authors and writers, who have strong links to the Upper Hunter Valley, include Barbara Baynton, Donald Horne and Mark Twain.

American writer and humourist, Mark Twain visited Scone as part of his 1895 world tour giving a talk on ‘morals’ for the Scone School of Arts. Although Twain planned a much more extensive visit, Scone remains the farthest north he reached on his Australian journey. At the conclusion of his talk, which, according to a report in the Scone Advocate, was punctuated with “droll sayings and humour,” he recited his new Australian poem – “A SWELTERING DAY IN AUSTRALIA.”



Mark Twain



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