

BLUE MOUNTAINS WRITERS FESTIVAL

30 Oct —
01 Nov 2026



PIP WILLIAMS • BRUCE PASCOE • MELISSA LUCASHENKO • BENJAMIN LAW
BOB BROWN • WALEED ALY • LARISSA BEHRENDT • BOB CARR
CHRIS HAMMER • TONI JORDAN • MICAELA SAHHAR • FIONA KELLY MCGREGOR
JOSH SILVER • AMY REMEIKIS • JANE CARO • HANNAH MOLONEY • AND MORE!

* bluemountainswritersfestival.com



Tickets

THE BEST WAY TO ENJOY THE FESTIVAL IS TO PURCHASE A DAY OR WEEKEND PASS.

Being a passholder means you can wander freely between events and decide spontaneously each day which events you'd like to attend. Subject to availability, we release single tickets for many events closer to the Festival. However, single tickets may not be available for some headliners, nor for popular speakers in smaller venues. **None of the passes include workshops;** these tickets must be purchased separately.



PLATINUM PASSES

include all events across all stages, including Friday in the Megalong Valley, Opening Night and your choice of Scenic World event.



GOLD PASSES

include Opening Night, all events on Saturday and Sunday, and your choice of Scenic World event.



SILVER PASSES

include all events on Saturday and Sunday, with the exception of Scenic World events (which can be purchased individually).



BRONZE PASSES

are single day passes for Saturday or Sunday and include all events on the day that you choose, with the exception of Scenic World events (which can be purchased individually).

Sydney event

27 OCT, 6:30PM-8:30PM



A Journey of One's Own

KATHRYN HEYMAN, HAZEL PHILLIPS and SAN SAN
in conversation with NICOLE ABADÉE

THE WOMEN'S CLUB

Level 4, 179 Elizabeth Street, Sydney

Tickets sold separately

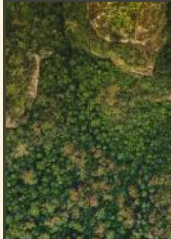
“ The literary atmosphere
rekindled my desire to write. ”

FRI 30 OCT

	11:00AM—12:00PM	2:00PM—3:00PM	6:30PM—8:00PM	8:00PM—9:00PM
THE OLD STABLES Megalong Valley	* BRUCE PASCOE in conversation with GRACE LUCAS- PENNINGTON	* The Book Showdown with BENJAMIN LAW featuring MIRANDI RIWOE and BROOKE DAVIS		
TIBBI WHALAN HALL Katoomba			* # Opening Night PIP WILLIAMS, LARISSA BEHRENDT, MICAELA SAHAR, MICHAEL WINKLER, MARIE ELENA ELLIS and VICTORIA FALCONER	
GRAND DINING ROOM Carrington Hotel				🕒 MTNS MADE ISABELLE LI, NAOMI PARRY DUNCAN, BARRY CORR, MARK O'FLYNN with ERIN ENGLISH

Key: * INCLUDED IN PLATINUM PASSES # INCLUDED IN GOLD PASSES 🕒 FREE EVENT

SAT 31 OCT

	9:00AM	9:30AM	10:00AM	10:30AM	11:00AM	11:30AM	12:00PM	12:30PM	1:00PM	1:30PM	2:00PM	2:30PM
STAGE 1			MELISSA LUCASHENKO in conversation with LARISSA BEHRENDT			BOB CARR in conversation with MICHAELA KALOWSKI					Is Justice Possible? LARISSA BEHRENDT and MARIKA SOSNOWSKI in conversation with ERIC SIDOTI Presented in partnership with The Whitlam Institute	
STAGE 2	 WELCOME TO COUNTRY		JANE CARO and CHRIS HAMMER in conversation with KATE MILDENHALL Presented in partnership with Megalong Tea Rooms			PIP WILLIAMS in conversation with DEBRA ADELAIDE Presented in partnership with Lot 101					Shapeshifters MARY COLUSSI, MICHAEL WINKLER, ZOE TERAKES and RHETT DAVIS in conversation with BEEJAY SILCOX	
STAGE 3			MICHAEL MOHAMMED AHMAD in conversation with BENJAMIN LAW			Right of Return MICAELA SAHHAR, ANTOUN ISSA and SARA HADDAD in conversation with SARAH MALIK					Books Imitating Life CLAIRE THOMAS, ANGELA O'KEEFFE and JOSEPH EARP in conversation with GRACE LUCAS-PENNINGTON	
STAGE 4			A Few Good Men GEORGE KEMP and ANDREW PIPPOS in conversation with MICHAEL WINKLER			 What to do About Sydney FIONA WRIGHT, MAX EASTON and YUMNA KASSAB in conversation with FIONA KELLY MCGREGOR					Poetic Possibilities ANDY JACKSON, LUKE PATTERSON and MARIE ELENA ELLIS in conversation with LAURIE MAY	
OTHER VENUES												

ABC Radio Sydney Live Broadcast
in The Carrington Lounge
with **RAE JOHNSTON**

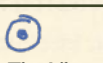
Key: * INCLUDED IN PLATINUM PASSES

INCLUDED IN GOLD PASSES

FREE EVENT

3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM
	WALEED ALY in conversation with AMY SAMBROOKE Presented in partnership with the Fairmont Resort		Knowing Country BRUCE PASCOE, BARRY CORR and DEBRA DANK in conversation with RAE JOHNSTON Presented in partnership with No. 14 Level St	 * # Queerstories Hosted by MAEVE MARSDEN with BOB BROWN, ZOE TERAKES, GEORGE KEMP, BOBUO SAYED and CHLOE MILLS						
	Can Satire Save Us? FIONA WRIGHT and KATE MILDENHALL in conversation with BEEJAY SILCOX		A Writer's Life STEVE TOLTZ, JOSEPH EARP, JOHN MORRISSEY and ZEYNAB GAMIELDIEN in conversation with TONI JORDAN							
	Talking To Kids About Difficult Things SARA HADDAD, ELLEN VAN NEERVEN and JOSH SILVER in conversation with MAEVE MARSDEN		Fraught Family Histories JANE MESSER in conversation with ELEANOR LIMPRECHT							
	Grief and Redemption KATIA ARIEL, KATHRYN HEYMAN and ISABELLE LI in conversation with MICHAELA KALOWSKI		Our Strange Desires KRIS KNEEN and ZOE TERAKES in conversation with FIONA KELLY MCGREGOR							
				* # Skyway Cabaret at Scenic World						
				Poetry & Motion MARIA VAN NEERVEN and ANDY JACKSON	Art & Heartache YUMNA KASSAB and CLAIRE THOMAS	History & Possibility JOCK SERONG and JORDAN PROSSER				

SUN 01 NOV

	7:30AM	9:30AM	10:00AM	10:30AM	11:00AM	11:30PM	12:00PM	12:30PM	1:00PM
STAGE 1		 The Library That Made Me ELLEN VAN NEERVEN, ROANNA GONSALVES, BRUCE PASCOE, YUMNA KASSAB and PHILLIPA MCGUINNESS Presented in partnership with the State Library of NSW				How to Write a Life BOB BROWN, DEBRA DANK and CYNTHIA BANHAM in conversation with ZOHRA ALY Presented in partnership with Theo Poulos Real Estate			
STAGE 2		Beware the White Moderate AMY REMEIKIS, MELISSA LUCASHENKO and BOBUO SAYED in conversation with ANTOUN ISSA				Crime is Political ASHLEY KALAGIAN BLUNT and ZEYNAB GAMIELDIEN in conversation with CHRIS HAMMER			
STAGE 3		TONI JORDAN in conversation with SARAH MALIK				FIONA KELLY MCGREGOR in conversation with BEEJAY SILCOX			
STAGE 4		Colonising Space JOHN MORRISSEY and JORDAN PROSSER in conversation with RAE JOHNSTON				Big Scary Tech STEVE TOLTZ and MARY COLUSSI in conversation with KATE MILDENHALL			
SCENIC WORLD	 Inspired by Nature JOHANNA BELL, RHETT DAVIS and JAMES O'HANLON		 						

Key: *

INCLUDED IN PLATINUM PASSES

#

INCLUDED IN GOLD PASSES



FREE EVENT

1:30PM	2:00PM	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM
	In Institutions We Trust BOB CARR, JANE CARO and WALEED ALY in conversation with AMY REMEIKIS Presented in partnership with Benetatos White			Why We Garden HANNAH MOLONEY in conversation with AMY SAMBROOKE Presented in partnership with The Blue Mountains Gazette			The Mick Dark Talk for the Future BOB BROWN Presented in partnership with the Blue Mountains Conservation Society	
	RICHARD GLOVER in conversation with AMY SAMBROOKE Presented in partnership with Discover the Blue Mountains			This Ain't Heated Rivalry BOBUO SAYED, JOSH SILVER and GEORGE KEMP in conversation with MAEVE MARSDEN			Look Back to Look Forward PIP WILLIAMS, JOCK SERONG and MIRANDI RIWOE in conversation with ZOHRA ALY	
	Poetry / Parenthood MARIA VAN NEERVEN in conversation with ELLEN VAN NEERVEN			Interrogating the Archive MARIKA SOSNOWSKI, NAOMI PARRY DUNCAN and HAZEL PHILLIPS in conversation with PHILLIPA MCGUINNESS			DEBRA ADELAIDE in conversation with SARAH MALIK	
	Wild Souls and Wonder KATHRYN HEYMAN and KATHERINE JOHNSON in conversation with VEECHI STUART			Mothers, Daughters, Sisters ELEANOR LIMPRECHT, BROOKE DAVIS and MUNIRA TABASSUM AHMED in conversation with MICHAELA KALOWSKI			 The Fall of the Marriage Plot KRIS KNEEN and ANDREW PIPPOS in conversation with OLIVIA MURPHY Presented in partnership with Sydney Review of Books	
								

Workshops



OCT
29

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH BENJAMIN LAW

12:00pm – 4:00pm
Blue Mountains Sauna, Leura



OCT
30

OBJECTS, ARTEFACTS AND TALISMANS WITH ELEANOR LIMPRECHT

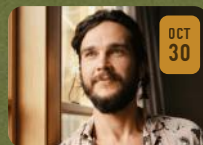
9:00am – 4:00pm
Varuna Reading Room



OCT
30

WRITING FAMILY HISTORY WITH CYNTHIA BANHAM

9:30am – 12:30pm
Blue Mtns Cultural Centre



OCT
30

THE GADGETS & GIZMOS OF POETIC CRAFT WITH LUKE PATTERSON

9:45am – 12:45pm
Blue Mtns Cultural Centre



OCT
30

HARNESSING WONDER WITH KATHRYN HEYMAN

1:00pm – 4:00pm
Blue Mtns Cultural Centre



OCT
30

THE CRAFT OF REVISION WITH JANE MESSER

1:15pm – 4:15pm
Blue Mtns Cultural Centre



OCT
31

STRENGTHEN YOUR NARRATIVE DRIVE WITH ASHLEY KALAGIAN BLUNT

9:00am – 4:00pm
Varuna Reading Room



OCT
31

HORROR AS METAPHOR WITH KRIS KNEEN

10:00am – 1:00pm
Blue Mtns Cultural Centre



OCT
31

THE ESSENTIALS OF PLOT WITH TONI JORDAN

10:30am – 1:30pm
Blue Mtns Cultural Centre



OCT
31

WRITING THE WEIRD WITH JOHANNA BELL

1:30pm – 4:30pm
Blue Mtns Cultural Centre



OCT
31

WRITING NATURE WITH KATHERINE JOHNSON

2:00pm – 5:00pm
Blue Mtns Cultural Centre



NOV
01

CHARACTER ARCS WITH ANTHONY MULLINS

9:00am – 4:00pm
Varuna Reading Room



NOV
01

EDITING FOR IMPACT WITH KATIA ARIEL

9:15am – 12:15pm
Blue Mtns Cultural Centre



NOV
01

WRITING HISTORICAL FICTION WITH MIRANDI RIWOE

9:30am – 12:30pm
Blue Mtns Cultural Centre



NOV
01

SWEATSHOP WORKSHOP WITH MICHAEL MOHAMMED AHMAD

12:45pm – 3:45pm
Blue Mtns Cultural Centre



NOV
01

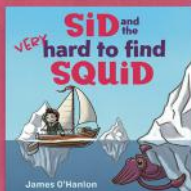
NARRATIVE, IMAGE AND MEMORY WITH DEBRA DANK

1:30pm – 4:30pm
Blue Mtns Cultural Centre



WHAT'S THAT SPLAT?
WITH JOHANNA BELL
11:00am – 11:45am
Katoomba Library

OCT
31



**SQUIDS, TURTLES AND
TARDIGRADES WITH
JAMES O'HANLON**
12:00pm – 12:45pm
Katoomba Library

OCT
31



NIGHTMARE LEAGUE
WITH REECE CARTER
1:00pm – 2:00pm
Katoomba Library

OCT
31

Venues

The majority of events will be held in **Katoomba at The Carrington Hotel** at 15-47 Katoomba Street or the **Tibbi Whalan Hall** (formerly known as the Katoomba Community Hall) at 81-83 Katoomba Street. The **Baroque Room** is part of The Carrington complex and is accessed via the circular driveway rather than the hotel itself. The **Megalong Valley** events are held in the Megalong Valley, 30 minutes' drive west of Katoomba. (The Megalong Valley is NOT a venue within the Carrington Hotel!)

Workshops will be held at **Blue Mountains Cultural Centre** and **Varuna Reading Room** and the Kid's Program will be at **Katoomba Library** at 30 Parke Street. The Skyway Cabaret and Inspired by Nature will be held at **Scenic World**, on the corner of Violet Street and Cliff Drive, Katoomba.

Accessibility

The Blue Mountains Writers' Festival strives to make every event as accessible as possible. **50% discounts on all tickets and passes are available for patrons on a Disability Support Pension.**

All events are wheelchair accessible except Inspired by Nature and Benjamin Law's workshop at Blue Mountains Sauna. For full information about venue access for each venue, please go to the Festival website.

T-loops and real-time captions will be available in both the Grand Dining Room and Tibbi Whalan Hall stages. The Festival has **Auslan interpreters** available for the weekend and will schedule them into sessions on request – email hello@bluemountainwritersfestival.com.au.

The Blue Mountains Writers' Festival is a member of the **Companion Card scheme**, and **registered/accredited assistance animals are welcome**. If you have access requirements that aren't covered by the above, please contact us at hello@bluemountainwritersfestival.com.au.

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



Writing and Society
Research Centre

MA in Literature and Creative Writing

The Writing and Society Research Centre offers a challenging, rigorous coursework and research MA combining criticism and creative work, leading to a **Master of Arts in Literature and Creative Writing**.

By connecting creative writing practice to ideas and creative work from across the arts and sciences, we offer students the opportunity to think across creative, critical and disciplinary categories and to produce either works of scholarship or creative writing (or related creative work that crosses over into other areas including music, art, performance and film).

Our Centre is unique in Australia in the way it combines scholarship, ^{higher} authorship and expertise in publishing.

The Centre includes some of Australia's most celebrated writers and widely published literary scholars and critics with international reputations.

We are ranked above world standard in the study of literature and creative arts practice.

The Centre houses the highly decorated literary press **Giramondo Publishing**, and the pre-eminent literary review site in Australia, the **Sydney Review of Books**. With all this we are able to offer a multifaceted understanding of literature and writing. In short, we think this is one of the best places in Australia either to become a writer or to think in a critical and scholarly way about writing.

For more information contact: writing@westernsydney.edu.au



Thank you

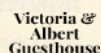
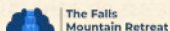
The Blue Mountains Writers' Festival and Varuna the National Writers' House are grateful to our donors, sponsors and funding bodies for their generous support. We couldn't do it without you!



BRONZE PARTNERS



HARRY HARTOG
BOOKSELLER



MEDIA PARTNERS



FESTIVAL PARTNERS & FUNDING BODIES



Thank you to our Patron, **David Hammon**, whose incredible generosity has enabled Varuna and the Blue Mountains Writers Festival to support the writers of Australia in ways that we would not be able to otherwise. Thank you to our state and federal funding bodies, Create NSW and Creative Australia, who provide the core funding so essential to the ongoing support of Australian writers.

EVENT PARTNERS & GOLD PARTNERS



SILVER PARTNERS



Festival branding by

“I loved the buzzing atmosphere of patrons, writers and volunteers, and seeing people sitting around reading. I feel like I am with my ‘people’ when reading is considered a cool and normal daytime activity!”