

FULL PROGRAM AND TICKETING

Details available at:

www.varuna.com.au/swf

BOOKING INFORMATION

Tickets for the following events can be purchased online via Varuna website, www.varuna.com.au/swf, by phone on 4782 5674, or in person at Gleebooks stores in Sydney or Blackheath.

AT VARUNA

POETRY WORKSHOP: THE NATURAL WORLD OF THE IMAGINATION

Saturday 27 May 10am – 1.00pm | *Bookings essential, limit of 12 places*

Ticketed: \$50/\$40

HOPE STREET PRESS POETRY LAUNCH

Saturday 27 May 2.00pm – 3.00pm | *Free event*

POETRY CIRCLE

Saturday 27 May 3.00pm – 5.00pm | *Free event*

AT THE BLUE MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTRE

WRITERS' JOURNEYS: AUTHORS' PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON WRITING AND PUBLISHING

Saturday 27 May 10.00am – 1.00pm | Ticketed \$20

Bookings essential at any Blue Mountains library or online at library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au

AT THE CARRINGTON

ONE-DAY PASS

Monday 29 May OR Tuesday 30 May | \$65 full / \$55 concession

TWO-DAY PASS

Monday 29 May AND Tuesday 30 May | \$100 (no concession)

DR DARK MEMORIAL LECTURE

Monday 29 May 6.00pm – 7.00pm | \$20 full / \$15 concession

This pass is ticketed separately and not included in the one-day or two-day pass.

OTHER BOOKING DETAILS

SINGLE SESSIONS AT THE CARRINGTON

Daytime program | \$20 full / \$15 concession

Single session tickets will also be available at the door, but as seating is limited we advise you to book in advance.

Thank you to our partners...



Photo: Bette Mirsud Photography

VARUNA, THE NATIONAL WRITERS HOUSE is Australia's only national writers' centre to offer residential time and space for individual writers and illustrators to develop their work and explore pathways to publication and production.

Varuna offers a wide range of professional development opportunities for new and emerging writers from metropolitan, regional and remote areas across the country.

Friend us on Facebook or subscribe to our mailing list.

VARUNA & SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL 2017

BLUE MOUNTAINS PROGRAM | 27-30 MAY 2017



Poster and brochure design: www.redeggdesign.net.au Printing: www.bennettsprinting.com.au

AT THE CARRINGTON HOTEL, VARUNA AND BLUE MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTRE, KATOOMBA

www.varuna.com.au/swf





Claire Corbett

Malcolm Knox

Di Morrissey

Peter Minter

FESTIVAL PROGRAM

AT THE HOUSE Sat 27 May

Varuna, The National Writers' House, 141 Cascade Street, Katoomba

POETRY WORKSHOP: THE NATURAL WORLD OF THE IMAGINATION

10.00am – 1.00pm

Descriptions of the natural world can act as powerful metaphors for the emotional landscape. In this workshop, join local poet Vanessa Kirkpatrick to examine short excerpts from published writers, as well as generating new material for your own poetry or flash-fiction projects.

Ticketed \$50/\$40 limit of 12 places. Bookings essential at varuna.com.au/swf

HOPE STREET PRESS POETRY LAUNCH

2.00pm – 3.00pm

Festival launch of a quartet of books by local poets: *Shared Breath* by Mark O'Flynn, *Public Transport* by Craig Billingham, *The Conversation of Trees* by Vanessa Kirkpatrick and *Winter in Stone Country* by Deb Westbury.

To be launched by Peter Minter.

Free event

POETRY CIRCLE

3.00pm – 5.00pm

Join local poet Mark O'Flynn around the fire-pit in the Varuna garden. Bring your own poem to read, or simply sit, listen and enjoy the friendly ambience of the Writers' House.

Free event

AT THE BM CULTURAL CENTRE Sat 27 May

Seminar Room, 30 Parke Street, Katoomba, NSW

WRITERS' JOURNEYS: AUTHORS' PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON WRITING AND PUBLISHING

10.00am – 1.00pm

Australian authors at different stages of their careers talk about individual experiences and the highs and lows of becoming published. Inspirational insights for aspiring writers and keen readers alike. Featuring Malcolm Knox, Craig Cormick, Catherine Cole and Lisa Chaplin. This event is organised by the Blue Mountains Library.

Ticketed \$20. Bookings essential at library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au

AT THE CARRINGTON Mon 29 | Tue 30 May

The Carrington Hotel, 15-47 Katoomba Street, Katoomba.

MONDAY 29 MAY

FESTIVAL OPENING AND WELCOME TO COUNTRY

9.30am – 10.00am

WOMEN IN THEIR PLACE

10.00am – 11.00am

Karen Lamb and Marilla North have both written about 20th-century Australian women writers, including Thea Astley, Dymphna Cusack, Florence James and Miles Franklin. These writers are now firmly part of the Australian literary canon. Karen and Marilla talk about their books and their attraction to these gifted and ground-breaking women.

GENERATION NEXT

11.30am – 12.30pm

James Bradley and Mardi McConnochie have written across many genres, from literary fiction to film. Both their latest books are written for young readers. Westwords director Michael Campbell talks to them about their previous work, their new books and the challenges of switching genres.

In partnership with Westwords.

WITI IHIMAERA

1.30pm – 2.30pm

Writer, academic and film-maker Witi Ihimaera was New Zealand's first published Maori novelist. Winner of national and international awards and a Katharine Mansfield Fellow, in 2015 he published the first volume of his autobiography, *Maori Boy*. This session looks back on his many achievements and includes clips from Witi's stage shows and movies including *Whale Rider*, *The Wedding* and *Moana*.



Witi Ihimaera

A CONVERSATION WITH DI MORRISSEY

3.00pm – 4.00pm

Sandra Yates talks to one of Australia's best-loved and most prolific writers. Di Morrissey's latest book, *A Distant Journey*, moves from California to the Australian outback that Di loves and knows so well. Her fascination for cultural and environmental issues is reflected in the book's setting in a family sheep station, facing the natural disasters and caprices of the wool industry while haunted by a family mystery.

FROM FAR AWAY WE COME

4.30pm – 5.30pm

Children from every nation in the world are making new friends in Australian schools. Some have just arrived; some have parents or grandparents born in this country. James Roy's *One Thousand Hills* and Libby Gleeson's *Mahtab's Story* both demonstrate the resilience of young people growing up in a different and sometimes perplexing world.

TUESDAY 30 MAY

SINS OF THE PAST

10.00am – 11.00am

Award-winning British writer Natalie Haynes' book *The Amber Fury* explores a contemporary murder and its narrative connections with the ancient Greek tragedy plays. Australian writer Maggie Joel's *The Safest Place in London*, a

THE 2017 DR ERIC DARK MEMORIAL LECTURE

WENDY ROGERS. CROSSING THE LINE: ACTIVISM AND ACADEMIC BIOETHICS

The Carrington Hotel, Monday 29 May, 6.00pm-7.00pm

Dr Eric Dark combined his work as a doctor with his commitment to an ethical and democratic society. Professor Wendy Rogers initially trained as a general practitioner before undertaking a PhD in medical ethics. She now teaches in the Philosophy Department at Macquarie University. With her current work into the international trade in human organs, she regularly questions where she stands both as an academic and as a passionate activist.

\$20 / \$15 Please note this event is ticketed separately.

1940's wartime drama, reflects this author's fascination with time and place. Session Chair Katherine Johnson's mystery *The Better Son*, a novel about family secrets and lies, is set in 1950s Tasmania.

LOVE AND MUSIC

11.30am – 12.30pm

Graeme Simson's latest book *The Best of Adam Sharp* is set in France and has been described as 'a dilemma with lots of music' with 'complications, transgressions and resolutions' for its main character. Claire Corbett's *Watch Over Me* is a thriller of love under the pressure of occupation and war in which music plays an important role. They talk about their work with Varuna Chair David White.

A FINE-FIGURED MAN WITH A CAMERA

1.30pm – 2.30pm

Ernest Mitchell emigrated from Yorkshire to New South Wales in 1899, before moving on to Western Australia. His widely-published photographs of that state's landscape and people shaped international views of Australia. Historian and author Joanna Sassoon talks about how she came upon Mitchell's material for her book, *Agents of Empire*. Joanna's session will feature many of Mitchell's photographs.

NEW VOICES

3.00pm – 4.00pm

Each year *Overland* magazine manages *The Nakata Brophy Prize for Young Indigenous Writers*. This award has discovered exciting literary talent that might not otherwise have come to national attention. *Overland's* fiction editor Jennifer Mills talks to the 2017 winners about their writing and their hopes for the future and gives these young writers the opportunity to read from their winning entries.

In partnership with *Overland*.

THE LEGACY OF ELEANOR DARK

4.30pm – 5.30pm

The first of an annual address honouring the work of Eleanor Dark and her legacy.

This year's address will be presented by award-winning Varuna alumna Delia Falconer. In this year's lecture, Delia talks about nature in an age of loss. Molluscs, trees, birds: a century ago, descriptions of nature placed humans in a world of abundance, but how do we write and think about nature now? Delia's talk reflects on the new creative demands of a diminished world.