

### **BELLINGEN READERS & WRITERS FESTIVAL 2016**

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# WELCOME TO THE 2016 BELLINGEN READERS & WRITERS FESTIVAL!

The Bellingen Readers & Writers Festival — Thursday 9 June to Monday 13 June — is unique among Australian writers festivals in being situated in the magnificent natural environs of the Bellinger River and Dorrigo World Heritage rainforest.

The program focuses exclusively on Australian writers to showcase the diversity of talent in this country.

Iln 2016, the BRWF welcomes Australia's most popular playwright David Williamson, ABC broadcaster, *SMH* columnist and author Richard Glover, and Independent politician Tony Windsor. Other guests include playwrights Debra Oswald and Tommy Murphy, novelists Mark Dapin, Jane Messer, Greg Barron and Jim Anderson, and publishers Alison Green (Pantera Press), Lyn Gain (Valentine Press) and David Reiter (Interactive Press).

In one session, Kristin Williamson will quiz her husband David, as well as fellow playwrights Debra Oswald and Tommy Murphy about their work.

In another session called "Are they going to sue me if I write this?", Kristin herself, along with Richard Glover and Tony Windsor, will be quizzed by Participating Chair Michael Wilding on the subject of memoir and biography. Tony Windsor, back in the political fray, will go head to head with festival director Irina Dunn in a session titled "Death threats be damned, I'm going to stand!"

Other guests of the BRWF include a serving member of the Australian Air Force who writes thrillers (Graham Potts, Thursday 9 June, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, Coffs Harbour Library), a clutch of poets and novelists, and a pilot who turned to fiction to get a conservation point of view across to her readers (Janet Richardson giving the Mary White Address at the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre, Dorrigo National Park, Dome Road Dorrigo, Friday 10 June, 10:00 – 12:00 pm.)

Local historian Ross Macleay takes you on a walk through Bellingen's food and drink land-scape, from gleaning and foraging to affogato, and provides a social history of eating and drinking in the town, with readings from the literature as you take the tour (Friday 10 June, 2:00 – 3:00 pm, meet at Maam Gaduying, the park across from the Memorial Hall).

Held in the Memorial Hall, panel sessions include: "Is infotainment taking the place of news? What is news anyway?", "Why is fiction so difficult to write, or is it?", "The way of the future: online, digital and radio writing", and "Why write poetry when nobody ever reads it?"

And you must not miss Q & A Bellingen style chaired by Richard Glover, when the audience has an opportunity to throw questions to a distinguished panel of writers and journalists from the floor of the Memorial Hall.

Events will be also hosted in the following venues:

- Bellingen Library
- Youth Hub
- St Andrew's Old Church & Hall Hyde Street, Bellingen
- Nexus Gallery
- Coffs Harbour High School
- Tyalla Primary School
- The Hyde Cafe
- Dorrigo Rainforest Centre
- The Old Butter Factory
- The Bellingen Brewery

The festival honours and celebrates the rich cultural heritage of the region's Gumbaynggirr people, offering you the opportunity to learn some of their language at a talk by Steve Morelli about the recently published Gumbaynggirr dictionary at the Opening Night Party on Friday 10 June (The Bellingen Brewery). Gary Williams will conduct the "Welcome to Country" and there will be a musical performance by Michael Jarrett and Larry Hancock.

A Dinner with the Literati will be held on Saturday 11 June (The Old Butter Factory) where you will have an opportunity to dine with many of our guests.

The ever popular Poetry Slam also features on Saturday 11 June (Memorial Hall).

You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook to stay updated on the Festival's progress.

Email: info@bellingenwritersfestival.com.au

### **IRINA DUNN**

Festival Director 2016



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# **CONTACT DETAILS**

WEBSITE: www.bellingenwritersfestival.com.au info@bellingenwritersfestival.com.au ADDRESS: Bellingen Readers & Writers Festival

P.O. Box 390

Bellingen NSW 2454

**TRYBOOKING** www.trybooking.com.au/185450

# WHERE TO BUY YOUR TICKETS

All tickets (except single session tickets) are available online through www.trybooking.com.au or by following the ticketing link from www.bellingenwritersfestival.com.au.

Tickets are also on sale at the **Waterfall Way Visitor Information Centre** on Hyde St Bellingen 7 days a week from 9:00 — 5:00 pm.

Single session tickets are available at the Waterfall Way Visitor Information Centre.
SIngle session tickets will be on sale at the Memorial Hall window Friday 1.30 - 4.00pm S urday 8:00 - 4:00 pm; Sunday 8:00 - 12:00 pm.

People who want to register as poets in the Poetry Slam (limit of 20 people) email Elizabeth at bellopoetryslam@outlook.com.

# Note for festival Weekend and Day pass holders who purchase tickets online:

On arrival at the festival, your Weekend and Day Pass tickets must be exchanged for an official Festival Wristband prior to entering any Festival session at the Bellingen Memorial Hall Box Office:

Friday 1:30 — 4:00 pm; Saturday 8:00 — 4:00 pm; Sunday 8:00 — 12:00 pm.

NB: Concessions apply to all Australian Government concession card holders, full-time students with ID and children under the age of 18.





# **FESTIVAL PASSES**

The best ticketing deal is the **Weekend Pass** for \$150 (full price) or \$120 (concession). This gives you entry to all sessions at the Memorial Hall from 9.00 – 6.45pm on Saturday and from 9.00 – 6.30pm on Sunday.

**SATURDAY** 

- Fifty plays and still going strong
- Bucking the trend: Pantera Press showcase
- Breaking into the market: four authors tell how they did it
- The way of the future: online, digital and radio writing
- Why is fiction so difficult to write – or is it?
- Are they going to sue me if I write this? Memoir and biography
- Q & A Bellingen Style

### SUNDAY

- Death threats be damned, I'm going to stand!
- Is infotainment taking the place of news? What is news anyway?
- Stagefright, screenfright: when your words refuse to perform
- Why write poetry when nobody ever reads it?
- Truth and authenticity in fiction
- The creative process: how hard is it to write?
- Pitch your book to a publishing industry panel

Alternatively, you can purchase **Day Passes** (either for Saturday or Sunday) which give you entry to all sessions at the Memorial Hall on that day from 9:00-6.45 pm for \$85 (full price) or \$70 (concession).

# TICKET PRICES

Weekend Pass	\$150.00 / \$120.00
Day Pass	\$85.00 / \$70.00
Single Session	\$20.00
Opening Night Party	\$30.00
Q & A Bellingen Style	\$20.00
Dinner with the Literati	\$60.00
Poetry Slam	\$15.00



# A GRIPPING EVENING WITH GRAHAM POTTS, SOLDIER AND THRILLER WRITER

Thursday 9 June, 5:30 for 6:00 – 9:00 pm Coffs Harbour Library, 27 Duke Street, Coffs Harbour Free entry: RSVPs essential to skye.ravenscroft@chcc.nsw.gov.au.

Bellingen Readers & Writers Festival Director IRINA DUNN will interview GRAHAM POTTS, a classically trained, serving member of the Australian Air Force who writes thrillers.

Graham's action-packed style throws you into international conflicts closer to home than you think. He tells stories that captivate, thrill and touch on the truth. And if you buy him a scotch, he might tell you a tall one or two. Graham is author of *No Free Man* (Pantera Press January 2016), a fast-paced and gripping spy thriller that will hold you riveted until the last page.



# FLYING LOW – A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF CONSERVATION Address by Janet Richardson

Friday 10 June, 10:00 — 12:00 pm

Dorrigo Rainforest Centre, Dorrigo National Park,
Dome Road Dorrigo

Cost: \$5 (includes morning tea)

RSVPs essential to Phone

02 6657 5913 or email

dorrigo.rainforestcentre@environment.

nsw.gov.au

Pilot and conservationist JANET RICHARDSON turned to fiction to get her conservation views across to the reading public.

In *The Lemongrass Project* (2014), Janet's debut novel, the heroine finds herself at the centre of a battle between developers and local groups when she inherits valuable land in a small fishing village on the north coast of New South Wales.

The controversial resort proposal that is dividing the small community reflects many such developments occurring not only along the NSW coast but throughout Australia. A trained and accredited pilot, Janet thought of writing the novel when she was flying low over the coast a few years ago and saw from a bird's eye view the potential destruction that could be caused by unchecked urban growth in coastal areas.

# AWALK WITH ROSS: EATING AND DRINKING AND WRITING ABOUT IT

Friday 10 June, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Meet at Maam Gaduying (Meeting Place) Park opposite the Memorial Hall in Hyde Street Free event: RSVPs essential to Ross at lizardland@bigpond.com

Local historian ROSS MACLEAY takes you on a walk through Bellingen's food and drink landscape, from gleaning and foraging to affogato. He provides a social history of eating and drinking in Bellingen, with readings from the literature as you take the tour.

ROSS MACLEAY has written on natural and social history, narrative art, film and philosophy. He spends a lot of time in the bush. He has recently completed a book — *The Narrative* — about the strange way we talk about our most recent political history.

### **OPENING NIGHT PARTY**

Gumbaynggirr dictionary.

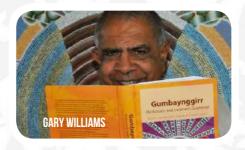
Friday 10 June, 7:00 - 10:00 pm

The Bellingen Brewery, 3/5 Church Street, Bellingen

Cost: \$30 (includes nibbles and two glasses of wine/beer/soft drink)

Come and celebrate the festival opening with your writer and reader colleagues!
Gumbaynggirr elder Uncle GARY WILLIAMS will offer guests the "Welcome to Country", there will be a musical performance by MICHAEL JARRETT and LARRY HANCOCK, and STEVE MORELLI will talk about the recently published

After this you will be entertained by LEE KOFMAN, the Russian-born Jewish author of *The Dangerous Bride*, a memoir in which Lee describes her attempts at open marriage, and by JOSH DONELLAN, a national finalist in the 2015 Poetry Slam, who will knock your socks off with his verbal dexterity.



### **Q & A BELLINGEN STYLE**

**Saturday 11 June, 5:00 – 6:45 pm**Bellingen Memorial Hall, 35 Hyde Street
Cost: \$20 (single session). The Weekend Pass and
Saturday Pass include this session.

Sydney Morning Herald columnist Richard Glover chairs this ABC TV-Style Q & A Session with panellists David Williamson, Tony Windsor, Lawrence Gibbons, Debra Oswald, Kristin Williamson and Martin McKenzie-Murray.

Audience members will be invited to throw up questions for the panellists from the floor on any topic they care to raise, whether literary, political, philosophical or social.

#### **BELLO POETRY SLAM**

**Saturday 11 June, 7:00 – 11:00 pm**Bellingen Memorial Hall, 35 Hyde Street
Cost: \$10 to perform (limited to 20 performers only); \$15 to listen to the performers.

Calling all spoken word artists, performance art writers, punk, rap & hiphop, (sub)urban word performers, sonic bards and ... poets!

The Bello Slam is no ordinary poetry reading but a roller-coaster of Spoken Word from the irreverent to the profound. You could be laughing one minute and crying the next but you will most certainly be entertained.

Each performer has the opportunity to share his or her original three-minute poem and could go through to a second and then a third final round. Poets are advised to "come off the page" and deliver their work, and newbies are especially welcomed and encouraged.

Three judges are randomly picked from the audience on the night and vote on: original content, audience reaction and performance skills. There is also a People's Choice so everyone in the audience gets their chance to have a vote for their favourite performer.

Previous years have seen a wealth of talent, courage, incredible wordsmiths and an audience that feels it has been part of the magic of a live performance.

Join MC ELIZABETH ROUTLEDGE for one of the most popular events at the festival. Great cash prizes for winners courtesy of Officeworks.

Registration to perform costs \$10 on the night, but you must register with your details by emailing Elizabeth Routledge at bellopoetryslam@outlook.com
Check the Poetry Slam rules on the website.
www.bellingenwritersfestival.com.au/poetry-slam-rules/

NB Audience members should book online early as this event could well sell out.

# DINNER WITH THE LITERATI AT THE OLD BUTTER FACTORY

Saturday 11 June, 7:30 - 10:30 pm

1 Doepel St, Bellingen Cost: \$60.
Enjoy fine dining with wine in the charming ambiance of the historical Old Butter Factory and be entertained by the witty columnist, author and popular ABC radio broadcaster RICHARD GLOVER and TONY WINDSOR, former parliamentarian in both NSW and Canberra, who is returning to the fray and will attempt to unseat Barnaby Joyce in the electorate of New England.





### MEET JUDITH RODRIGUEZ, POET

Sunday Bites at the Nexus Art Gallery
Sunday 12 June, 3:00 — 4:00 pm
1 Doepel Street Bellingen
Free entry: includes glass of wine/tea or coffee with nibbles
RSVPs essential to jan@janstrom.com.au

Esteemed Australian poet JUDITH RODRIGUEZ will be interviewed by local poet BRIAN PURCELL in Bellingen's beautiful art gallery located in the Old Butter Factory complex.

JUDITH RODRIGUEZ AM is an award-winning poet with many collections of poetry to her name. She has received the South Australian Government Prize for Literature, the Peter Stuyvesant / PEN Poetry Prize, the FAW C.J. Brennan Prize for Poetry, the Sydney PEN Golden Jubilee Award for Poetry and the Artlook/Shell Literary Award.

Her latest volumes titled *Flares* and *The Feather Boy and Other Poems* are published by Mark Time Press (2016) and Puncher and Wattmann (2016).

# PITCH YOUR BOOK TO A PUBLISHING INDUSTRY PANEL

Sunday 12 June, 5:00—6:30 pm Bellingen Memorial Hall, 35 Hyde Street Cost: \$20 (single session). The Weekend Pass and Sunday Pass include this session.

Do you have a great idea for a book? Do you think you could interest a panel of industry experts in your novel or self-help book or memoir? No matter what genre or form of writing you have chosen, we are offering you this opportunity to stand up in front of a large audience, to pitch your idea in three minutes and to get feedback from publishers LYN GAIN (Valentine Press), ALISON GREEN (Pantera Press), DAVID REITER (Interactive Publications) and Festival Director and literary agent IRINA DUNN.

Prizes for first, second and third places will be provided by our sponsor, the Book Warehouse at Coffs Harbour.

NB The publishers make no promises regarding publication even if they like your pitch. Check out the conditions at www.bellingenwritersfestival.com.au/pitch-your-book-to-a-publishing-industry-panel/.

## SATURDAY 11TH JUNE

### Bellingen Memorial Hall

9:00 - 9:45 am

#### FIFTY PLAYS AND STILL GOING STRONG

With fifty works for the stage "under his pen", DAVID WILLIAMSON has outstripped Shake-speare's opus of 38 plays and is still going strong. What's next for Australia's bard? Festival Director IRINA DUNN will try to winkle from David the secrets of his success and his plans for the future. She will also ask him whether he attends the plays of other playwrights, who his favourite Australian playwrights are, and why.

10:00 - 11:00 am

#### **BUCKING THE TREND: PANTERA PRESS SHOWCASE**

PANTERA PRESS is one of Australia's youngest publishing houses, resisting the trend by favouring local writers and growing rapidly in the diminishing publishing sector. The Pantera website reads: "We view the so-called 'slush pile' of Australian unsolicited manuscripts as... a valuable resource — an underexplored diamond mine". Author and local broadcaster ANNETTE MARFORDING engages three Pantera authors — LYNETTE NONI, GRAHAM POTTS, J.M. DONELLAN — and Pantera CEO ALISON GREEN in a discussion about the company's success in promoting Australian authors.

11:15 - 12:15 pm

#### BREAKING INTO THE MARKET: FOUR AUTHORS TELL HOW THEY DID IT

Recently published first-time fiction writers — LESLEY TRUFFLE, HELEN CHEBATTE and LEAH KAMINSKY — and memoirist KIM HODGES discuss their journey into publication with Festival Director IRINA DUNN, who will ask them how they did it and what they hope for their literary futures.

1:00 - 2:00 pm

#### THE WAY OF THE FUTURE: ONLINE, DIGITAL AND RADIO WRITING

Are we leaving print behind? Is the era of the book over? What opportunities do the new media offer writers? Can writers make a living from online, digital and radio writing? Three practitioners of these forms of writing — author and prize-winning blogger LEE KOFMAN, novelist and radio writer JANE MESSER, and webisode writer KACIE ANNING - talk to Participating Chair DAVID REITER (traditional and new media publisher and practitioner) about the advantages and disadvantages of their respective fields and offer advice to new writers interested in exploring and experimenting in these alternatives to print-based text.

2:15 - 3:15 pm

#### WHY IS FICTION SO DIFFICULT TO WRITE, OR IS IT?

Good fiction appears to be written effortlessly and reads as if every word was meant to be exactly where it is in the sentence, and where every sentence is exactly where it is meant to be in the paragraph. Each of the panellists in this session - MARK DAPIN, JANE MESSER, DEBRA OSWALD, and GRAHAM POTTS - has chosen fiction to express him/herself creatively. Novelist GREG BARRON will take this opportunity to ask them the reasons for their decision and whether they found the process tough or easy.

3:30 - 4:30 pm

#### ARE THEY GOING TO SUE ME IF I WRITE THIS? MEMOIR AND BIOGRAPHY

Memoir and biography are fraught with perils and pitfalls, not the least of which is the danger of not only offending someone, but of attracting their legal wrath in the form of a defamation case.

12

Biographer KRISTIN WILLIAMSON, and memoirists RICHARD GLOVER, LEE KOFMAN and TONY WINDSOR discuss the considerations they had to bear in mind while writing their books. Festival Director IRIND DUNN will find out how much each of these writers revealed in their books and, more interestingly, what they had to suppress and why?

# SUNDAY 12TH JUNE Bellingen Memorial Hall

### 9:00 - 9:45 am

### **DEATH THREATS BE DAMNED, I'M GOING TO STAND!**

TONY WINDSOR was a state and then federal politician for over twenty years, representing the electorates of Tamworth and New England respectively as an Independent. His autobiography *Windsor's Way* was published in 2015 (MUP). Festival Director IRINA DUNN, a former Senator, will ask him why he has decided to return to politics after retiring in 2013 and whether he thinks he can knock Deputy Prime Minister and National Party Leader Barnaby Joyce off his perch in the 2016 election in the electorate of New England, Tony's old seat.

### 10:00 - 11:00 am

#### IS INFOTAINMENT TAKING THE PLACE OF NEWS? WHAT IS NEWS ANYWAY?

With the increasing domination of the media by corporate giants, where will the socially and politically concerned citizen find news and opinion worth trusting? Three very different journalists, TONY WINDSOR, MARTIN MCKENZIE-MURRAY and RICHARD GLOVER speak to Alternative Media Publisher LAWRENCE GIBBONS, who will lead the discussion as Participating Chair about influences affecting the delivery of news and opinions to the public.

### 11:15 - 12:15 pm

### STAGEFRIGHT, SCREENFRIGHT: WHEN YOUR WORDS REFUSE TO PERFORM

Sometimes it is as hard to herd words as it is to herd cats! What do you do when your words fail to behave in ways you would like them to, when they are recalcitrant, obstinate and downright unyielding. Three of Australia's most successful scriptwriters - DAVID WILLIAM-SON, DEBRA OSWALD and TOMMY MURPHY - tell journalist and biographer KRISTIN WILLIAM-SON if they face this problem and how they deal with it.

### 1:00 - 2:00 pm

#### WHY WRITE POETRY WHEN NOBODY EVER READS IT?

Festival Founder and poet BRIAN PURCELL will quiz four poets — LES WICKS, JUDITH RODRIGUEZ, JOSH DONELLAN and PETER BAKOWSKI — on why and when they became poets, what their views are of the value of poetry in the modern world, and how they would suggest developing a readership for this ancient but neglected literary art form. What is their attitude to the success of Rap and Slam poetry, and has it affected their own approach to writing?

### 2:15 - 3:15 pm

#### TRUTH AND AUTHENTICITY IN FICTION

Author and local broadcaster ANNETTE MARFORDING will facilitate a discussion with panellists LEAH KAMINSKY, LYNETTE NONI and JIM ANDERSON on truth and authenticity in fiction. Is the novel a better vehicle for truth-telling than non-fiction? What are the methods for truth-telling in fiction? What is authenticity in fiction and how does one achieve it?

### 3:30 - 4:30 pm

#### THE CREATIVE PROCESS: HOW HARD IS IT TO WRITE?

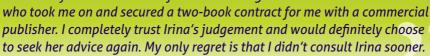
Fiction and non-fiction author JIM ANDERSON, novelist, journalist, columnist, historian and screenwriter MARK DAPIN, playwright TOMMY MURPHY and novelist GREG BARRON talk to Festival Director IRINA DUNN about the process of writing and how they do it? When did they start? Why do they continue? Do they get writers' block? What's the worst review they have received? How did they respond?

# NB: THIS PROGRAM IS SUBJECT TO CHANGES. CHECK THE WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK FOR ANY CHANGES

and more importantly additions. bellingenwritersfestival.com.au

Whether you write fiction or non-fiction, for adults or youth, **Irina Dunn** can provide clear and specific advice on how to improve your manuscript and what to do about getting it published.

Irina is constructive, efficient and immensely knowledgeable about the writing industry. With Irina's assistance I revised my manuscript to a publishable standard. Irina then showed my work to a wonderful Australian agent



Lesley Truffle, The Hotel Du Barry (HarperCollins 2016)
Lesley is a guest of the 2016 Bellingen Readers & Writers Festival

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44 Hyde Street Bellingen just up from the Memorial Hall Open Mon to Friday 6am to 3pm Saturday 6am to 2pm Extended hours for festivals

# **SCHOOLS PROGRAM**

# SPONSORED BY PANTERA PRESS AND OFFICEWORKS

The festival gives students and teachers a wonderful opportunity to meet published authors on Friday 10 June at Coffs Harbour High and Tyalla Primary School. Here they will take part in valuable workshops, working towards specific goals and outcomes devised between schools and author.

### Friday 10 June Coffs Harbour

Pantera author **JOSH DONELLAN** will go to Tyalla Primary School and **LYNETTE NONI** will go to Coffs Harbour High School.

J.M. DONELLAN (Josh) is a writer, musician, slam poet, radio DJ and teacher. He is one half of the electronic/theatrical performance duo "Poetry is Dead". He believes the measure and cadence of language is important and has been known to replace a word because the rhythm is not quite right. Josh was almost devoured by a tiger in the jungles of Malaysia, nearly died of a lung collapse in the Nepalese Himalayas, fended off a pack of rabid dogs with a guitar in the mountains of India, and was sexually harassed by a half-naked man while standing next to Oscar Wilde's grave in Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris.

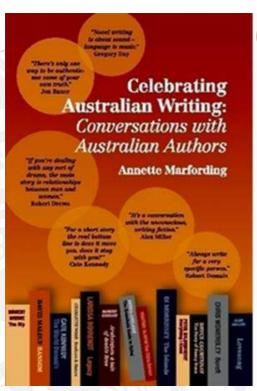


His debut novel, *A Beginner's Guide to Dying in India*, won the 2009 IP Picks best fiction award. He scripted and voiced the *Pocket Hipster iPhone* application even though he doesn't have an iPhone.

Josh was a state finalist in the 2012 and 2014 Australian Poetry Slams and a national finalist in 2015. He was chosen as one of the top ten writers in the 2013 Spirit of Youth Awards. His debut play was *We Are All Ghosts* and he also co-wrote the *Theory of Everything*, which sold out its entire season at the 2015 Brisbane Festival.

His children's fantasy novel is *Zeb and the Great Ruckus*, and his latest novel, *Killing Adonis*, was released in October 2014. www.jmdonellan.com

LYNETTE NONI is the author of the five-part young adult fantasy series, *The Medoran Chronicles*, which has been described as "*Harry Potter* meets *Narnia* meets *X-Men*". The first book, *Akarnae*, was released in 2015. This was followed by *Raelia* (April 2016) and *Draekora* is due for release late in 2016. www.lynettenoni.com.



### ON SALE AT THE FESTIVAL BOOKSHOP RRP \$29.99

All profits from the sale of the book will be donated to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation of Australia

Annette Marfording's interviews are among the most well-researched, thoughtful and intelligent, ever" - Debra Adelaide

"All readers - and students of writing in particular - enjoy and gain enormous insight from well-crafted, intuitive and intelligent interviews with writers, such as the ones by Annette Marfording."-Kristina Olsson

'Marfording's interviewing talent combined with her passion for Australian writing makes this a deeply rewarding book... These are important interviews ..." - Candida Baker

David Malouf, Cate Kennedy, Alex Miller, Charlotte Wood, Robert Drewe, Larissa Behrendt, Bryce Courtenay, Di Morrissey, Michael Robotham ...





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# **WORKSHOPS**

# THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL ONE-TO-ONE POETRY SESSIONS WITH PETER BAKOWSKI, the Poetry Doctor

Place: The Hyde, 62 Hyde Street, Bellingen Peter will be available for one-to-one sessions from Wednesday 8 June to Sunday 12 June. Please contact him on (phone **0406 029 578** email **pbakowski54@gmail.com**) to arrange a time.

### FRIDAY 10 JUNE WORKSHOPS

### FICTION WRITING MASTERCLASS

with JANE MESSER

Date and time: Friday 10 June, 10:00 - 4:00 pm Place: Uniting Church Hall, rear of St Andrew's Church, Hyde Street Cost: \$70 / \$50 concession (minimum 12, maximum 15)

### RETOOL AND REMIX: GET A DIGITAL LIFE!

with DAVID REITER

Date and time: Friday 10 June, 10:00 -1:00 pm Place: Large Room, Bellingen Library, Hyde Street Bellingen Cost: \$40 / \$30 concession (minimum 8, maximum 15)

### LEARNING WRITING FROM READING

with ANNETTE MARFORDING

Date and time: Friday 10 June, 10:00 -12:30 pm Place: Small Room, Bellingen Library, Hyde Street Bellingen Cost: \$40 / \$30 concession (minimum 8, maximum 10) INTRODUCTION TO MEMOIR

with LEE KOFMAN

Date and time: Friday 10 June, 10:00 -12:00 pm Place: Youth Hub Room 1, corner Church and William Streets, Bellingen

Cost: \$40 / \$30 concession (minimum 9, maximum 15)

### **POETRY TIPS**

with PETER BAKOWSKI

Date and time: Friday 10 June, 10:00 -12:00 pm Place: St Andrews Church, Hyde Street, Bellingen Cost: \$40 / \$30 concession (minimum 9, maximum 15)

### **SELLING THAT BOOK**

with DR DAVID REITER

Date and time: Friday 10 June, 2:00 -5:00 pm Place: Large Room, Bellingen Library, Hyde Street Bellingen

Cost: \$40/\$30 concession (minimum 8,

maximum 15)

### **DIALOGUE WRITING**

with LEE KOFMAN

Date and time: Friday 10 June, 2:00 -4:00 pm Place: Youth Hub Room 1, corner Church and William Streets, Bellingen

Cost: \$40 / \$30 concession (minimum 9, maximum 15)

### **GET YOUR POETRY PUBLISHED**

with LES WICKS

Date and time: Friday 10 June, 2:00 - 4:00 pm Place: St Andrews Church, Hyde Street, Bellingen Cost: \$40 / \$30 concession (minimum 9, maximum 15)

### **MONDAY 13 JUNE WORKSHOPS**

### **HOW TO WRITE ANYTHING**

with MARK DAPIN

Date and time: Monday 13 June, 10:00 - 4:00 pm

Place: Uniting Church Hall, rear of St Andrew's

Church, Hyde Street

Cost: \$70 / \$50 concession (minimum 12,

maximum 15)

### WRITING FOR THRILLS

with GRAHAM POTTS

Date and time: Monday 13 June 10:00 -12:00 pm

Place: St Andrews Church, Hyde Street, Bellingen

Cost: \$40 / \$30 concession (minimum 9,

maximum 15)

### **WORLD BUILDING**

with LYNETTE NONI

Date and time: Monday 13 June 10:00 -12:00 pm

Place: Youth Hub Room 1, corner Church and

William Streets, Bellingen

Cost: \$40/\$30 concession (minimum 9,

maximum 15)

# WRITING AND PERFORMING SPOKEN WORD

with JOSH DONELLAN

Date and time: Monday 13 June 10:00 -12:00 pm

Place: Youth Hub Room 2, corner Church and

William Streets, Bellingen

Cost: \$40 / \$30 concession (minimum 9)

# WORKSHOPS

# TIGHTER AND SHARPER – WRITING LIKE A PROFESSIONAL

with GREG BARRON

Date and time: Monday 13 June, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Place: Youth Hub Room 1, corner Church and

William Streets, Bellingen

Cost: \$40/\$30 concession (minimum 9,

maximum 15)



# FOR DETAILS AND TICKETS FOR WORKSHOPS, GO TO

www.bellingenwritersfestival.com.au/brwf-2016-workshops

#### **BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

NB: A workshop may be cancelled if minimum numbers are not reached. Bookings are essential and for most of the shorter workshops there will be a minimum of 9. The all-day workshops have a minimum of 12.



JIM ANDERSON graduated as a lawyer from S ydney University in 1961 but says he can't remember anything he learned. He became Art Editor of *Oz Magazine* in the UK and was put in the dock as a conspirator in the famous 1971 Obscenity Trial at London's Old Bailey. His first novel *Billarooby*, a wartime story set in the Australian outback, was published in 1988, and his second novel, *Chipman's African Adventure*, is a high camp drama in keeping with Jim's focus on anti-establishment satire. www.jimanderson.com.au

**GREG BARRON** is the author of three novels; Rotten Gods (2012), Savage Tide (2013) and Lethal Sky (2014), all published by HarperCollins. His books have won rave reviews in Australia and overseas, and been featured widely in the Australian media. His work has been long-listed in the Ned Kelly Awards, and short-listed in the ABC Radio Short Story Project. "The pace is excellent, the writing is sharp and Barron has a real talent for the evocation of place." The Australian www.gregbarron.com

KACIE ANNING is a writer, director and performer best known for her online comedy series *Fragments of Friday*, which was produced through Screen Australia's multi-platform initiative. The series was released in 2015 with news.com.au heralding the show as "Australia's answer to Amy Schumer". Kacie is also the creator of the Sydney Opera House produced web series *Minister For Men* featuring Gretel Killeen. She is developing several projects across short- and long-form comedy and drama. www.kacieanning.com

HELEN CHEBATTE'S first young adult novel, *Bro*, won the Children's Book Council of Australia's Frustrated Writers' Mentorship Competition for unpublished works, and was published by Hardie Grant Egmont in early 2016. *Let's Lunch*, her multi-cultural picture book text, was shortlisted in the CBCA Frustrated Writers' Mentorship Competition as well as the Children's and Young Adult Writers' Aspiring Writers Competition in Queensland. *Arion, Son of a Dragon Rider*, her young reader fantasy novel set in ancient Mesopotamia, was shortlisted in the Varuna Publisher Fellowship Program.

PETER BAKOWSKI travelled the world for seven years in response to a "Dear John" letter. He lived in a cave on a Mexican island and, in the Central African Republic, ate gazelle cooked in stale blood. His travel experiences led him to a deeper sense of what it is to be human and poems in his fifth collection Days That We Couldn't Rehearse are reflections of this. He has been writer-in-residence in many cities around the world and his poems have been translated into nine languages. bakowskipoetrynews.blogspot.com.au/





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MARK DAPIN is a novelist, journalist, columnist, historian and now screenwriter. His first novel King of the Cross won a Ned Kelly Award for crime writing. Spirit House, his second novel, was long-listed for the Miles Franklin Literary Award and shortlisted for a Royal Society for Literature prize. His latest novel R & R is inspired by his research for The Nashos' War (2014), which won the Alex Buzo Shortlist Prize in 2015. He is working on a TV drama for Network Seven. www.markdapin.com

LYN GAIN is the founder of Valentine Press, an independent publishing company with headquarters in Bellingen NSW. It was set up in 2013 to be uniquely author-focused. Risk averse traditional publishers seek "more of the same" to suit their perceptions of what will sell. Valentine Press seeks different and more powerful books. Large profits are not the main aim, but rather the widest possible distribution of books with high quality writing and something important to say, fiction or non-fiction. www.valentinepress.com.

J.M. (JOSH) DONELLAN'S debut novel A Beginner's Guide to Dying in India won the 2009 IP Picks best fiction award and his latest novel Killing Adonis has received rave reviews. His debut play We are all Ghosts was performed at the Anywhere Theatre Festival in 2014 and The Theory of Everything, which he co-wrote, sold out for the entire season at the 2015 Brisbane Festival. Josh is also a poet and was a national finallst in the 2015 Australian Poetry Slams. www.jmdonellan.com

IRINA DUNN is the Program Director of the 2016 Bellingen Readers & Writers Festival. A well-known manuscript assessor, editor and literary agent, she is also the Director of the Australian Writers' Network, which has 11,700+ subscribers throughout Australia and abroad. Previously Irina was Director of the NSW Writers' Centre for 15 years, and Independent Senator for NSW in the late 1980s. She wrote *The Writer's Guide: a companion to writing for pleasure or publication* (Allen & Unwin). www.irinadunn.com.au

LAWRENCE GIBBONS launched the Sydney City Hub in August 1995. Twenty-one years later, the City Hub is the last independent community newspaper distributed in inner Sydney. Over the years, the Hub has chronicled countless community battles with developers, exposed several secret deals and has kept publicly elected officials accountable to the public. Lawrence is currently working towards a PhD at Western Sydney University where he is researching the massive Bays Precinct redevelopment project which sprawls from Pyrmont to Balmain.

www.altmedia.net.au/tag/lawrence-gib-

RICHARD GLOVER'S most recent book is Flesh Wounds — a comic romp for anyone whose family was not what they ordered. It's been described by the British writer Jeanette Winterson as "Sad, funny, revealing, optimistic and hopeful" and by The Australian as "a breathtaking accomplishment in style and empathy". Richard's weekly humour column has been published in the Sydney Morning Herald for over twenty years. He also presents Thank God It's Friday on ABC local radio.

www.richardglover.com.au

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ALISON GREEN is the visionary CEO behind
Pantera Press, a boutique and innovative Australian
publishing house which welcomes new authors
through an open yet curated submissions process.
She is a director of the NSW Writers' Centre, a
member of the Australian Publishers Association
Trade Committee and the Australian Publishers
Association's Independent Publishers Committee.
Alison was one of only 70 international delegates
accepted into the prestigious Leadership Strategies
in Book Publishing course at Yale University last
year. She is also Deputy Chair of the Australian Book
Industry Awards. www.panterapress.com.au

LARRY HANCOCK is the Gumbaynggirr language teacher at Woolgoolga High School, where all Year 7 students have studied the Gumbaynggirr language as a 100-hour compulsory subject for the past three and a half years. This year two students have also been selected to study the language as part of the new HSC Aboriginal Languages course. Larry sings as part of 'Janugiina - Let it be so', a Gumbaynggirr language vocal group. They sing traditional songs from this Gumbaynggirr land, as well as modern songs written by Larry. He also works with the members of the Woolgoolga High School Aboriginal Choir, singing in Gumbaynggirr.



KIM HODGES'S first book, a memoir called *Girl* on the Edge — an arresting memoir, was released in early 2016. Set in a small town in a remote rural area, it is written through a sensitive adolescent lens and reflections as an adult. It explores identity, belonging and alienation, as well as class, gender and power. Kim uses wry humour to offset the often confronting content. This strong and emotional coming of age story will speak to anyone who has ever felt alone or betrayed. kimhodges.id.au

**LEAH KAMINSKY** is a physician and award-winning writer, and the Poetry and Fiction Editor at the *Medical Journal of Australia*. Her debut novel *The Waiting Room* was published in 2015 and will soon be released in the US, and *We're all Going to Die* is forthcoming. Leah conceived and edited *Writer MD*, a collection of fiction and non-fiction works by prominent physician-writers. In 2010, her award-winning poetry collection *Stitching Things Together* was published. Leah has a Masters in Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Vermont College. **www.leahkaminsky.com** 

**LEE KOFMAN** is the author of four books including the memoir *The Dangerous Bride* (MUP 2014). Her short works have been widely published in Australia, UK, Scotland, Israel, Canada and US, including in *Best Australian Stories, Best Australian Essays, Griffith Review, Meanjin, Heat and Westerly.* Lee has been teaching writing and mentoring writers for over ten years. She is the blogger-in-residence for Writers Victoria and her personal blog was a finalist for Best Australian Blogs 2014. www.leekofman.com.au

ANNETTE MARFORDING has been a published writer for more than 25 years. Her short stories have been published in several anthologies. She is currently working on her first novel. She was Program Director of the BRWF until 2015 and has been chairing author events at the festival every year. Her book *Celebrating Australian Writing:*Conversations with Australian Authors (2015) features 21 in-depth conversations with the writers on central themes in their body of work, writing methods, central tips for aspiring writers and more.

MARTIN MCKENZIE-MURRAY is The Saturday Paper's chief correspondent. He is a former Canberra speechwriter, Age columnist, and adviser to the chief commissioner of Victoria Police. His first book, A Murder Without Motive, was published this year by Scribe. Martin's work has also appeared in The Monthly, the Sydney Morning Herald, the Griffith Review, The Lifted Brow, Right Now and the King's Tribune, and in 2012, the Sydney Writers' Centre awarded his blog Feeding the Chooks the best Australian blog for commentary.

www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/contributor/martin-mckenzie-murray, feedingthechooks.



com/about-me-2/

JANE MESSER is a novelist and writer of short stories, essays and radio dramas. Her books include the novels *Hopscotch* (2015), published to critical acclaim, *Night by Night* (1994) and *Provenance* (2007), and two anthologies, *Bedlam — anthology of sleepless nights* (1996), and *Certifiable Truths —* stories of love and madness (1998). Jane also writes for radio, and her one-hour radio play, *Dear Dr Chekhov*, was broadcast nationally on ABC Radio National in 2015. www.janemesser.com

LYNETTE NONI is the author of the five-part young adult fantasy series, *The Medoran Chronicles*, which has been described as "*Harry Potter* meets *Narnia* meets *X-Men*". The first book, *Akarnae*, was released in 2015. This was followed by *Raelia* (April 2016) and *Draekora* is due for release late in 2016. www.lynettenoni.com



**DEBRA OSWALD** is co-creator and head writer of the successful TV series *Offspring* and a two-time winner of the NSW Premier's Award. Her stage plays have been produced around the world, and include *Dags, Gary's House, Mr Bailey's Minder* and *Stories in the Dark*. Her TV credits include *Palace of Dreams, Bananas in Pyjamas* and *Police Rescue*. She has also written children's novels and her first adult novel *Useful* was published in 2015.

**GRAHAM POTTS** is a serving member of the Royal Australian Air Force and war defines the first decade of his adult life. Always on the move, he has lived in almost every state in Australia. After challenging assignments with the Australian Air Force, his inner strategist acknowledged the truth: writing is his true passion. His action-packed style throws you into international conflicts closer to home than you think. He is author of *No Free Man* (Pantera 2016), a fast-paced and gripping spy thriller that will hold you riveted until the last page. **www.grahampotts.net** 

digital artist, and Publisher / CEO at IP (Brisbane). He gives talks and leads workshops on all aspects of publishing. Recent works include *Timelord Dreaming*, *Your eBook Survival Kit*, and the picture book *Bringing Down the Wall*, which was Best Book for Teens & Kids (Canadian Children's Book Centre). While artist-in-residence at the Banff Centre for the Arts, he completed *My Planets Reunion Memoir Project*, which won the 2012 Western Australia' Premier's Award.

www.qoogle.com/+DrDavidReiter

**DAVID REITER** is an award-winning text and

BRIAN PURCELL has been active in the literary community for nearly 30 years. As Secretary, President and first Public Officer of the Poets Union, he helped to establish it as a truly national body. He followed this with five-year stints at the Australian Society of Authors and producing audio books at the Royal Blind Society. In 2002, Brian graduated with a Masters of Writing at Sydney's UTS, concentrating on the novel. In 2009, he began the process to establish the Bellingen Readers & Writers Festival, now in its sixth year. Brian has had more than fifty poems published here — most

In the 1980s, appalled by mass tourism's exploitative nature, **JANET RICHARDSON** founded *Tread Lightly*, the world's first ecotourism magazine, then wrote *Ecotourism & Nature-based Holidays* (Choice Books). She was President of the Ecotourism Association of Australia. Janet is a pilot and when flying from Coffs to Sydney thought it was only a matter of time before some pretty coastal villages under her wings faced developers. Her debut novel *The Lemongrass Project* (2014) is about a resort development that divides communities on the mid-north coast.



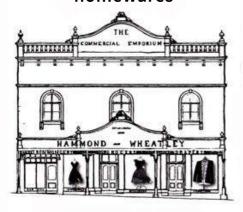
recently in Meanjin – as well as overseas.

JUDITH RODRIGUEZ'S poetry has appeared since the 1960s, and includes *New and Selected Poems* (1988), *Manatee* (2007) and *The Hanging of Minnie Thwaites* (2012), a historical ballad, researched account and lyrics. *Flares and The Feather Boy and other poems* are scheduled for 2016. She wrote the libretto for Moya Henderson's opera *Lindy* (2002), and a play, *Poor Johanna*, with Robyn Archer. Judith has taught at universities on four continents, enjoys the Melbourne Shakespeare Society and works for PEN.



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**ELIZABETH ROUTLEDGE** has been an actor since 1985 and when she moved to Bellingen fifteen years ago, she produced, directed and acted in many productions before returning to Sydney. In 2010, she won the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup, and in 2012, the Peats Ridge Poetry Slam. Liz started the Bello Slam in the Bellingen Bowling Club as part of the inaugural Readers & Writers Festival.

JAN STROM is an experienced engagement facilitator working in community, business, local government and higher education. She was a Councillor then Deputy Mayor at Coffs Harbour City Council. In 1983, Jan founded Bootlace Productions and was active both on stage and off for many years. In 2015, she played Linda Loman in the CHATS production of *Death of a Salesman*. For the past five years, Jan has been the Secretary of Short Sharp Digital Incorporated, a not-for-profit organisation that hosted the annual international Short Sharp Film Festival.

www.janstrom.com.au/Home.html

London-born Australian LESLEY TRUFFLE has travelled extensively and worked in London and Japan. At present she's living in a garret in Melbourne. She's worked as a secondary teacher, photographer, hotel maid, fringe actor and in art galleries, bars, nightclubs and other jobs too ghastly to mention. While exhibiting her art photography, Lesley realised she wanted to create imaginary stories and interior monologues. Her first novel *Hotel du Barry* was published in February 2016 and she's currently working on her second novel. www.lesleytruffle.com

**LES WICKS** is an Australian poet known for his versatility on both stage and page. His work has been published in over 300 magazines, anthologies and newspapers across 23 countries in 11 languages. His thirteenth book of poetry is *Getting By Not Fitting In*. Award-winning poet Anthony Lawrence said Les"...assembles an amazing cast of people in recognisable often dark places. With fine detail, their domestic and working lives are brilliantly portrayed". Les has conducted his popular workshops from Hobart to Texas.

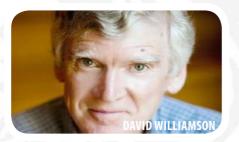
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MICHAEL WILDING won the 2015 Colin Roderick Award and the 2015 Prime Minister's Award for non-fiction for his highly acclaimed book Wild Bleak Bohemia: Marcus Clarke, Adam Lindsay Gordon and Henry Kendall. His recent fiction includes Superfluous Men, and the private eye novels The Prisoner of Mount Warning, The Magic of It and Asian Dawn. His latest book, Growing Wild, is a vastly entertaining autobiographical memoir of a life that the Dictionary of Literary Biography called "the story of a maverick". www.scholarly.info

& Culture Co-operative. His relationship with Muurrbay goes back to 1997-98 as a student and thereafter as a teacher/language researcher. His work means that he has to travel between Wyong in the south of NSW to Casino/Lismore in the north of the state to liaise with the seven languages that are in Muurrbay's regional reach. He lives in his mother's Gumbaynggirr country in Nambucca Heads. His great satisfaction is seeing not only many of the languages being taught to adults, including TAFE classes, but also being taught to children in the various primary and secondary schools. muurrbay.org.au

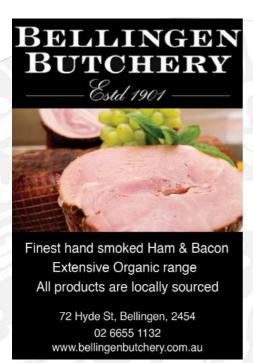
**DAVID WILLIAMSON** is the most produced and awarded playwright in the history of Australian theatre. Katharine Brisbane from *The Australian* once said, "His genius has been to define for us, in advance of our own recognition, the qualities which make up the Australian character". David is a prolific writer of screenplays and has written five mini-series including *The Four Minute Mile* for the BBC and *The Last Bastion* about General McArthur's arrival in Australia in WW2, which was sold all over





KRISTIN WILLIAMSON is an actor, teacher, journalist, screenwriter and the author of eight books, including two best-selling novels. In 1979, she joined the staff of *The National Times* as a feature writer and columnist. Kristin's novels include Women on the Rocks, Treading on a Dream, Brothers to Us, The Jacaranda Years and Tanglewood. In her biography of her husband David, David Williamson: Behind the Scenes, Kristin produced a picture of remarkable intimacy, vividness and honesty — a portrait not only of a writer, but also of a family and a marriage.

TONY WINDSOR was a state and then federal politician for over twenty years, representing the electorate of Tamworth and New England respectively as an Independent. During this time he fought numerous battles with miners to protect landowners in one of the richest agricultural regions in NSW. His autobiography *Windsor's Way* was published in 2015 (MUP). He retired from politics in 2013, but is now returning to the field to challenge the Deputy Prime Minister and National Party leader Barnaby Joyce for his seat of New England in the coming federal election.





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# **TRAVEL**

Bellingen is approximately half-way between Brisbane and Sydney on the beautiful NSW mid-north coast. It is 25-minute drive from Coffs Coast Airport along the Pacific Highway and Waterfall Way.

# **ACCOMMODATION**

There is a wide variety of accommodation available in the Bellingen and Coffs Coast region ranging from luxury resorts to B & Bs, motels, backpackers and holiday parks.

Accommodation details can be found at

www.coffscoast.com.au

www.stayz.com.au/accommodation/nsw/north-coast/bellingen

www.airbnb.com.au

# **FOOD & DRINK**

The town of Bellingen has a wide variety of restaurants, cafés, clubs and pubs for all tastes and budgets. A favourite café is 5 Church Street, while the Old Butter Factory offers fine dining and the Bellingen Brewery offers atmosphere.

Don't forget to attend "A Walk with Ross: Eating and Drinking and Writing about It" with Ross Macleay on Friday 10 June, 2pm — 3pm as he takes you on a walk through Bellingen's food and drink landscape.

The Green Room for writers and other guests will be set up downstairs at the back of Memorial Hall.

The Book Warehouse is the Festival's official book seller. You can find The Book Warehouse at the Senior Citizens Room, 33 Hyde Street, Bellingen.







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# COMMITTEE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Bellingen Readers & Writers Festival would like to thank the following guests for their generous contribution to this year's festival: Jim Anderson, Greg Barron, Helen Chebatte, Josh Donellan, Lyn Gain, Lawrence Gibbons, Richard Glover, Alison Green, Kim Hodges, Leah Kaminsky, Lee Kofman, Lynette Noni, Graham Potts, David Reiter, Judith Rodriguez, Lesley Truffle, Michael Wilding, David and Kristin Williamson, Tony Windsor.

#### THE COFFS COAST WRITERS CENTRE (CCWC)

was established in 2015 to service the writing and reading community between Newcastle and Byron Bay by providing a venue for workshops, seminars, readings and other literary events.

The Centre's workshop program includes:

- "Writing creative non-fiction" with Liz Keen from ABC Open
- "Reading to write" with Angela Meyer
   "The who, what, when, where, why and how of great newsletters" with Kylie Castor
- "Understanding story structure" and "Writing a synopsis" with manuscript assessor Laurel Cohn
- Haiku and general poetry workshops with poet John Bennett

The CCWC will also publicise literary events (workshops, festivals, readings) throughout the Coffs, Bellingen, Dorrigo and Nambucca regions. It is also an auspicor for community groups, assisting them to obtain grants for their own projects. For further information, or to propose a workshop or event, email

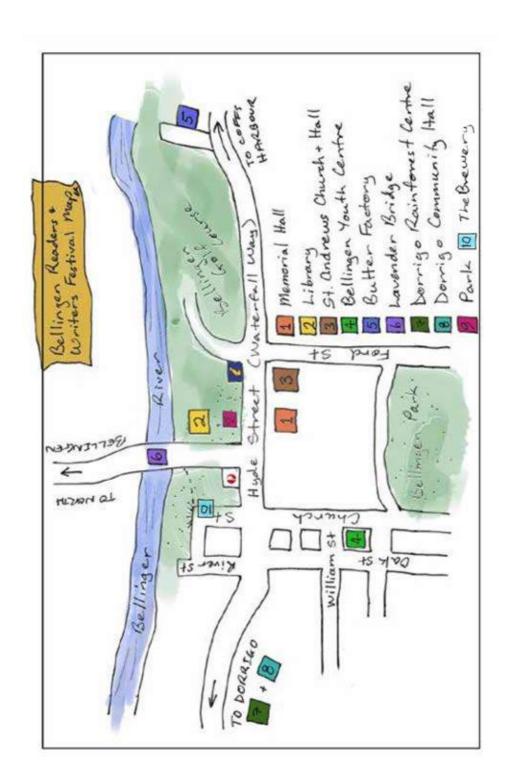
info@coffscoastwriterscentre.org.au.

## THE BELLINGEN READERS & WRITERS FESTIVAL COMMITTEE:

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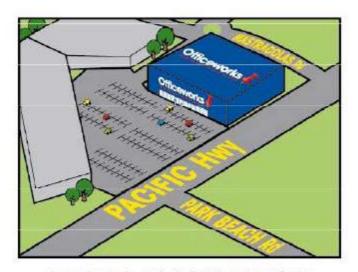
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