



Saturday 10 August 10am-10.45am Strategem Studio at Ulumbarra

Make 'Em Laugh

RA Spratt with Sarah Mayor Cox

There's so much energy in the books Rachel Spratt writes for younger readers, it's no surprise that this best-selling author also writes comedy for television. Sarah Mayor Cox meets the creator of Nanny Piggins and the Peski Kids, to find out how she got started, the connections between writing political satire for tv and stories for kids, and what's makes her - and her readers - laugh.

Ticket only \$20/\$18 concession PINK

Saturday 10 August 10am-11am Capital Theatre

Regret

Steve Kendall hosts Maryrose Cuskelly, Ginger Gorman, Lee Kofman and Alice Pung

Ever said something in anger that you later regretted? An email sent that seems interperate once the moment has passed. What about relationships you've gone into full of high hopes, then later found difficult and messy? What about a trolling tweet? Regrets - we've all had a few. From the trivial to the life-changing, the funny to the tragic, let's talk about how best to deal with the need to about-face.

Steve Kendall hears from four writers whose recent work has dealt with mistakes and their aftermath. Saturday or Festival Pass GREEN

Saturday 10 August 10am-11am Bendigo Bank Theatre at The Capital

There It Is Again

Don Watson with Prue Mansfield

In a civilised society, words matter. That's the guiding principle behind all Don Watson's work, from his classic memoir from the Keating era, to his denunciations of weasel word usage, his reportage from the Australia bush as well as the wilds of America. Prue Mansfield hosts this unique writer, to talk about the ideas that have fuelled his work, the art of essay-writing, about the precision of words and the power of nature to inspire them.

Saturday or Festival Pass GREEN

Saturday 10 August 10am-11am Bendigo Bowls Club

What I Have Written

Kate Cuthbert with Sulari Gentill, Jock Serong and Anna Snoekstra

Where does the idea for story come from? Kate Cuthbert interrogates three novelists about the impetus for a new project, and whether it springs forth fully formed or is a stubborn starter, needing time and patience to develop.

Saturday or Festival Pass GREEN

Saturday 10 August 10.15am-11.15am Ulumbarra Theatre

Pachinko: A Family Epic

Min Jin Lee with Sarah L'Estrange

Driving Min Jin Lee's generational migrant story about a Korean family is the heartbreaking truth behind the adage, home is where the heart is. Sarah Le Strange talks to the writer whose grand narrative, like Dickens and Tolstoy from earlier times, finds in the stories of individuals the enormous sweep of history.

Saturday or Festival Pass or Ticket \$20/\$18 concession YELLOW



Saturday 10 August 10.15am-11am La Trobe Art Institute

Better Memory

Lynne Kelly with Ann Lansberry

Following on from her best-selling *Memory Code*, Lynne Kelly now brings together in her new book a compendium of the best memory techniques from around the world and throughout history. For young and old, here are strategies and techniques to train your memory, whether it's to help you through a test or to keep your brain agile as you age. Join Lynne and host Ann Lansberry for a memorable conversation. What first led Lynne to focus on memory and what works best for her?

Saturday or Festival Pass GREEN

Saturday 10 August 11.15am-noon Strategem Studio at Ulumbarra

Truth, Love and Clean Cutlery

Jill Dupleix with Jennifer Alden

Travelling the length and breadth of the country to find the best restaurants and cafes, Jill Dupleix has a dream job. What could possibly go wrong? She talks with Jennifer Alden about how she went about this mammoth task, what she was looking for, and whether she thinks our culinary standards are up to scratch.

Ticket only \$20/\$18 concession PINK

Saturday 10 August 11.30am-12.30pm Capital Theatre

Breaking Bad

Chloe Hooper and Julia Shaw with Natasha Mitchell

On a day of extreme heat and ferocious wind, a man goes into the tinder-dry forest and lights a fire. When a suspicion becomes an obsession, a man kills his father, believing - in the grip of his delusion - that his act is righteous. Can we understand acts of evil? Is it possible to anticipate who among us will respond to events in ways that have dire consequences? Natasha Mitchell talks with Chloe Hooper and Julia Shaw about why they have written about the dark side of human nature. Does a writer need sympathy in order to understand? If not answers, does examining the psychology of perpetrators help us ask better questions?

Saturday or Festival Pass GREEN

Saturday 10 August 11.30am-12.30pm Bendigo Bank Theatre at The Capital

Two Steps Forward

Marilyn Lake and Sarah Maddison with Tony Birch

Sarah Maddison puts it simply: white Australia can't solve black problems. From protection to recognition, no matter what the government policy has been, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' suffer. Marilyn Lake's new book tells how the "colonial fantasy" was incorporated into advanced democratic politics. White Australia's progressive politics – the beacon of the world - was racist. Tony Birch hosts a much-needed conversation to ask, are even the most progressive policies stuck in retrogressive mindsets that entrench the same failures into the future?

Saturday or Festival Pass GREEN

Saturday 10 August 11.30am-12.15pm La Trobe Art Institute

Nganga: To See and Understand

Sue Lawson and Aunty Fay Muir with David Astle

Through the words of Australia's indigenous languages we have gradually been introduced to a culture that was disregarded by most of settler Australia. Now, through projects such as the Nganga dictionary of words and phrases, important ideas have reached many people, giving access to so much that was previously ignored. David Astle talks with Aunty Fay Muir and Sue Lawson about



language, its importance to culture, their work to collect words to help people understand culture, and the reception of their first book of Nganga.

Saturday or Festival Pass GREEN

Saturday 10 August 11.30am-12.30pm Bendigo Bowls Club

Sharing Difference

Kelly Gardiner hosts **Claire G Coleman, Michael Earp, Erin Gough and Nevo Zisin**

What if differences were celebrated? What if they highlighted the ways we are the same? What if the voices of minorities were heard? When Michael Earp set out to create a ground-breaking LGBTQ+ collection of short stories for younger readers, he must have been astonished at just how many hugely successful writers he was able to ask to contribute. Kelly Gardiner hosts Michael and three of the contributors to the *Kindred* anthology to find out what it means to be a queer teen, and how they chose their own stories for this brilliant new book.

Saturday or Festival Pass GREEN

Saturday 10 August 11.45am-12.45pm Ulumbarra Theatre

Democracy and Its Crisis

AC Grayling with **John Brumby**

Democracies have failed. It took 2000 years to give a voice to the people, and in a couple of decades that hard-fought success has been eroded, AC Grayling says the crisis requires urgent action. Why did it go wrong? And are there solutions? Most importantly, where is the will to fix it to be found? John Brumby talks with Grayling about the failure of the "best political system we have" and his convictions about how to put it right.

Saturday or Festival Pass or Ticket \$20/\$18 concession YELLOW

Saturday 10 August 12.45pm-1.30pm Strategem Studio at Ulumbarra

Farm Futures

Charles Massy with **Claire Flanagan Smith**

Ten thousand sheep can't be wrong. Over 40 years' experience running sheep and cattle in New South Wales have built Charles Massy's knowledge about transformation and innovation in not just the sheep industry but also in regenerative landscape management. His book, *Call of the Reed Warbler*, was a revelation for many readers, searching for ways forward, in collaboration with Aboriginal knowledge, for sustainable farming. Claire Flanagan-Smith talks to Charles about his life, his learning and his quest to help others find hope on the land.

Ticket only \$20/\$18 concession PINK

Saturday 10 August 1pm-1.45pm La Trobe Art Institute

Deadly Wisdom

Sue McPherson with **Jenny Mitchell**

These boys live in a small town on the Sunshine Coast and they know each other and think they know pretty much everything about what's going on around them. They can be loud, funny, uncertain, candid. In this highly-acclaimed coming-of-age novel, Sue McPherson gives voice to four boys on the edge, chronicling their lives as they unfold a gripping story. Jenny Mitchell talks to Sue about *Brontide*, how she developed the boys' own perspectives, about writing about and for young readers, and about how culture both makes and mars these boys.

Saturday or Festival Pass GREEN



Saturday 10 August 1pm-2pm Engine Room at Old Fire Station

A Room of One's Own

Ticket only \$35

Saturday 10 August 1.15pm-2.15pm Capital Theatre

Fieldwork

Paul Barclay with Gabrielle Chan, Kim Mahood and Stephen J Pyne

What do we know about the places we live, the bush, the towns by the side of bitumen and dirt, the people who live and work beyond the city cluster? It's through the curiosity and patient effort of writers who make the journeys and spend time asking the questions that we come to understand the country and people's place in it. Paul Barclay is joined by three "fieldwork" writers to ask about where they go, how they travel, what they take with them and what they bring back

Saturday or Festival Pass GREEN

Saturday 10 August 1.15pm-2.15pm Bendigo Bank Theatre at The Capital

Growing Up African

Rachel le Rossignol hosts Santilla Chingaipe, Magan Magan and Ahmed Yussuf

Anti-immigration rhetoric claims Africa-diaspora Australians are a recent phenomenon, but that ignores early settlers such as the 11 black convicts on the First Fleet. It ignores myriad stories from the past and present. At the height of the "African gang" furor, a group of writers decided it was high time to do a book: *Growing Up African in Australia* is about the ordinary, extraordinary, joyous and devastating – the diverse lives of those whose roots are in the African diaspora. Rachel Le Rossignol hosts three of the contributors to find out how this important anthology came about and to share their own stories.

Saturday or Festival Pass

Saturday 10 August 1.15pm-2.15pm Bendigo Bowls Club

Rebels and Trailblazers

Clare Wright talks to Billy Griffiths

They were energetic and committed, and outraged by the tyranny of a system that excluded them from politics and power. Some were half-loafers, willing to settle for the vote for women with property. The full-loafers demanded universal adult suffrage. What kind of women were these battlers? How did their own lives play out against this monumental achievement of winning the vote? Billy Griffiths talks to Clare Wright about her "Daughters of Freedom" and what their role in history means for the Australian nation.

Saturday or Festival Pass

Saturday 10 August 1.30pm-2.30pm Ulumbarra Theatre

Money and Ethics

Stuart Kells and Alan Kohler with Sharon Kemp

Who would have thought finance would turn out to be so dramatic, so full of nefarious deeds and shady deals, the stuff of true-crime thrillers rather than sober balance sheets. When accounting gave way to "consulting" and the future became a market, ethics became a whole lot fuzzier for financial institutions. Sharon Kemp is joined by two money wizards to sort out the black magic from the good spells. What are the basic rules of decent dealing and is it merely greed that undermines them?

Saturday or Festival Pass or Ticket \$20/\$18 concession



Saturday 10 August 2pm-2.45pm Strategem Studio at Ulumbarra

Houseproud (not)

Jessica Rowe with Suzanne Donisthorpe

Wiped the benchtops? Scrubbed the toilet? Arranged fresh flowers in elegant vases glimpsed through sparkling windows? Crap, says Jessica Rowe. It's not the clean surfaces that count in a woman's life, it's the lovely messy imaginative self underneath. She talks to Suzanne Donisthorpe about how she learnt to go easy on herself in the housework department and enjoy life more everywhere else.

Quick Pick ticket only: \$20/\$18 concession

Saturday 10 August 2.15pm-3.15pm La Trobe Art Institute

On Japan

Barry Hill and Meredith McKinney with Emerald King

Why do Japanese aesthetics attract writers and artists? Translator Meredith McKinney has immersed herself in the nuance of the language through the work of some of the most celebrated Japanese authors. Poet Barry Hill has travelled in the footsteps of great writers such as Basho. They talk to Emerald King about the attractions and difficulties of the Japanese culture.

Saturday or Festival Pass

Saturday 10 August 2.45pm-3.45pm Capital Theatre

Rise and Resist

Bhakthi Puvanthiran hosts **Jennifer Clement, Claire G Coleman** and **Clare Press**

What makes someone decide to take on an issue? Australians, we are told, are laconic people, who prefer a drink to a debate and who are more likely to say "she'll be right" than to take up a cause and fight. But, as Clare Press discovered when she set out to write her book, *Rise and Resist*, that's not actually what it like out there in the suburbs and the regions of a country now switched on to social media and community activity. Clare is joined by Claire G Coleman and Jennifer Clement, with host Bhakthi Puvanthiran, to talk about social change via people power, who it inspires and how effective it is.

Saturday or Festival Pass GREEN

Saturday 10 August 2.45pm-3.45pm Bendigo Bank Theatre at The Capital

History Is a Conversation

Jill Giese and **Tom Griffiths** with **Emma Robertson**

No matter how often we visit the past, it always surprises us and the art of "time travel", Tom Griffiths says, is to maintain critical poise and grace in this dizzying space. Jill Giese found a way to write history by listening to these time travellers. Tom and Jill join Emma Robertson to talk about how our understanding of the past has evolved. Can we ever get history right? What happens when the conversation falters and fails? Do historians make good dinner party guests?

Saturday or Festival Pass GREEN

Saturday 10 August 2.45pm-3.45pm Bendigo Bowls Club

The Artist's Role

Astrid Edwards hosts **Jane Caro, Stuart Coupe, Ben Eltham** and **Greg Fleet**

Entertainers or philosophers? Workers or dilettantes? Wise or whimsical? Has the role of the artist evolved along with the changing social landscape? Astrid Edwards hosts a conversation about how writers and other creative people are valued, whether expectations match their lived experience, and where those expectations come from. Is it fair to expect artists to be the conscience of the community?

Saturday or Festival Pass GREEN



Saturday 10 August 3pm-4pm Ulumbarra Theatre

Reporting Pell

Louise Milligan with Lawrie Zion

Louise Milligan listened to abuse survivors and used her exceptional skill to document their experiences. In the wake of the publication of *Cardinal*, George Pell was found guilty of sexual crimes against children and sentenced to six years' jail. Lawrie Zion talks about what such a story meant for the journalist. How did she deal with the unfolding trauma as she documented it? And in the aftermath of the trial, how does she now remember the process of writing such a powerful book?

Saturday or Festival Pass or Ticket \$20/\$18 concession YELLOW

Saturday 10 August 3.15pm-4pm Strategem Studio at Ulumbarra

Backyard Habitat

AB Bishop with Kieran Christopherson

A garden – whether it's a few square metres or many hectares – is so much more than a place that looks good. According to horticulturalist AB Bishop, when you start to look at a garden as a place that is home to local fauna, there are so many benefits. It's good for diversity, but also wonderful for our own health and wellbeing. AB talks with Kieran Christopherson about the how, why, what and where of creating a habitat in your own backyard. Ticket only \$20/\$18 concession PINK

Saturday 10 August 3.45pm-4.30pm La Trobe Art Institute

Poetic Impulse

Anthony Lawrence with Tru Dowling

Anthony Lawrence's work is described as electric storytelling, deeply felt, driven by curiosity, forensically observed, linguistically precise. This most distinguished of Australian poets talks with Tru Dowling about the "headwaters" of poetic inspiration. How has he learned to unlock the words to best capture the meaning? Do emotions dictate form? Is there ever a perfect poem?

Saturday or Festival Pass GREEN

Saturday 10 August 4.30pm-5.30pm Ulumbarra Theatre

Trumped: America Today

Julie Rudner with Richard Cooke, Min Jin Lee, Megan Stack, Don Watson

It plays out in the media like a soap opera, full of melodrama, fuelled by one-liners and grandstanding accusations. Australia is influenced by the United States now even more than by the UK, culturally and politically. So, what kind of place is America today? Has the current president changed the way the country operates or has he been able to understand and benefit from the zeitgeist. Julie Rudner hosts a discussion about President Trump's America, and what it means for that nation, for its allies and for global power.

Saturday or Festival Pass or Ticket \$20/\$18 concession YELLOW

Saturday 10 August 4.30pm-5.30pm Capital Theatre

Inspirational Landscapes

Gemma Rayner hosts Peter Doherty, Kim Mahood and Charles Massy

When British colonialists came to this country, most of them couldn't actually see it, so fixed in a European mindset were their ideas of beauty and functionality. Gradually, as the population changed and indigenous culture began to be heard, writers found inspiration in the subtle, enigmatic, delicate landscapes of this country. Gemma Rayner hosts Peter Doherty, Kim Mahood and Charles Massy to talk about where they have found inspiration. Do different landscapes inspire different kinds of writing?

Saturday or Festival Pass GREEN



Saturday 10 August 4.30pm-5.30pm Bendigo Bank Theatre at The Capital

Sludge: A Filthy Bendigo Story

Peter Davies and Susan Lawrence with Chris Peder

The gold mining that made Victoria rich was disastrous for the land, causing environmental devastation that still affects our rivers and floodplains. Why has the story of contamination and destruction not been told before? Peter Davies and Susan Lawrence finally reveal a filthy secret, which also shows us all kinds of interesting things about the landscape we now inhabit. They talk to Chris Peder about their search for the history of “sludge”.

Saturday or Festival Pass GREEN

Saturday 10 August 4.30pm-5.30pm Bendigo Bowls Club

Politics Is Funny

James Jeffrey and Jon Kudelka with Lindy Burns

From an early steam-powered Antony Green to the zoomorphic bookmark found in a copy of Don Dunstan's Cookbook which referred to the Van Diemen beaver, it's all there: politics for the democracy wonk, as detailed by the vauntingly ambitious duo, James Jeffrey and Jon Kudelka. They share with Lindy Burns their passionate desire to elucidate and invigorate the Australian electorate.

Saturday or Festival Pass GREEN

Saturday 10 August 4.45pm-5.30pm Strategem Studio at Ulumbarra

Songs Sun

Don Walker with Jenny Valentish

For over 40 years, Don Walker's songwriting has aimed to capture what it is to be Australian. From Cold Chisel to Catfish, Tex, Don & Charlie to his solo work, as well as many other writing collaborations, Walker's words are poetic, moving and incisive. He talks with Jenny Valentish about classics such as “Khe Sanh”, “Flame Trees”, “Cheap Wine” and “Harry was a Bad Bugger”, to reveal what has driven him and how he makes the words fit the music. Was there a highpoint for lyrics? Are we still attuned to the words and the music?

Ticket only \$20 / \$18 concession PINK

Saturday 10 August 5pm – 5.45pm La Trobe Art Institute

The Damage Done

Tony Birch with Claire Flanagan Smith

From his memoirs to his short stories and novels, as well as his essays, Tony Birch is renowned for his ability to find clear, bold language to describe sometimes difficult, delicate things. His new novel is about the damage done by forced removal of Indigenous children from their families. Tony talks to Claire Flanagan-Smith about how he came to write this book, about the need for such stories, and about the evolution of his own writing.

Saturday or Festival Pass GREEN

Saturday 10 August 6pm-7pm Ulumbarra Theatre

Growing Up Gay in Australia

Ben Law with Abe Watson

Much has changed in the past 50 years for those who grew up gay. Benjamin Law has gathered memories written by those who are veterans of the fight for rights, and young people whose wit and wisdom is set free in this astonishing collection. Ben talks with Abe Watson about the book's genesis, about what he has discovered since his own memoir was published almost a decade ago, and what these stories tell us about the state of gay rights in our country.

Saturday or Festival Pass or Ticket \$20 / \$18 concession YELLOW



Saturday 10 August 6pm-7pm Capital Theatre

Leading

Mary Crooks hosts **Troy Bramston, Bri Lee, Kerry O'Brien** and **Marilyn Waring**

Have the qualities necessary for leadership changed? Is leading the same as having power? Are leaders born or made? With four writers whose experience has enabled them to look closely at those in power, Mary Crooks leads a conversation about the successes and failures of leadership.

Saturday or Festival Pass GREEN

Saturday 10 August 6pm-7pm Bendigo Bank Theatre at The Capital

Crossing the Great Divide

Rod Moss and **Rai Gaita**

Artist Rod Moss has told his story in three masterpieces of memoir: *The Hard Light of Day: An Artist's Story of Friendships in Arrernte Country*, *A Thousand Cuts* and now, *Crossing the Great Divide*. How did a boy from suburban Melbourne develop a fierce hunger for physical, intellectual, artistic and spiritual experience? Raimond Gaita talks with Rod about the travel that also enabled him to cross the great divide between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians. What does it mean to Rod to have found acceptance in his life with the Arrernte people of the Northern Territory?

Saturday or Festival Pass GREEN

Saturday 10 August 6pm-7pm Bendigo Bowls Club

Are We There Yet?

Nicole Ferrie hosts **Jane Caro, Tishani Doshi** and **Jess Hill**

What's the future for girls? In Tishani Doshi's words, they are "coming out of the woods", broken and bruised, but coming all the same. Jane Caro says it's crucial those girls have conversations with older women - about looking after basic needs so you can get on with your interesting life. Jess Hill's writing looks at what hasn't changed, and what negative forces still controls women's bodies and lives. They talk to Nicole Ferrie about feminism 2019-style. Gains? Losses? Where to from here?

Saturday or Festival Pass GREEN

Saturday 10 August 6.15pm-7pm La Trobe Art Institute

Shakespeare's Books

Stuart Kells with **Dianne Dempsey**

There are people who are convinced Shakespeare was a literary conspiracy. One of the reasons they put forward is that it doesn't make sense that there is absolutely no trace of the library someone who wrote those plays must have owned. Stuart Kells knows about book collecting, but even he couldn't have predicted the gloriously intricate paths his sleuthing would take him down. He talks to Di Dempsey about whether we'll ever know what actually happened to Shakespeare's elusive library.

Saturday or Festival Pass GREEN

Saturday 10 August 8pm-9.15pm Ulumbarra Theatre

What Is Life?

Paul Davies

Ticket-only event \$25 / \$22 concession

Saturday 10 August 8pm-9pm Strategem Studio at Ulumbarra

The Silents were Golden

Dominic Smith

Ticket-only event \$20 / \$18 concession



Saturday 10 August 9.30pm-10.30pm Festival Club at Bendigo Bowls Club

Bendigo's Best Bits

Free entry, bar open from 8pm