



Sunday 11 August 8.15am-9.45am Bendigo Bowls Club

Gastronomy Breakfast

Jill Dupleix and Terry Durack with Kath Bolitho

Breakfast prepared by Nick and Sonia Anthony, Masons of Bendigo

Jill Dupleix and Terry Durack have had more hot breakfasts in more places than they can count. So, we reckon they deserve something very special for their Bendigo visit. They'll talk with hospitality consultant Kath Bolitho about the life of a food critic, and what makes a brilliant restaurant.

Breakfast will be prepared and served by Bendigo's own culinary star duo, Nick and Sonia Anthony from Masons of Bendigo. Bendigo Writers Festival is proud to support the City of Greater Bendigo's bid to become a UNESCO City of Gastronomy.

Ticket-only \$80 PINK

Sunday 11 August 9.45am-10.30am La Trobe Art Institute

A Pilgrim's Progress

Barry Hill and Tom Griffiths

In poetry, fiction, reportage and essays, Barry Hill has travelled far and wide. With a style very much his own, he writes about labour history, frontier poetics, about India and its heroes, about Japan and its disasters. Both deeply personal and philosophical, his writing is not easily defined. Tom Griffiths who calls Hill's work mysterious and compelling, is fascinated by the way each book, each poem, each essay, adds to what has come before, distinct and whole, but coming together "like jewels in a necklace". This conversation between two influential and admired writers will be both a tribute to Barry Hill's unusual place in Australian letters as well as a celebration of curiosity and the life of the mind.

Sunday or Festival Pass

Sunday 11 August 9.45am-10.30am Engine Room at Old Fire Station

Adapting Woolf

Peta Hanrahan and Anna Kennedy

It's 90 years since Virginia Woolf's short work, *A Room of One's Own*, sent out a rally call to women everywhere, to fight for the right to create. Peta Hanrahan's stage adaptation – presented at Bendigo Writers Festival following its triumphant 2016 season in Melbourne - brings this now classic text right up to date, showing us its rich resources with exhilarating effect. Why was Woolf's essay so important? How do you adapt such a perfect piece of writing to the stage? Hanrahan talks to producer and actor Anna Kennedy about her adaptation, and the impact of this performance on audiences - from those who love the original text to those who meet it for the first time in performance.

Sunday or Festival Pass

Sunday 11 August 10am-11am Ulumbarra Theatre

Parenting

John Marsden with Cecile Shanahan

When John Marsden became a best-selling writer for young people, he didn't step away from his commitment to education, founding two ground-breaking schools to put his thoughts into action. Now, he's ready to share it all. Part memoir, part treatise, all heart, Marsden's book about parenting is both confronting and challenging. Join this wise and compassionate writer as he talks with Cecile Shanahan about education, parenting and the human condition.

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



Sunday 11 August 10am-11am Stratagem Theatre at Ulumbarra

Romancing the Rose

Kate Forsyth with Bryley Savage

Readers describe falling headlong into the glorious romance and magic of Kate Forsyth's novels. Her love of history and her ability to conjure up mysterious worlds combine with her storytelling control to create irresistible books. She talks to Bryley Savage about her very special new novel, years in the making and vintage Forsyth. What was the origin for this tale of forbidden love that takes us from revolutionary France to Imperial China in search of a blood-red rose?

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

Sunday 11 August 10am-11am Capital Theatre

The Really Big News

Kerry O'Brien with Steve Kendall

There has been no more respected and influential journalist than Kerry O'Brien. His ability to interview everyone from prime ministers to Nobel Prize winners, and to do so with an affability, intelligence and decency rare in public life, has made him a legend of public broadcasting. His highly anticipated memoir does not disappoint. This wide-reaching memoir of a life lived in the public eye is a fitting reflection of this great Australian. He talks with Steve Kendall about what he has witnessed, about the role of the journalist, about lessons learned and joys shared.

Sunday or Festival Pass

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

Electric Hotel

Dominic Smith with Sarah L'Estrange

To research his novel, *The Electric Hotel*, Dominic Smith visited the family home of the Lumiere brothers in Lyon, and retraced the steps of First World War cinematographers through Belgium, discovering that, far from melodramas with exclamatory subtitles, many silent films were extraordinary works of art. Many were later lost, and foraging in the archives, pondering those silent masterpieces, led Smith to create his story. He talks with Sarah L'Estrange about where his quest began and what he discovered along the way.

Sunday or Festival Pass

Sunday 11 August 11am-noon Bendigo Bowls Club

What's New in Crime?

Andrew Nette with Jarad Henry, Maryrose Cuskelly, Sulari Gentill and Robert Gott

Tough crime, psychological thrillers, true crime, devious procedurals, detective series. Whatever your favourite kind of crime, you can be sure there's always a new kid on the block, ready to dazzle with a book that shifts the boundaries. How is the genre changing and what do crime writers think is the next big thing? Andrew Nette spends an hour with the experts to find out what's making waves in crime writing.

Sunday or Festival Pass



Sunday 11 August 11.15am-noon La Trobe Art Institute

Found in Translation

Meredith McKinney with Simon Patton

In Australia, the art of translation and its role in literature is not much discussed. One of our most distinguished translators is Meredith McKinney whose version of the Japanese classic, *The Pillow Book*, is internationally acclaimed. She talks with Chinese translator Simon Patton about what drew her to translation, whether her approach has changed over the years and what she thinks makes a good translation.

Sunday or Festival Pass

Sunday 11 August 11.15am-noon Engine Room at Old Fire Station

The Language of Flowers

Penelope Curtin and Jacqueline Millner

When it comes to Australian flora, there's much more than just the golden wattle to celebrate. Penelope Curtin teamed up with her daughter Tansy to create a book illustrating Australian floral art from the colonial to the contemporary. She talks with Jacqueline Millner about what they discovered. Does floral art continue to attract in an era over-saturated with colour? Why are the emotional responses to flowers so strong?

Sunday or Festival Pass

Sunday 11 August 11.30am-12.30pm Ulumbarra Theatre

Boys Will Be Boys

Clementine Ford with Sarah Mayor Cox

It runs deep and hard, and is defended bluntly: gender differences that are immutable. What Clementine Ford set out to do in her book, *Boys Will Be Boys*, was to show that hard-line masculinity is as toxic for boys as it is for girls, as dangerous for young men as it is for young women, and divisive for all society. How has screen culture influenced gender inequality? Can we change the roles in ways that benefit both women and men? Sarah Mayor Cox asks our most influential young feminist about how she sees the future for girls and boys, and what writing this book has meant for her own life.

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

Sunday 11 August 11.30am-12.30pm Strategem Studio at Ulumbarra

Fifth Estate: Women's Work

Megan K Stack and Sally Warhaft

American-born journalist Megan K Stack is an acclaimed author and war correspondent. She was Moscow bureau chief for the *L.A. Times* when she made the decision to work from home and look after her newborn child. As her growing family followed her husband's work through China and India, Stack's new life forced her to understand the economy of women's work, and the inequalities that make it possible to exploit 'poor women, brown women, migrant women'. Stack's memoir, *Women's Work: A Reckoning with Work and Home*, undertakes a forthright and relentless examination of domestic labour, and the complexities of working parenthood – for herself and for the babysitters, cooks and cleaners which made her continuing career possible. She asks: 'Why was it that, whatever you desired, you could find a poor woman to sell it?' In conversation with Sally Warhaft at Bendigo Writers Festival, Megan Stack will discuss the ethics, unexpected emotional shifts and negotiations of the household as a workplace.

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



Sunday 11 August 11.30am-12.30pm Capital Theatre

Counting the Cost

Marilyn Waring and Richard Denniss with Mary Crooks

The economics of work is neither dull nor difficult when it's taken on by writers as sharp and engaging as former NZ politician Marilyn Waring and economist commentator Richard Denniss. These two have mutual respect and a great deal in common, so when they talk about fair pay and the real cost of work, there is real energy in the way the ideas develop. Mary Crooks hosts these two informed and lucid thinkers as they discuss the economics of labour policies.

Sunday or Festival Pass GREEN

Sunday 11 August 11.30am-12.30pm Bendigo Bank Theatre at The Capital

Menzies and the Art of Politics

Troy Bramston and Annika Smethurst

Robert Menzies remains Australia's longest-serving prime minister and the only one to leave office at a time of their own choosing in the past 50 years. According to Troy Bramston's revelatory biography of Menzies - the first published in 20 years - it was his clear philosophy and mastery of the art of politics that made him so successful. Troy Bramston talks to Annika Smethurst about the man who created the Liberal Party and continues to cast a long shadow over it.

Sunday or Festival Pass GREEN

Sunday 11 August 12.30pm-1.15pm La Trobe Art Institute

Mad Melbourne

Jill Giese with Penny Davies

Was it the antipodean sun, gold mania, excessive masturbation, the heady pace of modern life? These are the questions posed by clinical psychologist Jill Giese in her award-winning book about the extraordinarily high rate of insanity in colonial Victoria. With Bendigo historian Penny Davies, Jill talks about what she found when she researched the sad lives of those incarcerated in madhouses, which led to the quest by ambitious doctors to improve understanding of mental illness. Did digging in the archives change her own ideas about what it means to be sane?

Sunday 11 August 12.30pm-1.15pm Engine Room at Old Fire Station

Girls Are Coming Out of the Woods

Tishani Doshi, Dan Bendrups

Tishani Doshi danced for 15 years with the acclaimed Chandralekha troupe, performing around the world. Now, as a poet, she presents her work in performance, combining the discipline of movement with powerful words. "Appearances", she says, "must always appear to be effortless. Think of how the young speak of desire." This presentation of her acclaimed work includes her signature poem, Girls Are Coming Out of the Wood. "Understand that poetry is held in the body," she says, and it works to a different kind of time and rhythm." Bendigo Writers Festival thanks the Australia Council for this opportunity to include Indian writer Tishani Doshi on our program.

Sunday or Festival Pass



Sunday 11 August 12.30pm-1.15pm Bendigo Bowls Club

Mining the Past

Kate Forsyth and Ilka Tampke with Kelly Gardiner

You can tell when a writer enjoys researching the past. The history embeds itself not only in fictional events but in the minds and manners of the characters they create. We use words such as “vivid” and “gripping” to describe the result – stories that transport us back in time while speaking to us about who we are right now. Kelly Gardiner is joined by Kate Forsyth and Ilka Tampke to discuss what happens once they find themselves falling headlong into a past time and place, how they go about gathering what they need to ensure authenticity, and then how they develop their people and their stories within the framework of that history.

Sunday 11 August 1.15pm-2.15pm Ulumbarra Theatre

Making Evil

Julia Shaw with Paul Barclay

How similar is your brain to a psychopath's? How many people have murder fantasies? Can A.I. be evil? Do your sexual proclivities make you a bad person? Who becomes a terrorist? Dr Julia Shaw's internationally best-selling book is certainly timely, and has clearly touched a nerve, as she looks at what science can tell us about brains and behaviour. Paul Barclay talks with Julia about understanding evil, from bloody murder to corporate corruption, from everyday evil to the heinous plot. Sunday or Festival Pass or Ticket \$20 / \$18 concession

Sunday 11 August 1.15pm-2.15pm Strategem Studio at Ulumbarra

It's Your Money

Alan Kohler with Yvonne Wrigglesworth

The very idea of a bank going rogue would be shocking to Australians from another era who put the bank manager up there with the doctor and postmaster as pinnacles of community. But financial literacy hasn't kept up with the times either. Alan Kohler is here to tell us to stop worrying and take control. He talks to Yvonne Wrigglesworth about financial planning, investment and superannuation, to show that it's most practical wisdom you need. In his own career, what has been the best advice Alan has received?

Ticket only \$20 / \$18 concession

Sunday 11 August 1.15pm-2.15pm Capital Theatre

Shake or Stir?

Jane Caro, Gabrielle Chan, Sarah Maddison and Jess Hill

Is it a writer's role to stir things up or to settle things down? Have the days when there was time to slow-burn an idea, turn it into a book, long gone? When things crowd in, how does the writer clear a space to think and develop an idea? Jess Hill leads a conversation about whether there's a line between the personal and the public when it comes to being a writer and commentator.,

Sunday or Festival Pass



Sunday 11 August 1.15pm-2.15pm Bendigo Bank Theatre at The Capital

Australia Felix

Marilyn Lake and Jock Serong

From the start, the new nation of Australia was hailed around the world for what its admirers called “state socialism”. Optimistic and radical, Australia’s political culture was especially influential among fellow Progressive reformers in the new world democracy of the United States of America.. But this ideal of political equality was also one of racial exclusion. Marilyn Lake talks with Jock Serong about the paradox at the very heart of settler colonialism. Why has it taken so long for us to recognise and challenge the ways in which progressive politics incorporated the racism of evolutionary thinking that divided the world into “backward” and “advanced”?

Sunday or Festival Pass

Sunday 11 August 1.45pm-2.30pm La Trobe Art Institute

Professor at Large

Peter Doherty with Sian Gard

They say travel broadens the mind, and it sure does seem to be the case for Nobel Prize winning scientist Peter Doherty. For more than 30 years, he has kept a journal of all the places he has visited as part of his ridiculously busy schedule. From the obvious favourites to obscure destinations, travel has been a way for him to ask, what’s the sense of things? Sian Gard and Peter Doherty take us on an armchair ride around the globe, with plenty of stops along the way to consider food, art and the quest for a perfect sentence.

Sunday or Festival Pass

Sunday 11 August 1.45pm-2.30pm Engine Room at Old Fire Station

On the Road Again

Don Walker and Stuart Coupe with Em Burgess-Gilchrist

In the words of music writer Stuart Coupe, the rock’n’roll road tour is hyped-up adrenalin surging bursts of activity. It’s extreme highs and hard comedowns. And the personal costs can be great. Stuart and performer Don Walker talk to Em Burgess-Gilchrist about music on the move, their finest and not-so-great memories, the difference between live and studio sound, and how the audiences have evolved since the first amp was loaded onto the back of a truck.

Sunday or Festival Pass

Sunday 11 August 1.45pm-2.45pm Bendigo Bowls Club

Humour’s Edge

Ginger Gorman, Erin Gough, Jon Kudelka with Fiona Parker

You can get away with saying all kinds of things if you make a joke of it. Or can you? Fiona Parker hosts a discussion about the things that matter when you are trying to be funny. Can bad taste be confused with humour? Is there a place and a time for having a laugh?

Sunday or Festival Pass



Sunday 11 August 3pm-4pm Ulumbarra Theatre

A Better Death

Ranjana Srivastava in conversation with **Robert Blum**

To find peace, kindness and gratitude for what has gone before, and acceptance of what is to come. That's what it means to die well, says oncologist and writer Ranjana Srivastava. How can we lead a meaningful life and prepare well and with dignity for the end of that life? Where do people find the necessary courage and grace? She talks with Robert Blum about what her own experience working with patients and families can teach us all.

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

Sunday 11 August 3pm-4pm Strategem Studio at Ulumbarra

Planning for the Pyrocene

Stephen Pyne and **Tom Griffiths**

Here we are, in 2019, and it seems we have no idea how to manage fire in our combustible landscape. Does controlled burning help or hinder? What have we learnt from the devastating deadly fires of recent years? Stephen J Pyne has written many books on fire management, including *A Fire History of Australia* and *Fire on Earth*. Following the Californian fires of 2018, he has written about the new age we are now entering, calling it the "pyrocene". Stephen talks with Tom Griffiths about how communities can plan with confidence by understanding their environments and how they are changing.

Ticket only \$20 / \$18 concession

Sunday 11 August 3pm-4pm Capital Theatre

Over It

Jennifer Clement, Greg Fleet and **Karen Viggers** with **Leo D'Angelo Fisher**

There's an old saying: you make your bed, you lie in it. That's not going to get things changed - and it doesn't make for an interesting plot either. Leo D'Angelo Fisher talks to three novelists about getting fed up, getting mad, and getting even. Are their characters victims or heroes? Is courage tapped into or fuelled by injustice and loss of hope?

Sunday or Festival Pass

Sunday 11 August 3pm-4pm Bendigo Bank Theatre at The Capital

Family Smatters

James Jeffrey with **Annika Smethurst**

James Jeffrey agrees with Kurt Vonnegut that the purpose of life is, simply, to fart around. It's a characteristically flip motto for a writer whose family animus, as he calls it, was deep and dark. He talks with fellow journalist Annika Smethurst about how his childhood shaped his role as a writer, about the importance of humour in dealing with sadness, and about all the moments in life that make him want to say "strewth".

Sunday or Festival Pass



Sunday 11 August 3.15pm-4pm La Trobe Art Institute

Tricky Brain

David Astle with Elspeth Kernebone

Are cryptic crosswords just too...well... cryptic for your taste? Or do you relish puzzling out the clues and solving the challenge? David Astle has been tormenting us for years with his wordplay and now he wants us to believe that it's good for us! David shares the research that suggests you can boost the power and agility of your brain, and keep memory loss at bay, with a cryptic crossword a day. He talks with Elspeth Kernebone about how regular brain training is fun as well as fundamental.

Sunday or Festival Pass

Sunday 11 August 3.15pm-4.15pm Engine Room at Old Fire Station

Women Write Blak

Blak Brow Collective

There's a long line of First Nations women in this country whose voices are being heard by those following in their footsteps. For the women who worked together on the Blak Brow edition of Melbourne magazine, *The Lifted Brow*, it was an opportunity to celebrate and share that lineage, through poetry, art, and writing in many forms. Honest, funny and real, the collective output of such projects is both an acknowledgement of those gone before and a track-making for those to come. Join the women of the Blak Brow project as they talk about telling stories, resisting, caring and sharing, healing, nurturing, fighting, writing and making art.

Sunday or Festival Pass

Sunday 11 August 3.15pm-4.15pm Bendigo Bowls Club

Active Online

Bhakthi Puvanenthiran hosts Ben Eltham, Bri Lee and Clare Press

Online influencers are now very much part of the media landscape. What works for activists? Does the medium shape the message? Who pays and is it controllable? Should it be? Bhakthi Puvanenthiran talks to Ben Eltham, Bri Lee and Clare Press?? about how they use social media, what works and why, and when they know that they've hit the mark.

Sunday or Festival Pass

Sunday 11 August 4.30pm-5.30pm Ulumbarra Theatre

Changing Lives: Festival Closing Address

Munjed Al Muderis

The story of world-leading surgeon Munjed Al Muderis is truly inspiring: from boat refugee fleeing Iraq to mandatory detention, released to work in regional Victoria, before rising to become a world-leader in the life-saving surgery that allows victims of trauma to regain mobility after the loss of limbs. His return to Iraq to perform that surgery on victims of the war against ISIS is told in his recent book, *Going Back*. Hosted by Bendigo Mayor Marg O'Rourke, this courageous and brilliant doctor talks about what it meant to him to revisit the country he was forced to flee, sharing with us an exceptional experience of hope and resilience

Ticket only \$25 / \$22 concession