

**Friday 9 August 11am-3pm Strategem Studio**

*Poetry Masterclass with **Anthony Lawrence***

Join acclaimed Australian poet Anthony Lawrence for a masterclass designed to help writers tap into the marvelous, that often runs below and through what appears to be ordinary or commonplace. This workshop will help you turn what you see into images that are at once original and captivating. You will find, through the poems on offer and the exercises Anthony takes you through, ways to look, methods to capture, and techniques to then imprint in words, alternatives to what we know of the world. **Anthony Lawrence** has published sixteen books of poems. His books and individual poems have won many awards, including the Philip Hodgins Memorial Medal; The Kenneth Slessor Poetry Prize (NSW Premier's Award for Poetry); Josephine Ulrick Poetry Prize; Newcastle Poetry Prize; the Blake Poetry Prize; Judith Wright Calanthe Award; Gwen Harwood Memorial Award. Level: Advanced. Pitched for poets, however the workshop applies to all experienced writers.

Ticket only \$120 Participant limit 10 PINK

**Friday 9 August 11am-noon Great Stupa of Universal Compassion**

*Hang on, Help Is On Its Way*

**Meshel Laurie** and **Suzanne Donisthorpe**

What's the fastest growing faith in the world? It's Buddhism, and Meshel Laurie says that's because it is very well suited to our contemporary age. Too busy for organised religion? Too stressed to commit to the contemplative life? In Buddhism, you can find all kinds of help, and this comedy writer and tv personality wants to let you know just what goodies are in store for you when you take a look at this ancient philosophy. Laurie is joined by Suzanne Donisthorpe for this first-ever Festival event at Bendigo's astonishing Great Stupa of Universal Compassion, for an event that promises to be most enlightening.

Ticket only \$20/\$18 concession PINK

**Friday 9 August 11am-noon Soldiers Memorial Institute Military Museum**

*Many Such As She*

**Michael Sharkey** talks to **Kirsten McKay**, with readings by **Kate Stones**

Poet and critic Michael Sharkey began researching women poets' responses to the First World War many years ago, keen to find out why so little had been collected and why it was so long neglected. After decades of discovery, and revelations about what kinds of writing was deemed acceptable to commemorate Australia at war, Michael's book presents a surprising and strong collection of women writing in the state of Victoria during and after the war. To celebrate the beautiful restoration of Bendigo's Soldiers Memorial Institute Military Museum and their elegant new gallery space, Michael is joined in conversation by curator Kirsten McKay, with readings of a selection of the poems by actor Kate Stones.

Ticket only \$20/\$18 concession PINK

**Friday 9 August 11am-noon Blind Cow Pottery, Marong**

*In the Bush, No One Can Hear You Scream*

**Sulari Gentill and Robert Gott**

It's edgy, out there just beyond the Bendigo city limits. Down a dirt track, you'll be greeted by Deirdre and Ray, the artists whose Bind Cow Potter is delightfully unconventional - complete with a turret. They're hosting two very game crime writers, Sulari Gentill and Robert Gott, whose friendship may well be tested as they take each other on with a q&a challenge. They get to ask ten questions each - as surprising or challenging as they like. Come a little early for a cuppa and cake, then it's on with the joust.

Ticket only \$20/\$18 concession. For venue information, please contact the box office. PINK

**Friday 9 August 12.30pm-1.5pm Ulumbarra Theatre**

*Does My Face Fit Here?*

**Randa Abdel-Fattah with Santilla Chingaibe**

The enormous success of Randa Abdel-Fattah's delightful first novel, *Does My Head Look Big in This?* was a hugely encouraging sign that young readers wanted to read about race, human rights, multiculturalism and, of course, about coping with school, family and friends as you're growing up. She's now turning that novel into a film and has also edited a new book about growing up Arab in Australia. Randa talks to Santilla Chingaibe about her writing, about diversity and about the importance to her of community.

Friday or Festival Pass or ticket \$20/\$18 concession: session includes school groups

**Friday 9 August 1.45pm-2.30pm Ulumbarra Theatre**

*The Idea of Home*

**Alice Pung with Fiona Parker**

There used to be a particular version of Australian history that spanned two centuries and left out many people. Alice Pung's debut memoir, *Unpolished Gem*, brilliantly challenged that limited story, telling us about what it was like to grow up Chinese-Australian in a working-class Melbourne suburb. Since then, she has written on everything from the role of grandparents to the damage done by racism. Alice talks to Fiona Parker about her own idea of home, how the places we live and the connections we make shape the people we become.

Friday or Festival Pass or ticket \$20/\$18 concession: session includes school groups

**Friday 9 August 1.45pm-2.30pm La Trobe Art Institute**

*Brain Food*

**Felice Jacka with Chris Kelly**

The bad news is, anxiety and depression, as well as obesity and heart disease, are on the rise. The good news is, we can do something about it. Felice Jacka's research into how diet affects your brain unfolds the exciting new research about diet and health, including the health of that all-important organ, your brain.

Friday or Festival Pass

**Friday 9 August 1.45pm-2.45pm Bendigo Bowls Club**

*Women Kind*

**Kristin Ferguson and Catherine Fox with Marg O'Rourke**

When women rally together, it's an unstoppable force, powerful and transformative. Kirstin Ferguson and Catherine Fox set out to write *Women Kind* at a time when at a time when online global movements such as #MeToo and #TimesUp were taking the world by storm. Is the shared clout of collaborative women changing society? Bendigo Mayor Marg O'Rourke welcomes this company director and influential commentator to Bendigo for a timely discussion about how women are making change happen.

Friday or Festival Pass

**Friday 9 August 3pm-3.45pm La Trobe Art Institute**

*Telling It Tough*

**Megan Blandford and Benjamin McEllen with John Richards**

When life gets tough, emotions can get intense. Many people say how much writing can help, both during and after the tough times. John Richards talks with Megan Blandford (*I'm Fine and Other Lies*) and Benjamin S MacEllen (*A Cut Closer to Whole*) about their memoirs. How much did they rely on notes and diaries? Did they talk to people around them about their experiences? Did they write for themselves, or was it as much about helping others with similar experiences. And how close did they get to telling it tough?

Friday or Festival Pass

**Friday 9 August 3.15pm-4.15pm Ulumbarra Theatre**

*Curing Cancer*

**Paul Davies with Natasha Mitchell**

What if the long hard road to finding a cure for cancer has been heading us in the wrong direction? What if, rather than treating it as a disease of cell mutation, we think of it as a reversion to an ancestral phenotype, a cell's way of coping with stress? Paul Davies talks to Natasha Mitchell about his controversial theoretical research. What's behind this new theory and why did he choose to pursue it?

Where's the work taken him in the past few years? What's next?

Friday or Festival Pass or ticket \$20/\$18 concession

**Friday 9 August 3.15pm-4.15pm Capital Theatre**

*The Voice*

**Jane Caro, Ginger Gorman, James Jeffrey and Don Walker** talk to Lawrie Zion

We used to talk about a writer's "voice", those characteristics which marked out their work, as individual as a face and as connected to the person as their way of thinking. Lawrie Zion asks four writers with distinctive voices, did it take time to get their style matching their thoughts? Do they have a different voice for different needs? Can you disguise your voice and still sound authentic?

Friday or Festival Pass

**Friday 9 August 3.15pm-4.15pm Bendigo Bank Theatre at The Capital**

*Fire People*

**Chloe Hooper and Stephen Pyne with Sian Gard**

There are those who light them and those who fight them. Beyond headlines about the ever-increasing danger of fire, the devastation of a firestorm, and the losses that follow, from out of the communities affected come the stories about what happened and how it makes them feel. Stephen Pyne and Chloe Hooper talk to Sian Gard about the way fire changes lives, and about finding ways to describe those experiences. Can writing get close to conveying both the fire and the people whose lives are marked indelibly by it?

Friday or Saturday Pass

**Friday 9 August 3.15pm-4.15pm Bendigo Bowls Club**

*Writing Victoria*

**Kate Cuthbert** hosts **Jarad Henry, Lee Kofman, Fiona Lowe and Anna Snoekstra**

Bendigo is, geographically-speaking, right at the centre of Victoria, so it's fitting that Writers Victoria head to town to celebrate their 30th anniversary. Kate Cuthbert hosts four very different writers, whose work proves the extraordinary range of voices within this creative community.

Friday or Festival Pass

**Friday 9 August 4.30pm-5.15pm La Trobe Art Institute**

*The Cost of Caring*

**Christine Cummins and Lucy Mayes with Tamara Marwood**

How do people working in stressful professional roles cope? What's it like to work in such difficult situations as refugee detention? Does it sap positive energy or help build resilience? Tamara Marwood talks to Christine Cummins (Dignity in a Teacup) and Lucy Mayes (Beyond the Stethoscope) about caring and its cost, for individuals and for communities. Behind the statistics, what are the stories people tell about their own experiences?

Friday or Festival Pass

**Friday 9 August 4.45pm-5.45pm Ulumbarra Theatre**

*Good Thinking*

**Rob Stephenson** hosts **David Astle, Felice Jacka and Julia Shaw**

What do we know about how the brain works? Not much, as it turns out. How do you keep your brain fit and well - and what can you do when things start going haywire. Rob Stephenson is joined by puzzler David Astle, nutritional psychiatrist Felice Jacka and psychologist Julia Shaw to talk about the health of the mind, why things go wrong, and what to do about it when they do.

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

**Friday 9 August 4.45pm-5.45pm Capital Theatre**

*I Just Snapped*

Beatrice Alba hosts **Maryrose Cuskelly, Jess Hill and Bri Lee**

You hear it again and again when violent crimes are reported and perpetrators go to court: "I just snapped". Beatrice Alba talks to three writers who have reported on such crimes to find out their reactions to this defence, what they discovered about both society's understanding of why violence happens and also the way the law deals with it. And for a writer, is it necessary or possible to understand both the victim and the perpetrator's point of view?

Friday or Festival Pass

**Friday 9 August 4.45pm-5.45pm Bendigo Bank Theatre at The Capital**

*Gastronomical*

**Jill Dupleix and Charles Massy with Trevor Budge**

Much more than a good feed, and increasingly important in a world of uncertain food production, gastronomy is a hot topic for everyone. City of Greater Bendigo's manager of regional sustainability Trevor Budge is joined by food writer Jill Dupleix and transformational farming advocate Charles Massy for a discussion about cultivating for nutrition and good taste in sustainable ways. Do we have the information we need to bring about a gastronomy revolution?

Friday or Festival Pass

**Friday 9 August 4.45pm-5.45pm Bendigo Bowls Club**

*Home and Heart*

**Min Jin Lee and Alice Pung** in conversation

As a student in the United States in the 1980s, Min Jin Lee discovered through education and reading that every person - no matter what race, gender or class - contains within themselves "historical multitudes". She never dreamed that she would find a way, in fiction, to give voice to those multitudes. Alice Pung, growing up Asian in Australia, blending in was the goal, to escape notice. Now, successful and respected, she contemplates how - or if - bigotry has changed in the next generation of class-defined society. Join these two gifted writers as they consider how growing up Asian shaped their ideas and fuelled their writing.

Friday or Festival Pass

**Friday 9 August 5pm-7.45pm Ulumbarra foyer space**

*Food Fossickers Showcase*

Food Fossickers is an alliance of Central Victorian producers, committed to supporting the region's brilliant food culture. At Festival 2019, Food Fossickers invite you to meet growers and producers, sample their wares, and find out more about what's on offer. Food Fossickers and Bendigo Writers Festival are proud to support the City of Greater Bendigo's bid to become a UNESCO City of Gastronomy.

Free, all welcome

**Friday 9 August 5.30pm-6.30pm Ulumbarra foyer space**

*Launch: Sludge* by **Peter Davies** and **Susan Lawrence**

*Sludge* is the fascinating story of the forgotten filth that plagued nineteenth-century Victoria. It exposes the dirty big secret of Victoria's mining history – the way it transformed the state's water and land; and also how the battle against sludge helped to lay the ground for the modern environmental movement. **La Trobe University Chancellor John Brumby** launches this fascinating book that will make us all see our landscape in a totally new light.

Free, all welcome

**Friday 9 August 6pm-7pm La Trobe Art Institute**

*Sisters*

**Tishani Doshi** and **Karen Viggers** with **Penelope Curtin**

In the lush wilderness of Paramankeni, Grace learns about a family that will test her very being. In remote Tasmania, Mikaela's family has shattered, leaving just her and a secretive brother to make a life. Two novels about courage and freedom, set in two very different cultures and landscapes. Tishani Doshi and Karen Viggers talk to Penelope Curtin about finding stories in extraordinary landscapes. How much are Grace and Mikaela of their place, how much young women of the world?

Friday or Festival Pass

**Friday 9 August 6.15pm-7.15pm Capital Theatre**

*Working Women*

**Megan Stack** and **Marilyn Waring** with **Anne Manne**

Mothers who work. Women who don't have children. Childcare and the economic costs. Valuing unpaid work. How far have we come sorting through the social and personal experience of a workplace that adjusts to gender equality? Do we have the information as well as the will to understand what has changed and what now needs to change? Anne Manne hosts Megan Stack and Marilyn Waring for a conversation about making women's work count.

Friday or Festival Pass

**6.15pm-7.15pm Bendigo Bank Theatre at The Capital**

*Out of the Ordinary*

**Karen Corr** hosts **Gabrielle Chan**, **Stuart Coupe**, **Clare Press**

We're told people are disaffected by politics and that cynicism is rife. And yet, when you go out talking to so-called ordinary people, you find dedication and know-how that interest groups can tap into. These writers talk about how they sought out people who aren't always heard in the mainstream.

**Friday 9 August 6.30pm-7.30pm Ulumbarra Theatre**

*Democracy*

**Nevo Zisin** hosts **Jennifer Clement, Richard Cooke, AC Grayling, Clare Wright**  
Rule by the people has not yet actually meant what it says, and despite the hand-on-heart nationalism that claims democracy as the best of all possible systems, history has shown that "people" means different things, according to who is eyeing off the power. Is it still the best possible system? What is threatening it? Who, now, are "the people" and who best represents them? Nevo Zisin hosts Jennifer Clement, Richard Cooke, AC Grayling and Clare Wright, for a discussion about people and power.  
Friday or Festival Pass or Ticket \$20 / \$18 concession

**Friday 9 August 6.30pm-7.30pm Bendigo Bowls Club**

*Perfect Imperfect*

**Lindy Burns** hosts **Jon Kudelka, Greg Fleet and Jessica Rowe**

There's what you aspire to be. And there's what you are. There's best intentions. And then there's what happens next. Lindy Burns asks Jon Kudelka, Greg Fleet and Jessica Rowe about their ideal selves, their real selves, and whether those two selves have much in common.

Friday or Festival Pass

**Friday 9 August 8pm-9.15pm Ulumbarra Theatre**

*World of Food*

**Maeve O'Meara** with **Derek Guille**

Maeve O'Meara's adventures across a world of cuisines includes inspiration from earth, fire and water, wonderfully informative, and deliciously inspiring. Join the host of SBS's hugely successful Food Safari program for a conversation about the places, the people and the dishes that have delighted her in her quest for unique and exotic culinary cultures. Supported by the Regional Sustainability Unit of City of Greater Bendigo. The Festival supports City of Greater Bendigo's bid to become a UNESCO City of Gastronomy.

Ticket only \$25/\$22 concession

**Friday 9 August 9.30pm-10.30pm Festival Club at Bendigo Bowls Club**

*Crime After Dark*

**Andrew Nette** hosts crime writers

A gang of crime writers walks into a bar... what happens when they pick the best bits from their books and are invited to strut their stuff? Will it be edge-of-the-seat, or laid-back? Will they choose grisly or genteel? Whose detective has the most laconic line? Join Andrew Nette for this first-time reading event in our Festival Club bar.

Free, all welcome: Festival Club at Bendigo Bowls Club is open from 8pm