

NATIONAL WRITERS' CONFERENCE TIMETABLE

Performance Space (Level 1)

Workshop Space (Level 4)

Board Room (Level 3)

Saturday 22nd June

10.00am 5 X 5 RULES OF WRITING

11.00am THE RACIAL IMAGINARY

CULTURAL CRITICISM

ASK ME ANYTHING:
TONI JORDAN

12.00pm WRITING WITH
EMOTIONAL HONESTY

DISABILITY POETICS

MULTILINGUAL WRITING

12.45–1.30pm LUNCH

1.30pm THE FUTURE OF:
LABOUR

OPEN AND SHUT:
CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK

ASK ME ANYTHING:
ALISON WHITTAKER

2.30pm PITCH PERFECT

WRITING THE
ANTHROPOCENE

WRITING TRANS AND GENDER
DIVERSE CHARACTERS

3.30–3.45pm AFTERNOON TEA

3.45pm CARING AND
CREATIVE PRACTICE

PATHWAY TO PUBLICATION

DEEP LISTENING AND
POETIC PRACTICE

4.30pm

ASK A PUBLISHER

Sunday 23rd June

10.15am GUIDED MEDITATION:
DEALING WITH DISTRACTION

WRITING AS A
POLITICAL ACT

WRITING SEX WORK

11.00am NEW MASCULINITIES

THE POLITICS
OF FORGETTING

ASK ME ANYTHING:
MARIA TUMARKIN

12.00pm MONEY TALKS

YOU CAN WRITE BUT
CAN YOU EDIT?

WRITING YOURSELF
WITHOUT LOSING YOURSELF

12.45 1.30pm LUNCH

1.30pm LITERATURE AND TRAUMA

THE FUTURE OF:
STORYTELLING

ASK ME ANYTHING:
CHARLOTTE NASH

2.30pm THE FUTURE OF:
TRUTH

POETIC DISOBEDIENCE

ASK ME ANYTHING:
KATHERINE BRABON

3.30–3.45pm AFTERNOON TEA

3.45pm PITCH IT! BOOK PUBLISHERS

SCENE IT: HANDS-ON
FILM CRITICISM

WHY I LOVE IT

5.00pm INTERSTATE MATES
SHOWCASE

NATIONAL WRITERS' CONFERENCE

On June 22 and 23, Australia's largest gathering of emerging writers returns to State Library Victoria. Featuring a perfect mix of emerging and established speakers, this two-day conference covers craft, industry insights and inspiration for writers of all genres and forms.

Whether the publishing stream or the practical toolbox sessions strike your fancy, this is an opportunity to encounter big ideas at close quarters. Featuring over 70 artists across two days of panels, discussions, workshops and more, the National Writers' Conference is a unique opportunity to network and nurture your craft.

Date Saturday 22 June and Sunday 23 June

Venue State Library Victoria, Conference Centre 

Price Weekend pass 110 full 90 concession

Day pass 80 full 60 concession

EWF AMBASSADORS

Each year, EWF invites five ambassadors to participate in the National Writers' Conference and share their experience, insight and knowledge with the next generation of writers.

This year's ambassadors are **Katherine Brabon, Toni Jordan, Charlotte Nash, Maria Tumarkin** and **Alison Whittaker**.

Get up close and personal with this year's ambassadors in our unique Ask Me Anything sessions – they bring the experience, you bring the questions.

The ambassadors program is supported by Monash University Faculty of the Arts

5x5 RULES OF WRITING

Date Saturday 22 June, 10 11am

Price 21 full 16 concession. Free with a Weekend or Saturday conference pass

Kicking off the conference, our five festival ambassadors share their five rules for writing. Whether you're emerging, emerged or somewhere in between, these gems of advice are bound to get you inspired.

With **Katherine Brabon, Toni Jordan, Charlotte Nash, Maria Tumarkin, and Alison Whittaker**
Hosted by **Izzy Roberts-Orr**

INTERSTATE MATES SHOWCASE

Date Sunday 23 June, 5 5.50pm

We end the conference by shining the spotlight on our friends from across the continent and the work they've brought to share with us!

With **Eda Gunaydin, Rachel Watts** and more

ASK ME ANYTHING...

These sessions provide an opportunity to get up close and personal with some of Australia's most successful authors. Ask all of your niggling questions on craft, creative process and career pathways.

Saturday 22 June

11am 12pm **Toni Jordan**

Toni Jordan is the author of five novels. The international best-seller *Addition* was longlisted for the Miles Franklin award. *Fall Girl* was published internationally and *Nine Days* was awarded Best Fiction at the 2012 Indie Awards and was named in *Kirkus Review's* top 10 Historical Novels of 2013. *Our Tiny, Useless Hearts* (2016) was longlisted for the International Dublin Literary Award. Toni teaches creative writing at Faber Academy. Her most recent novel is *The Fragments* (2018).

1.30 2.30pm **Alison Whittaker**

Alison Whittaker is a Gomeri multitasker. Between 2017–2018 she was a Fulbright scholar at Harvard Law School, where she was named the Dean's Scholar in Race, Gender and Criminal Law. Alison is a Senior Researcher at the Jumbunna Institute. Her debut poetry collection, *Lemons in the Chicken Wire*, was awarded the State Library of Queensland's black&write! Indigenous Writing Fellowship in 2015. Her latest book, *Blakwork*, was published in 2018. Alison was the co-winner of the 2017 Overland Judith Wright Poetry Prize for *Many Girls White Linen*. Most recently, she was the Indigenous Poet-In-Residence for the 2018 Queensland Poetry Festival.

Sunday 23 June

11am 12pm **Maria Tumarkin**

Maria Tumarkin writes books, essays, reviews, and pieces for performance and radio; she collaborates with sound and visual artists and has had her work carved into dockside tiles. She is the author of four books of ideas. The latest, *Axiomatic* (Brow Books), won the 2018 Melbourne Prize for Literature's Best Writing Award and was shortlisted for the Stella Prize. Maria holds a PhD in cultural history and teaches creative writing at the University of Melbourne.

1.30 2.30pm **Charlotte Nash**

Charlotte Nash is the internationally published author of six contemporary romance and romantic drama novels, most recently *The Paris Wedding* and *Saving You*. She is also the author of short speculative fiction stories, and multiple nominee for the Ditmar and Aurealis awards. She has degrees in engineering and medicine, and is in the last months of her creative writing PhD. She has mentored emerging writers and taught classes for QWC, BCC Libraries, The University of Queensland, and University of Technology Sydney.

2 30 3 30pm **Katherine Brabon**

Katherine Brabon is a writer from Melbourne. Her first novel, *The Memory Artist*, won the 2016 The Australian/Vogel Award and was shortlisted in the NSW Premier's Literary Awards in 2017. Her work seeks to explore memory, history, culture and trauma. Katherine is a regular contributor to *Lindsay* magazine and is working on her second novel, set in contemporary Japan.

PUBLISHING

Itching to perfect, pitch and publish your work? Soak up the expertise of publishers and experienced writers who will impart wisdom from both sides of the margin. We offer advice for all points along the publishing journey, whether your challenge is finishing your manuscript, editing your work or soliciting publication.

Saturday 22 June

3.30 3.30pm PITCH PERFECT

Ahead of Sunday's pitching session, whip your pitch into shape with the help of Hachette's **Robert Watkins**. What's unique about your book? Why should publishers read it? What is the best way to structure a synopsis? This session will break down the practical side of getting your manuscript in front of publishers and getting them to read it.

3.45 4.30pm PATHWAY TO PUBLICATION

Richell Prize shortlisted debut author of *The Artist's Portrait*, **Julie Keys** and her publisher **Robert Watkins** share the ins and outs of getting your work published and into the world.

4.30 5pm ASK A PUBLISHER

Izzy Roberts-Orr sits down with publisher **Robert Watkins** (Hachette) to ask writers' pressing questions about the ins and outs of publication.

Sunday 23 June

12 12.45pm YOU CAN WRITE, BUT CAN YOU EDIT?

You did it, it's finished! Your manuscript has a beginning, middle and end, and it's frankly genius – but is it ready to submit to publishers? Faber Writing Academy alumni and author of *The Nancys* **Rob McDonald** explores practical tips for polishing your work ahead of submission with Faber Academy Tutor **Toni Jordan**, moderated by Faber Coordinator **Alexa Roberts**.

Presented in partnership with Faber Writing Academy

3.45 5pm PITCH IT!

Put what you've learnt into practice and sign up to deliver a five-minute one-on-one pitch with an industry professional. These publishers, editors and literary agents are always on the lookout for new and exciting voices, so here's your chance to pitch them yours.

Please note: places for the pitch time are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. We'll ask you to sign up to deliver your pitch to one of these agents or publishers at the beginning of the conference. Please bring a half-page synopsis including your contact details to leave with them.

3.45 4.30pm WHY I LOVE IT

You know great writing when you read it, but what is it that grabs you and makes you want to read on? Bring along a piece of writing that you love, and explore what makes great writing tick in this intimate workshop and discussion with acclaimed novelist Toni Jordan.

With **Toni Jordan**

TOOLBOX

Let us expand your repertoire and refresh your approach to storytelling with the provocations of this series. If you're eager to take your creative practice to new heights, look no further than this invitation to step out of the familiar and into new learnings. Sometimes all you need is an addition to your toolbox.

Saturday 22 June

11am 12pm **THE RACIAL IMAGINARY**

Join us for an introduction to the practice of racial literacy and learn tools to unpack the impact of race and place in your own imagination, work and storytelling.

With **Roj Amedi**, **Denise Chapman**, **Genevieve Grieves** and **Odette Kelada**

1.30 2.30pm **OPEN AND SHUT: CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK**

Criticism is invaluable to the economy of ideas in the writing world. From framing feedback on a case-by-case basis, differentiating between objective and subjective criticism, and stripping back or strengthening your ego, three artists discuss how to make and take feedback.

2.30 3.30pm **WRITING TRANS AND GENDER DIVERSE CHARACTERS**

Hear about what it takes to ensure trans and gender diverse characters are represented in their full complexity. These writers offer considerations as broad as the gender spectrum itself: from learning basic terminology to speak about gender diversity, to challenging tropes and common misconceptions.

With **Rae White**, **Alison Evans** and more

3.45 4.45pm **CARING AND CREATIVE PRACTICE**

Sleep and solitude are fond memories, logistics is an obsession, everyone is hungry and something smells bad. These parents detail their successful creative careers, forged amidst the joys and hardships of raising a family.

With **Shel Calopa**, **Quinn Eades** and **Caitlin McGregor**

Sunday 23 June

10.15 11am **GUIDED MEDITATION: DEALING WITH DISTRACTION**

Start Sunday with a guided meditation by **A—SPACE**, designed to help you refocus and refresh.

11am 12pm **NEW MASCULINITIES**

Four emerging writers share how they are opposing and exposing toxic and patriarchal forms of masculinity in their craft, and striving towards more expansive expressions of masculinity in writing and in life.

With **Ahmed Yussuf**, **Eugene Yang**, **Anders Villani** and **Bridie Mills**

12 12.45pm **MONEY TALKS**

A transparent conversation between two writers about money in the arts: how to ask for it, make more of it, and keep a handle on what you already have. From negotiating better rates of pay, articulating the worth of your time and drafting funding applications, **Andy Butler** and **Nathania Gilson** talk frankly about cash and creativity

3.45-5pm **SCENE IT: HANDS-ON FILM CRITICISM**

Learn how to break down a film scene, decode visual language and craft crisp criticism in this hands-on seminar with Metro Magazine editor **Adolfo Aranjuez**.

ON WRITING

Reflections from the desks and the depths of these remarkable writers' practices. Come and contemplate the complexities of writing across a wide range of forms to get to the heart of what this craft demands from us as storytellers and readers, and what it offers us in return.

Saturday 22 June

11am 12pm CULTURAL CRITICISM

Which points of view are missing in the current landscape of cultural criticism? Here, we look beyond stale traditional perspectives and think more expansively about criticism across music, text, theatre and screen.

With Shaad D'Souza, Carissa Lee and Thuy On

12 12.45pm WITH EMOTIONAL HONESTY

How can fiction spark real feelings? **Charlotte Nash** and **Melanie Cheng** share how they weave emotional honesty into their practice to produce work that connects – and stays – with their readers.

12 12.45pm MULTILINGUALISM

Multilingualism enriches Australia's literary landscape. **Gabriella Munoz** and **Nadia Niaz** and discuss the art and challenges of writing across languages.

12 12.45pm DISABILITY POETICS

The body is the birthplace of the poem, before it exists on the breath or the page. Drawing on the history of the disability poetics movement, **Robin M Eames** and **Andy Jackson** consider the relationship between embodied experience and poetic form.

2.30 3.30pm THE ANTHROPOCENE

Writing can seem frivolous when icecaps are melting. Contemplate Earth's future and explore ways to represent and confront the mistakes and misgivings of our species in creative work.

With Steven Finch, Rachel Watts and more

3.45-5pm DEEP LISTENING AND POETIC PRACTICE

Great poetry and prose often spring from detailed observation. Learn how to sharpen your senses and engage in deep listening in this workshop led by visiting Aotearoa-based poet **Sam Duckor-Jones**.

Sunday 23 June

10.15 11am AS A POLITICAL ACT

Word and story have long been both a weapon of the powerful and a tool of the oppressed. In a time where we witness the dire effects that damaging narratives have on politicised communities, how can writers resist and reclaim the power of storytelling? From climate justice to public housing, how can our writing engage with the issues that affect us?

With Rafeif Ismail and Sara Saleh

11am 12pm THE POLITICS OF FORGETTING

What role does memory, both collective and individual, play in literature? Where can literature fill the gaps in history's silences? This discussion will open up memory's role in literature, and the different kinds of truth fiction can bring to the past.

With Katherine Brabon and more

12 12.45pm WRITING YOURSELF WITHOUT LOSING YOUR SELF

In Latin, persona means "character played by an actor", or simply, "mask". **Megan Blandford** and **Shirley Le** review their approaches to writing the persona while protecting the personal.

1.30 2.30pm **LITERATURE AND TRAUMA**

How do we write trauma unflinchingly yet ethically? What is literature's role in witnessing, archiving and healing deep personal and societal wounds?

With **Eda Gunaydin, Bram Presser, Maria Tumarkin** and **Anders Villani**

2.30 3.30pm **POETIC DISOBEDIENCE**

Can a poem be a sit-in, a strike, an act of trespass or reclamation? How can we subvert dominant poetic traditions, as well as use poetry to subvert domination?

With readings and conversation from **Alison Whittaker, Winnie Dunn, Tayi Tibble** and **Azlan Martin**, we consider language, disobedience and poetry as a living defiance.

THE FUTURE OF...

Thinking about our futures as creatives is full of precarity *and* possibility. We've called on expert writers, intellectuals and commentators to gaze deep into their experience and evidence-based crystal balls. They'll glean insightful predictions and timely speculations about the social, professional and political climate of tomorrow. What may be the fate of practicing writers, artists and media makers in the near and distant futures? What are we working towards, and what should we be preparing ourselves for, both in our individual and collective practices?

Saturday 22 June

1.30 2.30pm **LABOUR**

It's 2050 and writers are still working, but how? Considering the rise of the gig economy and major upheaval in our production and consumption of written and creative content, what is our forecast of the profession of writing into the 21st century?

With **Marisa Wikramanayake** and more

1.30 2.30pm **STORYTELLING**

There's no doubt that form influences content. From the rise of podcasting and social media, to AI and open-source digital tools, how are emerging technologies transforming tomorrow's stories? These tech-savvy creators are here to explain budding modes of creative expression and their potential impact on our industries and crafts. We'll question the accessibility and democratisation of storytelling through emerging media, and hear from artists pushing the boundaries of literary form.

With **Dan Koerner** and more

Sunday 23 June

1.30 2.30pm **TRUTH**

When the idea of fake news propagates, truth become an increasingly fluid concept. From social media echo chambers to algorithms, how does the internet shape the information we receive? In an increasingly hostile political climate, what is the role of the journalist and how do they respond to the vagaries of the web and to accusations of media bias?

With **Madeline Hayman-Reber** and more