

~CANBERRA WRITERS FESTIVAL~

Thursday 19 June-Tuesday 24 June

The Writers Festival will be held in four venues at Gorman House and consists of education by day and entertainment by night. Evening festival sessions are free unless otherwise specified.

FREE Festival events

Thursday 19 June

6.30-7.30pm

Got words, need readers

Three award-winning poets discuss new ways to reach poetry audiences. Mark Tredinnick (2007 Newcastle Poetry Prize winner), Geoff Page (verse novelist, Editor for Indigo imprint, web publisher) and Michelle Cahill (co-editor of the online journal *Mascara*). MC: Hal Judge. QL2 Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. FREE

7.30 for 8pm

Spotlight on Garth Nix

Join us for a glass of wine in the foyer and then listen to best-selling speculative fiction author Garth Nix, talk about his books. MC: Trevor Stafford (Chair, ACT Writers Centre). Limited seating. Bookings essential on 6262 9191. Venue: QL2 Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon.

Friday 20 June

12.30-3.30pm: The Poets' Lunch

Enjoy a lovely lunch and an afternoon of entertaining readings. MC: Bill Mason. Wine kindly supplied by Z4 Wines. Poetry booklet published by Boris Books. Cost: \$40 includes a two course meal, wine and a copy of the booklet. Individual or table bookings by Monday 16 June, on 6262 9191. Venue: Bogong Theatre, Gorman House Arts Centre, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. **BOOKINGS CLOSED**

5.30-6.30pm: Book Launch

Aether Books invite you to the launch of two screen books, *The Recipes and Rhymes of Adam McKay* (a collection of recipes and quaint philosophies in free form verse) and *How to Create a Novel* by Robert Copley (a guide to steer the writer through writer's block and procrastination). Aether Book Publishing is one of very few publishers of original works in digital format worldwide. Visit them at www.aetherbooks.com Free event. Workshop Room, ACT Writers Centre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon.

5.30-6.30pm: Vocation, profession or hobby?

Join Penelope Layland, Tony Kevin and Valerie Parv as they talk about their writing, its priority in their lives and how it fits into the rest of their schedules. MC: Alan Gould. Bogong Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. FREE

6.30-7.30pm: Writers Festival Reception

Enjoy a glass of wine, lovely food and the chance to mingle with the Festival Guests. MC: Prof Belle Alderman, AO (Deputy Chair of ACT Writers Centre). **Speakers:** Karin MacDonald, MLA (Chief Minister's representative); Dr Jeremy Fisher (Australian Society of Authors). Mount Majura Vineyard wines will be available from the bar. Refreshments will be served. Bogong Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. All welcome. FREE

8-10.30pm: The Big Damn Turboslam

Hip hop, funky beats and performance poetry! Featuring Miles Merrill, the one-man word hurler from Sydney (www.wordtravels.info). Open mic from 8pm. Poetry Slam from 9pm. Cash prizes. Cash bar operating. MCs: Hal Judge and Julian Fleetwood. Bogong Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. FREE

Saturday 21 June

(for workshops – see workshop section far below)

10am-6pm: National Zine Fair

Over 28 tables full of creativity! Magazines, zines, cartoons, graphics, badges, buttons, posters, local magazines and other crazy stuff. QL2 Foyer, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon.

1.30-2.30pm: *Storytelling for Community Development* presented by MEIACT.

This free panel session will consist of MIEACT's Youth Projects coordinator, Jenni Savigny; AIDS Action Council Community Education Manager, David Mills; and Anecdote storytelling consultant Mark Schenk. Light refreshments will be offered at the end of the discussion. Please RSVP to Pip Blackwood on 6257 1195 or email pip@mieact.org.au Venue: ACT Writers Centre Workshop Room, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. Max: 20 people.

4.45-5.30pm: The light from the Dark house

Join us for a celebration of the programs offered and the books that have been created, at *Varuna: The Writers' House*. Local and interstate authors speak of the creative process. This event will be followed by drinks in the QL2 foyer to celebrate the first gathering of the ACT Branch of the Varuna Alumni. Special Guests: Peter Bishop, Director of Varuna, and Camilla Noli. Venue: QL2 Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. FREE

6.45-7.45pm: We need to talk about motherhood: Spotlight on Camilla Noli

Camilla's new book, *Still Waters*, deals with freedom, maternal instincts and murder. She is the featured author for the ACT Writers Centre's Book Club for the month of June. MC: Gia Metherell. Sponsored by Hachette Livre. Venue: QL2 Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. FREE.

8-10pm: Pitching competition

Selected writers have 2 minutes to pitch an idea for a book proposal to a judging panel of editors and publishers. Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20 (and possible publication!). Register your name on the night for a chance to impress the judges. MC: Craig Cormick. Cash bar operating. Venue: QL2 Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. FREE.

Sunday 22 June

3-4pm: Focus on Michael Robotham

Michael Robotham is one of Australia's most widely read crime writers with translations in more than twenty languages. He is the 2008 ambassador for the federal government's Books Alive campaign. His latest psychological thriller is *Shatter*. Jeff Popple puts Michael under the microscope. Venue: Fireplace Room, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. FREE.

5-6pm: Generation Next

Join us for some readings of fabulous short stories and poetry by emerging writers under 30. MC: Julia Szabo. Venue: Bogong Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. FREE. (If you would like to take part, please send your work and a short bio to Julia at anuwriters@gmail.com by June 18. Max 1000 words.)

Monday 23 June

5.15-6.15pm: A romance of one's own

Join red hot romance writers Alexis Fleming and Lilian Darcy for a discussion about reading and writing romance fiction. MC: Margaret Bell (*Intrigue, the Romance Bookstore*). Bogong Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon.

Tuesday 23 June

5 for 5.30pm: Dream Stuff with David Malouf

There's nothing quite like hearing an author read their work to you in their own voice. Join us for a glass of wine and some poetry and short stories from a master storyteller and poet. **MC:** Marion Halligan. Venue: Bogong Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. Limited seating and bookings essential on 62629191 by 23 June.

SEMINAR & WORKSHOP PROGRAM

*Enrolment in the seminar series is a flat fee of \$80 for non-members (which includes membership), \$30 for members (Writers Centre & ASA) and \$10 for full-time students. Enrolment entitles the participant to attend **sessions 1-12** between Saturday 20 and Tuesday 23 June and includes morning and afternoon teas and a satchel full of publishing information. Writer's Bookcase will be selling books for writers all weekend. The grammar, crime and romance workshops attract a separate fee. Bookings for the seminars and workshops are essential and payment must be made at the time of booking, on 6262 9191 or online at www.actwriters.org.au*

Seminar sessions 1 – 10 are fully booked.

Thursday 19 June

9-5pm: The Eloquent Bureaucrat: writing well in the public sector with Mark Tredinnick. Full details at www.actwriters.org.au/calendar.html Cost: \$84 concessional members, \$105 members and non-member conc, \$140 non-members. Payment at time of booking, on 6262 9191 or online. Fireplace Room, Gorman House, Ainslie Avenue Braddon. Max 25 enrolments. **BOOKINGS CLOSED**

Friday 20 June

9am-11.30am: Hip hop workshop with MC Karuna for ages 12-18.

FREE but bookings essential on 6262 9191. Max: 30 enrolments. Venue: Bogong Theatre, Gorman House Arts Centre, Ainslie Ave, Braddon.

9-4.30pm: Getting to grips with grammar with Mark Tredinnick. Full details at www.actwriters.org.au/calendar.html Cost: \$84 concessional members, \$105 members and non-member conc, \$140 non-members. Payment at time of booking, on 6262 9191 or online. Fireplace Room, Gorman House, Ainslie Avenue Braddon. Max: 25 enrolments.

3.30-5pm: Editing for Excellence with Cathy Nicoll

Discover the vital difference between structural and copy editing; A quick technique to proof read for more accuracy; How many drafts is enough?; The insider's addresses of great freelance editors. (Max 20 people). Free for members. \$15 for non-members. Bookings essential on 6262 9191. ACT Writers Centre Workshop Room, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. **BOOKINGS CLOSED**

Saturday 21 June

Seminar sessions

Registration from 8.30-9am. Participants must wear their name tag for entry to the weekend sessions.

9-10am: session 1

So you want to be an author? With Dr Jeremy Fisher (ASA)

Why be a writer? The book is dead. The cultural context for a professional writer; Know your market: opportunities for writers; Know your rights: copyright, contracts and other contentious issues. Venue: QL2 Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. **BOOKINGS CLOSED**

10-11am: Session 2

How traditional book publishing works with Kristina Schulz from UQP and Dr Jeremy Fisher from the Australian Society of Authors. This session will cover submissions, advances, local and overseas rights, markets, royalties, bookshops, contracts, distributors, where does the money go? Q & A. Venue: QL2 Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. **BOOKINGS CLOSED**

11.30-12.30pm: Session 3

How to get published. Get the inside tips from children's publisher, Kristina Schulz (UQP), Matthew Richardson (Halstead Press) and literary agent, Pippa Masson (Curtis Brown) on how to obtain a publisher and literary agent; how they work together and how to find out the tastes of particular publishers. There will be time for Q & A. Venue: QL2 Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. **BOOKINGS CLOSED**

1.30-2.30pm: Session 4

Six Ways to a Commissioning Editor's Heart (yes, they do have one!) with **Valerie Parv**. There will be time for Q & A. Venue: QL2 Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. **BOOKINGS CLOSED**

3-4.30pm: Session 5

Getting published in newspapers and magazines. Everything you always wanted to know, but didn't know who to ask. What editors want. How to approach them. Best publications to target. How to invoice. Tax deductible expenses. ABNs and GST. Tutor: Rhonda Whitton. Venue: QL2 Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. Max: 80 people. **BOOKINGS CLOSED**

3.30 - 5pm: Session 13

Editing for Excellence with Cathy Nicoll (**Repeated session due to demand**)

Discover the vital difference between structural and copy editing; A quick technique to proof read for more accuracy; How many drafts is enough?

5 – 6pm: Session 14

How to get published (**Repeated session due to demand**)

Get the inside tips from children's publisher, Kristina Schulz (UQP), Matthew Richardson (Halstead Press) on how to obtain a publisher and literary agent; how they work together and how to find out the tastes of particular publishers. There will be time for Q & A. Venue: Fireplace room, Gorman house. (free but bookings required on 6262 9191)

Sunday 22 June

9.30-10.30am: Session 6

Sure you can write, but are you a writer? There's a world of difference between churning out words and writing a publishable manuscript or freelance article. Proven techniques to eliminate the waffle and give the publisher/editor a reason to say 'yes'. Tutor: Rhonda Whitton. Venue: Bogong Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. **BOOKINGS CLOSED**

11-12pm: Session 7

What publishers want. Fiction? Non-fiction? Poetry/Short Stories? What length? Format? Illustrations? Entire manuscript? You'll maximise your chances of publishing success if you give publishers what they want, rather than what you want to write. Tutor: Rhonda Whitton. Venue: Bogong Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. **BOOKINGS CLOSED**

12-1pm: Session 8

Convincing a publisher (Part 1). Your key to publication success is a convincing Book Proposal. Learn the secrets of how to prepare a proposal that will grab a publisher's attention. Tutor: Rhonda Whitton. Venue: Bogong Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. **BOOKINGS CLOSED**

2-3pm: Session 9

Convincing a publisher (Part 2). Your key to publication success is a convincing Book Proposal. Learn the secrets of how to prepare a proposal that will grab a publisher's attention. Tutor: Rhonda Whitton. Venue: Bogong Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. **BOOKINGS CLOSED**

3.30-4.30pm: Session 10

Three pitches and a synopsis. Enticing pitches and a dazzling synopsis are essential tools to market your manuscript to a publisher. Discover how to write them. Tutor: Rhonda Whitton. Venue: Bogong Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. **BOOKINGS CLOSED**

10am-1pm

Crime Writing with Michael Robotham

Crime and mystery novels dominate the fiction market making up almost a quarter of all books sold. Award-winning thriller writer Michael Robotham hosts a workshop for beginners and intermediate writers who are willing, but not quite able to either get started or finished on their novel. Michael's workshop will look at characterisation, setting, plot, pacing, dialogue and point of view, as well as outline how to take a novel from draft stage to finished manuscript. Maximum: 20 participants. **Cost:** \$36 member concessions, \$45 members WC and Friends NLA, \$90 non-members (includes tea/coffee). Payment at time of booking, on 6262 9191 or online at www.actwriters.org.au/calendar.html Fireplace Room, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. Tea/coffee supplied.

Monday 23 June

1-4pm: The Big "O" or Opportunities in Erotic Romance Fiction, with Alexis Fleming

The basic mechanics of writing, romance writing and erotic romance writing in particular. From Friction to Fiction – how to write an erotic romance; What is Erotic Romance; Type of stories and what editors expect; Tips Sheet for writing erotic romance; Why do it in digital format?; The process – on-line contract and editing, formats of books; Cover art, Pen name; where and when to do it - Publishers' List; From digital to print. Other aspects of digital publishing: Connecting with your readers; Promotion – on line and in person; Debunk the myths about erotic romance authors. **Cost** includes tea/coffee: \$36 member concessions, \$45 members WC and Friends NLA, \$90 non-members. Payment at time of booking, on 6262 9191 or online at www.actwriters.org.au/calendar.html Venue: Bogong Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon. Max: 30 people

Tuesday 24 June

5-6.30pm: Session 11

How to write effective media releases with Phillip A. Jones. Venue: QL2 Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon.

7-8pm: Session 12

Literary competitions: give yourself the best chance with Maureen Bettle. Venue: QL2 Theatre, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon.

FESTIVAL GUESTS

Karuna Bajracharya from Braidwood has been active in Australia's burgeoning music industry for the past 10 years. Unearthed by Triple J and *Fly TV*, his former band the Bumblebeez toured with the likes of *Radiohead*, *NERD* and the *Yeah Yeah Yeah's*. They gained national recognition touring festivals such as *Splendour in the Grass*, *Homebake* and *Livid*. International acclaim followed soon after, spurring on tours through England and the US. In 2005 Karuna started my own record label *Secret Music Records* (www.secretmusic.com.au). The 3rd album release for the label is scheduled for mid 2008. Karuna's latest band *The Sonar Radars* has been composing and performing for silent films, playing shows at the ACMI in federation square, at the Adelaide film festival and most recently at the Woodford folk festival.

Margaret Bell and her husband have been operating *Intrigue - The Romance Bookstore* for more than three years. The bookstore is dedicated to the sale of romance fiction covering historical, crime and suspense, contemporary and humour, erotic and paranormal to name the main sub-genres. Add to this some urban fantasy, usually the titles that include a hint of romance. The store has a warm and welcoming atmosphere that encourages customers to relax and browse. It's furnished with period look bookcases, tables and chaises and the very pink décor is designed with women and romance in mind, with chandeliers, flowers, relaxing music, lots of pretty lamps and ornaments and complimentary chocolates to enjoy while exploring the shelves. There's also a 'children's corner' of books to occupy the little ones while Mum browses.

Maureen Bettle was a full time teacher of literature for forty years and is now a member of the ACT Cultural Council and one of the judges of the Marian Eldridge Competition.

Peter Bishop is the Director of Varuna – The Writers' House, which offers residential and non-residential pathways to publication for writers. Varuna is Michael Dark's gift to Australian literature, in memory of his parents, the novelist Eleanor Dark and Dr. Eric Dark. www.varuna.com.au/index.html

Michelle Cahill writes poetry and fiction. Her poetry collection *The Accidental Cage* was shortlisted in the 2007 Judith Wright Poetry Award. This year she has been awarded with a Professional Development Grant from the CAL to attend the New Delhi Poetry Workshop. She is the editor of a transnational collection *Poetry Without Borders* (Picaro) and co-editor of *Mascara Poetry*. Her work has appeared in *Meanjin*, *Jacket*, *Callaloo* and forthcoming in *Heat*.

Craig Cormick is an award winning short story writer and novelist.

Lilian Darcy has written over 75 books for Harlequin, Silhouette and Mills & Boon in a career spanning more than 25 years (she started at age 10!). Under another name she has also written for Australian theatre and television. A frequent visitor to the Waldenbooks series romance bestseller lists and three time finalist in the Romance Writers of America's prestigious Rita award, Lilian last year celebrated the release of her first mainstream women's fiction novel, "Cafe du Jour". She has presented workshops at the national conferences of Romance Writers of Australia and Romance Writers of America, and has taught romance writing at the University of Sydney's highly regarded Centre for Continuing Education. Executive Director of the ASA since 2004, **Dr Jeremy Fisher** has extensive experience in the Australian publishing industry. He worked as an editor and publishing manager for nearly 30 years before moving into rights management and advocacy roles.

Alexis Fleming's world is peopled with interesting characters and exciting possibilities that come to life in each and every book she writes. Her first love has always been romance, whether on this world or the next. Hot, sizzling relationships with a dash of comedy and a few trials and tribulations thrown in to test her characters. Visit her website at <http://www.alexisfleming.net> or check out what she's up to next on her blog at <http://www.alexisfleming.net/blog>

Alan Gould's *The Past Completes Me – Selected Poems 1973-2003* won the 2006 Grace Leven Award. Presently he is writing his ninth novel and twenty third book.

Marion Halligan is an award winning local author, essayist and reviewer.

Phillip Jones provides advice on a range of communication- related areas to the public and private sector. He specialises in short-term projects providing advice and managing projects including stakeholder consultation, web design, strategic reviews and training for interpersonal business and communication skills. His clients have included a wide range of government departments and agencies as well as small business. Phillip is the founder of Canberra's most dynamic professional networking organisation, *Schmooze*. He also delivers workshops on professional networking skills and business mentoring.

Tony Kevin, who lives in Canberra, retired from the Australian public service in 1998 after a thirty-year career in the Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister's departments, including seven years as Australia's ambassador to Poland and Cambodia. He has written extensively on Australian foreign, national security, and refugee policies in Australia's national print media and on public websites. He is author of the award-winning book *A Certain Maritime Incident: the sinking of*

SIEV X (Scribe 2004, reprinted 2008) and *Walking the Camino: a modern pilgrimage to Santiago* (Scribe, 2006). He is approaching completion of his third book, *Portraits in Diplomacy*.

Penelope Layland is a Canberra journalist and public servant, having been an Associate Editor at *The Canberra Times*, in which she has published over a hundred articles, and is currently Senior Advisor to the Chief Minister. Her 2005 poetry collection, *Suburban Anatomy*, was Shortlisted for the 2006 New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards' Kenneth Slessor Prize for Poetry and *The Unlikely Orchard*, was commended by the judges of the Association for the Study of Australian Literature's Mary Gilmore Award for a First Book of Poetry. Her poems cover pregnancy, cooking, pets, sleep-walking, friendship, death and small town life.

David Malouf is the author of short story collections *Dream Stuff*, and *Every Move You Make* and of acclaimed novels including *The Great World* (winner of the Commonwealth Writers' and Miles Franklin Prizes) and *Remembering Babylon* (shortlisted for the Booker Prize and winner of the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award). He also writes poetry, drama and libretti for operas. Born and brought up in Brisbane, he lives in Sydney.

Pippa Masson is a literary agent at Curtis Brown (Aust) Pty Ltd, Australia's largest and oldest literary agency. She has been there for close to 8 years and represents a wide variety of adult fiction and non-fiction, children's books and illustrated titles.

Miles Merrill combines poetry with theatre, experimental audio, hip-hop beats, stand-up and political confrontation, flinging words in a rapid-fire onslaught of versified emotion. Born in Chicago, now living in Sydney Australia, Miles is the son of a Black Panther father and a mother whose family tree dates back to British-American Colonialism. His mother's ancestors enslaved his father's. The tension of embattled generations twists its way through the work of this one-man word-hurling army. He is co-organiser of the Australia-wide State Libraries' sponsored Australian National Poetry Slam. Internationally Merrill has performed in Krakow and Indonesia. Locally he tours everywhere: schools, festivals, theatres, libraries, galleries etc. Check his website at: www.wordtravels.info/

Gia Metherell is Literary Editor of *The Canberra Times*.

Cathy Nicoll is a freelance writer and editor. With a background in science, environmental management and primary teaching, Cathy has tended to work on environmental and training publications for print and the Internet. She has spent more than a decade editing or rewriting government publications to make them interesting enough for people to want to read them.

Garth Nix was born in Melbourne, grew up in Canberra and lives in Sydney. A full-time writer since 2001, he has worked as a part-time soldier in the Australian Army Reserve, a bookseller, book sales representative, publicist, editor, marketing consultant and literary agent. More than five million copies of his books have been sold around the world and his work has been translated into 37 languages. Garth's books include the award-winning fantasy novels *Sabriel*, *Lirael* and *Abhorsen* and the young adult science fiction novel *Shade's Children*. His fantasy novels for children include *The Ragwitch*; the six books of *The Seventh Tower* sequence, and *The keys to the kingdom* series that begins with the Children's Book Council of Australia Honour Book *Mister Monday*. Garth's books have appeared on the bestseller lists of *The New York Times*, *Publishers Weekly (US)*, *The Bookseller (UK)*, *The Australian*, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Sunday Times (UK)*. His new book is called *Superior Saturday*.

Camilla Noli lives on the Central Coast of NSW with her husband and children. She is a graduate of the Varuna Writing Program in Sydney's Blue Mountains and this is her first novel. For more details see: www.camillanoli.com and www.varuna.com.au.

Geoff Page is an Australian poet who has published eighteen collections of poetry as well as two novels, four verse novels and several other works including anthologies, translations and a biography. He has won several awards, including the ACT Poetry Award, the Grace Leven Prize, the Christopher Brennan Award, the Queensland Premier's Prize for Poetry and the 2001 Patrick White Literary Award.

Valerie Parv BA, AIPC (Dip) is a writer, trainer and counsellor who conducts seminars on creativity and the writing craft throughout Australia. Published since age 14, she has written over 60 romance novels and 20 nonfiction books including *The Art of Romance Writing*, and *The Idea Factory*. Her books have been translated into over 20 languages, selling more than 25 million copies. For more information visit www.valerieparv.com

Jeff Popple is a crime fiction fanatic and reviewer.

Matthew Richardson has worked in publishing since 1985, and since 1997 has been Halstead Press's publisher. He is an author of non-fiction books published by Penguin, Hardie Grant, MUP and overseas firms. He lives in the Blue Mountains, but was born and educated in Canberra, where he recently established a new office of Halstead Press.

Michael Robotham began his career as an investigative journalist in Australia and Britain. He later became a ghostwriter, collaborating with the likes of Lulu, Rolf Harris, Geri Halliwell and Ricky Tomlinson, in penning more than a dozen bestselling autobiographies. Michael's first novel, *The Suspect*, was an international bestseller with more than a million in sales. His second novel, *Lost*, won the Ned Kelly Award for Australia's best crime novel in 2005 and his third novel, *The Night Ferry*, was short-listed for the UK Steel Dagger and 2007 Ned Kelly awards.

Kristina Schulz is the Children's Publisher at the University of Queensland Press (UQP), one of Australia's most respected independent publishing houses. UQP publishes a range of literary books, from literary fiction and non-fiction, to poetry, Indigenous writing and children's books. Kristina has worked in publishing in Sydney, New York and London since 1999, before joining UQP earlier this year. Prior to UQP she worked at ABC Books in Sydney and at Foundry Literary + Media in New York.

Dr Mark Tredinnick, an award-winning poet and essayist, is the author of a number of books including the bestselling writing guide, *The Little Red Writing Book*; he has consulted to the public sector in communication skills for fifteen years after a career in publishing and law. His clients include Austrade, ANAO, ASIC, DEWR, and Centrelink, and a number of NSW agencies and departments, including the Department of Housing, the Department of Commerce and the NSW Parliament. He teaches at the University of Sydney. Later this year, Cambridge University Press will publish Mark's book, *Writing Well: the Essential Guide*, throughout the world; in October, UNSW Press releases his grammar primer, *The Little Green Grammar Book*.

Rhonda Whitton is a freelance writer and journalist specialising in feature and travel writing. Rhonda is an experienced writing teacher, corporate trainer and conducts writing workshops. She has co-authored seven books for writers.

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Festival Advisory Committee: Valerie Parv, Alan Gould, Trevor Stafford, Julian Fleetwood, Rachel Longhurst.

ACT Writers Centre Staff: Anne-Maree Britton (Director), Hal Judge (Communications), Kimberley Gaal (Office Manager).

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Valued supporters: Olims Hotel Canberra, *The Canberra Times*, Z4 Wines, National Library of Australia, Mount Majura Vineyard, Paperchain Bookstore, Canberra Youth Theatre, QL2.