

10-12 JULY 2024

WHITSUNDAY VOICES

CELEBRATING
20 YEARS!



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WHITSUNDAY
VOICES
YOUTH
LITERATURE
FESTIVAL

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FESTIVAL WELCOME

Welcome to the 20th Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival - where imagination knows no bounds and storytelling thrives! For two decades, this Festival has been a beacon of creativity, inviting young minds to explore the vast universe of literature and ignite a passion for storytelling.

As we celebrate this milestone, we find ourselves reflecting on how this incredible Festival began 20 years ago. In 2003, the Principal of Whitsunday Anglican School, Mr Craig Bassingthwaighte, was inspired by his experiences at Storyfest in the Gold Coast. Recognising the value of literature and storytelling in youth development, he envisaged a similar enriching opportunity for the students of Mackay. This foresight led him to spearhead the creation of a team, led by Mrs Jenny Grant, who were dedicated to establishing a youth literature festival for our region. Through tireless efforts and determination, they brought this vision to life, resulting in what is now the largest youth literature festival in regional Queensland!

This vision has continued with all subsequent Principals of Whitsunday Anglican School, including our current Principal Mr Andrew Wheaton, who has continued to share his commitment and passion for building upon the

incredible legacies of our past. We now have a world-class literature Festival that inspires our youth, whilst providing unbridled educational opportunities for the students and community of this region.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the creators, authors, illustrators, educators, volunteers, and every individual who has contributed to the magic of this Festival. Your dedication and unwavering commitment have enriched the lives of countless young readers and writers, shaping their literary journey and fostering a love for reading that will endure for years to come.

Join us in commemorating two decades of literary excellence, where dreams take flight and stories come alive. Together, let us continue to encourage and empower the next generation of storytellers, as we embark on another thrilling chapter of imagination and discovery.

We look forward to celebrating the 20th Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival with you, where every page holds a new adventure! Enjoy!

Tracey Gurdler,
Festival Manager

IT'S OUR 20TH
FESTIVAL!



A WORD FROM OUR MAYOR



For two decades, the Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival has been inspiring and delighting us – especially our students.

Having witnessed the humble beginnings, felt the passion, and heard the well-articulated vision of the founders of this Festival, it is a humbling honour for me to be able to welcome participants to the 2024 Festival.

This year marks the 20th Festival and joining us for the occasion is the man who started it all – former Principal of Whitsunday Anglican School, Mr Craig Bassingthwaighte. Welcome back to Mackay, Craig!

He will be joined by the inaugural Festival Manager, Mrs Jenny Grant, and several Festival managers and assistants who have helped grow the Festival over the last 20 years. It will be wonderful to catch up with some of the founders of this magnificent event!

More than 65 schools now participate. That means this year, there will be over 7000 students, educators and parents visiting the Whitsunday Anglican School campus over two days to enjoy a fun, educational program.

The DBI Literary Dinner is, of course, a much-anticipated event. This year, we welcome the incredibly talented singer, songwriter, and actress, Kate Ceberano, as the Keynote Speaker.

To deliver a Festival of this size and impact, there are some amazing people working for months behind the scenes. Festival Manager Tracey Gurdler, Coordinator Liz Russell, an awesome committee, and many volunteers work hard to bring us this much-loved celebration of literature.

Of course, this event would not be as successful as it without the incredible support of our business sponsors. Their investment in our youth, and future leaders of our community, is outstanding.

As a community, we must believe that celebrating literature is essential to healthy youth development. A well-read, healthy young cohort surely must result in a well-rounded society as a whole—where everyone thrives!

Enjoy this 20th celebration of the Whitsunday Voices Festival!

Mayor Greg Williamson

VISITOR'S GUIDE

EVERYTHING
YOU NEED
TO KNOW!

TICKET INFORMATION

BOOK at www.whitsundayvoices.com.au

Tickets are online only. Please note an invoicing option is available at the time of check-out.

TICKETS \$8 per session

WORKSHOPS \$15 per session

There is no allocated seating. Seating is prioritised on a first come basis.

Full payment required for booking confirmation. **Please ensure booking numbers are correct at the time of purchase as no refunds or exchanges can be issued once bookings are processed.**

FESTIVAL TIP Keep your school's booking confirmation handy on the festival days.

SUPERVISION POLICY

Any child 14 years or younger must be accompanied by a supervising parent, guardian or teacher while on campus at all times during the Festival.

RESERVATION & BOOKING POLICY

All reservations can only be guaranteed upon full payment. Please bring a printed or electronic copy of your group's online booking confirmation. Our Festival volunteers will help guide you around the site.

SCHOOL BOOKINGS Accompanying teachers are complimentary (1 teacher per 10 students), additional teachers are required to purchase tickets. Should a venue be close to capacity, some accompanying teachers may be asked to stand.

LARGE BOOKINGS Please note there is a website limit of 300 tickets per transaction. For larger bookings, please make multiple transactions. Group booking confirmation is required for entry.

INDIVIDUAL BOOKINGS Have your online booking confirmation for presentations handy.

BAGS

Venues have limited access for school bags. We advise all visitors to leave valuables at home for safety reasons and bring a small bag for essentials only.

ENTRY & VENUE INFORMATION

Have your booking confirmation handy and our Festival volunteers will be able to direct you to your venue.

Venues are allocated just prior to the Festival. Grab a Festival map with venue information on entry or print one from our website.

FESTIVAL TIP Check our website or Facebook for venue allocation closer to the Festival.

PHOTOGRAPHY PERMISSIONS

Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival have on-site photographers throughout the Festival. These photos are for archival and marketing purposes. Your purchase of a ticket implies permission to use these photos. **If you have students with you who do not wish to be photographed, please advise the photographer.**

LOST PROPERTY

Lost property can be retrieved from The Book Nook, our Festival bookshop.

EAT STREET

Find your all your Festival food favourites at Eat Street. *EFTPOS available.*

THURSDAY + FRIDAY 9:00am - 2:00pm

FESTIVAL TIP Our website will be updated with menu options and vendors as they become available.

FESTIVAL BOOKSHOP - THE BOOK NOOK

THURSDAY + FRIDAY 8.00am - 3.00pm

The Book Nook stocks an extensive range of books by all presenters attending, it is located in the new STEAM Centre. Cash and EFTPOS available.

Meet your favourite presenters and have your books signed at The Book Nook between each session! Students are also able to bring their books from home for signing.

FESTIVAL TIP Jump the queue! A bookshop pre-order form can be found at www.whitsundayvoices.com.au/bookshop

Pre-ordered books can be collected from the Book Nook throughout the Festival.

GETTING HERE

The Festival is located on campus at Whitsunday Anglican School, Celeber Drive, Mackay. Information booths are located at both entrances. These booths are manned by volunteers who are easily identified.

BUSES For buses, access to the Festival is via Celeber Drive, with drop off at the front of the School. **DO NOT attempt to enter school driveway as buses will get stuck.**

CAR Private cars and small groups are to use the internal roundabout off Celeber Drive.

ROAD TO READING TRAVEL SUBSIDY



We try to keep ticket prices low so our Festival is accessible to all students, however, we understand transport costs can sometimes be prohibitive for some schools. To help, we have partnered with four community clubs to provide a travel subsidy.

APPLY Application forms available at www.whitsundayvoices.com.au/road-to-reading-travel-subsidy

Applications close 21 June 2024.

QUESTIONS

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

Tracey Gurdler, Festival Manager
(07) 4969 2076 | tgu@was.qld.edu.au

BOOKING ENQUIRIES

Liz Russell, Festival Coordinator
(07) 4969 2018 | lru@was.qld.edu.au



FESTIVAL EVENTS

Festival Launch

Date: Wednesday 10 July **FREE ENTRY**

Venue: The Steam Centre, Whitsunday Anglican School

RSVP: For catering 4969 2018/ lru@was.qld.edu.au

5:30pm Refreshments and mingle with authors

6:00pm Welcome to Country, Yuwi People

6:15pm Writer's Panel, hosted by Nick Earls
(Pansy Wood Centre)

Come join us for our Festival Launch at the new Whitsunday Anglican School STEAM Centre. Take part in our Smoking Ceremony, led by our local YUWI people, mingle with authors and grab a drink and bite to eat.

Take some time and step into the Art Centre to enjoy the tranquillity of the Ridgelines Art Exhibition. Showcasing the diverse talents of eleven local artists, each piece tells a unique story of the artistic ridgelines of our local landscape.

Afterwards, follow us to the Pansy Wood Centre, for the ever-popular Writer's Panel. This year's panel consists of four high-energy, passionate and talented presenters and is hosted by the highly entertaining Nick Earls.



Chill Out Precinct

In the breaks, hang out in the BHP/BMA Festival Teepee and be entertained by local musical talent, while you enjoy all the delights on offer in Eat Street.

BHP

BMA
BHP Mitsubishi Alliance



Festival Sessions

Two jam packed days of vibrant, high energy presentations and workshops, interactive spaces, story-time and more!

ALL WELCOME

Dates: Thursday 11 and Friday 12 July

Time: 9:15am - 2:15pm

Cost: \$8 sessions / \$15 workshops



ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO COUNTRY

As we come from the four winds travelling across the lands and waters, we acknowledge the Yuwi people, the traditional custodians of this land where we gather today.

We honour the traditions of all Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Solomon Islander and Vanuatuan people.

May we continue to walk gently and respectfully together as we take responsibility as guardians of the earth, of the seas, streams and rivers and of all living things.



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!



LitChat Educators Event

The Power of
Reading for Pleasure

With **Belinda Murrell**

Date: Thursday 11 July **Time:** 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Venue: Pansy Wood Centre, Whitsunday Anglican School

Tickets: \$40 bookings essential – includes refreshments

Bookings: www.whitsundayvoices.com.au

Research shows that reading for pleasure is the single most important factor in a child's future success, both academically and beyond into adulthood. Reading for pleasure makes kids smarter, more empathetic, improves mental health and encourages academic success.

Recent Grattan Institute studies show one-third of Australian students can't read at their grade level. For children from regional areas, disadvantaged families, and indigenous students, this rises to nearly 50% of students. How can we inspire kids to read not just to learn, but for pleasure? How can we encourage kids to develop a joyous love of reading?

Over the last 18 years, Belinda has visited schools all over Australia, speaking to thousands of children every year and working with teachers, librarians, and educators to implement literacy programs. Belinda is an ambassador for children's literacy charities, including *Books In Homes* and *Room To Read*, and a member of the *CBCA (Children's Book Council of Australia)*.

Belinda Murrell is an award-winning, internationally published author of more than 35 books for children. At this year's LitChat event, Belinda will share her insight into writing books for young readers with heart, hope and humour. This dynamic session will provide tips, tools and tricks to help encourage children to enjoy reading for pleasure!



An evening with
Kate Ceberano

Literary Dinner

Date: Friday 12 July

Time: 6:30pm until late

Venue: Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre

Tickets: \$195 / Book via www.themecc.com.au or phone 07 4961 9777

Spend an evening with Kate Ceberano at the highly anticipated DBI Literary Dinner to conclude the 2024 Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival.

Enjoy a delicious three-course dinner, meet and mingle with the high-profile presenters from this year's Festival, and be entertained by the spectacular voice of Kate Ceberano as she takes us on a journey through her career and shares the stories behind some of her most popular songs.

Kate Ceberano has barely drawn a breath since being awarded Most Promising New Talent at the Countdown Awards in 1984. Releasing 30 albums over 40 years, leading to four ARIA awards, nine nominations for Best Female Artist, and dozens of other major awards. Kate is Australian entertainment royalty, possessing one of the great voices of her generation. We can't wait to welcome Kate to Mackay!



Jellinbah Group



Dalrymple Bay
Infrastructure



Mackay City



Jellinbah Group

EARN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POINTS

Short Story Competition Award Ceremony

Congratulations to the budding young authors of the Mackay region on their award winning Short Story Competition entries. With so many wonderful entries, it is always a difficult decision for ALEA to narrow it down to just a few winners!

Please join us at the official awards ceremony. Family and friends are most welcome. Winners of each category will be awarded their prizes at a special ceremony as follows:

Date: Wednesday 10 July 2024 **Time:** 5:00pm - 5:30pm

Venue: Pansy Wood Centre, Whitsunday Anglican School

Enquiries: Liz Russel - lru@was.qld.edu.au

Afterwards, you're invited to join us at the Festival Launch. Mingle with our Festival presenters, enjoy light refreshments and take part in our Festival Welcome and Smoking Ceremony, led by our local YUWI people. Follow us back to the Pansy Wood Centre, for the ever popular Writer's Panel, hosted by the highly entertaining Nick Earls.

THIESS  **AUSTRALIAN LITERACY
EDUCATORS' ASSOCIATION**



Poetry Slam! Competition

**\$400 CASH
PRIZE POOL!**

Senior school students, grades 9 – 12, are invited to enter the hotly contested Whitsunday Voices Poetry SLAM! Competition.

Hosted by the master wordsmith himself, Joel McKerrow! Individuals or teams of up to 4 can enter. All entrants take part in a free workshop with Joel to refine their performance. The winning SLAM! Team receives trophies, a \$400 CASH PRIZE POOL and the bragging rights!

Entry forms available at www.whitsundayvoices.com.au

WORKSHOP

Date: Wednesday 10 July 2024 **Time:** 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Venue: Whitsunday Anglican School, Ron Bourne Hall

COMPETITION

Date: Friday 12 July 2024 **Time:** 1:30pm - 2:15pm

Venue: Whitsunday Anglican School, Ron Bourne Hall

Judging: 3 Whitsunday Voices presenters

Criteria: 50% performance and 50% content

Tickets: \$8 - Session 239

**SCHOOL
GROUPS, FAMILY
& FRIENDS ARE
WELCOME TO
ATTEND!**

 **Robyn Faa**
Real Estate

PROGRAM - DAY 1



9:15am – 10:00am

Session	Event	Grades
101	Peter Carnavas	P-3
102	Belinda Murrell	1-4
103	James Foley	3-5
104	Nick Earls	4-6
105	Joel McKerrow	5-7
106	Allison Tait	6-8
107	Graham Akhurst	7-9
108	Lili Wilkinson	9-12
109	Biffy James	9-12
110	Tony Flowers (AW SR)	9-12

Story Corner with Lincoln Rawlins P-3
10:00am – 10:45am (During the Break)

12:15pm – 1:00pm

Session	Event	Grades
121	Tony Flowers	P-3
122	Aleesah Darlison	1-4
123	James Foley	3-5
124	Nick Earls	4-6
125	Allison Tait	5-7
126	Belinda Murrell	6-8
127	Lili Wilkinson	7-9
128	Graham Akhurst	9-12
129	Lisa Fuller	9-12
130	Joel McKerrow (PW JR)	6-8
131	Mandy Foot (AW JR)	6-8

Story Corner with Lincoln Rawlins P-3
11:30am – 12:15pm (During the Break)

10:45am – 11:30am

Session	Event	Grades
111	Mandy Foot	P-3
112	James Foley	1-4
113	Aleesah Darlison	3-5
114	Peter Carnavas	4-6
115	Tony Flowers	5-7
116	Allison Tait	6-8
117	Lili Wilkinson	7-9
118	Biffy James	9-12
119	Nick Earls	9-12
120	Lisa Fuller (WW SR)	9-12

Story Corner with Lincoln Rawlins P-3
1:00pm – 1:30pm (During the Break)

1:30pm – 2:15pm

Session	Event	Grades
132	Aleesah Darlison	P-3
133	Joel McKerrow	3-5
134	Peter Carnavas	3-5
135	Belinda Murrell	4-6
136	Mandy Foot	5-7
137	Biffy James	7-9
138	Graham Akhurst	9-12
139	Lisa Fuller	9-12

WW: Writing Workshop

AW: Art Workshop

PW: Poetry Workshop

JR: Junior

SR: Senior

PROGRAM – DAY 2

FRIDAY
12 JULY



STORY CORNER IN THE LIBRARY!

Join us for Story Corner in the junior section of the STEAM Centre. Relax while Lincoln Rawlins reads from his books *Sprout's Idea*, and *Super Sprout* during the breaks. Lincoln was a published young author at just nine years old!

Both of Lincoln's books can be purchased from the bookshop afterwards.



11

9:15am – 10:00am

Session	Event	Grades
201	Mandy Foot	P-3
202	Belinda Murrell	1-4
203	James Foley	3-5
204	Nick Earls	4-6
205	Allison Tait	5-7
206	Graham Akhurst	6-8
207	Lili Wilkinson	7-9
208	Lisa Fuller	9-12
209	Biffy James	9-12
210	Aleesah Darlison (WW JR)	6-8
211	Tony Flowers (AW SR)	9-12

Story Corner with Lincoln Rawlins P-3
10:00am – 10:45am (During the Break)

12:15pm – 1:00pm

Session	Event	Grades
222	Peter Carnavas	P-3
223	Joel McKerrow	1-4
224	James Foley	3-5
225	Nick Earls	4-6
226	Tony Flowers	5-7
227	Belinda Murrell	6-8
228	Biffy James	7-9
229	Graham Akhurst	9-12
230	Kate Ceberano	7-12
231	Mandy Foot (AW JR)	6-8

Story Corner with Lincoln Rawlins P-3
11:30am – 12:15pm (During the Break)

10:45am – 11:30am

Session	Event	Grades
212	Aleesah Darlison	P-3
213	James Foley	1-4
214	Belinda Murrell	3-5
215	Peter Carnavas	4-6
216	Mandy Foot	5-7
217	Allison Tait	6-8
218	Biffy James	7-9
219	Nick Earls	9-12
220	Lili Wilkinson	9-12
221	Lisa Fuller (WW SR)	9-12

Story Corner with Lincoln Rawlins P-3
1:00pm – 1:30pm (During the Break)

1:30pm – 2:15pm

Session	Event	Grades
232	Tony Flowers	P-3
233	Aleesah Darlison	3-5
234	Peter Carnavas	4-6
235	Allison Tait	5-7
236	Graham Akhurst	6-8
237	Lili Wilkinson	7-9
238	Lisa Fuller	9-12
239	Poetry SLAM! Comp	7-12

WORKSHOPS

ALEESAH DARLISON: *Crank it Up (Writer's Workshop)*

Friday 9:15 – 10:00am | Session 210 | Grades 6 – 8

Students will learn how to source and develop ideas for fresh, original stories. Delve into memories, dreams, imagination, and experiences to create plans for fictional stories. Explore Aleesah's very own concept of 'Story Lottery' where students participate in a lucky dip of characters, settings and problems to prepare to write a story.

JOEL McKERROW: *You're a Poet, Just Didn't Know It (Poetry Workshop)*

Thursday 12:15 – 1:00pm | Session 130 | Grades 6 – 8

Poetry writing doesn't have to be difficult. In fact, this session will not only have students writing poetry, they will LOVE doing it. Joel has been teaching poetry writing to students for over 15 years and has made a poetry convert of many. Join him as he works through a much easier way for students to find their own way into the writing of poetry.

LISA FULLER: *Writing by the Seat of your Pants (Writer's Workshop)*

Thursday 10:45 – 11:30 | Session 120 | Grades 9 – 12

Friday 10:45 – 11:30 | Session 221 | Grades 9 – 12

What's a pantsner? And why do so many authors talk about pantsing versus plotting? Lisa takes you through her writing process, what works for her and gets you testing it out for yourselves. Student's will learn how to take a germ of an idea through to editing their first draft, and have fun while doing it.

MANDY FOOT: *The Adventure Illustrator! (Junior Art Workshop)*

Thursday 12:15 – 1:00pm | Session 131 | Grades 6 – 8

Friday 12:15 – 1:00pm | Session 231 | Grades 6 – 8

Creating characters is an amazing journey of research, exploration, drawing and NO... Don't rub it out! There are no such things as mistakes in art, only learning opportunities and drawing it again. Join Mandy to learn how to stretch your imagination in creating mystical characters from which stories can evolve.

TONY FLOWERS: *Writing with Pictures (Senior Art Workshop)*

Thursday 9:15 – 10:00am | Session 110 | Grades 9 – 12

Friday 9:15 – 10:00am | Session 211 | Grades 9 – 12

Learn how graphic novels and animated movies create their amazing stories! Tony will show students an exciting visual approach to creating stories through pictures and storyboarding.



BERYL NEILSEN WINCHESTER SCHOLARSHIPS

The John & Beryl Neilsen Winchester Foundation was established in 2012 by the late Mrs Beryl Neilsen OAM with the specific aim of Empowering Country Children Through Education.

In 2013, the foundation became involved with the Festival, and their partnership has had a tremendous impact ever since.

Over the past 11 years, Winchester Foundation's collaboration with Whitsunday Voices has benefited over 4,500 children in rural areas.

Beryl Neilsen Winchester Scholarships core motto is "Empowering Country Children Through Education".

Beryl Neilsen's legacy will continue to empower rural children, enriching their lives into the future.

The Winchester Foundation is a scholarship program to assist rural and regional children and young adults with their education costs (secondary, tertiary and trade qualifications).

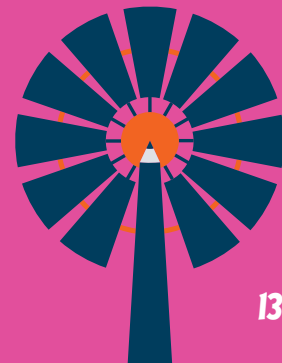
For more information on their scholarships, and how to apply visit www.winchesterfoundation.org



**HELPED OVER 4,500
KIDS EXPERIENCE
WHITSUNDAY
VOICES!**



Beryl Neilsen
**WINCHESTER
SCHOLARSHIPS**





MEET THE PRESENTERS

Kate Ceberano

Keynote Speaker • Grades 7 - 12

230 Friday 12 July 12.15pm – Grades 7-12

Adding to our 20th year celebrations, we are incredibly proud to present this year's keynote speaker, Kate Ceberano. As the first Australian woman inducted into the Australian Songwriters Association Hall of Fame, Kate Ceberano is entertainment royalty. Kate has barely drawn a breath since being awarded Most Promising New Talent at the Countdown Awards in 1984. Releasing 30 albums over 40 years, leading to 4 ARIA awards from 20 nominations, including 9 nominations for Best Female Artist, 11 Platinum and 8 Gold albums and dozens of other major awards, Kate Ceberano is a creative tour-de-force and the voice of a generation.

Her stunning recent book, *Unsung*, embodies the woven fabric of her life. Kate will talk about her book and take us on a journey through her career. Students will feel inspired by her tale of courage and determination as a trail blazer in an exceptionally challenging industry. Kate is the quintessential essence of how commitment, hard work, determination and believing in yourself can take you on an incredible life journey. Together we will laugh, we will cry, most of all, we will SING!

www.kateceberano.com



Presented by



Aleesah Darlison

Author • Prep - 8

- 113 Thursday 11 July 10.45am – Grades 3-5
- 122 Thursday 11 July 12.15pm – Grades 1-4
- 132 Thursday 11 July 1.30pm – Grades P-3
- 210 Friday 12 July 9.15am (WW) – Grades 6-8
- 212 Friday 12 July 10.45am – Prep-Grade 3
- 233 Friday 12 July 1.30pm – Grades 3-5



Presented by



Aleesah Darlison is an award-winning author of over 65 books for children. She is well known for her books that empower children and champion the cause of animals and the environment. Aleesah has been awarded and shortlisted for countless awards, including Book Excellence Awards, various Environmental Awards, and the *Speech Pathology Book of the Year*. Her titles include *Super Sloth*, *Space Kid*, *Endangered Animal Tales*, *League of Llamas*, and her latest novel, *Grace the Amazing*.

Aleesah's junior audiences will learn how to pick the juiciest life experiences for story-making. Her interactive sessions are packed with fun facts and include loads of sloths, games, superhero antics, and story-plotting exercises.

www.aleesahdarlison.com

Allison Tait

Author • Grades 5 - 8

- 106 Thursday 11 July 9.15am – Grades 6-8
- 116 Thursday 11 July 10.45am – Grades 6-8
- 125 Thursday 11 July 12.15pm – Grades 5-7
- 205 Friday 12 July 9.15am – Grades 5-7
- 217 Friday 12 July 10.45am – Grades 6-8
- 235 Friday 12 July 1.30pm – Grades 5-7



Presented by



A. L. Tait is the author of three epic middle-grade adventure fantasy series; *The Mapmaker Chronicles*, *The Ateban Cipher* and the *Maven and Reeve Mysteries*. Her latest novel, *The First Summer of Callie McGee*, is a contemporary middle-grade mystery about growing up and figuring things out.

Allison is a literary festival favourite and teaches creative writing to children at the *Australian Writers' Centre*. Allison unravels the secrets of where ideas come from and what to do with them. She draws on the inspiration for her epic adventure and mystery stories and shares tips to inspire kids to write their own.

www.allisontait.com

Belinda Murrell

Author • Grades 1 - 8

- 102 Thursday 11 July 9.15am – Grades 1-4
- 126 Thursday 11 July 12.15pm – Grades 6-8
- 135 Thursday 11 July 1.30pm – Grades 4-6
- 202 Friday 12 July 9.15am – Grades 1-4
- 214 Friday 12 July 10.45am – Grades 3-5
- 227 Friday 12 July 12.15pm – Grades 6-8

Presented by



Belinda is an award-winning author of over 35 books with as many accolades. Her entertaining and interactive sessions cover the stories behind the stories, her inspiration, life as an author and her creative writing process. She is often influenced by her travels. She once used a journey through the creepy underground tunnels of Paris, full of the bones of murdered aristocrats, to set the scene for a book she wrote; *The Ruby Talisman*.

Belinda discusses her fantasy series and her award-winning Australian historical, time-slip series about friendship, families, diversity and coping with change. Belinda brings fun stories, photographs, and a lively Q&A to encourage students to get excited about books and reading. Her younger audience will enjoy her latest series, *The Daredevil Princess* and many more.

www.belindamurrell.com.au

Biffy James

Author • Grades 7 - 12

- 109 Thursday 11 July 9.15am – Grades 9-12
- 118 Thursday 11 July 10.45am – Grades 9-12
- 137 Thursday 11 July 1.30pm – Grades 7-9
- 209 Friday 12 July 9.15am – Grades 9-12
- 218 Friday 12 July 10.45am – Grades 7-9
- 228 Friday 12 July 12.15pm – Grades 7-9



Presented by



Biffy burst onto the YA scene like a ROCK STAR! Her book, *Completely Normal (and other lies)*, has been awarded the *BCA Honour Book*, *Readings' Books Winner*, the *Queensland Literary Award's Griffith University Young Adult Book Award*, and the *NSW Premier's Literary Award*. Biffy holds a master's degree in Creative Writing and is dedicated to writing heartbreaking and hilarious contemporary fiction using her unique and authentic voice. We are thrilled to offer our senior audiences the opportunity to see Biffy James in action!

Graham Akhurst

Author • Grades 6 - 12

- 107 Thursday 11 July 9.15am – Grades 7-9
- 128 Thursday 11 July 12.15pm – Grades 9-12
- 138 Thursday 11 July 1.30pm – Grades 9-12
- 206 Friday 12 July 9.15am – Grades 6-8
- 229 Friday 12 July 12.15pm – Grades 9-12
- 236 Friday 12 July 1.30pm – Grades 6-8



Presented by



Graham Akhurst is a literary powerhouse. He is a Kokomini writer and a highly acclaimed academic and the director of the Centre for the Advancement of Indigenous Knowledges at UTS. Graham has been featured nationally and internationally on the festival scene and has won many awards for his work.

His debut YA novel, *Borderland*, hit the shelves just last year and was a smash hit and awarded the *BCA Book of the Year Notable 2024*. Graham will discuss how he came to write *Borderland* and how much of himself is in the text. He will touch on his family, his history, and how his experiences growing up Indigenous in Brisbane shaped his life and that of the main protagonist.

www.grahamakhurst.com

James Foley

Author / Illustrator • Grads 1 - 5

- 103 Thursday 11 July 9.15am – Grades 3-5
- 112 Thursday 11 July 10.45am – Grades 1-4
- 123 Thursday 11 July 12.15pm – Grades 3-5
- 203 Friday 12 July 9.15am – Grades 3-5
- 213 Friday 12 July 10.45am – Grades 1-4
- 224 Friday 12 July 12.15pm – Grades 3-5



Presented by



James Foley will have everyone on their feet! You may know his multi-award-winning picture book *Stellarphant*, or his other graphic novels *Brobot*, *Dungzilla*, *Gastronauts* and *Chickensaurus*. His latest graphic novel series, *Secret Agent Mole*, follows Max Mole, Helena Hippo, and June Bug, for whom no mission is too dangerous, or ridiculous!

In his hilarious sessions you'll find out how you too could make the journey from a wannabe to a professional author-illustrator... in just 3452 easy steps! As an ambassador for *Books in Homes* and *Room to Read*, James' passion and dedication to children's literature is evident in both his books and high-energy delivery.

www.jamesfoley.com.au

Joel McKerrow

Performer / SLAM Poet / Author • Grades 1 – 12

- 105 Thursday 11 July 9.15am – Grades 5-7
- 130 Thursday 11 July 12.15pm (PW) – Grades 6-8
- 133 Thursday 11 July 1.30pm – Grades 3-5
- 223 Friday 12 July 12.15pm – Grades 1-4
- 239 Friday 12 July 1.30pm (Poetry SLAM!) – Grades 7-12

Joel McKerrow RETURNS! Joel brings with him his latest release, *Urban Legend Hunters*, a graphic novel of fun, spooky stories mashed into a poetic adventure. This year, with a new presentation, our younger grades will now get to enjoy Joel's poetic brilliance! Seniors and SLAM POETS, will also have the amazing opportunity to workshop with Joel and his incredible creative process. Joel is a highly sought-after, internationally acclaimed speaker and is one of Australia's most successful performance poets. Joel is nothing short of a POETIC GENIUS.

www.joelmckerrow.com



Presented by



Lili Wilkinson

Author • Grades 7 – 12

- 108 Thursday 11 July 9.15am – Grades 9-12
- 117 Thursday 11 July 10.45am – Grades 7-9
- 127 Thursday 11 July 12.15pm – Grades 7-9
- 207 Friday 12 July 9.15am – Grades 7-9
- 220 Friday 12 July 10.45am – Grades 9-12
- 237 Friday 12 July 1.30pm – Grades 7-9

Lili Wilkinson is the award-winning author of 19 books, has a PhD in Creative Writing and a passion for YA and the young people who read it. *Deep As the Fen*, her brand new release this year, follows Lili's entrancing, highly acclaimed book, *A Hunger of Thorns*. Lili also penned the brilliant and compelling psychological thrillers *The Erasure Initiative* and *After the Lights Go Out*.

Lili loves writing in other worlds and shares her award-winning brilliance in writing processes with our senior grades. Her accolades include *The Victoria Premier's Literary Award* and *The Aurealis Award for the Best YA Novel*, as well as being shortlisted for the *CBCA Book of the Year* and *Queensland Literary Awards*. The list goes on and on!

www.liliwilkinson.com.au



Presented by

Mackay Foot & Ankle

Lisa Fuller

Author • Grades 9 – 12

- 120 Thursday 11 July 10.45am (WW) – Grades 9-12
- 129 Thursday 11 July 12.15pm – Grades 9-12
- 139 Thursday 11 July 1.30pm – Grades 9-12
- 208 Friday 12 July 9.15am – Grades 9-12
- 221 Friday 12 July 10.45am (WW) – Grades 9-12
- 238 Friday 12 July 1.30pm – Grades 9-12



Presented by



Lisa Fuller is a Wuilli Wuilli woman who lives in Ngunnawal lands (Canberra), where she is currently completing her PhD in Creative Writing. Lisa is an award-winning writer, seasonal academic, freelance writer, editor and literary agent. Her debut YA novel, *Ghost Bird*, is a gritty and intense story that shares strong indigenous connections, and won multiple awards, including the *Queensland Literary Award's Griffith University Young Adult Book Award* and the *CBCA Honour Book*.

Lisa loves a battle with her inner critic and will show our upper grades how to deal with that voice by getting hands-on. With an extensive writing toolkit to share, Lisa is a champion for her culture and how to write the stories within it.

www.lisafuller.com.au

Mandy Foot

Author / Illustrator • Prep – Grade 8

- 111 Thursday 11 July 10.45am – Prep-Grade 3
- 131 Thursday 11 July 12.15pm (AW) – Grades 6-8
- 136 Thursday 11 July 1.30pm – Grades 5-7
- 201 Friday 12 July 9.15am – Prep-Grade 3
- 216 Friday 12 July 10.45am – Grades 5-7
- 231 Friday 12 July 12.15pm (AW) – Grades 6-8



Presented by



As an award-winning, best-selling author and illustrator, Mandy Foot thrives on finding the balance between words and pictures. Mandy considers herself an adventure illustrator, where every manuscript is an opportunity to explore. Mandy loves to paint traditionally and in watercolour, marvelling at all the happy accidents this medium creates.

Mandy's books are mesmerising, with delightfully detailed illustrations and colourful imagination. She has 25 books to her name and has attracted many awards, including the *CBCA Honour Book*. Younger grades will explore the illustrations of her latest release, *Bev & Kev*, in her fun-filled sessions. Older primary grades will unlock their imaginations and find the balance between text and illustration.

www.mandyfoot.com

Nick Earls

Author • Grades 4 – 12

- 104 Thursday 11 July 9.15am – Grades 4-6
- 119 Thursday 11 July 10.45am – Grades 9-12
- 124 Thursday 11 July 12.15pm – Grades 4-6
- 204 Friday 12 July 9.15am – Grades 4-6
- 219 Friday 12 July 10.45am – Grades 9-12
- 225 Friday 12 July 12.15pm – Grades 4-6



Presented by



Nick Earls is an international best-selling author of 28 books for adults, teenagers and children. Five of his books have been adapted into stage plays and two into feature films. His most recent book is the novel *Empires*.

In his entertaining and energetic session for middle grades, Nick poses the questions... Where do our words come from? Why do we spell them the way we do? Why is English the weird and complicated language it is? This talk introduces Lexi and Al from Nicks' *Word Hunters* books, and gives students the tools to be word hunters themselves with a new way of thinking about language and how it works, including the evolution of language and the factors behind it.

For senior grades Nick poses the question 'Why, when we have so many options, should we make room for the recreational reading of fiction in our lives?' Nick Earls takes a journey through his own reading history and its impact on his writing, looking at how reading works and why we should be doing it.

www.nickearls.wordpress.com

Peter Carnavas

Author / Illustrator • Prep – Grade 6

- 101 Thursday 11 July 9.15am – Prep-Grade 3
- 114 Thursday 11 July 10.45am – Grades 4-6
- 134 Thursday 11 July 1.30pm – Grades 3-5
- 215 Friday 12 July 10.45am – Grades 4-6
- 222 Friday 12 July 12.15pm – Prep-Grade 3
- 234 Friday 12 July 1.30pm – Grades 4-6



Presented by



Peter has written and illustrated over 20 children's books and novels, including *My Brother Ben*, *The Elephant* and *A Quiet Girl*, which have been published worldwide. His works have attracted many awards, most notably the Children's Book Award at the *Queensland Literary Awards*, the *NSW Premier's Literary Awards* as well as the *Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year*.

Peter's new book, *Leo and Ralph*, is about a young boy who can't let go of his imaginary alien friend. Peter's animated presentation entices his audience to explore all corners of their imagination when building characters, helping bring their stories to life and their illustrations to jump off the page. These sessions are not to be missed!

www.petercarnavas.com

Tony Flowers

Author / Illustrator • Prep – Grade 12

- 110 Thursday 11 July 9.15am (AW) – Grades 9-12
- 115 Thursday 11 July 10.45am – Grades 5-7
- 121 Thursday 11 July 12.15pm – Prep-Grade 3
- 211 Friday 12 July 9.15am (AW) – Grades 9-12
- 226 Friday 12 July 12.15pm – Grades 5-7
- 232 Friday 12 July 1.30pm – Prep-Grade 3



Presented by



Tony Flowers, an internationally acclaimed illustrator and fine artist, gained his Masters in Visual Communication by assessing the unique way a picture book tells a story. Tony continues to work across traditional, 3D, pop-up illustrations, and his insanely clever street chalk art has also attracted awards in the USA. You may have even spotted Tony on Saturday Disney!

Tony Flowers is the ultimate doodler, specialising in dinosaurs, samurai, dragons and Australian history. Tony's intriguing style and boundless talent will captivate his senior workshop students and fascinate his junior audience. Equally fascinating is his latest book – *Grandma's First Tattoo!*

www.tonyflowersillustrator.wordpress.com

BOOK SIGNING

Come along to the Book Nook to meet your favourite authors and get your books signed. Presenters will be available at the end of every student session.

Books from all 2024 Festival presenters are for sale at The Book Nook at prices below the recommended retail price. Students are also welcome to bring their own books from home for signing.



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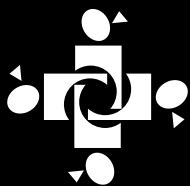


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