

Whitsunday VOICES

12-14 July 2023



whitsundayvoices.com.au

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WHITSUNDAY
VOICES

YOUTH
LITERATURE
FESTIVAL



Festival Welcome

Welcome to the Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival 2023, the 19th Festival since our inception in 2004!

We are thrilled to share with you this year's exciting line-up of presenters ready to inspire students to 'put down their iPhones and pick up a book!' For more information turn to pages 12-15 to start planning your Festival experience. I encourage the Mackay community to participate in this year's Literary Festival and take the opportunity to meet some of these renowned artists and presenters.

Voices is a local, ground-roots event and we are proud to work with diverse organisations who truly value and are prepared to invest in our region and students. This year we are grateful to be celebrating 10 generous years of support from Daly Bay and The Winchester Foundation.

My heartfelt thanks to these partners, and to all our corporate partners, local businesses and community stakeholders for their generous support. Without your continued involvement, the Festival would, quite simply, cease to exist.

We hope you enjoy the dynamic program we have put together for you and that you feel inspired to either start, or continue, on your literacy journey. As always, if you have any questions or would like some direction on authors, please don't hesitate to contact our friendly team.

Enjoy!

Tracey Gurdler
Festival Manager

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A word from our Mayor



For 19 years the Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival has brought some of Australia's best storytellers to our region to inspire and delight us – and our students get even more out of it!

We can say with pride that this festival has grown into the largest youth literature festival in regional Queensland.

With a reach now extending to over 65 schools, it means that this year, over 5,000 students, educators and parents will visit the Whitsunday Anglican School campus over two days to enjoy a fun-based educational, program delivered by 14 inspirational presenters.

A highly anticipated part of the festival is the DBI Literary Dinner. The keynote speaker this year is Annabel Crabb - one of Australia's most loved media personalities, and the creative genius and presenter of a host of ABC projects.

Of course, a festival of this calibre doesn't just happen. It takes a lot of hard work from people like festival manager Tracey Gurdler and

coordinator Liz Russell. They are supported by a passionate committee and many volunteers from around the region who together deliver this great event.

Our local business partners have once again enabled Whitsunday Voices with their incredible support.

Thanks once again to the people in our community who deliver this festival every year. You should be very proud of your efforts.

The world of literature is full of inspirational, moving, and funny stories. For our community to be at the centre of delivering those stories to our youth makes me extremely proud.

Enjoy Whitsunday Voices 2023.

Mayor Greg Williamson

Visitor's Guide

Something for Everyone – Check out our Visitor's Guide to Whitsunday Voices.



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. 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 and our Festival volunteers will help guide you around the site.

SCHOOL BOOKINGS Accompanying teachers are complimentary (1 teacher per 10 students), additional teachers need 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. Whole 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 information 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.



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 located on the oval. *EFTPOS available.*

THURSDAY + FRIDAY 9.00am - 2.30pm

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 Festival bookshop stocks an extensive range of books by all authors attending. *The Book Nook is located up the stairs from the basketball courts and adjacent to the marquees.* 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! You can pre-order books using the form on our website www.whitsundayvoices.com.au/bookshop

Pre-ordered books can be collected from the bookshop 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, use the Celeber Drive drop off only.

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

ROAD TO READING TRAVEL SUBSIDY



We 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 23 June 2023.

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 Welcome

Date: Wednesday 12 July

Venue: The oval, Whitsunday Anglican School

FREE ENTRY Please RSVP for catering purposes
Phone 4969 2018 or email lru@was.qld.edu.au

5:30pm Refreshments and mingle with authors

5:45pm Welcome to Country, Yuwi People

6:15pm-7:00pm Writer's Panel
Hosted by Mick Elliott

Come join us in the BHP/BMA Festival Teepee under the stars. Take part in our smoking ceremony led by our local YUWI people and enjoy a drink and bite to eat.

Afterwards we will move to a cosier venue, the Pansy Wood Auditorium, for the ever-popular Writer's Panel. This year's panel consists of four high energy, passionate and talented presenters and hosted by the very entertaining Mick Elliott.

Explore
Property

Statewide
Conveyancing



Chill Out Precinct

In the breaks, hang out in the BHP/BMA Festival Teepee. Relax with Mackay Libraries Story Time or 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 13 and Friday 14 July

Time: 9:15am - 2:30pm

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, 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.



Litchat Educators' Event

7 STEPS TO GET CHILDREN READING

WITH
LOUISE
PARK



Date: Thursday 13 July **Time:** 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Venue: Pansy Wood Centre, Whitsunday Anglican School

Tickets: \$40 bookings essential – includes refreshments

Bookings: www.whitsundayvoices.com.au

Learn how to futureproof literacy in a rapidly changing world, and give children the best chance of success.

Generation Alpha is the swiper, pincher, tapper cohort, the first to grow up with devices in their hands. They are breaking new ground as a result of technological advances, while you, their parents and educators, are having to navigate these uncharted waters.

As a teacher, children's author and leading educational consultant, Louise Park knows better than anyone how the goalposts have shifted over time. The road to literacy has never been smooth, but now there's added digital distractions.

In this Litchat presentation, Louise will show you how to make the most of both digital and traditional forms of reading, as well as setting out common sense plans for making a reader of your child or student.

Based on scientific research and presented in a friendly, accessible style for time-poor parents and teachers, the seven simple steps will lead the Generation Alpha child to an irreplaceable love of reading.

Literacy is the single most important thing we can teach kids. If they can read, all other learning will follow.

EARN PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT POINTS



Jellinbah Group



Literary Dinner



Date: Friday 14 July

Time: 6:30pm until late

Venue: Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre

Tickets: \$150 / Book via www.themecc.com.au or phone 07 4961 9777

Annabel Crabb is many things: author, television presenter, journalist, producer, podcaster, cultural curator, and political correspondent. What's more, Annabel Crabb is FUNNY!

Join Annabel at the highly anticipated DBI Literary Dinner to celebrate the conclusion of the 2023 Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival.

One of Australia's most beloved media personalities, Annabel is the creative genius and presenter of a host of projects on the ABC including Australia Talks, Tomorrow Tonight, The House With Annabel Crabb and The Kitchen Cabinet; which received two Logie nominations for Most Outstanding New Talent and Most Popular New Female Talent.

Enjoy a delicious three-course dinner, meet and mingle with the high-profile presenters from this year's Festival, be entertained by the brilliance and humour of Annabel Crabb, and dance the night away with a live band!



Jellinbah Group



Short Story Competition

With hundreds of entries from students in Mackay and its surrounds, the Short Story Competition is a highly anticipated event on our calendar.

This year was no exception, our judges are working hard at the moment to read through the fantastic submissions to select this year's winners.

Judging: ALEA – Australian Literacy Educator's Association

AWARD CEREMONY

Winners of each category will be awarded their prizes at a special ceremony.

Date: Wednesday 12 July 2023 **Time:** 5:00pm - 5:30pm

Venue: Whitsunday Anglican School, Pansy Wood Centre

Please join us after the awards ceremony for our Festival Welcome at the Festival Teepee under the stars. Mingle with Festival presenters, enjoy light refreshments and take part in our smoking ceremony led by our local YUWI people. Afterwards we will move to a cosier venue, the Pansy Wood Auditorium, for the ever-popular Writer's Panel – hosted by the highly entertaining Mick Elliott. Don't miss it!



Poetry Slam! Competition

Senior school students are invited to enter the hotly contested Whitsunday Voices Poetry SLAM! Competition. Hosted by the master craftsman of words himself, Joel McKerron!

THE WINNING SLAM! TEAM RECEIVE TROPHIES, A \$400 CASH PRIZE POOL AND THE BRAGGING RIGHTS!

COMPETITION DETAILS

Date: Friday 14 July 2023 **Time:** 1:45pm - 2:30pm

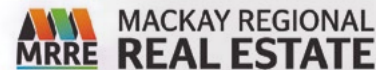
Venue: Whitsunday Anglican School, Ron Bourne Hall

Judging: Three Whitsunday Voices presenters / teachers

Criteria: 50% performance and 50% content

Parents are welcome to buy tickets to attend this session.

Entry forms available at www.whitsundayvoices.com.au



Program - Day 1



9:15am – 10:00am

Session	Event	Grades
101	Boori Pryor	P-3
102	shake & stir	1-4
103	Katrina Nannestad	3-5
104	Charlotte Barkla	4-6
105	Mick Elliott	5-7
106	Louise Park	6-8
107	Isobelle Carmody	7-9
108	Lech Blaine	9-12
109	Joel McKerrow	9-12
110	Matt Stanton (WW)	6-8
111	Sarah Davis (AW)	9-12

10:45am – 11:30am

Session	Event	Grades
112	Mick Elliott	P-3
113	Louise Park	1-4
114	Matt Stanton	3-5
115	shake & stir	4-6
116	Katrina Nannestad	5-7
117	Joel McKerrow	6-8
118	Sarah Ayoub	7-9
119	Isobelle Carmody	9-12
120	Lech Blaine	9-12
121	Sarah Davis (WW)	9-12
122	Marc McBride (AW)	6-8

12:15pm – 1:00pm

Session	Event	Grades
123	Sarah Davis	P-3
124	Charlotte Barkla	1-4
125	shake & stir	3-5
126	Louise Park	4-6
127	Boori Pryor	5-7
128	Marc McBride	6-8
129	Katrina Nannestad	7-9
130	Sarah Ayoub	9-12
131	Joel McKerrow	9-12

1:45pm – 2:30pm

Session	Event	Grades
132	Charlotte Barkla	1-4
133	Boori Pryor	3-5
134	Matt Stanton	4-6
135	Mick Elliott	5-7
136	Marc McBride	6-8
137	Sarah Ayoub	7-9
138	Lech Blaine	9-12
139	Isobelle Carmody	9-12

Program - Day 2

Friday,
14 July



Mackay Libraries Story time!

Students from Prep to grade 6 are welcome to take a seat in the Festival TeePee and relax while the team from Mackay Libraries read them a story in the breaks.

Break Times Grades

10:00am – 10:45am	Prep to grade 6
11:30am – 12:15pm	Prep to grade 6
1:00pm – 1:45pm	Prep to grade 6



MyLibrary

9:15am – 10:00am

Session	Event	Grades
201	Charlotte Barkla	P-3
202	shake & stir	1-4
203	Katrina Nannestad	3-5
204	Louise Park	4-6
205	Matt Stanton	5-7
206	Mick Elliott	6-8
207	Joel McKerrow	7-9
208	Lech Blaine	9-12
209	Sarah Ayoub	9-12
210	Isobelle Carmody (WW)	9-12

12:15pm – 1:00pm

Session	Event	Grades
222	Boori Pryor	P-3
223	Sarah Davis	1-4
224	Mick Elliott	3-5
225	shake & stir	4-6
226	Louise Park	5-7
227	Sarah Ayoub	6-8
228	Isobelle Carmody	7-9
229	Annabel Crabb	8-12
230	Lech Blaine	9-12
231	Marc McBride (AW)	6-8

10:45am – 11:30am

Session	Event	Grades
211	Mick Elliott	P-3
212	Boori Pryor	1-4
213	Matt Stanton	3-5
214	shake & stir	4-6
215	Marc McBride	5-7
216	Katrina Nannestad	6-8
217	Joel McKerrow	7-9
218	Isobelle Carmody	9-12
219	Lech Blaine	9-12
220	Charlotte Barkla (WW)	6-8
221	Sarah Davis (AW)	9-12

1:45pm – 2:30pm

Session	Event	Grades
232	Louise Park	P-3
233	Boori Pryor	1-4
234	Matt Stanton	3-5
235	Charlotte Barkla	4-6
236	Marc McBride	5-7
237	Katrina Nannestad	6-8
238	Sarah Ayoub	9-12
239	Joel McKerrow	7-12
	Poetry SLAM! Competition	

WW: Writing Workshop / AW: Art Workshop

Workshops

CHARLOTTE BARKLA: *Crafting Great Characters (Writer's Workshop)*

Friday 10:45am – 11:30am | Session 220 | Grades 6 – 8

Great characters are the backbone of great stories. In this workshop, Charlotte will guide students through a series of interactive exercises to develop their own believable, flawed, unique characters, that will propel their story forward.

ISOBELLE CARMODY: *Vision in Writing (Writer's Workshop)*

Friday 9:15am – 10:00am | Session 210 | Grades 9 – 12

Students in this workshop will work with Isobelle to build a story set in the future in a place they know well. They will *world build* using maps and will futurise their current lives to produce realistic and believable backgrounds for their stories. Isobelle will show students how to use tools such as graphic grids to plot stories out and students who like to draw can even use these to create a graphic version of their story!

MARC MCBRIDE: *The Art of Your Imagination (Art Workshop)*

Thursday 10:45am – 11:30am | Session 122 | Grades 6 – 8
Friday 12:15pm – 1:00pm | Session 231 | Grades 6 – 8

Marc is the master of dragons! Marc will work with students to create their very own original creatures. He explains colour theory, light, shape, line and texture – the five elements of visual language. Using simple shapes he encourages students to draw with him and to 'embrace their mistakes' – after all, often mistakes become the inspiration for something truly original!

SARAH DAVIS: *Shape is a Language (Art Workshop)*

Thursday 9:15am – 10:00am | Session 111 | Grades 9 – 12
Friday 10:45am – 11:30am | Session 221 | Grades 9 – 12

In this workshop, Sarah will introduce students to the formal elements of composition, line, shape, space and form, and teach them how to use these confidently to create specific emotional effects in their work. Students will work with Sarah to create their own dramatic narrative illustration.

SARAH DAVIS: *Less is More (Writer's Workshop)*

Thursday 10:45am – 11:30am | Session 121 | Grades 9 – 12

Sarah's workshop will help seniors harness the power of editing, using the picture book text as a model for subtlety and economy in creative writing. Sarah will guide students in crafting their own text, focusing on developing tone, theme, and use of poetic language, then rework and refine to create a strong, evocative piece.

MATT STANTON: *I'm So Bored I Wrote a Story (Writer's Workshop)*

Thursday 9:15am – 10:00am
Session 110 | Grades 6 – 8

In this comprehensive workshop, Matt teachers creative writing students his Snowball Story Method by developing a brand new story outline with them, in the style of his fiction series, Bored. A unique opportunity to work with an author on a real story, this workshop takes students through the actual work of idea generation, character, conflict, story structure and dialogue as it plays out in developing a real novel.



Winchester Foundation

The Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival is an inclusive event for the wider Mackay-Isaac community, and that is thanks to the involvement of the Winchester Foundation.

The John & Beryl Neilsen Winchester Foundation was established in 2012 by Mrs. Beryl Neilsen, OAM with the specific aim of creating educational opportunities for rural children. In 2013, the foundation became involved with the Festival, and their partnership has had a tremendous impact ever since.

Over the past decade, Winchester Foundation's collaboration with Whitsunday Voices has benefited over 4,000 children in rural areas. These youngsters travel from far and wide to attend to explore the world of literature.

The Winchester Foundation's core motto is "Empowering Country Children Through Education." This guiding principle is at the heart of their involvement with the Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival.

The foundation's unwavering commitment to this mission has made a significant impact in the lives of these young readers, and their partnership with the Festival has helped to inspire and empower them to pursue their dreams through the power of literature.



The Winchester Foundation is a scholarship program to assist regional children and young adults with their education, and to help them with additional costs. For more information on their scholarships, and how to apply visit www.winchesterfoundation.org



The Presenters



Annabel Crabb

Keynote Speaker • Grades 8 - 12

229 Friday 14 July 12:15pm – Grades 8-12

Annabel Crabb is many things: author, presenter, journalist, producer, hilarious podcaster, cultural curator, political correspondent, and mother!

One of Australia's most beloved media personalities, Annabel is the creative genius and presenter of a host of projects on the ABC, including *Australia Talks*, *Tomorrow Tonight*, *The House With Annabel Crabb*, *Kitchen Cabinet*, *Ms Represented* and the popular TV history series *Back In Time For Dinner*.

Throughout her illustrious career, Annabel has journeyed through it all. She understands not only the value of a great education, but the importance of being able to reinvent yourself when life's plan takes a detour. Annabel has shown a formidable ability to be resilient in the face of adversity and in the crazy world of social media. Throughout it all, Annabel has maintained the sense of humour and grace that she is well known for.

What lessons did Annabel learn and wish she knew to tell her 12-year-old self? Students will find out in this informative and insightful presentation on Friday afternoon.



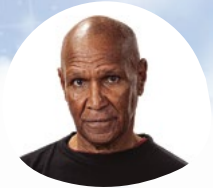
Presented by



Boori Pryor

Author / Storyteller / Musician • Prep - Grade 7

101 Thursday 13 July 9:15am – Grades P-3
127 Thursday 13 July 12:15pm – Grades 5-7
133 Thursday 13 July 1:45pm – Grades 3-5
212 Friday 14 July 10:45am – Grades 1-4
222 Friday 14 July 12:15pm – Grades P-3
233 Friday 14 July 1:45pm – Grades 1-4



Presented by **THIESS**

Boori Monty Pryor is a multi-award-winning children's author, didgeridoo player, storyteller, and dancer. Boori was born in Townsville, North Queensland. His father was from the Juru people of the Bowen region and his mother is a descendant of the Kungganji nation near Cairns.

Boori was appointed the inaugural Australian Children's Laureate for his work across the field of children's and YA literature. His collaborations: *Maybe Tomorrow*, *My Girragundji*, *The Binna Binna Man*, *Nunjul The Sun*, *Flytrap* and *Shake a Leg* have attracted several awards and commendations, including the *CBCA Awards*, *Prime Minister's Literary Awards* and *NSW Premier's Literary Awards*. Boori's latest release *Story Doctors* is a powerful and beautiful account of Australia's true history.

Boori draws on a lifetime of wisdom and his generous instinct to teach and heal. Boori is a gentle speaker. However, his presentations send a powerful message through his imaginative journey, connecting young readers to Earth's oldest healer – nature.

Charlotte Barkla

Author / Science Writer • Prep - Grade 8

104 Thursday 13 July 9:15am – Grades 4-6
124 Thursday 13 July 12:15pm – Grades 1-4
132 Thursday 13 July 1:45pm – Grades 1-4
201 Friday 14 July 9:15am – Grades P-3
220 Friday 14 July 10:45am (WW) – Grades 6-8
235 Friday 14 July 1:45pm – Grades 4-6



Presented by



Charlotte is a Brisbane based writer who worked as a civil engineer and physics teacher before discovering her love for children's literature. A regular on the school tours scene, Charlotte shares her passion for science and creative writing with early to middle school grades. Charlotte's novels, the *Edie's Experiments* series, are a heart-warming and funny look into starting a new school for a science-obsessed middle grader. Charlotte has two picture books for earlier audiences exploring boundaries and consent with a feel-good factor in *From My Head to My Toes*, *I say What Goes* and *All Bodies are Good Bodies*. Charlotte also writes thought-provoking feature articles for STEM publications like CSIRO's *Double Helix*.

Demonstrating simple science experiments you can try at home, Charlotte gives insight into the writing of her series. She'll leave the audience with a thirst for science and lots of great tips for writing their very own STEM-themed story.

www.charlottebarkla.com

Isobelle Carmody

Author / Illustrator • Grades 7 - 12

- 107 Thursday 13 July 9:15am – Grades 7-9
- 119 Thursday 13 July 10:45am – Grades 9-12
- 139 Thursday 13 July 1:45pm – Grades 9-12
- 210 Friday 14 July 9:15am (WW) – Grades 9-12
- 218 Friday 14 July 10:45am – Grades 9-12
- 228 Friday 14 July 12:15pm – Grades 7-9



Presented by



Isobelle Carmody is one of Australia's most highly acclaimed authors. At 14, she began *Obernewtyn*, the first book in her much-loved Obernewtyn Chronicles, and has since written many prize-winning works including *Evermore* and *Scatterlings*. Isobelle's work for younger readers includes the *The Kingdom of the Lost* and *The Legend of Little Fur* series. Isobelle has earned herself literally pages of awards and notables for her books over her expansive international career. Having recently completed her PhD in Literature at the University of Queensland, Isobelle is passionate about many things, none more than youth literature.

Upper grades will see how her writing follows a philosophical vein, delving into her character's varied psyches. Isobelle shares how writing fantasy and speculative fiction allows us to think about real world problems and questions. Isobelle's younger audience explores the journey of her series *Kingdom of the Lost*. Isobelle is a master of fantasy, prepare to be amazed.

www.isobellecarmody.net.au

Joel McKerrow

Poet / Writer / Performer • Grades 6 - 12

- 109 Thursday 13 July 9:15am – Grades 9-12
- 117 Thursday 13 July 10:45am – Grades 6-8
- 131 Thursday 13 July 12:15pm – Grades 9-12
- 207 Friday 14 July 9:15am – Grades 7-9
- 217 Friday 14 July 10:45am – Grades 7-9
- 239 Friday 14 July 1:45pm (Poetry Slam!) – Grades 7-12



Presented by



Joel is a master craftsman of words. He is obsessed with stories and creativity and the way they can change people and culture. An internationally award-winning writer, artist and poet, Joel is a highly sought after performer and has taught poetry and creative processes to over 60,000 students worldwide. Joel's 2023 release, *Even Lost Things Glow* is a collection of his poetry where he hopes to bring light into dark spaces with "glow in the dark words".

Joel connects with students at any level in their writing. His engaging and energetic style breaks through even the most frosty of teenage too-cool receptions. The poetic process Joel demonstrates enables students to reflect on issues of identity and advocacy, helping students understand their own story and social existence whilst developing their creative writing and speaking skills. There may be things to unlearn, fears to conquer and new tools to take away. Joel will smash your perception of what poetry can be.

www.joelmckerrow.com

Katrina Nannestad

Author • Grade 3 - 9

- 103 Thursday 13 July 9:15am – Grades 3-5
- 116 Thursday 13 July 10:45am – Grades 5-7
- 129 Thursday 13 July 12:15pm – Grades 7-9
- 203 Friday 14 July 9:15am – Grades 3-5
- 216 Friday 14 July 10:45am – Grades 6-8
- 237 Friday 14 July 1:45pm – Grades 6-8



Presented by



Katrina Nannestad is an award-winning children's author who loves to write with humour, adventure, mystery and history. Her career as a primary school teacher has provided her with rich fields for her story ideas. Katrina's powerful novel, *We Are Wolves*, has attracted a long list of awards, including winner of the 2021 ARA Historical Novel Prize. In her writing, Katrina presents the serious issues of history in ways that are accessible to young readers and creates a space that celebrates the values of family, friendship and belonging.

Katrina's fascinating middle grade presentations focus on lesser-known stories of war and the true stories and research that inspired her historical novels. Katrina's interactive presentations for her younger audience showcase her passion for storytelling and hot tips for younger writers. There's dress ups, storytelling and giggles

www.katrinannestad.com

Lech Blaine

Writer • Grades 9 - 12

- 108 Thursday 13 July 9:15am – Grades 9-12
- 120 Thursday 13 July 10:45am – Grades 9-12
- 138 Thursday 13 July 1:45pm – Grades 9-12
- 208 Friday 14 July 9:15am – Grades 9-12
- 219 Friday 14 July 10:45am – Grades 9-12
- 230 Friday 14 July 12:15pm – Grades 9-12



Presented by



Lech Blaine was just seventeen when he and his teenage mates piled into a car to go to a party. They never arrived. How do we grieve in an age of social media? How does tragedy shape a small community? How does a boy on the cusp of manhood develop a sense of self when his world has exploded?

Lech's story is one not to be missed by his YA audience as he recounts his story of grief, perseverance and courage. While his stunning book pulls no punches, he speaks with sensitivity and deep thought-provoking mastery. Presented with the Queensland Premier's Young Writer's Award and an Emerging Artist's Fellowship prize to name a few, his message is a gift to every teenager ready to take on the ride of their lives.

www.lechblaine.com

Louise Park

Author / Educator • Prep - Grade 8

106 Thursday 13 July 9:15am – Grades 6-8
113 Thursday 13 July 10:45am – Grades 1-4
126 Thursday 13 July 12:15pm – Grades 4-6
204 Friday 14 July 9:15am – Grades 4-6
226 Friday 14 July 12:15pm – Grades 5-7
232 Friday 14 July 1:45pm – Grades P-3



Presented by



Louise's pen names may be more familiar to you as *H.I. Larry*, *Mac Park* or *Poppy Rose*, author of international hits *Zac Power*, *Boy Vs Beast*, *Bella Dancerella* and *The Grace Mysteries* series. Louise has another brand-new release in 2023, *Last Man Out*, an amazing true recount of her own Grandfather's story of Gallopi.

Louise has found the right formula to get kids reading during her 20 years of experience as a teacher. As an educational consultant, she has teaching resources for all of her books and wrote *7 Steps to Get Your Child Reading* – a must have for anyone with children.

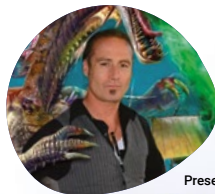
Louise will have your students running to the book store with her creative and interactive performances, while encouraging them to take risks to develop their own imaginations.

www.louisepark.com.au

Marc McBride

Illustrator • Grades 5 - 8

122 Thursday 13 July 10:45am (AW) – Grades 6-8
128 Thursday 13 July 12:15pm – Grades 6-8
136 Thursday 13 July 1:45pm – Grades 6-8
215 Friday 14 July 10:45am – Grades 5-7
231 Friday 14 July 12:15pm (AW) – Grades 6-8
236 Friday 14 July 1:45pm – Grades 5-7



Presented by



The incredibly talented artist Marc McBride is most famous for his work in the international best seller series, *Deltora Quest*, now a TV Series that has sold over 18 million copies around the world. He has illustrated over 200 books and more magazines than he can remember! His book, *The Glimme*, was awarded *Honour Book* in the CBCA awards. Marc's latest work found in *The Song of Lewis Carmichael* is simply mesmerising.

Marc's presentations are as fascinating as his artwork, taking you on a journey on how he brings a story to life. His love of dragons and monsters is influenced by nature and he helps you identify what you can use to create your own masterpiece. All ages will be utterly in awe of his talent but most importantly inspired to pick up a pencil and bring their own ideas to life. PS It's all in the eyes!

www.marcmcbride.com

Matt Stanton

Author / Illustrator • Grades 3 - 8

110 Thursday 13 July 9:15am (WW) – Grades 6-8
114 Thursday 13 July 10:45am – Grades 3-5
134 Thursday 13 July 1:45pm – Grades 4-6
205 Friday 14 July 9:15am – Grades 5-7
213 Friday 14 July 10:45am – Grades 3-5
234 Friday 14 July 1:45pm – Grades 3-5



Presented by



Matt is one of Australia's best selling children's authors and has sold more than a million books. Matt loves to make kids laugh and hopes that each of his books brings at least one smile – that is in fact one million smiles! With 20 picture books to his name, including the award-winning *Books That Drive Kids Crazy* and *The Odds* series, that is not so hard to imagine. He is probably best known for his international hit series *Funny Kid*. Matt's latest release is the immensely popular graphic novel series, *Bored*. The first of the series, *Evie Dreams Big*, is for kids with wild and crazy ideas who dare to dream the impossible.

Matt's lively and funny presentations encourage students to see reading as the hunt for interesting stories. Your students will be inspired by Matt's creativity to pursue reading with enthusiasm and joy.

www.mattstanton.net

Mick Elliott

Author / Illustrator / Screenwriter /
TV Producer • Prep - Grade 8

105 Thursday 13 July 9:15am – Grades 5-7
112 Thursday 13 July 10:45am – Grades P-3
135 Thursday 13 July 1:45pm – Grades 5-7
206 Friday 14 July 9:15am – Grades 6-8
211 Friday 14 July 10:45am – Grades P-3
224 Friday 14 July 12:15pm – Grades 3-5



Presented by



When he's not writing and illustrating epic books for kids like the international bestseller series, *Squidge Dibley* and *The Turner* trilogy, Mick Elliott is a TV producer, screenwriter, literacy ambassador and professional mischief maker. He has worked on kids' TV shows for Nickelodeon, ABC, Channel 10 and produced programs such as *Slimefest*, *Camp Orange* and squillions of commercials. Right now, he divides his time as an executive producer for Nickelodeon International and Channel 10 and writing and illustrating a bunch of new books. Mick's first picture book, *Dads & Dogs*, will be launched right here at Whitsunday Voices!

Mick's fabulously entertaining and animated presentations come with the warning, "Prepare to have your brain stretched until it explodes!" as shares his inspirations behind his books and reveals how he discovered the secret power of storytelling.

www.mickelliott.me

Sarah Ayoub

Author / Journalist • Grades 6 - 12

118 Thursday 13 July 10:45am – Grades 7-9
130 Thursday 13 July 12:15pm – Grades 9-12
137 Thursday 13 July 1:45pm – Grades 7-9
209 Friday 14 July 9:15am – Grades 9-12
227 Friday 14 July 12:15pm – Grades 6-8
238 Friday 14 July 1:45pm – Grades 9-12



Presented by



Sarah Ayoub is a writer and freelance journalist. Sarah has a PhD in Australian Teen Literature and currently lectures in journalism and writing at universities across Australia. Sarah is a Stella Schools Program ambassador and mentor for education AND somehow finds time to hit the road as a regular at schools and writers' festivals.

Her bestselling YA novels, *Hate is Such a Strong Word* and the *Year Book Committee*, are contemporary Australian stories of belonging and discovery. Sarah talks about the links between writing, representation, identity and empathy. She passionately advocates for diversity in literature and for empowering young people to see the value in their own personal stories. Her latest release, *The Cult of Romance*, is as funny as it is compelling, deftly capturing the angst of Australian migrant children growing up torn between two cultures.

Sarah decided to pursue a career in journalism at the age of ten after realising that, like Lois Lane and Vicky Vale, it was always the reporter that got the superhero.

www.sarahayoub.com

Sarah Davis

Illustrator / Artist / Book Designer • Prep - Grade 12

111 Thursday 13 July 9:15am (AW) – Grades 9-12
121 Thursday 13 July 10:45am (WW) – Grades 9-12
123 Thursday 13 July 12:15pm – Grades P-3
221 Friday 14 July 10:45am (AW) – Grades 9-12
223 Friday 14 July 12:15pm – Grades 1-4



Presented by

Mackay Foot & Ankle

Sarah is an award-winning illustrator, concept artist and book designer working in publishing, film, and animation. As the Associate Art Director at Walker Books Australia, she had the privilege of collaborating with some of Australia's most exceptional picture-book illustrators. Many of her books have become well-loved series such as *Fearless*, *Violet Mackerel*, and *Marmaduke Duck*.

Sarah is continually experimenting with new ways to tell visual tales, working across a range of eclectic media such as paint, collage, sculpture, photography and 3D digital modelling. Her love of narrative and restless creativity fuel her engaging, inclusive presentations, which involve lots of audience participation and a great blend of fun and serious learning. Students will be inspired to think laterally and trust their creative instincts, and will learn solid practical skills in art and story development.

www.sarah-davis.org

shake n stir

Performers • Grades 1 - 6

102 Thursday 13 July 9:15am – Grades 1-4
115 Thursday 13 July 10:45am – Grades 4-6
125 Thursday 13 July 12:15pm – Grades 3-5
202 Friday 14 July 9:15am – Grades 1-4
214 Friday 14 July 10:45am – Grades 4-6
225 Friday 14 July 12:15pm – Grades 4-6



Presented by



Fractured Fables by Aesop - Hare Raising Tales

Aesop wrote 725 fables in the 6th century BCE – it's time to dust them off and present them for 2023. A lot has changed since Aesop was around – but his iconic messages remain as pertinent as ever; friendship, imagination, perseverance, empathy, personal and social capability, as well as ethical understanding.

shake & stir's performance of Fractured Fables is fast paced, kookily creative and utterly delightful. Featuring: The Tortoise and the Hare, The Ants and The Grasshoppers, Two Travellers and a Bear, and The Dog and his Reflection. This is an amazing opportunity to be educated and entertained for students from prep to grade 6.

www.shakeandstir.com.au



Book Signing

Books from all Festival presenters are for sale at prices below the recommended retail price in The Book Nook, where presenters will be available at the end of every student session.

Come along and get your books signed and meet your favourite authors. Students are also welcome to bring their own books from home for signing.

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12-14 July 2023

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