

Mandurah Readers & Writers Festival 2022

Thursday 13 - Sunday 16 January



About the Festival

This annual adult literature event presented by City of Mandurah Library & Heritage Services will be held from 13 to 16 January 2022 at the fabulous Seashells Resort. The aim of the festival is to foster a love of reading and literature and encourage creativity in our community. This year the festival brings an array of established and emerging storytellers from WA and across Australia. The free to attend, three-day festival program includes workshops, author talks and panel discussions.

Opening the Festival, will be an In Conversation Panel with first-time novelists, Mel Hall, Maria Papas and Emma Young.

Our focus on Friday will be 'Histories' from personal journeys to forgotten crimes and fiction based on historical events.

Saturday – sees us talking crime, with emerging and established authors in this popular and fascinating genre. Join our Summer Big Read Bookclub and enjoy High Tea with our featured authors – Sara Foster, Pol Koutsakis and David Whish-Wilson.

On Sunday, our presenters will be discussing classic cars, cricket, men's mental health, family ties that bind and train journeys across Australia.

To keep up to date with Library and Heritage events, sign up to our newsletter at mandurah.wa.gov.au/community/places/libraries



Program of Events

Thursday 13 January

6.00pm
(for 6.30pm)

Opening Event

First time Authors
Emma Young, Maria Papas & Mel Hall
Panel Convenor : Kathy Heys
Light supper provided

Friday 14 January

Session One
9.30am

Eye of the Rook

Josephine Taylor
in conversation with Amanda Curtin

Session Two
11.00am

Social Histories

Stella Budrikis & Leigh Straw
Panel Convenor : Teena Miller

Session Three
2.00pm

Not Always Diplomatic

Sue Boyd
in conversation with Anne-Louise Willoughby

Session Four
4.00pm

The Riviera House

Natasha Lester
Please stay & join us for drinks/nibbles



Program of Events

Saturday 15 January - It's a Crime

Session One
9.30am

New Crime Authors

Lisa Ellery, Karen Herbert & Sally Scott

Panel Convenor : Kathy Heys

Session Two
11.00am

Crocodile Tears (Virtual)

Alan Carter

in conversation with David Whish-Wilson

Session Three
2.00pm

Since 2020

Sara Foster, David Whish-Wilson

Pol Koutsakis

Panel Convenor : Teena Miller

Session Four
3.30pm

Big Read - Book Club Event

High Tea with the authors

Sunday 16 January - Torquing Sport & Trains

Session One
9.30am

Idle Torque

Alex Forrest

Session Two
11.00am

Summer Locust

David Allan-Petale

in conversation with Laurie Steed

Session Three
2.00pm

Second Innings

Barry Nicholls

in conversation with Laurie Steed

Session Four
4.00pm

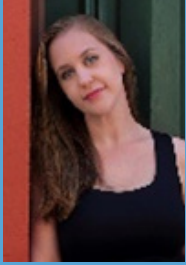
Heading South (Virtual)

Tim Richards



Writers Bios

Thursday 13 January - Opening Event 6.00pm



Emma Young

After five years in bookselling, Emma Young retrained as a journalist and has been reporting since 2011: first for community papers, then as a statewide digital journalist for WAtoday. Her work also regularly appears in sister publications the Age and the Sydney Morning Herald. The Last Bookshop was shortlisted for the inaugural Fogarty Literary Award in 2019.



Maria Papas

Maria Papas is a West Australian writer whose fiction, creative non-fiction and academic essays have appeared in various journals. She holds a PhD from the UWA where she researched the ways people share narratives of illness and trauma. In 2020, the creative component of her research won the City of Fremantle Hungerford Award, and has since been published as her debut novel, Skimming Stones. Maria works as an English teacher and sessional academic, and when she is not writing or working, you can find her near the coast or with family.



Mel Hall

Mel Hall is a writer and musician based in Walyalup (Fremantle), Western Australia. Her fiction has been longlisted for major writing awards, such as the Peter Carey Short Story Prize (2019), the Fogarty Literary Award (2019) and the Carmel Bird Digital Literary Award (2018). Her novella The Choir of Gravediggers was published by Ginninderra Press.



Writers Bios

Friday 14 January

Session One - 9.30am



Josephine Taylor

Josephine Taylor is a writer and freelance editor who lives on the coast north of Perth, Western Australia. She is an associate editor at Westerly Magazine and an adjunct senior lecturer in Writing at Edith Cowan University. Josephine teaches,

facilitates and judges in literary fiction and creative non-fiction. Her personal essays and fiction have been anthologised, and published in journals including Axon, M/C Journal, Outskirts, Southerly, TEXT and Westerly. Her debut novel is Eye of a Rook.



In conversation with



Amanda Curtin

Amanda Curtin is the author of the novels Elemental (2013) and The Sinkings (2008), a short story collection Inherited (2011), and the narrative non-fiction title Kathleen O'Connor of Paris. Elemental was shortlisted for the Western Australian premier's Book Awards. Her award-winning short fiction has appeared in Griffith

Review, Southerly, Island, Indigo, Westerly, Review of Australian Fiction and several anthologies. She has also worked as a book editor for many years. Amanda lives in Perth with her husband and an opinionated Siamese cat.

Writers Bios

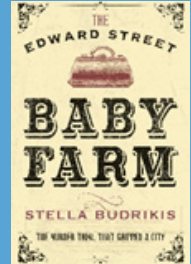
Friday 14 January - Social Histories

Session Two 11.00am



Stella Budrikis

Stella Budrikis was born in England but has lived in Western Australia for most of her life. She has worked as a general practitioner, pastoral carer, addictions clinic doctor and freelance writer. Stella is married with two grown-up daughters and enjoys researching family and social history.



Leigh Straw

Leigh Straw is an academic, historian and writer. She is the author of true crime biographies of Australian crime figures Kate Leigh and Dulcie Markham, and Australia's first female detective, Lillian Armfield. Leigh was the joint winner of the 2018 Margaret Medcalf Award for her book *After the War: Returned Soldiers and the Mental and Physical Scars of World War I*. Leigh Straw is Senior Lecturer in History at The University of Notre Dame Australia.

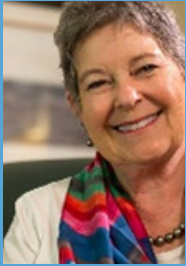


Panel Convenor - Teena Miller



Writers Bios

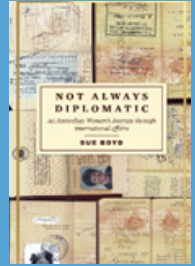
Friday 14 January - Not Always Diplomatic Session Three 1.00pm



Sue Boyd

Sue Boyd's whole life has been international. Born in India into a Raj British and British Army family which moved around the world. Educated in thirteen schools in five different countries, learning several languages. She and her

family migrated to Western Australia in 1966. At the University of Western Australia she completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Politics and a postgraduate diploma in education while working part-time as a journalist at the Perth Daily News. In 1970, she joined the Department of External Affairs in Canberra and played a pioneering and ongoing role in improving the status of women. In her 34-year career in the Australian foreign service she was head of Australian diplomatic missions in Bangladesh, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Fiji and worked in other roles in Portugal, East Germany, the United Nations in New York and DFAT offices in Canberra and Sydney. She retired from the foreign service in 2003 and settled in Perth, Western Australia.



In conversation with



Anne-Louise Willoughby

Anne-Louise Willoughby worked as a journalist in a career that spanned thirty years in Western Australia, first training as a newspaper cadet in the 1970s before moving to magazine publishing with Australian Consolidated Press. As a freelance journalist, she was a feature writer for Australian newspapers and contributing WA editor to Belle Magazine. Anne-Louise has worked as a lecturer and tutor in creative writing at UWA with a particular interest in memoir and biography. In 2019 her biography, *Nora Heysen: a portrait* was published by Fremantle Press. She lives in Fremantle, WA.

Writers Bios

Friday 14 January - The Riviera House

Session Four 4.00pm

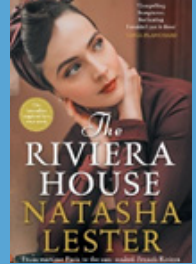


Natasha Lester

Natasha Lester is the international bestselling author of *A Kiss from Mr Fitzgerald*, *Her Mother's Secret*, *The Paris Seamstress*, *The French Photographer*, *The Paris Secret* and *The Riviera House*, and a former marketing executive for L'Oreal.

Her novels have been translated into many different languages and are published all around the world.

When she's not writing, she loves collecting vintage fashion, practising the art of fashion illustration and reading about history. Natasha is a sought-after public speaker and lives with her husband and three children in Perth, Western Australia.



Writers Bios

Saturday 15 January - New Crime Authors

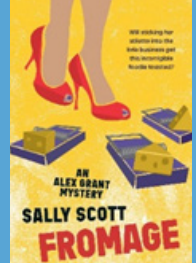
Session One 9.30am



Sally Scott

Sally Scott wrote her first novel as an 11-year-old. It was a Famous Five pastiche and every word was precious. She kept writing cosies until an arts degree led to experimentation with short stories. None of them publishable, but joyous to write.

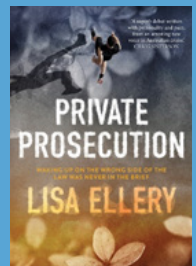
Then 'adulting' happened and creative writing gave way to articles, papers and grant applications needed for her to pretend to be an academic. After lapsing from teaching, she began working as a weapons systems contractor and then at a gaming machine testing consultancy in Melbourne. After eight years interstate, Sally returned to WA to do a last hurrah at Curtin University before establishing her own business development consultancy in the engineering and construction sector. *Fromage* is the first novel in the Alex Grant series.



Lisa Ellery

Lisa Ellery was born in 1975 and raised on a farm near Esperance on Western Australia's south coast. She studied law and arts at the University of Western Australia before returning to regional WA in 1998 to commence her career as a lawyer in

the goldmining city of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. She soon fell in love with Kal and its people, and in 2008 she started her own law firm there. She works predominantly in commercial and mining law and employs a dozen staff in her busy Hannan Street practice. She divides her time between running her law firm, running marathons and writing her second novel.



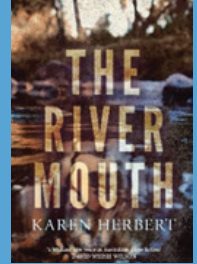
Writers Bios



Karen Herbert

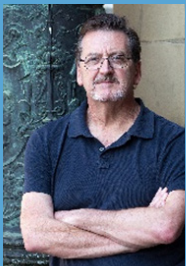
Karen Herbert spent her childhood in Geraldton on the midwest coast of Australia, attending local schools before moving to Perth to study at the University of Western Australia where she attained a Bachelor of Commerce with First Class

Honours. She also holds a Master of Science in Applied Psychology. Karen has worked in aged care, disability services, higher education, Indigenous land management, social housing and the public sector, and is a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She is a Board Member of The Intelife Group, a Board Observer at Advocare, and President of the Fellowship of Australian Writers (WA). Karen lives in Perth, Western Australia with her husband, Ross, and the occasional fledgling.



Panel Convenor - Kathy Heys

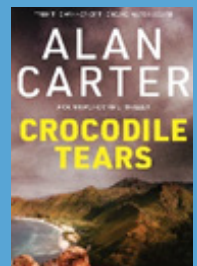
Session Two 11.00am (Virtual)



Alan Carter

Alan Carter was born in Sunderland, United Kingdom. He immigrated to Australia in 1991 and now lives just south of Hobart. He sometimes works as a television documentary director. In his spare time, he plunges into the icy Tasmanian waters for fun.

He is the author of five Cato Kwong novels – Prime Cut, Getting Warmer, Bad Seed, Heaven Sent and Crocodile Tears – and the Nick Chester novels Marlborough Man and Doom Creek, set in New Zealand.



In conversation with - David Whish-Wilson

Writers Bios

Saturday 15 January - Since 2020

Session Three 2.00pm



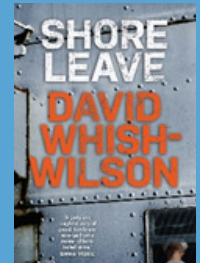
Sara Foster

Sara Foster is the bestselling author of six psychological suspense novels: *You Don't Know Me*, *The Hidden Hours*, *All That is Lost Between Us*, *Shallow Breath*, *Beneath the Shadows* and *Come Back to Me*. Her seventh novel, *The Hush*, will be published by HarperCollins (Australia) and Blackstone (US) in November 2021. Sara lives in Western Australia with her husband and two young daughters, and is a doctoral candidate at Curtin University.



David Whish-Wilson

David Whish-Wilson is the author of seven novels and three creative non-fiction books. He was born in Newcastle, New South Wales, but raised in Singapore, Victoria and Western Australia. He left Australia aged 18 to live for a decade in Europe, Africa and Asia, where he worked as a barman, actor, street seller, petty criminal, labourer, exterminator, factory worker, gardener, clerk, travel agent, teacher and drug trial guinea pig. David's first novel in the Frank Swann crime series, *Line of Sight* (Penguin Australia), was shortlisted for a Ned Kelly Award in 2012. He has since written three more in the series: *Zero at the Bone*, *Old Scores* and *Shore Leave*, and a related crime novel, *True West*. He is also the author of a work of historical fiction, *The Coves*. David wrote the Perth book in the NewSouth Books city series, which was shortlisted for a WA Premier's Book Award. He currently lives in Fremantle, Western Australia, with his partner and three children, where he teaches creative writing at Curtin University.



Writers Bios



Pol Koutsakis

Pol Koutsakis was born in 1974 in Chania, Crete, Greece and currently lives in Perth, Australia where he is a Senior Lecturer at Murdoch University. He has won the National Award for Playwriting in Greece twice as well as the National Award for

Young Adult Literature. His full-length and one-act plays have been produced and won awards in the USA, UK and Greece. His newest play is a romantic comedy titled *Replay*, which will be staged in Athens, Greece in January 2020.

He has written 19 books (12 novels and 1 poetry collection published in Greece and 6 plays published in Canada). *Athenian Blues* and *Baby Blue*, the first of his adult crime novels to be translated into English and published in the UK, USA and Australia by Bitter Lemon Press (in 2017 and 2018), are stories set in today's debt-ravaged Greece. *Baby Blue* received a starred review from *Publishers Weekly*, which compared Pol favourably to James Ellroy and drew parallels between Pol's work and Raymond Chandler's Philip Marlowe novels.



Panel Convenor - Teena Miller



Writers Bios

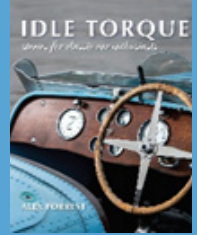
Sunday 16 January

Session One 9.30am



Alex Forrest

Cutting out the printed words from his father's car magazines and sticking them on his bedroom wall because he liked their turns of phrase was an early sign of Alex Forrest's passion for cars and writing. In his final year at university, he undertook work experience at *The West Australian*. On his final day, he found himself in the right place at the right time and was offered the chance to write a brand-new weekly newspaper column called *Idle Torque*. The column would run in the paper every week for the next 21 years and kickstart an extraordinary career that would lead Alex to drive a tank, a DeLorean, an amphibious car and an \$11m Jaguar.

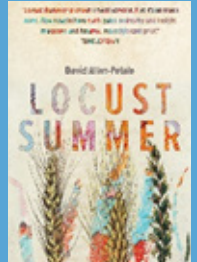


Session Two 11.00am



David Allan-Petale

David Allan-Petale is a writer living between bush and sea north of Perth, Western Australia. He worked for many years as a journalist in WA with the ABC and internationally with BBC World. Written while travelling the globe over five years, *Locust Summer* was shortlisted for the the Australian/Vogel's Literary Award (2017) and was developed through a fellowship at Varuna, the National Writers' House.



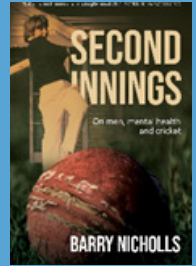
Writers Bios

Session Three 2.00pm



Barry Nicholls

A former A-grade district cricketer and schoolteacher, Barry Nicholls has written about cricket for decades and is a broadcaster with the ABC, where he has worked since 2003. After 25 years of playing cricket he now enjoys spending his weekends watching his children embrace the challenges and pleasures of participating in sport. Barry lives in Perth and has learned a bit about second chances in life.



In conversation with



Laurie Steed - (Sessions Two and Three)

Laurie Steed is intent on finding a deeper connection to life through the written word and helping as many people as he can do the same. The author of *You Belong Here* (2018) and editor of *Shibboleth* and other stories (2016), his work has featured on BBC Radio 4 and in collections including *Best Australian Stories*, *Award Winning Australian Writing*, *The Review of Australian Fiction*, *The Age*, *Meanjin*, *Westerly*, *Island*, and *The Sleepers Almanac*.

Session Four 4.00pm (Virtual)



Tim Richards

Tim Richards is a freelance travel writer whose work has appeared in publications around the world, including *Lonely Planet's* guidebooks. He fell into travel writing after living and teaching in Egypt and Poland, and is especially drawn to the former communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe. He's a light-packing obsessive, and loves chasing down a story with a historical angle.

