



FRIDAY PROGRAM

AUGUST 11

P Pass Event **NPT** Non-Pass Ticketed **F** Free Event

The Capital

P 1.30pm-2.30pm **STILL SWOONING**
When Christopher Lawrence began his Swoon sessions on ABC Classic FM, the idea caught on to create a huge following. He talks with Dan Bendrups about the lessons to be learnt from the most beautiful classical music, and what his all-time favourites mean to him.

P 3pm-4pm **TREE CHANGE** It used to mean moving from the city to the country for a less stressed lifestyle. Now, "tree change" means something much more complex and inspiring about us and nature. Katie Holmes hosts David George Haskell, Cate Kennedy and Angus Stewart.

P 4.30pm-5.30pm **SEEING THE STARS**
Dava Sobel talks to Robyn Williams about the story which has finally come to light in her new book, *The Glass Universe*: women who ran up and down ladders to operate an unwieldy telescope, "helping" the learned gentlemen of Harvard Observatory to discover astronomy.

P 6pm-7pm **SHADOW LAND** Elizabeth Kostova's novels combine suspense with romance, history with dramatic storytelling. Caroline Baum talks with her about her compelling new novel, set in Bulgaria, where the shadow of corrupt power threatens the hopes, happiness and the very existence of a dazzling cast of characters.

Ulumbarra Theatre

NPT 8pm-9.30pm **WHERE WE'RE AT**
Who are we and what are we doing here? Interrogating Maxine Beneba Clarke, Rebecca Huntley, Leigh Hobbs and David Marr, intrepid David Astle steers the conversation from the intimate and personal to the grand and universal, with this stellar lineup of writers.

The Hub @ The Capital

F 4.30pm-5.30pm **BENDIGO STORIES**
Launch of Marjorie Williams' *Before I Forget*, stories about growing up in Bendigo. Marjorie Williams writes with humour and affection of her charmed childhood but she does not shirk the dark facts. Illegitimacy, poverty, and the war, share these pages with how we shopped, played and learned in 1930s and 40s Bendigo. Presented by Boroondara Writers Group.

Capital's Bendigo Bank Theatre

P 1.30pm-2.30pm **THE LURE OF CRIME**
There's a huge appetite among readers for books about crime both real and imagined. Robert Gott, Ray Mooney and Claire Corbett talk to Cecile Shanahan about ingenious plots, dangerous liaisons, and what matters for writers and readers hooked on crime.

P 3pm-4pm **TOO MUCH** Jenny Valentish takes an almost clear-eyed look at addiction in her book, *Woman of Substances*. Brigid Delaney rips into our mania for quick-fix solutions for feeling ok in *Wellmania*. They explain to John Richards the attractions of excess, and whether writing about it helps.

P 4.30pm-5.30pm **THE START OF THE STORY** A couple of dulled copper pots, the memory of a wounded animal, an inauspicious birth: why does the story start where it does, and how does a novelist decide when it's right? Kirsty Manning, Libby Angel and Sally Abbott talk to Jenny Mitchell.

P 6pm-7pm **HOW TO IMPRESS** Former Vogue editor Kirstie Clements is joined by Margot Spalding - who has launched fashion label Mimi - to reminisce about how they got started, where they found inspiration and what drives them, hosted by Fiona Rooke.

Old Court House Dunolly

NPT 10.30am-11.30am **THE SONGS OF TREES** Nature is a network, and the greatest connectors are trees. Listening to trees as they change and adapt gives us essential knowledge and spiritual understanding. David George Haskell talks to Genevieve Barlow about the "Songs of Trees".

Maryborough Railway Station

NPT 12pm-1pm **BRYAN DAWE: A SATIRIST'S JOURNEY** Bryan Dawe's abiding interest in ideas, in community, in art and in the power of words, took him on a marvellous journey. With his great friend, John Clarke, he created a unique style of unforgettable satire.

Engine Room at Old Fire Station

P 1.30pm-2.15pm **BRINGING ARCHIVES TO LIFE** In the personal papers and official documents safely stored in archives can be found a wealth of community stories. Historian and Bendigo Regional Archives Centre officer Michele Matthews and historian Penny Davies share their own experiences of researching the archives to create local histories.

P 2.45pm-3.30pm **HOW TO GET IT RIGHT** Manuscript pitch perfect and ready to go? Hold on - has editing been done, thoroughly and well? Rose Michael talks to Kate Larsen about why writers need to edit constantly, how to do it, and what happens next on the road to publication.

P 4pm-4.45pm **WE MADE IT** Judy Horacek's cartoons are instantly recognisable, and she is much admired as a children's book illustrator. She talks to Writers Victoria's Kate Larsen about all the ways she makes images about the everyday, and how crowdfunding helped create her new book, *Random Life*.

P 5.15pm-6pm **WHY SLAM?** Miles Merrill is the force behind the Australian poetry slams and a brilliant advocate for the benefits and pleasures of spoken word events. He shows how it's done, and why this very public kind of writing out loud is so popular.

Trades Hall Annexe

NPT 10am-1pm **WORKSHOP 2: THE THICKENING - STEVEN AMSTERDAM** You've got the story framework, and the bones of your characters. How do you thicken them up, bringing the people to life and energising the plot? Steven Amsterdam shows how to bring out the best parts of your story.

NPT 2pm-5pm **WORKSHOP 3: RESEARCH FOR WRITERS - KELLY GARDINER** How do writers find what they need - from telling details to the latest research? Discover free web tools for gathering, organising and sharing resources and inspiration. Learn techniques for finding what you need quickly, and pathways to incredible primary and secondary sources - without leaving your desk. BYO laptop or tablet.

P 6pm-7pm **STILLNESS: A WORKSHOP** Pauline McKinnon. Following publication in 1983 of her classic book, *In Stillness Conquer Fear*, Pauline McKinnon set up a Therapy Centre, to teach people how to deal with anxiety naturally. In this workshop-style session, Pauline will introduce Stillness Meditation and explain how it helps deal with the debilitating effects of anxiety.

THE FESTIVAL BEGINS

TUESDAY AUGUST 8

Star Cinema Eaglehawk

NPT 7pm **TELL 'EM THEY'RE STILL DREAMING** 20 years on, celebrate The Castle, on the big screen at Eaglehawk's Star Cinema. Anthony Radford hosts John Flaus - who played the local policeman ("put them gates around the back") - to introduce this anniversary screening. Tickets \$11 Phone (03) 5446 2025

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 9

Capital Theatre foyer gallery

F 6pm exhibition opening **OBSERVATIONS: BENDIGO AND NATURE** Liz Martin and Alan Spalding present an exhibition dedicated both to their beloved city and to their appreciation of the natural world, the pleasure to be found in close and contemplative observation.

THURSDAY AUGUST 10

Trades Hall Annexe

NPT 2pm-5pm **WORKSHOP 1: INTO THE VORTEX - CATE KENNEDY** Sensible people avoid dangerous situations. For fiction writers, getting characters in to trouble is how they set the plot in motion. Discover how it works, how to set up conflict and control characters.

Arnold St Gallery

F 6pm **BRYAN DAWE'S TANGIER ILLUSIONS - EXHIBITION OPENING** Fascinated by the rich history of Tangier, Bryan Dawe created a series of photographic collage artworks, glowing with sensuality and energy, set against the backdrop of a city of amazing contrasts and enviable harmonies. Bookings essential.



SATURDAY PROGRAM

AUGUST 12

P Pass Event

NPT Non-Pass Ticketed

The Capital

P 10am-11am **THE PLEASURES OF LEISURE** Meditation may be as good for you as fish oil, but it's useless for productive daydreamers. Witty, precise and unflinching, Robert Dessaix talks to Caroline Baum about why not being busy is not just nice, but essential, for creativity, health and pleasure.

P 11.30am-12.30pm **MOOD SWINGS** Eloquent, witty, experienced - if there's a political personality requiring a canny biographer's eye to decipher, turn to David Marr. He talks to Sian Gard about politics, prejudice and why Pauline Hanson's One Nation rose again in the wake of the international surge of populism.

P 1pm-2pm **THE LONG GOODBYE** Behind the competing rhetoric about climate change, behind the despair about the future of Australia's Great Barrier Reef, there are the thoughts, words and actions of workers, scientists, activists and politicians. Anna Krien talks with Claire Flanagan-Smith about toxic politics, controversial economics and where effective action is to be found.

P 2.30pm-3.30pm **PASSIONS** Creativity is fuelled by obsession. For Angus Stewart, it's plants; for Christopher Lawrence, music; Kirstie Clements found her calling in fashion. Kirsty Manning asks, when did they first feel their passion stir, and how have they grown and changed over time?

P 4pm-5pm **THE ART OF DEBATE** With fast news, there's no time for analysis. Where does good debate happen now, when so much shouting and manipulation of argument seems to dominate? Annika Smethurst hosts Troy Bramston, Van Badham and Kon Karapanagiotidis to ask, can we find common ground?

P 5.30pm-6.30pm **SEEDED IN HISTORY** The material for fiction occurs by chance, sometimes it's an event that changes the course of history. Tony Jones and Elizabeth Kostova dig into political history to plant the fictional seed. They talk with Claire Flanagan-Smith about how novelists transmute the past.

NPT 7pm-8.30pm **HIS BRILLIANT CAREER** "I'll carry it on", Robert Forster writes in his memoir about Grant McLennan and the Go Betweens. Doug Falconer joins Robert and his guitar to hear about a powerful friendship and the complex story of a cult band fuelled by poetry and passion.

Capital's Bendigo Bank Theatre

P 10am-11am **ON CARE** Robert Manne underwent life-changing throat surgery and his wife, writer Anne Manne, provides care: this has given them insights about disability, care, and also writing about such experiences. They talk with Rachel Robertson, who wrote a book about caring for her autistic son. La Trobe University Ideas and Society event.

P 11.30am-12.30pm **NEW GENERATION** With digital publishing now so accessible, comic makers are exploring new narratives. How do they keep in touch with younger readers and invite a new generation to comic book culture? Tom Taylor (*The Deep, All-New Wolverine*) and Chris Kennett (*Star Wars*) talk to comic expert Naja Later.

P 1pm-2pm **WHAT IS A REFUGEE?** Names do matter when it comes to how we treat people. William Maley talks to Kon Karapanagiotidis about definitions, history, emotions, ethics and people, and what we can do to make sure we understand the legal conventions behind the political and social debate.

P 2.30pm-3.30pm **IT'S ALIVE!** Machines that think - ludicrous, right? Toby Walsh says, it's already happened. Now is the time to understand artificial intelligence, so we're prepared. He talks to Chris Harrigan about how AI will change the way we work, think and behave.

P 4pm-5pm **INTO THE SLIPTREAM** The boundaries between sci-fi and fiction have always been blurred but genre novels are increasingly mainstream as writers get ever more inventive. Rose Michael, Amie Kaufman and Michael Pryor talk with Connor Borchard-Burns about how they create new places.

P 5.30pm-6.30pm **MOVING WORDS** In an age of super-effects and multiple formats, what makes a good tv or screenplay? Christine Rogers talks to Karin Altmann, Michael Harvey and John Reeves about best practice, changing fashions, and initiatives to develop new "pathways" for emerging writers. Presented by Australian Writers Guild.

Engine Room at Old Fire Station

P 10am-11am **FUTURE IMPERFECT** What happens when a writer sets a story in the future? Is it, by definition, fantasy? Claire Corbett and Merlinda Bobis talk to Rachel Nightingale about imagining the future, how to anchor it in the present, and finding the language to bring it to life.

P 11.30am-12.30pm **THE EVOLUTION OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS** From 19th-century cautionary tales through the rise of picture books, does children's literature mirror the times? Safe and predictable or dangerous and subversive? Sarah Mayor Cox talks to historian Robert Holden, author Belinda Murrell and writer-illustrator Anna Ciddor about milestones in Australian children's publishing.

P 1pm-2pm **MAKE MIND MUSIC** Ahead of their meditation session (5.30pm), harpist Michael Johnson and bass-player Evripides Evripidou talk about how they incorporate meditation practices into their roles as concert performers and composers. They discuss with Jill Rivers powerful and exciting new thinking about the therapeutic benefits of music and the effects of mindfulness on the creative process.

P 2.30pm-3.30pm **NAKED MAN LIVE** The creator of the cult cartoon, Robert Gott, heads to Bendigo - with visuals - to reveal all about why the longest-running dick joke in the world continues to amuse rather than offend. Now's your chance to see the man behind the behind! Caution! Contains nudity.

P 4pm-5pm **VOICES - POETRY READINGS** "When the talk is of angels..." Scott Alterator hosts three poets, Judy Johnson, Martin Langford and David Musgrave, who read from their work. Presented by Puncher & Wattman.

P 5.30pm-6.30pm **MUSIC FOR MEDITATION** Harpist Michael Johnson and bass guitarist Evripides Evripidou create music to lead listeners towards calmness and peace. Share a relaxing, inspiring, thoughtful hour with two talented musicians.

La Trobe Arts Institute on View Street

P 10am-11am **THE ETHICS OF EVIL** Ray Mooney considers the lives of the worst-of-the-worst lawbreakers, those who were punished in the infamous Pentridge H Division. From personal experience and first-hand accounts, Ray talks about life inside, with AB Bishop, his partner and editor. What should we learn about punishment?

P 11.15am-12pm **WELL I NEVER** Brigid Delaney trudged around the world, for the sake of her "wellness", fasting, eating, meditating, sifting and sorting the facts from the hype. She tells Rachel Winterton what she found out, and about a global industry that is definitely on the rise.

P 12.30pm-1.15pm **LIFE LINES** Patti Miller writes about her forebears, place and belonging, about a year spent daydreaming in Paris, and about the deep joys of memoir. She talks with Tamara Marwood about setting up the Life Stories Workshop and her new book, *Writing True Stories*.

P 1.45pm-2.30pm **WALKING THE LINE** In his latest book, *The Easy Way Out*, Steven Amsterdam does the seemingly impossible: creates a funny, un sentimental story about euthanasia. He talks to Julie Rudner about walking the line between writing fiction and preaching politics.

P 3pm-3.45pm **VELVETY STILLNESS** 30 years ago, Pauline McKinnon struggled to cope with anxiety. With the help of Dr Ainslie Meares, she discovered stillness meditation and wrote about anxiety disorders in a now-classic book, Pauline shares with Sarah Mayor Cox how knowing the essence of stillness became an everyday life-affirming experience.

P 4.15pm-5pm **THE OUTSIDER'S INSIGHTS** A life-challenging accident was the catalyst for Mark Brandi to write his debut crime novel, *Wimmera*, about a "small town" (Stawell) with a "big secret". He talks to Stephanie Corsetti about his influences, from country pubs to Nick Cave's music, about real-life justice and fictional crime, and about writing *Wimmera*.

Strategem Studio, Ulumbarra Theatre

NPT #LOVEOZYA SUPER-SESSIONS

12.30pm-1.15pm TRANSPORTED BY STORY You can go anywhere, be anyone, lose your way and find yourself in a good book. Connor Borchard-Burns presents Kelly Gardiner and Michael Pryor on word travels.

1.30pm-2.15pm AMAZING For readers ready to take risks, narratives can twist and turn, and even the pages of a book can misbehave. Rachel Nightingale presents Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff talking about their bestselling collaboration, the *Illuminae Files*.

2.30pm-3.15pm WINNERS AND LOSERS Heroes aren't what they used to be, and there is more than one way to play the game. Michael Earp talks to Will Kostakis and Bruce Mutard.

NPT 5.15pm-6.15pm **4WORD WITH MILES** This is "spoken word", out loud, full of energy, humour, passion, and even a little pathos. Slam poet and word performer extraordinaire Miles Merrill hosts four very different writers: Maxine Beneba Clarke, Kate Larsen, Jenevieve Chang and John Richards.

Trades Hall

P 10am-11am **NEW BUDDIES** Friendship stories are different now. Boys can bitch, and girls can stand tall. Kayla Rae Whitaker and Will Kostakis talk to Madelaine Imber about creating new-style buddies, making us care about them, and giving them freedom to surprise us.

P 11.30am-12.30pm **IT CHANGED THE WORLD** Dennis Altman's *Homosexual: Oppression and Liberation*, was one of THE books of the 1970s. He is joined by ABC Science Show's Robyn Williams to talk about those heady years, and what's happened since, in the battle to challenge ignorance and social prejudice.

P 1pm-2pm **FILLING BLANK SPACE** Cathy Wilcox and Judy Horacek, two of our best and most admired cartoonists, join journalist Sharon Kemp to talk about how they started out, the turns they took along the way, their favourite moments and the ones that got away.

P 2.30pm-3.30pm **FINDING YOURSELF** Some memoirs are as much about finding where you belong as they are about telling the story of where you've been. Marie Munkara, Maxine Beneba Clarke and Jenevieve Chang talk to Shane Worrell about identity, culture and their own search for who they are.

P 4pm-5pm **STILL LUCKY** Are we still the "lucky country"? Social researcher Rebecca Huntley says we are more fortunate than we think and have more in common than we know. She talks with Nigel McGuckian about how to break through the negativity so we can feel optimistic about change.

Ulumbarra Theatre

NPT 10am-10.50am **THE ARRIVAL** Adapted from Shaun Tan's picture book, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre brings to life his fantastical world in a strange and wonderful metropolis full of floating ships, mysterious lights, alien symbols and weird animals. This wordless performance is visually stunning and emotionally moving.

NPT 3.45pm-4.45pm **ORDINARY MIRACLES** Take a great story, add fabulous facts and beautiful writing, and curious readers are avid for more. Author and researcher Leslie Cannold talks to Dava Sobel and David George Haskell about their passion for science and how to make it compelling for all kinds of readers.

NPT 6.45pm-7.45pm **ADVENTURES IN A WEIRD WORLD** When John Safran set out to meet the Australian "deplorable", he discovered blonde boys aspiring to ISIS, an Islamic preacher who quotes Monty Python and immigrants who oppose multiculturalism. He talks to David Astle about his book, *Depends What You Mean by Extremist*.

NPT 8.15pm-9.30pm **HOW THE WORLD CHANGED** Did we see it coming, this avalanche of fundamentalist violence and societies divided by identity politics? Eloquent about what's gone wrong, passionate about how it might be fixed, Kenan Malik talks with Tony Walker, about fanaticism, populism and freedom of speech. A La Trobe University Ideas and Society event.



SUNDAY PROGRAM

AUGUST 13

P Pass Event

NPT Non-Pass Ticketed

The Capital

P 10am-11am FIGHTING HISLAM On one side, conventional wisdom says you can't challenge belief. On the other, there's an increasing readiness to take offence. Susan Carland steers through the whirlpools of debate, to challenge both Islamophobia and sexism. Clementine Ford joins her to discuss women's rights, tolerance and social change.

P 11.30am-12.30pm 18C AND ME What happened to make the longstanding clause 18C from the Racial Discrimination Act so contentious? What do we mean by "offence" and who draws the boundaries? For satirists Cathy Wilcox and Max Gillies, this is daily bread-and-butter, but recent debates have added some very sticky jam.

P 1pm-2pm THE WELCOME STRANGER William Maley, (*What is a Refugee?*), Susan Carland (*Fighting Hislam*), and Rebecca Huntley (*Still Lucky?*), join Wheeler Centre host Sally Warhaft to look at 'stranger danger'. Who benefits? What happens when fear outweighs the social, ethical and economic benefits of tolerance? Presented in partnership with the Wheeler Centre.

P 2.30pm-3.30pm THE MORAL TIGHTROPE The history of ethics is as much about social needs and political desires as it is about religion. Kenan Malik traces moral thought across three millennia to tell the stories of the great philosophers. He talks to Paul Barclay about the search for rational answers to moral questions.

P 4pm-5pm POST-MILLENNIAL For the so-called 'millennials', what are the differences in choices, attitudes and behaviour from older generations? Emily Sexton hosts Clementine Ford, Kayla Rae Whitaker, Will Kostakis and Tom Taylor to examine the changing nature of adulthood in Australia today. Presented in partnership with the Wheeler Centre.

Departs Alexandra Fountain

NPT 12.30pm-2pm THE GOOD TASTE TRAM Nick and Sonia Anthony. Travel with acclaimed Mason's of Bendigo couple, Nick and Sonia Anthony, on one of Bendigo's heritage fleet, as Nick serves up a taster menu featuring the very best of regional produce. Departs from the Alexandra Fountain stop on View Street.

Capital's Bendigo Bank Theatre

P 10am-11am ANOTHER GO The young can be reckless. As we age, there are things we regret. Should we cushion the fall of those who trip? Jenny Valentish and Ray Mooney talk with Paul Barclay about falling down, what helped, who hindered, and whether they could go through it all again.

P 11.30am-12.30pm TOMORROWLAND Enough of the here and now. Let's cast our minds forward a decade or so, and ask Toby Walsh, Dennis Altman, and Claire Corbett to tell us what they see. Are we heading in the right direction or into dire straits? Hosted by Tim Clare.

P 1pm-2pm THE LIMITS OF MEMOIR Every story is worth telling, but is telling every story the right thing to do? Can we sift through memories without distortion? When should we say that's enough? Patti Miller and Marie Munkara share with Rachel Robertson their experience of making sense of their past.

P 2.30pm-3.30pm CREEPY Can writing compete in a world saturated with big-budget special-effect film and daily doses of scary stuff on the "real" news? Is subtle horror still relevant? And who does it best? Naja Later, Michael Pryor and Jay Kristoff talk to John Richards about ratcheting up the fear factor.

P 4pm-5pm GOING STRONG There is no easy answer to the ethics of euthanasia. Rodney Syme (*Time to Die*) talks to Scott Alterator about how to steer a path through the emotional minefield towards a sensible, fair and dignified approach.

Star Cinema Eaglehawk

NPT 10am-11am THE WORDS TO SAY IT Novelist, educator, literacy advocate and international bestseller, John Marsden, is passionate about poetry and the power of words. He is joined by actor John Flaus, to share beautiful, moving, inspiring poems selected for this special festival event.

Engine Room at Old Fire Station

P 10am-11am COMIC RENAISSANCE Comics are popular, and artists and writers in Australia are finding work with big US companies. There is a groundswell of interest in 'zines and self-published comics. Join Tom Taylor, Bruce Mutard and Naja Later with host Peter Pascoe, as they discuss the Australian Comic Book Renaissance.

P 11.30am-12.30pm POETIC STATE It survives, and it prospers - polemical, experimental, elegiac, lyrical. Join editors and poets, David Musgrave, Judy Johnson and Martin Langford as they talk with Simon Patton about the new *Contemporary Australian Poetry*. What were they looking for? How did they choose? Sponsored by Puncher & Wattman.

P 1pm-2pm ACCIDENTS OF COMPOSITION Talk and poetry performance by Merlinda Bobis, hosted by Mary Pomfret. Merlinda circumnavigates the world, history and an inner universe in her new poetry book *Accidents of Composition*. There could be little accidents along the way—of insight, beauty, even kindness.

P 2.30pm-3.30pm MAGMAKERS Niche publishing combines online with print in new ways. David Ryding meets the magmakers - Amy Doak (*Of the World*), Madelaine Imber (*Butch is not a Dirty Word*), Chris Harrigan (*Smith Journal*) - to talk about the who, how and why of this publishing revolution.

P 4pm-5pm A TANGIER AFFAIR Fascinated by the rich history of Tangier in Morocco, Bryan Dawe created an extraordinary series of collage artworks which he exhibited in the Kasbah. Bryan honours Tangier's creative past in a talk about his exhibition and one of the world's most intriguing cities.

Festival Closing Event Ulumbarra Theatre

NPT 5.30pm-6.30pm CLOSING EVENT: AFTER THE DISAPPOINTMENT They put together a comedy show to cut the crap and embrace mediocrity and what they got was a huge success! Fresh from their London triumph, Judith Lucy and Denise Scott share the gossip from their Disappointment tour, hosted and encouraged by Kaz Cooke.

La Trobe Arts Institute on View Street

P 10am-11am SHE FOLLOWED HER HEART When Marie Munkara was 28, her past turned up, out of the blue, prompting her to "live like a blackfella in an overcrowded house in the middle of nowhere". She talks to Karin Altmann about finding a family she had not known existed.

P 11.15am-12pm THE REAL MAY GIBBS The bare-bottomed gumnut babies conceived by May Gibbs in 1913 have charmed generations. Her own tale is little known. Robert Holden reveals to Vivien Newton the woman behind the shy artist, her beliefs, determination and passion, and talks about why her work has lasted.

P 12.30pm-1.15pm ONLY CONNECT The fulcrum of a seesaw, the focus of expectations, torn between love and fear: this is what it meant for Caroline Baum to grow up the only child of successful and conflicted parents. She talks with Chris Kelly about how it felt to turn her attention on her own life.

P 1.45pm-2.15pm WHEN ROBYN MET BETTY For 40 years, we have tuned in to Robyn Williams on ABC RN, to learn about science, to hear difficult subjects presented with wit, and to share the wonder of ideas. If it weren't for a crow called Betty, he tells Ann Lansberry, it might never have happened.

P 2.45pm-3.30pm THE TRAIL BLAZER Troy Bramston was the one biographer who managed to persuade the inimitable Paul Keating to cooperate on the writing of his story. He talks with Rob Stephenson about the deep research, the shrewd analysis, and the courageous commitment behind his monumental book.

NPT GOOD LIFE SUNDAY

Indulge in good food, good talk and good ideas at **Ulumbarra**

From 10am GOOD FROM THE START Meet herb growers, winemakers, cheesemakers, check out the olives, charcuterie, bread and chocolate. At 10.15am, join Sonia Anthony from Masons of Bendigo as she launches her book, *A Sense of Place*, about Central Victoria's exceptional food producers.

11.15am-12.15pm ULTIMATE SEAFOOD Anthony Huckstep does food reviewing...no holds barred. One of the writers of the new Australian Fish and Seafood Cookbook, he's got more attitude than a plate of smashed avocado, and writes like he eats - very well indeed.

12.30pm-1.15pm THE MIDSUMMER GARDEN To write her lyrical, evocative novel, Kirsty Manning researched herbs and gardens from 15th century France to contemporary Tasmania. She talks with journalist and neighbour, Sara James, about the romance, beliefs and knowledge behind her *Midsummer Garden*.

Trades Hall

P 10am-11am THE TWENTIETH MAN Tony Jones, host of the ABC's weekly debate forum Q&A, turned to fiction to write about real events - the bomb that exploded outside the Hilton Hotel in Sydney in 1978. He talks with Steve Kendall about his debut novel, a fast-paced thriller steeped in political history.

P 11.30am-12.30pm MODERN FAMILY It's time to acknowledge that behind the not-so-standard definition of family there are many variations and differences, challenges and joys. Chloe Shorten talks to Annika Smethurst about *Take Heart*, her book on blended families, and what she discovered about her own family along the way.

P 1pm-2pm I BECAME A WRITER BECAUSE... Always wanted to be a writer? Had an epiphany? Seemed like a good idea at the time? Encouraged and nurtured by someone at just the right moment? Libby Angel, Steven Amsterdam and Jenny Valentish tell Fiona Parker how they got into this writing game.

P 2.30pm-3.30pm IT'S GOT TO STOP An orgy of kissing and hugging has broken out. While the words 'I love you' are rarely heard, people you've barely met end emails with 'Love'. Why have the rules changed? Can order be restored? Can Pushkin or Elizabeth Strout help? Robert Dessaix takes a stand.

P 4pm-5pm TRANSFORMERS Novelists are outrageous. They watch the rest of us covertly, carefully, thoughtfully, then turn us into characters, as though we are mere fodder for their imagination. Elizabeth Kostova, Rose Michael and Robert Gott talk to Dianne Dempsey about the transformative process of creating characters.

1.30pm-2.30pm GO NATIVE Angus Stewart is expert in breeding garden-friendly native plants. AB Bishop has made her home in an Environmental Living Zone. They collaborated to create *The Australian Native Garden*. Jennifer Alden talks with them about their plant philosophies and the harmonious multicultural gardens that inspire them.

2.45pm-3.45pm HOW TO AFFORD THE GOOD LIFE Scott Pape's *Barefoot Investor* clears the anxiety that comes from too much information, creating a path to financial security. He talks to Margot Spalding about why he wrote the book, what he's learned along the way and how he makes his own good life.

4pm-5pm FAVOURITE THINGS A tiny object worth nothing but the memory it evokes. A special tool that enables the pleasure of creative work. A person, a place, something found. Fashion writer Kirstie Clements, music writer Christopher Lawrence, and family advocate Chloe Shorten share their favourite things with Fiona Parker.