



# 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 Brandt 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.