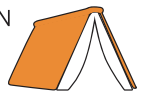


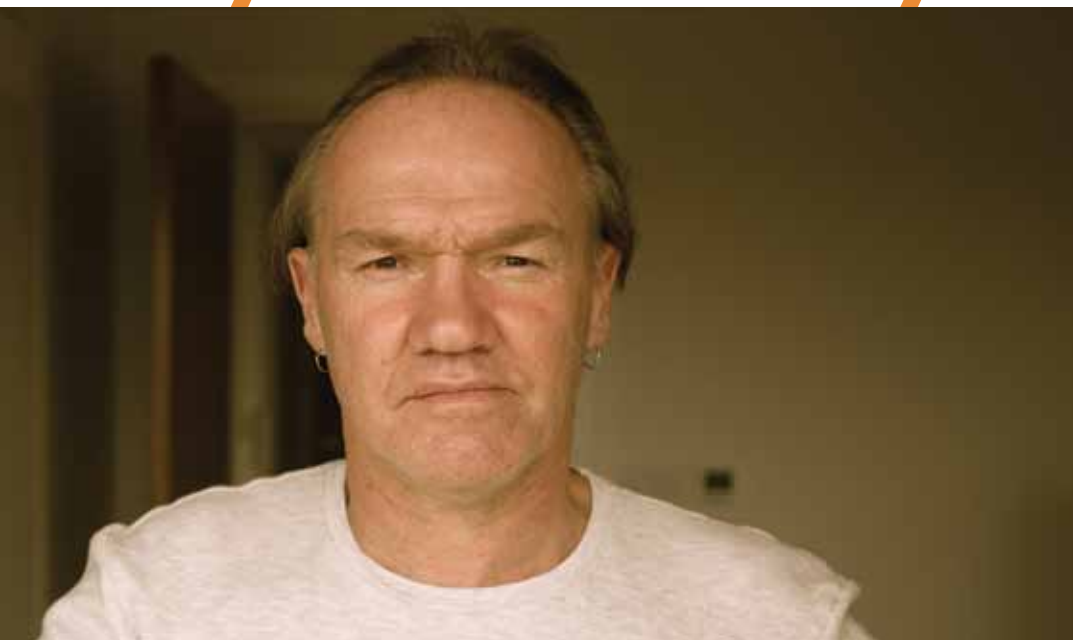
THE AUSTRALIAN
SHORT STORY
FESTIVAL
2017

3-5 November 2017
UNISA CITY WEST, 55 NORTH TERRACE, ADELAIDE

Good Things Come in Short Packages

AUSTRALIAN
SHORT STORY
FESTIVAL





Tony Birch

“I hate Richard Ford stories” [OR] “What We Don’t Talk About When We Talk About Short Fiction”

I have written four short story collections loosely described as ‘realism’ - or worse still - ‘grimism’. (I am miserably grim). I taught creative writing for 15 years at Melbourne University, specialising in short fiction. For 15 years my students - particularly the YOUNG MEN - would tell me how much they hated ‘Realism’ - or worse still, ‘Social Realism’. [Were these kids raised by Eastern Block Communists and never forgave their parents?]. And yet, and yet ... each semester when we voted on our favourite story, every year for ten years the winner was My address will ‘address’ this stuff - and I won’t talk about my own work.

Time	H6.10	H6.12
10.00-1.00	<p>Time To Write Right Now <i>by Carmel Bird</i></p> <p>In the concentrated atmosphere of the workshop, it is possible to complete the first draft of a fairly brief piece of short fiction. The first two hours will be devoted to the inspiration, planning and writing of new stories. In the third hour students will read out what they have written – finished or unfinished. Carmel will be available for consultation throughout the process, and will comment on each piece of work during the third hour. NOTE: Students may choose to work on paper or electronic device</p>	<p>Short Fiction Workshop <i>by Tony Birch</i></p> <p>The short fiction workshop is suitable for both beginning and emerging writers. The workshop will address ideas such as ‘sketching’, observational work, dialogue, setting and mood. The workshop will equip writers technically, but more importantly provide them with motivation and skill to maintain their writing over time.</p>
2.00-5.00	<p>Small is Beautiful <i>by Lucy Durneen</i></p> <p>Short Stories ‘see’ the world differently from long stories. Raymond Carver famously said the short story had more in common with the poem than the novel; V. S. Pritchett described it as the ‘moment glimpsed in passing.’ This is the realm of the fleeting, the love affair that can’t last, the overheard conversation. How can we pin down these stories? Do we even know where to look to find them?</p> <p>This workshop will aim to re-train your eye to catch sight of these ‘moments glimpsed’ and explore the power of compression. We’ll be looking at what it is that makes short fiction the vital, layered beast that it is, (clue: it’s not just word count) and finding that one true sentence to begin, and develop, our own small, beautiful stories. We’ll read some examples of masters of the form, share our own words, and offer feedback, with the hope that you’ll leave ready to draft new work.</p> <p>NOTE: The aim of the workshop is to have fun writing – no-one will have to read anything out unless they want to!</p>	<p>The Short Story and the Art of Suggestion <i>by Susan Midalia</i></p> <p>While ‘telling’ readers what to think is perfectly permissible, the most memorable stories also give readers the challenge and the pleasure of interpreting the meanings for themselves. Using a range of short writing exercises and examples from published writers, this three-hour workshop will equip you with strategies for creating memorable, layered stories. Having fun is also mandatory.</p>
6.30-9.30	<p>H2.16</p> <p>UniSA School of Communication, International Studies and Languages Opening Address <i>by Tony Birch</i></p> <p>As we officially open the second annual Australian Short Story Festival, Tony Birch will treat us to an insightful address about the importance of short stories before we celebrate the opening of the festival with drinks and nibbles.</p>	

SATURDAY

SATURDAY (cont)

Time	H6.03	H6.12
9.30-10.20	<p>The Short Story Cycle <i>Rebekah Clarkson and Lynette Washington</i></p> <p>Rebekah Clarkson's novel-in-stories <i>Barking Dogs</i> and Lynette Washington's collection <i>Plane Tree Drive</i> are short story cycles—self-contained short stories which are linked by geographical location to form a larger whole. Join these writers as they discuss how a collection can be much more than the sum of its parts.</p>	<p>Speculative Fiction <i>Sean Williams and Lisa L. Hannett</i></p> <p>Sean Williams is a New York Times bestselling author of over 100 short stories. Lisa L. Hannett has won the Aurealis Award, and her collection <i>Bluegrass Symphony</i> was nominated for the World Fantasy Award in 2012. Listen as Lisa and Sean discuss the possibilities created by speculative fiction in the short form. <i>Moderator: Helen Dinmore</i></p>
10.30-11.20	<p>Humour <i>Carmel Bird and Mag Merrilees</i></p> <p>How do you know if you've pitched a comic tone just right? Will the reader pick up the subtleties and the subtext? How do you find the balance between being on the cutting edge and cutting too deep? Join Carmel Bird and Mag Merrilees as they discuss navigating humour in their short stories. <i>Moderator: Justine Sless</i></p>	<p>Death and Trauma <i>Rachael Mead and Katherine Arguile</i></p> <p>Rachael Mead's short fiction tells the stories of paramedics on the front lines of patient care. Katherine Arguile's writing ruminates on loss and grief. Join Katherine and Rachael as they discuss the depths of pain we can reach within short spaces – and how to come up breathing at the end.</p>
BREAK		
11.50-12.40	<p>Closure <i>Roanna Gonsalves and Susan Midalia</i></p> <p>Closure in short fiction: how do you walk that all-too-thin tightrope between tying things up and not tying the bow too tight? Join Roanna Gonsalves and Susan Midalia as they unwrap this most complex question. <i>Moderator: Rachael Mead</i></p>	<p>Australia Day <i>Melanie Cheng</i></p> <p>Join Chinese-Australian author Melanie Cheng as she discusses her highly acclaimed collection, <i>Australia Day</i>, which explores universal themes of belonging, family, identity, love and loss within the context of our increasingly globalised world. Supported by UniSA <i>Moderator: Chelsea Avard</i></p>
LUNCH		
1.40-2.30	<p>Common People <i>Tony Birch</i></p> <p>Tony Birch, the highly acclaimed author of the collections <i>Father's Day</i> and <i>The Promise</i>, is known for his affectionate character portrayal. Join Tony as he unpacks his new collection, <i>Common People</i>, and considers the ways people show kindness despite the hardships they are facing. <i>Moderator: Jared Thomas</i></p>	<p>Pushing the boundaries of romance <i>Jess M. Miller and Michele Fairbairn</i></p> <p>What is romance fiction? Heaving cleavage and long-haired, muscle-bound men? Think again! The new generation of romance writing is as diverse as it is clever. Join Jess M. Miller and Michele Fairbairn as they discuss writing romance without rules. <i>Moderator: Amy T. Matthews</i></p>

Time	H6.03	H6.12
2.40-3.30	<p>Ethical dilemmas <i>Melanie Cheng and Peter Goldsworthy</i></p> <p>All writers face ethical dilemmas when choosing who and what they write about. But for GPs who write, the question of ethics can become even more complex. Melanie Cheng and Peter Goldsworthy have both faced this question head on. Join these writers as they discuss the ethics of co-opting others' lives into their writing. <i>Moderator: Dr Ioana Petrescu</i></p>	<p>Inspiration <i>Alex Skovron and Andy Kissane</i></p> <p>Writers are often asked, 'where do your ideas come from?' The answer is always: everywhere! Alex Skovron and Andy Kissane are both poets and story writers whose stories are inspired by a vast ocean of ideas. Come along and hear about how these writers are inspired and how that inspiration takes its story form. <i>Moderator: Dr Kit MacFarlane</i></p>
BREAK		
4.00-4.50	<p>The Slam of the Screen Door <i>Stephen Orr and Gay Lynch</i></p> <p>That uniquely Australian sound – the slam of the screen door – tells us so much about the people who live behind the door. Join Stephen Orr, author of <i>Datsunland</i>, and Gay Lynch, whose story was amongst the <i>Best Australian Stories 2015</i>, as they examine the Australia we can find behind the screen door. <i>Moderator: Dr Amelia Walker</i></p>	<p>The Outsiders <i>Lucy Durneen and Stephen Pham</i></p> <p>Great fiction always explores those on the fringes of society, those who are outsiders in their worlds. Lucy Durneen and Stephen Pham's works show an exquisite understanding of the role outsiders play in fiction. Join them as they discuss the outsider in their short stories. <i>Moderator: Danielle Clode</i></p>
5.30-7.30	<p>BOOK LAUNCH Plane Tree Drive</p> <p>Lynette Washington's <i>Plane Tree Drive</i> has been described by Ryan O'Neill thus: 'Beautifully written in a wide range of styles and voices, <i>Plane Tree Drive</i> is a bold and innovative collection of short fiction from an exciting new talent.' Join us to celebrate the launching of this exciting new collection. <i>Launched by Helen Dinmore</i></p>	

Writers are often asked,
 'where do your ideas come from?'
 The answer is always: 'everywhere!'

ALEX SKOVRON and ANDY KISSANE

Time	H6.03	H6.12
9.30-10.20	<p>Deconstructing Structure <i>Susan Midalia and Lynette Washington</i></p> <p>Lynette Washington's <i>Plane Tree Drive</i> is a uniquely structured collection of stories which explore the boundaries of form in fiction. Susan Midalia's stories play with microfiction, paratactic structure and fragments. Listen as these writers discuss pushing the boundaries of structure. <i>Moderator: Dr Chris Hogarth</i></p>	<p>Craft <i>Carmel Bird</i></p> <p>Carmel Bird is Australia's much adored and much awarded queen of short stories. Her first collection was published in 1976 and in 2016 she was awarded the Patrick White Literary Award. Join Carmel as she discusses the unique skill and lightness of touch required to craft a short story. <i>Moderator: Peter Goldsworthy</i></p>

10.30-11.20	<p>The Permanent Resident <i>Roanna Gonsalves</i></p> <p>Roanna Gonsalves' collection <i>The Permanent Resident</i> has been described as 'a brilliant fashioning of newness on the Australian literary landscape'. Gonsalves herself has been described as 'a bold Australian voice' who 'writes like a minx, full of mischief'. Join Roanna as she talks about <i>The Permanent Resident</i>. Supported by UniSA <i>Moderator: Dr Steve Cramer</i></p>	<p>Survival <i>Stephen Pham and Justine Sless</i></p> <p>Stephen Pham is a writer from western Sydney whose work explores life beyond refugee camps and 90s gangland suburbia. Justine Sless is a third generation Holocaust survivor and comedian. Join these two writers as they discuss the impact of survival on their work. <i>Moderator: Dr Pablo Muslera</i></p>
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BREAK

11.50-12.40	<p>The Spaces in Between <i>Sean Williams and Alex Skovron</i></p> <p>Writers often struggle with what to put in and what to leave out and in short stories the form is particularly constrained. How do Alex Skovron and award-winning writer Sean Williams, who also writes novels and haiku, make decisions about their writing. Hear them read selected pieces to illustrate the spaces in between. <i>Moderator: Dr Sue Page</i></p>	<p>Wild Gestures <i>Lucy Durneen</i></p> <p>Lucy Durneen has been called 'a writer of breathtaking precision', and her collection <i>Wild Gestures</i> is characteristically dark, vicious and unsettling. Lucy is an award-winning writer from the UK who lectures in English and Creative Writing at Cambridge University. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from our special international guest. <i>Moderator: Gay Lynch</i></p>
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LUNCH

1.40-2.30	<p>Stranger Things <i>Lisa L. Hannett and Simone Corletto</i></p> <p>Lisa L. Hannett writes creepy and unsettling speculative fiction. Simone Corletto writes fantasy stories that feature dragons and put diversity at the forefront. Join these writers as they discuss the strangest things that short fiction can do. <i>Moderator: Caroline Reid</i></p>	<p>On Being Edited <i>Rebekah Clarkson and Andy Kissane</i></p> <p>Despite the iconic image of the lone writer tapping away at a clunky typewriter, writing is a collaborative exercise. Stories are formed by writers, editors, publishers, marketers and designers, and the experience of being edited can be vastly different. Listen to Rebekah Clarkson and Andy Kissane as they discuss the processes, pitfalls and pleasures of being edited. <i>Moderator: Dr Amelia Walker</i></p>
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Time	H6.03	H6.12
2.40-3.30	<p>Blogging Your Way to Publication <i>Mag Merrilees and Chelsea Avard</i></p> <p>Mag Merrilees' <i>Fables Queer and Familiar</i> started life as a blog before being published in print. Chelsea Avard blogs and publishes in both print and online. Listen to these writers as they discuss the perils and virtues of both avenues, as well as podcasts, and how one can lead to the other. <i>Moderator: Sarah Tooth</i></p>	<p>The Long and the Short of It <i>Stephen Orr and Amy T. Matthews</i></p> <p>Can writers traverse the long and short form? What does it take to write short fiction, and is this different to writing the long form? Stephen Orr and Amy T. Matthews have published both short stories and longer works. Join them as they discuss the differences, similarities and benefits of each form. <i>Moderator: Dr Kit MacFarlane</i></p>

BREAK

4.00-4.50	<p>UniSA School of Communication, International Studies and Languages Closing Address <i>Rebekah Clarkson</i></p> <p>As we say a bittersweet farewell to the Australian Short Story Festival for another year, don't miss the opportunity to hear from Rebekah Clarkson as she wraps up the Festival, looks to the future and gives us that all important closure.</p>	
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5.10	<p>BOOK LAUNCH The Dead Aviatrix</p> <p>Carmel Bird's new ebook has been described by Matthew Condon: 'Each story is a delicious Venus fly trap that encloses you in its wonder or horror, or both.' Join us to celebrate the launching of this exciting new collection. <i>Launched by Peter Goldsworthy</i></p>	
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VENUE

UNISA CITY WEST
55 NORTH TERRACE
ADELAIDE

Workshops and panels

Hawke Building
H6.03, H6.10 and H6.12

Opening Address – Friday

Allan Scott Auditorium,
Hawke Building, H2.16
6.30pm - 9.30pm

Closing Address – Sunday

Bradley Forum,
Hawke Building, H5.02
4.00pm - 4.50pm



KATHERINE ARGUILE

Katherine Arguile was born in Tokyo and is Anglo-Japanese. In 2008 she emigrated from London to Adelaide where she now lives as a British and Australian citizen. She has published short stories, won first prize in London's Momaya Press competition, a Varuna Writing Fellowship and completed her first novel, *The Things She Owned*. A graduate of Cambridge University, she has a creative writing PhD from the University of Adelaide.



CHELSEA AVARD

Chelsea Avard is a writer and teacher from Adelaide. She is co-editor of the short fiction and poetry anthology *The Body*. She holds a PhD from The University of Adelaide, where she works as a writing mentor. Her short fiction and poetry has been included in a range of works including the *Sleepers Almanac*, anthologies by Wakefield Press, University of Philippines Press and MidnightSun, and online publications *Verity La* and *Red Fez*. Her poem, 'How We Stay', won the 2017 *Verandah* Literary Award.



TONY BIRCH

Tony Birch is the author of *Shadowboxing* (2006), *Father's Day* (2009), *Blood* (2011), *The Promise* (2014), *Ghost River* (2015) and *Common People* (2017). His novel, *Blood*, was shortlisted for the 2012 Miles Franklin award, while *Ghost River* won the Victorian Premier's award and was shortlisted for the New South Wales and Queensland literary awards.



CARMEL BIRD

In 2016 the Patrick White Literary Award acknowledged Carmel's lifetime contribution to Australian writing. Carmel has been widely acclaimed for her seven collections of short fiction, as well as her nine novels and the many anthologies she has edited, including *The Stolen Children* and *The Penguin Century of Australian Stories*. Her most recent novel is *Family Skeleton*. Carmel has always been keen to embrace new technologies, being the first Australian writer to have a website (1997), and the first to produce an interactive CD with her novel *Red Shoes* (1998). At the Festival she will release as an ebook her new collection of stories, *The Dead Aviatrix*.



MELANIE CHENG

Melanie Cheng is a writer and general practitioner. Of Chinese-Australian heritage, she was born in Adelaide, grew up in Hong Kong and now lives in Melbourne with her family. In 2016 she won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an Unpublished Manuscript. *Australia Day* is her first book.



REBEKAH CLARKSON

Rebekah Clarkson is a fiction writer, editor, mentor, sessional academic and teacher of creative writing. Her novel-in-stories, *Barking Dogs* (Affirm Press), is set in Mount Barker, South Australia. Her short stories have appeared in journals such as *Griffith Review*, *Best Australian Stories*, *Australian Book Review* and *Something Special*, *Something Rare: Outstanding Short Stories by Australian Women* (Black Inc.). Her stories have been recognised in major awards in Australia and overseas, including the ABR Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize, Fish Publishing Short Story Prize and Glimmer Train's Fiction Open. She has a BA in Aboriginal Studies and an MA and PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Adelaide. She has taught short story writing at the University of Adelaide and at the University of Texas at Austin.



SIMONE CORLETTO

Simone Corletto is an Adelaide-based YA and science fiction writer. She's performed her work numerous times for Speakeasy and at the National Young Writers Festival. Her first co-edited anthology, *Crush*, was published by MidnightSun Publishing this year. She spends her spare time crocheting lumpy hats, writing about teenage superheroes, and telling people about her science degree.



LUCY DURNEEN

Lucy Durneen is an English writer currently dividing her time between the UK and Australia. Her first collection of short stories, *Wild Gestures*, was published by MidnightSun in 2017, winning Best Short Story Collection at the Saboteur Awards in London in May. Her fiction, poetry and essays have been published across Europe, the US and Asia, and her creative non-fiction broadcast on BBC Radio 4.



MICHELE FAIRBAIRN

Michele Fairbairn entered the world with a passion for alchemy. Fascinated by and compelled to turn the basest of life elements, observations and experiences into objects d'art, she has a particular penchant for word-smithery as a freelance writer, short story writer, playwright as well as visual artist, performer, theatre deviser and community health & arts worker. She has a passion for story-telling and hybrid theatre practices with a particular simpatico for working outside the square and deviating from the well-trodden path into the quirky and sometimes, downright absurd. Where possible in what time exists between studying Psychology and managing her two Natural Therapy Practices, she continues to sing flesh onto bones and leave ethereal imprints, bruises and invitations in her wake.



PETER GOLDSWORTHY

Peter Goldsworthy has won literary awards across a wide range of genres. He has published four collections of short stories, the most recent being *Gravel* (Penguin Books, 2011). His short story *The Kiss*, also available as a Penguin Special ebook, has been adapted for the stage at Belvoir Street Theatre, and for film by Ashlee Page, winning both the Dendy and AFI awards for best short film. Steve Johnson's adaptation of his short novella *Jesus Wants me for a Sunbeam* will be staged at the Riverside Theatre in Sydney next year. His 1995 novel *Wish* was recently rereleased in the Text Australian Classics series, and his 1989 novel *Maestro* as an Angus & Robertson Australian Classic. His most recent book is *The Rise of the Machines and other Love Poems*.



ROANNA GONSALVES

Roanna Gonsalves is the author of *The Permanent Resident*, an acclaimed collection of short fiction published by UWAP in November 2016. According to the award-winning Australian writer Michelle De Kretser, *The Permanent Resident* is 'a brilliant fashioning of newness in the Australian literary landscape'. *The Permanent Resident* is being studied in the fields of Australian Literature, Postcolonial Literatures, and Creative Writing at a number of Australian universities. Roanna is a recipient of the Prime Minister's Australia Asia Endeavour Award. She has a PhD from the University of New South Wales, and is an experienced creative writing workshop facilitator. She can be found at roannagonsalves.com.au and on Twitter [@roannagonsalves](https://twitter.com/roannagonsalves)



LISA L. HANNETT

Lisa L. Hannett has had over 65 short stories appear in venues including *Clarkesworld*, *Fantasy*, *Weird Tales*, *Apex*, and *Year's Best* anthologies in Australia, Canada, and the United States. She has won four Aurealis Awards, including Best Collection for her first book, *Bluegrass Symphony*, which was also nominated for a World Fantasy Award. Her first novel, *Lament for the Afterlife*, won the Australian National Science Fiction Award for Best Novel in 2016. You can find her online at lisahannett.com and on Twitter [@LisaLHannett](https://twitter.com/LisaLHannett)



ANDY KISSANE

Andy Kissane lives in Sydney and is in love with the short story. He has published a novel, a book of short stories, *The Swarm*, and four books of poetry. *Radiance* (Puncher & Wattmann, 2014) was shortlisted for the Victorian and Western Australian Premier's Prizes for Poetry and the Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature. He is currently working on a verse novel and a short story cycle. He teaches Creative Writing in universities, schools and the community. andykissane.com



GAY LYNCH

Gay Lynch is a creative writing academic, working adjunct to Flinders University. She has published academic papers, *Cleanskin*, a novel (2006) and eleven short stories: most recently, in *Bluestem Magazine Illinois* (2017), *Transnational Lit* (2017), *Griffith Review* (2016), *Best Australian Stories* (2015), *Breaking Beauty* (2015), *TEXT* (2015), and *Sleepers Almanac: 8, 10* (2013, 2015). She was Fiction and Life Writing editor at *Transnational Literature* from 2011-2015. In 2016 FISH shortlisted her memoir piece, and she was runner-up for the British Council sponsored Small Wonder Short Story residency in Charleston, UK. In March, she read at a 2017 Adelaide Fringe event.



AMY T. MATTHEWS

Amy T. Matthews is an award-winning novelist who also writes historical romance under the name Tess LeSue and has published short stories in collections including *Best Australian Stories*. Her novel *End of the Night Girl* won the Adelaide Festival Unpublished Manuscript Award, and was shortlisted for the Dobbie Literary Award and the Colin Roderick Award. Tess LeSue's novel *Bound for Eden* was shortlisted for the Romance Writers of Australia EmeraldPRO Award and was published by HarperCollins/MIRA in 2016; she has just finished the sequel, *Bound for Sin*. She has co-edited three collections of short stories and poetry, including *Crush* which was published by MidnightSun in 2017. Amy is also a scholar and a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at Flinders University. Her book-length exegesis *Navigating the Kingdom of Night* is an exploration of representing historical trauma in fiction and is a landmark text in Australian exegetical writing.



RACHAEL MEAD

Rachael Mead is a poet, short story writer, arts reviewer and bookseller living in South Australia. She's had an eclectic life, working as an archaeologist, environmental campaigner and seller of books both old and new. She has an Honours degree in Classical Archaeology, a Masters in Environmental Studies and a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Adelaide. Her poetry collections include *The Sixth Creek* (Picaro Press, 2013) and two chapbooks. Her next full-length collection *The Flaw in the Pattern* is forthcoming from UWAP in early 2018. She has had several ambo-themed stories published and is currently working on a collection.



MARGARET (MAG) MERRILEES

A couple of years ago, in a lull between novels, Mag started writing an occasional online blog about four generations of a rainbow family. The pieces morphed into a radio serial, and were then published by Wakefield Press in 2014 as *Fables Queer & Familiar*, with cartoon illustrations by Chia Moan. Further *Fables Queer & Familiar* are online now and will be published in book form next year. *Take Big Rough Stones*, a novel featuring some of the Fables characters, will also be published shortly. Mag's debut novel *The First Week*, was published in 2013 after winning the Wakefield Press Unpublished Manuscript Award at Adelaide Writers' Week. It was then shortlisted for the Barbara Jefferis Award, a NSW Premier's Award and the Onkaparinga People's Choice Award. Mag's short work has appeared in *Meanjin*, *Griffith Review* and *Island*.
margaretmerrilees.com



SUSAN MIDALIA

Susan Midalia is the author of three collections of short stories, all shortlisted for major Australian literary awards: *A History of the Beanbag*, *An Unknown Sky* and *Feet to the Stars*. Her first novel, *The Art of Persuasion*, will be published in 2018. Susan is also a freelance editor and an experienced facilitator of writing workshops, and is currently a board member of Margaret River Press and writingWA.



JESS M. MILLER

Jess M. Miller is an emerging writer and PhD student at Flinders University, where she researches representations of women within time-travel fiction. For two years she was the President of Speakeasy, Flinders' undergraduate creative writing showcase, and she now works as an editor and publicist for MidnightSun Publishing. In 2017 Jess was part of the editing team behind *Crush* - an anthology of short stories which takes diverse, trans-genre, and often experimental approaches to the theme of romantic love.



STEPHEN ORR

Stephen Orr's first novel, *Attempts to Draw Jesus*, was based on the disappearance of Simon Amos and James Annetts in the Great Sandy Desert in 1986. His fascination with Australian landscapes has since led to the Barossa Valley of the 1950s (*Hill of Grace*, an examination of Lutheran fundamentalism), the suburbs of Adelaide, the Australian wheatbelt, as well as second-hand car yards. He has written for a range of publications on subjects as diverse as Glenn Gould's radio documentaries and Scottish graveyards. His favourite short story writers include Borges, Rulfo, Flannery O'Connor and Joyce. He is especially fond of Robert Walser's very short fiction (micrograms). His short story collection *Datsunland* was published in 2017.



STEPHEN PHAM

Stephen Pham is a Vietnamese-Australian writer from Cabramatta. He is a member of the Sweatshop Writers Collective and has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English Literature and Creative Writing from the University of New South Wales. Stephen's work has appeared in *Overland*, *The Lifted Brow*, *Seizure*, *The Big Black Thing* and *Right Now*. Most recently, he performed at Campbelltown Arts Centre for the 2017 Sydney Festival exhibition of *Another Day in Paradise*. He has also spoken on panels and performed readings at the Wollongong Writers' Festival, the Emerging Writers' Festival, the Newcastle National Young Writers' Festival, Late Night Library, and the New South Wales Writers' Centre.



ALEX SKOVRON

Alex Skovron's short fiction has appeared in a number of magazines and anthologies, and his first collection of short stories, *The Man Who Took to his Bed*, has just been published. His earlier books include a prose novella, a volume of prose-poems, and five other collections of poetry. The novella, *The Poet* (2005), was joint winner of the FAW Christina Stead Award for fiction and has been translated into Czech. *Towards the Equator: New & Selected Poems* (2014) was shortlisted in the Prime Minister's Literary Awards. Alex lives in Melbourne and works as a freelance book editor.



JUSTINE SLESS

Justine Sless is an award-winning writer, comedian and creative director of Melbourne Jewish Comedy Festival. She has written for Funny Women UK, Jewish Women of Words and The Jewish Report. Justine is doing her Masters in creative writing at La Trobe University on gender and comedy and is writing a collection of short stories and a novel about comedy set in North East UK. Justine's comedy is described as 'biting sarcasm and razor sharp wit' as well as 'freshest, most original'. justinesless.com



LYNETTE WASHINGTON

Lynette Washington is a short story writer, editor and teacher of creative and professional writing. She holds a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Adelaide. Her stories have been published widely and in 2014 she edited the story collection, *Breaking Beauty*. In 2017 she co-edited the story collection, *Crush*. *Plane Tree Drive* is her debut. When she is not writing, she teaches police cadets the importance of sentence structure and grammar.



SEAN WILLIAMS

Sean Williams is a #1 New York Times-bestselling author of over one hundred and twenty short stories for adults, young adults and children. As well as his original fiction, he has contributed to shared universes such as *Star Wars* and *Doctor Who* and collaborated with other writers. His short stories have been gathered into six collections, including *Magic Dirt: The Best of Sean Williams*, which won the 2008 Aurealis Award for Best Collection. He lives in Adelaide with his wife and family and a pet plastic fish.

CLOSING ADDRESS



Rebekah Clarkson

All writing is an act of subversion and short stories are the most subversive of all. By stealth they impact tiny corners of the world, create vapour trails that linger through generations. They constrain their writers and destabilize their readers. Short stories arrange themselves with the precision of still life paintings; they toy with undefined spaces and they manipulate shadow yet to be cast by clouds in your future. What's not to love about the short story? They won't pay your bills. But you need them regardless. Life is too short not to devote it to the short story.

TICKETS

Purchase online via Try Booking

Workshops	\$55 conc./\$70 standard
Opening night	\$30 conc./\$35 standard
Saturday full day	\$80 conc./\$90 standard
Sunday full day	\$70 conc./\$80 standard
Two Day	\$190 conc./\$220 standard
Premium Pass	(including a workshop of your choice)
Two Day Pass	\$140 conc./\$160 standard

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