11TH ANNUAL BOOKLOVERS FESTIVAL 2019

FEED YOUR CURIOSITY
FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER – SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER
11TH ANNUAL BOOKLOVERS FESTIVAL

Friday 6 September – Saturday 21 September

What is at the heart of a story?

This question is at the centre of the relationship between writer and reader and is the cornerstone of the 11th annual Booklovers Festival.

Across three big weeks, Yarra Plenty Regional Library invites you to explore the stories behind the stories with some of Victoria’s most talented writers including many from our local community in Melbourne’s north.

There is something to delight readers and book lovers of all kinds. Join a book club – or a walking book club! – listen to an author talk or take part in a silent reading party. Our Fact/Fiction series will question at what point does fiction cross the border of truth. We even have a Book Valet service to match you with your next great read.

Explore your own creative self-expression in our free writer’s workshops, creative retreats, author gatherings and open mics. Or put your hands to work in our design workshops and quilting project.

Be inspired to tell your own stories, share your literary frustrations, or give yourself permission to write at our creative events.

YPRL is proud to nurture and celebrate our community’s creativity and diversity. Check our social media to connect with local writers and fellow festival attendees – and don’t forget to bring a friend to the library to go into the draw to win a great bookish prize.

Whether you are a reader, writer, book lover or creatively-minded – dive into Booklovers Festival and feed your curiosity.
FESTIVAL LAUNCH

Friday 6 September

In partnership with:

Melbourne 2019 Writers Festival

Patrick DeWitt In-Conversation

Eltham Library

Friday 6 September

5.30pm – 7.00pm

The highly acclaimed Booker Prize shortlisted Canadian author and screenwriter Patrick DeWitt joins us as a special guest at the Booklovers Festival. What motivates and influences Patrick to write his novels? Why does he turn to humor and satire to explore dark and uncomfortable themes? Join Patrick for a thought-provoking and entertaining discussion of his creative process and work including his latest novel, French Exit.

Light refreshments provided.

Bookings essential.
Book Valet

Enjoy a reading experience like no other. Throughout Booklovers Festival YPRL is curating personalised reading lists for members. Whether you’re in a reading rut, looking for a literary challenge or want to discover something relevant to your interests, our dedicated Book Valets will find the right title for you.

Simply fill out the Book Valet Questionnaire online or in one of our libraries. See website for more details on library membership and the Book Valet service.

Community Creatives: Celebrating Local Writers

Novelists, self-publishers, bloggers, comic artists, journalists and more: YPRL loves writers of all kinds!

Throughout the festival we will be highlighting our wonderful local writers.

Follow us on Facebook (@YarraPlentyRegionalLibrary) to find out more about our fabulous Community Creatives!
Mobile Poetry

Poetry is an ever-evolving and accessible art form. To prove this we are turning our Mobile Library into a moveable poem created by the community. Visit the Mobile Library to add (or take away) a word from its living poem. The final version of the poem will be unveiled on our website and Facebook page at the end of the festival.

Find your nearest Mobile Library stop on our website.

Fact/Fiction Conversations

What is at the heart of a story? At what point does fiction cross the border of truth? These questions are at the centre of the relationship between reader and creator and is the cornerstone of curiosity.

Fact/Fiction Conversations pair a fiction and non-fiction writer together to discuss everything from their books and their writing processes to their influences and the ways in which their genres are more like twins than distant cousins. We have a series of Fact/Fiction conversations throughout the festival.

Look out for Claire G. Coleman & Clare Wright (see page 14), J.P Pomare & Bram Presser (see page 20) and Melanie Cheng & Nicola Redhouse (see page 22).

Nillumbik Digital Agora

Friday 6 September – Sunday 8 September

Digital Agora artists Pie Bolton, Kiera Brew Kurec and Jane Crappsley have developed light based artworks that respond to the theme of ‘stories of place’. Each artwork will be displayed in a public space in Eltham to coincide with the launch of the Booklovers Festival. See Nillumbik Shire Council website for locations.

The Digital Agora is presented by Nillumbik Shire Council with support from the Victorian State Government through Creative Victoria’s ‘Creative Suburbs Program’ and in partnership with ACMI X and the Centre for Projection Art.
Creative Retreat

Watsonia Library

Saturday 7 September
10.30am – 5.00pm  |  Sunday 8 September
1.00pm – 5.00pm

Sometimes you just need a little time, space and motivation to make. Whether you’re a writer, artist or crafter, visit our Creative Retreat and dedicate an hour, a day or a whole weekend to nurturing your creativity.

Drop in, bring your own project along or try our workshops and creative prompts for guidance. Take time for you: be inspired, connect with other creatives or get down to some solid solo work. Tea and coffee available to fuel your passions!

Bookings essential.

Workshops

| Saturday 7 September | 11.00pm – 1.00pm | Improv Comedy for Writers |
| Sunday 8 September  | 2.00pm – 4.00pm  | Writing the Self |

Book your chosen session(s) on our website to secure your place.
Workshops

Improv Comedy for Writers
Indiana Kiely

📅 Saturday 7 September
⏰ 11.00am – 1.00pm

Want to develop your writing confidence, kick writer’s block to the curb and unlock your inner creative genius? Improvisational comedy is for you! Learn from Indiana Kiely how improv can help you overcome fear and find your natural mental flow, how to create strong characters and how to trust yourself and your ideas.

This process-driven workshop might just plant the seeds of a future project: a play, novel, memoir or screenplay? Come along and find out.

No experience necessary.

Writing the Self
Sian Prior

📅 Sunday 8 September
⏰ 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Always dreamed of telling your own story? This workshop explores the idea of ‘the self’ as a tool for creating compelling fiction or memoir. It will help you tell your own story for yourself, whether that is to bring closure to the past, capture memories for grandkids or even writing for your own wellbeing. Writer and broadcaster Sian Prior will share the nuts and bolts of structure and plot, and teach you how to bring in the wisdom and emotional heart your story needs.

Bookings essential.
Noticing Nature

**Location:** Diamond Valley Library  
**Date:** Saturday 7 September  
**Time:** 3.00pm – 5.00pm

Nature surrounds us, even in a city. From the grass growing through the footpath to the bird sitting on a powerline, the natural world is a constant presence. In this workshop, *Harry Saddler (The Eastern Curlew)* will help you to slow down and appreciate the natural world around you, and how to bring observational awareness into your writing.

Participants of this workshop will be invited to contribute to the Diamond Valley Library community garden art project with their words and ideas produced on the day.

*In partnership with Nillumbik Shire Council*

*Bookings essential.*

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Ivanhoe Reading Circle: The Shepherd’s Hut

**Location:** Ivanhoe Library  
**Date:** Sunday 8 September  
**Time:** 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Ever wanted to try out a book club? Now’s your chance! Come along to the Ivanhoe Reading Circle to discuss *The Shepherd’s Hut* and other Tim Winton classics. Then join us for a special afternoon tea featuring The Chocolate Emporium – we will match your taste in chocolate to recommended reads. Chocolate samples and sales, refreshments provided.
Story Block Quilt

Thomastown Library

📍 Tuesday 10 September
⏰ 4.00pm – 5.00pm

Telling the story of a community takes many voices. You are invited to add your voice to the Story Block Quilt during the festival.

Design a panel for the community quilt and have your story recorded and added to our collection. Whether you are young, old or anything in between we would love to hear about your life in the City of Whittlesea.

Each workshop looks at different quilting techniques and the end results will be made into the Story Block Quilt and displayed in our libraries.

Sessions:

📍 Whittlesea Library
⏰ Wednesday 11 September
⏰ 12.00noon – 2.00pm

📍 Thomastown Library
⏰ Thursday 12 September
⏰ 11.00am – 1.00pm

📍 Friday 20 September
⏰ 11.00am – 1.00pm

Workshop: Writing Historical Fiction

Kate Mildenhall

📍 Eltham Library

📍 Tuesday 10 September
⏰ 6.00pm – 8.00pm

History isn’t just about facts and figures: it’s about people and the choices they make. Capturing an authentic and compelling narrative voice is one of the fundamentals of all good fiction. Learn from *Skylarking* author Kate Mildenhall, who will lead you through writing exercises and explore topics such as research, historical accuracy vs authenticity, and finding your historical voice.

In partnership with Nillumbik Shire Council

Bookings essential.
Stories of Homeland

Mill Park Library
Tuesday 10 September
6.30pm – 8.30pm

Join the Macedonian Literary Association for a night of readings and performances. Discover the works of Koko Racin as well as local and emerging contemporary Australian-Macedonian writers. This bilingual celebration explores the role stories play in making connections to home. You are also invited to bring along your own writing to share on the night. Suitable for all ages. Refreshments provided.

Supported by the Macedonian Literary Association “Koco Racin” Inc.

Creativity, Honesty and the Writing Life with Favel Parrett

Whittlesea Library
Wednesday 11 September
1.00pm – 2.00pm

Where do creative ideas come from? How do you keep drafting when it seems like there’s no end in sight? What is it like to take a small kernel of an idea and watch it grow into a novel that is shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award?

Join award-winning author Favel Parrett for an intimate conversation and writer’s advice. She will discuss creativity and her work, including her new novel There was Still Love.

Refreshments provided.

Maker Space Workshops:

Japanese Book Binding

Ivanhoe Library
Wednesday 11 September
6.00pm – 7.30pm

Create distinctive notebooks for jotting down your literary musings and writing inspirations.

Laser Cut Notebook Covers

Ivanhoe Library
Wednesday 18 September
6.00pm – 7.30pm

Create distinctive notebooks for jotting down your literary musings and writing inspirations.

Bookings essential.
Inside the Writers Group

Eltham Library

Wednesday 11 September

7.00pm – 8.00pm

How exactly does a professional writer’s group work? Zana Fraillon, Penny Harrison, Kate Mildenhall and Penni Russon write across different themes, forms and audiences and yet are able to share their work with each other. Go inside their writer’s group to learn about giving and receiving feedback, and the importance of having a cohort of writers around you. Discover how stories can be constructed and shaped in a writing group setting.

In partnership with Nillumbik Shire Council

Walking Audiobook Club

Rosanna Library

Thursday 12 September

10.00am – 11.30am

This is a drop-in style book club with a big difference: we’re walking! Whether you’re up for a casual book chat or simply want to listen to your audiobook uninterrupted, let’s do it together in the fresh air while getting our bodies and minds moving. Meet at Rosanna Library then head to the parklands and walk around the grounds at a pace that is comfortable for all.

If you’re looking for a good audiobook to read for the day, browse our website for inspiration!

Open Mic Night

Vino Central | High Street, Ivanhoe

Thursday 12 September

6.00pm – 8.00pm

Share your work with other writers and book lovers. Open to all, participants will have the opportunity to read 1-2 pages of something they’ve been working on and meet other creatives! Enjoy a lovely glass of wine (or drink of choice) at the same time.

NOTE: One drink provided per person only (even if you’re just there to listen).

Bookings essential.
### Booklovers Festival 2019

#### Calendar of Events

**Event Locations:**
- Ivanhoe
- Rosanna
- Watsonia
- Diamond Valley
- Eltham
- Lalor
- Mill Park
- Thomastown
- Whittlesea
- Vino Central
- Little Drop of Poison

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### Thursday

#### 6th September

**Festival Launch:**
- Patrick deWitt in Conversation | 1.30-7pm

#### 16th September

- Walking Audiobook Club: Micro Fiction in a Micro Bar | 10-11:30am
- Story Block Quilt | 11am-1pm
- Open Mic Night | 6-8pm
- Fact/Fiction Conversation: Claire G. Coleman & Clare Wright | 7-8pm

### Friday

**12th September**

- Writers Weekend: Local Writers Meet up with Sonia Nair & Christian White

**20th September**

- Fact/Fiction Conversation: J.P Pomare & Bram Presser | 1-2pm
- Writers Weekend: Creative Resilience with Kate Mildenhall

### Saturday

**7th September**

- Creative Retreat with Ivanhoe Reading Circle: The Shepherd's Hut | 10.30am-5pm
- Improv Comedy for Writers Workshop | 11am-1pm |
- Workshop: Noticing Nature | 10.30am-5pm

**21st September**

- Permission to Write with Melanie Cheng & Nicole Redhouse | 10am-1pm
- Workshop: Memoir, Story & Meaning | 1.30-3.30pm
- Meet Sarah Bailey | 2-4pm

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**Monday**

**6th September**

- Creative Retreat: Improv Comedy for Writers Workshop | 11am-1pm
- Waterways and Journeys: Workshop: Noticing Nature | 10am-5pm

**12th September**

- Writing Historical Fiction with Tovey Parrett | 10am-1pm
- Inside the Writers Group: Creative Writing with Tovey Parrett | 10am-1pm

**19th September**

- Stories of Homeland: Japanese Book Binding | 10am-1pm
- Inside the Writers Group: Creative Writing with Tovey Parrett | 10am-1pm

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**Tuesday**

**6th September**

- Creative Retreat: Improv Comedy for Writers Workshop | 11am-1pm
- Waterways and Journeys: Workshop: Noticing Nature | 10am-5pm

**12th September**

- Writing Historical Fiction with Tovey Parrett | 10am-1pm
- Inside the Writers Group: Creative Writing with Tovey Parrett | 10am-1pm

**19th September**

- Stories of Homeland: Japanese Book Binding | 10am-1pm
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**Wednesday**

**6th September**

- Creative Retreat: Improv Comedy for Writers Workshop | 11am-1pm
- Waterways and Journeys: Workshop: Noticing Nature | 10am-5pm

**12th September**

- Writing Historical Fiction with Tovey Parrett | 10am-1pm
- Inside the Writers Group: Creative Writing with Tovey Parrett | 10am-1pm

**19th September**

- Stories of Homeland: Japanese Book Binding | 10am-1pm
- Inside the Writers Group: Creative Writing with Tovey Parrett | 10am-1pm

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**Sunday**

**8th September**

- Creative Retreat: Improv Comedy for Writers Workshop | 11am-1pm
- Waterways and Journeys: Workshop: Noticing Nature | 10am-5pm

**21st September**

- Permission to Write with Melanie Cheng & Nicole Redhouse | 10am-1pm
- Workshop: Memoir, Story & Meaning | 1.30-3.30pm
- Meet Sarah Bailey | 2-4pm

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**Yarra Plenty Regional Library**
Fact/Fiction Conversation: Claire G. Coleman & Clare Wright

Eltham Library

Thursday 12 September
7.00pm – 8.00pm

These two authors take Australia’s past and actual lived experiences to create two different responses.

Award-winning and bestselling author Claire G. Coleman created *Terra Nullius* and *The Old Lie* to explore colonisation displacement and the impact of Australia’s past through a dystopic-fictional lens.

In writing the democracy-trilogy, award-winning author and historian Clare Wright brings the overlooked struggles of women throughout Australia’s history and gives their stories an urgency by creating *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka* and *You Daughters of Freedom*.

In partnership with Nillumbik Shire Council and Bolinda Publishing
Bring a friend to Booklovers Festival and WIN!

A City of Literature Pack and Booklovers Festival Authors Bundle

If your friend signs up for a library membership during Booklovers Festival, you both go into the draw to win! Sign up at any branch. Winners drawn at the Finale event on Saturday 21 September.

No card necessary
No waiting period.

BOOM!
Instant library in your pocket.

Are you a YPRL member?

WHY NOT SIGN UP FOR A DIGITAL MEMBERSHIP TODAY?

• eBooks,
• eAudiobooks
• eMagazines
• Films
• Documentaries and resources for learning and research.

SIGN UP, BROWSE, DOWNLOAD, ENJOY!
Writers Weekend

📍 Mill Park Library
📅 Saturday 14 – Sunday 15 September
⏰ 10.00am – 5.00pm

Writers Weekend supports the diverse creativity of our communities. It’s a full weekend of creative workshops and a masterclass which will be led by some of Melbourne’s best writers. Explore topics such as how to start, blogging, the foundations of storytelling, screenwriting, fiction, writer’s block and more.

New and emerging writers encouraged to attend.

Bookings essential.

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Dystopian and climate change fictions are vital in our world today. Critically-acclaimed author Alice Robinson (*The Glad Shout*) will guide you through the basics of creating dystopian fiction and planning a novel while looking at how character, plot and place all interrelate to unfold the story. Participants will have the chance to consider their stories from new angles and walk away with notes brimming with ideas for their fiction.

**Bookings essential.**
Saturday Workshops

**Blogging Essentials**  
**Sonia Nair**  
Example 2

1.00pm – 3.00pm

Writer, critic, and blogger *Sonia Nair* (whateverfloatsyourbloat.com) will teach you some of the essential foundations of blogging such as how to develop and implement an effective editorial schedule, how to grow your audience, and how to forge potential new career opportunities via blogging and online writing.

![Bookings essential.]

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**Introduction to Screen Writing**  
**Christian White**  
Example 2

3.00pm – 5.00pm

Whether you’re writing a screenplay or simply want to tell a ripper narrative, the heart of all stories is the same: you need a solid foundation. In this workshop author and screenwriter, *Christian White (The Nowhere Child)* will introduce you to structure, mapping your story and character arcs through writing exercises, discussion and examples.

![Bookings essential.]

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**Sunday Masterclass**

**Creative Resilience**  
**Kate Mildenhall**  
Example 2

Sunday 15 September  

1.30pm – 4.30pm

As a novelist, writing teacher and podcaster, *Kate Mildenhall* has experienced the highs and lows of creative writing and what the whole process can be like. In this masterclass, Kate will focus on creative stumbling blocks such as strategies to overcome ‘failure’, rejection, and writer’s block. Be inspired (and informed!) to keep going no matter what comes your way along your writing journey.

![Bookings essential.]
Workshop: Micro Fiction in a Micro Bar

📍 Little Drop of Poison
Main Road, Eltham

📅 Tuesday 17 September
🕒 7.00pm – 8.00pm

The shortest of short stories often make the biggest impact. Learn how to craft punchy, poignant and memorable micro fiction – in a micro bar! Join author and journalist, Paul Connolly (The Saturday Age’s Kitchen Sink Drama) at Little Drop of Poison to learn the fundamentals of micro fictions. Includes tapas and a glass of wine.

In partnership with Nillumbik Shire Council

⚠️ Bookings essential.

The Author is Present: Call Me Evie Book Club with J.P Pomare

📍 Rosanna Library

📅 Wednesday 18 September
🕒 7.00pm – 8.00pm

For fans of Sharp Objects and Room, our festival book club read stopping literary-thriller Call Me Evie, the story of a seventeen-year-old girl struggling to remember the role she played on the night her life changed forever. Its author J.P Pomare will join us to share insights into how and why he wrote it, the relationship a writer has with their reader, and will answer any questions you have after reading the book. Whether you’re a book club aficionado or want to drop in for an author chat, this event promises to be a delightful evening. Cheese and wine provided.

Reading Party in the Garden

📍 Diamond Valley Library

📅 Thursday 19 September
🕒 11.00am – 12.00noon

Set aside an hour for yourself for a moment of quiet reflection and discovery by joining our silent reading garden party for the Australian Reading Hour. Step back from the hustle and bustle to enjoy a good book, a good cup of tea and good (silent!) company of fellow readers.
Reading Party in the Library

📍 Ivanhoe Library

📅 Thursday 19 September
⏰ 6.00pm – 7.00pm

What goes better with a good book than a cup of tea and an hour to read in quiet enjoyment? Come along to our silent reading party for Australian Reading Hour and treat yourself to uninterrupted reading time in the company of likeminded (silent!) book lovers. Tea provided.

*In partnership with the Tea Society*

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Fact/Fiction Conversation: J.P Pomare & Bram Presser

📍 Ivanhoe Library

📅 Thursday 19 September
⏰ 7.00pm – 8.00pm

These two authors use the motif of memory and personal histories to create two very different responses. Bestselling author J.P Pomare created the literary-thriller *Call me Evie* to explore the past and present through the lens of a 17 year-old-woman who has lost her memory, while award-winning author Bram Presser used family history and survival of the Holocaust to write a hybrid memoir-fictional exploration of truth and memory by creating *The Book of Dirt*.

What compels these authors to write about these experiences and how do they approach these topics?
Permission to Write

Eltham Library

Saturday 21 September

10.00am – 3.30pm

Give yourself permission to write at this full-day writing retreat at Eltham Library. Treat yourself to this literary and creative day of writing, workshopng and developing your ideas – you might just find inspiration for your next masterpiece. Take some time and space to focus on your writing while meeting and mingling with fellow writers and readers.

Come along for a single conversation or workshop or stay for the whole day.

In partnership with Nillumbik Shire Council

Bookings essential.

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<td>Alice Robinson</td>
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Into the Fire explores the many ways, we betray one another and our ideals. A compelling story about power, guilt and womanhood. Sonia Orchard discusses contemporary feminism with Alicia Sometimes.

The Glad Shout is an extraordinary novel of rare depth and texture. This is a deeply moving homage to motherhood and the struggles faced by women in difficult times. Alice Robinson discusses climate change, motherhood and her influences with Sarah Schmidt.

Two authors use the motif of the ‘ordinary’ and create two very different responses. Melanie Cheng created Room for a Stranger to explore everyday experiences of loneliness and compassion while Nicola Redhouse, examined her own experiences with mental health, particularly post-natal depression, creating Unlike the Heart: a memoir of brain and mind.

What compels these authors to write about these experiences and how do they approach these topics?
FESTIVAL FINALE
Saturday 21st September

Meet Sarah Bailey

📍 Rosanna Library
📅 Saturday 21 September
⏰ 3.00pm – 4.00pm

We return to the past in order to make a present and a future. And this is certainly true for writers. Award-winning and bestselling author Sarah Bailey will close the Booklovers Festival with a special conversation that covers her motivation for creating her compelling Detective Gemma Woodstock series (The Dark Lake, Into the Night and Where the Dead Go). She will explore her creative process, influences and what it means to be able to tell stories. Sarah will share readings from authors who have inspired her as a writer as well as read from her own work.

In partnership with Bolinda Publishing

How to book:

💻 Online
Go to our website www.yprl.vic.gov.au

📍 In person
Visit your local library and speak to a staff member.

📞 By phone
Call the local branch hosting the event and make your booking.

🔍 Bookings essential
Indicates events that have limitations and require pre-booking to secure your place.