

BIG SKY

Readers & Writers
FESTIVAL 2017

Geraldton | May 5-7

REACHING OUT



OUR SPONSORS



Department of Culture and the Arts
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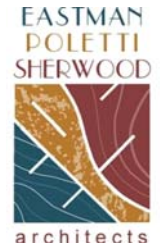
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Loan Market 

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Anne & Kim
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INTRODUCTION



Big Sky 2017, brought to you by the City of Greater Geraldton, is reaching out to all readers, writers and artists to unite in a weekend of shared experiences which will bring stories alive and celebrate the joy of reading.

This year, artists from across Australia as well as Singapore will travel to Geraldton to take part in debates, panels, workshops and social events which are guaranteed to amuse, challenge and delight audiences.

Learn more about Australian history, immerse yourselves in the craft of writing, consider your attitude to death, listen to tales presented by local people, take a

journey into the world of poetry and mystery and try your hand at creating words, pictures and scripts.

The act of reading and writing helps us make sense of the world, provides us with a sense of purpose.

Writers will be reaching out to individuals, encouraging them to embrace their words, to consider how they impact on day to day life.

Thank you for joining us on another Big Sky adventure.

Susan Smith
Big Sky Director

BIG SKY SCHOOL DAYS

Tuesday 2 May

Presenter: **Mark Greenwood**
Time: 9.30am – 10.30am
Venue: Chapman Valley Primary

Presenter: **Mark Greenwood**
Time: 12.00pm – 12.45pm
Time: 1.30pm – 2.30pm
Venue: St Lawrences Primary

Thursday 4 May

Presenter: **Mark Greenwood**
Time: 1pm – 2pm
Venue: Geraldton Regional Library
Home School Students

Presenter: **Meg McKinlay**
Time: 2.15pm – 3.15pm
Venue: Geraldton Regional Library
Home School Students

Friday 5 May

Presenter: **Meg McKinlay**
Time: 9.20am – 10.20am
Venue: Geraldton Grammar
School

Presenter: **Felix Cheong**
Time: 9.00am – 10.00am
Venue: Strathalbyn Christian
College

Presenter: **David Hunt**
Time: 9.30am – 10.30am
Venue: Geraldton Regional Library
Storytime Session

Presenter: **Frané Lessac**
Time: 9.30am – 10.30am
Venue: Geraldton Senior College

Presenter: **Bruce Pascoe**
Time: 9.30am – 10.30am
Venue: Geraldton Senior College

Presenter: **Bruce Pascoe**
Time: 1.00pm – 2.00pm
Venue: Mullewa District High

Presenter: **Mark Greenwood**
Time: 11.50am – 12.45pm
Venue: Nagle Catholic College



Presenter: **Mark Greenwood**
Time: 1.30pm – 2.30pm
Venue: Strathalbyn Christian
College

Presenter: **Felix Cheong**
Time: 11.50am – 12.45pm
Venue: Nagle Catholic College

Presenter: **Felix Cheong**
Time: 1.45pm – 2.45pm
Venue: Geraldton Grammar
School

Presenter: **Frances Andrijich**
Time: All day event
Venue: John Willcock College

FRIDAY 5 MAY

Crafting Good Fiction

Time: 1.30pm – 4.00pm

Venue: Geraldton Regional Library

Presenter: **Garry Disher**

Ticketed Event: \$40.00

Limited numbers: please book and pay at the library

Besides talent, writing good fiction requires craft. Gary will start budding writers on the journey to understand and master the basics of writing so they can gain confidence in developing their writing skills.

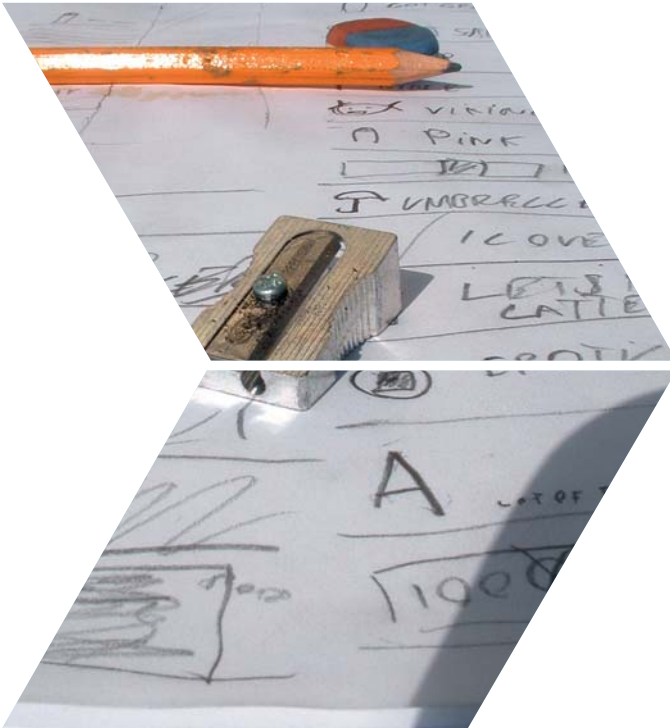
Festival Opening

Time: 5.30pm – 7.30pm

Venue: Geraldton Regional Library

MC: **Grant Woodhams**

Come along and celebrate the opening of Big Sky, where you can meet our guests, catch up with friends and plan the weekend ahead.



SATURDAY 6 MAY

An alternative viewpoint: rethinking indigenous Australia's agricultural past

Time: 9.00am – 9.45am

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

Presenter: **Bruce Pascoe**

In his book *Dark Emu*, Bruce Pascoe puts forward the argument that Aboriginal people were not just hunter-gatherers (a term he describes as corrupted), but farmers who cultivated native plants prior to white settlement. By returning to the journals and diaries of explorers and colonists, Pascoe discovered that the economy and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people has been grossly undervalued.

Playing with words: a workshop

Time: 10.00am – 12.00noon

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

Presenter: **Hannie Rayson**

Ticketed Event: \$40

Limited numbers: please book and pay at the Library

There are many components in developing a successful script. A play will not soar in performance unless it's great on the page. Hannie will provide participants with the tools to create a convincing script, with believable characters.

Make your own picture book: a workshop for adults

Time: 10.00am–12noon

Venue: Geraldton Art Gallery

Presenter: **Frané Lessac**

Please book at the Library

Have you ever wanted to write a kids book or have a children's book in development and would like to hone your skills with a master? Frané will offer practical ideas to help you develop, plan and edit your own book. The workshop will also instruct teachers on how to assist their students in making their own picture books.



Concurrent Sessions

Time: 10:15am – 11:15am

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

We're all going to Die

Many of us have a fear of death and dying, but **Leah Kaminsky** believes to ignore death is to ignore life. Join her in a discussion with **Moir McKinnon**.

Getting it right

You might wonder what a crime writer and photographer have in common? Both Garry Disher and Frances Andrijich are perfectionists – in the planning, execution and final production of their work. **Frances Andrijich** and **Garry Disher** with **Kerry Stewart**.

Writing for youth

Bruce Pascoe, **Felix Cheong** and **Meg McKinlay's** books not only engage their readers, but also contain powerful messages. They discuss their work with **Glyn Parry**.

Concurrent Sessions

Time: 11:45am – 12:45pm

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

Rum, rebels, outlaws and heroes

Mark Greenwood and **David Hunt** have a knack of turning history into wonderful tales that appeal to readers of all ages. They discuss their works with **Malcolm Smith**.

Empathy: creating characters who resonate with the reader

A workshop with **Sara Foster**. Learn how to induce readers to take "an active writerly role" in understanding the mental lives of your characters in this interactive workshop.

The Great Debate: Movies win, books lose

Time: 1.15pm – 2.15pm

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

Adjudicator: **Grant Woodhams**

In a time poor society, when we expect things instantly, why bother to read a book when you can sit back and watch the movie adaptation? **Hannie Rayson**, **David Hunt**, **Meg McKinlay** v **Jackie Gill**, **Mark Canny** and **Brian Poller**.



SATURDAY 6 MAY

Concurrent Sessions

Time: 2:45pm – 3:45pm

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

Page turners and cliff-hangers

Sara Foster and **Garry Disher** reveal how they entice their readers into plots full of twists and turns, hidden secrets and ramped up tension. They speak with **Moira McKinnon**.

A poem begins in delight and ends in wisdom (Robert Frost)

Felix Cheong, **Meg McKinlay** and **Leah Kaminsky** discuss the significance of poetry in today's society with **Veronica Lake**.

A photographic life

Time: 2.45pm – 3.45pm

Venue: Geraldton Art Gallery

Presenter: **Frances Andrijich**

Join one of Australia's finest photographers, Frances Andrijich, as she talks about her diverse portfolio and the techniques she uses to capture her amazing images.

Big Sky Little Stories

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Bootenal Family Tavern

Presenter: **Andrea Gibbs**

Ticketed event: \$42

Please book and pay at the library. Bus departs from Library carpark at 6pm. No BYO.

Comedian, ABC radio presenter and co-creator of Barefaced Stories, Andrea Gibbs and some talented local people will captivate the audience as they share their unique stories in this historical setting. Ticket price includes a delicious two-course meal.

Big Sky Feast

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Salt Dish Café

Presenters: **David Hunt** and **Hannie Rayson**

Ticketed event: \$100

Please book and pay at the Library. No BYO

Our hosts Csaba and Natasha have planned a very special three course meal which will be accompanied by sparkling wine on arrival, followed by white and red wine and a choice of beers. Between courses, David Hunt and Hannie Rayson will delight the audience with tales about their writing as well as their lives.

Q and A: The mystery of life and death

Time: 9:30am – 10:30am

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

Leah Kaminsky, Garry Disher, Mark Greenwood and **Sara Foster** in conversation with **Anita Kirkbright**.

Concurrent Sessions

Time: 11:00am – 12:00noon

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

Truth is stranger than fiction

Leah Kaminsky and **Hannie Rayson** reflect on experiences and stories that have inspired their work. With **Sue Chiera**.

Nose Pixies and Wandering Houses

Capturing the imaginations of young readers and parents. **David Hunt** and **Meg McKinlay** with **Lorraine Chapman**.

I still call Australia home

Illustrator **Frané Lessac** and photographer **Frances Andrijich** have travelled the world, but their hearts lie in Australia, as may be seen in their latest books. With **Emmaline James**.

Literary Lunch

Time: 1.00pm

Venue: Lavender Valley Farm

MC: **Malcolm Smith**

Readings: **Sara Foster, Mark Greenwood, David Hunt**

Ticketed event: \$60

Please book and pay at the Library. BYO.

Travel out to the picturesque Chapman Valley and join the writers for lunch at the Lavender Valley Farm, where a three course buffet meal will be served, followed by tea and coffee.

The venue is not licensed, so please bring your own alcohol.



BIOGRAPHIES

Meg McKinlay

Meg McKinlay is a children's writer and poet whose work ranges from picture books, chapter books and young adult fiction through to poetry for adults. She has published 13 books, with her most recent titles being *Bella and the Wandering House*, which was a CBCA Notable Book, and *A Single Stone*, which won the Prime Minister's Literary Awards (Young Adult category) and the children's books category of both the Queensland Literary Awards and the Aurealis Awards. Meg grew up in Central Victoria and now lives in Fremantle.



Mark Greenwood

Mark Greenwood's award winning books have been published and honoured internationally. Award winning titles include *Simpson and His Donkey* and *Jandamarra*, illustrated by Terry Denton. Their recent collaboration is *Boomerang and Bat*, the story of the real first eleven. Mark also collaborates with his wife, illustrator Frané Lessac to produce books such as, *Outback Adventure*, *Our Big Island*, *The Mayflower* and *Midnight – the story of a light horse*. In 2017 Mark will celebrate the release of the first four books in his new series, *History Mysteries*.



Leah Kaminsky

Leah Kaminsky, a physician and award-winning writer, is Poetry & Fiction Editor at the *Medical Journal of Australia*. She was awarded the 2016 Voss Literary Prize for her debut novel *The Waiting Room* (2015). *We're all Going to Die*, Leah's joyful book about death was released in June 2016. Leah also conceived and edited *Writer MD* (2012) and is co-author of *Cracking the Code* (2015). Leah holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts.



Garry Disher

Garry Disher has published almost 50 titles—fiction, children's books, anthologies, textbooks, the Wyatt thrillers and the Mornington Peninsula mysteries. He has won numerous awards, including the German Crime Prize (twice) and two Ned Kelly Best Crime novel awards, for *Chain of Evidence* (2007) and *Wyatt* (2010). Garry's latest novel, *Signal Loss*, was published by Text in November 2016. Garry lives on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula.



BIOGRAPHIES

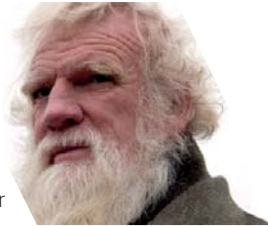
Frances Andrijich

Frances Andrijich is one of Australia's finest photographers. Her extraordinary images: whether captured in the townships of South Africa, the Croatian countryside or Indonesian slums, have earned her a growing national and international reputation. Frances is the recipient of numerous awards, has published 11 books and is a contributing photographer for five others. Her work has graced magazines, books and campaigns in Australia and around the world, including *Good Weekend*, *Australian Geographic*, *Halliday Magazine*, *Gourmet Traveller* and *Wine Decanter* (New York & London Editions).



Bruce Pascoe

Bruce Pascoe is a Bunurong, Tasmanian and Yuin man who lives in a secret bay called Gipsy Point in Victoria. He is a prolific writer and has written more than 30 books. In 2016, Bruce's most recent non-fiction book, *Dark Emu* (2014) won the Book of the Year and Indigenous Writer's Prize in the NSW Premier's Literary Awards. Bruce is currently writing a screenplay for children's television and fashioning a novel set in Mongolia.



Sara Foster

Sara Foster is the bestselling author of five psychological suspense novels: *The Hidden Hours* (to be published April 2017), *All That is Lost Between Us*, *Shallow Breath*, *Beneath the Shadows* and *Come Back to Me*. Her books have been published in Australia, the US and Germany.

Sara lives in Western Australia with her husband and two young daughters, and is a doctoral candidate at Curtin University. Find out more at www.sarafoster.com.au



Hannie Rayson

Hannie is a graduate of the University of Melbourne and the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA). She holds an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from La Trobe University. Her award winning plays have been performed extensively around Australia and overseas. *Life after George* was the first play ever to be nominated for the prestigious Miles Franklin Award. Hannie adapted her memoir, *Hello Beautiful!* (Text 2015) for a one-woman show, also called *Hello Beautiful!* which is currently touring Australia. She also writes for television, magazines and newspapers.



BIOGRAPHIES

David Hunt

David Hunt is a writer, satirist and historian. His book *Girt: The Unauthorised History of Australia*, won the 2014 Australian Independent Booksellers (Indie) Award for Best Non-Fiction Book. *True Girt, volume 2 of The Unauthorised History of Australia*, was published in November 2016. He has also written for newspapers, co-presents the Australian history podcast *Rum, Rebels & Ratbags* and has appeared regularly on ABC Radio shows. David's debut children's picture book, *The Nose Pixies*, is out now and a second picture book will be published in 2017.



Felix Cheong

Felix Cheong is the author of 11 books, including four volumes of poetry and a collection of short stories, *Vanishing Point*. His latest, *Singapore Siu Dai*, is a trilogy of flash fiction stories satirising life, politics and mannerisms of the Lion City. Conferred the Young Artist of the Year for Literature in 2000 by the National Arts Council, he was named by *Readers Digest* as the 29th Most Trusted Singaporean in 2010. Cheong is currently an adjunct lecturer with Murdoch University, University of Newcastle and LASALLE College of the Arts.



Andrea Gibbs

Andrea Gibbs presents 'Weekends With Andrea Gibbs' on ABC digital radio across Australia and is the co-creator of *Barefaced Stories*, Australia's longest running storytelling show of its kind. She has been a guest speaker at TEDxPerth and *Women of Letters*, is a core member of *The Big HOO-HAA!* and in 2003 won Triple J's Raw Comedy State Final. As an actor, Andrea has most recently been seen in *Is This Thing On?* by Zoe Coombs-Marr and Ben Elton's new feature film *Three Summers*. www.andreagibbs.com @andreagibbs



Frané Lessac

Frané Lessac was born in the USA and lived in the Caribbean and London before moving to Australia. She attended film school in California before turning to painting and publishing. She is a talented artist, author and illustrator, having created beautiful illustrations for more than 40 books. Frané and her husband, Mark Greenwood, have collaborated on many projects. The many countries she visits continue to provide a major influence for Frané's art and books. Her latest titles published are: *Pattan's Pumpkin* and *A is for Australian Animals*.



BIOGRAPHIES

Glyn Parry

Glyn Parry was born in the north-east of England. He grew up in the town where Billy Elliott was filmed. When he was 12 he came to Australia to live and was encouraged to write.

In 1992 *LA Postcards* was published to critical acclaim.

Since then there have been nine other books for teenagers and children: *Monster Man*, *Radical Take-offs*, *Mosh*, *Stoked!*, *Sad Boys*, *Scooterboy*, *Spooking the Cows*, *Harry & Luke* and *Invisible Girl*. His first novel for adults, *Ocean Road*, was published in 2007. Glyn is the Librarian at Geraldton Senior College.



Lorraine Chapman

Lorraine Chapman is a primary school teacher at the best little school in the whole world, Chapman Valley. She loves teaching kids, her sausage dogs and the adventure of writing.

Lorraine is the president of Geraldton's own writing group, Writers of the Coral Coast. "It is inspiring and exciting to meet with a group of writers, particularly when we all tackle the same writing exercise and see where the writing journey takes each one".



Grant Woodhams

A former Speaker of the Western Australian Parliament, Woodhams retired from politics in early 2013 after two terms in the Legislative Assembly. Prior to that he had a long career with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation working in most States of Australia on both radio and television.

Woodhams is also a passionate advocate for tertiary education in Geraldton and is a Board member of the Geraldton Universities Centre.



Malcolm Smith

Malcolm Smith spent most of his working life in the media with News Limited. He has managed newspapers in most states of Australia, including Geraldton Newspapers, and Great Northern Broadcasters from 1997. He facilitated the sale of that organization in 2005 and became the Regional Manager of the Mid West Small Business Centre. Malcolm was chair of The Governing Council of Durack Institute of Technology, (Tafe) for eight years, and is currently chair of the WA Museum Geraldton Advisory Committee.



LOCATIONS & CONTACTS



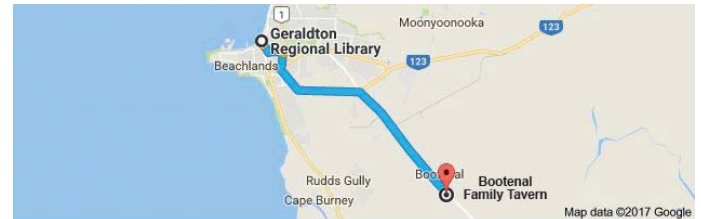
1 MINUTE (16.0m) via Marine Tce



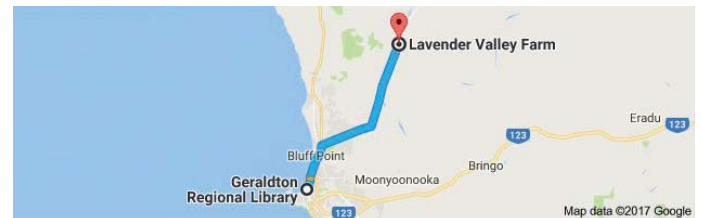
1 MINUTE (270.0m) via Marine Tce & Durlacher St



6 MINUTES (2.2km) via Durlacher St



17 MINUTES (17.2km) via Geraldton-Mount Magnet Rd/
State Route 123 & Edward Rd



22 MINUTES (24.2km) via Chapman Valley Rd

LOCATIONS & CONTACTS

Geraldton Regional Library

37 Marine Terrace, Geraldton(08) 9956 6659

Geraldton Regional Art Gallery

24 Chapman Road, Geraldton(08) 9956 6750

Geraldton Universities Centre

33 Onslow Street, Geraldton(08) 9920 4400

Salt Dish Cafe

35 Marine Terrace, Geraldton(08) 9964 6030

Bootenal Family Tavern

Cnr Edward & Bootenal Road, Bootenal(08) 9923 3707

Lavender Valley Farm

1852 Chapman Valley Road, Narra Tarra..(08) 9920 5469



Co-op Bookshop (pop up)

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

Saturday: 8.30am - 4pm

Sunday: 8.30am - 12.30pm



Taste Budds will be providing a variety of tasty treats on site at the Geraldton Universities Centre



Get your coffee fix from the **Yard Bar** which will also be on site



library.cgg.wa.gov.au