

Big Sky

READERS & WRITERS
FESTIVAL 30 SEPT - 3 OCT 2021

WEAVE YOUR MAGIC



An initiative of

City of
Greater Geraldton
a vibrant future



OUR PARTNERS



Department of **Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries**
Department of **Primary Industries and Regional Development**



City of **Greater Geraldton**
a vibrant future



**Anne & Kim
Pedlow**

*Friends
of the
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Arbitare



**The
Geraldton
Project**



WAM MUSEUM OF GERALDTON



euphorium

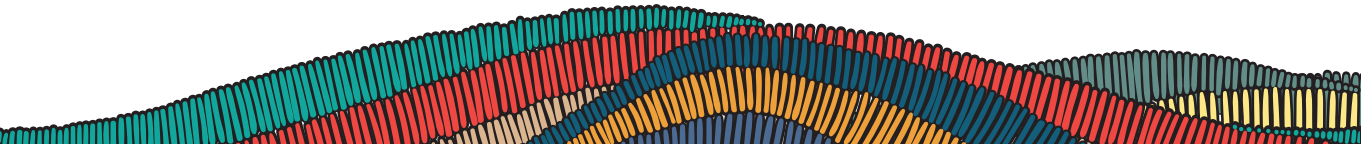
*Writers of
the
Coral Coast
Bringing Geraldton's
writers together*



*Weelaway
on Gregory*



We would like to respectfully acknowledge the Yamatji Peoples who are the Traditional Owners and First People of the land on which we stand. The Nhanhagardi, Wilunyu, Naaguja. We would like to pay our respect to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of the Yamatji Peoples.



WELCOME TO BIG SKY 2021

WEAVE YOUR MAGIC

Warmly we welcome old friends and new to join us for Big Sky 2021.

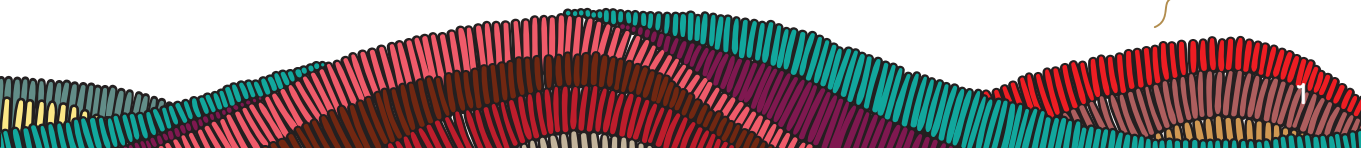
The Festival returns from 30 September – 3 October with an exciting line-up of both West Australian and local talent. Interlaced amongst our guests are writers, artists, thinkers and inspired creatives. Big Sky continues to evolve with the times, exploring creativity and expression, whilst having a fabulous time doing so.

Our theme for 2021 “Weave Your Magic” celebrates connectivity, the threads that bind us, and the warp and the weft of what it is that reading, writing and artistic endeavours bring to our lives.

Our sincere thanks to our partners and supporters for helping bring this special event to our regional community, with something in the programme for everyone!

See you in Geraldton.

Trudi Cornish
Manager Libraries, Heritage and Gallery
City of Greater Geraldton

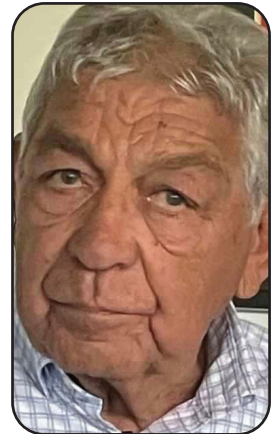




Stella Budrikis



Peteris Ciemitis



Bill Dempsey



Robert Drewe



Steve Hawke



Brigid Lowry



Fiona Palmer



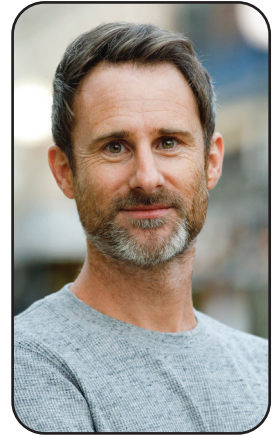
Dr Glyn Parry



Amanda Rowland



Rosie Sitorus



Craig Silvey



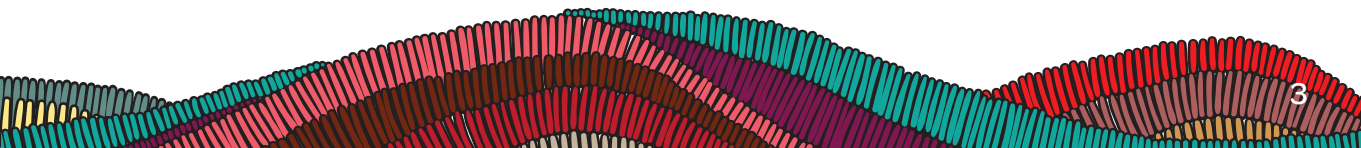
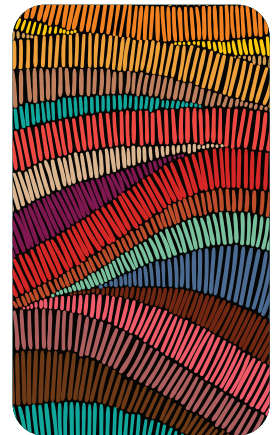
Steve Twartz



Sasha Wasley



Campbell Whyte





How to Book Your Tickets

All events (both free and paid) are ticketed.

Tickets are booked via Eventbrite at

<https://library.cgg.wa.gov.au/big-sky-2021-tickets.aspx>

Please note tickets move fast.

No BYO at any events.

Booking/Programme Enquiries:

Geraldton Regional Library
37 Marine Terrace, Geraldton.

Ph: (08) 9956 6659.

Email: library@cgg.wa.gov.au

PRE-FESTIVAL EVENTS

Friends of Geraldton Library (FOGL) Second Hand Book Sale

Date: Saturday, 18 September

Time: 9am - 12pm

Venue: QEII Centre, 88 Durlacher Street

FOGL is a dedicated group of volunteers who fundraise to assist Library projects. Grab a bargain! Support local recycling by giving these second-hand items a new home.



Oral History Morning The Magic of Music

Date: Tuesday, 28 September

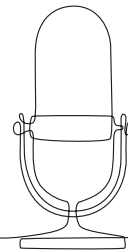
Time: 10am - 11.30am

Venue: Geraldton Regional Library

Tickets: FREE event (*booking details pg4*)

Includes morning tea

Join local music enthusiast Marilyn McLeod in conversation with mystery special guests who share a passion for the musical landscape of the Mid West Region. Come along, reminisce and enjoy sharing in fond memories.



ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Craft Session

Kid's Weaving

Date: Thursday, 30 September

Time: 10.30am - 12pm

Venue: Geraldton Regional Library

Age: Suitable for ages 8 - 12yrs

Tickets: \$6 (*booking details pg4*)

Craft your magic and create a unique piece using weaving techniques with Kristen Hogue.



Twilight Storytime

Date: Friday, 1 October

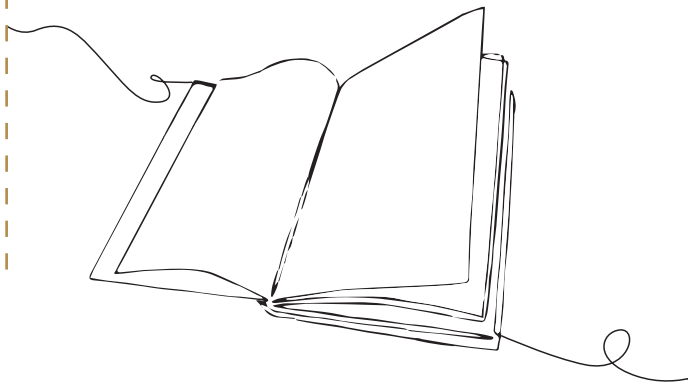
Time: 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Venue: Geraldton Regional Library

Age: Suitable for ages 3 - 6yrs

Tickets: FREE event (*booking details pg4*)

Come dressed in your pyjamas and slippers ready to listen to stories, sing songs and rhymes. Get your twinkle toes ready for some dancing too!



ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Kid's Footy Clinic

Date: Friday, 1 October

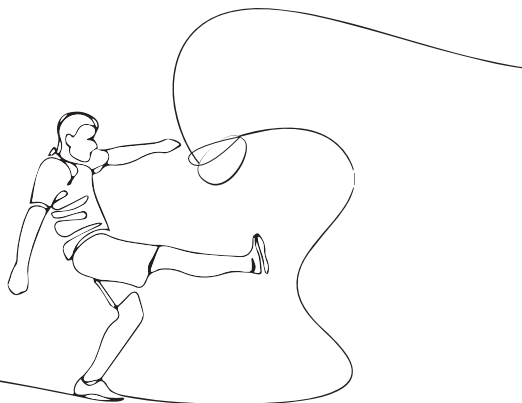
Time: 10am - 11.30am

Venue: Stow Gardens, Geraldton Foreshore

Age: Suitable for ages 9yrs +

Tickets: FREE event (*booking details pg4*)

Join the fun of a skills workshop down at the Foreshore. Meet footy legend Bill Dempsey and grab some tips! Bill is a former Premiership Captain who played over 400 games in 20 seasons in Perth and the Northern Territory, and a member of the AFL's Indigenous Team of the Century. Together Bill and his mate, author Steve Hawke, have recently published Bill's memoir, "*The Boy from Birdum*".



Act Belong Commit Comic Making Workshops

with Campbell Whyte

Date: Friday 1 & Saturday 2 October

Time: 10am - 11.30am & 12.30pm - 2pm

Venue: Rocks Laneway, Geraldton

Age: Suitable for ages 8yrs +

Tickets: FREE event (*booking details pg4*)

Join Perth-based comics-maker Campbell Whyte, creator of the award-winning graphic novel series *Home Time*, as he runs you through the process of making your very own comic. From generating ideas, essential skills, as well as storytelling tips and tricks, this workshop will give you the knowledge to step out and tell your very own stories, by writing with pictures and drawing with words.

POST OFFICE LANE
LIGHTBOX
GALLERY

Check out
Campbell
Whyte's work in
the Post Office
Lane Lightbox
Gallery
(2 September -
29 October).



THURSDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

Opening Night

Time: 6pm - 8pm

Venue: Geraldton Regional Library

Tickets: FREE event (*booking details pg4*)

Hosted by MC Peter Fiorenza

Get your Festival started! Come along and celebrate the opening of Big Sky 2021. Meet our special guests, while enjoying live music and light refreshments.

Short Story Prize

Congratulations to all our entrants in the 2021 Big Sky Short Story Prize! Stories have been received from across the Midwest. The Judges Short List will be released on 8 September and the Prize Winners announced at the Festival Opening Night, 30 September. First prize wins \$500 plus VIP access to Festival Events.

WORKSHOPS - FRIDAY 1 OCTOBER

Getting Unstuck

presented by Sasha Wasley

Time: 9.30am - 11am

Venue: Geraldton Regional Library

Tickets: \$35 (*booking details pg4*)

Includes morning tea

Do your stories have boring beginnings, muddled middles or flailing finishes? Sasha will take you through all the ways writers can get stuck and how to get untangled. Includes plot mapping and 'beats', unplotting and character dissection, strategies for unsticking your story and troubleshooting your narrative.

Juicy Writing

presented by Brigid Lowry

Time: 12.30pm - 2pm

Venue: Geraldton Regional Library

Tickets: \$35 (*booking details pg4*)

Includes afternoon tea

Are you a budding poet, thinking of writing a memoir or an everyday person keen to explore your world with words, in wild and juicy ways? This workshop will expand your creativity in both your writing and your life. Come prepared to play, listen, share, experiment, laugh, cry, dream, and most of all to write.

FRIDAY 1 OCTOBER

AUTHOR TALKS

MULLEWA

Fiona Palmer and Steve Twartz in conversation with Linda Liem

Time: 10am - 11.30am

Venue: Mullewa District Office, Cnr Thomas & Padbury Streets, Mullewa

Tickets: FREE event (*booking details pg4*)

Includes book signing and morning tea

Love a good tale about salt of the earth characters? Fiona Palmer and Steve Twartz will be in conversation with Linda Liem.

CHAPMAN VALLEY

Steve Hawke in conversation with Susan Smith

Time: 10am - 11.30am

Venue: Chapman Valley Heritage Centre, Nanson

Tickets: FREE event (*booking details pg4*)

Includes book signing and morning tea

Hawke grew up in Melbourne, then lived in the Kimberley for many years before settling in the Perth hills. He has written plays, novels, biographies and social histories. Most recently Steve has published "The Boy from Birdum" – the memoir of legendary Aboriginal footballer, Bill Dempsey.



FRIDAY 1 OCTOBER

CONVERSATIONS ON THE COUCH

Exploring Gender Norms Over Time: Weaving New Ways of Understanding

Craig Silvey and Stella Budrikis, in conversation with Sandra Carr MLC

Time: 10am - 11.30am

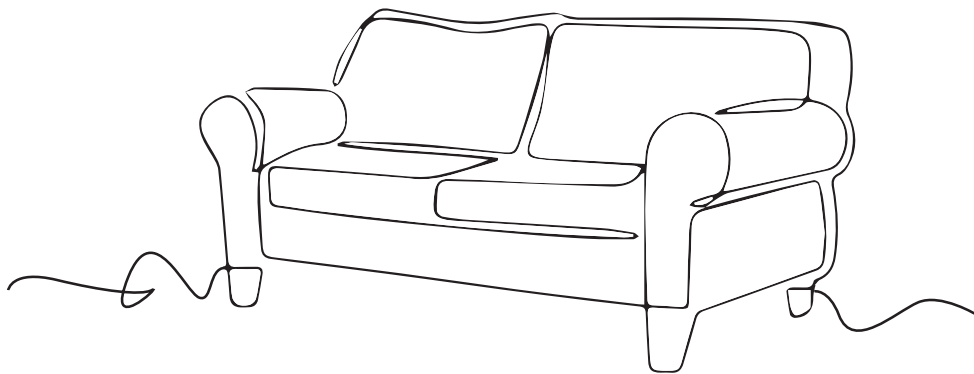
Venue: 75 Mitchell Street Community Centre, Spalding

Tickets: FREE event (*booking details pg4*)

Includes book signing and morning tea

Craig Silvey's book *Honeybee* is a compassionate tale about overcoming trauma to find family and self-acceptance narrated by a trans-child. Stella Budrikis' book retraces the infamous 'baby farm' tragedy that gripped the City of Perth in 1907, and led to legislative changes to protect children's welfare. Have you ever thought about how peoples' lives and life choices have been shaped by societal expectations of gender norms and stereotypes over time? In this discussion, Sandra Carr will delve into questions to explore how class, race and power structures impact on how we embody and experience gender.

Presented in partnership with the WA Centre for Rural Health



FRIDAY 1 OCTOBER

EXHIBITION OPENING NIGHT

Indian Ocean Craft Triennial goes *BLUE* at GRAG *The Past Stops Now*

Time: 6pm - 8pm

Venue: Geraldton Regional Art Gallery

Tickets: FREE event (*booking details pg4*)

The Past Stops Now

Retrospective

Peteris (Peter) Ciemitis

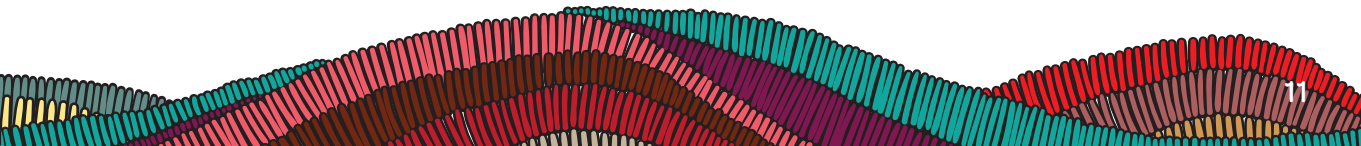
Ciemitis is a West Coast artist who has exhibited widely both in WA and internationally. Ciemitis has been shortlisted in the prestigious Archibald Prize twice and was the winner of the Black Swan Prize for Portraiture in 2010 (now called The Lester Prize).

BLUE: An IOTA21 Exhibition

Craft provides a tangible response to our times and engagement with a wide range of materials. Join Mid West community groups including Yamaji Art and Geraldton Knitwits to celebrate the launch of this exciting Community Craft Project.



Dave Hole, Peteris Ciemitis, 2008



SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Robert Drewe

Time: 9.15am - 10am

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

Tickets: FREE event (*booking details pg4*)

Concurrent Session 1

Time: 10.30am - 11.30am

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

Tickets: FREE event (*booking details pg4*)

Back to the Beginning

Craig Silvey, in conversation with Dr Glyn Parry

A chance meeting between teenager Craig Silvey and popular young people's author, Glyn Parry, sparked the beginnings of an amazing mentorship, which would launch the writing career of Silvey and lay the foundations for a lifetime friendship.

Time: 10.30am - 11.30am

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

Tickets: FREE event (*booking details pg4*)

The Boy from Birdum

Bill Dempsey and Steve Hawke, in conversation with Grant Woodhams

A memoir of the remarkable life of champion footballer Bill Dempsey, as captured by WA author Steve Hawke. Bill is a premiership captain who played over 400 games in 20 seasons in Perth and the Northern Territory, and a member of the AFL's Indigenous Team of the Century, his record and his achievements compare with the very best. Born in the shadow of Japanese bombing raids in 1942, Bill overcame challenges growing up as a stolen child to become a trailblazer as an Aboriginal entrepreneur through the 80s.

SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER

Concurrent Session 1 (cont)

Time: 10.30am - 11.30am

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

Tickets: FREE event (*booking details pg4*)

True Crime and Difficult History

Stella Budrikis and Steve Twartz, in conversation with Trudi Cornish

Consider the stories of both real life and fictional heroes and villains and how these force us to acknowledge the troubling and dark side of humankind.

Time: 10.30am - 11.30am

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

Tickets: FREE event (*booking details pg4*)

Falling in Love With Life

Fiona Palmer, Brigid Lowry and Sasha Wasley, in conversation with Linda Liem

A self-professed car racing enthusiast, a nature lover and farming wannabe, and a zen student unite to chat about modern self-love and care. How has the kindness we show to ourselves evolved with time, maturity and the addition of children? Join us for a conversation about nurturing ourselves, inside and out.

WORKSHOP

Bush Basket Weaving

with Glenda Blyth

Time: 12pm - 3pm

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

Tickets: \$20 (*booking details pg4*)

Learn basket weaving using local bush materials. Join local creative Glenda Blyth (Basketcase Lady) for this special session where you will create your own bush basket. All materials provided.



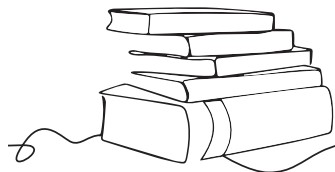
SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER

POP-UP BOOKSHOP

Time: 9am - 3.30pm

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

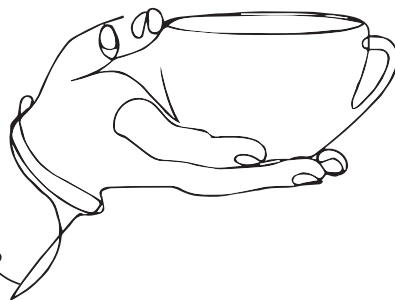
Book signing 11.30am - 12.30pm



FOOD FOR THOUGHT CAFÉ

Open: 8.45am - 2.30pm

Delicious light refreshments, tea/coffee on sale at the Geraldton Universities Centre



SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER

Concurrent Session 2

Time: 12.30pm - 1.30pm

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

Tickets: FREE event (*booking details pg4*)

The Great Debate

Guest and local writers, comedians, raconteur's go head to head in "The Great Debate". Come and see your favourite debaters masterfully navigate tricky topics, utilise cunning wordplay and occasionally forget which team they are supposed to be arguing for. Full line up and topic to be announced in the lead up to the festival.

Time: 12.30pm - 2pm

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

Tickets: FREE event (*booking details pg4*)

Sounds of Stories

Curated by Rosie Sitorus

This session will be an intimate exploration of the lives of Geraldton locals, telling their stories in an immersive audiovisual experience. *Sounds of Stories* will shine a light into the quiet, unexplored corners of life and cultivate a sense of wonder about the thriving community of Geraldton.

Time: 12.30pm - 1.30pm

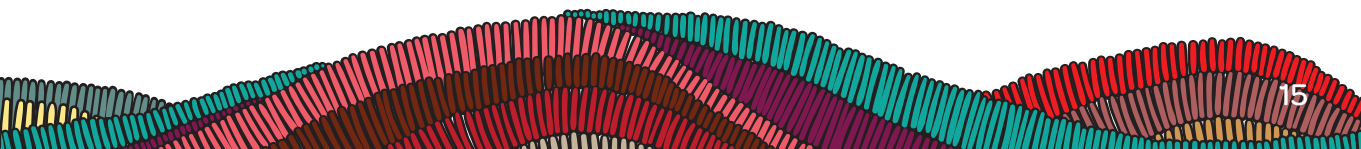
Venue: Geraldton Regional Art Gallery

Tickets: FREE event (*booking details pg4*)

Artist Floor Talk

with Peter Ciemitis

The work of Ciemitis has been defined as contemporary expressionism, described by one of Australia's pre-eminent Festival Directors Robyn Archer as "landscape(s) of humanity rather than an objective portrait or individual study".



SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER

Concurrent Session 3

Time: 2pm - 3pm

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

Tickets: FREE event (*booking details pg4*)

Home Grown

proudly presented by Writers of the Coral Coast

Let's hear it for the Locals! Celebrate Geraldton's talent as a selection of local writers showcase their creativity, in conversation with Festival special guest, Dr Glyn Parry.

Time: 2pm - 3pm

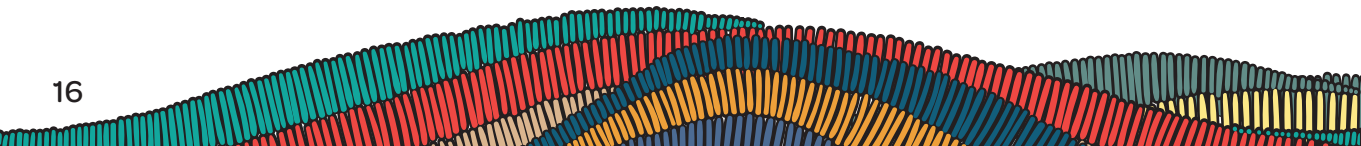
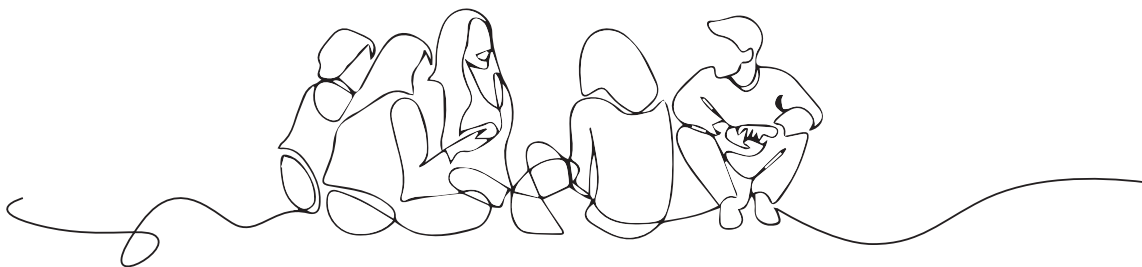
Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

Tickets: FREE event (*booking details pg4*)

Nature Speak

Workshop with Amanda Rowland

Bringing non-indigenous people back into relationship with the land is a process that involves shifting from an industrial, mechanical mindset to an earth-centred reality. How do we embrace the language needed to support this paradigm shift? For many of us, entanglement and connection with complex ecological systems begins in the garden.



SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER

Stow: Readings at Old Hadleigh House

with special guest Brigid Lowry

Time: 3.30pm - 5pm

Venue: Weelaway on Gregory,
104 Gregory Street, Geraldton

Tickets: FREE event (*booking details pg4*)

Includes afternoon tea

Join us at the historic Weelaway Cottage (former Hadleigh House) for a home-open and afternoon of readings, poetry and art, as local creatives explore and share their responses to the literature of Randolph Stow. Explore this lovely heritage home and gardens and learn more about its special connection to Stow.

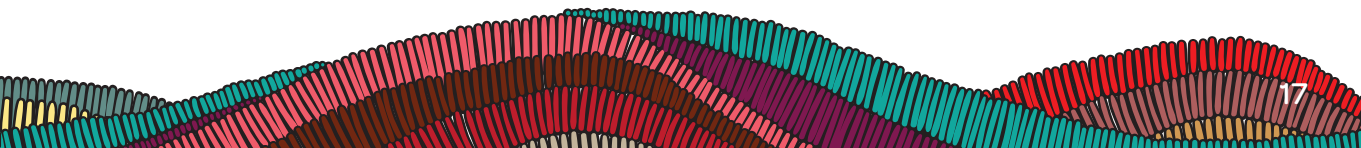
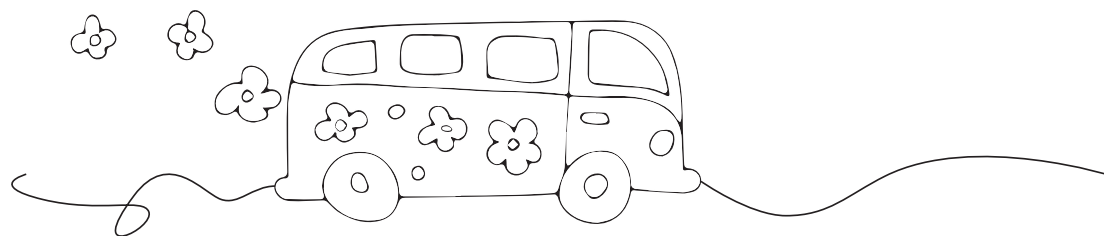
Woodstock Time Travel Party

Time: 6.30pm - 9.30pm

Venue: Queens Park Theatre Foyer

Tickets: \$35 (*booking details pg4*)

Think Quiz Night meets Writers Festival and weave your way back through time to 1969! Come dressed as your favourite 1960s icon. Join our Big Sky special guests along with the team from Euphorium, on this fun night of wacky activities and challenges. Light refreshments provided. Bar available.



SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER

Literary Brunch

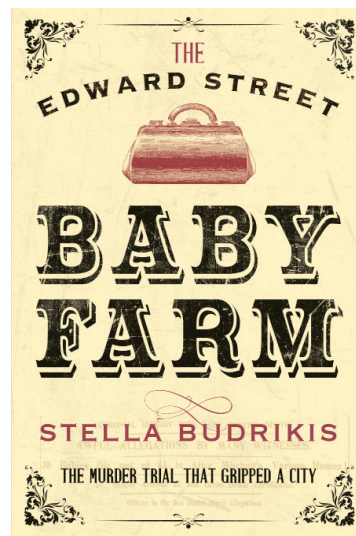
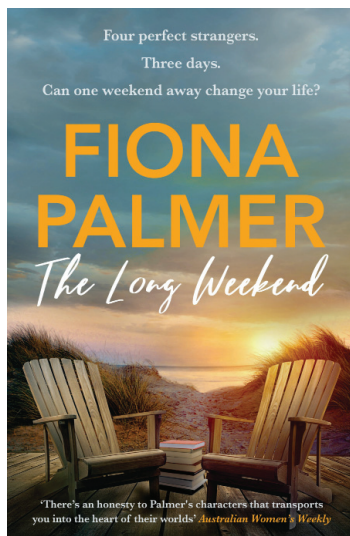
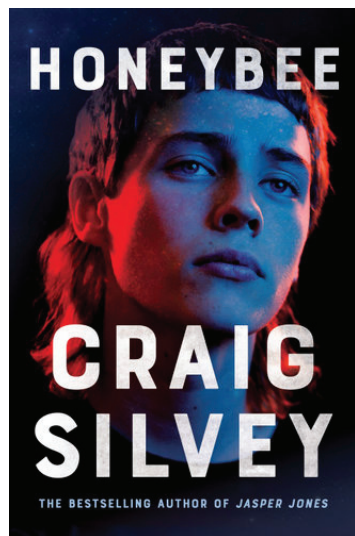
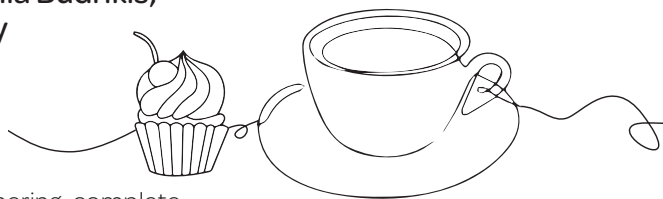
Craig Silvey, Fiona Palmer and Stella Budrikis,
in conversation with Sasha Wasley

Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm

Venue: Geraldton Regional Library

Tickets: \$40 (*booking details pg4*)

Finish off your Festival with a delightful gathering, complete with readings, delicious light brunch and interactive audience participation. Includes book signing and door prizes.



SPECIAL GUESTS



**Stella
Budrikis**

Stella Budrikis completed high school in Albany then trained at the UWA medical school. For several years she and her husband were in general practice in Goomalling. She began writing articles for publication when her two daughters were in primary school. After retiring from medical practice, she published her first book in 2017.



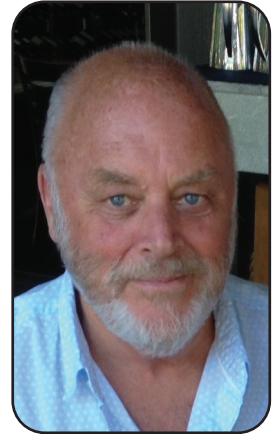
**Peteris
Ciemitis**

Peteris (Peter) Ciemitis is an Australian artist noted for his contemporary portraiture and landscapes. His work has been defined as contemporary expressionism and described as “landscape(s) of humanity rather than an objective portrait or individual study”. He was winner of the Black Swan Prize for Portraiture in 2010 and has twice been a finalist in the Archibald Prize.



**Bill
Dempsey**

Bill Dempsey was born in Birdum, Northern Territory. At the age of 3 he was placed in Retta Dixon Mission, Darwin. Bill attended school in Darwin and was recruited to play for West Perth Football Club. During his football career Bill started Dempsey Day Scaffolding Company, later also working as a Project Manager for Aboriginal Housing, specifically in the Kimberley Region.



**Robert
Drewe**

Robert Drewe's novels, short stories and memoirs have won national and international prizes, been widely translated, and adapted for film, television, radio and theatre. He grew up on the WA coast, the setting for his memoirs *The Shark Net* and *Montebello*. A Walkley award-winning journalist, he has also earned a Commonwealth Writers' Prize, and the Colin Roderick Prize for the best Australian book of 2018.

SPECIAL GUESTS



**Steve
Hawke**

Steve Hawke grew up in Melbourne, then lived in the Kimberley for many years before settling in the Perth hills. He has worked with Kimberley Indigenous communities and organisations for over forty years. He has written plays, novels, a children's novel, biographies and social histories.



**Brigid
Lowry**

Brigid Lowry has an MA in Creative Writing, and is the author of many prize-winning YA books. Her adult titles are *Still Life With Teapot: On Zen, Writing and Creativity* and *A Year of Loving Kindness to Myself and Other Essays*. Brigid believes in op shops, coloured pencils and floral frocks, and in fostering joy and creativity in herself and others.



**Fiona
Palmer**

Fiona Palmer spends her days writing, working as a farmhand, volunteering and caring for her two teenage children in the tiny rural community of Pingaring, 350km from Perth. Fiona's books contain engaging storylines, emotions and hearty characters. Her novels are consistently Top 10 national bestsellers and some translated into German. She loves to surf, welding and also races speedway.



**Dr Glyn
Parry**

Glyn Parry is no stranger to our shores. His earliest novels were written here, and the song of the sea is never far away. A festival treasure, he disarms adults and children alike with his love of story and gracious responses. This will be his only appearance in 2021.

SPECIAL GUESTS



Amanda Rowland

Amanda Rowland trained as a Fine Arts student in Melbourne and practised as an artist (sculptor) for over 20 years. Living in the Southern Rangelands inspired the podcast series www.soilandhumanhealth.com, an ongoing investigation of our agricultural and pastoral practises through the lens of human and ecosystem health.



Craig Silvey

Craig Silvey is an author and screenwriter from Fremantle, Western Australia. His critically acclaimed debut novel, *Rhubarb*, was published in 2004. His bestselling second novel, *Jasper Jones*, was released in 2009 and is considered a modern Australian classic, winning plaudits in three continents. *Honeybee* is his third novel.



Rosie Sitorus

Rosie Sitorus is a linguist, writer and musician based in Geraldton, WA. Her professional and personal creative practice focuses on sharing knowledge and experiences through storytelling and is always looking for new ways to do this. Rosie splits her time between managing the regional Aboriginal language centre, writing songs with Thiinma elder Peter Salmon, and tending to the whims of her dogs.



Stephen Twartz

Stephen Twartz is an author and artist, sixth/seventh generation Australian, with Irish/English/German heritage. He has worked as a biologist, geologist, engineer and environmental manager over many years across four continents, based in Western Australia, currently residing in Dunsborough.

SPECIAL GUESTS



Sasha Wasley

Sasha Wasley was born and raised in Perth, Western Australia and is an author of contemporary fiction. She has completed a PhD in feminist theory and loves nature, Jane Austen and puns. She also writes young adult and mystery as SD Wasley. She lives in the Perth hills region with her family, surrounded by dogs, cats and chickens.



Campbell Whyte

Campbell Whyte creates comics and illustrations, mixing traditional media with digital elements. His graphic novel series, *Home Time* is a distinctly Australian fantasy series set in Perth that has been met with critical acclaim. When not making comics, he teaches comic making at the Milktooth: Children's School of Art and Stories.

MODERATORS



Linda Liem

Is a journalist, digital content creator, and moderator. She's culturally knowledgeable, is gently geared towards neoteric conversations, and possesses a work ethic of an ox.



Lorraine Chapman

Is a primary school teacher who loves teaching creative writing to 6 year olds, 96 years old and anyone in between. I also love being the president of Writers of the Coral Coast.



Peter Fiorenza

is a locally born and bred lad, a City councillor, he loves Geraldton and it's people. Peter has been a teacher at Nagle Catholic College for twenty years.



Sandra Carr MLC

is the Member for the Agricultural Region and is a passionate advocate for community wellbeing. Equity, respect and social welfare are key concerns that drive her work.

MODERATORS



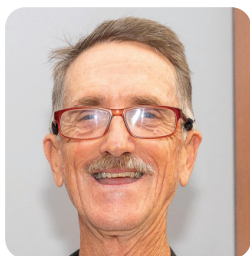
Susan Smith

Susan, former manager of Geraldton Library, and director of eight Big Sky Festivals, is an avid reader of fiction. She walks and swims most days and is devoted to her garden.



Trudi Cornish

has worked in Local and State Government for the last 30 years and is the Manager Libraries, Heritage and Gallery at the City of Greater Geraldton. Trudi is a keen local historian.



Grant Woodhams

lives in Geraldton and is studying for a Masters in Fine Arts - Writing. Not surprisingly his interests are reading and writing. Other interests include walking, football (all codes) and motor cycle and sidecar racing.

FESTIVAL TEAM

Our special thanks to all our team members (staff and volunteers) who have worked so hard to make this Festival a success!

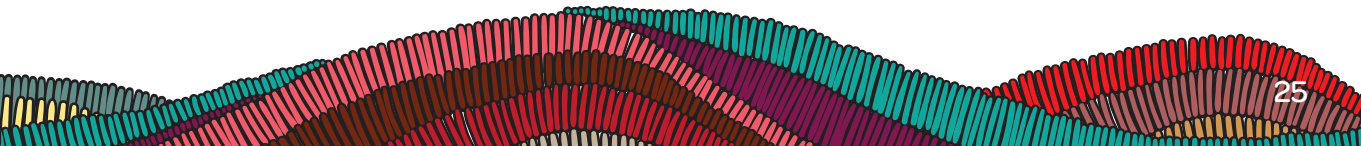
Trudi Cornish, Jenni Hargrave, Lorin Cox, Joanne Morgan, Holly Auld, Keely Grieve, Marina Baker, Annette Burton, Shauni Norman, Lily Valdez, Deb Barnett, Sharon Sorensen, Hannah Mahoney, Ayrah Mabitad, Silvia Borracci, Esper Windsor, Diane McDonald, Kaitlin Ajduk, Marnie Facchini, Lydia Young, Cassandra Young, Codie Henville, Glenda Blyth, Kristen Hogue, Jackie Gill, Euphorium Team, Monica Moran, Erin Middleton, Marilyn McLeod

FESTIVAL VENUES

- **Geraldton Regional Library,**
37 Marine Terrace, Geraldton
- **Geraldton Universities Centre,**
33 Onslow Street, Geraldton
- **Mullewa District Office**
Cnr Thomas and Padbury Sts, Mullewa
- **Mitchell Street Community Centre**
75 Mitchell St, Spalding
- **Chapman Valley Heritage Centre**
100 East Tce, Nanson
- **Geraldton Regional Art Gallery**
24 Chapman Rd, Geraldton
- **Weelaway on Gregory**
104 Gregory St, Geraldton
- **Queens Park Theatre**
Cnr Cathedral Ave & Maitland St, Geraldton
- **Rocks Laneway**
Marine Tce, Geraldton
- **Stow Gardens**
Geraldton Foreshore (adjacent to Geraldton Multipurpose Centre)

BIG SKY 2020 HIGHLIGHTS





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City of
Greater Geraldton
a vibrant future

