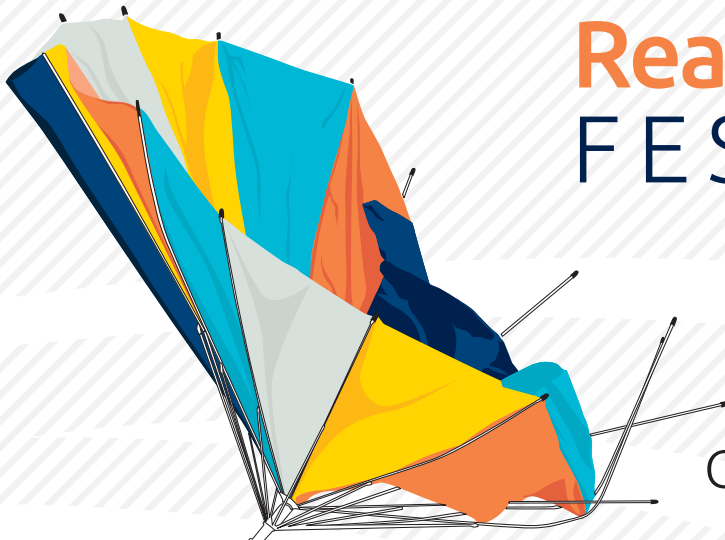


BIG SKY

Readers & Writers
FESTIVAL 2018



GERALDTON | MAY 25-27



City of
Greater Geraldton
a vibrant future



Windswept Words

Our sponsors



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

writingWA...



geraldton universities centre



**Anne & Kim
Pedlow**



*Friends
of the
Geraldton Library*

Loan Market 



GRAG
GERALDTON REGIONAL ART GALLERY



The Big Sky Readers and Writers Festival is proudly supported by writingWA with funding provided by the State Government through the Departments of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and Primary Industries and Regional Development, and the Royalties for Regions program.

Welcome to Windswept Words



Our home by the sea is a place of mixed environments. Geraldton lingers against a backdrop of azure waters, clear skies and stunning, ancient hinterland. But always there is the wind, sweeping across the landscape, renewing and refreshing life in its path.

Windswept Words is proudly bought to you by the City of Greater Geraldton. We warmly welcome locals and visitors alike to our Big Sky Readers and Writers Festival 2018, where a veritable treat awaits all.

Our *Windswept Words* will invigorate you, stimulate your senses and feed your creative mind.

We are thrilled to welcome national treasure, cartoonist and philosopher

Michael Leunig, to Geraldton, along with a talented array of both local and special guest authors and artists.

Windswept Words offers you a rich mix of vibrant and engaging performances, immersive storytelling and writing workshops, music and comedy.

It just remains to say a very special thank you to our major partner, writingWA, all sponsors, partners and hardworking Library staff, without whom none of this would be possible.

We look forward to seeing you in Geraldton 25-27 May 2018.

Trudi Cornish
Big Sky Festival Director



School Days

And so the Festival begins . . . storytelling, magic making and literary legends for kids

DAY ONE

Thursday 24 May

Presenter: **Alison Lester**

Time: 1.45pm - 2.45pm

Venue: St Lawrence's Primary School

Presenter: **Julia Lawrinson**

Time: 2.00pm - 3.00pm

Venue: John Willcock College

DAY TWO

Friday 25 May

Presenter: **Jock Serong**

Time: 9.00am - 3.00pm

Venue: John Willcock College

Presenter: **Julia Lawrinson**

Time: 9.00am - 3.00pm

Venue: Nagle Catholic College

Presenter: **Charmaine Papertalk-Green**

Time: 11.00am - 2.00pm

Venue: Mullewa District High School

DAY TWO [cont]

Friday 25 May

Presenter: **Gideon Haigh**

Time: 10.15am - 11.15am

Venue: Geraldton Senior College

Presenter: **Allan Girod**

Time: 9.25am - 11.05am

Venue: Geraldton Grammar School

Presenter: **Alison Lester**

Time: 11.30am - 12.30pm

Venue: Geraldton Grammar School

Presenter: **Gideon Haigh**

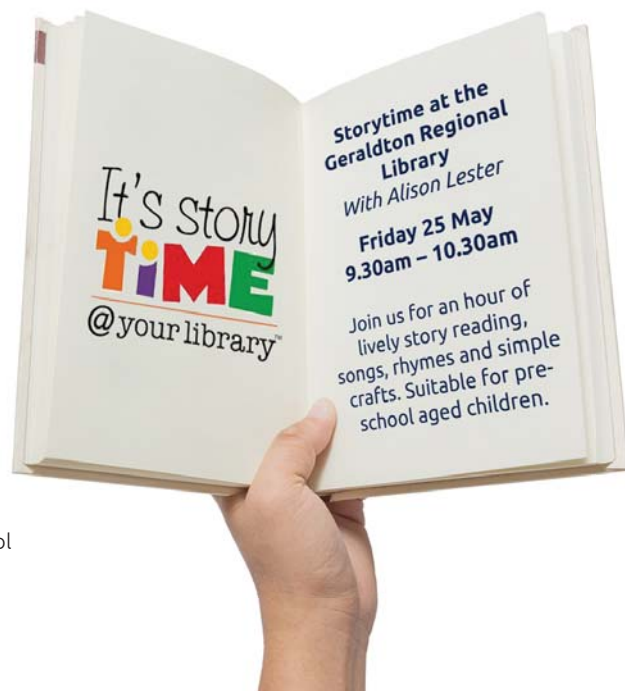
Time: 1.15pm - 2.15pm

Venue: Geraldton Primary School

Presenter: **Alison Lester**

Time: 1.45pm - 2.45pm

Venue: St Francis Xavier Primary School



It's all happening at the Geraldton Regional Library ... spin a tale, have a laugh and celebrate Opening Night with us

Friday 25 May



Writing Workshop

Time: 10.00am – 12.30pm

Venue: Geraldton Regional Library

Presenter: **Rachael Johns**

Ticketed Event: \$35.00

Includes morning tea

Let your characters do the hard work! Rachael Johns will guide participants through the key steps in creating a story – from original idea to developing believable characters that will inform the plot, focusing on the key things all bestselling books have in common.



Story Telling Workshop

Time: 1.30pm – 4.00pm

Venue: Geraldton Regional Library

Presenter: **Allan Girod**

Ticketed Event: \$35.00

Includes afternoon tea

A workshop for connection, confidence and fun. Allan shares snapshots of his highly acclaimed story shows. He then helps you to find and craft your own real-life stories with award-winning story skills to genuinely connect with others, yourself and have a laugh.

Festival Opening

Time: 6.00pm – 8.00pm

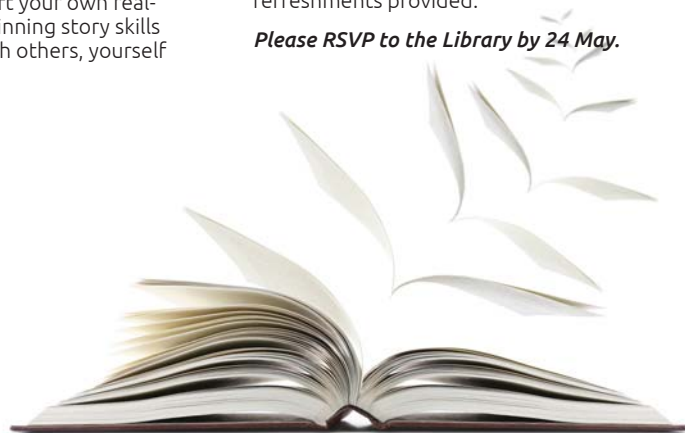
Venue: Geraldton Regional Library

MC: **Peter Fiorenza**

Free Event

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

Please RSVP to the Library by 24 May.



Saturday 26 May

Feel the windswept words sweep over you
as you immerse yourself in language at
the Geraldton Universities Centre

PLENARY CONVERSATION The Sting of Life: Michael Leunig

Time: 9:00am – 9:45am

Venue: Geraldton
Universities Centre
Free Event

Over two years ago a farm accident almost robbed Australia of one of its national living treasures, but **Michael Leunig** has lived to tell another tale and now sees the world a little differently. Join him in conversation with **Grant Woodhams**.



Concurrent Sessions

Time: 10:15am - 11:15am

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

Free Events

Windswept Words: The Power of Poetry

Kinsella's poetry has often expressed a deep attachment to and fascination with the Western Australian landscape and ecology, and a concurrent anxiety over the impact of postcolonial cultures. **John Kinsella** with **Dr Nancy Broad**.

Women: the Forces that Drive and Control Them

Charlotte Wood talks with **Kerry Stewart** about her award-winning novel that is a fierce response to the misogyny and abuse of power that Wood sees in Australia today.

Concurrent Sessions

Time: 11:45am – 12:45pm

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

Free Events

It's Just Not Cricket

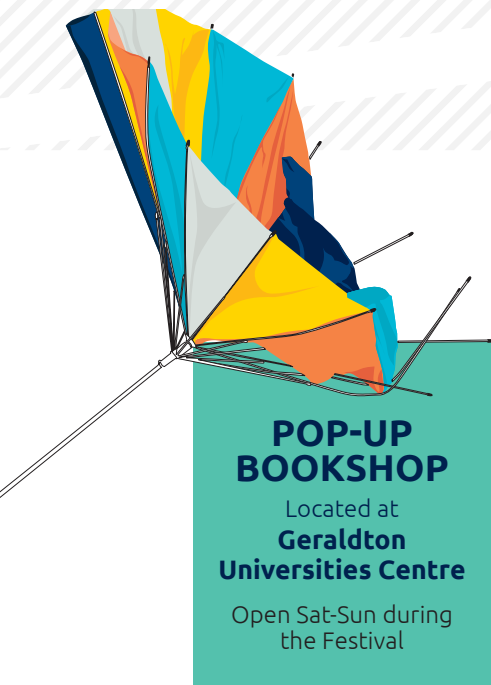
Gideon Haigh and **Jock Serong** have both written about cricket legends – real and imagined. They talk about their writing with **Victor Tanti**.

Dreaming, Creation & Spiritual Ancestors

Charmaine Papertalk-Green, **Nuraliah Norasid** and **Shokoofeh Azar** discuss how their culture has influenced their writing and creativity with **Sue Chiera**.



Saturday 26 May



Book signing available

Coffee, tea and light refreshments on sale at the Food for Thought Cafe

The Great Debate: Bring on the Nanny State!

Time: 1.15pm – 2.15pm

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

Adjudicator: **Grant Woodhams**

Free Event

What is the “Nanny State” and does it violate our individual liberty? Should it be introduced as a means of restricting personal choice for the individual’s own good? A complicated question deserves a well-considered response, so come along and listen to **Julia Lawrinson**, **Jock Serong** and **Rachael Johns** battle it out with a talented local team from Euphorium Creative.



Concurrent Sessions

Time: 2:45pm – 3:45pm

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre

Free Events

Inspirations and Destinations

Julia Lawrinson and **Alison Lester** have used scenes and experiences from their own lives to create books that resonate with their readers. They talk with **Lorraine Chapman**.

“Fiction is not a lie, but a truth, a necessary truth”

Nuraliah Norasid and **Shokoofeh Azar** discuss how fiction can bring social or political change to society with **Anita Kirkbright**.

Romance or Reality? What do Readers Want, Hope or Wish For?

Rachael Johns and **Charlotte Wood** talk with **Moira McKinnon**.

Assumptions about what readers want can create homogenised books. But can we truly ever know what the reader desires?

Saturday 26 May

Winds of Change: Self Determination Speaking from the Past...

Time: 4.15pm – 5.15pm

Venue: Geraldton Foreshore (adjacent to Geraldton Visitor Centre)

Free Event

Poets **Charmaine Papertalk-Green** and **John Kinsella** read from their latest collaboration of poetry *The False Claims of Colonial Thieves*, with Nola Gregory.

Light refreshments provided.

Please RSVP to the Library by 25 May.



A group of local Aboriginal people, C1890.



Absolutely Flawless: A Clowns Odyssey

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Queens Park Theatre

Artist: **Allan Girod**

Ticketed Event: \$30.00 to \$35.00

Please book and pay online

qpt.cgg.wa.gov.au, at the Library, Visitor Centre or Cathedral Avenue Customer Service.

A giant-hearted, laugh out-loud story of how an extreme introvert overcame awkwardness to become a performer in Cirque du Soleil. Playful, touching and true it journeys from loss, to hope, to finding a place to belong. From quirky loner, to teaching in regional WA, to accidentally discovering the joy of acting, the die is cast.

A Clowns Odyssey is a QPT Backstage Pass Performance.

Entry via the Maitland Street, QPT Stage Door. Everything is on stage: your friends, the bar and the show!



Saturday 26 May



On the Top: Rooftop Literary Event

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Sky Deck Bar, Gerald Apartment Hotel

Presenters: **Charlotte Wood, Gideon Haigh** and **Jock Serong**

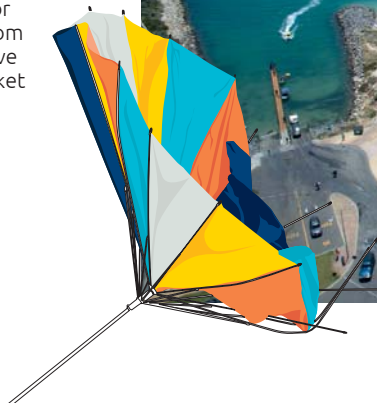
MC: **Malcolm Smith**

Ticketed Event: \$70.00

Delicious tapas, drinks, live music and sensational views of the Bay make for a fantastic evening, with readings from three award winning writers who have a passion for literature, reading, cricket and journalism.



Champion Bay, Geraldton.



Sunday 27 May

Windswept words continue: energy and enthusiasm at the Geraldton Universities Centre, wafting down to afternoon tea on the Terrace

Q and A: Democracy in Crisis

Time: 9:30am – 10:30am

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre
Free Event

Have the institutions, conventions and values of Western liberal democracy collapsed around us? Rule by the people should not descend into rule by the mob, but should remain informed, rational and beneficial to the majority. Is it time to reinvent democracy for a new age?

Michael Leunig, John Kinsella, Shokoofeh Azar and Jock Serong in discussion with **Grant Woodhams**.

Concurrent Sessions

Time: 11:00am – 12:00noon

Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre
Free Events

A Scandal in Bohemia

Gideon Haigh takes the reader to an unsolved murder in 1930s Melbourne, where he sheds light on the talented young female victim with **Sue Chiera**.

Ducks, Angels and Teapots: Recovering our Innocence

Michael Leunig draws and talks with **Malcolm Smith**.

Capturing Australia

Alison Lester, Rachael Johns and Jock Serong talk with **Maira McKinnon** about their depiction of life in Australia. What does this say about us as a country?



Literary High Tea on the Terrace

Time: 2:00pm courtyard welcome for 2.30pm seating

Venue: Cafe Fleur, Marine Terrace

MC: **Meredith Wills**

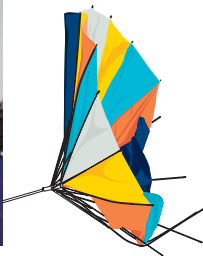
Ticketed Event: \$55.00

Delicate pastries and sumptuous cakes await, amidst readings from popular authors, **Rachael Johns, Julia Lawrinson, and Nuraliah Norasid**.

Soak in the ambience of this lovely old 19th century building and wind down for the afternoon.

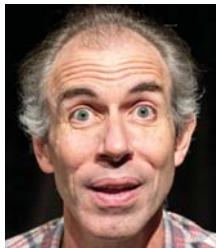


Our special Guests



Shokoofeh Azar

Shokoofeh Azar was born in Iran in 1972, just 7 years before the Islamic revolution. Despite spending most of her childhood and early career in a relatively hostile environment for independent writing, Shokoofeh's early interest in writing and art was sparked by her father who was an Iranian intellectual, author, poet and artist. In 2004, Shokoofeh became the first Iranian woman to backpack and hitchhike along the Silk Road. Shokoofeh worked as a journalist for 14 years and has published numerous short stories and reports, and most recently a novel *The Enlightenment of the Greengage Tree*. She is also a talented artist.



Allan Girod

Allan discovered performance by accident whilst teaching in the small wheat belt community of Dowerin. He has since worked successfully as a storyteller, actor, theatre clown, and independent theatre maker. Main stage credits include *You Once Said Yes* (Look Left Look Right and Perth International Arts Festival), *SPARK London Storytelling* (UK), *Barefaced Stories* (Perth), *Corteo* (Cirque du Soleil), an *Ugly Stepsister* in *Cinderella* (Perth City Ballet and Quarry Amphitheatre), *The Threepenny Opera* (WA Opera Studio) and *Perth Theatre Company* and the *National Tour of Road Train* by *kompany M*. On the screen, Allan appeared in the Channel 9 series *Lockie Leonard* 1 and 2.



Gideon Haigh

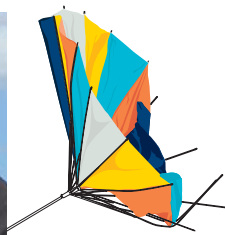
Historian, writer and cricket-lover Gideon Haigh has been writing about sport and business for more than 22 years. His best-known books are *Mystery Spinner*, *The Big Ship*, *The Summer Game*, *Game for Anything* and *The Ashes 2005*. Gideon Haigh has been a journalist for more than three decades, has contributed to more than a hundred newspapers and magazines, published thirty-two books and edited seven others. *The Office: A Hardworking History* won the NSW Premier's Literary Award for Non-Fiction; *On Warne* was shortlisted for the Melbourne Prize for Literature; and *Certain Admissions* won the 2016 Ned Kelly Award for True Crime.

Our Special Guests



Rachael Johns

Rachael Johns is an English teacher by trade, a mum 24/7, a chronic arachnophobic, and a writer the rest of the time. Rachael loves nothing more than sitting in bed with her laptop and imagining her own stories. Rachael has been a finalist in a number of competitions, including the Australian Romance Readers Awards. *Jilted* (her first rural romance) won Favourite Australian Contemporary Romance in 2012 and she made the Top Ten of Booktopia's Favourite Australian Author poll in 2013. *The Patterson Girls* won the 2016 Romance Writers of Australia RUBY Award and also the 2015 Australian Book Industry Award for General Fiction.



John Kinsella

John Kinsella's most recent works include the poetry volumes *Drowning in Wheat: Selected Poems* (2016), *Firebreaks* (2016), and *On the Outskirts* (2017), the story collections *Crow's Breath* (2015) and *Old Growth* (2017) and the critical volume *Polysituatedness* (2017). With Tracy Ryan, he is the co-editor of *The Fremantle Press Anthology of Western Australian Poetry* (2017). He is a Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge University, and Professor of Literature and Sustainability at Curtin University, WA. He is a wadjala/whitefella who lives on Ballardong Noongar land, and went to high school on Yamatji land in Geraldton.



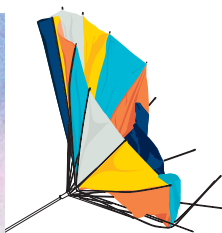
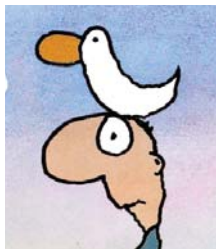
Julia Lawrinson

Julia Lawrinson has written more than a dozen books for children and young adults, many of them award-winning. Her latest novel for teenagers is *Before You Forget*, a funny and heartbreaking story about art, friendship, early onset Alzheimer's disease and the ocean, published by Penguin Random House.



Alison Lester

Alison Lester (Australian Children's Laureate, 2012–2013) is one of Australia's most popular and bestselling creators of children's books. She has won many awards, including the 2005 Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Picture Book of the Year Award for her much-loved classic *Are We There Yet?* and the 2012 CBCA Eve Powell Book of the Year Award for *One Small Island*. Alison lives on a farm in the Victorian countryside. She spends part of each year travelling to schools around Australia, helping students and teachers develop their own stories.



Michael Leunig

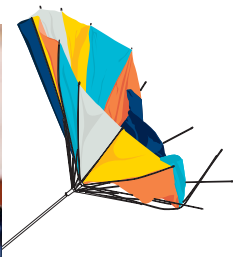
Michael Leunig is a cartoonist, writer, painter, philosopher and poet. His commentary on political, cultural and emotional life spans more than forty years and has often explored the idea of an innocent and sacred personal world. His work appears regularly in the *Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*.



Nuraliah Norasid

Nuraliah Binte Norasid is the winner of the 2016 Epigram Books Fiction Prize, for her debut novel, *The Gatekeeper*. She holds a day job as a research associate at the Centre for Research on Islamic and Malay Affairs in Singapore, conducting studies on the confluence of religious values and identities with society. She graduated with a PhD in English Literature and Creative Writing from Nanyang Technological University (NTU), her thesis a work of fiction that examined the creative use of writing in highlighting issues such as marginality, isolation and socio-historical traumas. She picks up feathers and random discarded objects to keep in a jar, and enjoys some regular weekend gaming.

Our Special Guests



Charmaine Papertalk-Green

Charmaine Papertalk-Green is a member of the Wajarri, Badimaya and Nhanagardi cultural groups from the Yamaji Nation of Western Australia. Green is a visual artist, poet, writer, curator and social sciences researcher. She began writing poetry in the late 1970s – writing under the name Charmaine Papertalk-Green, honoring both her parents. Charmaine was instrumental in the incubation of the touring exhibition *Ilgarijiri – Things belonging to the Sky* arts and cultural project a Yamaji Art collaboration with the Curtin Institute of Radio Astronomy Curtin University, Square Kilometer Array (SKA) project Australian Government, Midwest Development Commission and City of Greater Geraldton.



Jock Serong

Jock Serong's debut novel *Quota* won the 2015 Ned Kelly Award for Best First Crime Novel. In 2016, *The Rules of Backyard Cricket* was shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Award. *On the Java Ridge* is his third novel. Jock teaches law and writes feature articles in the surfing media and for publications such as *The Guardian* and *Slow Living*. He lives with his wife and four children in Port Fairy, Victoria.



Charlotte Wood

The Australian newspaper described Charlotte Wood as "one of our most original and provocative writers." She is the author of five novels and two books of non-fiction. Her latest novel, *The Natural Way of Things*, won the 2016 Stella Prize, the 2016 Indie Book of the Year and Novel of the Year, and was joint winner of the Prime Minister's Literary Award for Fiction. It has been published widely in Europe, the UK and North America.

Festival Team



Dr Nancy Broad

Nancy Broad has lived on remote sheep stations receiving correspondence lessons followed by six years of boarding schools. In later life she achieved a Doctorate which greatly assisted her writing career. Nan is continuing to research and write Western Australian history.



Sue Chiera

Sue Chiera has lived and worked as a journalist around WA and in London; and has always been drawn back to Geraldton. Her friends recognise her as that crazy woman who lives near the beach with her cats and dogs...and she's okay with that.



Peter Fiorenza

Born and bred in Geraldton, Peter has taught at Nagle Catholic College for the past 17 years. As well as hosting radio programs on Radio MAMA he writes a weekly column in the *Geraldton Guardian* - What I See.



Lorraine Chapman

Lorraine Chapman is a teacher at Chapman Valley Primary School. 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.



Euphorium Creative

Euphorium Creative endeavour to bring practicality, laughter and a smidgen of invincibility beyond the arts industry and our community – supporting artists of all shapes and forms to bring their works to light and building a cultural identity.



Anita Kirkbright

Anita Kirkbright is the editor of *The Geraldton Guardian* and *Midwest Times* where she enjoys bringing local stories to readers and helping to shape the careers of young journalists. Her specialty as a reporter is telling other people's stories.

Festival Team



Moira McKinnon

Moira is a doctor and an author. She is the author of a novel *'Cicada'*, long listed for the International Dublin Literary Award. An essay *'Who killed Matilda'* published in the *Australian Book Review* won the National Calibre essay award in 2013.



Kerry Stewart

Kerry Stewart has a lifelong passion for books and writing. Kerry is a published poet and the editor of an international dance magazine. Kerry has moderated sessions at the last three Big Sky Readers and Writers Festivals.



Meredith Wills

Meredith is the retired Director of the Geraldton Universities Centre and long-time supporter of Big Sky. As an avid reader she has valued the opportunity to help host so many wonderful authors over the years at the GUC.



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. Malcolm is currently Chair of the Museum of Geraldton Community Advisory Committee.



Victor Tanti

Victor Tanti is a cricket lover (not cricket tragic - nothing tragic about having a passion) who played the game badly and writes about it passably. He is also a Councillor, father, walker, poor swimmer and advocate of tourism on the Abrolhos.



Grant Woodhams

Formerly worked as a reporter for ABC radio and television before turning his hand to politics and becoming a Member of Parliament. Woodhams was Speaker of the House from 2008-2013. Interests include motor racing, AFL and writing.

Tickets & Venues

How to book your tickets



Most events are free. However, look out for the ticket symbol to see where tickets need to be pre-purchased before an event. Tickets are booked via Eventbrite at eventbrite.com.au

Some free events will require you to RSVP.

Booking/Program Enquiries:

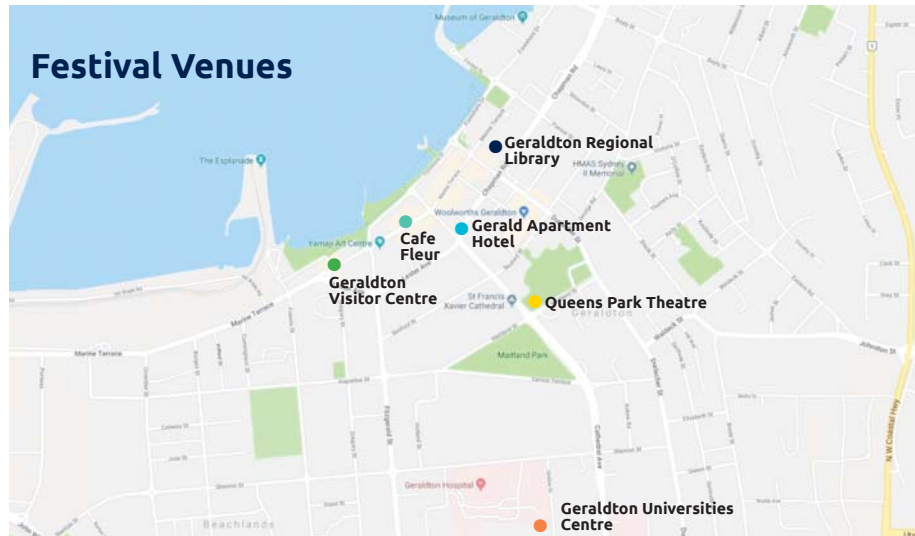
In person at the Geraldton Regional Library, 37 Marine Terrace, Geraldton.
Open: Mondays, Wednesdays 1.00-5.30pm,
Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 9.00am-5.30pm, Saturdays 9.30am-1.00pm,
Sundays 1.30-4.30pm.

Or over the phone: (08) 9956 6659.

Email enquiries: library@cgg.wa.gov.au

Tickets sell fast and bookings close
Wednesday 23 May 2018.

No BYO at any events.



- **Geraldton Regional Library**, 37 Marine Terrace, Geraldton
- **Geraldton Universities Centre**, 33 Onslow Street, Geraldton
- **Queens Park Theatre**, Cathedral Avenue, Geraldton
- **Gerald Apartment Hotel**, 25 Cathedral Avenue, Geraldton
- **Cafe Fleur**, 186 Marine Terrace, Geraldton
- **Geraldton Visitor Centre**, 246 Marine Terrace, Geraldton

Local Attractions

**St Francis Xavier Cathedral
Monsignor Hawes Interpretive Centre
HMAS Sydney II Memorial
Museum of Geraldton
Greenough Museum & Gardens
Walkaway Station Museum
Lighthouse Keepers Cottage
Geraldton Regional Art Gallery**

For further details contact

Geraldton Visitor Centre
246 Marine Terrace, Geraldton.
Phone: 9956 6674
Email: info@visitgeraldton.com.au



Geraldton Visitor Centre.

2017 Highlights



Windswept Words



library.cgg.wa.gov.au

We would like to respectfully acknowledge the Southern Yamatji Peoples who are the Traditional Owners and First People of the land on which we stand. The Nhanhagardi, Wilunyu, Amangu. 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 Southern Yamatji Peoples.