

## FULL PROGRAM AND TICKETING

Details available at:

[www.varuna.com.au](http://www.varuna.com.au) – see link to Varuna Sydney Writers' Festival.

## BOOKING INFORMATION

Tickets for the following events can be purchased online via Varuna website or, by phone or in person, at Gleebooks stores in Sydney or Blackheath.

### AT VARUNA (not including Wantanganura)

#### THE INDEPENDENT POETRY PRESS PANEL

Saturday 21 May 2:00pm – 3:00pm | Free, reservations recommended

#### POETRY CIRCLE

Saturday 21 May 3:30pm – 4:30pm | Free, reservations recommended

#### WORKSHOP BESPOKE BOOKMAKING

Sunday 22 May 10:00am – 1:00pm | \$60 full / \$55 concession

Limited places, bookings essential

### AT THE CARRINGTON

#### ONE-DAY PASS

Monday 16 May OR Tuesday 17 May | \$65 full / \$55 concession.

#### TWO-DAY PASS

Monday 16 AND Tuesday 17 May | \$100 (no concession).

#### DR DARK MEMORIAL LECTURE

Monday 16 May | \$15 full / \$10 concession.

This event is ticketed separately and not included in the one-day or two-day pass.

### OTHER BOOKING DETAILS

#### SINGLE SESSIONS AT THE CARRINGTON

Daytime program | \$15

Please note only available for purchase at the door on the day, and subject to availability.

#### MAP AND VARUNA PRESENT WANTANGANURA

Sunday 15 May 12:00 – 2:00pm & 2:00 – 4:00pm | Free event

Book online at [www.modernartprojects.org](http://www.modernartprojects.org)

#### SELF-PUBLISHING PANEL – THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Saturday 21 May 10:00am – 1:00pm | \$15 (includes refreshments)

Book through any Blue Mountains library or online at [library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au](http://library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au)

Thank you to our partners...



Photo: Bette Mirsud Photography

**V**ARUNA, THE NATIONAL WRITERS HOUSE is Australia's only national writers' centre to offer residential time and space for individual writers and illustrators to develop their work and explore pathways to publication and production.

Varuna offers a wide range of professional development opportunities for new and emerging writers from metropolitan, regional and remote areas across the country.

Friend us on Facebook or subscribe to our mailing list.

# VARUNA & SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL



BLUE MOUNTAINS PROGRAM | 15-22 MAY 2016  
AT THE CARRINGTON HOTEL, VARUNA AND BM CULTURAL CENTRE, KATOOMBA  
[www.varuna.com.au](http://www.varuna.com.au)



# FESTIVAL PROGRAM

## AT THE HOUSE Sun 15 | Sat 21 | Sun 22 May

**Varuna, The National Writers' House**  
141 Cascade Street, Katoomba

### MAP & VARUNA PRESENT WANTANGANURA

Sunday 15 May, Midday – 2:00pm and 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Discover the early stories of our shared sky. Wiradjuri and Ngilympaa artist and activist Graham Davis King curates a special event at Varuna exploring the unifying theme of Wantanganura – Skyworld. Featuring new installations by Aboriginal artists event includes talks, ceremony and the opportunity to share stories with the artists in a fire-circle chat.

Free event, bookings essential

### THE MICE WHO ROARED: THE INDEPENDENT POETRY PRESS PANEL

Saturday 21 May, 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Join Deb Westbury, Stephen Matthews (Ginninderra) and Ron Pretty (Five Islands) for a reflective discussion that celebrates the success of small press publishing across the country and the decades.

Free event, booking recommended

### POETRY CIRCLE

Saturday 21 May, 3:30pm – 4:30pm

Gather around the fire-pit in the Varuna garden to hear local and international poets read their work. Books will be available for sale and signing.

Free event, booking recommended

### WORKSHOP – BESPOKE BOOKMAKING

Sunday 22 May,  
10:00am – 1:00pm

Create your own handcrafted book and give your words a home in this hands on workshop with poet Deb Westbury. Paper, pen and products provided.

Ticketed \$55 / \$60, bookings essential



## AT THE BM CULTURAL CENTRE Sat 21 May

Seminar Room, 30 Parke Street, Katoomba, NSW

### SELF PUBLISHING FORUM: THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Saturday 21 May, 10:00am – 1:00pm

Local authors share their self-publishing journey and career professionals reveal tricks of the trade – a half-day forum full of insights on how to take your writing to the next stage.

Ticketed \$15, bookings essential

## AT THE CARRINGTON Mon 16 | Tue 17 May

The Carrington Hotel, 15-47 Katoomba Street, Katoomba

### MONDAY 16 MAY

#### NOT JUST BLACK AND WHITE: ABORIGINAL HISTORIES REVEALED

10:00am – 11:10am

Award winning writer and Murri elder Lesley Williams talks with Heidi Norman about her and her daughter Tammy's pursuit of justice for Aboriginal workers and the writing of their shared memoir *Not just Black and White*.

#### SIX BEDROOMS: SHORT STORIES & THE AUSTRALIAN IMAGINATION

11:40am – 12:40pm

Tegan Bennett Daylight skilfully crafts the short story in her new collection *Six Bedrooms*. Shortlisted for both the Stella prize and Victorian Premier's Literary Award she talks with Kate Fagan about creating stories and characters that are volatile, memorable and distinctively Australian.

#### VIVIAN GORNICK: THE ODD WOMAN AND THE CITY

1:30pm – 2:30pm

The New Yorker called her the feminist oracle. A rare opportunity to hear American critic and essayist Vivian Gornick talk with Leah Kaminsky about *The Odd Woman and the City* her new memoir of self-discovery and friendship told through delicious conversations, sharp observations and poetic vignettes of New York street life.

#### BLUE MOUNTAINS ICONS & THE DICTIONARY OF SYDNEY

3:00pm – 4:00pm

Find out about the Dictionary of Sydney and the five writers commissioned to write about Blue Mountains Icons. Delia Falconer, Julian Leatherdale, Naomi Parry, and John Low talk with Lisa Murray about the places they chose and the writing of place as a keeper of memories. Supported by Blue Mountains City of the Arts Cultural Trust.

#### THE NATURAL WAY OF THINGS

4:30pm – 5:30pm

Her writing has been short listed for the Miles Franklin award and her latest work optioned for a film. Charlotte Wood talks with Tegan Bennett Daylight about *The Natural Way of Things*, a dystopian allegory of power and misogyny set in the Australian bush.

## THE 2016 DR ERIC DARK MEMORIAL LECTURE

### ANDREW FOWLER: GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS

The Carrington Hotel, Monday 16 May, 6:00pm – 7:00pm

In 1949 Dr Eric Dark, husband of Australian novelist Eleanor Dark, wrote his prescient article *The Press Against the People* in which he warns of the dangers of a press driven by commercial and political imperatives. In the 2016 Dr Dark Memorial Lecture International award-winning investigative journalist Andrew Fowler (*The War on Journalism* and *The Most Dangerous Man in the World*) interrogates the current state of the press, the rise of 'thin' journalism and its implications for a democratic society. Burdened by public distrust and undermined by surveillance the fourth estate is in crisis. Andrew Fowler looks at what has led to this situation and asks how we can do better. Hosted by Peter Minter.

\$15 / \$10 Please note: this event is ticketed separately.

## TUESDAY 17 MAY

### TRAVELLING HOME: DEBUT FICTION

10:00am – 11:00am

Two debut novels about Australians on a quest in the country of their forebears. A doctor in Israel and a writer in Europe, both from Melbourne, both haunted by memories that aren't even theirs. Carol Major talks with Leah Kaminsky (*The Waiting Room*) and Miles Allinson (*Fever of Animals*) about their books.

### THE GOOD SHEPHERD

11:30am – 12:30pm

James Rebanks is the Herdwick Shepherd. His family have farmed the Lakes District for over six hundred years. He talks with Kate Fagan about his international best seller *The Shepherds Life*. Many stories tell of people trying to escape from a place. This story is of someone doing his very best to stay.

### A TENDER RECKONING

1:30pm – 2:30pm

Magda Szubanski's suburban childhood was haunted by her father's wartime espionage experience and her own secret sexuality. In this "hymn to the tragic heroism at the heart of ordinary life" one of Australia's most loved performers talks to Alison Manning about her new memoir *Reckoning*.

### LIFE IN THE HIVE

3:00pm – 4:00pm

Join Tegan Bennett Daylight as she talks with Mireille Juchau, winner of The Victorian Premier's Literary Award for *The World Without Us*, and Peggy Frew, shortlisted for the Stella Prize for *Hope Farm*, about their elegiac and gripping novels of lost childhoods and broken families.

### THE WRITER'S MIND

4:30pm – 5:30pm

Sylvia Martin's *Ink in Her Veins* *The Troubled Life of Aileen Palmer* and Mark O'Flynn's *The Last days of Ava Langdon* take us into the troubled minds of two extraordinary women writers of the 20th century. They talk with Barbara Brooks about their new books, both poetic tales of gifted and eccentric women writers.

SEE BOOKINGS AND TICKETING INFORMATION OVERLEAF