

# SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL



# LIVE & LOCAL

**LIVESTREAM @  
GERRINGONG LIBRARY  
23-26 MAY 2024**

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# SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL

## THURSDAY 23 MAY

10–11AM	JULIA BAIRD: BRIGHT SHINING
11AM–12PM	MORNING TEA
12–1PM	VIET THANH NGUYEN: A MAN OF TWO FACES
2–3PM	SUZIE MILLER: PRIMA FACIE
3–4PM	AFTERNOON TEA
4–5PM	JULIAN BORGER: I SEEK A KIND PERSON

## FRIDAY 24 MAY

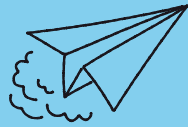
10–11AM	A.C. GRAYLING: THE MEANING OF LIFE IN A TECHNOLOGICAL AGE
11AM–12PM	MORNING TEA
12–1PM	THE WAR ON JOURNALISTS: NEWS FROM THE FRONTLINES
2–3PM	ABDULRAZAK GURNAH: <i>AFTERLIVES</i>
3–4PM	AFTERNOON TEA
4–5PM	FEMINIST FIREBRANDS

## SATURDAY 25 MAY

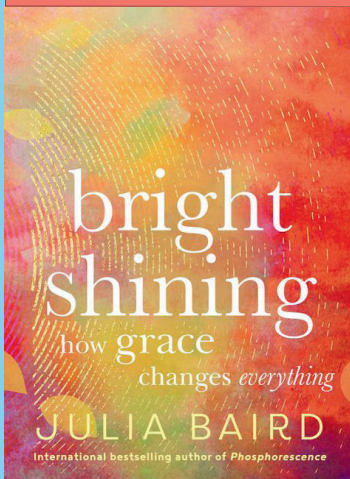
10–11AM	CELESTE NG: <i>OUR MISSING HEARTS</i>
11AM–12PM	MORNING TEA
12–1PM	TRENT DALTON: FROM ELI TO LOLA
2–3PM	STORYTELLERS: LEIGH SALES AND LISA MILLAR

## SUNDAY 26 MAY

10–11AM	BARRIE CASSIDY AND FRIENDS: STATE OF THE NATION
11.30AM–12.30PM	PLAY LIKE A GIRL: CHLOE DALTON, ANNA MEARES, JANA PITTMAN AND TRACEY HOLMES
1.30–2.30PM	SURVIVAL, SUSTENANCE AND STORIES: LESSONS IN FIRST NATIONS RESILIENCE
2.30–3.30PM	AFTERNOON TEA
3.30–4.30PM	LIFE AND LAUGHTER: WENDY HARMER, RICHARD GLOVER AND WILLIAM MCINNES



10–11AM



**JULIA BAIRD:**  
*BRIGHT SHINING*  
Nurturing grace, even in the darkest of times

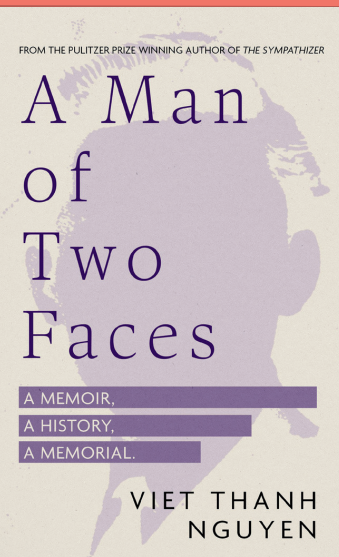
Following broadcaster and author Julia Baird's multi-award-winning international bestseller *Phosphorescence* comes a beautiful and timely exploration of that most mysterious but necessary human quality: grace.

*Bright Shining: How grace changes everything* asks what grace looks like today, how we recognise it, nurture it within ourselves and express it. For Julia, grace can be found by being kinder, bigger and better with each other.

Sit down with Julia to discuss this luminous work, which *The Guardian* described as 'a book the world needs now'.

In conversation with journalist Jacqueline Maley.

12–1PM



**VIET THANH NGUYEN:**  
*A MAN OF TWO FACES*

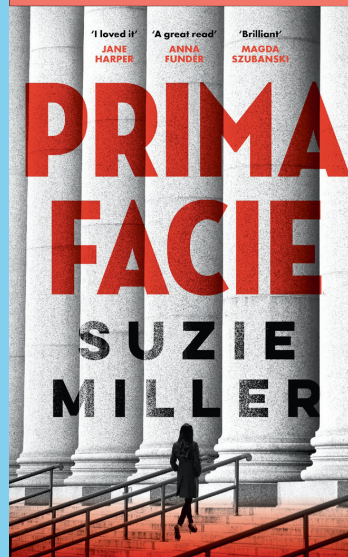
Tragicomic memoir from Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Sympathizer*.

'I am a spy, a sleeper, a spook, a man of two faces', begins Viet Thanh Nguyen's debut novel, *The Sympathizer*, the internationally acclaimed bestseller that was recently adapted into an HBO series starring Sandra Oh and Robert Downey Jr.

This duality is also at the heart of Viet's highly original memoir, *A Man of Two Faces*, which details with sardonic wit and incisive analysis the double consciousness of a Vietnamese refugee growing up in North America.

In conversation with Benjamin Law.

2–3PM



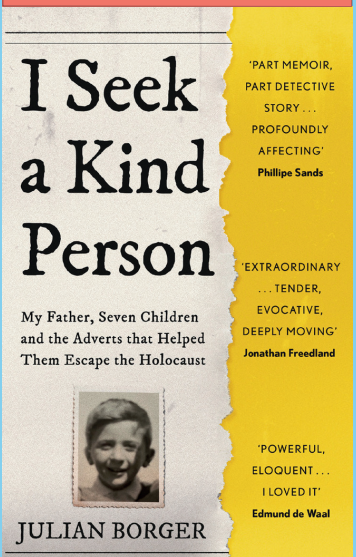
**SUZIE MILLER:**  
*PRIMA FACIE*

Suzie Miller's disturbingly prescient play, *Prima Facie*, dramatises the price sexual assault victims pay for speaking out.

This blistering one-woman show wowed audiences on Broadway and the West End, winning Suzie an Olivier Award and *Killing Eve* favourite Jodie Comer a Tony for her performance as the brilliant young barrister who, one sickening night, finds herself thrust into the flawed justice system.

Put the courts on trial with Suzie and writer and pod-caster Nicole Abadee, as they discuss *Prima Facie's* adaptation into a gripping novel and screenplay set to star Cynthia Erivo.

4–5PM



**JULIAN BORGER:**  
*I SEEK A KIND PERSON*

An enthralling memoir of family history and the Holocaust's resonance through generations

"I seek a kind person who will educate my intelligent boy, aged 11."

This extraordinary 1938 personal advertisement is the starting point for Julian Borger's quest to understand his father's past.

An enthralling memoir, family history and detective story all in one, Borger brings to life in vivid detail the Holocaust escape stories of a handful of children and families, and traces the resonance of these events through generations.

Supported by ARA.



10–11AM



**A.C. GRAYLING: THE MEANING OF LIFE IN A TECHNOLOGICAL AGE**  
**Finding answers in changing times**

'It shouldn't be the business of a philosopher today to tell people what to think', says A. C. Grayling, but rather 'how to think'.

The quest for a life worth living has been the business of philosophers for millennia. How can we pursue answers to life's big questions in a world that feels increasingly dangerous and unstable thanks to big tech and AI?

Unpack the 'how' in this unmissable talk from the pre-eminent philosopher, who returns to Australia following his sell-out public lectures last year.

12–1PM

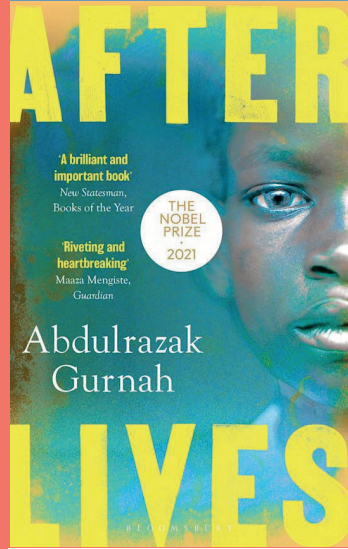


**THE WAR ON JOURNALISTS**  
**News from the frontlines**

With conflict continuing in Ukraine, and the death toll of journalists in the Gaza conflict reaching alarming proportions, we look at the role of journalists in war – on and off the frontlines – and how vital the protection of journalists is to news we can trust about the realities of war.

Join us to hear from those with firsthand experience from the most conflict-ridden parts of the world: Global Affairs Editor for the ABC, John Lyons, *The Guardian* World Affairs Editor, Julian Borger, and Ukrainian journalist Alisa Sopova of the *5km From the Frontline* project. In conversation with journalist Hamish Macdonald.

2–3 PM



**ABDULRAZAK GURNAH: AFTERLIVES**  
**Nobel Prize winner's saga of colonialism in Africa**

At 18, Abdulrazak Gurnah arrived in England as a refugee from the Zanzibar Revolution. Receiving the Nobel Prize more than 50 years later, he reflected that the 'prolonged period of poverty and alienation' he experienced made him a writer.

From the contemporary immigrant experience in his debut, *Memory of Departure*, to colonial wartime conscription in *Paradise*, Abdulrazak interrogates the legacies of empire.

Listen as he and writer Sisonke Msimang discuss his tenth novel, *Afterlives* – an inter-generational portrait of love and loss under German occupation in East Africa.

4–5PM



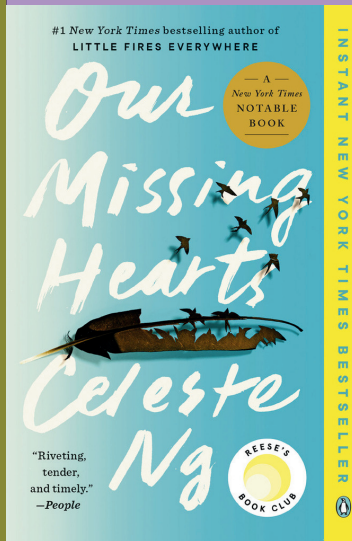
**FEMINIST FIREBRANDS**  
**Plot the pathways forward with these incendiary feminist voices**

Four waves in, the feminist fight for equality is far from over. This panel brings together the powerful and incendiary feminist voices of leading writers and activists Hannah Ferguson, Sisonke Msimang and Jennifer Robinson, discussing freedom of speech, politics, racism, xenophobia, belonging, identity, taboos around sex and pleasure, as well as the legal judgements that continue to silence and disadvantage women.

Be inspired by the feminist firebrands who are fighting for social change. Hosted by the inimitable Jo Dyer, this is an examination of the most pressing issues facing women today.

# SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL

10–11AM



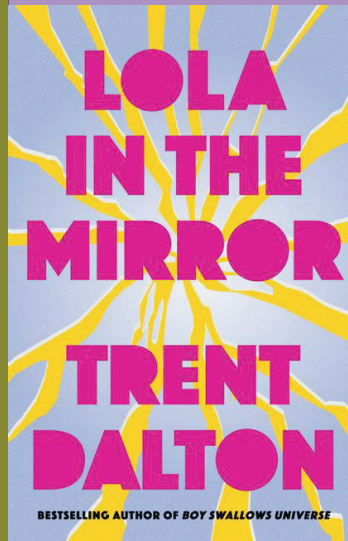
## CELESTE NG: *OUR MISSING HEARTS*

**The gripping, heart-rending follow-up to *Little Fires Everywhere***

Banning books, waving flags and persecuting racial minorities. Sound familiar? Celeste Ng's third novel, *Our Missing Hearts*, is set in a marginally more dystopian version of Trump's America as a patriotic new law removes children from dissident parents. After the bestselling novel *Little Fires Everywhere* – adapted into a popular mini-series starring Reese Witherspoon – comes a similarly moving tale about the unbreakable bond between a mother and son.

Sit down with Celeste and host Claire Nichols to discuss hope, hero librarians and the power of art to create change.

12–1PM



## TRENT DALTON: FROM ELI TO LOLA

**Beloved author returns to SWF in this career-spanning conversation**

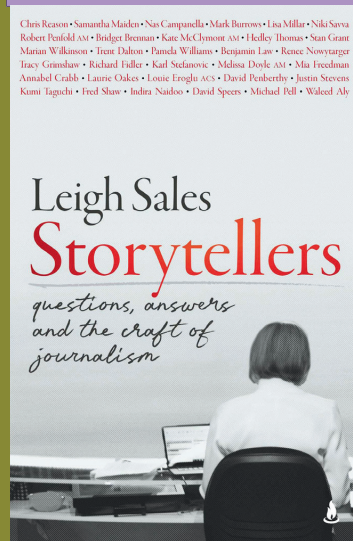
Trent Dalton has captured readers with books like *Boy Swallows Universe* and *Love Stories*. His storytelling voice and compelling characters cement him as a mainstay of Australian literature.

His new novel, *Lola in the Mirror*, is a darkly funny, and beautiful story of life, death and a country neck-deep in a national housing crisis.

Join Trent as he discusses his process of writing the intricacies of the real world, and real people, onto the page.

A supremely compelling and entertaining speaker, Trent will be in conversation with Cassie McCullagh.

2–3 PM



## STORYTELLERS: LEIGH SALES AND LISA MILLAR

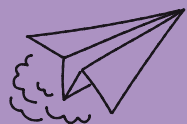
**Veteran journalists shine a spotlight on the craft of non-fiction**

ABC legend Leigh Sales turns the spotlight on the best in the business in *Storytellers*; *Questions, Answers and the Craft of Journalism*. Leigh is joined in conversation by fellow legend Lisa Millar, whose own book, *Muster Dogs*, provides an insight into the craft of non-fiction writing.

With a combined 65 years in journalism, the co-hosts of last year's hit *Newsreader* podcast, unpack the craft of non-fiction writing and discuss the fine art of turning real life events into a compelling narrative. This session is for anyone who's ever wondered how the news gets made.

SATURDAY 25 MAY

LIVE & LOCAL



10–11AM



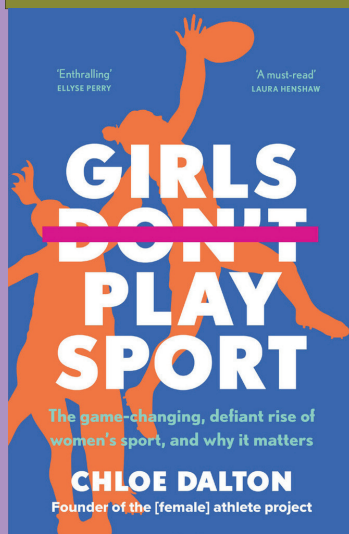
**BARRIE CASSIDY AND FRIENDS: STATE OF THE NATION**  
Review the year in AusPol at this Festival favourite.

Relive all the thrills and spills of the year in Australian politics with veteran journo Barrie Cassidy and his hand-picked squad of the country's sharpest pundits.

From the supermarket wars and cost of living crisis to the hottest year on record and unexpected (or expected) resignations, it's all up for dissection as they take the pulse of the nation.

Barrie shares the stage with political journalists Bridget Brennan, Amy Remeikis, Niki Savva and Laura Tingle.

11.30AM–12.30PM



**PLAY LIKE A GIRL**  
**Keep Tillies fever burning in this celebration of women's sports**

Matildas fever swept across Australia during the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, taking hold of new soccer fans and diehards alike. But where do we go next to tap into the potential of women's sport?

Hosted by The Ticket podcast's Tracey Holmes, this elite panel features Olympic rugby gold medalist Chloe Dalton (*Girls Don't Play Sport*), Australia's most decorated cycling Olympian Anna Meares, and world champion pro-athlete Jana Pittman (*Enough*).

Cheer on the sportswomen kicking goals for female athletes everywhere.

1.30–2.30PM



**SURVIVAL, SUSTENANCE AND STORIES**  
**Lessons in resilience from First Nations writers and thinkers**

Social change is driven by conversation, in sharing ideas, and translating those ideas for audiences who don't agree or understand what is at stake.

For many First Nations writers and journalists, this has been a huge priority over the last year, in particular, and one that comes with a cost.

In a conversation with legendary truth-tellers, find out what sustains them to keep on going in the face of profound challenges. With Larissa Behrendt, Tony Birch, Narelda Jacobs and Amy Thunig.

3.30–4.30PM



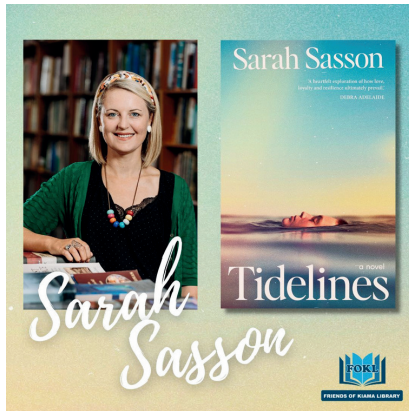
**LIFE AND LAUGHTER**  
**Share in the comedy of the human condition**

Catch three of Australia's best entertainers as they share stories from their colourful lives and work.

Richard Glover's *Best Wishes* is a plea to make the world a better and less annoying place one wish at a time. Wendy Harmer's memoir, *Lies My Mirror Told Me*, tells her unlikely tale of overcoming adversity with trademark frankness and wit. And William McInnes' *Yeah, Nah!: A celebration of life and the words that make us who we are* is a collection of hilarious moments inspired by Australians' way with words.

Be in stitches with Richard, Wendy and William as they ponder the hilarity of life, with host Jennifer Wong.

# UPCOMING AUTHOR TALKS FROM THE FRIENDS OF KIAMA LIBRARY

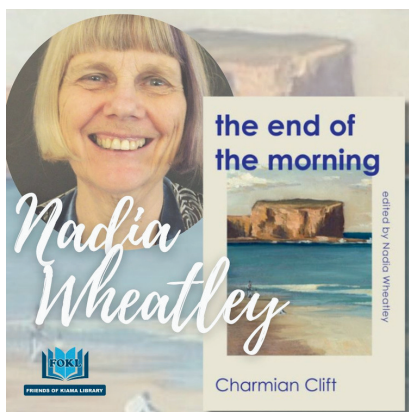


## **SARAH SASSON: TIDELINES** **Saturday 4 May 2024, 2-4 PM** **Kiama Library Auditorium**

Join physician and writer Sarah Sasson for a talk about her new book, 'Tidelines' - a tender coming-of-age novel about how love, loyalty and resilience ultimately prevail.

Tidelines is 'beautifully conceived and written,' says novelist and creative writing teacher, Debra Adelaide. Sarah's book is 'about the faulty but inescapable ties of family and friendship.'

**Book online or call 02 4233 1133**  
**[www.library.kiama.nsw.gov.au/Sarah-Sasson](http://www.library.kiama.nsw.gov.au/Sarah-Sasson)**



## **NADIA WHEATLEY: 'THE END OF THE MORNING'** **BY CHARMIAN CLIFT** **Saturday 1 June 2024, 2-4 PM** **Kiama Library (upstairs)**

The Friends of Kiama Library and Kiama & District Historical Society invite you to a talk with Nadia Wheatley about Charmian Clift's lost autobiographical work, the previously unpublished 'The End of the Morning' (edited by Nadia Wheatley).

Charmian describes her book as being about a girl called Cressida Morley 'and her eccentric family who live in a weatherboard cottage on the edge of a beach. It is a book about young dreams and young longings and filled with sand and sea and sun and wind and seaweed draped on the front picket fence after a storm.'

Of course, that front picket fence and weatherboard cottage are in Clift's hometown, Kiama.

**Tickets go on sale 1 May**  
**Book online or call 02 4233 1133**  
**[www.library.kiama.nsw.gov.au/Nadia-Wheatley](http://www.library.kiama.nsw.gov.au/Nadia-Wheatley)**

**\$8 FOKL members / \$10 guests**  
**(includes afternoon tea). Everyone welcome.**  
**Book online or call 02 4233 1133.**

**Books are available for purchase and signing.**

**For more information on the**  
**Friends or FOKL events, visit:**  
**[WWW.LIBRARY.KIAMA.NSW.GOV.AU/FOKL](http://WWW.LIBRARY.KIAMA.NSW.GOV.AU/FOKL)**



**FRIENDS OF KIAMA LIBRARY**

## BOOKINGS

This is a FREE event, bookings essential  
**[www.library.kiama.nsw.gov.au/SWF](http://www.library.kiama.nsw.gov.au/SWF)**  
02 4233 1133



## VENUE

All events will be livestreamed to the big screen at Gerringong Library, direct from the Sydney Writers' Festival at Carriageworks.

**Gerringong Library  
8 Blackwood Street  
Gerringong NSW**

Morning and afternoon tea is provided by the Friends of Kiama Library between sessions where indicated on the program, for a gold coin donation (funds raised help support the library).

**FOLLOW US FOR MORE EVENTS AND  
PROGRAMS!**

