

LIVE STREAMING SCHEDULE

SYDNEY WRITERS FESTIVAL 22-28 MAY

LIVE & LOCAL



THURSDAY 25 MAY

10:00-11:00AM	JANE HARPER: EXILES
12:00-1:00PM	RICHARD FIDLER: THE BOOK OF ROADS & KINGDOMS
2:00-3:00PM	GERALDINE BROOKS: HORSE
4:00-5:00PM	GEORGE MONBIOT: REGENESIS
6:00-7:00PM	RICHARD FIDLER & PETER FRANKOPAN

THUR 25-SUN 28 MAY

FRIDAY 26 MAY

10:00-11:00AM	BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE
12:00-1:00PM	ELEANOR CATTON: BIRNAM WOOD
2:00-3:00PM	MICHAEL KIRBY & BO SEO
4:00-5:00PM	COLSON WHITEHEAD: HARLEM SHUFFLE

SATURDAY 27 MAY

10:00-11:00AM	A LIFE IN FOOD: STEPHANIE ALEXANDER AND MAGGIE BEER
12:00-1:00PM	CRIME AND JUSTICE
2:00-3:00PM	GREAT ADAPTATIONS
4:00-5:00PM	PIP WILLIAMS: THE BOOKBINDER OF JERICHO
6:00-7:00PM	STATE OF THE ART
7:30-8:30PM	REAL SELVES

SUNDAY 28 MAY

10:00-11:00AM	BARRIE CASSIDY & FRIENDS: STATE OF THE NATION
12:00-1:00PM	FIFTY SHADES OF TEAL
2:00-3:00PM	RECKONING, NOT RECONCILIATION
4:00-5:00PM	THE VOICE TO PARLIAMENT: ALL THE DETAIL YOU NEED

LIVE STREAMING SCHEDULE

THURSDAY 25 MAY

10.00–11.00AM



JANE HARPER: EXILES

Jane Harper has been hailed “the queen of outback noir” (*The Sunday Times*) for a string of crime novels that have sold more than 3 million copies in 40 territories worldwide. Her latest book, *Exiles*, brings back federal policeman Aaron Falk, who was first introduced in *The Dry*. He investigates the disappearance of a woman from a country wine festival whose infant daughter is found unharmed in her pram. See Jane in conversation with Michaela Kalowski about the thrilling and likely final instalment of the much-loved Falk series.

12.00–1.00PM



RICHARD FIDLER: THE BOOK OF ROADS & KINGDOMS

Much-loved *Conversations* host and bestselling author Richard Fidler delves into *The Book of Roads & Kingdoms*, an account of medieval wanderers who travelled to the edges of the known world during Islam’s fabled Golden Age. He joins Caroline Baum to discuss the work hailed by *The Sydney Morning Herald* as “a bewitching tale consisting of stories within stories that radically tilts the Western reader’s perspective, revealing a world when all roads led to Baghdad.”

2.00–3.00PM



GERALDINE BROOKS: HORSE

From Pulitzer Prize-winning author and journalist Geraldine Brooks, *Horse* is a historical saga of spirit, obsession and injustice. With the moral complexity of her novel *March* and a multi-stranded plot reminiscent of *People of the Book*, she explores the true tale of one of America’s greatest racehorses while reckoning with the corrosive legacy of slavery and racism. Praised for an “almost clairvoyant ability to conjure up the textures of the past and of each character’s inner life” (*The Wall Street Journal*), Geraldine appears in conversation with Nicole Abadee.

Geraldine Brooks appears thanks to the support of Rosie Williams and John Grill AO.

4.00–5.00PM



GEORGE MONBIOT: REGENESIS

Bestselling British author and activist George Monbiot turns his attention to farming as one of the often-overlooked causes of environmental destruction in *Regenesis: Feeding the World Without Devouring the Planet*. In his urgent and ultimately hopeful account of our faltering food system, he considers how we can make peace with our planet, restore its living systems, and replace the age of extinction with an age of regeneration. See George as he appears live via video with Rebecca Huntley.

6.00–7.00PM



RICHARD FIDLER & PETER FRANKOPAN

Beloved radio presenter Richard Fidler and bestselling author and Oxford professor Peter Frankopan share the stage to discuss their richly rendered works of historical non-fiction. Richard is the author of *Ghost Empire*, *The Golden Maze* and, most recently, *The Book of Roads & Kingdoms*, the story of Arab and Persian travellers in medieval China, India and Byzantium. Peter is author of *The Silk Roads: A New History of the World* and *The Earth Transformed: An Untold History*, a fascinating account of climate change across human history. Richard and Peter appear in conversation with historian Clare Wright.

Peter Frankopan appears thanks to the support of Tearaway Press.

LIVE STREAMING SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 26 MAY

10.00–11.00AM



BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE

In skilled hands, historical fiction brings the past to life in surprising ways. It also helps us make sense of our present, and even offers foreknowledge of the future. Hear from some of the country's finest writers of historical novels – Geraldine Brooks (*Horse*), Pip Williams (*The Bookbinder of Jericho*) and emerging talent Sally Colin-James (*One Illumined Thread*) – as they discuss the past as prologue and how they convincingly intertwine fact and fiction in their work. This panel event is hosted by ABC RN's *The Bookshelf*'s Kate Evans.

Supported by ARA.

12.00–1.00PM



ELEANOR CATTON: BIRNAM WOOD

Eleanor Catton became the youngest winner of the Booker Prize in 2013 for her sprawling Victorian mystery *The Luminaries*. Its keenly anticipated follow-up, *Birnam Wood*, is a psychological thriller set in rural New Zealand, where super-rich foreigners face off with ragtag locals on the eve of a global catastrophe. Eleanor returns to the Festival in conversation with Beejay Silcox about her gripping story that brings kaleidoscopic insight into what drives us to survive.

Eleanor Catton appears thanks to the support of Rosemary Block.

2.00–3.00PM



MICHAEL KIRBY & BO SEO

Two-time world debating champion Bo Seo and former High Court justice Michael Kirby examine how we might better listen to and disagree with each other in an era of increasingly harsh and divisive discourse. They discuss Bo's new book, *Good Arguments*, part memoir of how he discovered the art of debating as a shy, conflict-adverse child, and part treatise on why the pillars of good debate – fact finding, reason and persuasion – offer an antidote to political spin, fake news and social media slugs.

Supported by the Jibb Foundation.

4.00–5.00PM



COLSON WHITEHEAD: HARLEM SHUFFLE

After penning the Pulitzer Prize-winning novels *The Underground Railroad* and *The Nickel Boys*, American author Colson Whitehead set out to write a trilogy of stories centred on a furniture salesman-turned-crook named Ray Carney. The first in the series, *Harlem Shuffle*, is a hugely entertaining tale of race, power and the history of New York in the guise of a page-turning heist novel. Join Colson in conversation with Michael Williams about the book and its forthcoming follow up, *Crook Manifesto*, which continues the saga in an increasingly combustible 1970s Manhattan.

Colson Whitehead appears thanks to the support of Matthew and Fiona Playfair.

LIVE STREAMING SCHEDULE

10.00–11.00AM



A LIFE IN FOOD: STEPHANIE ALEXANDER AND MAGGIE BEER

Culinary icons Stephanie Alexander and Maggie Beer have inspired generations of home cooks and fundamentally transformed how we think about food. They reflect on their decades-long friendship, and their partnership in running a cooking school for Australians in a medieval villa in Italy. They also talk about their influential books on preparing, cooking and savouring delicious food, including their co-authored *Tuscan Cookbook*, which was recently optioned to be made into a feature film. They are joined on stage by cook, writer and presenter Adam Liaw.

12.00–1.00PM



CRIME AND JUSTICE

We are fascinated by stories of crime and how they unfold. There are no finer narrators of such stories than legendary author Helen Garner and *The Teacher's Pet* podcaster Hedley Thomas, whose work explores the link between confronting terrible things that happen and the people who are involved. They sit down with Sarah Krasnostein to explore the compelling nature of crime and the pressing question of what happens when justice takes a lifetime – or if it never comes at all?

Helen Garner appears thanks to the support of Kathy and Greg Shand.

2.00–3.00PM



GREAT ADAPTATIONS

Four favourite writers come together to give the lowdown on having their works adapted into TV shows and movies and adapting the work of others. Hear from Eleanor Catton, whose novels *The Rehearsal* and *The Luminaries* have made their way to the screen; Holly Ringland, whose bestseller *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart* is being turned into a series starring Sigourney Weaver; and Tom Rob Smith, whose novel *Child 44* became a movie with Tom Hardy and whose adaptations for the screen *The Assassination of Gianni Versace* have won him an Emmy and a Golden Globe. They chat with Benjamin Law.

4.00–5.00PM



PIP WILLIAMS: THE BOOKBINDER OF JERICO

Australian novelist Pip Williams drew wide acclaim for her bestselling debut, *The Dictionary of Lost Words*, “a marvellous fiction about the power of language to elevate or repress” (Geraldine Brooks). Her new novel, *The Bookbinder of Jericho*, covers similar terrain, with the story of a young British woman working in a book bindery who gets a chance to pursue knowledge and love when World War I upends her life. Pip is in conversation with Cassie McCullagh.

6.00–7.00PM



STATE OF THE ART

How is fiction evolving with our times? Is the novel a vulnerable art or more vital than ever? Could AI one day pen a masterpiece or do our storytellers guard an inimitable craft? Join some of the leading names in literature today – Eleanor Catton, Richard Flanagan, Tracey Lien and Colson Whitehead – for a lively discussion about the state of the novel and the future of fiction. They are joined in conversation by ABC RN's *The Bookshelf*'s Kate Evans.

7.30–8.30PM



REAL SELVES

Women and girls have long been pressured to conform to written and unwritten rules about how to think, act, look and feel. But a new generation of writers and activists are breaking down barriers to allow women and girls to show their real selves. Hear from *Heartbreak High* actress, advocate and *Different, Not Less* author Chloé Hayden, Wadjanbarra Yidinji, Jirrbal and African-American filmmaker and *Gigrou* author Sasha Kutabah Sarago, and activist for sexual assault survivors and *The Ninth Life of a Diamond Miner* author Grace Tame in conversation with disability and women's rights advocate Hannah Diviney about their pathbreaking work.

LIVE STREAMING SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 28 MAY

10.00–11.00AM



BARRIE CASSIDY & FRIENDS: STATE OF THE NATION

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 ScoMo's secret ministries to the climate reckoning of the Teal wave and the verdict on Labor's first year in office, it's all up for dissection as they take the pulse of the nation. Barrie shares the stage with Katharine Murphy, Niki Savva and Laura Tingle.

12.00–1.00PM



FIFTY SHADES OF TEAL

Last year saw independent candidates spectacularly oust Liberal Party stalwarts from once safe seats and upend the electoral rulebook. Hear from a panel with different perspectives as they consider the role of issues like climate action and political integrity in the independent candidates' victories, what their ascension reveals about the country's mood for change, and how they might shape our politics into the future. Independent MP Helen Haines, *The Big Teal* author Simon Holmes à Court and *The Teal Revolution: Inside the Movement Changing Australian Politics* author Margot Saville speak with Barrie Cassidy.

2.00–3.00PM



RECKONING, NOT RECONCILIATION

With the campaign for a First Nations Voice to Parliament in full swing, leading First Nations thinkers Stan Grant and Teela Reid ask whether we are entering a new era for Australian democracy. Are we ready to speak and hear the truth about history as we move into the future? Two storytellers with different experiences and perspectives, they talk about what it means to be a First Nations person in a country that is yet to reconcile historical wrongs.

4.00–5.00PM



THE VOICE TO PARLIAMENT: ALL THE DETAIL YOU NEED

What will a Voice to Parliament actually mean? Indigenous leader Thomas Mayo and legendary journalist Kerry O'Brien have worked together to write an accessible and engaging guide to this question. Whether you want to understand more about the Voice or would like some clear answers to share in conversations with others, this is a great opportunity to join an inspiring discussion of what our shared future can be.