



# Schools Program 2023

**Bookings:** Learning & Outreach team Albury LibraryMuseum

**Email:** [learningoutreach@alburycity.nsw.gov.au](mailto:learningoutreach@alburycity.nsw.gov.au)

**Phone:** Narelle L - 02 6023 8346 or Shelby – 02 6023 8366

**Web:** [writearoundthemurray.org.au](http://writearoundthemurray.org.au)

Write Around the Murray 2023 is looming brighter and bolder than ever. The Festival is on from **Wednesday 13 – Sunday 17 September**, with the bespoke Schools Program running from **Wednesday 13 – Friday 15 September**, including sessions at Hyphen Wodonga this year! We are delighted to offer a brilliant line-up of authors for teachers and students to rub shoulders with, learn from and be inspired by.

This year's Schools Program features writer and Slam poet, **Megan J Riedl**; Wiradjuri storyteller and linguist, **Ruth Davys**; author, illustrator, TV producer and screenwriter, **Mick Elliott**, Cultural storytelling/illustrating duo, **Jordan Gould & Richard Pritchard**; Young Adult fantasy writer, **Karen Ginnane**; local author **Sally Hughes**; author/digital illustrator, **Sher Rill Ng**; and award-winning children's author, ghost-writer and copywriter, **Andrea Rowe**.

## Booking Process and Guidelines

**Email bookings:** [learningoutreach@alburycity.nsw.gov.au](mailto:learningoutreach@alburycity.nsw.gov.au)

**Phone bookings:** Narelle L - 02 6023 8346 or Shelby – 02 6023 8366

- The WAM Schools Program is free to all schools within a 150 km radius of Albury Wodonga.
- Sessions take place across the **Albury LibraryMuseum, Retro Lane Café, Lavington Library, Murray Art Museum Albury (MAMA) and Hyphen Wodonga**.
- First round bookings are available **Wednesday 17 May - Wednesday 7 June**. Bookings are **limited to 200 places** per school in the first round. Unlimited bookings after 7 June.
- Groups must commit to attending the entire session. Early exiting of groups is disruptive and not permitted.
- **Confirmation of booking is required to secure places**. Bookings will remain as reservations only until reconfirmed by email or phone **no later than Friday 18 August**.
- Unconfirmed bookings will be offered to those on the waiting list from Monday 21 August.
- Please advise of cancellations or changes to bookings asap so that places can be offered to others.
- Please notify of any specific needs when booking so that student requirements may be accommodated.

*Your cooperation with the above assists us in continuing to offer this valuable program free of charge.*

### ALEA Travel subsidies available



Thanks to the Riverina Murray Local Council of Australian Literacy Educators' Association (ALEA), we are able to offer a limited number of subsidies for bus travel to the WAM Schools Program. This offer is for schools who would otherwise experience difficulty attending. Send us a brief (approx. 100 words) expression of interest outlining your school's need for assistance before 30 June 2023 [learningoutreach@alburycity.nsw.gov.au](mailto:learningoutreach@alburycity.nsw.gov.au)

**All author and session details are listed below. Refer to the timetable on the last page for a quick reference to the schedule.**

## **Ruth Davys**

**Sessions for years: F – 2**

Ruth Davys is a proud Wiradjuri woman and ambassador for the Wiradjuri nation. She is the vision keeper of Wiradjuri language company, Giilangyaldhaanygalang, and a passionate educator. Ruth is co-creator of the online, bi-lingual Wiradjuri and English puppet project, 'Who? What? Where?', designed to make learning language fun and entertaining. As a Cultural educator, Ruth works closely with local Elders and community to support engagement and cultural understanding.

### **Yalbilinya Wiradjuri | Interactive Presentation | Years F - 2**

Ruth introduces children to Wiradjuri language and shares some stories. Students will have lots of fun learning Wiradjuri words, singing 'heads and shoulders' in Wiradjuri, and learning what it means to acknowledge the land and why it's important.

**Years F – 2 | Lavington Library | Wednesday 13 September | 11.30am – 12.30pm | Limit 30 students**

**Years F – 2 | Lavington Library | Wednesday 13 September | 1.00pm – 2.00pm | Limit 30 students**

## **Sally Hughes**

**Sessions for years: 3 – 6**

Sally Hughes lives locally in Corowa. She is passionate about engaging people of all ages with the natural environment. Sally is a mum, a Landcarer, a community gardener and a Councillor who is enthusiastic about building connected communities. Sally left the teaching profession in 2017 in search of her true purpose. Along the way she wrote a children's book about Chris Tzaros- a bird ecologist who lives in Wangaratta. She loves sharing her passion for anything related to sustainability and the environment with anyone who is interested. She welcomes the opportunity to engage with young people who amaze her with their natural curiosity and interest in nature.

### **Who is your inspiration? | Workshop | Year 3 - 4**

We all have someone in our life who we think is amazing! Sally was so inspired by Chris Tzaros' real life story that she wrote a book about it. In this session, students will choose someone who they admire and bring that person's admirable qualities to life through story, picture, poem or song. Students will explore why they admire their chosen person and how they make an impact in the world.

**Years 3 – 4 | Albury LibraryMuseum | Wednesday 13 September | 12.00pm – 1.00pm | Limit 30 students**

### **What's your Quest? | Interactive Author Talk | Years 5 -6**

In this session Sally will share her book about a local bird ecologist Chris, who's interest in native birds as a child led him to become a bird scientist. Sally will discuss the value of following your heart and doing things that have purpose. Students can share their own stories and passions and consider what it means to follow their heart. They can write or draw their own ideas and inspirations or listen and engage in discussion.

**Years 5 – 6 | Albury LibraryMuseum | Wednesday 13 September | 1.30pm – 2.30pm | Limit 30 students**

## **River of Stories - student writing competition**

Students in years 3 – 12 are invited to enter the River of Stories Poetry and Short Story competition. The theme is 'local or personal stories'. Great prizes to be won by your students and your school.

Entries are open now. Entries close Tuesday 25 July.

Details here: [www.writearoundthemurray.org.au/competitions/river-of-stories](http://www.writearoundthemurray.org.au/competitions/river-of-stories)

## Andrea Rowe

Sessions for years: F – 4

Andrea Rowe is an award-winning children's author, ghost-writer and copywriter. Her picture book *Jetty Jumping* (Hardie Grant) won the 2022 Children's Book Council of Australia, Picture Book of the Year for Early childhood. *Sunday Skating* and *In the Rockpools* are her latest 2023 picture book releases.

Andrea's also the winner of the 2020 Hal Porter Short Story Award, Highly Commended for the 2022 Newcastle Short Story Award and her writing features in the upcoming *Teacher, Teacher* anthology with Affirm Press.

A passionate advocate for contemporary Australian literature, Andrea's the 'author-in-conversation' host with Sorrento's Antipodes Books, the Founding President of Peninsula Writers' Club and the Mornington Peninsula Shire Mayor's Short Story Writing Award.

### The Story Journey | Author Talk | Years F – 2

Andrea shares the twists and turns of creating her new book, *Sunday Skating*, and talks about finding inspiration, how an author's brain works, and just how much happens between the first and last drafts. Students will see the first book Andrea wrote when she was at school, and brainstorm to write a group story.

Years F – 2 | Albury LibraryMuseum | **Thursday 14 September** | 10.00am – 11.00am | Limit 60 students

### Crossing the story bridge | Workshop | Years F - 4

Students will have fun crossing the story bridge in this writing workshop that looks at the elements of story structure, the foundations of character and a central dilemma, and allies who help build the character's story bridge. Includes brainstorming, writing from the senses and how to begin.

Years F – 2 | Hyphen Wodonga | **Thursday 14 September** | 12.00pm – 1.00pm | Limit 30 students

Years 3 – 4 | Hyphen Wodonga | **Thursday 14 September** | 1.30pm – 2.30pm | Limit 30 students

Years F – 2 | Lavington Library | **Friday 15 September** | 12.00pm – 1.00pm | Limit 30 students

Years 3 – 4 | Lavington Library | **Friday 15 September** | 1.30pm – 2.30pm | Limit 30 students

## Mick Elliott

Sessions for years: F – 6

Mick Elliott is an author, illustrator, TV producer, screenwriter, literacy ambassador and professional mischief-maker. His popular debut trilogy, THE TURNERS about a reluctant shapeshifting teenager, was nominated for an Aurealis Award. His illustrated middle grade series, SQUIDGE DIBLEY, has been sold in six international territories and is inexplicably huge in Germany. Mick has contributed stories and illustrations to many bestselling anthologies. His first picture book DADS & DOGS is out now through Walker Books. Mick has written and produced acclaimed children's programmes for the ABC, Nickelodeon, the Sesame Workshop and Channel TEN.

### Cartoon Illustration | Illustration Workshop | Years F – 2, 3 – 4

Learn how easy it is to create a cartoon character with Mick Elliott. Appropriate for kids of all ages, this interactive workshop aims to show kids that everyone can draw. All that is required is pen, paper and imagination.

Years F – 2 | Lavington Library | **Thursday 14 September** | 10.00am – 11.00am | Limit 30 students

Years 3 – 4 | Lavington Library | **Thursday 14 September** | 11.30pm – 12.30pm | Limit 30 students

Years F – 2 | Albury LibraryMuseum | **Friday 15 September** | 1.30pm – 2.30pm | Limit 30 students

### Explode Your Imagination! | Writing Workshop | Years 4 – 6

Unlock student's inner storytelling skills and discover the secret steps for creating characters, comedy and action that explodes off the page. During this workshop, kids will learn how to come up with compelling characters and let them loose in epic stories. Along the way, they'll discover tips and techniques for turning random ideas into fully formed plots.

Years 4 – 6 | Lavington Library | **Thursday 14 September** | 1.30pm – 2.30pm | Limit 30 students

Years 4 – 6 | Albury LibraryMuseum | **Friday 15 September** | 12.00pm – 1.00pm | Limit 30 students

### Stretchy Stories & Plots with Punch | Author Talk | Years 3 – 6

Enter the imagination of best-selling author, illustrator and kids' TV producer Mick Elliott as he reveals his secrets for creating comic characters and twisted tales that readers adore. This dynamic, interactive session is a rare opportunity for kids to hear first-hand from one of Australia's funniest and most energetic storytellers as he recounts the chaotic creative processes behind his book series SQUIDGE DIBLEY, THE TURNERS and his new picture book DADS & DOGS.

**Years 3 – 6 | Albury LibraryMuseum | Friday 15 September | 10.00am – 11.00am | Limit 180 students**

### Jordan Gould & Richard Pritchard

**Sessions for years 3 - 7**

**Jordan Gould** is an indigenous Australian from the Peek Whurrong tribe in Warrnambool, Victoria. He is passionate about teaching and talking to groups about his culture, language and reconciliation. Jordan often performs welcome to country ceremonies at corporate and private gatherings.

**Richard Pritchard** is an indigenous Pacific islander of Samoan heritage. He has always dreamed of writing books since he was a teenager. His passion for storytelling and illustration has led him to work on blockbuster movies and animated films such as Happy Feet, The Great Gatsby and Mad Max Fury Road.

### Wylah | Megabeast and Language Workshop | Years 3 – 7

Meet Wylah the Koorie Warrior creators, Jordan Gould and Richard Pritchard, as they host an amazing interactive workshop. Students will be part of a live character design session in which they'll use Peek Whurrong words to identify and name a new character. Students will also design their own character which could become part of the new Wylah: Megabeast Dominion Trading Card game. This will be a mega fun session with a chance for students to win some Wylah books.

**Years 5 – 7 | Albury LibraryMuseum | Thursday 14 September | 10.00am – 11.00am | Limit 180 students**

**Years 3 – 4 | Albury LibraryMuseum | Thursday 14 September | 11.30am – 12.30pm | Limit 60 students**

**Year 7 | Albury LibraryMuseum | Thursday 14 September | 1.30pm – 2.30pm | Limit 60 students**

**Years 5 – 6 | Albury LibraryMuseum | Friday 15 September | 10.00am – 11.00am | Limit 30 students**

**Years 3 – 4 | Hyphen Wodonga | Friday 15 September | 12.00pm – 1.00pm | Limit 30 students**

**Years 5 – 6 | Hyphen Wodonga | Friday 15 September | 1.30pm – 2.30pm | Limit 30 students**

### Karen Ginnane

**Sessions for years: 5 – 12**

Karen Ginnane is a Melbourne-based author for middle grade and young adult readers. She is the author of the Time Catchers duology, *Tilt* and *When Souls Tear*, historical fantasy adventures set in Victorian London and a parallel city. Karen has been variously employed as a freelance copywriter, marketing director for Paramount Pictures in London, a grain weighbridge operator in rural WA, a swimming teacher, life model, deckhand in Chile, and an English teacher in Japan. She's taught creative writing and bellydance, published short stories, and in 2020 she received a Varuna Creative Retreat Fellowship for *When Souls Tear*.

Karen uses the real world and history to explore themes of connection, found family, self-discovery, the importance of true friends and allies, truth-finding and how you use your time on this earth.

### From Real to Weird | Workshop | Years 5-7

Children will be guided to build the foundations of a unique world, using their imaginations and their own experience to create something entirely new.

**Years 6 – 7 | Retro Lane Café | Friday 15 September | 10.00am – 11.00am | Limit 30 students**

**Years 5 – 6 | Albury LibraryMuseum | Friday 15 September | 1.30pm – 2.30pm | Limit 30 students**

### **Into the Heart of the Story: Writing Immersively | Workshop | Years 8 - 10**

How do you sink your reader deep into your story world? Learn how to bring your story to vivid life using all your senses, grounding it in place, finding fresh connections and putting muscle on your verbs.

**Years 8 – 9 | Retro Lane Café | Thursday 14 September | 1.30pm – 2.30pm | Limit 30 students**

**Years 9 – 10 | Retro Lane Café | Friday 15 September | 11.30am – 12.30pm | Limit 30 students**

### **The Road to 'Time Catchers' | Author Talk 7 – 8 | Years 7 - 8**

Karen talks about her author journey with *Time Catchers* - from rhyming couplets to an intricately built historical fantasy world.

**Years 7 – 8 | Retro Lane Café | Thursday 14 September | 10.00am – 11.00am | Limit 60 students**

### **The Craft of Writing | Author Talk**

From texts to ads to movies to games to online messaging - today the world is writing more than ever. We all have a voice and stories we want heard. How do we fill our writing toolboxes with the tools of the craft so we can be persuasive, entertaining, informative, respected and heard? AND have fun and create art!

**Years 9 – 12 | Albury LibraryMuseum | Thursday 14 September | 12.00pm – 1.00pm | Limit 180 students**

## **Sher Rill Ng**

**Sessions for years: F – 4, 7 – 12**

Sher Rill Ng is a Woi Wurrung/Melbourne-based digital illustrator. She designed and illustrated for SaaS companies before releasing her first author-illustrated picture book *Our Little Inventor*, subsequently adapted into a children's opera by the West Australian Opera in 2022.

In collaboration with Alice Pung, Sher Rill created the illustrations for the 2022 picture book, *Be Careful, Xiao Xin!* Her work also includes middle grade book covers for *The Twelve* by Cindy Lin, *The Rogues* by Lian Tanner and *Winnie Zeng Unleashes a Legend* by Katie Zhao.

### **Our Little Inventor | Drawing Workshop | Years F - 4**

Following a reading of *Our Little Inventor*, students will learn how Sher Rill begins her illustration process, where she finds inspiration, and how she begins drawing a character. Students will develop and draw their own original character.

**Years 3 – 4 | Albury LibraryMuseum | Thursday 14 September | 12.00pm – 1.00pm | Limit 30 students**

**Years 3 – 4 | Albury LibraryMuseum | Thursday 14 September | 1.30pm – 2.30pm | Limit 30 students**

**Years F – 2 | Albury LibraryMuseum | Friday 15 September | 10.00am – 11.00am | Limit 30 students**

### **An illustrator's Journey | Author Talk | Years 7 - 10**

In addition to being an author-illustrator, Sher Rill exhibits her work, has created cover art for more than a dozen novels, and works in digital design and illustration for software companies. In this author talk she describes the work she has done as an Illustrator, her artistic journey and the process of creating her books, as well as discussing digital illustration and how it works.

**Years 7 – 10 | Albury LibraryMuseum | Friday 15 September | 12.00pm – 1.00pm | Limit 180 students**

### **Illustration & Storyboarding | Workshop | Years 8 - 9**

In this hands-on demo and Q&A session, students will follow along with Sher Rill to learn the basics of how to draw the human figure and develop their own original character. They'll also learn how to storyboard for picture books and/or graphic novels, and will learn more about what an illustrator does and what their work process look likes.

**Years 8 – 9 | Retro Lane Café | Friday 15 September | 1.30pm – 2.30pm | Limit 30 students**

### **Character Illustration & Art Commissions | Workshop | Years 10-12**

In addition to learning the basics of how to draw the human figure and develop a unique character, students will learn more about what an illustrator does and their work processes. This workshop covers the digital illustrator's tools, how to develop storyboards, plus art commissions and how to break down overwhelming projects into manageable ones.

**Years 10 – 12 | MAMA | Thursday 14 September | 10.00am – 11.00am | Limit 20 students**

### **Megan J Riedl – Slam Poet**

**Sessions for years: 8 – 12**

Megan J Riedl is feeling out loud. Combining the personal and political, she leads by example in standing up, showing up and speaking up, sharing the messy, human experiences that often go unspoken.

Megan's poetry fearlessly gives voice to the secret stories we tell ourselves and her playwriting explores themes of identity, belonging, truth and power, highlighting issues of social justice. A powerful spoken word performer, she was awarded Queensland Poetry's 2021 XYZ Innovation in Spoken Word Prize and was an Australian Poetry Slam Victorian State Finalist for three years running. Megan's poetry has been commissioned, published and exhibited from Fed Square to the Immigration Museum, and used for election campaigns to music festivals.

### **Poetry Slam | Workshop | Years 8 - 12**

Not your average writing workshop. With a focus on writing for performance, our 'Wordshops' get students excited and engaged with the writing process. Each student will create a new piece of poetry using their own experiences, community and identity as inspiration. The workshop will encourage students to explore new ways of expressing their creative ideas using live performance, writing techniques, and video references.

**Years 8 – 12 | Hyphen Wodonga | Wednesday 13 September | 12.30pm – 2.30pm | Limit 20 students**

### **More Slam Poetry opportunities for students and adults:**

Also at Hyphen Wodonga, Megan will run a public slam poetry workshop on Tuesday 12 September, 6.30pm – 8.30pm and will host the WAM Poetry Slam – a cross-border Australian Poetry Slam heat – on Wednesday 13 September at 7pm. Performers register from 6.30pm. More details available when full program announced on 2 August.

## **WAM Public Program**

**The public program is announced on Wednesday 2 August**

Sneak preview of highlights:

The Almond Prince Part 2, a **Dungeons & Dragons** one-shot event with author TR Napper as Dungeon Master, back by popular demand!

Plus authors **Pip Williams, Debra Dank, Shelley Burr, Paul Dalgarno, Kate Mildenhall, Kathryn Heyman** and more to be announced soon!

Visit the **WAM website** and subscribe to receive early updates and highlights.



# Write Around the Murray Schools Program Timetable

Authors	Time	Wednesday 13 September	Thursday 14 September	Friday 15 September
		Year   Booking limit   Venue	Year   Booking limit   Venue	Year   Booking limit   Venue
Megan Riedl	12.30pm - 2.30pm	Year 8-12   max 20   Hyphen Wodonga		
Ruth Davys	11:30am - 12:30pm	Year F-2   max 30   Lavington Library		
	1.00pm – 2.00pm	Year F-2   max 30   Lavington Library		
Sally Hughes	12.00pm - 1.00pm	Year 3-4   max 30   Albury LibraryMuseum		
	1.30pm - 2.30pm	Year 5-6   max 30   Albury LibraryMuseum		
Jordan Gould & Richard Pritchard	10.00am – 11.00am		Year 5-7   max 180   Albury LibraryMuseum	
	11.30am – 12.30pm		Year 3-4   max 60   Albury LibraryMuseum	
	1.30pm – 2.30pm		year 7   max 60   Albury LibraryMuseum	
	10.00am – 11.00am			Year 5-6   max 30   Albury LibraryMuseum
	12.00pm – 1.00pm			Year 3-4   max 30   Hyphen Wodonga
	1.30pm – 2.30pm			Year 5-6   max 30   Hyphen Wodonga
Karen Ginnane	10.00am – 11.00am		Year 7-8   max 60   Retro Café	
	12.00pm – 1.00pm		year 9-12   max 180   Albury LibraryMuseum	
	1.30pm – 2.30pm		Year 8-9   max 30   Retro Café	
	10.00am – 11.00am			Year 6-7   max 30   Retro Café
	11.30am – 12.30pm			Year 9-10   max 30   Retro Café
	1.30pm – 2.30pm			Year 5-6   max 30   Albury LibraryMuseum
Andrea Rowe	10.00am - 11.00am		Year F-2   max 60   Albury LibraryMuseum	
	12.00pm – 1.00pm		Year F-2   max 30   Hyphen Wodonga	
	1.30pm – 2.30pm		Year 3-4   max 30   Hyphen Wodonga	
	12.0pm – 1.00pm			Year F-2   max 30   Lavington Library
	1.30pm – 2.30pm			Year 3-4   max 30   Lavington Library
Sher Rill Ng	10.00am – 11.00am		Year 10-12   max 20   MAMA	
	12.00pm – 1.00pm		Year 3-4   max 30   Albury LibraryMuseum	
	1.30pm – 2.30pm		Year 3-4   max 30   Albury LibraryMuseum	
	10.00am – 11.00am			Year F-2   max 30   Albury LibraryMuseum
	12.00pm – 1.00pm			Year 7-10   max 180   Albury LibraryMuseum
	1.30pm – 2.30pm			Year 8-9   max 30   Retro Café
Mick Elliot	10.00am – 11.00am		Year F-2   max 30   Lavington Library	
	11.30am – 12.30pm		Year 3-4   max 30   Lavington Library	
	1.30pm – 2.30pm		Year 4-6   max 30   Lavington Library	
	10.00am – 11.00am			Year 3-6   max 180   Albury LibraryMuseum
	12.00 – 1.00pm			Year 4-6   max 30   Albury LibraryMuseum
	1.30pm – 2.30pm			Year F-2   max 30   Albury LibraryMuseum