



# Schools Program 2021

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

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After a year of living online, Write Around the Murray is thrilled to offer real life author talks and workshops again. Sessions are on the last two days of Term 3, **Thursday 16 and Friday 17 September**. We're also very excited to be offering some bigger sessions in the beautiful new James Fallon High School Hall, as well as sessions at the LibraryMuseum and Retro Lane Café.

The program includes past and present Children's Laureates **Leigh Hobbs** (sessions for years K-7) and **Ursula Duborsarsky** (for years K-6); cartoonist **Judy Horacek** (for years 8-12), local author **Ian Trevaskis** (years 7-8); **Lisa Walker**, author of the Olivia Grace teen PI series (years 8-12) and **Sofie Laguna**, winner of multiple children's book awards (years K-6).

*\*Timetable on last page*

## Booking Process and Guidelines

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

**Phone bookings:** Janien - 02 6023 8352 or Narelle L - 02 6023 8346

- The WAM Schools Program is free to all schools within a 150 km radius of Albury Wodonga.
- Sessions take place in the **Albury LibraryMuseum** and in the new **James Fallon High School Hall** on Fallon Street.
- First round bookings open **Tuesday 18 May to 8 June and are limited to 200 places per school**. Unlimited bookings available after 8 June.
- Groups must be able to attend the entire session as early exiting of a group is disruptive to the facilitator and others attending the session.
- **Confirmation of booking is required 6 weeks in advance**. Your booking will remain as a reservation only until you reconfirm by email **no later than Monday 2 August**.
- Your earliest advice of changes to your booking is appreciated so places can be offered to those on waiting lists. Unconfirmed bookings will be offered to the waiting list.
- Please contact us with any queries or special needs – we're happy to help.
- **Covid-19** restrictions as they currently stand mean student numbers in sessions at the LibraryMuseum are reduced in comparison to previous years. We are a Covid-safe venue and will advise if any future changes to Covid guidelines impact on this program.

Thank you for your understanding with respect to the above. Your cooperation assists us in continuing to offer this valuable program free of charge.

## Primary School Sessions

PLEASE NOTE: Leigh Hobbs and Judy Horacek will run sessions for both primary and secondary students.

### Ursula Dubosarsky

Sessions for years: K – 6

Ursula Dubosarsky wanted to be a writer from age six and is now the author of over 60 books for children and young adults and has won several national prizes, including the NSW, Victorian, South Australian and Queensland Premier's Literary Awards. She has received numerous nominations and awards for prestigious international children's literature prizes and is the current Australian Children's Laureate (2020-2021). Ursula's presentations for the Write Around the Murray Schools program are inspired by her most recently published children's books, *Ask Hercules Quick* (2019), *Pierre's Not There* (2020), and *March of the Ants* (2021).

#### The March of the Ants | Years K – 2

The ants are heading off on an important expedition – what should they take with them? Find out how the littlest ant brings the most special thing of all. Ursula will be asking children to help her act out the story.

**Albury LibraryMuseum | Friday 17 September | 1.30pm – 2pm | Limit 60 students**

#### Hercules Quick | Years 3 – 4

Join Ursula to make the magic happen with Hercules Quick. He's a boy with a mission, doing very odd jobs for his very strange neighbours (all animals!) to save up for his very own box of magic tricks.

**Albury LibraryMuseum | Friday 17 September | 10am – 11am | Limit 90 students**

#### Pierre's Not There! | Years 5 – 6

A girl, a boy, a wolf and a puppet theatre with powers that carry you beyond the imagination! Ursula will tell you how she came to write this book and show you some of her favourite puppets along the way.

**Albury LibraryMuseum | Friday 17 Sept | 11.30am – 12.30pm | Limit 90 students**

### Sofie Laguna

Sessions for years: K – 6

Sofie Laguna originally studied to be a lawyer, but after deciding law was not for her, she trained as an actor. She began her writing career as an author for children and has written over twenty books for young people. Her work has been published in the US, the UK and in translation throughout Europe and Asia. Sofie has been shortlisted for the Queensland Premier's Award, and twice been awarded Honour Book by the Children's Book Council of Australia.

#### Words, Sound, Action! | Interactive Presentation | Years K – 2

Words, Sound, Action explores the different ways stories can be transformed into performance, the different places we can find inspiration for stories and plays and finding the right place to express ourselves. Sofie draws on her acting skills to perform a play based on her book *My Yellow Blanky*. She plays the main character, an energetic and wilful five-year-old, and children from the audience play the other parts, complete with costumes and props. Sofie also uses her successful picture book, *Too Loud Lily* as a tool for interactive performance. Students work together as a chorus with Sofie in the role of 'conductor'.

**Albury Library Museum | Friday 17 September | 10am – 11am | Limit 60 students**

### **Bringing Stories to Life | Theatrical Presentation | Years 3 – 6**

Sofie explores how stories can be transformed into performance, where we can find inspiration for stories and plays, and how we can use the difficult things that happen in life as creative inspiration. She discusses the inspiration behind her work – including stories about embarrassing parents and family holidays. She empowers her young audience with the belief that their own lives are rich with material for great stories. Sofie uses her sensitive and moving first Young Adult novel *Bird and Sugar Boy* as a springboard for a discussion with the students about families, best friends and the power of nature in our lives. Sofie will invite students to act out scenes from her novels.

**Albury LibraryMuseum | Friday 17 September | 1.30pm – 2.30pm | Limit 90 students**

### **Private Spaces for Creativity | Journal Workshop | Years 5 – 6**

In her journal-keeping workshops Sofie explores the different ways journals and diaries can function in both our personal and creative lives. Sofie has been keeping a diary since she was 7 years old when her grandmother bought her a blank book as a gift. Contained within her diaries are the first drafts of many books which she shares with the students. Sofie discusses the value of having a private place to be creative and expressive and the ways it has healed and helped her.

**Albury LibraryMuseum | Friday 17 Sept | 12pm – 1pm | Limit 30 students**

## **Leigh Hobbs**

**Sessions for years: K – 7**

Leigh Hobbs is an artist and author who works across a wide range of mediums. He is certainly best known though, both in Australia and overseas, for the extremely popular children's books he has written and illustrated featuring his characters Old Tom, Horrible Harriet, Fiona The Pig, The Freaks in 4F, Mr Chicken and Mr Badger. Leigh was a Secondary School art teacher for twenty-five years and in 2016 - 2017 was the Australian Children's Laureate. He has presented and run writing and drawing workshops for children and adults at Literature Festivals in the USA, UK and of course Australia.

### ***Everyone can draw!!***

Leigh's sessions are structured with all students drawing and eventually creating their own characters. The sessions aim to inspire confidence in every student and focus on how different we are rather than 'who is best'. Leigh will conduct drawing exercises in each session, even in the large groups!

**+ Years K – 2 | Albury LibraryMuseum | Thursday 16 September | 10am – 11am | Limit 60 Students**

**\* Years 3 – 6 | Albury LibraryMuseum | Thursday 16 September | 12pm – 1pm | Limit 90 students**

**\* Years 6 – 7 | James Fallon High | Friday 17 September | 11.30am – 12.30pm | Limit 270 students**

*\* Each student in the sessions for Years 3 – 6 and 6 – 7 must bring the following with them into the session as it will not be practical to distribute materials on entry:*

- A blank drawing pad or sheets of A4 white paper **with a clipboard or book** to rest their paper on (they cannot draw resting paper on their knees or the floor)*
- A 2B lead pencil or a black fine line pen to draw with. **NO ERASERS!***

*+ Materials will be provided for students in the K-2 session*

## Judy Horacek

Sessions for years: K – 12

Judy Horacek is a cartoonist and children's book creator. Her work has appeared in *The Age*, *The Canberra Times*, *The Australian* and many books and journals. Ten collections of her cartoons have been published, the most recent of which are *Random Life* and *Now or Never*. With Mem Fox, she created the best-selling *Where is the Green Sheep?* and has since done four other picture books with Mem and four on her own. One of her major projects for the past few years (interrupted by Covid) has been working with the Flying Fruit Fly Circus on *Girls with Altitude*, where circus and cartoons meet. It will be launched on the world at The Cube Wodonga in late September.

### Storytime with Judy Horacek | Years K – 2

A storytime reading with Judy including *Where is the Green Sheep?* and *Good Night Sleep Tight*, plus Judy will talk about how an idea can become a book.

**Albury LibraryMuseum | Friday 17 September | 12pm – 1pm | Limit 60 students**

### Seriously absurd with Judy Horacek | Years 8 – 12

Along with a slideshow of her cartoons and artwork, Judy will talk about what why she became a cartoonist, what she thinks is great about it and what isn't so wonderful. She talks about addressing serious topics (such as climate destruction and gender discrimination) with humour; her current collaboration with the Flying Fruit Fly Circus; and also about her picture books and how her first book with Mem Fox, *Where is the Green Sheep?*, came about.

**James Fallon High | Friday 17 September | 9.30am – 10.30am | Limit 270 students**

## Secondary School Sessions

Please note: See above section for Leigh Hobbs and Judy Horacek sessions for secondary students.

## Ian Trevaskis

Sessions for years: 7 – 8

Ian Trevaskis has published several picture story books, including *Deliah's Dream*, *Quincy* and *The Postman's Race*. *Quincy* and *The Postman's Race* were awarded 'Notable Australian Book' awards by the Children's Book Council of Australia. In 2006 he was awarded a Writer's Fellowship at Varuna where he wrote *Hopscotch Medusa Stone*, the first novel in the Hopscotch series. In 2014 he travelled to Adelaide after being awarded a May Gibbs Creative Time Fellowship to work on the young adult novel *Of Boys and Boats*, released in 2020. Ian lives in the tiny township of Tallangatta in north-east Victoria.

### Writing from History | Talk | Years 7 – 8

Using examples from his novels, *Hopscotch Medusa Stone*, *Hopscotch Golden Scarab* and *Of Boys and Boats*, Ian will discuss and illustrate how historical events, both personal and world-wide, can be used as a springboard to create fictionalised stories that resonate with readers and draw them into past worlds. Comprehensive Teacher's Notes, including 'English Curriculum Connections' are available to download for free from Ford Street Publishing: <https://fordstreetpublishing.com/book/of-boys-and-boats/>

**Albury LibraryMuseum | Thursday 16 September | 10am - 11am | Limit 90 students**

### **Whose Story is it? | Workshop | Years 7 – 8**

This hands-on writing workshop will focus on **Point of View**. After readings from some of Ian's picture story books, students will undertake a brief writing warm-up session - 'Fast and Furious', before rewriting the picture book, *Delilah's Dream* from the fox's point of view. This workshop aims to involve ALL students in writing that is fast-paced, fun and creative. Because of time constraints students will be encouraged to finish their written piece back at school and email the completed work to Ian who will provide feedback.

**Retro Lane Café | Thursday 16 September | 11.30am – 12.30pm | Limit 30 students**

## **Lisa Walker**

**Sessions for years: 8 – 12**

Lisa writes quirky, thoughtful fiction for adults and young adults, with seven novels published to date. She has also written an ABC Radio National play and been published in *The Age*, *The Big Issue*, *Griffith Review* and the *Review of Australian Fiction*. Her most recent novel, 'Trouble is My Business', is the second in a humorous teen detective series, set in Byron Bay and the Gold Coast. She has a PhD in creative writing and has previously worked in environmental communication. Lisa lives, surfs and writes on the north coast of NSW.

### **Tell Me Lies | Talk | Years 8 – 12**

Lisa Walker tells lies for a living. In this session, she reveals how to make these lies feel like the truth to a reader. Join Lisa as she discusses her humorous crime series featuring teen detective Olivia Grace, which explores themes of feminism, body positivity, and backing your dreams. Lisa will show how to draw on your own life to create vivid characters and vibrant worlds that feel real.

**James Fallon High | Thursday 16 September | 1.30pm – 2.30pm | Limit 270 students**

### **Tip of the Iceberg | Writing Workshop | Years 9 – 10**

Flash fiction is like an iceberg – most of the story is hidden. Flash fictions are stories with plot and character development ranging from a few words up to a thousand. Join Lisa Walker to discover how to write compelling super-short stories in this hands-on workshop. Students will learn strategies for writing great flash fiction, use prompts to generate ideas, then develop these ideas into a bite-sized story.

**Retro Lane Café | Thursday 16 September | 9.30am – 10.30am | Limit 30 students**

## **WAM Public Program**

Most schools program authors are part of the public program

### **On Saturday...**

- **WAM4Kids** is at the Botanic Gardens, featuring drawing with **Leigh Hobbs**, storytelling with **Ursula Dubosarsky**, and **Fiona Scott-Norman** talking to kids about their beloved chooks!
  - **Sofie Laguna**, **Ursula Dubosarsky** and **Leigh Hobbs** discuss writing for children
  - **Lisa Walker** runs a writing workshop for 12-16 year olds
  - **Judy Horacek** offers an author talk for adults in conjunction with her exhibition

### **Throughout the festival...**

Other guests you can look forward to meeting include **Emily Maguire**, **Pip Williams**, **Jock Serong**, **Rick Morton**, **Anita Heiss** and more to be announced!

The program is available at [www.writearoundthemurray.org.au](http://www.writearoundthemurray.org.au) as of Friday 6 August  
**Register via the website** to receive early program news and highlights

## Write Around the Murray - Schools Timetable at a glance

Authors	School Year (student limits)	Thursday 16 September		Friday 17 September	
		Time	Venue	Time	Venue
URSULA DUBORSARSKY	Years 3-4 (90)			10am - 11am	LibraryMuseum
	Years 5-6 (90)			11.30am - 12.30pm	LibraryMuseum
	Years K-2 (60)			1.30pm - 2pm	LibraryMuseum
SOFIE LAGUNA	Years K-2 (60)			10am - 11am	LibraryMuseum
	Years 5-6 workshop (30)			12pm - 1pm	LibraryMuseum
	Years 3-6 (90)			1.30pm - 2.30pm	LibraryMuseum
LEIGH HOBBS	Years K-2 (60)	10am - 11am	LibraryMuseum		
	Years 3-6 (90) *	12pm - 1pm	LibraryMuseum		
	Years 6-7 (270) *			11.30am - 12.30pm	James Fallon High
JUDY HORACEK	Years 8-12 (270)			9.30am - 10.30am	James Fallon High
	Years K-2 (60)			12pm - 1pm	LibraryMuseum
IAN TREVASKIS	Years 7-8 (90)	10am - 11am	LibraryMuseum		
	Years 7-8 workshop (30)	11.30am - 12.30pm	Retro Lane Café		
LISA WALKER	Years 9-10 workshop (30)	9.30am - 10.30am	Retro Lane Café		
	Years 8-12 (270)	1.30pm - 2.30pm	James Fallon High		

*\*Please note: Students in Years 3-7 attending the large Leigh Hobbs sessions are required to bring the materials listed in the session description.*

**Bus parking, logistics and further information will be provided by email in your booking confirmation. Don't hesitate to call us with any queries.**