

# FLASH FICTION FUN WEEKEND

## IN CANBERRA

AN OPPORTUNITY TO  
TURBOCHARGE  
YOUR WRITING



## A LETTER OF WELCOME

Welcome to all of our writers and thank you, for attending our second Flash Fiction Fun Festival. Last year's inaugural festival was such a success that we are doing it again.

The vision for this festival was conceived under the not-for-profit umbrella organisation called Aussie Writers. The mission of Aussie Writers is to inform, inspire, and promote Australian writers. We do this through literary events, such as Tales After Dark – storytelling for grownups, where we showcase quality flash fiction and the spoken word, and our larger events like the “Write what matters”, readers and writers festivals and now, the Flash Fiction Fun Festival through which we want to inform/educate writers by offering presenters who have walked the talk.

The presenters we have invited here this weekend are writers who care about the craft. They have written books worth reading and have already garnered an impressive following of dedicated readers. They have learned a lot so far and continue to learn.

Our attendees are those writers going places. Why? Because they are open-minded enough to have chosen to learn from others and to mix with like-minded writers, who care about what they are writing and how they are writing it. You are in great company.

It is a wonderful thing to stand on the shoulders of giants who have come before you, and most writers (like you) are life-long learners. When it comes to writing, there will always be better and worse writers than you. So, to embrace that fact and aspire to be the best writer you can be, no matter what your skills are right now, is a worthwhile goal. Indeed, we expect some of our attendees to perhaps become presenters at this festival one day, once they have writerly journeys that can inform/educate others.

Welcome one and all. We are in for a wonderful weekend, joyously celebrating our art and craft of writing. I can't wait to meet you all.

### **Suzanne Kiraly**

*Festival Director  
2019 Flash Fiction Fun Festival  
Canberra*



# EVENT PROGRAM

## FRIDAY NIGHT 26<sup>th</sup> APRIL - TALES AFTER DARK SHOW:

(Storytelling for Grownups) in the Whisky Bar at The Civic Pub 7:30pm – 10:15pm

SATURDAY 27 <sup>th</sup> April	
<b>8:00 am - 8:30 am</b>	Registration
<b>8:45 am</b>	Fred Smith plays
<b>9:15 am</b>	Graeme Simsion – Flash Keynote
<b>9:45 am</b>	Bettina Arndt – Flash Keynote
<b>10:15 am</b>	Susanne Gervay – Flash Keynote
<b>10:45 am</b>	<b>MORNING TEA 20 minutes</b>
<b>11:05 - Workshop 1</b>	Graeme Simsion ( <i>Writing Craft Rom Com/Relationship writing</i> )
<b>OR</b>	
<b>11:05 - Workshop 2</b>	Susanne Gervay ( <i>Writing Craft – Children's Lit &amp; YA</i> )
<b>12:20 pm</b>	Jack Heath – Flash Keynote
<b>12:50 pm</b>	Sponsor Spot – (TBA)
<b>1:00pm - LONG LUNCH 75 minutes</b>	

<b>2:15pm – Publishing Options</b>	Suzanne Kiraly
<b>2:45pm – Panel Discussion on the Writing Process:</b>	Graeme Simsion, Karen Viggers, Susanne Gervay & Jack Heath
<b>3:15pm – Pitching your book</b>	Bettina Arndt – Flash Keynote
<b>3:45pm – AFTERNOON TEA 20 minutes</b>	
<b>4:05pm – Panel Discussion – Pitching Your Book</b>	Susanne Gervay, Graeme Simsion, Jack Heath, Bettina Arndt
<b>4:35pm – Flash Workshop on Preparing Your Pitch to a Publisher</b>	Suzanne Kiraly
<b>5:15pm – Literary Speed Dating Pitching Session</b>	(Bookings Essential – 5-minute slots Only 15 available)
<b>6:30pm – Close</b>	

SUNDAY 28 <sup>th</sup> April	
<b>9:00am – Announcements – re Flash Fiction Writing Competition</b>	
<b>9:15am</b>	Karen Viggers – Flash Keynote
<b>9:45am</b>	Anne Buist – Flash Keynote
<b>10:15am</b>	Craig Cormick Flash Keynote
<b>10:45am – MORNING TEA 20 minutes</b>	
<b>11:20 – Workshop</b>	on writing supernatural crime thrillers (Jack Heath)
<b>OR</b>	
<b>11:20 Workshop</b>	on writing flash fiction (Craig Cormick)
<b>OR</b>	
<b>11:20 Workshop</b>	on Editing Your Book (Irma Gold)
<b>12:35pm - Spoken word performance</b>	Gabrielle Journey Jones - Performance
<b>1:00pm LUNCH 60 minutes</b>	
<b>2:05pm Workshop</b>	Anne Buist (Writing Craft – Supernatural Crime Thrillers)
<b>OR</b>	
<b>2:05pm Workshop (Repeat Saturday)</b>	Graeme Simsion (Writing Craft - Rom Com/Relationship writing)
<b>OR</b>	
<b>2:05pm Workshop</b>	Gabrielle Journey Jones (Writing craft - Performance Poetry & Platform)
<b>3:15pm Panel Discussion</b>	Marketing & Distributing your books – Susanne Gervay, Craig Cormick, Karen Viggers

<b>3:45pm AFTERNOON TEA 20 minutes</b>	
<b>4:05pm</b>	Marion Halligan Flash Keynote
<b>4:35pm Book Launch</b>	Flash Fiction Anthology from 2018 Suzanne Kiraly
<b>5:00pm Panel Discussion – Emerging Authors - on their path to success</b>	SG Bryant, Rachael Stevens, Jenny Morris, David Schembri
<b>5:30pm</b>	Fred Smith Final Performance
<b>6:00pm – 6:15pm Closing Remarks</b>	
<b>Bon Voyage - until next year</b>	

## PRESENTERS IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:

Fred Smith, Graeme Simsion, Bettina Arndt, Susanne Gervay, Jack Heath, Suzanne Kiraly, Craig Cormick, Karen Viggers, Anne Buist, Gabrielle Journey Jones, Marion Halligan

# THE SPEAKERS



## Fred Smith

"This remarkable singer-songwriter – who reveals influences that range from Paul Kelly via Lou Reed to Loudon Wainwright III to Leonard Cohen – keeps releasing amazingly accomplished albums." (Bruce Elder, SMH). Fred Smith blends tunes you can whistle with stories you will remember. His songs are subtle, wry and perceptive. His remarkable hybrid career is the subject of an Australian Story documentary.

His memoir, the Dust of Uruzgan, was recently published by Allen and Unwin. His performances will have you laughing, thinking and feeling. An experienced performer and raconteur with a deep catalogue of quality songs, Fred seldom repeats a song from set to set at a festival. He offers a range of themed concerts and presentations that bring to life the human complexities of the countries he has worked in: Afghanistan, PNG, USA and now Australia



## Graeme Simsion

Graeme Simsion is a former IT consultant and business owner who decided at the age of fifty to become a screenwriter. After five years of study, ten short films and a couple of plays, he had a feature-film screenplay with no takers, which he decided to re-write as a novel. The Rosie Project and its sequel, The Rosie Effect, went on to sell five million copies with translations in over forty languages. The Best of Adam Sharp and Two Steps Forward (the latter written with Anne Buist) were also international bestsellers. His latest novel is The Rosie Result.



## Karen Viggers

Karen Viggers is a wildlife veterinarian who has worked with native animals in many remote parts of Australia, from the Kimberley to Antarctica. She is the award-winning, internationally best-selling author of four novels The Stranding, The Lightkeeper's Wife, The Grass Castle, and The Orchardists's Daughter. Her work has been translated into several languages. In 2016, The Lightkeeper's Wife/La Memoire des embruns was awarded the Les Petitis Mots des Libraires literary prize, and was short-listed for the Livre de poche Reader's Choice award in France.



## Susanne Gervay

You'll find Susanne planting 3000 mangroves in Kiribati; in Istanbul sharing her I Am Jack books and NO Bullying; in remote indigenous communities sharing story with elders and children; invited to speak at World Burn Conference in New York on her novel Butterflies; in Goa at the Indian Association for the Study of Australia Conference about the Indian-Australian anthologies which feature her short stories along with David Malouf and Sir Salman Rushdie. Awarded the Lifetime Social Justice Literature Award by the International Literacy Association, a nominee for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award with an Order of Australia, Susanne Gervay is recognized for her award winning short stories and youth literature. [www.sgervay.com](http://www.sgervay.com)



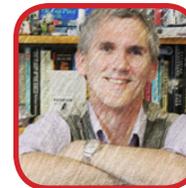
## Jack Heath

Jack Heath is the best-selling author of more than 20 thrillers for adults and children including Hunter, Hangman, 300 Minutes of Danger and the Liars series. His novels have been translated into several languages, shortlisted for awards, adapted for film and optioned for TV. According to Jeffery Deaver, Jack has a "boundless imagination and a singular voice." He lives in Canberra. For more, visit [jackheath.com.au](http://jackheath.com.au).



## Suzanne Kiraly

As a writer, publisher, editor, bookseller and teacher, Suzanne has over 20 years of experience in all facets of the publishing industry. As a book coach for nine years, she's been working with talented Australian writers to teach them how to self-publish and make a passive income online. She runs writing courses/workshops/literary events and is passionate about nurturing the next generation of talented writers. Her greatest claim to fame is that she can recognise writing talent in others.



## Craig Cormick

Craig Cormick is an award-winning Canberra author and science communicator. He has published over 30 books of fiction, non-fiction and children's fiction, with both small and mainstream publishers, in Australia and overseas. Much of his work deals with reinterpretations of history. His writing awards include a Queensland Premier's Award, ACT Book of the Year Award, the Tasmania Writers Prize and a Victorian Community History Award. Craig is a former chair of the ACT Writers Centre and has taught creative writing at University and in schools, and is a great believer that good writing comes from good editing drafting rewriting.



## Bettina Arndt

Bettina Arndt trained as a clinical psychologist before becoming well-known as one of Australia's first sex therapists. She then had a long career as a social commentator on gender issues, appearing regularly on television and radio and writing for major publications. Bettina is now attracting big audiences for her YouTube videos attacking feminism for abandoning the quest for equality to endlessly advantage women ahead of men. Her new book, #MenToo, presents collected wisdom from decades of Bettina's writing about men's issues. In a culture dominated by women's wants and needs, it tells the other side of the story.

## Our Sponsors



### Anne Buist

Anne Buist is a Professor of Women's Mental Health, who has turned her forensic psychiatric skill to writing fiction; she is author of three novels in the Natalie King, forensic psychiatrist, series and a new stand-alone rural thriller out in 2020, as well as co-author with husband Graeme Simson, of midlife renewal Rom-Com, Two Steps Forward.



### Irma Gold

Irma Gold is an award-winning author and editor. Her short fiction has been widely published in Australia's finest literary journals, including Meanjin, Westerly, Island and Review of Australian Fiction. Her short fiction collection, Two Steps Forward, was shortlisted for or won a number of awards. She is also the author of three picture books, with a fourth due out with Walker Books. Irma has worked as an editor for 18 years and is currently Editor at Melbourne-based publisher Inkerman & Blunt and Convener of Editing at the University of Canberra. Visit her at [irmagold.com](http://irmagold.com)



### Gabrielle Journey Jones

Gabrielle Journey Jones is a poet, percussionist and event producer born on sovereign Gadigal Land, Sydney, Australia. She is from Maori and African American bloodlines and now lives on the Far South Coast NSW Yuin Country. Gabrielle has shared her poetry at local, national and international events for over 20 years. Her first collection of poetry "Spoken Medicine" (2017) was published by Ginninderra Press. Gabrielle is inspired by creative communities which celebrate diversity, activism and inclusion. She encourages everyone to speak their own medicine by sharing their stories in whatever ways feel healing, authentic and most useful.



### Marion Halligan

Marion Halligan has published more than twenty books: some eleven novels, including Spider Cup, Lovers' Knots, The Golden Dress, The Fog Garden, The Point, The Apricot Colonel, Murder on the Apricot Coast, Valley of Grace, and Goodbye Sweetheart, collections of many short stories – some you have probably heard of. She has been short-listed for most of the prizes on offer, and has won. She has regularly reviewed books, and likes to write essays. She has received an AM for her services to literature. Valley of Grace, Allen & Unwin, March 2009 won the ACT Book of the Year and was long-listed for the IMPAC Prize.



**DON'T MISS  
THE PROGRAM  
NEXT YEAR!**

**PLEASE SUBSCRIBE TO AUSSIEWRITERS:  
[WWW.AUSSIEWRITERS.COM.AU](http://WWW.AUSSIEWRITERS.COM.AU)  
AND STAY UP TO DATE.**

