

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 26th APRIL - TALES AFTER DARK SHOW:

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

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

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

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

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

PRESENTERS IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:

Fred Smith, Graeme Simsion, Bettina Arndt, Susanne Gervay, Jack Heath, Suzanne Kiraly, Karen Viggers, Anne Buist, Craig Cormick, Irma Gold, 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



Jack Heath

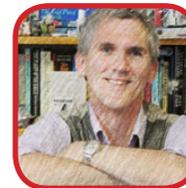
Jack Heath is the best-selling author of more than 20 thrillers for adults and children including *Hunter*, *Hangman*, *300 Minutes of Danger* and the *Liars* series. His novels have been translated into several languages, shortlisted for awards, adapted for film and optioned for TV. According to Jeffery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



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.

Introducing Emerging Writers



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, and her debut novel manuscript won the NSW Writers Centre Varuna Fellowship, and development grants from artsACT and CAPO. She is also the author of three children's books, with a fourth due out with Walker Books. Irma has worked as an editor for almost 20 years and is Convener of Editing at the University of Canberra. Visit her at 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.



David Schembri

David Schembri is an author, artist, genre poet and designer from rural Victoria. He is the author of the horror collections, UNEARTHLY FABLES (In collaboration with The Writing Show, 2013) and BENEATH THE FERNY TREE (Close-Up Books, 2018). David's poetry has been published in several issues of the Hippocampus Press Magazine, Spectral Realms, edited by S.T. Joshi. The Anno KlarkAsh-Ton Anthology by Rainfall Books, and their magazines: Strange Sorcery and Creepy Nightmares. His latest poem is published in issue 13 of Midnight Echo Magazine.



Rachael Stephens

Rachael lives in Canberra with her husband Tom. She is an inspiring multi-award-winning female writer and communicator. A young emerging writer, she published her first book 'The Skeleton Diaries' in 2014. Her powerful and honest story of recovery has inspired thousands of people throughout Australia. For her work, inspiring hope in the lives of Australians, Rachael was an ACT Finalist for the 2017 Young Australian of the Year Award. In 2016 she won the ACT Young Woman of the Year Award. Rachael's spoken word poetry has also been incredibly impactful with online audiences and in advocating for better treatment of those suffering with mental illness.



Jenny Morris

Jenny Morris has always enjoyed reading and writing poetry and rhyme, but even more so now, as she has grandchildren to delight. Her first book, The Thing on Mount Spring won the International Rubery Book Award in the Illustrated Children's category in 2018.



Simon Bryant

Simon Bryant grew up on a farm, a soldier settler block in the South East of South Australia. After graduating with an English Literature degree from Adelaide University, he has pursued a number of paths, including farming, managing a radio station, working in tourism, and most recently, an extended spell in the public service in Canberra. Now retired, he is dedicating his time to a life-long interest in creative writing, and, in particular, to writing historical Australian fiction.

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