

BLAK FUTURES NOW

MOST SESSIONS FREE

Blak & Bright
First Nations Literary Festival

14 – 17 March | 2024 Naarm
blakandbright.com.au
 @blakandbright

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Blak & Bright puts First Nations stories front and centre, building on the proud tradition of storytelling on this land that spans millennia, and showcasing the incredible talent of contemporary First Nations writers. Congratulations to the Blak & Bright team on their biggest festival program yet - with over 80 First Nations writers and storytellers participating in 30 diverse, thought-provoking events. The Victorian Government is proud to back this festival which provides an important platform for First Nations voices.

The Hon. Colin Brooks MP
 Minister for Creative Industries

MESSAGE FROM THE FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

Welcome to the 4th Blak & Bright First Nations Literary Festival and the biggest so far. This year's Festival is a space for the exchange of ideas, the celebration of resilience, and the envisioning of diverse Blak futures. We're bringing back favourite events and award-winning writers, plus introducing new sessions and fresh new artists. We are open to all audiences - Blak stories are to be shared and valued. Thank you for being a part of this transformative journey at Blak & Bright, whether in person or online.

Jane Harrison
 Festival Director

A BIG BLAK THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS & PARTNERS



Blak stories are for everyone - all are welcome

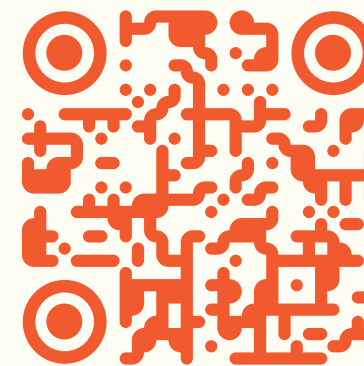
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Access information

Blak & Bright is committed to making events as accessible as possible. All events are wheelchair accessible. Auslan interpreters are programmed for Opening Night and the Keynote, and are available upon request for individual sessions with two weeks notice (email info@blakandbright.com.au).

Festival information

Looking for information about our 2024 Festival? Scan the QR code below to read more about our deadly Blak artists and events, check out the festival map, and to secure your tickets - bookings essential for all events.



Blak & Bright acknowledges the Kulin Nations, on whose 'forever' lands this Festival takes place, paying respects to the leadership and stories of their Elders, past and present.

Stories, epics, poems, monologues, history, activism. Embrace the diversity of expression, paving the way for Blak futures now.

Guest artists include

EVELYN ARAUEN TONY BIRCH
DANIEL BROWNING
DEBORAH CHEETHAM FRAILLON
DEBRA DANK ELDERS
GARY LONESBOROUGH
MELISSA LUCASHENKO
LEAH PURCELL KIM SCOTT
YUNG TENT
EMBASSY ACTIVISTS

And more

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WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH

Workshop: From Brain to Page
Melanie Saward is an author and publishing all-rounder. In this online workshop she will share techniques for getting your ideas out of your head and onto the page, plus tips on how to edit your own work.
+ Writers Victoria
6:30pm – 9:00pm | Online
\$90 Full | \$60 for First Nations
Limited places. First Nations writers will be given preference.

THURSDAY 14 MARCH

Keynote: State of the Nations
Leah Purcell has had an extraordinary life in the arts over a long and impressive period of time, as an actor, writer, director, producer, singer and speaker. Here she reflects on the key moments and the lessons she's learned along the way. Not to be missed.
+ Fed Square & Melbourne Writers Festival

Through Our Lens
Six writers share 12 images that define their stories – the places, people and memories that inspire their diverse storytelling practices. **WITH Daniel Browning, Gregg Dreise, Helen Milroy, Julie Janson, Kirli Saunders, Mariah Sweetman.**
+ Magabala Books & Fed Square
2 events, 1 price
6:30pm – 9pm | The Edge
\$45 Full | \$30 Concession | \$15 for First Nations

FRIDAY 15 MARCH

Pitch Blak
FREE
Get your 'work in progress' in front of publishing experts. Think of it like speed dating (with stories). Hosted by the **First Nations Australia Writers Network** with representatives from **Allen & Unwin, Black Inc, Hachette, Hardie Grant, HarperCollins, Magabala Books, Penguin Random House, Text, UQP.**
+ FNAWN
2pm – 4pm | Afternoon tea supplied – BYO ideas

Official Opening
Welcome to Country & Performance: The Block
Join the world's most successful, block-buster, best-selling writer as they manifest their next best original idea, reinvent the genre and write existence into its future... **WITH Carly Sheppard, Kamarra Bell-Wykes / A Daylight Connection**

In Conversation
Two icons interviewing each other. What does a writer want to know about another writer? **WITH Kim Scott, Tony Birch.**
+ The Wheeler Centre & RMIT Culture
2 events, 1 price
6:30pm – 8:30pm | The Capitol
\$30 Full | \$20 Concession
Free for First Nations

SATURDAY 16 MARCH

Yarn Bombers
FREE
At the beginning of many sessions, look forward to three-minute "bonus" yarns from up-and-coming storytellers. See the future of Blak stories now.

Wisdom of the Elders
FREE
Sit down with Elders and bear witness to their sacred knowledge of country and community. **WITH Aunty Di Kerr, Uncle Herb Patten, Uncle Dave Wandin. MODERATOR Isobel Morphy-Walsh.**
10am – 11am

Walkin Country, Walkin Birrarung
Dive deep into a cultural, ecological & historical journey of knowledge. Wemba/Wergaia man **Dean Stewart** will inspire you to connect with the hidden stories of our River; the Birrarung/Yarra.
10am & 1pm | Enterprize Park
\$35 Full | \$30 Concession
Bookings essential for this 2hr tour.

Sistas Are Doin' It
FREE
How do three fabulous Blak women write while juggling the many roles Aboriginal women fulfil in their communities? **WITH Deborah Cheetham Fraillon, Helen Milroy, Debra Dank. MODERATOR Sandra Phillips.**
+ Stella
11:15am – 12:15pm

Storytime with Blak & Bright
FREE
Shauntai Sherree Abdul-Rahman reads a collection of children's books to delight and entertain little ones (ages 3 – 8).
+ State Library Victoria
12pm – 1pm | Pauline Gandel Children's Quarter, State Library Victoria

Yung, Blak & Bold
FREE
Get a glimpse into the minds of young writers who are shaping the future of Blak literature. **WITH John Morrissey, Stone Motherless Cold, Susie Anderson. MODERATOR Neika Lehman.**
+ Emerging Writers Festival
12:30pm – 1:30pm

Craft of Writing
FREE
There's more than one way to write a good story. Three writers sit down to discuss their methods of the craft. **WITH Julie Janson, Kim Scott, Jeanine Leane. MODERATOR Evelyn Araluen.**
1:45pm – 2:45pm

Rainbow Words
FREE
LGBTQIA+ writers share their words and the stories that inspired them. **WITH Laniyuk, Kirli Saunders, Stone Motherless Cold. MODERATOR Nayuka Gorrie.**
1:45pm – 2:45pm | The Toff

Love Letters to the Next Generation
FREE
Join us as incredible poets of now share their hopes, love and learnings with our future generations through spoken word and movement. From Elders to emerging artists, don't miss this opportunity to dream into the future. **WITH Aunty Di Kerr, ENOKI, Nayook, Jada Narkle.**
+ Yirramboi
3pm – 4pm | The Toff

Language Lives
FREE
What role do First Nations languages play in Australia's creative outputs? You might be surprised. **WITH Kim Scott, Kirli Saunders, Tara June Winch. MODERATOR Vicki Couzens.**
+ Naomi Milgrom Foundation
3pm – 4pm

Blak Imprints
FREE
Writers discuss the importance of First Nations imprints in publishing. What else is needed in the publishing ecology? **WITH Rachel Bin Salleh, Tisha Carter, Yasmin Smith. MODERATOR Sandra Phillips.**
4:15pm – 5:15pm

Blak Book Club
FREE
We explore the themes of two recent publications, Edenglassie and The Visitors, with insight from the authors. **WITH Jane Harrison, Melissa Lucashenko. MODERATOR Daniel Browning.**
5:30pm – 6:30pm

Big Blak Poetry Read
FREE
Six brilliant poets read poems from their oeuvre, building to a crescendo of Blak verse. **WITH Graham Akhurst, Jeanine Leane, Kirli Saunders, Laniyuk, Neika Lehman, Nadine Anne Hura, Yvette Holt.**
+ Australian Poetry
6:45pm – 7:45pm

Stories Behind the Songs
A night of Blak music, delving deep into the power lyrics hold for storytelling. **WITH Allara, Deborah Cheetham Fraillon, Maylene Yinarr, Monica Jasmine Karo.**
+ Songlines & Fed Square & Victorian Women's Trust
8pm – 9:30pm | The Edge
\$45 Full | \$30 Concession | \$15 for First Nations

SUNDAY 17 MARCH

Firestick Farming
FREE
This session highlights the role of firestick farming in shaping the ecology of Australia. **WITH Bhiamie Williamson, Uncle Dave Wandin. MODERATOR Rodney Carter.**
10am – 11am

Woven
FREE
This session explores *Woven*, a poetry anthology that holds the voices of 30 First Nations peoples collaborating to write other worlds. **WITH Anahera Gildea, essa may ranapiri, Evelyn Araluen, Raelee Lancaster. MODERATOR Bridget Caldwell-Bright.**
+ Fair Trade
11:15am – 12:15pm

YA Awesome!
FREE
How do writers craft compelling narratives that young adults readers love to read? **WITH Gary Lonesborough, Graham Akhurst, Melanie Saward. MODERATOR Mariah Sweetman.**
12:30pm – 1:30pm

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A Big Life
FREE
Two writers share their insightful memoirs in this intimate and special event. **WITH Debra Dank, Amy Thunig. MODERATOR Lynette Russell.**
1:45pm – 2:45pm

Yung Tent Embassy
FREE
Six activists from diverse social justice backgrounds present ten minute talks on positive change. **WITH Aretha Brown, Hayley McQuire, Monica Jasmine Karo, Clint Hansen, Uncle Larry Walsh. MODERATOR Shareena Clanton.**
2pm – 3pm | Forecourt, State Library Victoria

kwatye urwe
FREE
WORLD PREMIERE An immersive film series following writers from across the central desert sharing their writing on their homelands. Directed by Kieran Satour and shot by Ryan Andrew Lee. **VIDEO WITH Theresa Penangke Alice, Marie Elena Ellis, Maureen Nampijinpa O'Keefe, Tisha Perrurle Carter, Desmond and Stanley Byrne.**
+ Running Water Community Press & GARUWA & Readings Foundation & NT Government
3pm – 4pm

Who can Critique Blak Work?
FREE
Should only Blak critics critique Blak work? What does the Blak lens bring to the process? **WITH Bryan Andy, Daniel Browning, Declan Fry, Tristen Harwood. MODERATOR Davey Thompson.**
4:15pm – 5:15pm

First Nations Monologues
FREE
Showcasing a series of monologues from recent First Nations plays staged around Australia. **WITH actors Shontane Farmer, Nelson Baker.**
+ Currency Press
5:30pm – 6:30pm

The Bogong
Our Bogong is a chance to come together and hold space for spoken word pieces. Grab a drink and hang around for a yarn afterwards. **WITH Debra Dank, John Morrissey, Elijah Money, Gary Lonesborough, Nazaree Dickerson, Tamala Shelton, Waubgeshig Rice.**
7pm – 9pm | The Toff
\$20 Full | \$15 Concession | Free for First Nations