

# Blak words live

**Blak & Bright**

First Nations Literary Festival

Most Sessions FREE

17 – 20 March | 2022 Naarm

[blakandbright.com.au](http://blakandbright.com.au) | [@blakandbright](https://twitter.com/blakandbright)

**Message from the Minister**

Storytelling has been integral to the First Peoples of this land for tens of thousands of years. This proud unbroken cultural thread is celebrated through the Blak & Bright First Nations Literary Festival. Taking place in venues across Melbourne's CBD, and live streamed to audiences around the world, the 2022 festival promises to be another exciting showcase of incredible First Nations writers from Australia and beyond.

The Victorian Government is a supporter of Blak & Bright. Through our Creative State 2025 strategy, we recognise the festival as a vital platform for First Peoples talent, culture and creativity.

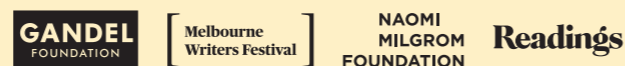
The Hon. Danny Pearson MP  
Minister for Creative Industries

**Message from the Festival Director**

The third Blak & Bright Festival is upon us and so much has happened since the last, in 2019. It seems like light years away. But – ever – optimistic – we have designed a bold new festival with new talent, new stories and new events, delivered in new hybrid ways, while bringing back old favourites (artists and events). We figure Blak stories are needed more urgently than ever, in the face of climate change, pandemics, Black Lives Matter. We need access to connection, compassion and country through stories. Here's to Blak words live.

Jane Harrison

*A big Blak thanks to our funders and partners*



- Venues**
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1</b> The Wheeler Centre<br>176 Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne | <b>4</b> Readings Kids<br>315 Lygon St, Carlton                        |
| <b>2</b> Comedy Republic<br>231 Bourke St, Melbourne             | <b>5</b> Enterprize Park<br>401 Flinders St, Melbourne                 |
| <b>3</b> The Capitol<br>113 Swanston St, Melbourne               | <b>6</b> Big Esso by Mabu Mabu<br>Swanston St & Flinders St, Melbourne |

All events are held at The Wheeler Centre unless otherwise stated.

**Ticketing information** Bookings are essential for all events. [blakandbright.com.au/events](http://blakandbright.com.au/events)

**Access information** Blak & Bright is committed to making events as accessible as possible. All events at The Wheeler Centre and The Capitol Theatre are wheelchair accessible. Auslan interpreters are programmed for opening night and are available upon request for individual sessions with two weeks notice.

**Blak words live in our sovereignty**  
**Blak words live**

*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.*

All genres: from oral storytelling to epic novels, from poems to monologues, from history to activism.

**GUEST ARTISTS INCLUDE**

- Tony Birch**
- Brooke Boney**
- Claire G. Coleman**
- Elders**
- Jazz Money**
- Nardi Simpson**
- Ellen van Neerven**
- Tara June Winch**
- Chelsea Watego**
- Alexis Wright**
- Yung Tent**
- Embassy activists**
- And more**

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# BLAK WORDS

Wednesday 16 March

**Masterclass: The Poet's Imagination** Jazz Money is an award-winning poet. Across a 2 1/2 hour online workshop they will share writing exercises and dish out great advice and insights.

6.30pm – 9.00pm | \$60  
Limited places, book now. Blak participants will be given preference.  
+ Writers Victoria

# Blak words live

Thursday 17 March

**Keynote: State of the Nations** John Paul Janke will present an overview of how First Nations' communities are faring, with startling insights into progress made and where more improvement is needed.

FREE  
6.30pm – 7.30pm

# Blak words 1

Friday 18 March

**LGBTQIA+ Forum** This forum, specifically for LGBTQIA+ Blak writers, will have a focus on navigating the literature industry. With Ellen van Neerven.

FREE  
11am – 1pm  
Limited numbers, lunch provided.

**Pitch Blak Afternoon Tea** The First Nations Australia Writers Network hosts our industry event where you'll have the opportunity to pitch your work in progress to publishing industry experts. Representatives from HarperCollins, UQP, Hardie Grant, Hachette and Magabala publishers plus agent Danielle Binks and more.

FREE  
+ FNAWN  
2pm – 4pm  
Afternoon tea is supplied – BYO ideas

**OFFICIAL OPENING & OPENING EVENT** **Welcome to Country Commissioned performance: Solace** Three traditional owners and artists have devised a multi-disciplinary performance exploring men's mental health. With Philly, Bryan Andy, James Henry, Steven Rhall.

FREE  
**What's Changed? What's Stayed the Same?** Journalist Brooke Boney talks to the theme, with a spotlight on writers Jazz Money, Alexis Wright, Crystal McKinnon. With Glenn Shea.

+ The Wheeler Centre and RMIT  
6pm – 8.30pm | The Capitol

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in our self-expression  
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# WORDS LIVE

Saturday 19 March

**Yarn Bombers** Three minute 'bonus' yarns from community storytellers will pop up at the start of many sessions. See them here first.

FREE  
+ Victorian Women's Trust

**Blak & White & Read (& Heard) All Over** Unpacking the importance of Blak voices in the media. With Daniel Browning, Maddee Clark. Moderator Merinda Dutton.

FREE  
10am – 11am

**Walkin Country, Walkin Birrarung** Walk in the footsteps of 60,000 years of culture. Oral historian Dean Stewart will challenge and inspire you with hidden stories of our river, now called the Yarra.

10am & 1pm | Enterprise Park | \$30  
Bookings essential. 2 hrs tours at 10am & 1pm

**Picture Books Tell a Thousand Words** Beautiful picture books share the stories of Aboriginal culture. Suitable for under 6 years of age. With Maurial Spearim.

FREE  
+ Magabala Books  
11am – 12 noon | Readings Kids, Carlton

**Sistas Are Doin' It** Four fabulous Blak women with extraordinary lives. How do they juggle writing lives and busy lives? They have some stories to tell... With Aunty Ronnie Gorrie, Chelsea Watego, Nardi Simpson. Moderator Sonia Cooper.

FREE  
+ Stella  
11.15am – 12.15pm

**Yung Tent Embassy** Across two hours six activists from a range of social justice sites will present their curated, passionate ten-minute talks. With time for audience responses. Curated by Crystal McKinnon. With Elder Activist Aunty Ronnie Gorrie.

FREE  
+ State Library Victoria  
12.30 – 2.30pm

**Yung, Blak & Bold** Three young writers have been corresponding in the months leading up to the Festival. They'll share snippets of their correspondence and the things that matter now. With Jazz Money, Teela May Reid, Davey Thompson. Moderator Maddee Clark.

FREE  
12.30pm – 1.30pm

**Rainbow Words** LGBTQIA+ writers share their words and the stories behind them. With Ellen van Neerven, SJ Norman, Jazz Money. Moderator Daniel Browning.

FREE  
2.30pm – 3.30pm

**Borrow a Living Book** Sit down with an Elder who will share a story of their lived experience. With Uncle Larry Walsh, Aunty Pat Ockwell, Aunty Pattie Lees, Aunty Pam Pederson.

+ Mabu Mabu  
3pm – 3.30pm & 4pm – 4.30pm | Big Esso | \$35  
Bookings essential. Native ingredient scone and beverage included.

**The Wright Stuff** Alexis Wright reads from her award winning oeuvre and a special treat – an excerpt from a new work. With Alexis Wright, Jane Harrison.

FREE  
3.45pm – 4.45pm

**Big Blak Poetry Read** Six of the fiercely best poets read three of their best poems. With Jazz Money, Charmaine Papertalk Green, Tony Birch, Kirli Saunders, Ellen van Neerven, plus International poet Tusiata Avia.

FREE  
+ Australian Poetry  
5pm – 6pm

**The Monologues** Hear the best monologues to come from Blak playwrights including Kodie Bedford, Richard Frankland, Jane Harrison, Anita Heiss, Andrea James, Nathan Maynard, Maryanne Sam, Dylan Van Den Berg, Ursula Yovich. Read by two of our finest actors.

+ Currency Press  
6.15pm – 7.15pm

**Gammon** Gammon is the Aboriginal slang word for 'joking, kidding'. This is Blak comedy at its blakest. MC Kimmy Lovegrove with Denise McGuinness, Ben Moodie, Kasey Johnson, Tommy Pemberton.

7pm – 8pm | Comedy Republic | \$15/\$20  
Booking Essential.

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in our self-determination  
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# Blak words

Sunday 20 March

**Architecture & Design: A Blak aesthetic?** What is an Aboriginal aesthetic? How can you design buildings and products that reflect Aboriginal world views? With Alison Page, Brian Martin, Sarah Lyn Rees. Moderator Timmah Ball.

FREE  
+ Naomi Milgrom Foundation  
10am – 11am

**William Cooper's Legacy** Schooled at Cummergunga Mission, William Cooper went on to live a lifetime of activism, including protesting in the 1930s against Nazi Germany's actions. Hear more about this extraordinary man. With Leonie Drummond, Kimberley Moulton. Moderator Daniel James.

FREE  
+ Gandel Foundation  
11.15am – 12.15pm

**YA Blak** What makes intriguing writing for young adult readers? With Kirli Saunders, Jared Thomas, Teela May Reid. Moderator Edie Wright.

FREE  
+ Magabala Books  
12.30pm – 1.30pm

**A Big Life** These first time authors have written captivating memoirs of their extraordinary lives. Aunty Pat Ockwel, Aunty Pattie Lees, Adam Lees. Moderator Aunty Bev Murray.

FREE  
1.45pm – 2.45pm

**Blackfulla Book Club** We delve into two intricate and engaging books: Another Day in the Colony and Song of the Crocodile. With Chelsea Watego, Nardi Simpson. Moderators Teela May Reid, Merinda Dutton.

FREE  
3pm – 4pm

**Words in Progress** The how, when, where, what and why of their writing practices. With Tara June Winch, Charmaine Papertalk Green, Claire G. Coleman. Moderator Declan Fry.

FREE  
+ Melbourne Writers Festival  
4.15pm – 5.15pm

**Big Screen Writing** Discussing the making of The White Girl, Black Comedy and more. With Tony Briggs, Tony Birch, Nayuka Gorrie. Moderator Daniel Browning.

FREE  
5.30pm – 6.30pm

**The Bogong** Our Bogong is a celebration and sharing of crafted spoken word pieces. Grab a drink and hang around for a pizza afterwards. With Nardi Simpson, SJ Norman, Declan Fry, Tara June Winch, Victor Rodger (NZ), Emily Munro-Harrison, Nayook, Claire G. Coleman, Nayuka Gorrie.

7pm – 9pm | Comedy Republic | \$15/\$20  
Booking Essential