

Celebrate READING National Conference

31 October - 1 November 2014

Insights into Quality Australian
Literature for Young Adults



DETAILED PROGRAMME

Day One: Friday 31st October 2014

Keynote: North of Tomorrow by John Marsden

On the weekend that he releases his first adult title, John Marsden will speak about his writing career, his experiences with young people and education, and his new novel, *South of Darkness*. "I learn more about writing every time I do it", John says, and he is keen to share some of that learning in Fremantle. He will also reflect on the state of children and teenagers, and their culture, in this 21st century.

Creating Memorable Characters with Kirsty Murray, J.C. Burke and Melina Marchetta

Our three authors approach the creation of characters in different ways. For Jane Burke, "One of the greatest joys of storytelling is escaping from myself and looking at the world through a new pair of eyes. Sometimes I prefer their view, often I don't". Kirsty Murray believes, "Fictional characters can feel so believable it's sometimes hard to believe they're not breathing people". While Melina Marchetta says, "One of the first things I write when creating a character is a piece of dialogue that defines them, and one of the last things is perfecting that character's voice. But it's the surprises in the middle of the process that excites me the most".

Imagining Australia - The Politics Of Writing Australian Stories with Anthony Eaton

Tony Eaton will discuss his *Darklands trilogy* and also *A New Kind of Dreaming*. He'll talk about some of the difficulties he faced with walking the line between effective Australian storytelling and being as culturally respectful as possible to stakeholders in his stories.

This Brilliant Career: Highlights, Pitfalls, Wisdom and Woes

with John Marsden, Melina Marchetta, A.J. Betts and Vikki Wakefield

Two of Australia's best loved authors and two rising stars will trade perspectives on the world of writing and publishing.

Recalling Ishmael with Michael Gerard Bauer

How Herman Melville and Gregory Peck helped me to discover a character and a story idea that would eventually evolve into three successful novels and along the way, enable me to achieve my teenage dream of becoming a rock star (if only briefly).

What I've Learnt with J.C. Burke

Jane Burke will reflect on her writing career focussing on: "What I've learnt, what I'd change, what I wouldn't". Jane will discuss how, in hindsight, getting too close to the character is not always the best thing.

Zac, Mia and Me with A.J. Betts

Amanda Betts' third novel, *Zac & Mia*, was a story she didn't see coming. Inspired by real-life, it follows two young characters as they deal with unlucky odds. Funny and raw, *Zac & Mia* has found fans around the world, (printed in 9 countries) and was awarded the 2014 Ethel Turner Prize at the New South Wales Premier's Literature Awards.

Publishing Secrets with John Marsden, Melina Marchetta, Anthony Eaton, J.C. Burke, Michael Gerard Bauer, Vikki Wakefield, A.J. Betts and chaired by Kirsty Murray

As is the tradition for **Celebrate Reading**, we will conclude the first day with *Publishing Secrets*. This energetic and often revealing session is a great way to hear about the *real secrets* of the publishing world.

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DETAILED PROGRAMME



Day Two: Saturday 1st November 2014

The Sound Of Picture Books: *Home and Away* with John Marsden and Matt Ottley

John Marsden and Matt Ottley will discuss the motivation behind, and the continuing relevance of, *Home and Away*. An ensemble piece composed by Matt will be performed to accompany the narration and the stunning visuals.

What They Bring Home: The Aftermath of War

with Anthony Eaton, Michael Gerard Bauer and Lucy Christopher

In one form or another, war has been a constant in human history and a popular theme in writing. Why is it such a rich source of inspiration for authors? Is it still an appropriate and relevant topic for today's YA readers? And how do you effectively write about war and its aftermath if you haven't experienced them directly? Our three authors will tackle this issue and perhaps they'll even provide an answer to that perplexing question, 'War, what is it good for?'

Blurring the Line Between Fact and Fiction with Kirsty Murray and Anthony Eaton

Tony Eaton and Kirsty Murray will discuss their love of history, particularly the rewriting, revisiting and reworking it to their own nefarious ends. They'll discuss the fine balancing act between being historically accurate and allowing the demands of the narrative to follow its own course.

The Girl Least Likely - Why She Writes the Things She Does with Vikki Wakefield

Vikki Wakefield will reflect on her unexpected writing career, keeping it real and why she's not yet over high school. Vikki will discuss her debut novel *All I Ever Wanted* and *Friday Brown* both of which have been critically acclaimed.

Twenty Two Years in the Making with Melina Marchetta

Melina Marchetta says, "Despite having written my first novel more than two decades ago, I'm still amazed at how it never gets easier, and how it always feels new". Melina's work is enjoyed around the world and has been published in 18 countries and 17 languages. Her solo session will reflect on her illustrious career.

There are the Stories and Then There's the Story

with A.J. Betts, J.C. Burke and Michael Gerard Bauer

Our three fabulous authors will reveal the real story behind their novels and in the process the audience will be treated to a reading from each:

Amanda Betts: Writing Wavelength: The importance of breakfast

Jane Burke: Tom Brennan, 'I have been to Gran's'

Michael Gerard Bauer: Ishmael and me: A faint resemblance?

Living History: Capturing the Life and Times of the Ordinary People on the Page

with Kirsty Murray

History, as written, often focuses on violence. We read it as a sequence of interconnected acts of aggression. But history as lived is a tapestry of daily rituals, of small pleasures and large emotional challenges. The history of living is a story of the interconnectedness of families, friends and lovers; the things that matter in the lives of every single human being. Kirsty will focus on her most recent book, *The Year It All Ended*.

Walking the Line with Anthony Eaton, J.C. Burke, A.J. Betts and Vikki Wakefield

How do you make the tough creative decisions and stay true to the character at the same time? Our sensational panel will explore the battles and triumphs they have encountered as they walked that very fine line.

Living and Writing on the Road with John Marsden, Melina Marchetta, Kirsty Murray, J.C. Burke, Michael Gerard Bauer, Vikki Wakefield, A.J. Betts and chaired by Anthony Eaton

As is the tradition for **Celebrate Reading**, we will conclude the final day with our always hilarious, *Living and Writing on the Road*. This raucous session will leave you entertained and truly celebrating reading.

Major Prize Draw