



THE WOMEN'S COLLEGE  
WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

## The Women's College Writers' Festival Programme 2011



10.30	<b>Registration, tea and coffee</b>	<b>Foyer and main common room</b>
11.00	Welcome to country	Main common room
11.15	<b>Panel:</b> History and Reflection, Herstory or His	Ann Curthoys, Giulia Giuffrè, Kirsten McKenzie
12.15	<b>Soundbites 2 x 20 mins:</b> Exploring Identity	Larissa Behrendt, Judith Whelan
1.15	Lunch	
2.00	<b>Soundbites 3 x 20 mins:</b> Reflecting on Process	Marg Carroll, Nadia Wheatley, Michele Zappavigna
3.00	<b>Panel:</b> Retelling Stories	James Bradley, Ursula Dubosarsky Kate Forsyth
4.00	Afternoon tea	
4.30	<b>Panel:</b> Criminal Intent	Lenny Bartulin, Pam Newton
5.30	<b>Panel:</b> Where do we go from here?	Rosie Scott to moderate: Carolyn Burns, Alice Grundy, Alexandra Nahlous, Pip Smith
6.30	<b>Cocktails and free for all discussion</b>	Pro-Ebook: Mark Tanner Pro-Book: Kate Forsyth




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**HISTORY  
OR  
HERSTORY**

**6 AUGUST 2011**

Web: [www.thewomenscollege.com.au/writers-festival.php](http://www.thewomenscollege.com.au/writers-festival.php)  
Blog: <http://womenscollegewritersfestival.wordpress.com>  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/womenswritersfest](http://www.facebook.com/womenswritersfest)



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10.30 Registration, tea and coffee

11.00 Welcome to country

11.15 **Panel: History and Reflection, Herstory or His**  
Ann Curthoys, Giulia Giuffrè and Kirsten McKenzie discuss the process of researching and understanding history from different perspectives

12.15 **Soundbites: Exploring Identity**  
Larissa Behrendt and Judith Whelan reflect on how they have used their non-fiction and fiction writing to explore identity, society and culture

1.15 Lunch

2.00 **Soundbites : Reflecting on Process**  
Marg Carroll, Nadia Wheatley and Michele Zappavigna share their thoughts on interpreting Australian history and society through images, words and social media

3.00 **Panel: Retelling Stories**  
James Bradley, Ursula Dubosarsky Kate Forsyth explore our need to revisit certain stories, and investigate the reasons why some tall tales and true ones invite such reinterpretation

4.00 Afternoon tea

4.30 **Panel: Criminal Intent**  
Lenny Bartulin and Pam Newton reflect on the process of writing Australian stories in a genre more commonly located in grimy London alleys or smoky LA bars

5.30 **Panel: Where do we go from here?**  
Rosie Scott to moderates Carolyn Burns, Alice Grundy, Alexandra Nahlous and Pip Smith in a panel investigating different ways to play with fiction. They share their thoughts on the future of the book

6.30 **Cocktails and free for all discussion**  
Kate Forsyth and Mark Tanner are joined by Women's College Debating champions in a free-for-all discussion on the merits of ebooks vs books. Audience participation welcome!



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**Lenny Bartulin** is the author of *A Deadly Business* and *The Black Russian*, which was shortlisted for the 2010 Ned Kelly Award for Best Fiction. His latest novel is *De Luxe*.

**Prof. Larissa Behrendt** is a Euleyayi/Kamillaroi woman. She is the Professor of Law and Director of Research at the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at the University of Technology, Sydney. She is admitted to the Supreme Court of the ACT and NSW as a barrister. Larissa is a Land Commissioner at the Land and Environment Court and the Alternate Chair of the Serious Offenders Review Board, a member of the Academy of Social Sciences of Australia and a founding member of the Australian Academy of Law. She is the Chair of the Humanities and Creative Arts panel of the Australian Research Council College of Experts. She is the author of several books on Indigenous legal issues. She won the 2002 David Uniapon Award and a 2005 Commonwealth Writer's Prize for her novel *Home*. Her latest novel, *Legacy*, is due for release in October this year. Larissa is a Board Member of the Museum of Contemporary Art, a board member of Tranby Aboriginal College and a Director of the Bangarra Dance Theatre. She was named as 2009 NAIDOC Person of the Year.

**James Bradley** is an author and critic. His books include three novels, *Wrack*, *The Deep Field* and *The Resurrectionist*, a book of poetry, *Paper Nautilus*, and as editor, *The Penguin Book of the Ocean*. His new novel, *Black Friday*, will be published by Faber next year. He blogs at [cityoftongues.com](http://cityoftongues.com).

**Carolyn Burns** is an emerging playwright from Sydney, currently filming the pilot episode of a television situation comedy about a team of high school debating nerds she created and pitched to several independent production companies earlier this year. Her first feature length play, *Careers for Attractive Ladies*, was performed to sold out audiences at the 2010 Sydney Fringe Festival. In 2011 Carolyn has been selected to participate in *Fresh Ink*, the Australian Theatre for Young People's writer development program. Her new play, *Mongrel*, will premiere in September at Newtown Theatre as part of the Sydney Fringe Festival. Carolyn graduated from the University of Edinburgh with a Master's in Literature and Modernity in 2009. She also holds a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from the University of Sydney, where she is currently a PhD candidate in the Department of English conducting research in adaptation and twentieth-century lyric drama.

**Marg Carroll** grew up in the isolated Murga Valley in central western NSW. Curiosity about people and places took her to Sydney University, living at Women's College, to study geography followed by post-graduate degrees in town and country planning and social ecology. When she married, Marg moved back to central NSW. She worked off-farm in local government and community development establishing innovative projects such as the first Abbeyfield family-style house for older people in NSW, ORANGESEARCH healthy cities project and, from NSW Agriculture set up and coordinated the state-wide Rural Women's Network. An Australian Rural Leadership scholarship provided the catalyst to photograph and write about remarkable people in *Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives* (2001), and *Reinventing the Bush ~ inspiring stories of young Australians* (2008). *The Man who Loved Crocodiles and stories of other adventurous Australians* will be released by Allen and Unwin in October 2011. Marg and husband Bill run a mixed farm at Molong, family home for their three children and four beautiful grandchildren.

**Ann Curthoys** is a historian at the University of Sydney. She has published widely on aspects of Australian history, and questions of historical theory and writing. Her recent books include: Ann Curthoys and John Docker, *Is History Fiction?* and Ann Curthoys and Ann McGrath, *How to Write History that People Want to Read*. Recent essays include: "Harry Potter and Historical Consciousness" in the most recent issue of *History Australia*, and "Crossing Over: Academic and Popular History" in the first issue of a new journal, *The Australian Journal of Popular Culture*. She is currently writing a book with Jessie Mitchell with a provisional title of *Taking Liberty: How Settlers Gained and Aboriginal People Lost Political Rights in Nineteenth Century Australia*.

**Ursula Dubosarsky** was born in Sydney and wanted to be a writer from the age of six. She has now published over 30 books for children and young adults and won several national literary awards. Her latest is a non-fiction book about the English language, *The Return of the Word Spy* and a novel, *The Golden Day*, a story of schoolgirls set in the 1960s.

**Kate Forsyth** is the award-winning author of more than twenty books for children and adults, including *The Puzzle Ring*, *The Gypsy Crown*, *The Wildkin's Curse*, and the bestselling fantasy series 'The Witches of Eileanan'. Her latest book is *The Starkin's Curse*, a tale of high adventure and true love for readers aged 12+. Since her first novel was named a Best First Novel of 1998 by Locus Magazine, she has won or been nominated for numerous awards, including a CYBIL Award in the US and five Aurealis awards, and her books have been published in 13 countries, including Russia, Japan, Turkey, Spain, Italy, Poland and Slovenia. Kate is currently undertaking a doctorate in fairytale retellings at the University of Technology. You can read more about her at [www.kateforsyth.com.au](http://www.kateforsyth.com.au).



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**Giulia Giuffrè** is a Sydney writer. She has lectured in English Literature at various universities, including Oxford, Yale, Sydney and Wollongong. As an Australian of Italian descent she has written of her chequered heritage in *Who do you think you are?* She has explored Australian women's writing and experience in her book *A Writing Life*. Her latest book, *Primavera, or The Time of Your Life* (published March 2011) has been a mere 20 years in the making. It is a memoir of childhood and a veritable bittersweet compendium of life in general.

**Alice Grundy** works by day in publishing and is editor-in-chief of *Seizure*, a biannual literary journal. She was an editor on the 2010 UTS Writers' Anthology and has been published in *Voiceworks*, *Newswrite*, and *The Sydney Institute Quarterly* and on *Literary Minded*.

**Kirsten McKenzie** was born in South Africa. Her first degrees were from the University of Cape Town and she completed her doctorate as a Rhodes Scholar at Magdalen College, Oxford. She is Associate Professor in History at the University of Sydney and amongst her books are *Scandal in the Colonies: Cape Town and Sydney, 1820 - 1850* (Melbourne University Publishing, 2004) and *A Swindler's Progress: Nobles and Convicts in the Age of Liberty* (UNSW Press, 2009, Harvard University Press, 2010).

**Alexandra Nahlous** is the fiction commissioning editor at Pan Macmillan Australia. In 2009-2010 she won the Beatrice Davis Editorial Fellowship, and she spent three months in New York investigating the editing and publishing of women's fiction and its subgenres. Before joining Pan Macmillan she was the editorial manager at Allen & Unwin where she worked for eight years. Alexandra has been an editor since 1997 and has worked across the board on both fiction and non-fiction.

**Pam Newton** is a former member of the New South Wales police force who is now a Sydney-based crime writer. Her first novel, *The Old School*, featuring Detective Nhu "Ned" Kelly, was published by Penguin in 2010.

**Dr Rosie Scott** is an internationally published award-winning writer and human rights activist. Her last book, *Faith Singer*, was included in an international survey of 50 Essential Reads by Living Writers conducted by the *Guardian* newspaper and Orange Prize committee.

**Pip Smith** is the curator of *Penguin Plays Rough*, a regular night of short fiction that allows five writers to read their short stories, novel extracts and scenes from plays or film scripts to an audience each month. Pip also edited the *Penguin Plays Rough Book of Short Stories*, which was launched at the 2011 Sydney Writers Festival. Her own stories and poems have been published in *Meanjin*, *Voiceworks*, *HEAT*, *Pan Magazine*, *Going Down Swinging* and *Island*. Pip has a Wagtail forthcoming this August that features a sample of poems from her forthcoming collection, which was finalized with the help of a Varuna publishing fellowship.

**Mark Tanner** is the Head of Strategic Partnerships for Google Print in Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia. In this role Mark develops and manages Google's relationships and partnerships with book, magazine, journal and newspaper publishers across a range of products including Google Books, Google eBooks and Google Scholar. Before joining Google in 2010, Mark was the Australian Manager for ReadHowYouWant, a digital publishing start-up, which specialises in making books and other text based content accessible in digital, print, audio and Braille formats. Prior to ReadHowYouWant, Mark worked for McKinsey and Company.

**Nadia Wheatley** has a list of award-winning titles that cover the genres of fiction, history, biography and picture books. She writes for adults as well as for young people. Nadia is an inspiring speaker, with 25 years experience of giving lectures, talks and workshops to young people and adults, at all levels of education.

**Judith Whelan** is to become Saturday editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* after seven years running the weekend magazine. With more than 20 years media experience, Judith Whelan became editor of *Good Weekend* magazine in March 2004. *Good Weekend* was the first newspaper-inserted magazine to be published in Australia and today it is read by almost two million people every weekend.

**Michele Zappavigna** is an Australian Research Council (ARC) postdoctoral Research Fellow in Linguistics at the University of Sydney. Her major research interest is Social Media, in particular the language of microblogging. She is also interested in text visualization as a tool to aid discourse analysis. Her book, *The Discourse of Twitter and Social Media*, will be published by Continuum in 2012. This work employs a 100 million word Twitter corpus to investigate how people affiliate online through 'searchable talk'. Michele completed her PhD on language and technology in the School of Information Technologies, University of Sydney in 2007. Her forthcoming book *Tacit Knowledge in Spoken Discourse*, also with Continuum, arose out of this project. She is working on an ARC project investigating NSW Youth Justice Conferencing, a form of restorative justice, using multimodal discourse analysis to look out how language enacts reconciliation in this context. Michele teaches *Electronic Discourse*, *Media Discourse* and *Computer Applications in Linguistics*.