

MELBOURNE
WRITERS
FESTIVAL
SCHOOLS
6—9 MAY
2024

**[Melbourne
Writers Festival]**

We respectfully acknowledge that Melbourne Writers Festival takes place on the traditional lands of the Kulin Nation in particular the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung people. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

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Current as at December 2023

WELCOME TO MWF SCHOOLS

[**MWF**]

**Join us for this year's
spectacular MWF Schools,
where students learn
straight from some of the
most exciting storytelling
talents in the country!**

Get ready for an action-packed day of learning at State Library Victoria as MWF Schools has a stellar program in store for students.

Across the four sessions of the day, award-winning authors and acclaimed illustrators engage students in a broad range of topics, from the craft of writing and challenges of growing up to ecology, innovation, science and First Nations knowledges.

In between sessions, students can have their books signed by featured authors and can also purchase books from the program (via card only) from a Readings pop-up bookstore on the day.

We hope to see your school there!

Dates and location

MWF Schools will be held at State Library Victoria.

Secondary School Program

- Monday 6 May
- Tuesday 7 May

Primary School Program

- Wednesday 8 May
- Thursday 9 May

Schedule

SESSION 1	10–10.45am	
SESSION 2	10.45–11.30am	
BREAK + BOOK SIGNINGS		11.30–12.30
SESSION 3	12.30–1.15pm	
SESSION 4	1.15–2pm	
BOOK SIGNINGS	2–2.30pm	

Tickets

- \$30 per student
- \$30 per (additional) teacher*

* Teachers receive one complimentary ticket per 20 student tickets.

When you purchase tickets to attend MWF Schools, you are booking to attend the full day (four sessions). All tickets are exempt from GST.

Booking

Book tickets online at mwf.com.au/schools using a bank card.

If you have any enquiries or would like to discuss other payment options, please email ticketing@mwf.com.au.

Teacher resources

Dedicated teacher resources are available to inform your lessons in the lead-up to MWF Schools. From independent writing tasks to team research assignments, each activity is clearly linked to the school curriculum. Access the Teacher Resources at mwf.com.au/schools.

More information

Visit our website for frequently asked questions and more information at mwf.com.au/schools. You can also email our ticketing team at ticketing@mwf.com.au.

Disclaimer: Details in this brochure are correct at time of printing. Melbourne Writers Festival reserves the right to add, withdraw, or substitute artists, and to vary the program should the need arise.

SECONDARY SCHOOL PROGRAM



Astrid Scholte: So, you want to be a writer

Do your students dream of becoming writers? They'll find out what it takes with internationally bestselling author **Astrid Scholte**! Astrid takes students from the moment she knew she wanted to be an author to what she studied in high school and university to become an award-winning writer who also works in film, TV and animation production. Astrid has written dark, twisty tales like *Four Dead Queens*, *The Vanishing Deep* and *League of Liars* and worked on James Cameron's *Avatar* and Steven Spielberg's *The Adventures of Tintin*.



Mike Lucas: Getting the fright right

From ghosts that give you goosebumps to monsters that go bump in the night, why do some things scare us? And how do we capture that fear in a delightfully spine-chilling story? Behold the spooktacular world of CBCA-shortlisted author **Mike Lucas** (*What We All Saw*). Mike teaches students the mechanisms of horror – its themes, tropes and terrifying way with words – and the classics that define the genre. Deploying their new understanding of the craft, students will be able to write their very own spooky tale for young adults that will thrill...and chill.

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

Learning areas: English, media arts

Capabilities: Critical and creative thinking, literacy

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

Learning areas: English, history

Capabilities: Critical and creative thinking, literacy



Biffy James: Completely normal (and other lies)

Growing up comes with complicated feelings – about your family, your friends and yourself. Sometimes, it's hard enough just to figure out what your feelings really are. Students join award-winning YA author **Biffy James** as she speaks about heartbreak, happiness and why there's more to life than just feeling 'fine'. Together with MWF Schools host **Karys McEwen**, she'll discuss her CBCA Honour Book, *Completely Normal (and other lies)*, a heartfelt and hilarious story of the day-to-day life of the modern teenager that grapples with grief, secret love, difficult feelings – and even more difficult conversations.

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

Learning areas: English, health and physical education
Capabilities: Personal and social



Steve Mushin: Ludicrous problem-solving

Thinking outrageously is good for your brain (it's true, ask the latest science). It sparks creative problem-solving and lets possibilities fly unencumbered by what we *think* we know. Scientists and engineers use this thinking technique to solve complex problems, and in this session, acclaimed designer, writer and artist **Steve Mushin** shows students how they can use it too. Students learn the serious science and ludicrous ideas that are successfully reimagining the future – from 'ultrawilding', where cities are transformed into high-tech habitats, to new technologies that could restore our environment faster than we thought possible. Sometimes the craziest ideas are the ones that change the world.

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

Learning areas: Science, design and technologies, digital technologies
Capabilities: Critical and creative thinking, ethical understanding
Cross-curriculum priorities: Sustainability

PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRAM



Anna Zobel: It's a mystery

Gather round, cunning detectives and sneaky sleuths because it's time to make a mystery! Students join CBCA-shortlisted author and illustrator and mystery-writer extraordinaire **Anna Zobel** (*This Camp Is Doomed*) as she teaches them how to tell their own tale of twists and turns in this theatrical session. From creating a spooky atmosphere that will send shivers down readers' spines to building suspense like a pro, students will learn how to write their very own spooky whodunnit – complete with eerie illustrations.

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

Learning areas: English, visual arts

Capabilities: Critical and creative thinking, literacy



Jordan Gould and Richard Pritchard: Megabeasts!

Enter a world of mega-fauna and mega-fun! Peek Whurrong man **Jordan Gould** and Samoan **Richard Pritchard** – the minds behind the sensational Wylah the Koorie Warrior series – want students to design their very own megabeast. Learn how to illustrate an epic creature – with dragon wings, big feet, furry faces or shark teeth! – while Jordan teaches you how to use his Land Tribe's language to create a name for it. Then discover the Aboriginal Land your beast is from so you can mark it on the map.

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

Learning areas: English, visual arts, geography, history

Capabilities: Intercultural understanding

Cross-curriculum priorities: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures



Kate and Jol Temple: Evil masterminds vs loveable rogues

Get ready to join an evil mastermind convention as we take a look at our favourite book baddies! Why are baddies so useful for building stories? What makes a great villain? Using the devilish characters from their books like *Frog Squad* and dark fantasy series *The Dangerous Business of Being Trilby Moffat*, **Kate** and **Jol** take students on a hilarious deep dive into this murky world and explore how dastardly villains can provide terrific challenges for main characters.

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

Learning areas: English, history

Capabilities: Critical and creative thinking, ethical understanding, literacy



Idan Ben-Barak: Science? Why bother?

The brain makes just about everything happen – breathing, heart-beating, homework. It also sometimes makes mistakes – but don't worry, there's a way to keep that lump of goo on track. Enter: science. In this session, students join the award-winning writer behind *Do Not Lick This Book* **Idan Ben-Barak**, as he reveals how science can help their brains find things out about the world. Whether they want to be a scientist, astronaut, athlete or artist – science is a friend to everyone. So, get your students ready to discover just what science can do for them (and their brain goo).

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

Learning areas: Science, English

Capabilities: Critical and creative thinking

PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Idan Ben-Barak

Idan writes science books, usually for children; they've been translated into over 20 languages and won several awards. Idan lives in Melbourne with his family. Sometimes, after they go to bed, he plays his guitar a bit. Idan holds degrees in microbiology and in the history and philosophy of science, a diploma in library studies, and a day job that has very little to do with any of the above.

Jordan Gould

Jordan Gould is a Peek Whurrong man from Warrnambool, Victoria. He performs Welcome to Country ceremonies at corporate and private gatherings. He is passionate about teaching and talking to groups about culture, language and reconciliation.

Richard Pritchard

Richard Pritchard is a New Zealand-born Samoan man. He has had a dream of writing books since he was a teenager. His dedication to visual storytelling has led him to work in graphic design, film, animation, commercials and video games.

Kate and Jol Temple

Kate and Jol are internationally awarded authors of over 26 hilarious books for kids, from smash hit picture book series *Bin Chicken* to action-adventure graphic novels like *Frog Squad*. Kate also writes her own dark fantasy series, *The Dangerous Business of Being Trilby Moffat*.

Anna Zobel

Anna Zobel is an illustrator, writer and teacher from Melbourne, Australia. As a child, Anna wrote and illustrated her own books, and she hasn't stopped since. Anna is inspired – and occasionally infected – by the children she works with, and hopes to represent them in her work.

SECONDARY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Biffy James

Biffy James is a high school English teacher with a not-so-secret addiction to retro YA series, *Sweet Valley High*. Her debut novel *Completely Normal (and other lies)* won the 2023 Griffith University Young Adult Book Award at the QLD Literary Awards, and the 2023 CBCA Shadow Judging Award in the Older Readers' category. It's a CBCA Honour Book that's been shortlisted for multiple other awards.

Mike Lucas

Mike Lucas is the author of poetry anthologies, picture books and YA novels. His 2022 novel, *What We All Saw*, published by Penguin Australia, was shortlisted for the CBCA Older Readers Book of the Year. He owns an independent bookshop in Adelaide and works full time as an engineer.

Steve Mushin

Steve Mushin is an industrial designer, model maker, illustrator and artist. He designs challenging and thought-provoking exhibitions and adventure spaces to ignite imaginations and explore design, physics and biology. Steves collaborates with scientists and engineers to illustrate complex and intriguing ideas. His first book *Ultrawild* was published in October 2023. Steve runs design workshops and create exhibitions with schools, science museums, galleries and festivals to help kids and adults imagine transforming cities into ecosystems.

Astrid Scholte

Astrid Scholte is the internationally bestselling and award-winning author of *Four Dead Queens*, *The Vanishing Deep* and *League of Liars*. She has worked in film production, including at Industrial Light & Magic and on James Cameron's *Avatar*. *Shadows of Truth*, the sequel to *League of Liars*, is to be published in early 2024.