



A celebration of writing, illustrating & storytelling

Write around the Murray Festival



7 – 11 September 2011



Cr Alice Glachan, Mayor

AlburyCity once again welcomes a wealth of talent to this year's **Write around the Murray Festival**.

It's wonderful to witness the growth of this festival and how it has become such a part of the fabric of our community as an annual event. Whether you are a reader, writer, or you simply wish to be entertained, this year's line-up will both intrigue and enthrall you.

We are delighted to welcome to this year's festival Australia's much loved comedian Anh Do, whose book, *The Happiest Refugee: A Memoir*, recently won Book of the Year from Independent Booksellers. Anh will be guest speaker at the Festival Dinner where he will be sharing stories of the unique journey of his family, so it's certain to be a vibrant evening.

The festival's Literary Lunch speaker is none other than cryptic crossword setter David Astle. David is renowned in the world of crosswords as DA, or simply 'the word

guy' on SBS's *Letters and Numbers*. He has plenty to say about the Murray region having spent some time in the district while he was writing *The Book of Miles*, based in Tallangatta.

The compelling story of photojournalist Nigel Brennan and his family as he was held captive in Somalia for 15 months is truly one of humanity and endurance. Nigel and his sister Nicole Bonney will present a keynote address on their experiences during the time Nigel was held hostage.

Throughout the festival, Steven Amsterdam, Fiona Wood and Arnold Zable will be running insightful workshops, John Charalambous will be launching his new book *Two Greeks*, and Megan Gibson will deliver an informative session on family history. We will also celebrate the winners of AlburyCity's Short and Nano Story Competitions.

The festival will close once again with the Big Book Club, so come along and join in

the discussion of Arnold Zable's new book *Violin Lessons*. Jason Steger of *The Age* and ABC TV's *First Tuesday Book Club* will be leading the discussion.

Local contributors to the festival include artist Lynne Gasperov who will be running a workshop on handmade journals, Dr Bruce Pennay who will be sharing his expert knowledge of Bonegilla in the informative discussion 'Eating into Post-war Australia', and Friends of the LibraryMuseum will be hosting a pre-loved Big Book Sale.

All of the wonderful events at this year's festival would not have been possible but for the dedication of our wonderful community committee. Please enjoy the mix of events on offer at this year's **Write around the Murray Festival**, Albury's own celebration of writing, illustration and storytelling.

Cr Alice Glachan
Mayor AlburyCity

For all booking information GO TO



www.writearoundthemurray.org.au

Festival Program



Opening

The 2011 Write around the Murray Festival will open with a Welcome to Country and a very special indigenous storytime for all ages, featuring 'Under the Story Tree'. This storybook is a collection of stories written and illustrated by Koori Kindermanna parents, grandparents, families and community as part of Koori Kindermanna's Language and Literacy Project. Helen Newman has collaborated on the project.

Wednesday 7 September, 11:00am
LibraryMuseum
Cost: Free
RSVP: 02 6023 8333 or
www.writearoundthemurray.org.au

Handmade Journals with Lynne Gasperov

Lynne Gasperov will be an 'artist in residence' at the LibraryMuseum showcasing her unique handmade journals. She will demonstrate the processes involved in creating these beautiful pieces, which all begin life as pre-loved books.

Wednesday 7 September, 1:00pm-3:00pm
LibraryMuseum
Cost: Free

Words. Laughter. Imagination.

Two authors discuss the nuances of language and how they manipulate language to their benefit and for the enjoyment of others. David Astle, cryptic crossword puzzle setter extraordinaire uses words and puzzles to spark the imagination, while Doug MacLeod, entertaining and amusing children's and young adult's author, uses comedy to invigorate young readers. What inspires them as authors? How is imagination their ally in developing characters, plots and puzzles?

Wednesday 7 September, 6:00pm-7:00pm
Albury Entertainment Centre Theatre
Cost: Gold coin donation
RSVP: 02 6023 8333 or
www.writearoundthemurray.org.au

Storytime with Donna Rawlins

Don't miss Storytime with award-winning children's illustrator Donna Rawlins! Donna will share her love of books with you and your little ones. As an illustrator, Donna adds life and colour to stories. Listen to her energetic and animated storytelling and experience stories truly brought to life.

Wednesday 7 September, 10:30am
Lavington Library
Thursday 8 September, 11:00am
LibraryMuseum
Cost: Free

Literary Lunch with David Astle

David Astle is best known as 'the word guy' on SBS's *Letters and Numbers*, as well as crossword puzzle composer 'DA'. He also has a soft spot for the Murray region with his 1996 novel *The Book of Miles* based on yarns and history he gathered in the district. Come and join David as he discusses rabbits, moths and Hindu hawkers (the novel), as well as puns, anagrams and crosswords (the word side, and his latest book, *Puzzled*) over lunch.

Thursday 8 September, 12:30pm-2:00pm
Grind on Olive
Cost: \$35.00 including lunch
RSVP:
www.writearoundthemurray.org.au
or Albury Entertainment Centre on
02 6051 3051

AlburyCity Short Story and Nano Story Competition Winners

The stories are down on paper; the judges have deliberated; the winners have been chosen. Find out who our new breed of talented writers are with the announcement of the winners of the AlburyCity Short Story and Nano Story Competitions. Hear excerpts from the winning entries and mix and meet with our newest celebrated authors.

Thursday 8 September, 5:30pm
LibraryMuseum
Cost: Free
RSVP: 02 6023 8333 or
www.writearoundthemurray.org.au

Projection Launch: Games We Play

The *Games We Play* cross-generational project involved students from Murray High, Lavington Public School and residents of the UPA Murray River aged-care hostel, in the search for children's games that may have been lost over time. The children rediscovered classic games such as marbles, skipping and knuckles, along with one or two rediscovered gems too obscure even for Google! Artist and filmmaker Tony Nott collaborated on the project and the resulting film will be shown each evening of the festival in QEII Square.

Projection Launch: Graphic Traffic

Photo Imaging students from James Fallon High School will be taking art to the walls outside the LibraryMuseum to show the people of Albury their digital skills - three storeys high! The 2D and 4D artworks to be projected include manipulated photos, animations and videos, which all revolve around the concept of 'text as image'.

Both projections will be launched on:
Thursday 8 September, 6:30pm
Rear of LibraryMuseum / QEII Square
Cost: Free
RSVP: 02 6023 8333 or
www.writearoundthemurray.org.au

Family Tree Time

Want more family tree time? Freelance researcher from the hit Australian TV show *Who Do You Think You Are?*, Megan Gibson, will let you in on behind-the-scenes research stories from the show, as well as share practical tips for family tree researchers of all levels from her recently released book *How To Get More Family Tree Time - Tips for the Time Poor!* Her passion is helping you beat the 'I'm too busy' blues and start or progress with your own research... before it's too late.

Friday 9 September, 2:00pm-3:30pm
LibraryMuseum
Cost: Gold coin donation
RSVP: 02 6023 8333 or
www.writearoundthemurray.org.au

Book Launch: Two Greeks

You are invited to celebrate the launch of John Charalambous' new novel *Two Greeks*. Listen to John talk about the process of writing and hear him read from the book. A question and answer session will allow the audience to have their say. Book sales and a signing will follow.

Friday 9 September, 5:00pm
LibraryMuseum
Cost: Free
RSVP: 02 6023 8333 or
www.writearoundthemurray.org.au

Keynote Address with Nigel Brennan and Nicole Bonney – The Price of Life

Adversity. Torture. Endurance. Release. The Brennan family story, as told in the book *The Price of Life* has it all. For 462 days photojournalist Nigel Brennan was held hostage in Somalia. For 462 days his sister, Nicole Bonney, acted as the family's hostage negotiator to secure his release. Nigel travelled to Somalia with Canadian journalist Amanda Lindhout to cover the story of the millions of people who have been affected by Somalia's 20 years of war, drought and famine, but it was Nigel and Amanda who became the story. In this keynote address Nigel and Nicole will talk about their different experiences during those 462 days.

Friday 9 September, 6:00pm-7:00pm
Albury Entertainment Centre Theatre
Cost: Gold coin donation
RSVP: 02 6023 8333 or
www.writearoundthemurray.org.au

Poetry at the G

Head out to the G Bar at CSU Campus, Thurgoona, for performance poetry from featured poets including slam poetry champion Emilie Zoey Baker and an open mic session for those who would like try their hand at reading their favourite poem. Food, drink, scintillating company and inspiring poetry - a great night out.

Friday 9 September, 7:30pm
The G Bar, Charles Sturt University Campus, Thurgoona
Cost: Free (food and drink optional at own expense)

Big Book Sale

Grab a bargain and some great reads at the Friends of the LibraryMuseum pre-loved book sale.

Saturday 10 September, 10:00am-12:00noon
LibraryMuseum
Poetry at the LibraryMuseum
Be delighted, entertained and enthralled as Emilie Zoey Baker provides an encore poetry performance at the LibraryMuseum.
Saturday 10 September, 11:30am
LibraryMuseum
Cost: Free

Panel Session: My Culture

Where we come from influences what we do and who we are. Learn more about the cultural influences on writing during this insightful panel discussion. Authors from culturally diverse backgrounds will converge to explore their diversity, identity and writing styles. Is their cultural identity limiting or liberating? Hear from John Charalambous, Anita Heiss and Arnold Zable as they explore these issues and respond to audience questions.

Saturday 10 September, 1:30pm-2:45pm
Albury Entertainment Centre Theatre
Cost: Gold coin donation
RSVP: 02 6023 8333 or
www.writearoundthemurray.org.au

Panel Session: Inside the Industry

This is a fantastic opportunity to get publishing advice first-hand as three industry experts share their knowledge and perspectives in this informative panel presentation about what goes on inside the publishing industry. Literary agent Jenny Darling, publisher Zoe Dattner, and publisher and editor Fayeze Philippe Hanna will take you on the journey from unpublished manuscript to published work, each from their own professional point of view.

Saturday 10 September, 3:00pm-4:15pm
Albury Entertainment Centre Theatre
Cost: Gold coin donation
RSVP: 02 6023 8333 or
www.writearoundthemurray.org.au

Festival Guests

Steven Amsterdam's first book, *Things We Didn't See Coming*, was The Age Book of the Year for 2009 and has been printed to acclaim in the US and the UK, with French and Dutch editions to follow this year. It is on the VCE reading list for 2011. Steven spends his time working as a palliative care nurse on some days, and working on his next book on other days.

Kalinda Ashton is an Australian writer and academic based in Melbourne, Victoria. She holds a doctorate in professional writing from RMIT and has taught literature and creative writing at various universities in Australia. She has written fiction, poetry and plays. Kalinda's first novel, *The Danger Game*, was published in 2009 to popular and critical acclaim.

David Astle is a writer of non-fiction, fiction and plays, and is best known as 'the word guy' on SBS's *Letters*

and *Numbers*. He is also known as cryptic crossword setter 'DA', and in the words of award-winning Australian actor Geoffrey Rush, "He's the Sergeant Pepper of cryptic crosswords." In 2010 David released the book *Puzzled*, demystifying the cryptic crossword.

Chris Badenoch, a long-time passionate home cook, brought his 'nose to tail' style of cooking to a greater audience on TV's *MasterChef Australia*, where he was best known as the hat-wearing beer merchant whose perfect roast pig head both fascinated and polarised the nation. He now spends his time conducting beer tastings, cooking demonstrations and recipe development, whereby he hopes to bring a greater understanding of the 'nose to tail' ethos to Australia.

Emilie Zoey Baker is a published and award-winning poet and slam champion. She has performed

around the world and is Education Officer at Australian Poetry.

Australian photojournalist **Nigel Brennan** travelled to Somalia to report a story few wanted to tell - the human price of 20 years of complex conflict, food insecurity and drought. The price of telling this story was being held for ransom for 462 days after he was kidnapped by a criminal gang. Nigel now plans to return to his first love of photojournalism. He lives in a house he built himself in country Queensland and is already thinking of his next destination: Afghanistan. Just don't talk about it with his Mum.

John Charalambous is the author of three novels, his most recent being *Two Greeks*. While not a memoir, this novel draws on the peculiar dynamics of John's parents' failed marriage and reflects the broader shifts in gender relations that were happening across Australia during

the 1970s.

Jenny Darling Associates is one of the leading literary agencies in Australia. Jenny started her career in publishing before moving into literary management, and in 1998 she set up her own agency. Jenny is a founding member of the Australian Literary Agents' Association and has a particular interest in literary fiction.

Zoe Dattner is co-founder and Creative Director of Melbourne small press Sleepers Publishing, and is also General Manager for SPUNC, the Small Press Network, an organisation that works to promote and support small and independent publishers.

Anh Do is an accomplished comedian and MC with ten years' experience. Anh's first book, *The Happiest Refugee: A Memoir*, was published in September 2010

and recently won Book of the Year from Independent Booksellers. A talented writer, actor, producer and comedian, Anh has played to sell-out crowds at the Melbourne Comedy Festival and The Sydney Opera House. He has appeared on numerous TV shows and his film credits include *The Finished People* (co-producer) and *Footy Legends* (writer, actor).

Lynne Gasperov has been studying, teaching and exhibiting art for twenty years. Her handmade journals are a by-product of current work which uses old, discarded books. This recycling, or re-inventing, of objects and materials forces a reappraisal of the mundane, its significance, and its potential.

Family Tree Time's **Megan Gibson** works as a freelance researcher, with credits including the Australian TV series *Who Do You Think You Are?* Megan's personal list of timesaving



Festival Workshops

All workshops will be held at the Albury LibraryMuseum

Moment with a Mentor

Meet one-on-one and receive personalised advice on your writing from professionals inside the industry, including literary agent Jenny Darling* and publishers Zoe Dattner and Fayeze Philippe Hanna. Take advantage of this great opportunity to meet one-on-one for sessions up to 30-minutes. Book early to avoid disappointment, and please submit up to two pages of writing samples along with your booking.

*Please note: Expressions of interest for Jenny Darling's sessions have now closed.

Saturday 10 September and Sunday 11 September, between 10:00am-1:00pm
LibraryMuseum
Cost: \$15.00
Bookings: 02 6023 8357

Chris Badenoch cooks *The Entire Beast* at the Community Wood Fired Oven

This *MasterChef Australia* finalist and new restaurant owner has caught everyone's attention and tastebuds by cooking with 'the entire beast' in his own unique way. Enjoy a Saturday afternoon hearing Chris discuss his culinary approach and enjoy sampling some of his signature dishes drawn from his recently published cookbook, aptly named *The Entire Beast: From Ear and Beer to Ale and Tail*.

Saturday 10 September, 2:00pm-5:00pm
Albury Community Wood Fired Oven, Hovell Tree Park, Albury
Cost: Free

Festival Dinner with Anh Do

Become part of the festival as you mix with writers and presenters during the not-to-be-missed Festival Dinner. This year's guest speaker is one of Australia's most successful comedians, Anh Do, who will speak about his book, *The Happiest Refugee: A Memoir*. Anh's story begins on the Indian Ocean in 1980 - in a nine metre fishing boat with 40 Vietnamese refugees crammed in like sardines. Anh has entertained, motivated and above all inspired thousands at events

in Australia and throughout the world. Find out why Anh is the toast of the town at the Festival Dinner, where you'll enjoy canapés, a two-course meal and a complimentary glass of wine.

Saturday 10 September, 7:00pm
Albury Entertainment Centre
Cost: \$65.00
RSVP: www.writearoundthemurray.org.au or Albury Entertainment Centre on 02 6051 3051

Ten Minutes of Talent

This is an opportunity for published and unpublished writers alike to showcase their talents and achievements, whether it's a reading from their novel, a short story or poem, a discussion on the writing process, or their writing and publishing journey. The only rule... each participant has only ten minutes in the spotlight! Writers who are interested in presenting can phone 02 6023 8357 to book their place.

Sunday 11 September, 10:00am-11:30am
LibraryMuseum
Cost: Free
RSVP: 02 6023 8333 or www.writearoundthemurray.org.au

Panel Session: Construction of Self: Developing Characters

A well-written character can inspire a myriad of emotions in a reader, but how does a writer know when a character will connect with the reader? Discover how two very different novelists, crime writer Michael Robotham and the politically motivated Kalinda Ashton, build their characters, and learn which characters have inspired them and why.

Sunday 11 September, 11:30am-12:45pm
Albury Entertainment Centre Theatre
Cost: Gold coin donation
RSVP: 02 6023 8333 or www.writearoundthemurray.org.au

Eating Into Post-war Australia: Visualising the Food Experiences of Bonegilla Newcomers

New land, new life, new food. Dr Bruce Pennay presents a series of official photographs that show how the Bonegilla Reception Centre saw itself catering for the needs of new arrivals. He will also present a series of unofficial photographs taken by refugees and migrants that show how they responded to, manipulated and changed the reception centre food fare, and a series of media illustrations that demonstrate how the local community both queried and welcomed the food choices of post-war immigrant people.

Sunday 11 September, 2:00pm-2:45pm
LibraryMuseum
Cost: Gold coin donation
RSVP: 02 6023 8333 or www.writearoundthemurray.org.au

Festival Finale: The Big Book Club with Arnold Zable and Jason Steger

Join acclaimed writer Arnold Zable as he discusses his recently released book *Violin Lessons* with Jason Steger of *The Age* and ABC TV's *First Tuesday Book Club*. The conversation will explore various aspects of the lyrical and moving true stories Arnold has collected for the book, as well as touching on Arnold's previous works including *Café Scheherazade*. Audience participation is encouraged, so please come along and share your views. Copies of *Violin Lessons* are available for loan from the LibraryMuseum and Lavington Library, or you can purchase the book from Dymocks Booksellers Albury. Mention the festival and receive a 10% discount on your purchase.

Sunday 11 September, 3:00pm-4:00pm
Albury Entertainment Centre Theatre
Cost: Gold coin donation
RSVP: 02 6023 8333 or www.writearoundthemurray.org.au

tips evolved into her recently released book *How To Get More Family Tree Time - Tips for the Time Poor!* Also a freelance writer, Megan writes for national magazines and is a regular columnist for *Inside History*.

Fayeze Philippe Hanna has over thirty years' experience in the publishing industry in Australia and overseas, and currently he manages the assessment, editing and production departments at Horizon Publishing Group. He is an expert linguist, editor, researcher, journalist, jurist, and author. He is the author of fiction and non-fiction articles, research and books.

Dr Anita Heiss is the author of non-fiction, historical fiction, commercial women's fiction, poetry, social commentary and travel articles. She is a regular guest at writers' festivals and travels internationally performing her work

and lecturing on indigenous studies. She is an Indigenous Literacy Day Ambassador and a proud member of the Wiradjuri nation of central New South Wales.

Doug MacLeod had his first book published at the age of sixteen, which earned him a fan letter from British comedian John Cleese. After graduating from the writing course at The Victorian College of Arts, Doug became head writer of the hit show *The Comedy Company*, and continued working full-time in TV for fourteen years before leaving to write novels for young adults. His book, *The Life of a Teenage Body-snatcher*, was recently shortlisted in the 2011 CBC Awards for older readers.

Bruce Pennay is an honorary Adjunct Associate Professor of Charles Sturt University. Over the last twenty years he has been exploring the meanings of the Bonegilla Reception

and Training Centre and, as a result, has published articles in scholarly journals, museum exhibition reports, interpretative booklets, and a local history relating to what is now a National Heritage Listed site.

Best-selling author **Michael Pryor** has published more than twenty books and fifty short stories, and is one of Australia's leading fantasy writers. Michael has been shortlisted six times for the Aurealis Awards (including for *Blaze of Glory and Heart of Gold*), has been nominated for a Ditmar Award, and five of his books have been CBC Notable Books, most recently *Moment of Truth*.

Donna Rawlins came to children's book illustration from a background in the print and publishing industries where she worked as a darkroom operator, graphic designer, silkscreen and offset printer, book designer and editor.

Her best known work is *My Place* by Nadia Wheatley, which won the Children's Book Council Book of the Year (Younger Readers') Award in 1988 as well as a special bicentennial Eve Pownall Award in the same year.

Michael Robotham began his career as an investigative journalist in Australia and Britain. He later became a ghostwriter, collaborating on fifteen autobiographies, and he has twice won the Ned Kelly Award for Australia's best crime novel. Michael's latest novel is *The Wreckage*.

Jason Steger is literary editor of *The Age*. He writes a weekly column on books and publishing, and writes author interviews, news stories and opinion pieces. He is also a regular panellist on ABC TV's *First Tuesday Book Club*.

Fiona Wood has been developing television scripts for the past ten years for shows ranging from *MDA* and *The Secret Life of Us*, to *Home and Away* and *Neighbours*. Her first YA novel is *Six Impossible Things*. She lives in Melbourne with her husband, two YAs and a bad old dog. Her book *Six Impossible Things* was recently shortlisted in the 2011 CBCA for Older Readers.

Arnold Zable is an acclaimed writer, educator, human rights advocate and one of Australia's most loved storytellers. His books include *Jewels and Ashes*, *The Fig Tree*, and three novels, *Café Scheherazade*, *Scraps of Heaven*, and *Sea of Many Returns*. His latest book, *Violin Lessons* has been recently released.

More details on festival guests can be found at:





Your Write around the Murray Festival program at a glance



WEDNESDAY 7 September	11:00am	Welcome and Indigenous Storytelling	LibraryMuseum
	10:30am	Storytime with Donna Rawlins	Lavington Library
	1:00pm	Handmade Journals with Lynne Gasperov	LibraryMuseum
	6:00pm	Words. Laughter. Imagination.	Albury Entertainment Centre
THURSDAY 8 September	11:00am	Storytime with Donna Rawlins	LibraryMuseum
	12:30pm	Literary Lunch with David Aistle	Grind on Olive
	5:30pm	AlburyCity Short and Nano Story Competition Winners	LibraryMuseum
	6:30pm	Projection Launch: Games We Play & Graphic Traffic	LibraryMuseum/QEII Square
FRIDAY 9 September	2:00pm	Family Tree Time with Megan Gibson	LibraryMuseum
	5:00pm	Book Launch: Two Greeks with John Charalambous	LibraryMuseum
	6:00pm	Keynote Address with Nigel Brennan and Nicole Bonney - The Price of Life	Albury Entertainment Centre
	7:30pm	Poetry at the G	The G Bar, CSU Campus, Thurgoona
SATURDAY 10 September	10:00am	Big Book Sale	LibraryMuseum
	10:00am	Workshops:	LibraryMuseum
		Story First, Steven Amsterdam	
		Writing for TV, Fiona Wood	
		Make your own Hardcover Journal, Lynne Gasperov	
	From 10:00am	Moment with a Mentor	LibraryMuseum
	11:30am	Poetry with Emilie Zoey Baker	LibraryMuseum
	1:30pm	Panel Session: My Culture	Albury Entertainment Centre
	2:00pm	Chris Badenoch cooks <i>The Entire Beast</i>	Albury Community Wood Fired Oven, Hovell Tree Park
	2:00pm	Workshop - Create your Own World, Michael Pryor	LibraryMuseum
	3:00pm	Panel Session: Inside the Industry	Albury Entertainment Centre
	7:00pm	Festival Dinner with Anh Do	Albury Entertainment Centre
	SUNDAY 11 September	10:00am	Ten Minutes of Talent
10:00am		Arnold Zable, Masterclass	LibraryMuseum
From 10:00am		Moment with a Mentor	LibraryMuseum
11:30am		Panel Session: Construction of Self	Albury Entertainment Centre
2.00pm		Eating into Post-war Australia	LibraryMuseum
3:00pm		Festival Finale:	Albury Entertainment Centre
	The Big Book Club, Arnold Zable in conversation with Jason Steger		