

Writing WA in association with Writing NSW presents

QUANTUM WORDS PERTH 2022

The writers' festival celebrating science, creativity and wonder

16-18 September | qwp.writingwa.org

WRITING _____

_____ WA.



SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Flip to page 4 for details

**Friday 16
September**

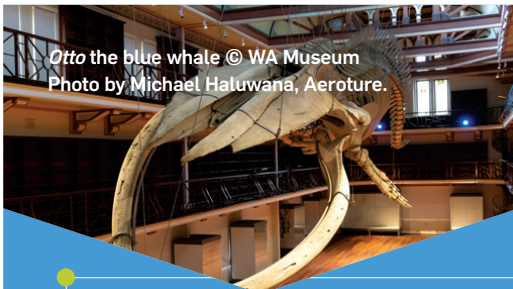
John Curtin
College of
the Arts,
East Fremantle

MAIN PROGRAM

Flip to page 6 for details

**Saturday 17
September and
Sunday 18 September**

State Library
of WA



Otto the blue whale © WA Museum
Photo by Michael Haluwana, Aeroture.

Flip to page 5 for details

SPECIAL EVENT

**Frankenstein's
Reproducibility Crisis**

**Saturday 17
September (evening)**

WA Museum

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Flip to page 10 for details

**Saturday 17
September and
Sunday 18 September**

WA Museum,
Hackett Hall,
Studio 2

General Information

ABOUT

Festival Patron:
Lyn Beazley

Quantum Words Perth is Western Australia's only writers' festival dedicated to writing about science, innovation, creativity and the spaces in which they intersect.

The Festival brings together outstanding thinkers, scientists and creators from across Australia to engage in conversations about the ways in which we come to understand ourselves, our world and the expansive universe we live within.

VENUES

State Library of WA

Perth Cultural Centre
25 Francis St, Perth City

WA Museum Boola Bardip

Perth Cultural Centre

John Curtin College of the Arts

90 Ellen St, East Fremantle

Please contact each venue for their accessibility details or visit their websites.

TICKETS

Book at <https://qwp.writingwa.org/events/>
or search for individual session names on Eventbrite.

Acknowledgement of Country

Writing WA recognises the First Nations peoples of Western Australia as our first memory holders and storytellers. Writing WA respectfully acknowledges that this festival is taking place on the land of the Whadjuk Noongar people. We pay our respects to the traditional custodians of this Country.



Schools Program

Friday, 16 September 2022

>> John Curtin College of the Arts

9.30am

'Changing the story, making a positive difference'

WA's Western Swamp Tortoise is the most endangered reptile in Australia. Learn how scientists and passionate community members are working together to bring this species back from the brink of extinction. **Neeve Blackham-Jennings, Mandy Bamford, Nicki Mitchell and Anthony James.**

Cost: FREE

10.15am

'Cool jobs'

Leading science and communication professionals unpack their cool jobs, sharing insights into their inspiration, challenges and achievements. **Danielle Clode, Phil Bland and David Pollock.**

Cost: FREE

11.15am

'Young dark Emu'

Acclaimed writer and activist **Bruce Pascoe**, in conversation with **Anthony James**, asks young people to consider a different version of pre-colonised Australia – one in which Aboriginal Australians used the land and its waterways to support thriving villages across the continent.

Cost: FREE

12.30pm

'Art, Science and Technology'

Graphic novel publisher **Wolfgang Bylsma** and graphic novelist **Justin Randall** share their insights into the ways in which science and technology can inspire creativity and produce immersive storytelling.

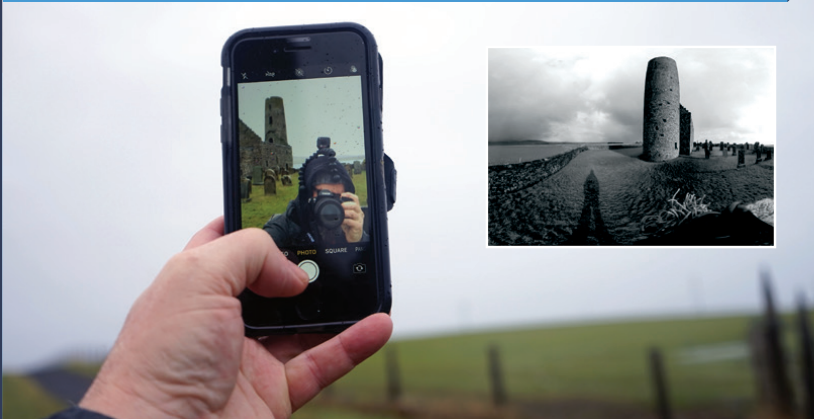
Cost: FREE



Special Event

Saturday 17 September 2022

>> WA Museum, Hackett Hall, 7.00 pm



FRANKENSTEIN'S REPRODUCIBILITY CRISIS

In 2018, on the 200th anniversary of the publication of *Frankenstein*, **Oron Catts** decided to follow Victor Frankenstein's footsteps looking for material evidence of the fictional events described in the book, particularly Frankenstein's attempt to create a female companion for the creature he'd created in Ingolstadt. Join us to find out what he discovered on a remote island in the Orkneys.

Limited tickets available. \$80.00

Price includes drinks and canapes by Heyder & Shears



Main Program

Saturday Events

10.00am

'Why humans make art'

Every human society makes pictures, sings songs and tells stories, but why do we do it? Is there an evolutionary imperative to make art? Noongar musicologist **Clint Bracknell**, evolutionary biologist **Rob Brooks** and poet **Annamaria Weldon** talk with festival director **Jane McCredie** about the meanings and uses of art and what scientists and artists can learn from each other.

Cost: \$5.00

11.00am

'Does the algorithm feel pain?'

Science fiction writers have long imagined intelligent robots taking over the world. A Google software engineer caused a storm earlier this year when he claimed one of their programs was displaying sentient behaviour. Physicist Stephen Hawking suggested the development of artificial intelligence posed a profound threat to the future of humanity. Computer scientist **Tim French** and science fiction aficionado **Stefen Brazulaitis** discuss the dangers of the algorithm with former WA Chief Scientist **Lyn Beazley**.

Cost: \$5.00

12.00pm

'On fire!'

It's a fundamental tool, but also one of our greatest fears. Join former NSW Fire Commissioner **Greg Mullins**, Indigenous fire expert Oral McGuire and cultural geographer **Lesley Head** as they talk with **Anthony James** about our relationship with fire and the challenges we are likely to face as the planet warms.

Cost: \$5.00

Saturday 17 September 2022

>> State Library of WA

2.00pm

'Packing for Mars'

What would it really take for humans to journey to Mars? Planetary scientist **Katarina Miljkovic** and children's author **HM Waugh** talk to astronomer **Natasha Hurley-Walker** about the problems we'd need to solve to get there and what they'd be putting in their own backpacks.

Cost: \$5.00

3.00pm

'Quacks, conspiracy theorists and actual evidence'

Social media may try to convince you otherwise, but climate change is not a hoax, vaccines don't cause autism, and the paleo diet really isn't good for babies. In a world where misinformation spreads more quickly than even the most contagious virus, emergency physician **Michelle Johnston**, climate scientist **Petra Tschakert** and journalist **Jane McCredie** join journalist and author **David Allan-Petale** to discuss how to tell the difference between pseudoscience and quality information.

Cost: \$5.00

4.00pm

'Farming for our future'

In his ground-breaking book *Dark Emu*, **Bruce Pascoe** described the farming and land management practices of Indigenous Australians, developed over thousands of years to produce food sustainably on the Australian continent. On his property in the Murchison region of WA, **David Pollock** is committed to sustainable practice and to repairing the ecological damage of the past. They talk with **Meri Fatin** about what the future of farming might look like.

Cost: \$5.00



Main Program

Sunday Events

10.00am

'Diverse
Minds'

With the stresses of contemporary life, not to mention the odd pandemic, many of us face mental health challenges. And what even is a "healthy" mind anyway? Writers **Patrick Marlborough** and **Barry Nicholls** and psychiatrist **Helen Milroy** talk to author **Rachel Robertson** about how we can tell stories of diverse minds in ways that avoid stigma and help build better and more inclusive societies.

Cost: \$5.00

11.00am

'The hidden
meanings in
maps'

Maps are just a tool to navigate from one place to another, right? Well, no. Mapping is an ancient human technology, deeply embedded in cultural and ideological assumptions, and for centuries a key tool of colonial powers. The State Library of WA's **John Hughes**, Noongar cultural consultant **Sandra Harben** and writer **Danielle Clode** talk with **Jane McCredie** about different ways of understanding and navigating Country and the impact of Western mapping technologies on Australia.

Cost: \$5.00

12.00pm

'Let's talk
about sex'

Humans are unusual animals in having sex - lots of sex - that has nothing to do with the reproduction of the species. Novelist **Jennifer Mills** writes speculative fiction about bodies, sex, gender and power. Evolutionary scientist **Rob Brooks** has spent years studying why, when and how we have sex. Author **Josephine Taylor** has turned to fiction to explore the vexed history of female sexuality and attempts to control it. They join **Natasha Mitchell** to unpack it all.

Cost: \$5.00



Sunday 18 September 2022

>> State Library of WA

2.00pm

'Writing catastrophe'

Whether it's mega-fires, a global pandemic or the shameful history of the asbestos industry, writing about disasters can take a toll. Emergency physician and novelist **Michelle Johnston**, former NSW Fire Commissioner **Greg Mullins** and author **James Bradley** join **Meri Fatin** to discuss how we write about catastrophes past and future without abandoning hope.

Cost: \$5.00

3.00pm

'Our family and other animals'

Since the first wolf nestled in beside a campfire, humans and other animals have formed strong symbiotic relationships. City dwellers today still gasp in awe at a breaching whale or fill with joy at the evening chorus of frogs. Zoologist **Danielle Clode**, psychiatrist and children's author **Helen Milroy** and writer **Jennifer Mills** talk with **Stephen Bevis** about why connection with other animals is so important to us and who we would be without it.

This session is dedicated in memory of Trisha the Elephant, a much-loved member of our Western Australian family.

Cost: \$5.00

4.00pm

'Big problems, big solutions'

From environmental threats to warmongering despots, the list of challenges our world faces can seem overwhelming. We bring together a panel of writers, thinkers and scientists to tackle the hardest questions of our times. Join **Bruce Pascoe**, **Lesley Head**, **James Bradley** and **Michelle Johnston** in conversation with **Natasha Mitchell** about the big ideas that could help to build a better world.

Cost: \$5.00



Family and Children's Program

Saturday Events

11.30am

'Nyoongar Dreaming Stories'

South-west Dreaming Stories have played a critical role in Nyoongar culture, practises, protocols and lifestyles. Author and musician **Alton Walley** will bring a selection of these stories to life for young readers, conveying powerful messages about respect, sustainability, friendship, family values and equality.

Cost: FREE. Bookings recommended.

12.30pm

'Stellarphant'

Stella wants to be an astronaut. There is only one problem: Stella is an elephant. Every time she applies to Space Command, they come up with a new reason she can't join. But where there's a will, there's a way and Stella is determined to reach for the stars. Join author/illustrator **James Foley** as he takes young readers on a journey that will prove heroes come in all shapes, sizes and species!

Cost: FREE. Bookings recommended.

2.30pm

'Heroes of Science'

Australian children's author **Cristy Burne** is passionate about empowering our next generation of creative, science-savvy citizens. In this fun session for children Cristy puts the spotlight on some of her personal heroes of science. Ages 8+.

Cost: FREE. Bookings recommended.



Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September 2022

>> WA Museum, Hackett Hall, Studio 2

Sunday Events

11.30am

'Backyard Bugs and Birds'

From beautiful butterflies to kaleidoscopic Christmas beetles, from laughing kookaburras to prancing mudlarks, First Nations author and illustrator **Helen Milroy** will delight young audiences with her demonstrations of the birdsong to be heard, and examples of the crawly, scuttling, buzzing insects to be found in our backyards.

Cost: FREE. Bookings recommended.

12.30pm

'Edible Insects'

STEM Stars, stories and edible bugs converge in this exciting session. Children's author **Dianne Wolfer** will share amazing facts about why eating insects is a great idea for the planet, and for our bodies. She'll share the writing journey of *Skye Blackburn-Lang: Eating Bugs for the Planet*, and maybe even bring some edible insect products for you to try.

Cost: FREE. Bookings recommended.

2.30pm

'The Magic of Science'

Wednesday Weeks is a reluctant sorcerer's apprentice who would rather study science than magic, which asks the question: In a world of magic, can science save the day? Join author **Cristy Burne** to find out. Ages 8+

Cost: FREE. Bookings recommended.



Our QWP Partners

Quantum Words Perth 2022 is presented by Writing WA in association with Writing NSW.



WRITING _____

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WRITING
NSW

Principal Partners

Quantum Words Perth 2022 is made possible thanks to the support of the State Government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and Lotterywest; and by Federal Government through the Australia Council for the Arts.



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries



Australia
Council
for the Arts

Accommodation Partner

ALEX HOTEL

Venue Partner



State Library
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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