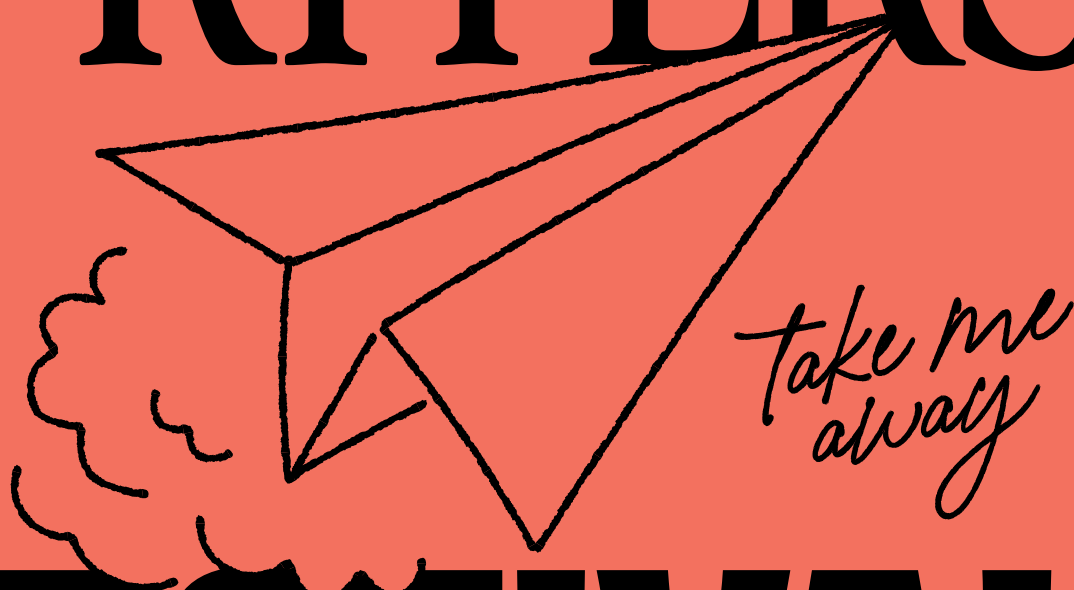


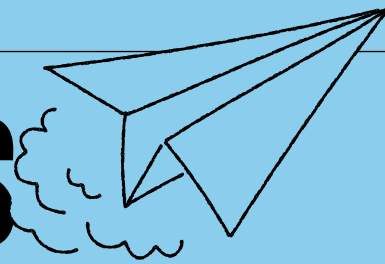
SYDNEY WRITERS'



FESTIVAL

YEAR IN REVIEW

ABOUT US



Sydney Writers' Festival brings together a broad and engaged community around the sharing of books, writing and ideas.

Each May, we host brilliant storytellers across all forms in a thoughtful, challenging and enjoyable week-long celebration of writing, books and ideas at our home at Carriageworks in Sydney's Inner West.

Since our first Festival in 1997, the world's best novelists, poets, journalists, public intellectuals, economists, politicians, podcasters and scientists have come together to discuss some of the most pressing issues of our times on our stages. By showcasing a wide range of Australian and International writers, the Festival helps nurture Australia's literary community and culture as a whole. We are proud to present a Festival that through careful curation acts as a barometer of the world around us, and offers an invitation to hear new ideas, stories and voices in our beautiful city.

Our programming speaks – urgently and clearly – to the world as it is today and showcases contemporary and diverse writers including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices, Australia's first storytellers.

We are a not-for-profit organisation and accessibility for audiences is a priority for our Festival. We run a free podcast program, which has had over 4 million downloads since it began in 2016. One-third of our events are free, and our Live & Local streaming program beams events from our Festival Hub at Carriageworks to regional libraries and community centres right across the country.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Sydney Writers' Festival acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation. They are the first storytellers of our land and we honour their tradition of passing down stories.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which our events take place. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

It's never been a dull time for words, authors or books, but 2024 has been particularly challenging for writers' festivals across Australia.

Writers' festivals have faced significant controversies, marked by high-profile resignations and intense public campaigns that have placed immense pressure on organisers to cancel authors. In such a polarised and emotionally charged climate, maintaining the integrity of our mission has never been more crucial.

The role of Sydney Writers' Festival is to connect writers and readers in all their diversity. We program broadly, we celebrate different perspectives to many different communities, and we invite writers to speak about their work, the lives they've lived, the worlds they inhabit and the beliefs and experiences that have shaped their work.

In 2024, Sydney Writers' Festival embarked on the development of a new five-year strategy grounded in our unwavering commitment to our core values: the fundamental importance of freedom of speech, freedom of expression, curiosity and pluralism. This strategy reflects our belief that a vibrant and inclusive literary community must protect these principles, ensuring that we continue to amplify the most important and diverse voices of our times and that the respectful exchange of ideas remains at the heart of our festival. Our strategy aims to cultivate an environment where writers from all backgrounds and lived experience can explore the complexities of what it means to be human and engage in meaningful dialogue without fear of censorship or reprisal.

The 2024 Sydney Writers' Festival was a tremendous success, highlighting important voices and ideas that deeply resonated with our audience. Building on the accomplishments of 2023, this year's program embraced a wide array of perspectives from communities across NSW and Australia, fostering transformative connections between readers and writers. A total of 74 regional partners joined our Live & Local program, expanding our reach and creating new opportunities for regional audiences across the country. Whether our readers engaged digitally or at one of our many arts precincts, Sydney Writers' Festival saw increased attendance in 2024, contributing to an electrifying atmosphere. I am grateful to work with an inspiring, talented, and dedicated team, supported by a committed Board, to bring this vision to fruition.

As a not-for-profit organisation, Sydney Writers' Festival depends on the support of its partners. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our corporate, cultural, and government partners, as well as to our dedicated patrons whose passion for books continues to inspire us.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are reimagining the future of the Sydney Writers' Festival with a new strategy that will guide us through to 2028 and we can't wait to share these exciting plans with you.

"The role of Sydney Writers' Festival is to connect writers and readers in all their diversity."

BROOKE WEBB



A MESSAGE FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

With the theme 'Take Me Away' the Festival celebrated the power of books to transport us, to help us escape from reality and to shape new visions for readers of what the world can be.

2024 was an extraordinary year for Australian writing, and this created rich Festival experiences with books like Richard Flanagan's *Question 7*, Melissa Lucashenko's *Edenglassie* and Anna Funder's *Wifedom* shining in sessions with their authors.

A great pleasure of the Festival was welcoming a substantial international contingent to Sydney, with a sense that for writers and audiences, the Festival has returned to its pre-pandemic shape. Nobel Laureate Abdulrazak Gurnah, reader favourites Ann Patchett, Bonnie Garmus, Viet Thanh Nguyen and Celeste Ng and new voices K Patrick and Elizabeth Acevedo were just some of the guests talking about their work to Sydney and Australian audiences.

There were so many sessions that stick in my mind. Booker Prize winner Paul Lynch brought his dark and devastating novel *Prophet Song* to life in a brilliant conversation and Booker shortlisted Paul Murray met a delighted audience in the week prior to the Festival.

Philosopher Kate Manne closed the Festival with her incisive vision of the future of misogyny. Guest curators Amy Thunig and Jazz Money created conversations and performances of range and depth.

The Great Debate tackled the question of whether AI is better than the real thing, handing a victory to the darkly comic vision of the team led by David Marr who argued for the primacy of human intelligence.

Some of the most wonderful moments of the Festival brought art and music into conversation with writing. Sebastian Barry's conversation with Kate Evans about *Old God's Time* was enriched by a wonderful performance by ACO musicians.

Art historian Katy Hessel interviewed artist Tracey Moffatt and talked with passion about her book *The Story of Art Without Men* to sellout crowds.

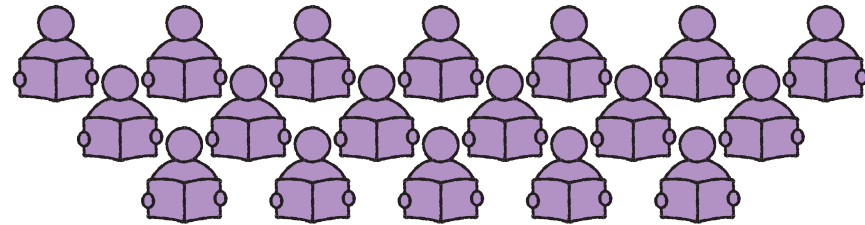
Although the Festival unfolds over a week, the freight of writing and ideas it brings to audiences resonates for much longer, bridging the gap between one year and the next with books to read and questions to unravel.

While in 2024 the theme 'Take Me Away' placed an emphasis on the gifts of respite, empathy and expansive thinking, a notable strand of the Festival reflected the importance of freedom of speech and expression, and the vital role of writers in difficult times.



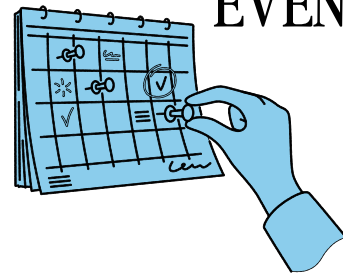
2024 YEAR IN REVIEW SNAPSHOT STATS

91,680
ATTENDANCES



57,988
TICKETS SOLD

7 DAYS
OF EDUCATION
EVENTS

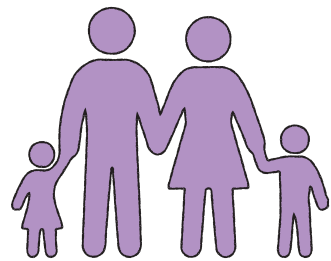


10,419
SCHOOL
STUDENTS

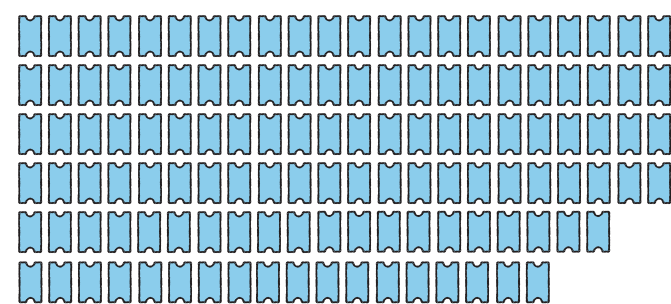
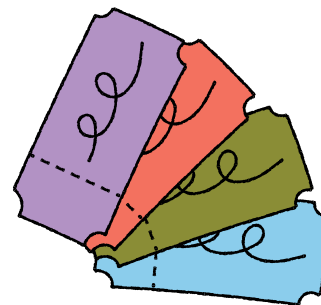


15,284
BOOKS SOLD

1
FULL DAY
OF EVENTS
FOR FAMILIES



4
AVERAGE
TICKETS
PURCHASED PER PERSON



130
PAID
EVENTS

280
VOLUNTEERS

67



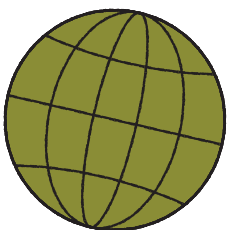
301
AUSTRALIAN
PARTICIPANTS



136 VENUES ACROSS
AUSTRALIA LIVE
STREAMED EVENTS



36
INTERNATIONAL
PARTICIPANTS



1 FULL DAY OF
YA EVENTS



FROM OUR AUTHORS

"What do I love? I love Australia and I love Sydney and most of all I love the Sydney Writers' Festival. It has been brilliant start to finish and I'm so happy to have been a part of it."

ANN PATCHETT



"I love coming to this Festival because Australia is so far away from the rest of the world and it's pretty rare that I get to meet in real life and hear in proximity from people who are my professional and creative heroes. It's a big deal for me, I love being here."

BRI LEE

"It was very meaningful to me to come back to my home country to do these events at the Sydney Writers' Festival. It's a privilege and an honour. Having that capacity to have a festival that's for everyone to get into reading and writing, I can't imagine anything better."

KATE MANNE



"I've found it so well organised, it's been terrifically run. I've had the best time from start to finish. I love the venue as well. Sydney is such a welcoming city."

SAMANTHA SHANNON

"It's better than the Cannes Film Festival."

ANGOURIE RICE

"The Sydney Writers' Festival was a brilliant thing as an up-and-coming person trying to write, to learn things about the profession. But then, attending now and speaking I feel like it's one of the best ways to network and meet people in the industry and actually get a feel of the cultural atmosphere."

HANNAH FERGUSON

"It's been wonderful. This is probably the largest gathering I've done since the pandemic and being here has been bolstering. I didn't realise I had readers in Australia and it's amazing to know that I have them and I've been able to connect with folks."

ELIZABETH ACEVEDO



"Our favourite part about writers festivals in general is having feedback from parents and careers in what they're really looking for in books and how we can improve our writing."

EMMA MEMMA

"What a fantastic festival, I've had so much fun, I've had my mind BLOWN and my heart uplifted. I've caught up with old friends and made some new ones."

SHANKARI CHANDRAN

"I've had a ball. I've been laughing and cackling the whole way through. I thought I would be exhausted but I'm just invigorated."

MATILDA BOSELEY

"I love these writers festivals because it's a bubbling excitement. It fizzes."

LISA MILLAR



"The Sydney Writers' Festival is easily one of the best book festivals in the world. Australians really read books and it's exciting to be here to talk about my own fiction."

PAUL LYNCH

"It's been an amazing level of energy. I have been blown away by the audience members and their enthusiasm."

JENNIFER CROFT

"Sydney Writers' Festival teaches us to think. Nothing else can do it quite as it can. It's essential."

DAVID MARR

"I'd heard such great things about the Festival beforehand so my expectations were high, it's been tremendous. The readers are so sweet, lovely and engaged, the other writers are great, the Festival is so well organised and run. It's been top notch."

CELESTE NG



TOP 20 BESTSELLERS



1. *Frog Squad: 1 Dessert Disaster* by Kate and Jol Temple
2. *Sick Bay* by Nova Weetman
3. *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus (hardback and paperback combined)
4. *The Silver Arrow* by Lev Grossman
5. *The Dangerous Business of Being Trilby Moffat* by Kate Temple
6. *The Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity* by David Graeber and David Wengrow
7. *Bright Shining* by Julia Baird
8. *Prophet Song* by Paul Lynch
9. *Grimsdon* by Deborah Abela
10. *The Broken Arrow* by Tasma Walton
11. *The Story of Art Without Men* by Katy Hessel
12. *Black Duck: A Year at Yumburra* by Bruce Pascoe and Lyn Harwood
13. *Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo
14. *Question 7* by Richard Flanagan
15. *If You Tell Anyone, You're Next* by Jack Heath
16. *Prima Facie* by Suzie Miller
17. *Outlaw Girls* by Nova Weetman and Emily Gale
18. *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett
19. *The Secrets We Keep* by Nova Weetman
20. *The House That Joy Built* by Holly Ringland



MARKETING

128,410
SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS



4M
PODCAST DOWNLOADS



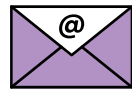
47,000
EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS



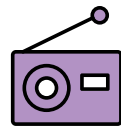
7.6M
PEOPLE REACHED ON SOCIAL MEDIA



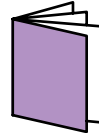
22
E-NEWSLETTERS SENT



50
RADIO AD PLAYS



45,000
PROGRAM GUIDES



179,590
PODCAST AD LISTENS



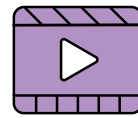
75,769
BVOD TRAILER VIEWS



1.03M
WEBSITE VIEWS



4,000
CINEMA AD SCREENINGS



PUBLICITY



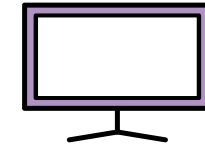
3,868
FESTIVAL MENTIONS IN THE MEDIA



219
ARTICLES IN THE NATIONAL AND PRINT MEDIA



1,191
TV MENTIONS



\$28.6M
IN ADVERTISING SPACE VALUE



136.8M
POTENTIAL CUMULATIVE AUDIENCE



781
ONLINE ARTICLES



1,677
RADIO MENTIONS



FROM OUR AUDIENCE MEMBERS



"Loved all the panels. The selection of books at the bookstore is amazing. Love the book signings. All of the interviewers I've seen have been really good."

"The volunteers have so much energy and are so helpful!"



"I love learning about so many books I'd never heard of. It's accessible and fun."

"I can't believe I got to hear from an author I've loved for many years. I never thought I'd get the chance!"



"The whole vibe of the set up at Carriageworks, felt perfect for a Festival celebrating writing and books."

"I love writing but I haven't written for ages but this Festival has sparked and renewed by love for writing, making me get excited and make sure I take time to do what I love!"



FAMILY PROGRAM

The 2024 Family Program celebrated the joy of storytelling in all its forms including theatre, music, books, podcasts and art.

Held at Carriageworks, Family Day saw hundreds of kids flocking to engage in a jam-packed program that ran across three stages and multiple arts and craft spaces. Book signing queues were huge with children's entertainer and author, Emma Memma, busy signing for 3+ hours.

Highlights included: Lucas Proudfoot's one-man show *Proudfoot and Friends*; the creators of *Little Lunch*, Danny Katz and Mitch Vane; kid lit royalty Morris Gleitzman; queen of the tweens, Nova Weetman; a live performance of the hit ABC Kids podcast *Story Salad*; and Djuvan Hoosan, the star of the documentary *In My Blood it Runs*. The epic illustrator battle saw Cheryl Orsini, Aura Parker and Matt Cosgrove pipped at the post by Chris Kennett.

Kids got crafty with Amanda, made badges with Cheryl, contributed to the ever-evolving art wall, and explored the mobile-library Russ the Story Bus.



RUSS THE STORY BUS

Each year, Russ the Story Bus visits schools to deliver free author talks and free books to students with the aim of sparking a joy for reading. In 2023 Russ completed a four week tour in Western Sydney before venturing up north to the Northern Rivers region for six weeks, visiting schools affected by recent flooding and bushfires. Russ the Story Bus visited 53 schools and over 10,000 students and the program gave away over 15,000 books. In 2023 over 17% of participating students identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and over 17% spoke a language other than English at home.

The impressive line-up of authors travelling with the bus included: Matt Stanton, Zanni Louise, Tristan Bancks, Sarah Armstrong, Samera Kamaledine, Charmaine Ledden-Lewis, Carla Fitzgerald, Kristin Darrell, Laura Bloom, Samantha Turnbull and Kelly Canby.



YA PROGRAM

Our much-loved All-Day YA program was held at Carriageworks and featured a string of sold-out panels. Featured books included thrilling who-dunnits, Jane Austen inspired comedies, and climate-fiction at its most alarming. Audiences were also treated to an exploration of the monsters lurking within YA fantasy. The stellar line-up of bestselling and award-winning Australian authors included C.S. Pacat, Jack Heath, Vanessa Len, Angourie and Kate Rice, Sophie Gonzales, Gabrielle Tozer, Amy Doak, Meg Gatland-Veness, Erin Gough, Graham Akhurst, A.J. Betts, and Sarah Street.



EDUCATION

The Festival features three unique education programs: Primary School Days; Secondary School Days; and Student Sessions. In 2024 these programs engaged 10,419 young people and were designed to foster the next generation of literature lovers and creative thinkers. Events were held across Sydney, from Sydney Town Hall to the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre in Penrith, to Riverside Theatres in Parramatta.

The incredibly popular Primary School Days sessions were hosted by bestselling authors Kate and Jol Temple, who not only raced inflatable bin chickens above the students' heads but also nabbed the title of bestselling Festival book ever for *Frog Squad*. They were joined on stage by actor and author, Tasma Walton, who spoke about the process of drawing on First Nations history and story practices for her exciting time travelling adventure series, Nova Weetman, who shared her tips on character creation, and *New York Times* bestselling author Lev Grossman, whose thrilling fantasy books feature an important message about the importance of caring for our planet. There were also surprise appearances along the way from Deborah Abela, Jack Heath and Nathan Luff.

Our Secondary School Days sessions were hosted by Jack Heath and featured author talks, in-conversations and an editing workshop. Students were fortunate enough to hear from the current U.S. Young People's Poet Laureate, Elizabeth Acevedo, alongside local talent Graham Akhurst and C.S. Pacat.

Thanks to the generous support of the City of Sydney, 1,488 primary school students and 681 secondary students were able to attend this essential literacy program at no cost to their families or schools.

Created in partnership with the NSW Education Standards Authority, Student Sessions connects students to some of Australia's brightest minds for a thought-provoking program of talks, specially curated to complement the NSW English syllabus in ways that educate and enlighten.

In 2024 we featured two strands that ran simultaneously. The first looked at selected works from the HSC English Prescribed Texts list, these being *Richard III*, Favel Parrett's *Past the Shallows*, and the anthology, *Contemporary Asian Australian Poets*. Speakers included poets Eileen Chong and Kim Cheng Boey, playwright Julian Larnach, and Sport for Jove's Damien Ryan. The second stream focused on the craft of writing, with a specific focus on supporting English Extension 2 Major Work projects. Maxine Beneba Clarke and Solli Raphael explored the craft of poetry, Melissa Lucashenko tackled the craft of short fiction, and Kate Rossmanith delved into the craft of creative non-fiction. All sessions were moderated by expert secondary school educators to ensure a direct link to the syllabus.

As part of our ongoing commitment to provide access to Student Sessions, we continued to live stream sessions to regional NSW and this year, for the first time, we were able to offer 1,247 students from disadvantaged schools access to free tickets.

LIVE & LOCAL



Through our Live & Local program the 2024 Sydney Writers' Festival was again streamed to every Australian state and territory for free.

In 2024, we increased our presence in regional Australia with 74 Live & Local partners streaming Festival sessions at 136 venues across Australia, a new record in access and engagement for the program. There were 50 organisations returning and 24 new organisations joining the Live & Local program as streaming partners.

22 sessions were streamed from Carriageworks across four days of the Festival, featuring leading Festival guests Julia Baird, Viet Thanh Nguyen, Suzie Miller, Samantha Shannon, Shelley Parker-Chan, Julian Borger, A.C. Grayling, Abdulrazak Gurnah, Jennifer Robinson, Sisonke Msimang, Celeste Ng, Trent Dalton, Leigh Sales, Lisa Millar, Katy Hessel, Sebastian Barry, Barrie Cassidy, Chloe Dalton, Jana Pittman, Antony Loewenstein, Toby Walsh and Kate Manne.

These sessions reached audiences in the regions of: ACT Canberra, NSW Central Coast, NSW Central New England Tablelands, NSW Central Tablelands, NSW Central West, NSW Eurobodalla, NSW Far West, NSW Hunter & Mid North Coast, NSW Illawarra, NSW Mid North Coast, NSW New England & Northern Tablelands, NSW Riverina, NSW South Coast, NSW Southern Highlands, NSW Southern Tablelands, NT Central Australia, NT East Kimberley, NT Metropolitan Darwin, QLD Brisbane, QLD Darling Downs, QLD Far North, QLD Fraser Coast, QLD Gladstone, QLD Gold Coast, QLD Mackay, Isaac & Whitsunday, QLD Moreton Bay, QLD North East, QLD South East, SA Adelaide, SA Eastern Adelaide, SA Eyre Western, SA Greater Adelaide, SA Limestone Coast, SA Southern Adelaide, SA Western Adelaide, TAS Midlands, TAS South East, VIC Barwon South West, VIC Gippsland, VIC Hume, VIC Loddon Mallee, VIC Melbourne, VIC North East - Ovens Murray, VIC Wide-Bay Burnett, WA Central Wheatbelt, WA Goldfields-Esperance, WA Great Southern region, WA Kimberley, WA Perth Metropolitan, WA Pilbara, WA South West, WA Southern Metropolitan Perth, and the WA Wheatbelt.

"I can't speak highly enough of this program, I think what it offers the community ticks all those important boxes of inclusion, accessibility, literary culture and community service."

Central Coast Library Service NSW

"Having access to the Sydney Writers' Festival without having to travel to Sydney was important for me. As a retired person I was grateful to attend a free event, which actually is rare these days. Thank you for the opportunity, it was fabulous."

Gerrigong Library NSW

"I'm totally delighted for the session Queerstories. There is a small support group of LBGTIQ folk in this area. Sometimes we don't always include marginalised groups well."

Redcliffe Library QLD

"So fortunate to have the Sydney Writers' Festival here in Mooroopna. Have enjoyed as many sessions as possible. so lucky not to have to battle for tickets, drive to Sydney and find accom. Really fortunate that our libraries are hosting sessions. Love it."

Goulburn Valley Libraries VIC

"To be able to attend something like that locally with a group of similarly interested people is wonderful. It brought the experience of an audience to me and I thoroughly enjoyed the discussions that arose from the sessions."

Rural City of Wangaratta VIC

"The value of streaming to the bush cannot be overstated."

Inverell Shire Library NSW



ACCESS AND DIGITAL OUTREACH

We are committed to ensuring Sydney Writers' Festival is accessible to and inclusive of all members of the community, and are constantly working to remove physical, financial and other barriers to attendance.

All Festival events are held in accessible venues. During the 2024 Festival, 55 events were Open Captioned in venues and 22 were Closed Captioned via streamed sessions, 17 events were Auslan interpreted and 11 events had Assisted Listening available. More than 60 events are made available online free of charge after each Festival as part of our podcast program.

In 2024, we provided a livestream from one of our largest venues, offering audiences day passes to stream the Festival from home. We streamed 22 sessions across four days from Carriageworks, offering those who are unable to attend in person an option to participate. These audience members could join the live venue audience in submitting questions to the speakers via an online app.

The Festival strives to present a range of perspectives and voices in our programming. In 2024, 96% of survey respondents agreed that "the program reflects a broad range of voices."

To ensure the Festival is available to people of all income brackets, we deliver an extensive program of free and lower-cost events.

Our much-loved Curiosity Lecture Series offers three days of programming at Carriageworks.

The Family Day program presents a full day of free programming on the Family Stage and in the Family Area for children of all ages. Our program for young adults, All-Day YA comprises of \$15 events. In 2024, the Festival presented 67 free events. The Festival also works with a number of community organisations to offer free access tickets to a broad range of events.

Thanks to our Live & Local program, 22 sessions were streamed live to 136 venues consisting of libraries, arts centres and independent venues across regional Australia, at no cost to the venue partner. A reported 9,170 people watched events through the program.

Through our Education access program, 3,416 students were able to attend one of our education events for free. Education access tickets are available to schools with an ICSEA value of under 1,000.

PODCAST STATS

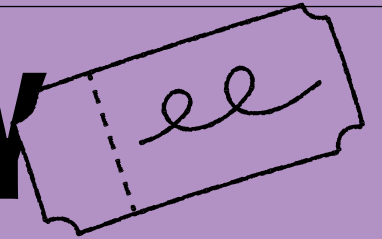
By mid-2024, the Sydney Writers' Festival podcast had been downloaded over 4 million times since the launch of the Festival's podcast channel in 2016. Nationally, our subscribers extend from Sydney and regional NSW to Tasmania and the Northern Territory. Our podcasts have been played in 163 countries and have notable followings in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Podcasts released between 15 June 2023 to 15 March 2024 (the period of the 2023 podcast program) gathered more than 372,825 downloads. The top five podcast episodes were:

- | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. The Voice to Parliament: All the Detail You Need | 3. Sam Neill: Did I Ever Tell You This? | 5. Closing Night: Richard Flanagan |
| 2. Reckoning, Not Reconciliation | 4. Geraldine Brooks: Horse | |
- More than 60 podcasts will be released from the 2024 Festival.**



PHILANTHROPY



Sydney Writers' Festival is a not-for-profit organisation, **25%** funded by state and local government, **40%** ticket sales and **35%** through private giving and philanthropy. We could not do the Festival without you.

For over 27 years Sydney Writers' Festival has been at the heart of storytelling in Sydney, across NSW and around the country. It is through the amazing support of our community of beloved Patrons that we can present the world's best literary conversations and talks during our annual Festival each May as well as our out of season events.

The mission of Sydney Writers' Festival is to connect writers with readers and create a community for everybody to experience the transformative power of storytelling, words and ideas.

Our Patrons make it possible for us to program over 65 free events at the Festival each year, stream our Festival events to audiences in regional centres across the country through our popular Live & Local program as well as run our cherished Russ the Story Bus; the mobile children's library who visits over 10,000 primary school students in in Western Sydney and regional NSW schools each year. Giving many of them their very first book.

In recognition of their generous support, our Patrons enjoy unique and exclusive opportunities to engage with the Festival. These include an advance booking window; a special Festival concierge; invitations to private events from our annual Patron Launch to intimate private dinners featuring celebrated authors; and access to our fully catered Patron Lounge during the Festival.

In 2023/24, Patrons were treated to several special opportunities including an exclusive drinks event following Trent Dalton's special event at City Recital Hall, an end-of-year celebration featuring Anna Funder in conversation with Annabel Crabb at the Australian Chamber Orchestra, as well as an intimate lunch with British historian Peter Frankopan.

One key group of Patrons is our Salon members, a collective of women who come together throughout the year and during the Festival to champion a strong female voice in literature. In 2024 they chose to support the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Lessons in Chemistry*, Bonnie Garmus. Bonnie was a Festival highlight and Salon members enjoyed a special book club event and exclusive drinks with Bonnie prior to her Festival session in May.

Our programs would not be possible without private support. We encourage those who are passionate about ideas, storytelling and debate to join our inspiring group of supporters and keep us connecting audiences of all ages to literature, creativity, knowledge and ideas.

To find out more about Sydney Writers' Festival's Patron Program or The Salon, and the difference your support can make, please visit swf.org.au/support

PATRONS



VICE-REGAL PATRON

Her Excellency the Honourable
Margaret Beazley AC KC
Governor of New South Wales

AMBASSADOR FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Anna Minns

EPILOGUE CIRCLE

Andy Palmer

AMBASSADOR

Edward and Diane Federman
Fiona and Matthew Playfair
Kathy and Greg Shand
Rosie Williams and John Grill AO on
behalf of the Serpentine Foundation

CHAMPION

Phillip Keir and Sarah Benjamin
Sam Meers AO
Margie Seale and David Hardy
Anonymous

PLATINUM

Belinda Bible and Adrian Kerley
Paula Cameron and
Robert G Cameron AO
Sue and Alan Cameron AO
Felicity Rourke and
Justice Francois Kunc
Louise and Tony Leibowitz
Rosebrook Foundation
The Russell Mills Foundation
Benjamin Cohn-Urbach and
Michelle Ryan
Michelle and Jonny Shein
Kristina Stefanova
Jane and Will Vicars
Anonymous

GOLD

Deb and John Balderstone
Jennifer Giles and Andrew Spark
Megan and Brighton Grace
Alexa and David Haslingden
Susan and Jeffrey Hauser
Aletha and Michael Hoy
Catherine Khoo
Fleur Jouault and Richard Hunt
Vicki and Adam Liberman
Robin, Kate and Anna Low
David Marr and Sebastian Tesoriero
Robyn Martin-Weber
Sheila McGregor
Clare and John Scobie
Briony Scott and Mark Scott AO

Shiff Gillespie Foundation
Sally Cousens and John Stuckey
Lily and Su-Ming Wong
Tony Wheeler
Anonymous

SILVER

Diane Balnaves
Christy Boyce
Jillian Broadbent
Michele Brooks and Andrew Michael
Jennifer Byrne
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Sydney Writers' Festival is proud to be one of the best literary events in the world.

With the commitment of our Festival Partners, we can create a forward-thinking and exciting Festival that lifts the intellectual climate of our city, brings the joy of books to new audiences, and presents a public forum for groundbreaking ideas for generations to come.

In 2024 we were thrilled to have so many returning partners including our Principal Partner, ARA and our Premier Partner, UNSW. The long-time support demonstrated by so many organisations and cultural institutions highlights the wonderful relationship the Festival has with its sponsors.

Festival partnerships come in all shapes and sizes but ultimately, we share a belief in the power of literature and ideas on an individual and societal level. Through careful consideration and consultation, Sydney Writers' Festival creates bespoke partnerships to suit each organisation's objectives.

Partnership benefits in 2024 involved major event branding and programming alignments, client entertainment and VIP ticketing, private functions and events during the Festival, as well as digital customer rewards and acquisition campaigns.

Sydney Writers' Festival would like to thank our Partners for their commitment to the Festival and we look forward to sharing the Festival's continued success with our Partners for years to come.



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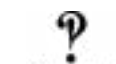
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NEXT SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL

19–25 May 2025

Program announced March 2025

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