QUEENSCLIFFE LITERARY FESTIVAL

16–25 OCT 2026

BOB CARR
MICHELLE DE KRETSER
LISA WILKINSON
ANDY GRIFFITHS
CHRIS HAMMER
JUDITH LUCY
MICAELA SAHHAR
SHAUN MICALLEF
LI CUNXIN
STEPHANIE ALEXANDER
KAZ COOKE
TRISTAN KENNEDY
STELLA THE MUSICAL

WADAWURRUNG COUNTRY

NYOORA WURREYIN

Queenscliffe Literary Festival acknowledges the Traditional Owners of these lands and waters, the Wadawurrung people. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and recognise their continued custodianship of these lands and waters. We honour the diversity and vitality of over 60,000 years of Aboriginal culture and storytelling.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

QLF has a vision of a culturally enriched, inclusive and connected community where people feel welcome to listen, reflect, and engage with diverse stories, ideas and perspectives – now and into the future.

To achieve this vision, we bring established and emerging storytellers and unique literary experiences to Queenscliffe, and now in our twelfth year, are proud to have grown into one of the region's biggest cultural events.

We continue to have a focus on collaboration with our small but engaged community, who support us to deliver a year-round schedule of events.

My deep thanks goes to our hardworking volunteer committee, volunteers, and staff – Program Director Elizabeth McCarthy, Program Assistant Kirsty Wilson, Festival Manager Isabelle Tolhurst, and Charlee Brooks, who is working with QLF to engage new and younger audiences in 2026 and beyond.

Thanks also to the Borough of Queenscliffe, our major sponsor and long-term supporter of the festival, to all other sponsors, new donors, and many Friends of the Festival.

To the authors, moderators, storytellers and artists who continue to bring big ideas to our community and ignite our imaginations – there has never been a more important time for your work.

Virginia Todd, President.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

For more than a decade, the Queenscliffe Literary Festival has enriched our community with stimulating conversations about writing, ideas, and the stories that connect us. Now a much-loved fixture on the local calendar, the Festival continues to welcome visitors while enjoying strong support from our community. The Borough of Queenscliffe is proud to continue as the Queenscliffe Literary Festival's major sponsor and congratulates everyone who has contributed to its enduring success.

Donnie Grigau, Mayor.

Queenscliffe LIterary Festival is a registered charity for the advancement of culture

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It is an enormous pleasure to bring an outstanding lineup of writers, thinkers and storytellers to Queenscliffe Literary Festival 2026. Our team is hugely proud of this year's program and the wonderful writers and artists who will bring it to life.

Now in its twelfth year, QLF celebrates the breadth of books, ideas, performances and stories that make a festival like this so special. Whether your interests lie in history, music, politics, podcasts, humour, food, crime or the issues shaping our world, there is plenty to spark curiosity and conversation.

QLF is about conversation and community, but it is also about entertainment, the joy of reading and the search for new ways of understanding the challenges we face. Across the program, our guests will share stories that endure, inspire and capture the imagination.

In an increasingly complex and divided world, festivals of books and ideas offer a valuable opportunity to come together, listen, question and connect. Festivals create space for different perspectives and remind us of the extraordinary power of stories to illuminate, challenge and bring us closer to one another.

Above all, QLF is a celebration of community and the enduring pleasure of sharing ideas. It is a place to immerse yourself in stories and perspectives, discover something unexpected and perhaps see the world a little differently.

This is my third year delivering the festival program and I am deeply grateful to work with our Festival Manager Isabelle Tolhurst, Program Assistant Kirsty Wilson, and our dedicated committee, volunteers and supporters. Their passion and hard work make QLF possible.

We look forward to you joining us in beautiful Queenscliffe on Wadawurrung Country in October. Let the festival begin!

Elizabeth McCarthy,
Program Director.

TICKETS

Buy online at
tinyurl.com/QLF2026

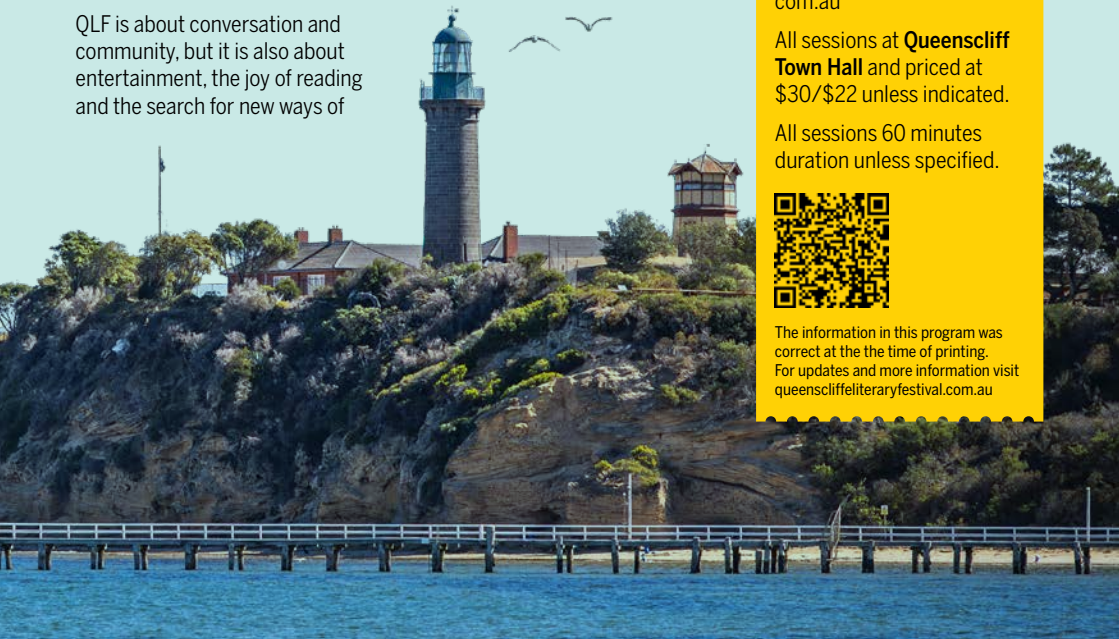
Or at **Queenscliffe Visitor Information Centre**

Contact media@queenscliffeliteraryfestival.com.au

All sessions at **Queenscliff Town Hall** and priced at $30/$22 unless indicated.

All sessions 60 minutes duration unless specified.

The information in this program was correct at the the time of printing. For updates and more information visit queenscliffeliteraryfestival.com.au



FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS – WEEK ONE

LUNCH WITH GEORGE GEORGIEVSKI AND GABRIEL GATÉ

Over an outstanding two-course lunch prepared from his latest cookbook **George Georgievski**, aka the Lunchbox Dad, shares with host and legendary chef **Gabriel Gaté** how he cooks easy, stylish and affordable weeknight meals, and gives them a makeover to create fresh meals for the following day. George will share his secrets for creating stylish, flavour-packed fare that is easy enough for busy weeknights, while championing smart cooking and zero food waste along the way. With Gabriel in the interviewer seat, George will elaborate on his journey from Geelong dad frustrated by his daughters' food choices, to becoming a global hit and Jamie Oliver Food Ambassador with over half a million social media followers.

Presented in partnership with 360Q.

FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER

12.30pm – 2.30pm
Upstairs at 360Q
$85

AN EVENING WITH BOB CARR

Former Foreign Minister of Australia and Premier of New South Wales **Bob Carr** reflects on his political career, his lifelong love of literature, and his latest book, *Bring Back Yesterday: on losing the love of my life and doing what it takes to survive*, which deals with finding his footing again after the death of his wife. **With Louise Adler.**

Presented in partnership with Geelong Regional Libraries.

FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER

7.30pm (bar from 6.30pm)

THREE DECADES OF THE COOK'S COMPANION

Australian restaurateur, writer and food icon **Stephanie Alexander** takes us inside the remarkable legacy of *The Cook's Companion*—the beloved kitchen bible that has shaped generations of Australian home cooks. Thirty years and 550,000 copies after the book's first publication, Stephanie reflects on its enduring influence and cultural impact and its place in Australia's culinary history. **With Lisa Wilkinson.**

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER

11.15am

WHEN EXTREMES GO MAINSTREAM

With the Victorian election just a month away, what does Australia's rapidly shifting political landscape—at both federal and state levels—tell us about the issues voters believe the major parties are failing to address? We'll explore why increasing numbers of voters are looking beyond the traditional political parties, the role of media and tech in amplifying extreme voices, what the rise of minor and populist parties signals about the electorate, and whether Australia's two-party system still reflects the political realities of a rapidly changing country. Join us for a robust and thought-provoking discussion about power, protest, populism and the future of Australian politics, with former politician **Bob Carr**, journalist **Antoun Issa**, populism expert **Dr Imogen Richards**, and others. Moderated by journalist **Nicole Chvastek**.

Presented in partnership with the Peter Blazey Fellowship.

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER

7.30pm – 8.45pm (bar from 6.30pm)

BOOK DOOF (SILENT READING)

Ninety minutes of silent reading under a live ambient DJ set, followed by thirty minutes of low-key chat. Bring a book or any quiet activity. Drop in, no ticket required. Meet someone new and enjoy the atmosphere.

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER

7.00pm – 8.30pm

Ziggy + Kit cafe

Free

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS – WEEK TWO

BOOK SWAP

Bring a book to pass on, hand it over on arrival to be wrapped, and get a note card in return to describe its genre and vibe. Browse the cards, pick a mystery book, unwrap it, and mingle over what you got. New or secondhand, any condition. Come solo or bring a friend.

FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER

6.00pm

The Bookshop at Queenscliff

Free

THE FITZROY DIARIES LIVE!

Join in the fun as the beloved ABC podcast series is performed like an old-fashioned radio play: script-in-hand, in front of a live audience. Performed by original cast members and narrated by writer and Fitzroy Diaries creator **Lorin Clarke**. Featuring cameos from **Judith Lucy**, **Kaz Cooke** and **Shaun Micallef**. Audience participation on a hands-up basis!

FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER

7.30pm (bar from 6.30pm)

$40/$30

WORKSHOP: WRITING MEMOIR WITH LORIN CLARKE

What makes a memoir unforgettable? Join broadcaster, bestselling memoirist, podcast creator and filmmaker **Lorin Clarke** for an inspiring, hands-on workshop exploring the art of turning lived experience into compelling stories. Discover how to find the moments that matter, shape your voice, unlock your memories and transform personal experience into powerful, engaging memoir.

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER

9.30am – 1.00pm

Wirrng Wirrng (Queenscliffe Hub)

$45

WELL WELL WELL, IT'S JUDITH LUCY!

Comedy legend and author **Judith Lucy** takes a hilarious, irreverent look at her and our obsession with wellness. How did Judith get over crippling burnout that left her feeling like a used nappy? In her neverending quest to feel better, Judith shares the stories behind her riotous new book *Well, Well, Well*. **With Elizabeth McCarthy.**

Presented in partnership with The Wheeler Centre and supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund.

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER

2.45pm (bar from 2.00pm)

STELLA: A NEW AUSTRALIAN MUSICAL—A NIGHT WITH THE ARTISTS

In June 2026, composer/lyricist **Monique diMattina** brought the extraordinary life story of Stella Miles Franklin to the stage in the acclaimed World Premiere of **STELLA: A New Australian Musical**. In this intimate concert, Monique and cast/band members share selected songs from STELLA, with behind-the-scenes gossip on the making of the show. Why did Miles Franklin hate her debut novel, *My Brilliant Career*? Did Banjo Paterson really invite her to Fiji? How many hats can five people wear in a two-hour musical? Join us for the songs, the stories and the glorious chaos of turning Stella's life into a musical.

Presented in collaboration with Queenscliff Music Festival.

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER

7.30pm – 8.45pm (bar from 6.30pm)

$40/$30

IN A CLASS OF HIS OWN: IT'S ANDY GRIFFITHS!

For our final 2026 festival event, get ready for a big, bookish burst of fun! Australian Children's Laureate **Andy Griffiths** is passionate about connecting children to the power of books, reading and literacy. He'll bring his unstoppable energy, wild imagination and signature humour to this lively, interactive session for kids, families and passionate readers of all ages. Expect hilarious stories, brilliant ideas, creative chaos and plenty of audience participation!

Presented in partnership with Geelong Regional Libraries.

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER

2.45pm – 4.00pm

$30 includes entry and snacks for two kids and their adult

FESTIVAL PROGRAM — WEEK ONE

FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER

12.30PM – 2.30PM

Upstairs at 360Q

$85

Lunch with George Georgievski and Gabriel Gaté

Over an outstanding two-course lunch prepared from his latest cookbook, **George Georgievski**, aka the Lunchbox Dad, shares with host and legendary chef **Gabriel Gaté** how he cooks easy, stylish and affordable weeknight meals, and gives them a makeover to create fresh meals for the following day. George will share his secrets for creating stylish, flavour-packed fare that is easy enough for busy weeknights, while championing smart cooking and zero food waste along the way. With Gabriel in the interviewer seat, George will elaborate on his journey from Geelong dad frustrated by his daughters' food choices, to becoming a global hit and Jamie Oliver Food Ambassador with over half a million social media followers.

Presented in partnership with 360Q.

7.30PM (bar from 6.30pm)

An Evening with Bob Carr

Former Foreign Minister of Australia and Premier of New South Wales **Bob Carr** reflects on his political career, his lifelong love of literature, and his latest book, *Bring Back Yesterday: on losing the love of my life and doing what it takes to survive*, which deals with finding his footing again after the death of his wife. **With Louise Adler.**

Presented in partnership with Geelong Regional Libraries.

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER

9.30AM

Wirrng Wirrng
(Queenscliffe Hub)

Madeleine Gray's Chosen Family

Hear author **Madeleine Gray** discuss the meteoric success of her debut novel, *Green Dot*, winner of the Russell Prize for Humour Writing and the Australian Book Industry Awards' New Writer of the Year, before turning to her acclaimed new novel, *Chosen Family*—a witty, moving exploration of queer friendship, love and the messy entanglements of modern relationships. **With Charlotte Guest.**

11.15AM

Three Decades of the Cook's Companion

Australian restaurateur, writer and food icon **Stephanie Alexander** takes us inside the remarkable legacy of *The Cook's Companion*—the beloved kitchen bible that has shaped generations of Australian home cooks. Thirty years and 550,000 copies after the book's first publication, Stephanie reflects on its enduring influence and cultural impact and its place in Australia's culinary history. **With Lisa Wilkinson.**

1.00PM

Michelle de Kretser: A Master at Work

One of Australia's most acclaimed and celebrated writers, **Michelle de Kretser**, offers a rare glimpse into her craft, career and creative inspirations. She discusses her Stella Prize–winning *Theory & Practice*, the novels that earned her two Miles Franklins and three Christina Stead literary awards, and the recent republication of *The Hamilton Case*. **With Maria Takolander.**

2.45PM

Witnessing the Destruction of Gaza

Palestinian-Australian surgeon **Dr Bushra Othman** shares powerful insights into the extraordinary work of Australian volunteer medics on the ground in Palestine. She discusses *The Weight of Witness*, the new book she has edited documenting 40 medics' experiences in Gaza, and explores how the IHRA definition of antisemitism will affect healthcare workers' ability to speak openly about their service. **With Bob Carr.**

4.30PM (bar from 4.00pm)

The Titanic Story of Lisa Wilkinson

Veteran journalist **Lisa Wilkinson** reveals what drew her to history and the compelling story behind her bestselling work of historical non-fiction, *The Titanic Story of Evelyn*. She will take us behind the headlines of her extraordinary career, reflecting on the defining moments and remarkable stories that have shaped her life in journalism. **With Sophie Black.**

Presented in partnership with Queenscliffe Historical Museum.

7.30PM – 8.45PM (bar from 6.30pm)

When Extremes Go Mainstream

With the Victorian election just a month away, what does Australia's rapidly shifting political landscape—at both federal and state levels—tell us about the issues voters believe the major parties are failing to address? We'll explore why increasing numbers of voters are looking beyond the traditional political parties, the role of media and tech in amplifying extreme voices, what the rise of minor and populist parties signals about the electorate, and whether Australia's two-party system still reflects the political realities of a rapidly changing country. Join us for a robust and thought-provoking discussion about power, protest, populism and the future of Australian politics, with former politician **Bob Carr**, journalist **Antoun Issa**, populism expert **Imogen Richards**, and others. Moderated by journalist **Nicole Chvastek**.

Presented in partnership with the Peter Blazey Fellowship.

7.00PM – 8.30PM

Ziggy + Kit cafe

Free

Book Doof (Silent Reading)

Ninety minutes of silent reading under a live ambient DJ set, followed by thirty minutes of low-key chat. Bring a book or any quiet activity. Drop in, no ticket required. Meet someone new and enjoy the atmosphere.

SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER

9.30AM

Herstory: Hidden, Forgotten, Reclaimed

Three remarkable women share three extraordinary stories of courage, discovery and resilience. **Lisa Wilkinson** introduces Titanic survivor Evelyn Marsden; **Diana Thorp** reveals the secret world of Australian women code breakers in WWII; and **Micaela Sahhar** explores her inheritance as the daughter of a Nakba survivor. **With Hilary Harper.**

11.15AM

Li Cunxin: From Mao's Last Dancer to The Lucky Son

Acclaimed Chinese-Australian ballet dancer, artistic director and bestselling author **Li Cunxin** talks about his extraordinary life, from rural China to the world stage. He discusses *The Lucky Son*, the powerful sequel to his award-winning memoir *Mao's Last Dancer*, and the experiences that have shaped his unique story. **With Hilary Harper.**

1.00PM

What a Classic!

What makes a book a 'Classic'—and can a 21st-century work make the cut? Authors **Lisa Wilkinson**, **Michelle de Kretser**, **Moreno Giovannoni** and **Maria Takolander** each champion a favourite Australian or international work, and put their reps on the line debating, defending and challenging one another's choices. Expect bold opinions, surprising picks and spirited bookish banter. **With Michael Cathcart.**

2.45PM (bar from 2.00pm)

From Memory to Manuscript

Micaela Sahhar, winner of the 2026 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for *Find Me at the Jaffa Gate*, **Moreno Giovannoni**, 2026 Age Book of the Year winner for *The Immigrants*, and **Antoun Issa**, author of *Rebirth*, explore their parents' experiences in Palestine, Italy and Lebanon—and the extraordinary personal stories, memories and histories that compel them to put family life onto the page. **With Louise Adler.**

Presented in partnership with The Bookshop at Queenscliff.

4.00PM

Free

ABC Radio National's Top 100 Books

Join us for a listening party for the final leg of ABC Radio National's Top 100 Australian Books countdown. The program will cross live to the festival where a QLF guest author will announce one of the books. Keep an eye on QLF socials and website for venue!

FESTIVAL PROGRAM — WEEK TWO

FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER

6.00PM

The Bookshop at Queenscliff

Free

Book Swap

Bring a book to pass on, hand it over on arrival to be wrapped, and get a note card in return to describe its genre and vibe. Browse the cards, pick a mystery book, unwrap it, and mingle over what you got. New or secondhand, any condition. Come solo or bring a friend.

7.30PM (bar from 6.30pm)

$40/$30

The Fitzroy Diaries Live!

Join in the fun as the beloved ABC podcast series is performed like an old-fashioned radio play: script-in-hand, in front of a live audience. Performed by original cast members and narrated by writer and Fitzroy Diaries creator **Lorin Clarke**. Featuring cameos from **Judith Lucy**, **Kaz Cooke** and **Shaun Micallef**. Audience participation on a hands-up basis!

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER

9.30AM – 1.00PM

Wirrng Wirrng
(Queenscliffe Hub)
$45

WORKSHOP: Writing Memoir with Lorin Clarke

What makes a memoir unforgettable? Join broadcaster, bestselling memoirist, podcast creator and filmmaker **Lorin Clarke** for an inspiring, hands-on workshop exploring the art of turning lived experience into compelling stories. Discover how to find the moments that matter, shape your voice, unlock your memories and transform personal experience into powerful, engaging memoir.

9.30AM

Shaun Micallef is Talented as Hell

Comic virtuoso and master interviewer **Shaun Micallef** has the spotlight turned back on himself for once, taking us on a lively romp through his extraordinary career, his reading life and two very different 2026 releases: the madcap vampire novel *De'Ath Takes a Holiday* and a work of non-fiction, *Matthew Flinders: a definitive and indisputable history of the man who mapped Australia*. **With Francis Leach.**

11.15AM

First Knowledge, First Inventors

Leading Indigenous thinker **Tristan Kennedy** and historian **Billy Griffiths** explore their powerful new books, *Nothing About Us Without Us* and *The First Inventors*, revealing the extraordinary depth of 65,000 years of Indigenous innovation, knowledge and ingenuity. Together, they explore how First Nations knowledge has endured and thrived in a world shaped by Western ways of thinking. **With Francis Leach.**

1.00PM

Let's Get Criminal

Get inside the minds of two of Australia's bestselling crime writers. **Chris Hammer** and **Sarah Bailey** reveal the secrets behind gripping plots, unforgettable characters and atmospheric settings, as they reveal their latest page-turners *Full Circle* and *Click*. They'll also lift the lid on the thrills—and the risks—of seeing a story brought to life on screen. **With Mark Smith.**

2.45PM (bar from 2.00pm)

Well Well Well, it's Judith Lucy!

Comedy legend and author **Judith Lucy** takes a hilarious, irreverent look at her and our obsession with wellness. How did Judith get over crippling burnout that left her feeling like a used nappy? In her neverending quest to feel better, Judith shares the stories behind her riotous new book *Well, Well, Well*. **With Elizabeth McCarthy.**

Presented in partnership with The Wheeler Centre and supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund.

4.00PM

TARRA Queenscliff
$40/$30
(includes welcome drink)

Celebrating Spooky Ladies with Kaz Cooke

Get ready for an early Halloween with writer and chronicler of women's lives **Kaz Cooke** as she reveals the rebellious women featured in her new book *Spooky Ladies: Rebels, Witches, Mediums and Magic*. From séances to prophecies, miracle work to mind-reading — discover the women who harnessed wit, spectacle and the supernatural to defy convention, court scandal and captivate the world. **With Lorin Clarke.**

Dress up — prizes will be awarded to the best-dressed spooky ladies!

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER

7.30PM (bar from 6.30pm)

$40/$30

STELLA: A New Australian Musical—a night with the artists

In June 2026, composer/lyricist **Monique diMattina** brought the extraordinary life story of Stella Miles Franklin to the stage in the acclaimed World Premiere of **STELLA: A New Australian Musical**. In this intimate concert, Monique and cast/band members share selected songs from STELLA, with behind-the-scenes gossip on the making of the show. Why did Miles Franklin hate her debut novel, *My Brilliant Career*? Did Banjo Paterson really invite her to Fiji? How many hats can five people wear in a two-hour musical? Join us for the songs, the stories and the glorious chaos of turning Stella's life into a musical.

Presented in collaboration with Queenscliff Music Festival.

9.30AM

Free

Join in the Chorus

Come along for a joyful, feel-good singalong with **Monique DiMattina**, creator of STELLA: A New Australian Musical. Monique will lead everyone through a fun mix of familiar songs you already know and love—so there's no need to rehearse or worry about getting the words right. Just bring your voice and join in! Everyone welcome.

Presented in collaboration with Queenscliff Music Festival.

11.15AM

Provocations: Has Australia's Social Media Ban for Children Worked?

One year on, our expert panel will weigh the wins, the drawbacks and what comes next. Has the world-first social media ban for children delivered on its promise, or should it be scrapped, strengthened or fine-tuned? Tackling one of the most contentious issues facing families and children today will be our panel **Virginia Trioli**, **Dr Lelia Green**, and **Dr Lisa Given**. With **Dr Dylan Bird**.

Presented in partnership with RMIT University.

1.00PM

Small Town, Big Story

Authors **Chris Hammer**, **Allee Richards** and **Leah Swann** explore the dark side of Australia's coastal towns, where stunning landscapes conceal secrets, violence and buried truths. Their gripping novels take us from idyllic seaside communities to sinister discoveries, asking why these remote coastal places make such perfect spots to bury bodies and uncover secrets. **With Bella Lloyd.**

2.45PM – 4.00PM

$30 includes entry and snacks for two kids and their adult

In a Class of His Own: It's Andy Griffiths!

For our final 2026 festival event, get ready for a big, bookish burst of fun! Australian Children's Laureate **Andy Griffiths** is passionate about connecting children to the power of books, reading and literacy. He'll bring his unstoppable energy, wild imagination and signature humour to this lively, interactive session for kids, families and passionate readers of all ages. Expect hilarious stories, brilliant ideas, creative chaos and plenty of audience participation!

Presented in partnership with Geelong Regional Libraries.

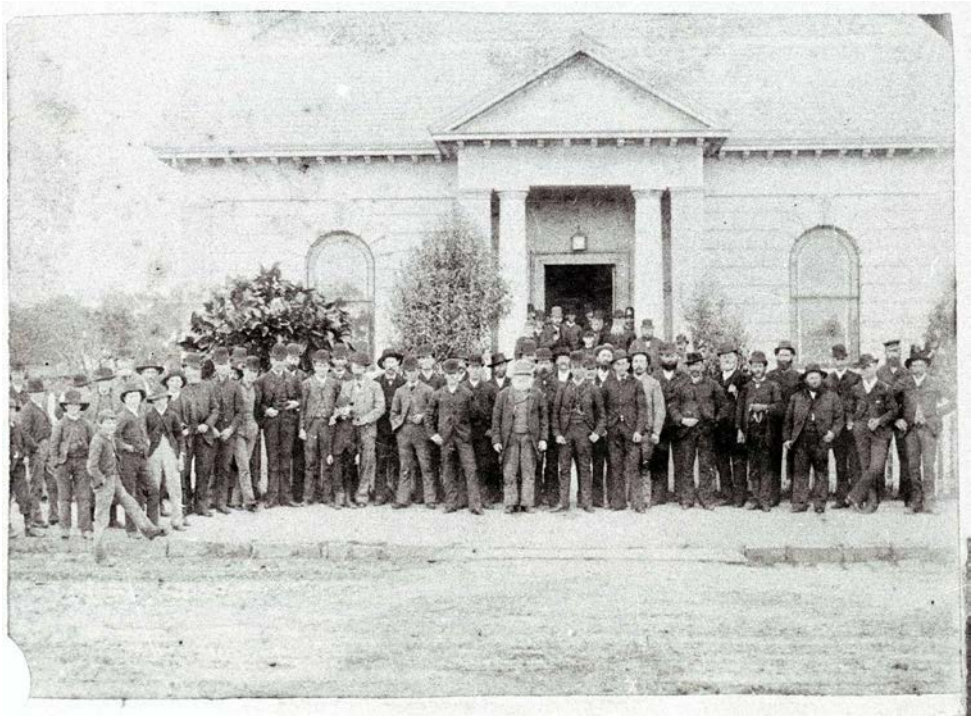
QUEENS LITER FEST

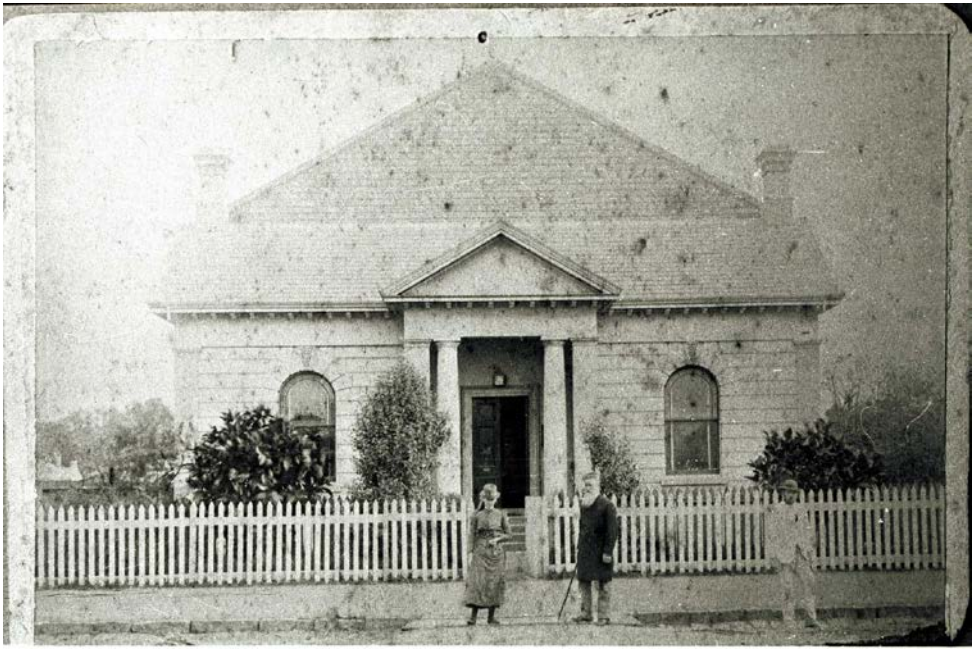
	FRIDAY 16 OCT	SATURDAY 17 OCT	SUNDAY 18 OCT
9.30AM		**Madeleine Gray's Chosen Family** Wirrng Wirrng (Queenscliffe Hub)	**Herstory: Hidden, Forgotten, Reclaimed** Queencliff Town Hall
11.15AM		**Three Decades of the Cook's Companion** Queenscliff Town Hall	**Li Cunxin: From Mao's Last Dancer to The Lucky Son** Queencliff Town Hall
12.30PM	**Lunch with George Georgievski and Gabriel Gaté** Upstairs at 360Q		
1.00PM		**Michelle de Kretser: A Master at Work** Queenscliff Town Hall	**What a Classic!** Queenscliff Town Hall
2.45PM		**Witnessing the Destruction of Gaza** Queenscliff Town Hall (bar from 2.00pm)	**From Memory to Manuscript** Queenscliff Town Hall
4.00PM			**ABC Radio National's Top 100 Australian Books Listening Party** The Royal Queenscliff FREE event
4.30PM		**The Titanic Story of Lisa Wilkinson** Queenscliff Town Hall	
7.00PM		**Book Doof** Ziggy + Kit cafe FREE event	
7.30PM	**An Evening with Bob Carr** Queenscliff Town Hall (bar from 6.30pm)	**When Extremes Go Mainstream** Queenscliff Town Hall (bar from 6.30pm)	

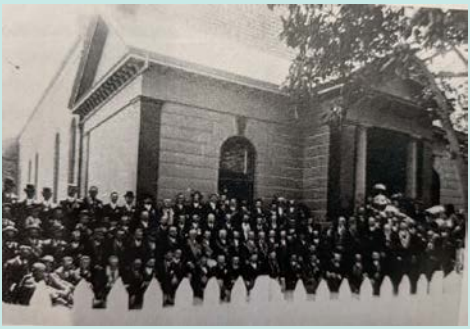
SCLIFFE RARY TIVAL

	FRIDAY 23 OCT	SATURDAY 24 OCT	SUNDAY 25 OCT
9.30AM		**WORKSHOP: Writing Memoir with Lorin Clarke** Wirrng Wirrng (Queenscliffe Hub)	**Join in the Chorus (community sing-a-long)** Queenscliff Town Hall FREE event
		Shaun Micallef is Talented as Hell Queenscliff Town Hall	
11.15AM		**First Knowledge, First Inventors** Queenscliff Town Hall	**Provocations: Has Australia's Social Media Ban for Children worked?** Queenscliff Town Hall
1.00PM		**Let's Get Criminal** Queenscliff Town Hall	**Small Town, Big Story** Queenscliff Town Hall
2.45PM		**Well Well Well, it's Judith Lucy!** Queenscliff Town Hall (bar from 2.00pm)	**In a Class of His Own: It's Andy Griffiths!** Queencliff Town Hall
4.00PM		**Celebrating Spooky Ladies with Kaz Cooke** TARRA Queenscliff	
6.00PM	**Book Swap** The Bookshop at Queenscliff FREE event		
7.30PM	**The Fitzroy Diaries Live!** Queencliff Town Hall (bar from 6.30pm)	**STELLA: A New Australian Musical—a night of song with the artists** Queenscliff Town Hall (bar from 6.30pm)	

BOOK NOW queenscliffeliteraryfestival.com.au







THE STORY OF QUEENSCLIFF TOWN HALL

Queenscliff Town Hall has a long history as a civic and community institution, and we are thrilled to use this iconic venue as the main location for festival events. Thanks to our partners Queenscliffe Historical Museum for pulling together this brief history.

The current Queenscliff Town Hall was built in 1890 to enlarge the original Foresters Hall of 1870. The original hall served as the only public meeting place in town, and even briefly as the State School until 1877, but had been outgrown by the rapid development of the township after the completion of the railway to Geelong in May 1879 and the gold rush.

The new hall retained the original portico and offices of the original 1870 hall. The opening in October 1890 was a grand occasion. Over 400 attended and the *Queenscliff Sentinel* reported:

'The opening of the New Foresters Hall was celebrated joyously ... with there being few halls in Melbourne equal to our new one. There appeared to be the whole population of Queenscliff present ... when the floor was occupied by those who delight in dance, the view of beauty and fashion was like a glimpse into the wonders of fairy land.'

The new hall accommodated over 600 people and has had many uses over the years, including hosting dances, balls, live theatre, films, concerts, lectures, fairs, vegetable and pot-plant stalls, Salvation Army and council meetings.

The heritage value of the Town Hall lies in its well-preserved English Bond brickwork, slate roof, sandstone sills and decorative glazing, but especially the well-preserved kauri pine floorboards (48mm thick). These were regularly waxed, rather than sanded, and show the patina from 130 years of dancing and foot traffic, with many scars from stiletto heels and 'cupping' of the softer boards from wear!

The Town Hall is part of a delightful heritage streetscape, opposite the original Cobb & Co Stables (1850s) and adjacent eight single-storey terrace houses ('Thanet Cottages', 1883). An upgrade in 2008 provided a new entrance foyer to the hall and modern municipal offices to the south. A new facade, based on a contemporary interpretation of the original Foresters Hall portico and offices, replaced the unsympathetic offices built after the original hall was demolished in 1960.

WHAT ELSE IS ON IN TOWN?

BOOKNECK

Bookneck is a tiny, travelling, second-hand, mini (but mighty!) bookshop on wheels; it is a rolling cultural hub that nurtures literacy, sparks imagination, creates imaginative ways to gather people around books, and spreads the joy of reading. Find Bookneck at various locations across Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale throughout the festival.

ST GEORGE'S FLOWER SHOW

This annual flower show provides the opportunity to mingle in a lovely setting and relive the simplicity of a historical Queenscliff event. There are flower competitions, market stalls, music, face-painting, cake and scone stands, and the much-loved dog show.

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER

St George's Old School Hall, cnr Learmonth and Hobson Streets, Queenscliff

9.00am – 2.00pm

THE BLUES TRAIN

Queenscliff is home to the world's one and only Blues Train. This unique experience combines four of Australia's best live acts and the beautiful scenery of the Bellarine Peninsula while aboard a moving heritage train. At each stop, travellers swap carriages to see all acts on board.

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER AND SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER

20 Symonds Street, Queenscliff

12.30pm – 5.00pm

QUEENSCLIFFE COMMUNITY MARKET

Once a month, locals and visitors flock to the Queenscliffe Community Market to explore the diverse range of goods all lovingly created by our stallholders. All funds from the market support local community projects.

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER

Lower Princess Park, Queenscliff

9.00am – 2.00pm

WHAT ELSE IS ON IN TOWN?

JUNK JOURNAL WITH ZIGGY + KIT!

Join the team at Ziggy + Kit cafe for a carefree scrap-booking afternoon. Limited supplies available so BYO what you need. Mocktail on arrival and nibbles provided. $20 per person.

Numbers limited to 20 per session so book in quick via info@ziggyandkit.com.

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER

77A Hesse Street, Queenscliff

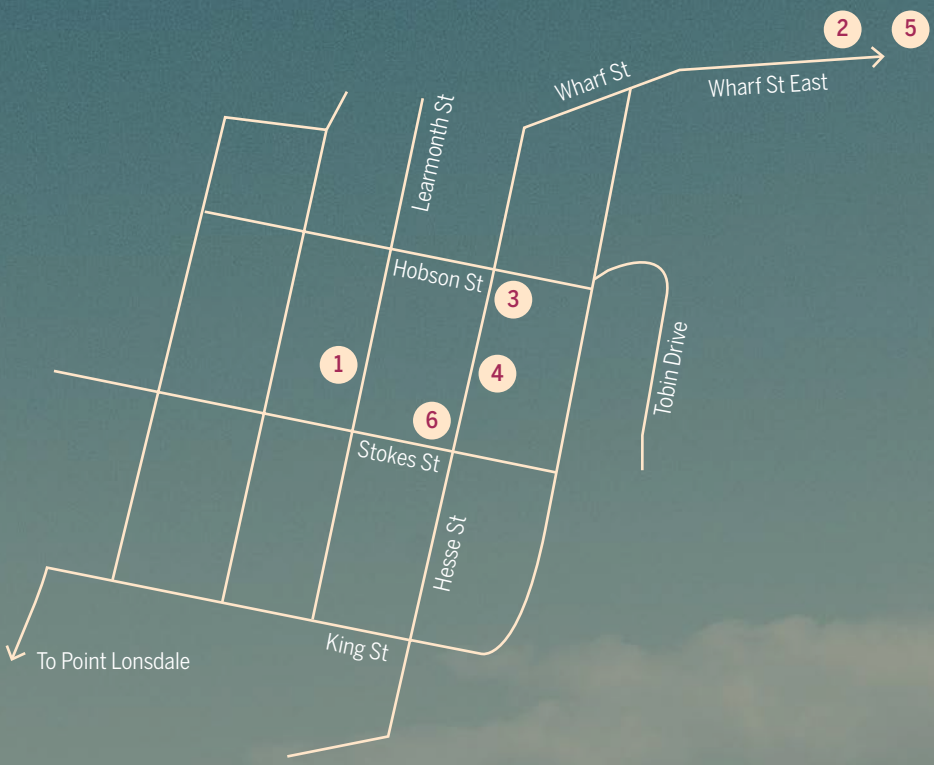
3.30pm – 6.00pm

QUEENSCLIFF SWEET SHOP KEYRINGS

Queenscliff Sweet Shop is offering snazzy book keyrings for just $5 during the festival. The keyring will give customers 10% off any purchase and will be valid to October 15 2027.

Shop 5/44 Hesse Street, Queenscliff

MAP



VENUES

1 **Queenscliff Town Hall**
50 Learmonth St

2 **360Q Restaurant**
2 Wharf St E

3 **Wirrng Wirrng/The Hub**
Queenscliffe Visitor Information Centre
49–55 Hesse St

4 **Ziggy + Kit cafe**
77A Hesse St

5 **TARRA Queenscliff**
1 Wharf St E

6 **The Bookshop at Queenscliff**
84 Hesse St

Printing: Fleetwood Printers, Geelong fleetwoodprint.com.au | Design: Actual Size actualsize.com.au | Audience photos by Ivan Kemp

PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

QLF thanks our partners and sponsors for their invaluable support

Borough of Queenscliffe
Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale, Victoria, Australia

ACCOMMODATION PARTNERS

FRIENDS OF THE FESTIVAL

Farm Foods Queenscliff
Homebody Orchard
Port Q Style
Queenscliff Gallery
Salt Contemporary Art
Seaview Gallery
Shelter Shed Queenscliff
Wharf Street Pantry
Queenscliff Sweet Shop
TARRA Queenscliff
Willow Tree Cafe
The Salty Breeze Cafe
Ziggy + Kit
InHab Australia
Bellarine AV
Lucinda Steuart
Sally Hawkins

STAY IN TOUCH!

queenscliffeliteraryfestival.com.au/subscribe

@queenscliffeliteraryfestival