

Orange Readers and Writers Festival

2022 PROGRAM

**SATURDAY
6 AUGUST 2022**

**READERS AND
WRITERS FESTIVAL**

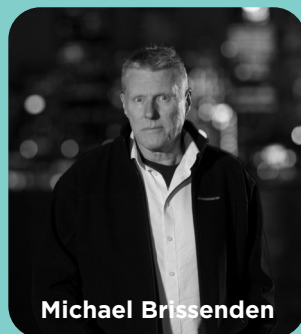
**Tickets: \$95
(\$75 early-bird
ending 8 July)**



Robert Tickner



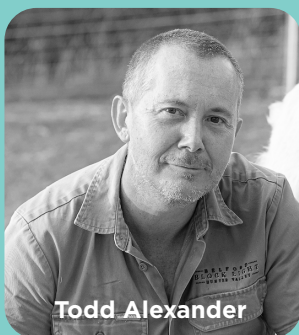
Petronella McGovern



Michael Brissenden



Helen Ennis



Todd Alexander



Rebecca Wilson

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**FRIDAY
5 AUGUST 2022**

WORKSHOP

**Writing History
Workshop with
Rebecca Wilson**

Tickets: \$35



WORKSHOP FACILITATOR

Rebecca Wilson

Writing History Workshop

Inspired by real life? Take the next step to shaping the stories around you into the written word.

In this workshop you will gain practical tips for developing a literary project based on historic sources and stories.

Writer and artist Rebecca Wilson shares insight into her process for crafting the biography of Kate Kelly, drawing from local stories and historic records and building on one of Australia's most resonant historic narratives.

Artist and author Rebecca Wilson grew up in Forbes New South Wales, and is based in Hill End. She has taught art and toured her work throughout Australia and internationally. Her book, *Kate Kelly: the True Story of Ned Kelly's Little Sister*, is published by Allen and Unwin.

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

10.00am

Welcome

Introduction & workshop goals

11.20am

Session 1

- What is history?
- What is history writing?
- The role of research in history writing
- How to research – sources, tips, resources, processes, techniques.
- Q&A

11.30am

Morning tea

11.50am

Session 2

- Tapping into regional or local/family history
- Storytelling – story arc – how to combine your research and your story telling
- Active voice
- Q&A

1.30pm

Close



FESTIVAL GUEST SPEAKER

Robert Tickner

AUTHOR

Ten Doors Down: The story of an extraordinary adoption

Robert Tickner had always known he was adopted, but had rarely felt much curiosity about his origins. Born in 1951, he had a happy childhood — raised by his loving adoptive parents, Bert and Gwen Tickner in the small seaside town of Forster, New South Wales. He grew up to be a cheerful and confident young man with a fierce sense of social justice and the desire and stamina to make political change. Serving in the Hawke and Keating governments, he held the portfolio of minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs.

Among other achievements while in government, he was responsible for initiating the reconciliation process with Indigenous Australians, and he was instrumental in instigating the national inquiry into the stolen generations. During his time on the front bench, Robert's son was born, and it was his deep sense of connection to this child that moved him at last to turn his attention to the question of his own birth. Although he had some sense of the potentially life-changing course that lay ahead of him,

he could not have anticipated learning of the exceptional nature of the woman who had brought him into the world, the deep scars that his forced adoption had left on her, and the astonishing series of coincidences that had already linked their lives. This was only the first half of a story that was to lead to a reunion with his birth father and siblings. This deeply moving memoir is a testament to the significance of all forms of family in shaping us — and to the potential for love to heal great harm.

Robert Tickner grew up a country boy on the New South Wales mid-north coast and became an Aboriginal Legal Service lawyer and an alderman of the Sydney City Council. In 1984 he won the federal seat of Hughes, and in 1990 he became the federal minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs. He is Australia's longest serving minister in that role, and served in a period of great reform during the Hawke and Keating governments. He then became CEO of Australian Red Cross and led the organisation for a decade from 2005 to 2015.



FESTIVAL GUEST SPEAKER

Petronella McGovern

AUTHOR

The Liars

From the bestselling author of *Six Minutes* and *The Good Teacher* comes a compelling family drama of marital secrets and family tensions set within an investigation of sinister unsolved killings.

What if your search for the truth puts your family at risk?

The close-knit community of Kinton Bay is shocked when fifteen-year-old Siena Britton makes a grisly discovery in the national park. She believes it's a skull from the town's violent colonial past and posts a video which hits the news headlines.

Her parents, Meri and Rollo, aren't so sure. In 1998, their classmate went missing after a party in the Killing Cave. They're horrified to discover the destructive teenage parties are still happening, and Siena was there last weekend. While Meri is trying to keep her daughter out of trouble, she doesn't realise her son, Taj, has his own problems. And none of them foresees the danger that Siena's actions will create for the whole family.

As more secrets are exposed, the police investigate whether multiple murders have been committed. If so, by whom? And is the killer still living in Kinton Bay?

The Liars is a heart-stopping cocktail of family secrets, sinister unsolved killings and a community at war with itself. A wife burning with resentment. A husband hiding the past. Their teenage daughter crusading for the truth. Who can we trust?

Petronella McGovern's books have been described as domestic noir and psychological suspense. With strong characters and gripping storylines, her novels will keep you reading - and guessing - late into the night.

Petronella grew up on in a large family on a farm in the Central West of New South Wales. After travelling and working in Canberra for a number of years, she now lives on Sydney's northern beaches with her husband and their two teenagers.



FESTIVAL GUEST SPEAKER

Michael Brissenden

AUTHOR

Dead Letters

A dead politician. A decades-old unsolved murder. A hornet's nest is about to be stirred. Counter terrorism expert Sid Allen knows nothing good ever comes from a phone call at 5am. Politician Dan LeRoi, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security, has been shot. Four bullets to the head. The crime scene is chaotic. Homicide. Counter Terrorism. Media. And for Sid, hunting the killer is going to get complicated. Journalist Zephyr Wilde is complicated. She's tenacious and she's got Sid's number.

Sid knows the gossip: how Zephyr's mother was murdered when Zephyr was a kid. He doesn't know that Zephyr is still getting letters from her long-dead mother. But when he learns that Dan LeRoi was helping Zephyr look into her mother's death, he realises that lines are going to be crossed. A cop should not be talking to a journalist. As they both ask too many questions, Sid and Zephyr stir up a hornet's nest of corruption. Knowing who to trust is going to mean the difference between solving a crime and being a victim.

The question is: which side will they end up on? A compulsive thriller that takes up from the seedy streets of Sydney to the corridors of power in Canberra. For readers who love Peter Temple and Michael Connelly.

Michael Brissenden has worked for the ABC for more than thirty years. He has been a political journalist and foreign correspondent for the ABC since 1987. He began his career covering Federal politics and has been a correspondent in Moscow, Brussels and Washington. Michael covered many of the biggest international stories of the 1990s and early 2000s from all corners of the globe. He was the political editor for the 7.30 Report in Canberra from 2003 to 2009, the ABC's Defence and National Security Correspondent and most recently he has worked as host of AM national radio program. A two-time Walkley Award winner, Michael is now a reporter on the ABC'S 4 Corners. His debut novel *The List* was published in 2018. *Dead Letters* is his second novel.



FESTIVAL GUEST SPEAKER

Helen Ennis

AUTHOR

Olive Cotton:

A Life in Photography

A landmark biography of a singular and important Australian photographer, Olive Cotton, by an award-winning writer - beautifully written and deeply moving.

Olive Cotton was one of Australia's pioneering modernist photographers, whose significant talent was recognised as equal to her first husband, the famous photographer Max Dupain. Together, Olive and Max were an Australian version of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera or Ray and Charles Eames, and the photographic work they produced in the 1930s and early 1940s was bold, distinctive and quintessentially Australian.

But in the mid-1940s Olive divorced Max, leaving Sydney to live with her second husband, Ross McInerney, and raise their two children in a tent on a farm near Cowra - later moving to a cottage that had no running water, electricity or telephone for many years. Famously quiet, yet stubbornly determined, Olive continued her photography despite these challenges

and the lack of a dark room. But away from the public eye, her work was almost forgotten until a landmark exhibition in Sydney in 1985 shot her back to fame, followed by a major retrospective at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in 2000, ensuring her reputation as one of the country's greatest photographers.

Intriguing, moving and powerful, this is Olive's story, but it is also a compelling story of women and creativity - and about what it means for an artist to try to balance the competing demands of their art, work, marriage, children and family.

Helen Ennis was Curator of Photography at the National Gallery of Australia (1985-92), before becoming Director of the Centre for Art History and Art Theory and Sir William Dobell Chair of Art History at ANU School of Art & Design (2014-18); she is currently Emeritus Professor.



FESTIVAL GUEST SPEAKER

Todd Alexander

AUTHOR

You've Got to be Kidding: A Shedload of Wine and Farm Full of Goats.

They say it takes 10,000 hours to master a new skill. Well 60,000 hours since Todd and Jeff's tree change, they should have nailed country life, right? Sure, they've made great wine, built stunning villas and even learnt how to look after rescued farm animals - but how does anyone plan for the fury of Mother Nature? Bushfires, drought, sick animals, failed crops, snakes, broken machinery, insurmountable debts, the unstoppable breeding of peafowl ...

Just when they think they're on top of things, they find another hurdle in their way. Despite fierce determination, a willingness to evolve and irrepressible humour, these boys find themselves down for the count. But they aren't ready to throw in the towel just yet ... are they? Beloved storyteller, Di Morrissey has called it '*an unvarnished, hilarious peep behind the scenes of country life from Australia's favourite tree-changer.*'

Todd Alexander is the author of the bestselling memoir *Thirty Thousand Bottles of Wine and a Pig Called Helga*, which was longlisted for the Australian Independent Bookseller Awards. His latest book is *You've Got to be Kidding: A Shedload of Wine and Farm Full of Goats*, and he has written two novels, and eight non-fiction books. Todd's new comedy will be released by HarperCollins in March 2023.

Todd began his career at Dymocks Sydney before becoming Head of Buying at Dymocks Franchise Systems. He then spent 12 years at eBay, becoming a leading online expert and helping thousands of Australians sell online. In 2012, he threw away his corporate career to run a vineyard and accommodation business with his partner, Jeff, in the Hunter Valley of NSW called Block Eight.

Program

History Writing Workshop - Friday 5 August 2022 - \$35

10.00am - 11.30pm	Introduction, workshop goals, history writing
11.30am - 11.50am	Morning tea
11.50am - 1.30pm	Local family history, storytelling, active voice, Q&A

Orange Readers and Writers Festival - Saturday 6 August 2022- \$95

10am	Welcome by Master of Ceremonies
10.05am - 10.10am	Welcome to Country
10.10am - 11am	Robert Tickner author <i>Ten Doors Down: The story of an extraordinary adoption</i>
11am - 11.15am	Banjo Paterson Writing Awards Announced Mayor of Orange Jason Hamling
11.15am - 11.45am	Morning Tea
11.45am - 12.25pm	Petronella McGovern author <i>The Liars</i>
12.25pm - 1.05pm	Michael Brissenden author <i>Dead Letters</i>
1.05pm - 2pm	Lunch
2pm - 2.40pm	Helen Ennis author <i>Olive Cotton: A Life in Photography</i>
2.40pm - 3.20pm	Todd Alexander author <i>You've Got to be Kidding: A Shedload of Wine and Farm Full of Goats</i>
3.20pm - 3.30pm	Farewell and Close



We'd love to hear from you!

Scan the QR code to share your feedback on this year's event.