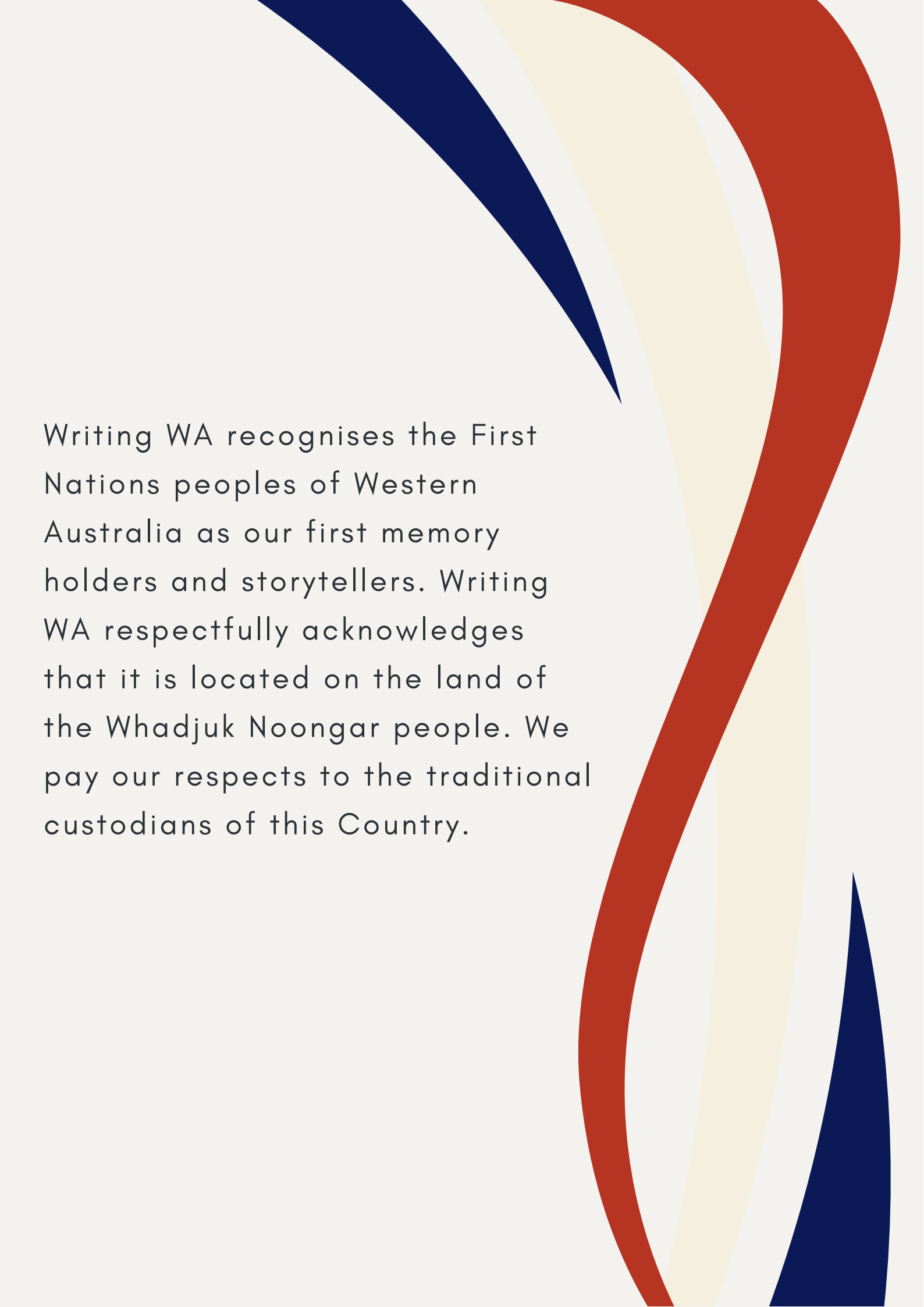




2025 SEMESTER 1 PROGRAM

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An abstract graphic on the right side of the page consists of three thick, curved bands. The top band is dark blue, the middle band is cream, and the bottom band is red. They are layered and curve from the top right towards the bottom right, creating a sense of movement and depth.

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



OUR PURPOSE

Writing WA is working between the lines and behind the scenes to build a state of opportunity in Western Australia for writers, publishers and other practitioners in the writing sector – not just for the benefit of practitioners themselves, but for the immense social value that great writing brings to individuals and communities.



Long-form or short, in a book or on-screen; we celebrate writing no matter how it is expressed. We believe that writing can and should be an industry of opportunity and thus, the promotion of sustainable professional practice for writers is embedded in all that we do.

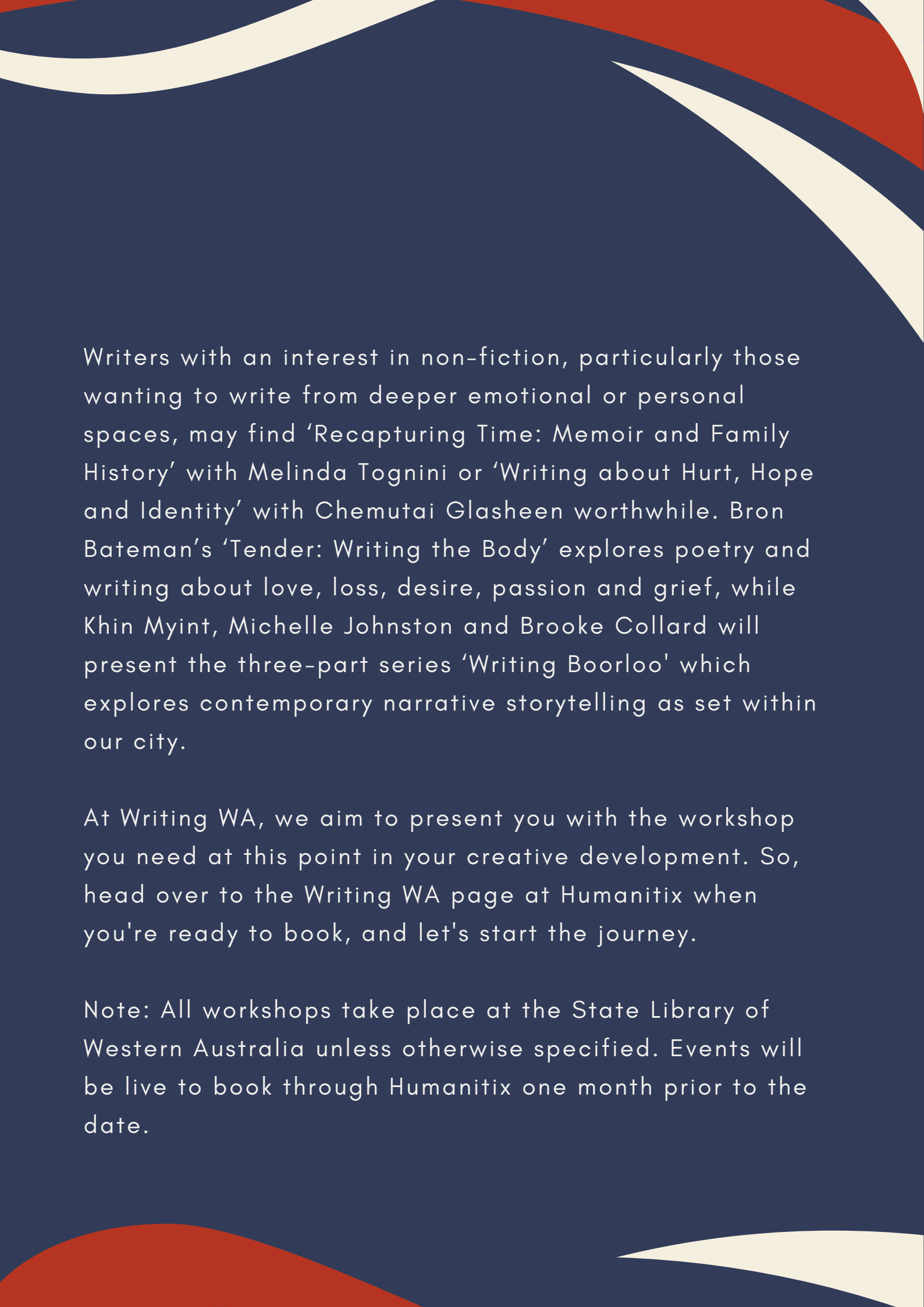


INTRODUCTION

Writing WA's January to June 2025 program goes well beyond typical frameworks of creative writing and ventures into the world of graphic novels, memoirs and more.

Explore the techniques of visual storytelling with 'Colour Blocking and Narrative' hosted by Soolagna Majumdar or 'Blobs, Scribbles and Characters in Motion' with Kelly Canby. Delve into graphic novel writing with Isobelle Carmody in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn from one of the nation's great writers. Award Winning author Amanda Bridgeman joins us for 'The World Reimagined: Writing Speculative Fiction' - a masterclass for authors of both the written word and stage/screen, and creative web designer Michelle Barraclough presents 'The Virtual You', unpacking outlining online identity and author profiles in an accessible engaging way.

If you're looking for a way in to advance the professional aspects of your writing journey, then our 'Ask a...' series is a perfect fit, featuring 'Ask a Literary Programmer' with Sonia Nair, 'Ask a Publisher' with Kate Cuthbert and 'Ask an Agent' with Alex Adsett.



Writers with an interest in non-fiction, particularly those wanting to write from deeper emotional or personal spaces, may find 'Recapturing Time: Memoir and Family History' with Melinda Tognini or 'Writing about Hurt, Hope and Identity' with Chemutai Glasheen worthwhile. Bron Bateman's 'Tender: Writing the Body' explores poetry and writing about love, loss, desire, passion and grief, while Khin Myint, Michelle Johnston and Brooke Collard will present the three-part series 'Writing Boorloo' which explores contemporary narrative storytelling as set within our city.

At Writing WA, we aim to present you with the workshop you need at this point in your creative development. So, head over to the Writing WA page at Humanitix when you're ready to book, and let's start the journey.

Note: All workshops take place at the State Library of Western Australia unless otherwise specified. Events will be live to book through Humanitix one month prior to the date.

WRITER'S MASTERCLASS

VISUAL STORYTELLING: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL WRITING PROJECT WITH ISOBELLE CARMODY

THUR 16 JAN 2025

10 AM - 1 PM

Award-winning author Isobelle Carmody hosts a masterclass workshop that will introduce those wanting foray into the world of words and images to the many different ways words can be enhanced by images. Those attending will learn how to create images that work even if they (think they) can't draw, and will come away with a basic understanding of how to create their own graphic novel.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

Isobelle Carmody travels a lot, and not just in a geographical sense. She has also travelled through many different genres while following the story road. She began to illustrate her own work twenty years into a career made of words, and found there were new stories she could tell with a combination of words and images. She has worked with artists on graphic novels and while doing her PhD kept a graphic journal which will be published as *The Journey of Art and Hope*. Her most recent project is merging her art with another illustrator to produce a Little Fur graphic novel called *Saltsong*.



WRITER'S MASTERCLASS

THE WORLD REIMAGINED: WRITING SPECULATIVE FICTION WITH AMANDA BRIDGEMAN

THUR 13 FEB 2025

4 PM - 7 PM

Award-winning writer, Amanda Bridgeman will discuss the various aspects of writing speculative fiction (science fiction, fantasy and horror), exploring each genre, many of the common tropes, characters and settings, and the best practices to meet audience expectations. Whether you're writing a novel or short story, or whether you'd like to write for the screen (film and TV), this masterclass will arm you with the tips and tricks you need to navigate your speculative fiction writing journey.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

Amanda Bridgeman is an award-winning speculative fiction writer who has been published globally by Angry Robot Books (UK), Aconyte Books (UK), Momentum Books/Pan Macmillan (AUS) and Cohesion Press (AUS). Her original fiction includes sci-fi crime thriller *The Subjugate*, which is being developed for TV by Anonymous Content and Aquarius Films. Amanda has also written tie-in fiction for Marvel (X-Men), Black Library (Warhammer 40k) and Z-Man Games (Pandemic). She is also a screenwriter, currently developing several genre projects across film and TV.



FEBRUARY

ONLINE SERIES 'ASK A ...'

ASK A PUBLISHER WITH KATE CUTHBERT

WED 26 FEB 2025

5 PM - 6 PM

The publishing industry can often seem both mysterious and capricious. But publishing is a business like any other, and there are rules, reasons, and processes. This frank and factual Q&A session will answer all your questions about the before, during, and after of having a book published, including how to get your work noticed and how to spot scams. Perfect for early or emerging writers or anyone who would just like to understand what goes on inside a publishing house.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

Dr Kate Cuthbert has worked in publishing for almost 15 years. She has held senior roles at Pantera Press, Writers Victoria and launched the Escape Publishing brand at Harlequin Australia. A genre fiction advocate and enthusiast, she completed a PhD proposing research methodologies for the examination of book covers and book titles. She is also a co-host on the popular podcast *What Would Danbury Do?*.



FEBRUARY

WORKSHOP

VISUAL STORYTELLING: BLOBS, SCRIBBLES AND CHARACTERS IN MOTION WITH KELLY CANBY

THURS 27 FEB 2025

10 AM - 12 PM

Picture book characters can convey so much through the way they look, move and feel on the page and a simple pose can tell you a lot about a character's mood, identity, and how they fit into the story. Join award-winning children's book author/illustrator Kelly Canby as she guides you through her way of capturing movement and energy with quick brushstrokes, inky blobs, happy accidents and lots of scribbles.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

Kelly Canby is a multi award-winning illustrator and author of over two dozen books for children. Her second picture book *The Hole Story* won the prestigious 2018 Western Australian Premier's Book Award for Writing for Children, while *Littlelight* was shortlisted for the same award in 2019. *Rodney*, *The Hole Story* and *Littlelight* have all been Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Notable books for Picture Book of the Year and in 2024 Kelly's book *Timeless* won the coveted Picture Book of the Year award. Kelly is on the judging panel for the annual Shaun Tan Illustration Awards, Assistant Regional Advisor for The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) Australia West and on the Board of The Literature Centre, Fremantle.



FEBRUARY

ONLINE WORKSHOP

THE VIRTUAL YOU - ONLINE AUTHOR PROFILES WITH MICHELLE BARRACLOUGH

WED 12 MARCH 2025

10 AM - 12 PM

Creating an online presence can be daunting, especially if you're not yet published. Even if you already have an author website, it can be difficult to know whether you've ticked all the boxes to make it as effective and functional as possible. In this workshop, Michelle Barraclough will give you practical tips on how to get started, your website structure, how to create your brand (colours, fonts, images, all the fun stuff!), what to include on each page (even if you're not yet published), ideas for blogging and newsletters, SEO basics and tips for choosing a domain name. You'll come away with a solid plan for your online presence and a few handy resources.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

Michelle Barraclough is a marketing professional of 30 years and an experienced website designer specialising in author websites. She has helped numerous writers create their online presence with fresh, modern, functional websites designed in Squarespace. As a novelist, festival facilitator and podcaster in the writing space, Michelle understands the publishing industry and what a writer's website really needs. She also presents three courses for the Australian Writing Centre - Your Author Website, Plain English Business Writing, and Workplace Writing.



WORKSHOP

VISUAL STORYTELLING: COLOUR BLOCKING AND NARRATIVE WITH SOOLAGNA MAJUMDAR

THUR 13 MARCH 2025

5 PM - 7 PM

Colour Blocking, which is derived from the Notan Method, plays a foundational role in how Soolagna plans her comics at the storyboarding stage. In this workshop, she'll teaching you all about this method; how to do it, and how it might be useful to your story telling process. All supplies will be provided for the activity, but you are also welcome to bring your own sketchbook/ notebook, a pen, and a couple of highlighter markers.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

Soolagna Majumdar is a Perth comic artist and visual storyteller. Her work covers themes of personal awakenings, finding magic in the mundane, and grieving over discontinued gadgets. After the success of *Marge Simpson Anime* (a zine documenting the spiritual awakening of the iconic matriarch), her comics have been featured on Vice, Cordite Press, Tale Town, DJED Press, The Westerly Magazine, and have been a part of anthologies like the Ledger award winning *Neither Here Nor Hair* by Petrie Press and Comic Sans by Liminal Publications. She's currently working on her comic *Food Bird*, which was workshopped at the Comic Arts Workshop residency of 2022, and the Milktooth Comics residencies of 2023 and 2024.



ONLINE SERIES 'ASK A ...'

ASK A LITERARY AGENT WITH ALEX ADSETT

WED 26 MARCH 2025

5 PM - 6 PM

This session runs through what a literary agent does for an author, and their place in the publishing industry ecosystem. How much do literary agents get paid? How do you fire your literary agent? Can authors take on this role for themselves and get by just fine? Including insights into the sometimes obscure world of the publishing industry, and invaluable advice on how to find an agent if you do end up wanting one, this talk will answer all your agent questions.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

Alex Adsett is a literary agent and publishing consultant with almost 30 years' experience working in the publishing and bookselling industry, including at Simon & Schuster UK, Penguin Aus and Wiley. She has managed Alex Adsett Literary since 2008, which has recently expanded to three agents and an office manager. As a consultant, Alex has helped thousands of authors review and negotiate their publishing deals. As a literary agent, she is focused on finding exceptional fiction and non-fiction manuscripts for adults, young adults and children. She represents over 40 authors and illustrators, including Melissa Lucashenko, Peter Greste, Dinuka McKenzie, Michael Trant, Isobelle Carmody, and many more. In 2022 AAL acquired the distinguished children's agency The Authors' Agent, and their list of ten award winning authors and illustrators. She regularly speaks on copyright and contracts around Australia, and is an alumni of the Australia Council Arts Leaders Program 2019.



WORKSHOP

RECAPTURING TIME: MEMOIR AND FAMILY HISTORY WITH MELINDA TOGNINI

THUR 10 APRIL 2025

10 AM - 12 PM

Time is a subject that authors across many centuries have pondered. Charles Dickens famously wrote 'it was the best of times; it was the worst of times.' W.H. Auden yearned to 'stop all the clocks' and Oscar Wilde believed that 'punctuality is the thief of all time'. Join WA author Melinda Tognini for a hands-on workshop that will explore the concept of time in your current or future work-in-progress. Discover how to capture moments and convey the passing of years, stretch and condense time to create narrative tension, and reveal how a person or place has developed and changed during the course of your story.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

Melinda Tognini's feature articles, travel writing, personal essays and flash memoir have been published in magazines and anthologies in Australia and the US. Her first book *Many Hearts, One Voice: the story of the War Widows' Guild in Western Australia* was published by Fremantle Press in 2015. Melinda has been teaching, mentoring and facilitating workshops for the past three decades, with the hope of encouraging creativity and empowering others to find their voice. She is currently a PhD candidate at Curtin University, where she is delving into the form, structure and ethics of life writing.



APRIL

'WRITING BOORLOO' SERIES WORKSHOP

WHAT LIES BENEATH WITH MICHELLE JOHNSTON

WED 16 APRIL 2025

5 PM - 7 PM

No matter what we write, we are grounded. Setting is part of the holy trinity of immersive writing, along with character and plot. Readers need to know, to feel, where the story takes place. My first two novels drew deeply from the well of setting, both here in the Boorloo (in the labyrinthine catacombs of Royal Perth Hospital in *Tiny Uncertain Miracles*), and in the dire mines of Wittenoom during its hideous heyday, in *Dustfall*. Well-written settings become almost like characters themselves. In this workshop we will explore these foundations of writing, the basis on which our characters move through their story. We will discover that content is often inextricable from technique – that the how of writing is married to what we are writing. We will revel in divine examples of those writers who use setting beautifully, and we will have some fun with a few exercises. How well do we know the ground below our feet?

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

Dr Michelle Johnston is an author (*Dustfall*, UWAP 2018, *Tiny Uncertain Miracles*, HarperCollins Fourth Estate, 2022) and Emergency Physician. On a good day it is difficult to tell the difference. She is passionate about teaching – both medicine and writing – and worships at the altar of the great sentence. Her third novel – *The Revisionists*, about the power of language and memory to reshape the past – is coming out with HarperCollins in July 2025.



APRIL

ONLINE SERIES 'ASK A ...'

ASK A LITERARY PROGRAMMER WITH SONIA NAIR

WED 23 APRIL 2025

5 PM - 6 PM

Writers Festivals are great to attend and enjoy. Still, if you're a writer, how do you get yourself programmed into such festivals? What are literary programmers looking for, and why?

Join former Melbourne Writers Festival Program Manager Sonia Nair as she demystifies the festival space and empowers you to put your best foot forward in your literary career.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

Sonia Nair is the former Program Manager at the Melbourne Writers Festival as well as a writer and critic whose literary criticism and social commentary have been published by the Wheeler Centre, Kill Your Darlings, the Big Issue, Eureka Street and the Lifted Brow, among others. She has chaired conversations and interviews at the Emerging Writers' Festival, the Melbourne Writers Festival and Footscray Community Arts Centre.



APRIL

WORKSHOP

TENDER: WRITING THE BODY WITH BRON BATEMAN

THUR 8 MAY 2025

10 AM - 12 PM

The body is another country, a foreign or known landscape. The body holds the score. In this workshop we will explore the body through embodied poems about love, loss, desire, passion and grief. We will write what we know and what we imagine: of ourselves and others. Take all the history you have experienced and turn it into moving and evocative poems about a life lived in the wellspring of your body. Poems to make you soar and sing, or tumble and grieve. Writing your stories. Writing the world. Writing your body.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

Bron Bateman is an award winning queer, crip poet, editor and educator. She has had three collections of poetry published: *People from bones* (Ragged Raven Press 2002), *Of Memory and Furniture*, which was Highly Commended in the Victorian Premier's Prize for Poetry in 2021 (Fremantle Press 2020) and *Blue Wren* (Fremantle Press, 2022). She has been published in anthologies and journals such as *Westerly*, *Southerly*, *Cordite* and *Australian Poetry Journal*. Her fourth collection, *Love Like This Isn't Harmless* is forthcoming with Fremantle Press in 2025.



'WRITING BOORLOO' SERIES WORKSHOP

CRAFTING POWERFUL NARRATIVES FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH KHIN MYINT

THUR 14 MAY 2025

5 PM - 7 PM

We all carry difficult life experiences, and as writers, these moments can become the foundation for our most powerful work. But how do we transform trauma into stories that resonate deeply, rather than overwhelm or alienate our readers? This workshop will guide you in using personal experiences to craft memoirs or fiction that challenge, inspire, and connect. We'll focus on developing a voice that can shape universal themes from individual pain, moving beyond confessional writing and into the realm of impactful storytelling. If you're a writer eager to explore how past or present challenges can fuel compelling, thought-provoking work, this workshop is for you. Learn how to turn personal stories into narratives that engage even the most disinterested reader.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

Khin Myint is an author based in Boorloo (Perth). His writing has appeared in The Sydney Morning Herald, Liminal magazine and The West Australian, among other publications. He was selected as one of ten participants in the Wheeler Centre's Next Chapter scheme in 2021. His debut memoir, *Fragile Creatures*, was published by Black Inc. in 2024 to critical acclaim.



'WRITING BOORLOO' SERIES WORKSHOP

NOONGAR BOODJA PERSPECTIVES WITH BROOKE COLLARD

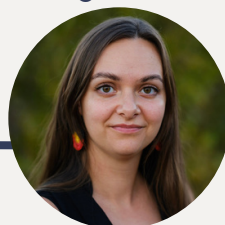
THUR 12 JUNE 2025

5 PM - 7 PM

Writing Boorloo: Noongar Boodja Perspectives, involves a Noongar led perspective, placing connection to country beyond the cement horizons at the forefront. While we may be loomed over by skyscrapers, country is still underneath and its story is waiting to be told. How does history, cultural ties and connection to country influence your writing of Boorloo? We'll invite First Nations and non-Indigenous peoples perspectives on how they write about our kwopertok home, Boorloo.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

Brooke Collard, a Ballardong/Whadjuk Noongar woman and proud mother, is a producer and writer dedicated to authentic representation for marginalized communities. She works as a Games & Narrative Designer with Awesome Black. In 2023, Brooke and her partner Gary Hamaguchi won the AACTA Regional Pitch with their Noongar horror project *Reclamation*. She collaborated with Common Ground on *First Nations Bedtime Stories* and produced the short film *Marlu Man*, now in development as a feature. Her work includes the SBS podcast *Noongar Wellbeing*, web series *Yokai*, and award-winning short film *Aboriginal Warrior*. Brooke is developing Anangu Way with Tace Stevens and is part of the Goolarri Writers Group, supporting First Nations writers. Her credits include *The Great*, *Sweet As*, and other projects, with a focus on storytelling as a tool for healing.



JUNE

WORKSHOP

WRITING ABOUT HURT, HOPE, AND IDENTITY WITH CHEMUTAI GLASHEEN

THUR 26 JUNE 2025

10 AM - 12 PM

Growing up can be messy. It is a complex journey of self-discovery. This workshop will help you find your voice as you use it to tell powerful stories that capture that experience. Through engaging exercises, we will learn how to craft authentic and meaningful narratives and explore how to create characters who face conflicts and inner struggles but somehow find hope as they learn about themselves.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

Chemutai Glasheen is a sessional academic at Curtin University, as well as a teacher and writer. She writes fiction for young audiences, drawing inspiration from her background in human rights and education. Her short story collection, *I Am the Mau and Other Stories*, is published by Fremantle Press and was released in August 2023. Her creative work has appeared in *Unlimited Futures*, *Meniscus* (Volume 9, Issue 2), *ACE: Arresting Contemporary Stories by Emerging Writers*. She has served as a writer-in-residence at the Centre for Stories and has been a featured guest and presenter at the Perth Writers Festival, Disrupted Festival of Ideas, In Conversation: Human Rights and the Big Sky Readers and Writers Festival (Gerladton).



JUNE

ONLINE WRITER'S MASTERCLASS

HAIKU AND MINDFULNESS WITH OWEN BULLOCK

THUR 26 JUNE 2025

2 PM - 5 PM

Join Owen Bullock for an enlightening journey into the world of haiku and mindfulness! We'll kick off with an engaging talk on the magic of haiku — how these tiny poems capture profound moments and what makes them so impactful.

Then, we'll delve into the fascinating connection between haiku and mindfulness. Through vivid examples from literature, we'll uncover how mindful haiku reflect these qualities and explore other unique elements that bring haiku to life.

You'll work in small groups to discuss these examples, then unleash your creativity in hands-on workshop exercises designed to sharpen your observation skills and spark your imagination. We'll wrap up the session with a shared reading of the haiku you create and leave time for your questions.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

Owen Bullock has published five collections of haiku, *Summer Haiku* (2019), *River's Edge* (2016), *Urban Haiku* (2015), *Breakfast with Epiphanies* (2012), *Wild Camomile* (2009); a bilingual collection of tanka, *Uma rocha enorme que anda à roda* ('A big rock that turns around'), translated into Portuguese by Francisco Carvalho (Temas Originais, 2021); four books of poetry, *Pancakes for Neptune* (2023), *Work & Play* (2017), *Semi* (2017), *Sometimes the Sky Isn't Big Enough* (2010); and the novella, *A Cornish Story* (2010). He teaches Creative Writing at the University of Canberra. Other interests include music, juggling and chess.



JUNE

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'Writing WA is instrumental in developing, supporting and maintaining a community of writers in Western Australia. The development of a community is a difficult thing to measure but is enormously beneficial.'

Dervla McTiernan, bestselling author of *The Ruin*, *The Scholar*, *The Good Turn* (together the Cormac Reilly series), and her stand-alone novel, *The Murder Rule*, as well as her novellas, *The Roommate*, *The Sisters*, *The Wrong One* and *The Fireground*.