

Hobart LitFest Team

Stephanie Francis
Program Coordinator
Salamanca Arts Centre

Steph is a graduate of UTAS's School of Creative Arts and is a multifaceted theatre-maker, having been a performer, director, and writer working throughout Tasmania and interstate for a number of years. She has worked alongside such creatives as Kate Mulvany ('Better Man' & 'The Twelve'), Letitia Caceres ('Bump'), Ben Winspear (Archipelago Productions), & Paige Rattray (Sydney Theatre Company). Studying scriptwriting and minoring in English at UTAS, Steph has and continues to write original works for independent theatre companies throughout Tasmania. In 2019, her show 'Goose!' premiered at the Adelaide Fringe Festival, this being a piece she wrote, directed, & performed in with a handful of other UTAS graduates. Most recently, her script 'Liminal' was produced by Old Nick Company at the Peacock Theatre in Hobart of September 2023.

As well as working as the Front of House & Administration Coordinator at Salamanca Arts Centre, Steph also trained as a counsellor and uses her knowledge of human development, psychology, & relationships in her work as an artist.

Joe Bugden
CEO
Salamanca Arts Centre

Joe Bugden moved to Hobart in 1999 to take up the position of Executive Director of the Tasmanian Writers' Centre, where he worked for nine years. During that time Joe was also involved in delivering numerous Tasmanian Readers' & Writers' Festivals. Since 2016 Joe has been employed by Salamanca Arts Centre where he holds the position of CEO.

Joe holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Sydney, (with a double major in Literature and Music), a Master of Letters degree (in American Literature), from the University of New England, a Post-graduate Diploma in Arts Management from the University of Technology, Sydney, and an Advanced Diploma in Accounting, from the Tasmanian Polytechnic.

Joe has had some of his short fiction published in various literary journals, and he also composes music. In 2002, The Listening Post (for solo viola) was commissioned by the Hobart City Council and has been included in a soundscape as part of the City of Hobart Memorial to recipients of the Victoria Cross.

Joe's first String Quartet was premiered by the Rubio Quartet (from Belgium) at the 2004 Canberra International Chamber Music Festival. In July 2016 Joe's chamber opera, 'Death by Defenestration' was presented as part of that year's Festival of Voices, and his other chamber opera, 'The Call of Aurora', based on the story of the Antarctic explorer, Douglas Mawson, was presented in the Peacock Theatre in Hobart as part of the 2022 Australian Antarctic Festival.

Joe's first collection of short stories, 'Incidental Dreams from a Myoclonic Jerk' was published in 2024 by [Ginninderra Press](#).

Artists & Writers

From A - Z

Alison Alexander

Alison Alexander was born and educated in Tasmania and has made a career writing about Tasmanian history. She has produced 35 books, mainly commissioned histories of municipalities, businesses, schools, a football club – whoever asked her. She has also written her own books: biographies of Marie Bjelke Petersen, Jane Franklin (which won the National Biography Award), Edward and Maria Lord, and artists Patricia Giles and Max Angus; and books exploring Tasmania's convict past and its stigma, the battle to end convict transportation, and Tasmania as Utopia. She has also (with her daughter Jude) written a crime novel, *Death at a Festival*, and is currently writing a second, *Cold Water Killer*, which involves the killing of a developer planning to start a salmon farm. Naturally everyone hates him.

Rayne Allinson

Dr Rayne Allinson received her BA and MA at the University of Melbourne and her DPhil in History at the University of Oxford. She is the author of *A Monarchy of Letters: Royal Correspondence and English Diplomacy in the Reign of Elizabeth I* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012). After a long career in academia, she is now Assistant Publisher at Forty South Publishing, a board member of TasWriters, and a bookseller at Fullers Bookshop where she runs the Reading Group.

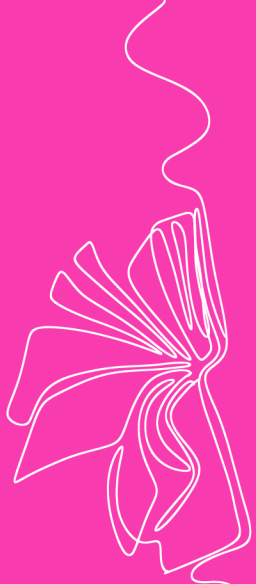
Ruth Amos

RJ (Ruth) Amos worked as a lecturer in chemistry for ten years before deciding that she'd much prefer to write for a living. She started her writing with some cosy mysteries, bringing in the drama of the academic world, and has moved on to experiment with science fiction. She has also written two self-help books: *My Year of Saying NO* and *Boots That Fit*, that share the lessons she learned as she simplified her life. She hopes that others will also experience the joy of a life that fits them perfectly.

Ruth is married to Moz, and they have two grown-up children, two children-in-law and three delightful grandkids. She loves reading, is a relatively unskilled knitter, and enjoys walking along the beach (pretty much any beach will do).

Robbie Arnott

Robbie Arnott is the author of *Dusk*, *Limberlost*, *The Rain Heron* and *Flames*. Born in Launceston, Robbie now lives in Hobart with his family.



Lisa Bilyk

Lissa is an Australian indie author and proud advocate of the Oxford comma! After spending a few years living in the UK, she now currently resides in the breathtakingly beautiful Tasmania/lutruwita with her husband and a black cat/feral gremlin. Armed with a BA (Hons) in English Literature, she crafts bold, cinematic stories packed with heart-pounding action, thrilling adventure, and just the right amount of kissing! Her debut novel, *The Edge of Darkness*, was published in 2011.

Belinda Bradley & Franz Docherty

Belinda and Franz are award-winning creators, writers, and producers based in Hobart. They work across multiple platforms including television, film, and theatre, and have worked as freelance producers for ABC Radio National.

They are co-creators and writers on their original six-part mystery drama series *Savage River*, produced with Aquarius Films and the ABC which premiered on the ABC and ABC iview in 2022, and is on Paramount Plus in the UK. All six episodes are directed by Jocelyn Moorhouse, with Katherine Langford (*13 Reasons Why*, *Knives Out*) in the lead role. *Savage River* was nominated for 4 x 2022 AACTA Awards, including Best Miniseries, and won the AACTA Award for Best Original Score. It was a finalist in the Best Miniseries Category of the C21 2022 International Drama Awards and won the 2023 SPA Award for Best Telemovie or Miniseries.

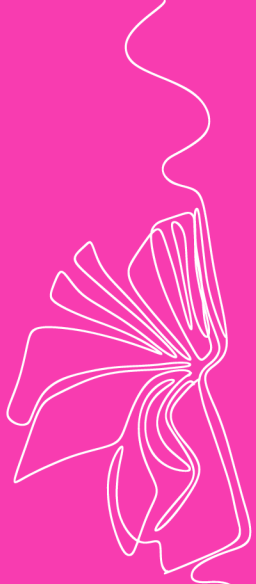
They have recently received development funding from Screen Tasmania for *Unearthed*, an 8-part thriller with a supernatural twist for a YA audience which they are working on with Jane Allen (*Hunters*) on. *Unearthed* is with Lisa Duff, EQ, and being considered by Paramount Plus.

Their screenplay, *Thunder*, won the BOFA Best Screenplay Award, the Lorne Film Screenwriter Award, and was a Quarterfinalist in the Final Draft Big Break Competition.

They have received government funding and are currently in development on a family feature film, *The Great Dinosaur Rescue*, with the support of Creature Technology Co., Global Creatures, Total Fiction and BBCS.

The screenplay of *The Last Resort*, which they developed with Clayton Jacobson (*Kenny*, *Brother's Nest*) received funding from Screen Tasmania and Screen Australia. It attracted the attention of Gilbert Adler (*Tales from the Crypt*, *Superman Returns*, *Valkyrie*). In 2022, they adapted *The Last Resort*, to a stage play and it had a very successful season in Hobart. It's currently being considered by MTC.

Their stage plays have been produced on stage, and on radio, in Australia and internationally. Belinda's play, *The Other Woman*, was nominated for two Green Room Awards, and *Polly Blue* is published by Currency Press. Belinda's play, *Bingo!* (*Stay on the ball, Ladies!*) was produced by Blue Cow Theatre in 2023. Belinda is currently a mentor for ATYP's Fresh Ink Program, in collaboration with Archipelago Productions, for the second year, working with young writers to develop their playwriting skills.



Ian Broinowski

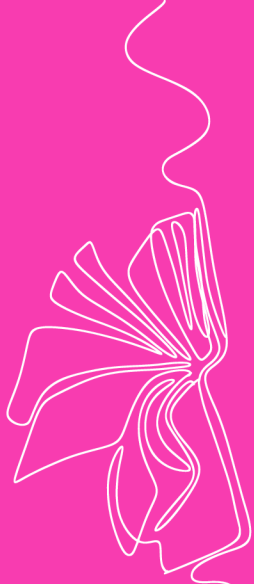
Ian Broinowski, PhD, MEd, BA(Soc Wk), BEc, Dip Teach, taught at TAFE Tasmanian in disability, children's services and also with UTAS and Curtin University in Education. He worked as a welfare officer in NSW and Tasmania and a house parent in Bristol and Northern Ireland. Publications: Child Care Social Policy and Economics, (1994) Creative Childcare Practice: Program design in early childhood, (2002) and Managing Children's Services (2004). In 2019 he published The Pakana Voice: Tales of a War Correspondent from Lutruwita (Tasmania) 1814-1856. In October 2022 he wrote Dogs in Van Diemen's Land: the adorable, the mischievous and the downright nasty with 40 South Tasmania. In 2013 he presented a paper at the Future of Education Conference in Florence Italy on the 'Use of Humour in Online Teaching'. He was on the UTAS Medical Ethics Research Committee from 2012 to 2022 and is on Salamanca Arts Centre Board.

Robert Cox

Robert Cox is the author of nine books, including five volumes of Tasmanian history and three of short fiction. Originally considering himself a journeyman, a writer by trade, in a 50-year professional writing career he has had stints as advertising copywriter and creative director, public relations consultant, government communications manager, book reviewer, magazine journalist and editor, and newspaper reporter and subeditor. He is now working on his tenth book, the third volume of what has unintentionally turned out to be a trilogy of Palawa history.

Sarah Day

Sarah Day has written nine collections of poems. Her books have received the Anne Elder and Queensland Premier's Awards and Wesley Michel Wright Prizes, and have been shortlisted for the NSW, Tasmanian Premier's – including 2025 for Slack Tide – and Prime Minister's Literary awards. She was poetry editor of Island Magazine for seven years. She taught creative writing to year 12 students for twenty years, has collaborated with musicians, and judged national poetry, fiction, and nature-writing competitions. She has been a guest at many of Australia's major literary festivals and at the Paris and the UK King's Lynn poetry festivals. Her poems have been put to music by British and Australian composers. Her poem "The Orphan" was shortlisted in this year's Peter Porter international poetry prize. Sarah lives in Tasmania.



DK GIRL

Danielle K Girl is an Aussie living in stunning Tasmania with her three furkids, cats Luffy, Sweetie and Ren, and feathered fowl; hens, Calliope and Hyacinth.

She has just completed an 8-book historical fantasy series with queer romance, set in Victorian England.

When she's not listening to Kpop, D K Girl is reading up on all the mythologies of the world to find inspiration for more stories of the supernatural and strange.

Come say Hello on the socials!

instagram - daniellekgirl

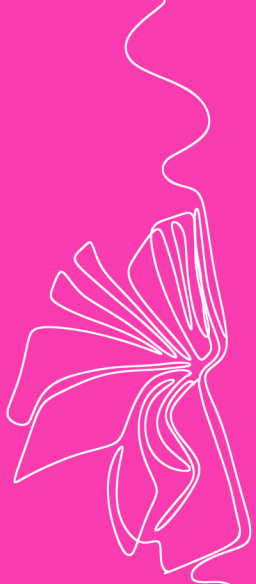
facebook - DKGirlbooks

Patrick Gregory

Patrick Gregory is the Executive Director at Libraries Tasmania, which includes Tasmania's fabulous statewide network of 46 public libraries as well as the treasure house of Tasmanian stories that is the State Library and Archives of Tasmania. With a background in history, he has previously worked at Library & Archives NT and State Library Victoria, and like many librarians is addicted to reading. The State Library and Archives of Tasmania has recently launched new Writers Rooms and the Tasmanian Voices program as part of its contribution to the City of Literature, and as a relatively new Tasmanian Patrick is getting up to speed with local literature by working his way through the authors recently inducted into Tasmanian Voices.

Pete Hay

Pete Hay is a poet, essayist and social theorist who taught geography, politics and environmental thought at the University of Tasmania. He has worked as a political minder, and has dabbled in activism and public affairs commentary, but is a refugee from all that. He retains a research interest in activism within a democratic polity, along with the nature of islands and island living, and the relevance of the medieval fool trope to the times in which we live. He is equally interested in music, cricket, the beauty within language, the extraordinary cacophony of life on earth - and the marvellous stories that people carry with them. His most recent publications are *Forgotten Corners: Essays in Search of an Island's Soul*, and the poetry collections *Physick: Catharsis and 'The Natural Things'*, and the more modest *Girl Reading Lorca*. The poems in *Girl Reading Lorca* have featured in two shows, 'An Evening in Andalusia' and 'Indignados!', collaborations with the Spanish guitarist, Paul Gerard. *Forgotten Corners: Essays in Search of an Island's Soul* was the Small Press Network's 2020 Book of the Year. Though getting decidedly long in the canines, he still occasionally performs - with the mercurial young (comparatively) poet/storyteller, Bert Spinks.



Cameron Hindrum

Cameron Hindrum lives, writes and works in Launceston. His novel *The Blue Cathedral* was published in a revised edition by Forty South Books in 2023, and his third collection of poetry—*Every Sunrise* (Walleah Press) also appeared that year. His novel manuscript 'The Sand' won the University of Tasmania Prize for best unpublished manuscript at the 2022 Tasmanian Premier's Literary Awards. Two of his four plays, *I Am A Lake* and *101*, have been performed professionally in Tasmania, with *I Am A Lake* premiering at the 2016 Unconformity Festival in Queenstown. In 2021 he received a Doctorate of Creative Arts (Writing) from the University of Wollongong.

Arianne James

Arianne James is a writer of fiction and avid reader. She holds a Bachelor of Behavioural Science (2017) and First-Class Honours in Creative Writing (2019) from the University of Tasmania. In 2022 she was shortlisted for the Margaret Scott Young Writers Fellowship and the HNSA Elizabeth Jane Corbett mentorship. She has been a writer in residence at Varuna, The Katherine Susannah Prichard Writers Centre, Patterdale House and Chateau d'Orquevaux, and is an alumnus of the Faber Writing Academy. She currently coordinates TasWriters youth workshop program and hosts 'The Book Shelf' on Edge Radio where she interviews people from the Tasmanian literary community and beyond. Arianne's debut novel, 'Second Skin,' will be published by HQ/Harper Collins in 2026.

Katherine Johnson

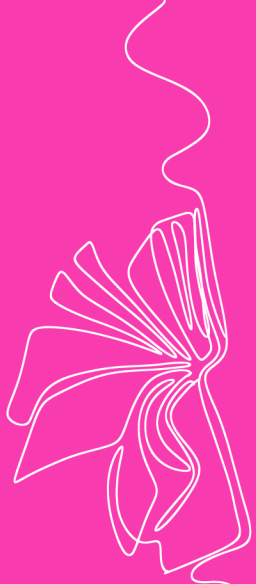
Katherine Johnson is a Tasmanian novelist and feature writer. She has published four novels and been published in *The Conversation*, *Good Weekend*, *Forty South* and *Island*. *The Better Son* won Tasmanian Literary Awards for an unpublished manuscript. *Paris Savages* was shortlisted in the Australian Book Industry Awards (ABIA) and was published in the UK, the US and Italy. It was named *The Times* historical fiction book of the month in July 2020. Katherine was awarded the inaugural *The Australian Fiction* prize for her upcoming novel, which will be published by HarperCollins. Katherine trained as a science journalist, and holds a PhD in creative writing from the University of Tasmania where she is an Adjunct Researcher and a communications manager.

@KJohnsonauthor

katherinejohnsonauthor.com

Anne Kellas

Anne Kellas' fourth collection of poems, *Ways to Say Goodbye* (Liquid Amber Press), has been shortlisted for the Tim Thorne Prize in the 2025 Tasmanian Literary Awards. Praised for its "paradoxical, shimmering images [which] do the work of understanding, grieving, and remembering in ways that are beyond being paraphraseable" (Kevin Brophy), the book features in David Ades' *Poet's Corner* podcast series, and in reviews by Geoff Page (*Quadrant*) and Michael Sharkey (*Rochford Street Review*).



Anne Kellas (cont.)

Supported by an Australia Council grant, Anne's third book, *The White Room Poems* (Walleah Press) was shortlisted in the 2017 Tasmanian literary awards. Earlier books, *Isolated States* (2001) and *Poems from Mt Moono* (1989) have been translated in their entirety into Ukrainian, and some recent work has been translated into Portuguese. Born to Scottish parents, she's lived in South Africa, England, Swaziland and, for the past 38 years, in Tasmania, where she's often mentored Tasmanian poets.

Mark Mannock

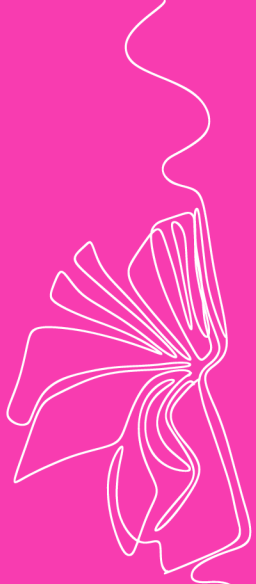
Amazon bestselling author Mark Mannock writes the successful Nicholas Sharp Thrillers sold in over 50 countries worldwide. Sharp is a complex character who turned his back on his life as a US Marine sniper to seek solace in his beloved piano. Despite his best efforts, Sharp's insatiable curiosity combined with his inability to turn his back on those in trouble leads him into situations fraught with danger. Mark's new series, *The Lachlan Byrn Thrillers*, explore the fine line between an assassin, a vigilante, and a serial killer. Byrn's escapades take the reader on an interesting journey into one man's dark psychological make up.

Hamish Maxwell-Stewart

Hamish Maxwell-Stewart is a Professor of Heritage and Digital Humanities at the University of New England, New South Wales, although he works from his home in Hobart. The author of over 100 books and articles, he has previously held positions at the Universities of Glasgow, Tasmania and University College, Dublin. An internationally recognised expert on convict transportation, Hamish has led a team that has digitised, coded and linked 2.5 million Tasmanian historical records—by far the largest historical database assembled in Australia to date. It is this that powers the recently installed Convict Memorial in the National Trust operated Penitentiary Chapel, Hobart. He is also the unpaid CEO of Digital History Tasmania and Deputy Chair of the Board of Woolmers World Heritage site.

Cary Lenehan

Cary Lenehan is a former trades assistant, soldier, public servant, cab driver, truck driver, game designer, fishmonger, horticulturalist and university tutor – among other things. His hobbies include collecting and reading books (the non-fiction are Dewey decimalised), Tasmanian native plants (particularly the edible ones), medieval re-creation and gaming. He has taught people how to use everything from short-swords to rocket launchers. He met his wife at an SF Convention while cosplaying and they have been together since that time. He was born in Sydney before marrying and moving to the Snowy Mountains where they started their family. They moved to Tasmania for the warmer winters. Looking out of the window beside Cary's computer in Hobart/nipaluna is a sweeping view of Mount Wellington/kunanyi and its range of mountains.



Gina Mercer

Gina Mercer grew up on Bundjalung country. There her mother immersed her in the joy of word play. This gifted Gina a career working with words – as writer, editor, teacher. Gina has taught writing and literature in universities and communities for over 30 years, she was Editor of Island magazine from 2006-2010, and she has published 13 books. Gina figures that in an elemental climate crisis – poets need to act. So, she’s writing a sequence of activist meditations that attend to the elements: Earth, Air, Fire & Water. Her latest books are: Weaving Nests with Smoke and Stone (2015), a poetry collection all about birds & Air; The Dictionary of Water (a limited edition, bespoke publication, 2019); and Watermark (2022), a poetry collection all about Water. Gina was selected for a residency on King Island in 2022. There she worked on Bedrock – poems all about the element of Earth.

Mallika Naguran

Mallika Naguran is a writer and editor of adult and children’s books. She Never Looks Quite Back is her debut collection of short stories. The Penguin book was shortlisted for the Singapore Literature Prize 2022. She also authored adaptations of these classics for children: Peter Pan, and Ramayana: The Quest to Rescue Sita (WS Publishing, 2021). Mallika was a judge of Forty South Publishing Short Story Anthology 2023. Her short fiction has been featured in various publications including Voices of the Southern Ocean (Hobartian Press, 2024, for the UNESCO City of Literature selection committee), Forty South and Epigram’s Best Singapore Short Stories 2024. By creating Pub to Park Storytelling, she enabled original stories and poems to be heard in remote places of Tasmania. When not writing, she stalks a platypus by the River Ouse in the central highlands of Tasmania, her home.

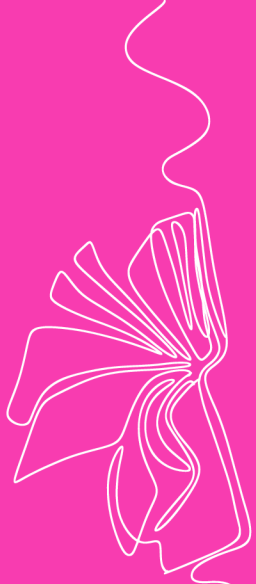
Adam Ouston

Adam Ouston lives in Hobart. His debut novel, Waypoints (2022), was nominated for the Miles Franklin Award, the ALS Gold Medal, and the Tasmanian Premier’s Prize for Fiction. He is a ghostwriter, bookseller, university lecturer, and musician.

Lou Powers

Ex soldier, sports coach, former IT professional, previously unemployed bum and one-time pizza delivery driver, Lou Powers weaves aspects of his entire life into his stories, often drawing on real-life experiences for inspiration. The author of the Jimmy Eyebrow - Budget Hitman series of books, Lou plots his stories out at the highest level, but once the writing starts, the chaos begins. He knows where he's going, but hasn't a clue how he's going to get there, which is then ultimately reflected in the shambolic journey that Jimmy Eyebrow and his cohorts inevitably find themselves embarking on in each book.

In full understanding that his works are as likely to win a literary award as he is of being appointed the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lou instead hopes simply that his readers get enjoyment out of his stories and read them through the same ridiculous lens with which they were written.



Lucinda Sharp)

Lucinda danced with The Australian Ballet from 1974 to 1984 and, after her performance career, became a rehearsal director/teacher for several regional dance companies. She then studied at the University of Western Australia, graduating in 1999 with a master's degree in clinical psychology. On completion of her studies, Lucinda worked as a psychologist in the performing arts for the Australian Ballet School, the Australian Ballet company, the Australian National Academy of Music and in private practice. In 2012 Lucinda and her husband, Chris Champion, moved to Hobart where they own and operate Forty South Publishing, the largest Tasmanian book publisher and publishers of the iconic Forty South Tasmania (print and online magazine).

Jane Rawson

Jane Rawson is the Managing Editor at Island magazine and co-edited Breathing space, a collection of reflections and projections on nature in Tasmania. She is also the author of novels A history of dreams, From the wreck and A wrong turn at the Office of Unmade Lists, a novella, Formaldehyde, and the non-fiction book The Handbook: surviving & living with climate change. Her next book is Human/Nature: On life in a wild world, and it will be published by NewSouth in April 2025.

Tansy Rayner Roberts

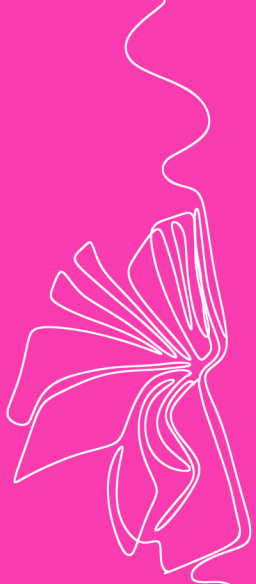
Tansy Rayner Roberts (also writing as Livia Day) is a Tasmanian indie author with more than 25 years writing and publishing experience. She has won multiple awards including two Hugos, and was the co-host of two popular podcasts: Galactic Suburbia, and Verity. Tansy has run five successful crowdfunding campaigns and assisted on several more. You can find her as @tansyrr on Patreon, Insta, Bluesky and Threads.

<https://www.instagram.com/tansyrr/>

<https://tansyrr.com/>

Leigh Swinbourne

Leigh Swinbourne is a dramatist and fiction writer resident in Hobart. His work has been shortlisted for the Patrick White Playwrights' Award, the Varuna Award and The Tasmanian Literary Prizes. He has six plays published with Australian Plays Transformed. Through Ginninderra Press he has published two critically acclaimed collections of short stories, 'The Shark' (2011) and 'Away' (2014), and a novel, 'Shadow in the Forest' (2019). In 2023 he was awarded an Australian Society of Authors mentorship for a second novel. In 2024 he published his third collection of stories, 'The Lost Child', longlisted 2025 for the Premier's Prize for Fiction. More on Leigh's writing can be found at www.leighswinbourne.com.au.



Peter Timms

Peter Timms held curatorial positions in Australian museums between 1973 and 1988. He was awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 1984 and an Australia Council Senior Writers' Fellowship in 1994. Since 1988 he has been a freelance journalist and author, including five years as editor of Art Monthly Australia and art critic for The Age. Peter has published eleven books, including Australian Studio Pottery, Making Nature, What's Wrong with Contemporary Art?, Australia's Quarter Acre, Private Lives, and Hobart. His first novel, Asking for Trouble, was published by HarperCollins in 2014. His most recent book is Silliness: a Serious History.

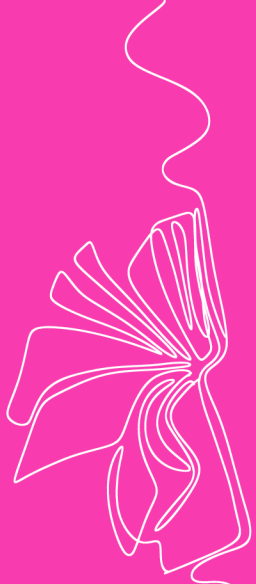
Ben Walter

Ben Walter is a Walkley award-winning essayist and the author of the short story collection What Fear Was. A past fiction editor at Island, his writing has recently appeared in Poetry Ireland Review, The Cimarron Review (US), 3:AM Magazine (France), The Guardian and On This Ground: Best Australian Nature Writing. His debut poetry collection is forthcoming later in 2025.

David Webby

David, originally born in New Zealand, has lived in various parts of Australia and currently lives in the beautiful Huon Valley in Tasmania, with his wife, two labradoodles, and a few chooks. He is a man of many talents; juggler, photographer, and bee keeper, to name a few, and loves hiking the wilds of Tasmania. A self-confessed 'Foot Magician' (aka Podiatrist), by day. David loves the life balance of work and home life. It gives him time for personal and creative pursuits, including writing.

David has been writing for over ten years. After a hilarious incident, when two mice jumped out of the car upon their return from a Bunya Mountains holiday, his wife, Victoria, said 'that was so funny. You should write a story about that!' Thus, the adventures of Harry and Larry were born. Including stories originating from an extended camping holiday around Australia in 2016, the trilogy 'The Misadventures of Harry and Larry' was produced. It was officially published in 2022.

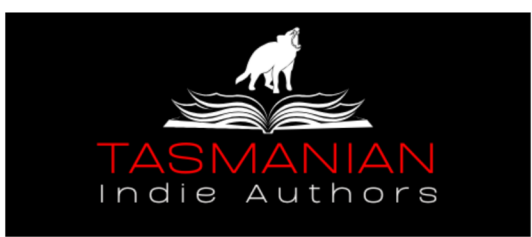
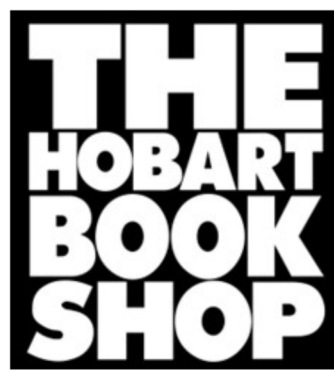


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