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MELBOURNE JEWISH BOOK WEEK

Melbourne Jewish Book Week is presented in association with the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation (ACJC) at Monash University

WWW.MELBOURNEJEWISHBOOKWEEK.COM.AU
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Book Clubs
CAE Caulfield 3
Second Wednesday Club
The Botanicals
Literati
Happy Bookers
B’nai Brith Non Fiction
Non-Fiction Classic Book Club

Official Bookseller
Readings

Website
Nikolov

Printed Program
Malvolio

Cover Design
Little Black Sheep Design
FROM THE DIRECTORS

This year has marked itself as the year to stand for something. We have seen a groundswell of movements for equality, refugees and political reform. It is of little surprise that the writing that has ensued, provokes, challenges – and at times makes us laugh while we cry.

Melbourne Jewish Book Week is proud to celebrate the multifaceted voice of our talented literary community, both here and beyond our shores. This year’s program focuses on questions of identity, memory and power, while still recognising the pleasure of good literature. It is purposefully broad in topics, genres and contributors.

We thank our committed team of volunteers from the bottom of our hearts. They have worked tirelessly, giving their time and good humour. Without them and our generous supporters, this sensational week of events could not be happening.

And now, we encourage you to let go and engage in a week of questions, confrontations and illuminations, as you immerse yourselves in our inaugural program of delights.

Noe Harsel & Janine Schloss
Co-Directors Melbourne Jewish Book Week

OUR PEOPLE

Executive and Programming Committee
Noe Harsel: Co-Director
Janine Schloss: Co-Director
Esther Kister: Development Manager, Emeritus Director
Morry Frenkel: Administration Manager
Tali Lavi: Program Manager
Bram Presser: Program Manager
Julie Grossbard: Events Manager
Dina Kluska: PR Manager
Margaret Brener
Rita Kornhauser
Emma Kranz
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School Committee
Randi Grose
Susan Fooks
Sara Tiefenbrun
Hannah Fagenblat

Accounts
Margaret Fischer

Volunteer Coordinator
Leonie Fleiszig
SPECIAL EVENTS

Gala Opening Event:
The World According To...
7.30pm, Thursday 3rd May
The Auditorium, Glen Eira Town Hall, Caulfield

A literary styled cabaret where music meets storytelling.

‘The World According To...’ will mesmerise you with voices which are unlike those you have heard before, strange and familiar, from near and far. Whose world will we enter? Directed and performed by Galit Klas, accompanied by the reading of original pieces by writers: Michael Brooks (UK), Andrea Goldsmith, Dror Mishani (Israel), Abigail Ulman, Damon Young and Jessica Bellamy.

Special Event:
More than One America
7.30pm, Saturday 5th May
The Saturday Paper Auditorium, St Kilda Town Hall, St Kilda

Join Nicolas Brasch, the Chair of Writers Victoria, for a lively and provocative session as he talks to award-winning American novelists Rachel Kadish and Stefan Merrill Block about their outstanding novels, The Weight of Ink and Oliver Loving. Winner of the 2017 American National Jewish Book Award, The Weight of Ink is an historical journey of two women, set in England and Israel. Oliver Loving, a tale of love and redemption, is set in Texas in the present time. Nicolas Brasch will explore with the authors what it means to be writing in America today and what the role of the fiction writer might be in the current US landscape with its shifting realities.
Keynote Address: Michael Brooks, The Unexplained Universe

7.30pm, Sunday 6th May
The Saturday Paper Auditorium,
St Kilda Town Hall, St Kilda

Michael Brooks will discuss quantum physics with Jerome Cardano, the renowned 16th-century mathematician, physician, inventor, astrologer, gambler and blasphemer, and discuss that our ability to explain the physical world has not progressed as far as we might have expected. This popular print, radio and television science presenter from the UK will then be joined by his Australian counterpart, Norman Swan, in a science session that promises to fascinate and entertain.

Closing Event:
Tales: Tall and True

7.30pm, Wednesday 9th May
Memo Music Hall, St Kilda

Expect to be beguiled, bedazzled and even a teeny bit bewildered. Our brilliant MC Jaye Kranz will compere an evening of wonder, laughter and tears, of raw nerves, bitten nails and other delights we cannot reveal in advance.

Performers Husky Gawenda, Morris Gleitzman, Elise Hearst, Judy Horacek, Sarah Krasnostein, Bram Presser and Maria Tumarkin will tell stories improbable and impossible – but all absolutely true.

Gandel Philanthropy Schools Program

Melbourne Jewish Book Week has worked with Jewish schools to present a program of Jewish writers across a great range of genres relevant to many areas of the curriculum. Featured writers include Idan Ben-Barak, Ursula Dubosarsky, Morris Gleitzman, Nicki Greenberg and Damon Young.
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<td>10.00am–11.00am</td>
<td><strong>In Conversation</strong> Robert Manne with Raimond Gaita</td>
<td><strong>In Memoir Of</strong> Caroline Baum Mark Baker Sara Vidal Renata Singer</td>
<td>11.00am–12.00pm</td>
<td><strong>FREE EVENT</strong> Stilled Voices Danielle Charak Joyce Marks Judy Turner Genia Janover Leah Justin</td>
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<td>11.15am–12.15pm</td>
<td><strong>Other People’s Lives</strong> Bram Presser Sarah Krasnostein Heather Morris Mark Baker</td>
<td><strong>The Indelible Past</strong> Stefan Merrill Block Maria Tumarkin Tali Lavi</td>
<td>12.15pm–1.15pm</td>
<td><strong>FREE EVENT</strong> Mind Your Mind Elise Bialylew Ros Ben-Moshe Howard Goldenberg</td>
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<td>12.30pm–1.30pm</td>
<td><strong>Female Voices Count</strong> Sara Dowse Sarah Krasnostein Judy Horacek Fiona Harari</td>
<td><strong>Difficult Women</strong> Nicole Trope Kerri Sackville Rachel Kadish Megan Goldin</td>
<td>1.30pm–2.30pm</td>
<td><strong>FREE EVENT</strong> Oy, What A Read! Arnold Zable Michael Gawenda Nathan Wolski Dvora Zviberman Hinde Ena Burstin</td>
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<td>1.45pm–2.45pm</td>
<td><strong>All In The Family</strong> Barbara Kamler Caroline Baum Henry Rosenbloom John Serry</td>
<td><strong>Breaking Boundaries</strong> Leah Kaminsky Abigail Ulman Lee Kofman Kerri Sackville</td>
<td>2.45pm–3.45pm</td>
<td><strong>FREE EVENT</strong> Corporate Culture Joel Gerschman Leanne Faraday-Brash Leon Gettler</td>
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<td>3.00pm–4.00pm</td>
<td><strong>We Need To Talk About Death</strong> Sarah Krasnostein Steven Amsterdam Leah Kaminsky Renata Singer</td>
<td><strong>FREE EVENT</strong> <strong>Reading Fiction With X-Ray Eyes</strong> Special event with Nadine Davidoff</td>
<td>4.00pm–5.00pm</td>
<td><strong>FREE EVENT</strong> Written On The Body Jessica Friedmann Heather Morris Lee Kofman</td>
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<td>4.15pm–5.15pm</td>
<td><strong>Expressing The Inexpressible</strong> Winton Higgins Colin Tatz Fiona Harari Mark Baker</td>
<td><strong>Windows Into Israel</strong> Dror Mishani Sara Dowse Dvir Abramovich Yvonne Fein</td>
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Playing the Political Game
The Saturday Paper Auditorium
How does sport reflect our values, our understanding of racism and our experience of prejudice? Journalist and author Harry Blutstein (Cold War Games) and Professor Colin Tatz (Human Rights and Human Wrongs), will discuss how sport in Australia holds a mirror up to our culture, displaying the tensions that exist politically, as well as socially. Chaired by senior journalist for AFL Media, Howard Kotton.

In Conversation: Rachel Kadish with Tali Lavi
Council Chambers
Winner of the 2017 American National Jewish Book Award for her latest novel The Weight of Ink, international author Rachel Kadish talks with Tali Lavi about her writing life with forays into the territory of desire, false messiahs, Americans abroad and the notion of happiness found in all her fiction. Toni Morrison describes Kadish as ‘a gifted writer, astonishingly adept at nuance, narration, and the politics of passion’.

Workshop with Damon Young: My Mum is a Magician
Ngargee Room
Damon Young will engage and fascinate young and old with his spellbinding picture book celebrating Mums everywhere. Suitable for ages 4-7 years and anyone young at heart. This session is supported by the Gandel Philanthropy Children’s Program.

Write Line Fever: The Art of Sports Writing
Gunwarrua Room
Sport is often seen as the perfect form of escapism, the chance to turn off the real world and be immersed in a contest with little ultimate consequence. But as sports fans know, the very best sports stories transcend the action out on the field, and contain all the emotion and drama of the human condition. Yvette Wroby, Ashley Browne, and Anita Selzer are the sports writers. Chaired by journalist Jason Frenkel.

The Language of Politics
The Saturday Paper Auditorium
In an age of information overload, where rhetoric is lost to hyperbole amidst the twenty four hour news cycle and the constant social media feeds, what has happened to the language of politics? Three acclaimed writers Tony Kevin, Andrea Goldsmith, and Jonathan Pearlman will analyse the past, present and future of the ever-changing landscape of language in the political arena. Chaired by author and Fairfax columnist, Julie Szego.

In Conversation: Stefan Merrill Block with Caroline Baum
Council Chambers
Stefan Merrill Block is a multi-award winning American author. Stefan will be in conversation with Caroline Baum, distinguished journalist, broadcaster and author, who will examine notions of family and trauma, how one navigates secrets and, the transformative power of grief and love found in his first book, The Story of Forgetting, and his latest novel Oliver’s Longing. This session is supported by Kaye and Barry Fink.

Storytime and Drawing with Judy Horacek
Ngargee Room
Join the inimitable Judy Horacek and learn how to draw emotions and feelings, using faces and bodies, drawing your own...and some sheep! With singing and reading aloud. Suitable for ages 4-7 years and anyone young at heart. This session is supported by the Gandel Philanthropy Children’s Program.

Archaeology: Digging Up Stories
Gunwarrua Room
Archaeologists deal with ‘things’ – things used, eaten or made by past peoples. In this session, Dr David Frankel, joined by archaeological and heritage consultant Ricky Feldman, will discuss how we turn these ‘things’ into stories. What sort of stories do we want to tell, and what sort of stories can we tell? David answers these questions using examples from local Victorian archaeological digs.
SUNDAY 6 MAY 2018, ST KILDA TOWN HALL

12.30pm–1.30pm

Elsewhere Streets
The Saturday Paper Auditorium

Join celebrated writers A. S. Patrić, Alice Pung and Arnold Zable as they discuss the immigrant experience in Australian literature, and explore how notions of home, belonging, and difference influence the way we construct our cultural national identities. Chaired by Bram Presser. This session is dedicated to the memory of Serge Liberman.

In Conversation: Dror Mishani with Stewart King
Council Chambers

Dror Mishani is the best-selling crime novelist in Israel. Mishani’s novels are available in English and have been translated into many languages, won numerous awards and adapted for screen and television. He will discuss the specificity of the Israeli crime novel with Stewart King and why Mishani’s novels are as much about suburban Israeli life as they are about solving crimes.

Red Diaper Babies
Ngargee Room

What was it like to have grown up in a politically charged environment? Sara Dowse, Mark Aarons and Harry Blutstein all grew up in Communist households. Judith Buckrich will chair the conversation examining how their childhood experiences have shaped their literary lives. This session is supported by Joseph and Rose Reich.

Reading: The Librarian of Auschwitz
Gunuwarra Room FREE EVENT

Written by Antonio Iturbe in Spanish and translated by Melbourne based translator Lilit Žekulin Thwaites, The Librarian of Auschwitz was recently awarded the Sydney Taylor Gold Medal by the US Association of Jewish Libraries. Lilit will read excerpts and discuss this remarkable story with the curator of the Jewish Holocaust Centre, Jayne Josem.

1.45pm–2.45pm

The Russians are Coming
The Saturday Paper Auditorium

Journalist Mark Aarons, Professor Colin Tatz and author Tony Kevin will examine the relationship between Russia and the Western world, providing their own perspectives on the current global political landscape. Chaired by Paula Michaels.

Through History’s Looking Glass
Council Chambers

From the meticulously authentic to the daringly playful and everything in between, Rachel Kadish, Marija Perić and Bram Presser discuss different approaches to writing about the past, and explore the ways in which rethinking accepted narratives can provide insight not only into history as we think we know it, but to our understanding of the present and future as well. Chaired by Marie Matteson.

The Jewniverse
Ngargee Room

Recipient of The Australian Book Review RAFT Fellowship in 2017, Elisabeth Holdsworth grapples with the current Jewish landscape in her essay If This is a Jew. Join Elisabeth Holdsworth, historian Paul Forgasz and Rabbi James Kennard as they explore who we are and where we might be heading. Chaired by Rebecca Wartell.

Shades of Male
Gunuwarra Room

From the vulnerable male to toxic masculinity and shades in between, contemporary novels mirror today’s society, but they also hold the possibility of presenting us with new ways of seeing and thinking about the business of being a male. Nathan Besser, David Cohen and Stefan Merrill Block (US) will explore their male characters and what it is to be a male writer. With Marc Light, Principal of The King David School.
3.00pm–4.00pm

Sir John Monash: The Jewish Question
The Saturday Paper Auditorium

Three biographers – Peter FitzSimons Monash’s Masterpiece, Roland Perry Monash: The Outsider Who Won the War, and Tim Fischer Maestro John Monash, discuss John Monash’s less well-known battles, and the discrimination and anti-semitism he fought to overcome. Chaired by Ted Baillieu. This session is supported by Lee Liberman.

The Past Re-examined
Council Chambers

How do events which have been exhaustively researched in the past hold up under contemporary scrutiny? Jürgen Tampke and Winton Higgins analyse new ways of considering and interpreting key moments of early 20th century history. Chaired by Tony Kevin. This session is supported by Joseph and Rose Reich.

Somebody Else for a Change (3.00pm–3.30pm)
Ngargee Room FREE EVENT

Yvonne Fein will read excerpts from her latest book Choose Somebody Else and then discuss with Alex Skovron this collection of short stories redolent of the great Yiddish storytelling tradition.

Our Acland Street (3.30pm–4.00pm)
Ngargee Room FREE EVENT

Did you know that until the 1880s, Acland Street was Melbourne’s most desired address? Acland Street: The Grand Old Lady of St Kilda, written by Judith Buckrich, is an unconventional book. Judith will be talking with Renata Singer about our – and everybody else’s – Acland Street.

Jewish Noir
Gunuwarra Room

Carmel Shute from Sisters in Crime Australia speaks to three crime authors – Israel’s Dror Mishani, and Australia’s Nathan Besser and Megan Goldin, about what the crime genre has to say about contemporary society and the light it sheds on people, places and problems.

4.15pm–5.15pm

Emerging Ethical Dilemmas in Science
The Saturday Paper Auditorium

Scientific advances often have unpredictable consequences. Today’s robots are our servants, but will this always be so? With greater understanding of the human genome comes questionable exploitation of that knowledge. Many issues highlight the need for scientists to confront the risks and ethics of their research, and for the community to be responsibly informed. Morry Frenkel will chair this important conversation with science writers and broadcasters Michael Brooks (UK), Norman Swan and Elizabeth Finkel. This session is supported by the Finkel Foundation.

In Conversation: Mohammed Al Samawi with Jonathan Pearlman
Council Chambers

Mohammed Al Samawi was born in 1986 and escaped from Yemen in 2015 to settle in the United States where he has been lecturing widely to promote inter-faith relations. Jonathan Pearlman, editor of Australian Foreign Affairs magazine, will be in conversation with Mohammed Al Samawi, to discover more about his journey to freedom as described in The Fox Hunt, a real-life survival story of faith, curiosity, and the power of human connection in the face of conflict.

Dancing with Words
Ngargee Room

If you have never been to a poetry reading, or if you want to become a poet, here is a good place to start. Barbara Kamler will introduce three of Melbourne’s finest poets – Alex Skovron, Lisa Jacobson and Philip Salom. Each poet will read a selection of poems from his or her works. Each will offer a different style to make the words dance in your ears. A personal tribute to the late Fay Zwicky will close this special event. For poetry lovers everywhere.
Alegria Book Launch
The Saturday Paper Auditorium FREE EVENT

Published locally by Romy Moshinsky (Real Film and Publishing), Alegria by Karen Liberman is a stunning collection of stories and cooking traditions, with recipes celebrating her family’s Moroccan heritage. Everyone is welcome to the launch of Alegria by renowned food writer, editor, speaker and broadcaster, Rita Ehrlich.

Mohammed Al Samawi will be appearing at 4.15–5.15pm, in conversation with Jonathan Pearlman

Keynote Address:
Michael Brooks, The Unexplained Universe
The Saturday Paper Auditorium

Jerome Cardano, the central character in The Quantum Astrologer’s Handbook, takes centre stage as we are led through a science keynote address like no other by internationally renowned U.K. science writer and presenter, Michael Brooks, Finkel Foundation Science Writer. Norman Swan will join Brooks directly after his presentation.

‘Jerome Cardano is my all-time favourite mathematical rogue. Michael Brooks has brought him vividly to life in entertaining, informative, and highly original conversations about frontier physics, held across a gulf of centuries. A daring and successful experiment and a new kind of popular science writing.’

Published in Australia by Scribe Publications.
10.00am–11.00am

**In Conversation: Robert Manne with Raimond Gaita**
The Saturday Paper Auditorium

Robert Manne has published more than 20 books and has just released his latest work, *On Borrowed Time*, a collection of personal and political essays. He will be in conversation with moral philosopher and award-winning writer, Raimond Gaita. Be prepared for a stimulating and challenging start to the day with two of Australia’s leading public intellectuals.

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**In Memoir Of**
Council Chambers

Contemporary memoirs are often confronting in their revelations. Join moderator Renata Singer and memoir writers Caroline Baum (*Only*), Mark Baker (*Thirty Days* and *The Fiftieth Gate*) and Sara Vidal (*Bella and Chaim*) to explore ‘what it is’ that compels us to tell our stories and those of our nearest and dearest. And just how much should we reveal about ourselves and others?

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11.15am–12.15pm

**Other People’s Lives**
The Saturday Paper Auditorium

What do we talk about when we talk about other people’s lives? Find out how Bram Presser (*The Book of Dirt*), Victorian Premier’s Literary Award Winner Sarah Krasnostein (*The Trauma Cleaner*) and Heather Morris (*The Tattooist of Auschwitz*) have achieved this empathy with compassion and a keen sense of responsibility in their writing. Chaired by Mark Baker.

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**The Indelible Past**
Council Chambers

How do we view the past: as a spectre, as a gift, as a stain? *Axiomatic*, the latest book written by cultural historian Maria Tumarkin interrogates the ways we relate to the past, whilst the work of novelist Stefan Merrill Block often addresses its complexities. From the national to the individual, the real and the fictional, come prepared to radically rethink the way the past works on our present. Chaired by Tali Lavi.

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11.00am–12.00pm

**Stilled Voices**
Ngargee Room FREE EVENT

Get to know four remarkable people: Shaul Rogowoj of Stanley Rogers tableware fame whose Yiddish stories evoke Sholem Aleichem; his son, philanthropist and family memoirist William (Bill) Rogers; Amirah Inglis, a migrant child who became a passionate Communist Party member, essayist and author; and Itzchak Meir Khuska, whose diaries recorded his harrowing Holocaust experience. Their voices will be heard once more as Danielle Charak, Joyce Marks, Judy Turner and Genia Janover (Khuska) tell their stories and read from their writing. Chaired by Leah Justin.

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12.15pm–1.15pm

**Mind Your Mind**
Ngargee Room FREE EVENT

The science is out, mindfulness can transform your brain and body for the better. Elise Bialylew (*Mindful in May*) is the founder of the world’s largest online mindfulness campaign, and Ros Ben-Moshe is the founding Director of LaughLife Wellbeing Programs, and Adjunct Lecturer at the School of Public Health, La Trobe University. Howard Goldenberg will join Elise and Ros to explore their stories and discuss the latest science around mindfulness and how it can transform your life.
# MONDAY 7 MAY 2018, ST KILDA TOWN HALL

## 12.30pm–1.30pm

**Female Voices Count**  
The Saturday Paper Auditorium

Feminism: where did it come from, where it is now, and where it is going? Join authors **Sara Dowse** (*As the Lonely Fly*), billed as one of Australia's first 'femocrats', **Sarah Krasnostein** (*The Trauma Cleaner*) and **Judy Horacek** (*Random Life*) as they explore these themes in fiction and non-fiction. Chaired by **Fiona Harari**. This session is dedicated to Bettie Kornhauser.

## 1.45pm–2.45pm

**All in the Family**  
The Saturday Paper Auditorium

Family defines us by our past, our present and our future. How does your life change if your family relationships have been disrupted or if they are not positive? Join **Caroline Baum** (*Only*), **Barbara Kamler** (*Leaving New Jersey*), and **Henry Rosenbloom** (*Miracles Do Happen*) as they pick apart how their families have shaped their identities. Chaired by teaching psychiatrist **John Serry**. Supported by The Botanicals Book Club in memory of Golda Isaac.

## 1.30pm–2.30pm

**Difficult Women**  
Council Chambers

In this time of #metoo, women’s empowerment has never been talked about more. Does speaking out make women “difficult”? Join **Nicole Trope** (*Forgotten*), **Kerri Sackville** (*Out There: a Survival Guide for Dating in Midlife*) and **Rachel Kadish** (*The Weight of Ink*) as they discuss how to challenge and speak out about the expectations placed on being a woman. Chaired by best-selling thriller writer, **Megan Goldin**.

## 2.45pm–3.45pm

**Corporate Culture**  
Ngargee Room  **FREE EVENT**

When it comes to the current business climate, what are the issues we face in order to keep afloat ethically? Accountability, facing reality, courage and self-awareness are all factors that come into play. Join experts in their field **Leanne Farraday-Brash** (*Vulture Cultures*), **Joel Gerschman** (*The Mindful Entrepreneur*) and **Leon Gettler** (*Organisations Behaving Badly*) as they navigate through the world of corporate culture.

## 2.45pm–3.45pm

**Oy, What a Read!**  
Ngargee Room  **FREE EVENT**

“Oy, what a read!” or “Best-kvellers: the Yiddish books that shaped our lives”. A lively panel of acclaimed Yiddish writers, scholars, and teachers introduce their favourite Yiddish books, and discuss the ways these best-kvellers influenced and shaped their lives. A session guaranteed to stimulate and surprise you, with guests **Arnold Zable**, **Michael Gawenda**, **Dvora Zylberman** and **Nathan Wolski**. Chaired by **Hinde Ena Burstin**. Non-Yiddish speakers welcome!
3.00pm–4.00pm

We Need to Talk About Death
The Saturday Paper Auditorium

This panel is not about passing on, eternal rest, slipping away, giving up the ghost or pushing up the daisies. Steven Amsterdam, Leah Kaminsky and Sarah Krasnostein are writers who smash through the euphemisms, and with moderator Renata Singer, go full frontal with that taboo – death.

Special Event: Reading Fiction with X-Ray Eyes
Council Chambers FREE EVENT

Seize this opportunity to improve your critical reading skills while at the same time increasing your reading pleasure. Under the expert guidance of Nadine Davidoff, book editor and writing/editing teacher, new avenues for exploring the nuances and treasures within fiction will be opened up to you. Based on the Jewish Museum of Australia’s short course.

4.00pm–5.00pm

Written on the Body
Ngargee Room FREE EVENT

Often we shape our bodies but can our bodies shape our lives? Jessica Friedmann (Things That Helped) and Heather Morris (The Tattooist of Auschwitz) discuss the body and its sensations – pain, desire, hunger and comfort. Chaired by Lee Kofman.

4.15am–5.15pm

Expressing the Inexpressible
The Saturday Paper Auditorium

Not only must we never forget, but we must also never stop trying to understand. Winton Higgins, Colin Tatz and Fiona Harari take different approaches in their search for comprehension. With chair Mark Baker, they discuss why it is essential to continue to extend our understanding of the Holocaust and its ongoing consequences.

Windows into Israel
Council Chambers

Israeli literature offers fascinating insights into the Israeli national psyche. Join Dror Mishani (The Missing File), Sara Dowse (As the Lonely Fly) and academic Dvir Abramovich (A Touch of Genius: Portraits and Literary Masterpieces) to discuss the use of poetry, mysticism and issues of national pride in writing about Israeli society, past and present. Chaired by Yvonne Fein. This session is supported by the Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning.

Dror Mishani
Mark Aarons was an investigative reporter on ABC Radio National for twenty years, and was the founding executive producer of Background Briefing. He is the author or co-author of six books, including investigations of war criminals in Australia. His most recent book was The Family File.

Dr Dvir Abramovich is the Israel Kipen Director of the Program in Jewish Culture & Society at the University of Melbourne and Chairman of the Anti-Defamation Commission. His latest publication is A Touch of Genius. His new book Fragments of Hell will be published later this year.

Steven Amsterdam is the author of two titles, and most recently, The Easy Way Out, which was shortlisted for both the ALS Gold Medal Award and the Prime Minister’s Literary Award, as well as being longlisted for the Miles Franklin Award. He is also a palliative care nurse.

Ted Baillieu was Victoria’s 46th Premier and Minister for Arts from 2010 to 2013, and retired from Parliament in 2014. He is currently Chair of the Victorian Government’s ANZAC Centenary Committee.

Mark Raphael Baker is the author of two memoirs – Thirty Days: A Journey to the End of Love and The Fiftieth Gate: A Journey Through Memory. Mark was formerly Associate Professor and Director of the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation (ACJC), Monash University.

Caroline Baum has had a distinguished career in arts journalism and broadcasting. Her writing has appeared in two anthologies: My Mother, My Father and Rebellious Daughters. In 2015, Caroline was awarded the Hazel Rowley Fellowship.

Jessica Bellamy is a playwright and theatre maker who has recently worked with the Melbourne Theatre Company, Malthouse Theatre, Checkpoint Theatre in Singapore and Griffin Theatre in Sydney.

Idan Ben-Barak is the best-selling author of Small Wonders: How Microbes Rule Our World. It won a major American Science Prize. Do Not Lick This Book is his latest publication. Idan will be appearing in the Gandel Philanthropy Schools Program.

Ros Ben-Moshe is the author of Laughing at Cancer - How to Heal with Love, Laughter and Mindfulness, which is both a memoir of her journey to wellness and a healing guide for anyone undergoing a significant health or life challenge.

Nathan Besser was born in 1981 and lives in Sydney. He has written poetry and short fiction from the age of sixteen. In 2016, Man in the Corner was published and has been optioned for film by Simon Baker and Rebecca Ring. He is currently working on another novel.

Elise Bialylew is the author of The Happiness Plan and founder of Mindful in May, an online global mindfulness campaign. Her work has featured in the Huffington Post, The New York Times, and on Australian television.

Harry Blutstein has worked as a freelance journalist since 1972. More recently he has published several books. They include An Insider’s Guide to Australia, Ascent of Globalisation and his latest, Cold War Games, on the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games.

Nicolas Brasch has been a full-time writer for more than 20 years and has won Australian and international awards for his many books. He teaches professional and creative writing at Swinburne University and is Chair of Writers Victoria. He is also co-founder and host of The Garret podcast.

Michael Brooks is an author, journalist and broadcaster. A consultant at New Scientist, he also writes regularly for New Statesman and major English newspapers. Brooks has written fiction and non-fiction titles. His latest publication is The Quantum Astrologer’s Handbook.

Ashley Browne is a senior writer with the AFL Record and the AFL website. He also appears regularly on SEN 1116, ABC Grandstand’s AFL coverage and his own podcast, The Four Horsemen. His edited collection Jews and Sport in Australia will be published in May 2018.

Judith Buckrich has written many books, short stories, feature articles and essays on Melbourne; people and places. Her latest publication is Acland Street: The Grand Lady of St Kilda.
Hinde Ena Burstin is a writer and researcher who lives and breathes Yiddish. She is a lecturer in Yiddish language, literature and culture at the ACJC (Monash University), where she co-ordinates the Jacob Kronhill Program in Yiddish Language and Culture.

Danielle Charak OAM has worked as a broadcaster and journalist in the Yiddish language program at Radio SBS for many years. She is currently Panel Chair of the VCE Yiddish examination and a member of the Kadimah committee.

David Cohen lives in Brisbane. He is the author of two novels: Fear of Tennis and Disappearing off the Face of the Earth. His short story collection, The Hunter which was shortlisted for the 2015 Dorothy Hewett Award for an unpublished manuscript, will be published in August 2018.

Nadine Davidoff is a freelance book editor and writing/editing teacher. Nadine teaches fiction editing at Melbourne University, works as a mentor through the Australian Society of Authors and conducts regular writing and editing workshops.

Sara Dowse is an award-winning writer and artist. Her novel West Block drew on her experience as head of the first women’s unit in Australia’s Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. As the Lonely Fly is Dowse’s most important work to date.

Ursula Dubosarsky has won several national literary prizes and has been nominated for both the Hans Christian Anderson and Astrid Lindgren international awards for children’s literature. Ursula will be appearing in the Gandel Philanthropy Schools Program.

Rita Erlich is a writer, editor, speaker and broadcaster with particular interests in food, especially Jewish food. She has written for most Australian newspapers and is the author/editor of 30 books. Melbourne by Menu is her recent publication.


Yvonne Fein is the daughter of Holocaust survivors and is a past lecturer at the Australian Jewish Museum. Yvonne has written and edited books and dramas. Her essays, reviews and stories are published in Australia and overseas. Her latest book is Choose Somebody Else.

Ricky Feldman specialises in managing aboriginal and historical archaeological assessments. He has had over fifteen years of professional experience and has effectively delivered high profile heritage programs for Government and major companies.

Elizabeth Finkel is a former biochemist Since June 2013. She has been Editor-in-Chief of Cosmos. She has published two books and her work is regularly anthologised in Best Australian Science Writing. In 2015, Elizabeth won the Eureka Award for Science Journalism.


Peter FitzSimons is Australia’s best-selling non-fiction writer and lives in Sydney. For the past 30 years he has also been a journalist and columnist with Fairfax Media. Peter’s most recent book is Monash’s Masterpiece.

Paul Forgasz has devoted his professional life to Jewish education. He contributes regularly to the Jewish Museum of Australia’s community education program and the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning.

David Frankel is retired as Emeritus Professor of Archaeology at La Trobe University where he taught for 36 years. He has excavated sites in Australia and Cyprus and published extensively on the archaeological results. His latest book is Between the Murray and the Sea.
Jason Frenkel is a Melbourne-based journalist and media advisor who worked for The Herald Sun and The Australian Jewish News. He is currently the Director of Media for the Yothu Yindi Foundation.

Morry Frenkel was a research scientist at CSIRO for almost 40 years. He was a member of the team that successfully determined the 3-D atomic structures of molecules important in diabetes and a range of cancers.

Jessica Friedmann is a Canberra-based writer and editor. Her essays and other non-fiction works have appeared widely, both in Australia and internationally. Things That Helped is her first published collection.

Raimond Gaita is Emeritus Professor of Moral Philosophy at Kings College, London and a Professorial Fellow at the Melbourne Law School, and the Faculty of Arts at the University of Melbourne. His many books, including Romulus My Father, have been published in Australia and internationally.

Michael Gawenda was editor and editor-in-chief of The Age from 1997 to 2004. He is the author of three non-fiction books and a book of poetry. He has had several Yiddish poems published in magazines in Australia and overseas.

Husky Gawenda has written and recorded three critically-acclaimed albums. He has recently recorded a Yiddish album with the Bashevis Singers, which he co-wrote with his father, Michael Gawenda. Husky is currently working on new songs and poetry for release this year.

Joel Gerschman is a best-selling author in the field of business growth, management and leadership. Joel has helped thousands of business leaders achieve more stability, financial freedom and time for life. He is co-author of #1 Amazon bestseller, The Mindful Entrepreneur.

Leon Gettler is an award-winning journalist, author, podcaster, radio host and blogger. His books, An Unpromised Land, Organisations Behaving Badly and Ten Ways to Survive the Corporate World have been critically acclaimed.

Morris Gleitzman was announced the Australian Children’s Laureate for 2018-2019 in February. As a speaker he uses the mix of humour and emotion. Morris leaves students informed and inspired. Morris will be appearing in the Gandel Philanthropy Schools Program.

Howard Goldenberg is a novelist, a memoirist, an embarrassed bloggist, a frequent father, a fervent saba, a man blessedly married, a family doctor and the world’s slowest marathon runner. A Threefold Cord, is his latest work. He is currently writing A Burned Man, stories from life.

Megan Goldin was a Middle East correspondent for Reuters and other media organisations for a decade. After working as Asia-Pacific Features Editor, Megan returned to Melbourne where she wrote the best-selling psychological thriller, The Girl in Kellers Way. The Escape Room will be published in June.

Andrea Goldsmith is a Melbourne-based novelist. Her fifth novel, The Prosperous Thief, was shortlisted for the 2003 Miles Franklin Award, and The Memory Trap was awarded the 2015 Melbourne Prize. Her new novel, Science of Departures, will be published later this year.

Nicki Greenberg is an award-winning author and illustrator for young adults and junior readers. Her latest book is an illustrated middle-grade novel, The Cursed First Term of Zelda Stitch. Nicki will be appearing in the Gandel Philanthropy Schools Program.

Fiona Harari is an award-winning journalist who has worked for newspapers, magazines, television and radio. She is the author of A Tragedy in Two Acts: Marcus Einfeld and Teresa Brennan. Her latest book is We Are Here: Talking with Australia’s Oldest Holocaust Survivors.

Elise Hearst is a playwright, writer and storyteller. Her recent works for the stage include Bright World at Theatre Works, The Mesh at Red Stitch and The Sea Project at the Griffin Theatre in Sydney.

Winton Higgins is a writer and senior academic. He is currently a research associate at the University of Technology, Sydney. His most recent academic book is The Magnitude of Genocide, co-authored with Professor Colin Tatz. Rule of Law, is a historical novel set during the first Nuremberg trial.

Elisabeth Holdsworth won the inaugural Australian Book Review Calibre Essay Prize in 2007. In 2017, Elisabeth was awarded an ABR RAFT Fellowship. If This is a Jew: Progressive Judaism Around the World will be published as a book in 2019.
Judy Horacek is a freelance Australian cartoonist whose work has been published widely both in Australia and overseas. She has a twice-weekly cartoon gig in The Age. Her ninth cartoon collection, Random Life, was published earlier this year.

April (formerly Lisa) Jacobson is an award-winning Melbourne poet and author. She has published four books of poetry: Hair & Skin & Teeth, The Sunlit Zone (which won the SA Premier’s Award for Poetry in 2014), South in the World and The Asylum Poems.

Genia Janover was born in Germany in 1948 and is the daughter of Holocaust survivors and refugees. Genia has been the recipient of numerous prestigious educational awards for her contribution to Jewish education both in Australia and world-wide.

Jayne Josem has been Curator at the Jewish Holocaust Centre since 2001. In 2009, she became Head of Collections. She is now immersed in developing a new museum and exploring the potential of emerging technologies to engage future visitors.

Leah Justin is the Community Education co-ordinator at the Jewish Museum of Australia. Together with her husband Charles, she is also the co-founder of the Justin Art House Museum, which seeks to interrogate ideas through contemporary art.

Rachel Kadish lives near Boston, Massachusetts. She is the author of four novels, the most recent The Weight of Ink, which won a 2017 American National Jewish Book Award. Her work has appeared in The New York Times and on National Public Radio.

Leah Kaminsky is a physician and award-winning writer. Her debut novel, The Waiting Room, won the prestigious Voss Literary Prize and was shortlisted for the Helen Asher Award. Her second novel, The Hollow Bones, is forthcoming in 2019.

Barbara Kamler is Emeritus Professor of Education at Deakin University. Her first poetry collection Leaving New Jersey tells the story of leaving America, where Barbara was born, and arriving in Australia, where she did not plan to stay. She is working on a second collection Long Love.

Rabbi James Kennard is currently Principal of Mount Scopus Memorial College in Melbourne. He was previously a Principal of two schools in the UK. Rabbi Kennard is a regular newspaper columnist and is a sought-after speaker.

Tony Kevin has written a unique cross-genre memoir Return to Moscow. In 2016, journeying through Russia he recalled his former work there as an Australian diplomat during the Cold War. Kevin’s writings offer challenging thoughts on repairing recently damaged Russia-West relations.

Stewart King is a literary historian specialising in world crime fiction. His research includes the study of literature in a globalising world and the politics and poetics of translation in ‘small’ literary cultures. He teaches in the School of Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics at Monash University.

Galit Klas is an award-winning director, writer and performer. She has directed for La Mama, Fusion Theatre, Bearing Your Arts, the Melbourne Cabaret Festival and the Kadimah. Galit sings cabaret and is a cantorial soloist at several Melbourne synagogues. She recently directed the productions of The Ghetto Cabaret and Shikered.

Lee Kofman is the author of four books, including the memoir The Dangerous Bride and co-editor of Rebellious Daughters. Her short works have been widely published in Australia (Best Australian Stories and Best Australian Essays), and overseas.

Howard Kotton has been a journalist for more than 40 years. He has worked primarily in newspapers, most notably for News Corp, for more than 20 years. Howard has co-written two books and worked at several international sports events. For the past 10 years he has been a senior journalist for AFL Media.
Jaye Kranz is a writer, documentary radio producer and musician. She has published short stories, a novella and occasional non-fiction. Jaye’s radio features have aired on ABC RN and the BBC. She was the host and creative director of *The Radio Hour*, a live non-fiction storytelling event at the Melbourne Writers Festival.

Sarah Krasnostein lives in Melbourne but spends part of the year working in New York City. *The Trauma Cleaner*, her first book, was awarded the Victorian Premier’s Literary Award for best book of 2018.

Tali Lavi is a writer, reviewer and public interviewer. Her reviews and writing have appeared in *Australian Book Review*, *Magpies Magazine*, *Sydney Review of Books*, *The Melbourne Review*, *Kids’ Book Review*, *Overland*, *Manifesto* and the *Short and Scary Anthology*.

Karen Liberman is the author of *Alegria*, a memoir which traces the stories, cooking traditions and recipes of her Sephardic and Ashkenazi ancestors. When she is not writing and cooking, Karen designs jewellery set in gold with precious gemstones and ancient artefacts.

Marc Light is Principal of The King David School. He is a passionate educator who has worked in Jewish education at a number of Melbourne’s schools and community organisations. Marc is an avid reader and a great lover of literature.

Robert Manne is Emeritus Professor of Politics at La Trobe University. His most recent books include *On Borrowed Time* and *The Mind of the Islamic State*. He has written three *Quarterly Essays* and is a regular contributor to *The Monthly* and *The Guardian*.

Joyce Marks left a career in architecture to pursue her passion for education, preferring to build children’s minds. For many years Joyce was the Education Coordinator at the Jewish Museum of Australia.

Marie Matteson is a book buyer and seller at Readings in Carlton, with a special interest in history and non-fiction. Marie has worked as a bookseller for the last 15 years. She has previously been a judge of the Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction and is a regular contributor to the *Readings Monthly*.

Stefan Merrill Block lives in Brooklyn, NY. His stories and essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Granta*, *The Los Angeles Times* and many other publications. His latest book is *Oliver Loving*.

Paula Michaels is an Associate Professor of History at Monash University. Her research focuses on Soviet History and on the history of medicine. She is the author of two prize-winning books, one of which is *Curative Powers: Medicine and Empire in Stalin’s Central Asia*.

Dror A. Mishani is a best-selling crime writer, screenwriter and literary scholar in Israel, specialising in the history of crime fiction. His first three international bestsellers in the Inspector Avraham series were translated into more than 20 languages and have won European crime awards.

Heather Morris is an author and social work administrator. While working in a hospital in Melbourne, she studied and wrote screenplays. In 2003, Heather was introduced to Lale Sokolov, who entrusted her with his Holocaust story. Initially written as a screenplay, it has since become her debut novel, *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*.

A. S. Patrić is a bookseller and teacher of creative writing. His debut novel *Black Rock White City* won the Miles Franklin Award in 2016. His second novel *Atlantic Black* was published in November 2017 to critical acclaim. A new collection, *The Butcherbird Stories*, will be published later this year.

Jonathan Pearlman is the editor of *Australian Foreign Affairs*, a publication launched in October 2017 by Schwartz Media. He is a correspondent for the *Telegraph* (UK) and the *Straits Times* newspaper (Singapore). He previously worked at the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Marija Peričić is a writer based in Melbourne. Her first novel, *The Lost Pages*, won the Australian Vogel Literary Award in 2017. Her work has appeared in *Going Down Swinging*, *Southerly Blog* and *Limina*. She teaches English Language at Deakin University.

Roland Perry is one of the best known authors of Australian history. He has written 28 books, many of which became bestsellers, including *Horrie the War Dog*, *The Changi Brownlow*, *The Australian Light Horse* and *Monash: The Outsider Who Won the War*. 
Bram Presser is a semi-reformed punk rocker and occasional criminal lawyer whose stories have appeared in various literary magazines. His debut novel, *The Book of Dirt*, was published in late 2017 and has been shortlisted for the Christina Stead Prize for Fiction in the 2018 NSW Premier’s Literary Award.

Alice Pung is the best-selling author of *Unpolished Gem* and *Her Father’s Daughter*. Her recent essay on John Marsden was published as part of the *Writers on Writers* series, a collaboration between Black Inc., the University of Melbourne and the State Library of Victoria.

Henry Rosenbloom is the founder of Scribe Publications and the son of Holocaust survivors Fela and Felix Rosenbloom, authors of *Miracles Do Happen*. In 2010, he was presented with a George Robertson Award for service to the publishing industry.

Kerri Sackville is an Australian writer, social commentator, author and serial monogamist. She has written extensively for print and online publications, including *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Women’s Weekly*. She is currently a regular columnist. Kerri’s latest book, *Out There: A Survival Guide for Dating in Midlife*, is out now.

Philip Salom has published three novels, of which his most recent, *Waiting*, was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award, the Prime Minister’s Award and the Victorian Premier’s Literary Prize. Salom’s other literary awards have been for his poetry, including twice winning the Commonwealth Poetry Prize.


Anita Selzer is a Melbourne author who writes biography and history, and has published extensively in academia, worked in Women’s Affairs, and taught English and Politics. She has written six titles on Australian Sportswomen. Her latest book for 2018 is *I Am Sasha*.

John Serry has practised adult psychiatry with major interests in mood disorders and the role of the doctor-patient interaction role in therapy. He has taught both undergraduate and postgraduate students about learning the importance of family influences in their practices.

Carmel Shute helped found Sisters in Crime Australia in 1991, an organisation which celebrates women’s crime writing. She has been a national co-convenor ever since. In 2016, the Australian Crime Writers’ Association presented Carmel with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Renata Singer is a Melbourne writer, educator and community activist. Her most recent book is *Older & Bolder: Life after 60*. She is a founding member of Yiddish Australia. In 2015 Renata became the second female President of the Kadimah Jewish Cultural Centre. She lives half the year in New York.

Alex Skovron is the author of six poetry collections, a prose novella and most recently, a book of short stories *The Man Who Took to his Bed*. His last volume of poetry, *Towards the Equator: New and Selected Poems*, was shortlisted in the 2014 Prime Minister’s Literary Awards.

Norman Swan hosts the *Health Report* on ABC’s Radio National, and *Tonic* on ABCTV News24. The *Health Report* is the world’s longest running health program in the English speaking world.

Julie Szego is a freelance writer and Fairfax columnist. She has taught journalism and creative non-fiction at RMIT, and at Monash and Melbourne universities. Her book, *The Tainted Trial of Farah Jama*, was shortlisted for the Victorian and NSW Premier’s Literary Awards for 2015.


Colin Tatz is currently visiting Professor of Politics at ANU. He has written on topics such as South African apartheid, comparative race politics, genocide and Holocaust, migration, suicide and sports history. His memoir, *Human Rights and Human Wrongs*, explains his preoccupation with race politics.
Lilit Žekulin Thwaites is an award-winning Melbourne-based translator, and honorary research fellow in Spanish literature at La Trobe University. She won the 2018 Sydney Taylor Award of the US Association of Jewish Libraries for her translation of The Librarian of Auschwitz.

Nicole Trope has written six novels, of which Three Hours Late was voted one of fifty books you can’t put down in 2013, while The Secrets in Silence was the Australian Women’s Weekly Book of the Month for June 2014.

Maria Tumarkin writes books, reviews, essays and pieces for performance and radio. She collaborates with visual artists, psychologists and historians. She teaches creative writing at the University of Melbourne. Her latest book is Axiomatic.

Judy Turner is a Melbourne-based musician and fundraiser, who grew up in a world of writers and historians. She is honoured to speak about her late mother Amirah Inglis at Melbourne Jewish Book Week, and to read from her work.

Abigail Ulman is the recipient of a Wallace Stegner Fellowship in Fiction from Stanford University, and a winner of a Best Young Australian Novelist Award. Her short story collection, Hot Little Hands, is now available in Australia and abroad.

Sarah Vidal was a senior Manager in the Victorian Public Service (1979-1993, 2002-2004) and has also worked as an architect and a human resources consultant. Her book, Bella and Chaim: The Story of Beauty and Life, was published in 2017.

Rebecca Wartell will complete her PhD in History at Monash University in 2018, where she is researching rabbinic texts and early modern Mediterranean Jewish communities. Rebecca also has a Master’s Degree in Theological Studies from Harvard University.

Nathan Wolski is a lecturer in Jewish Studies at the ACJC, Monash University, where he teaches comparative mysticism and medieval religious thought. He has authored numerous studies on the Yiddish mystical poet Aaron Zeitlin, the Kabbalah, and diverse aspects and translations of the Zohar.

Yvette Wroby is the author of the memoir, Siren’s Call, a tale of her year-long odyssey between two families related by birth and connected by footy. She is the Executive Producer of the first Women’s Footy Almanac 2017.

Damon Young is a philosopher and author. He has written or edited eleven books, most published internationally in English and in translation. His latest nonfiction book is The Art of Reading. Damon will be appearing in the Gandel Philanthropy Schools Program.

Arnold Zable is an acclaimed novelist, writer and human rights advocate. In 2017, Arnold was a recipient of the Australia Council Fellowship for Literature. The last of his many titles was The Fighter, which was shortlisted for the NSW and Vic Premier’s Literary Awards in 2017.

Dvora Zylberman is a Yiddish and Jewish Studies teacher at Sholem Aleichem College. Dvora contributes to various Yiddish projects, including the National Yiddish Book Centre’s development of a Yiddish course on a language learning app.

Sarah Krasnostein – Winner 2018 Vic Premier’s Literary Award for Literature and Non-Fiction

Bram Presser – Shortlisted 2018 Christina Stead Prize for Fiction, NSW Premier’s Literary Prize
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1. The program may be amended at any time without notice.
2. Once purchased, tickets shall not be refunded or exchanged, and lost or stolen tickets shall not be replaced.
3. Participation in the event and entry to the event site is at your own risk.
4. No commercial activity may be conducted and no written material or goods of any description handed out or otherwise distributed at the Festival site without the express permission of the event organisers.
5. No photograph or audio or video recording may be taken at the event site without the express permission of the event organisers.
6. You must present a ticket at each event session, including free sessions.

TICKETS

**ADULT** | **CONCESSION**
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**Gala Opening Event: The World According To...**
Thursday 3rd May, Glen Eira Town Hall, Caulfield
$45 | $40.50

**Closing Event: Tales: Tall and True**
Wednesday 9th May, Memo Music Hall, St Kilda
$35 | $31.50

**Special Event: More than One America**
Saturday 7th May, St Kilda Town Hall, St Kilda
$25 | $22.50

**Keynote: Michael Brooks: The Unexplained Universe**
Sunday 6th May, St Kilda Town Hall, St Kilda
$25 | $22.50

**Single Session on Sunday**
Sunday 6th May, St Kilda Town Hall, St Kilda
$20 | N/A

**Single Session on Monday**
Monday 6th May, St Kilda Town Hall, St Kilda
$20 | N/A

*Valid concession: pensioner, full-time student under 25 years old. ID required on entry.

Note: bookings need to be made for all sessions including free sessions.

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Tickets will be available on the day at the venue unless sold out beforehand.