

Readers and Writers Esperance 2021 Grand Finale Presenters



Kym "Bid" Bidstrup

"Bid" Bidstrup is one half of the podcast "Call Me Sir Ben" currently in COVID-19 remission. He is a blogger, writer, actor & filmmaker, and a former international journalist. He also publishes a satirical "fake" news site under a nom de plume.



Jon Doust

Jon Doust has had diverse careers, in journalism, comedy, business, farming and now thinks of himself as a story teller and writer. His first novel *Boy on a Wire* was long listed for the 2010 Miles Franklin Literary award and this was followed by two more novels in a trilogy of the life of Jack Muir. His most recent, *Return Ticket*, was released last year in a time of global crisis and the book itself is set in times of crisis, in South Africa and Israel.



Sarah Drummond

Sarah lives on the south coast of Western Australia. She works as a writer, mentor, barista, landscaper, university tutor, fire spotter and fire season radio support. Sarah loves finding stories from the past and present and is fascinated by the dynamic connectivity of the environment around us. She also loves netting and hot-smoking sea mullet.



Wanika Fazekas

Wanika Fazekas is an emerging author of contemporary and paranormal/urban fantasy fiction. This is Wanika's fourth book. While being surrounded by her husband, four gorgeous kids, one grandchild and two dogs at their home in Western Australia's wild but beautiful Goldfields. She still finds time to escape the bustle and sit down to write the stories of the characters who clamour for attention in her imagination. Her tagline 'Be yourself, Own it. Only you can change your future.' is about achieving your dreams and making them a reality. You can also find Wanika hanging out on Facebook.



Jen Ford

Jennifer (Jen) Ford , B App Sci (Rec Mgt) is a retired Archivist who worked for WA State Records Office and National Archives (Perth Office) before retiring with her husband David to Esperance in 2005. Since 2005 Jen has done consultancy work in Records Management and Archives for the Shire of Esperance and several Aboriginal Corporations in the Pilbara and Kimberley. Jen has held workshops on research referencing and since moving to Esperance has advised community organisations on records management and archiving as the Esperance Museum Archives (where she is the Volunteer Archivist) will take in archival records from them and it is so much easier if their current records are being created correctly and/or are prepared for archiving. Jen also runs *How to Look After Your Family Memories* workshops where participants bring along an item they need preservation advice on.



Andrea Gaynor

Andrea Gaynor is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Western Australia. An environmental historian, her research seeks to use the contextualising and narrative power of history to assist transitions to more just and sustainable societies. Her most recent book, co-authored with Richard Broome, Charles Fahey and Katie Holmes, is *Mallee Country: Land, People, History* (Monash University Publishing 2019). She has held fellowships with the Rachel Carson Center, University of Bristol and National Library of Australia, and is convenor of the Australian and New Zealand Environmental History Network and Vice-President of the European Society for Environmental History. She is currently writing about histories of community-led land management, water in Australian urbanisation and nature in Australian urban modernity.



Clara Graham

Clara Graham is a Swedish-born news journalist turned Esperance farmer. She's a graduate of Curtin University's Mass Communications course with a major in journalism. Throughout her studies, Clara worked in lifestyle TV, presenting on advertorial shows and on the travelling show Postcards WA. Clara started her career in news with WIN TV before taking on the role as the ABC news journalist in Kalgoorlie. She worked as the ABC business reporter in Perth and was staking out crime scenes as the ABC crime reporter when she decided to switch direction completely and move to Esperance to go farming with her now husband Jake. Clara is a mum of three boys but still fits in freelancing and casual work for the ABC. She's a keen photographer and loves a good book!



Mark Greenwood

Mark Greenwood is an award winning author with a passion for history. His books, *The Legend of Moondyne Joe* and *The Legend of Lasseter's Reef* have both won the West Australian Premier's Award. *Simpson and His Donkey* was a CBCA Honour Book. *Jandamarra*, illustrated by Terry Denton, was shortlisted for the CBCA Eve Pownall Award and the NSW Premier's Literary Awards for Children's Literature. Mark often teams with his wife, illustrator Frané Lessac, to produce books that promote an understanding of multicultural issues, such as *Drummer Boy of John John*, *Magic Boomerang*, *Outback Adventure*, and *Our Big Island*. Their other titles include *Ned Kelly & The Green Sash*, *The Greatest Liar on Earth*, *The Mayflower* and *Midnight - the story of a light horse*. Mark's recent books include the chapter book series, *History Mysteries*, and *The Happiness Box*, a CBCA Honour Book, *The Book of Stone* and *Moonwalkers*, illustrated by Terry Denton.



Dorothy Henderson

Dorothy currently works as a freelance journalist, regularly contributing as a "stringer" to *The Countryman*, both as a writer and photographer. She still takes pics and writes for *The West Australian* when they need her to, or when someone gets bitten by a shark! "I was told by my teachers at school to be a journalist, studied media at high school and attended journalism workshops at the Fremantle Institute of Technology when they were a thing. But I wanted to be a farmer...so chose to study agriculture. While working on a sheep station north of Kalgoorlie I completed a Diploma in Freelance Journalism...and that was it, I knew my teachers were right!" Since then, she has worked for *The Esperance Express*, *The Kalgoorlie Miner*, and the ABC, and has written for all sorts of publications and managed to do a bit of photography as well. She still writes for *The Countryman*, and is also a Rural Room media stringer.



Frané Lessac

Frané Lessac is an author and illustrator, having created beautiful illustrations for more than fifty books. She was born in New Jersey and lived on the Caribbean Island of Montserrat and later London before moving to Australia. Travelling is a major source of inspiration for her work as she renders her impressions of a country in her illustrations. Her greatest ambition is to instill pride and self-esteem in children about their own unique heritage and their ability to capture it in pictures and words. Frané visits schools, libraries and festivals around the world sharing the process of writing and illustrating books.



Kim Maslin

Kim Maslin is a passionate educator and author currently living in Esperance, Western Australia. Her background is in ICT and education, and she has taught learners aged 5 to 85-year-olds how to use digital technologies. In 2017, Kim launched *The Tweeting Galah* cyber safety children's book series. The idea was born out of the desire to provide cyber safety education to children in a more integrated and fun way. She hopes to play a significant role in helping people of all ages use technology in a safe way.



Fleur McDonald

Fleur McDonald has lived and worked on farms for much of her life. After growing up in the small town of Orroroo in South Australia, she became a jillaroo before spending twenty years farming 8000 acres, east of Esperance, WA. Fleur likes to write about strong women overcoming adversity, drawing inspiration from her own experiences in rural Australia. She is the best-selling author of *Red Dust*, *Blue Skies*, *Purple Roads*, *Silver Clouds*, *Crimson Dawn*, *Emerald Springs*, *Indigo Storm*, *Sapphire Falls*, *The Missing Pieces of Us*, *Suddenly One Summer*, *Fool's Gold*, *Where the Rivers Run*, *Without a Doubt*, *Starting From Now*, *Red Dirt Country* and *The Shearer's Wife*, as well as the ebook exclusives *If You Were Here* and *A Farmer's Choice*. Fleur currently lives in Esperance with her two children, an energetic kelpie and a Jack Russell terrier.



Georgia Richter

Georgia Richter has an MA (Creative Writing) from the University of Western Australia and is an IPEd Accredited Editor. She has taught creative writing, professional writing and editing at the universities of Melbourne and Western Australia, as well as at Curtin University. Georgia joined Fremantle Press in 2008 as the fiction, narrative non-fiction and poetry publisher.



Lois Saunders

Lois is newly appointed as editor of the Esperance Weekender - a weekly independent newspaper about to start in Esperance. Five years ago she was editor of the Fairfax owned Esperance Express for six months. Almost 20 years ago she produced an Esperance lifestyle magazine for 2 years showcasing local inspirations. Prior to that she was editor and journalist at several newspapers in regional NSW and Qld.



Kim Scott

Kim Scott is an award-winning novelist, having twice won the Miles Franklin Award (for *Benang* and *That Deadman Dance*) among many other Australian literary prizes. His most recent novel is *Taboo*. Proud to be one among those who call themselves Noongar, Kim is also founder and chair of *Wirlomin Noongar Language and Stories* (www.wirlomin.com.au). Kim is currently Professor of Writing in the School of Media, Creative Arts and Social Inquiry at Curtin University.



Madison Snow

Madison is a features reporter for ABC Goldfields-Esperance based in Kalgoorlie covering stories for a national audience across TV, radio and online. She spends a lot of her time travelling around the region picking up stories in various communities. Previously she worked at ABC Ultimo in Sydney as a social media producer for ABC’s The Drum program and a producer for ABC News Channel. She also worked in Perth for a number of years as a radio producer for 6PR. One of her first jobs was as a journalist for the Esperance Express.



Yann Toussaint

Yann Toussaint has participated in threatened bird species recovery projects in Mauritius, India, France and Australia, worked as a Native Title anthropologist, and ran a bush regeneration nursery for several years. He now lives in Albany where he looks after a community garden and teaches Permaculture. Yann has tutored in creative writing for UWA’s School of Indigenous Studies and is the author of a collection of poetry, The Tercel Bird.



Megan Warren

Megan is a PhD student in Creative Writing at Deakin University. As part of her thesis she is writing her memoir utilising her personal journals and medical records.



Will Yeoman

Will Yeoman is a travel journalist with The West Australian. He has visited, photographed and written about many places throughout the world, from Vietnam to Venice and Tokyo to Taormina. Prior to joining the West Australian’s travel section, Will was literary editor and senior arts writer for the same publication. He also does some freelancing for classical music magazines *Limelight* (Australia) and *Gramophone* (UK).

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