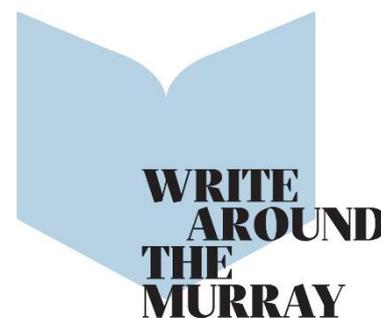


Schools Program 2019



Bookings: Learning and Outreach team
Albury LibraryMuseum
Phone: Janien: 02 6023 8352 or Narelle L: 02 6023 8346
Email: learningoutreach@alburycity.nsw.gov.au
Web: writearoundthemurray.org.au

Some of Australia's best and most innovative writers, illustrators and performers will share their knowledge and experience as part of the Write Around the Murray Festival, **Wednesday 11 September – Sunday 15 September, 2019.**

This year's fantastic schools program features an array of authors, poets, comedians and illustrators including **Deborah Abela, Oliver Phommavanh, Alison Lester, Steven Herrick, Scot Gardner** and **Alice Pung** – all highly acclaimed creators and excellent teachers and presenters. Don't miss this great opportunity to sign students up for an inspiring program of talks and workshops. *Session descriptions and author biographies follow. The timetable is on the final page.*

Booking process and guidelines

Bookings open Wednesday 15 May to all schools within a 150km radius of AlburyWodonga. As places are limited schools are encouraged to book early. Most sessions are at the Albury LibraryMuseum with some sessions at Lavington Library and MAMA.

Thank you for your understanding with respect to the following points. Your cooperation will assist us in continuing to provide this valuable program free of charge. Please contact us with any queries or special needs – we're happy to help.

- **Book via email:** learningoutreach@alburycity.nsw.gov.au
Book via phone: Janien: (02) 6023 8352 or Narelle L: (02) 6023 8346
- First round bookings (15 May – 5 June) are limited to 200 places per school. Unlimited bookings available after this time.
- **Confirmation of booking is required** 4 – 6 weeks in advance. Your booking will remain as a reservation only until you reconfirm by email, **no later than Tuesday 13 August.**
- Your earliest advice of changes to your booking is appreciated so any places can be offered to those on waiting lists. Unconfirmed bookings will be offered to the waiting list.
- Groups must be able to attend the entire session as early exiting of a group is disruptive to the facilitator and others attending the session.

WAM Public Program

The public program will be available via the WAM website as of Friday 2 August. **Register for the monthly e-news** for early updates and highlights. Most schools program authors are also part of the public program. Other guests you can look forward to meeting include: *Toni Jordan, Arnold Zable, Jane Caro, Christian White, Ben Doherty* and more to be announced!

Primary School Sessions

**Many of the following guests are offering sessions to primary and secondary students. In such cases, descriptions of secondary sessions are included in this section.*

Deborah Abela

Sessions for years: K –6

After completing a teaching degree, Deb went to Africa where she was caught in a desert sandstorm, harassed by monkeys and thrown in jail twice! She has since written 26 books including *Grimsdon*, *New City and Final Storm*, about kids living in a climate-changed world. *Teresa: A New Australian*, was inspired by her dad who migrated to Australia after surviving WW2. *The Stupendously Spectacular Spelling Bee* and *The Most Marvellous Spelling Bee Mystery* are dedicated to Ms Gray, her year 4 teacher and her first picture book is *Wolfie, An Unlikely Hero*. She is a proud ambassador for the Premier's Reading Challenge, Room to Read and Books in Homes. Deb has won awards for her books but mostly hopes to be as brave as her characters. www.deborahabela.com

Cheeky Monkeys, Naughty Wolves and Superspies

Interactive presentation: Years K-2

With her stories of cheeky monkeys, naughty wolves and young superspies, Deb will explain how she writes and why it is so much fun. She loves getting kids excited about books, reading and writing. So get ready to help Deb tell stories and create your very own. Session includes drawing and writing elements.

- *Albury LibraryMuseum* *Wednesday 11 Sept, 1:30pm – 2:30pm, Year K-2, Limit 30*
- *Lavington Library* *Thursday 12 Sept, 10am – 11am, Year K-2, Limit 30*

Spelling Bees, Flooded Cities and Spies

Presentation: Years 3-4, 3-6

Ever since Deb was 7 she has been good at making trouble, so it was obvious she would grow up to be a writer. Find out how being a troublemaker led Deb to create flying machines, sword fights and kids who face bad guys and sea monsters and how you too can turn trouble-making into fantastic stories.

- *Albury LibraryMuseum* *Wednesday 11 Sept, 10am – 11am, Year 3-6, Limit 150*
- *Albury LibraryMuseum* *Wednesday 11 Sept, 12pm – 1pm, Year 3-4, Limit 60*

Writers are Just Big Troublemakers

Presentation and Workshop: Years 3-4

Do you have lots of ideas? Do you love writing stories but sometimes get stuck? Join Deb as she shares the secret to writing so you'll never get stuck again. Through a series of fun activities, we'll explore how to write exciting stories with engaging characters that you and your readers will love.

- *Lavington Library* *Thursday 12 Sept: 11:30am – 12:30pm, Year 3-4, Limit 30*

Spelling Bees, Flooded Cities and Surviving WW2: It's Fun To Be a Writer

Presentation and Workshop: Years 5-6

Deb has always been short and a bit of a coward which is why she writes books about courageous kids surviving WW2 and battling stage fright, bullies and sea monsters. Join Deb as she explains how small ideas grow into stories and how you too can create exciting plots and characters readers will love.

- *Lavington Library* *Thursday 12 Sept, 1:30pm – 2:30pm. Year 5-6, Limit 30*

Oliver Phommavanh

Sessions for years: K – 9

Oliver Phommavanh loves to make people laugh on the page as a children's author and on stage as a comedian. He uses his experience as a primary school teacher to inspire kids to write funny stories all across Australia and Asia. He loves eating burgers and playing his Nintendo Switch. Oliver's books include his latest *Don't Follow Vee*, along with *Natural Born Loser*, *Thai-riffic!*, *Con-nerd* and *The Other Christy*.

Making Stuff Happen with Oliver P

Presentation: Years K-2

Oliver Phommavanh has a collection of more than 400 plush toys and still has dreams of being a dinosaur! For now though, he's happy being an author and comedian. Oliver and his plushies will have the children in stitches as he shares stories from his hilarious books and talks about how he gets his ideas. Warning, things could get silly!

- Albury LibraryMuseum Thursday 12 Sept, 1:30pm – 2:30pm, Year K-2, Limit 60

Writing Humour: It's Not That Ha Ha Hard

Workshop: Years 3-4, 5-6

Everyone has a sense of humour but does your humour make any sense? Oliver will go through some techniques of how to come up with some ideas for jokes, weird characters and wacky story lines. There's a little bit of drawing from your own experiences, actual drawing of characters and more. Discover how easy it is to inject some laughs into your writing.

- Albury LibraryMuseum Friday 13 Sept, 12pm – 1pm, Year 3-4, Limit 30
- Albury LibraryMuseum Friday 13 Sept, 1:30pm – 2:30pm, Year 5-6, Limit 30

My Thai-riffic Life!

Presentation: Years 5-6, 7-9

Oliver Phommavanh still has dreams of being a dinosaur, but he's happy being an author and comedian for now. Find out where Oliver got his ideas from to create his hilarious books, like *Thai-riffic* and *The Other Christy*, as well as his latest books *Natural Born Loser* and *Don't Follow Vee*. Warning, things will get weird and nerdy!

- Albury LibraryMuseum Thursday 12, 10am – 11am, Year 7-9, Limit 150
- Albury LibraryMuseum Thursday 12, 12pm – 1pm, Year 5-6, Limit 60

Fire Up Your Writing: Brainstorming Ideas for Stories

Workshop: Years 7-8

Want to write great stories but don't know where to start? Oliver will take you through some brainstorming methods of how to gather ideas for characters and plots, using personal experiences. There will be 4-5 writing exercises that will help students plan their stories whilst overcoming their own pitfalls to creative writing. Ideal for reluctant writers.

- Albury LibraryMuseum Friday 13 Sept, 10am – 11am, Year 7-8, Limit 30

Alison Lester

Sessions for years: K – 6, 11 – 12

Alison is one of Australia's most beloved creators of children's books. In a career spanning more than thirty years and forty books she has delighted generations of children in Australia and all over the world. Her books mix imaginary worlds with everyday life, encouraging children to believe in themselves and celebrate the differences that make them special.

She is an ambassador for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation, the Melbourne Royal Children's Hospital's Education Institute, the Clean Ocean Foundation and Buk Bilong Pikinini, and in 2012 became Australia's first Children's Laureate along with Boori Monty Pryor.

In 2016 Alison was awarded the Dromkeen Medal for outstanding achievement in the creation of Australian children's literature. In 2018 she was the first children's author to win the Melbourne Prize for Literature. In 2019 Alison was awarded an Order of Australia (AM) and was named as one of the 5 Australia Post Australian Legends, and featured on the Legends Stamp Series.

Alison lives on a farm in the Victorian countryside. She spends part of each year travelling to schools around Australia, helping students and teachers develop their own stories.

Author Talk

Talk: Years K-2, 3-6

Alison will present a slideshow and explain how she gets ideas for her stories and illustrations. She will discuss the inspirations behind some of her most famous books including *Magic Beach*, *Are We There Yet*, *My Dog Bigsy* and *Kissed by the Moon*. There will be an opportunity to ask Alison questions and maybe even hear a story!

- Albury LibraryMuseum Thursday 12 Sept, 12pm – 1pm, Year 3-6, Limit 150
- Albury LibraryMuseum Friday 13 Sept, 12pm – 1pm, Year K-2, Limit 60

Working with Watercolours

Workshop: Years 3-6

Students will learn various different techniques when working with watercolour paints. Alison will guide participants to create their own masterpieces using high quality paints, brushes and watercolour paper.

- MAMA Thursday 12 Sept, 1.30pm – 2.30pm, Year 3-4, Limit 30

Revealing the process

Workshop: Years 11-12

Alison will work with senior secondary students on the importance of displaying the process of art work correctly. The process of creating a piece of art work can be a story within itself, and Alison will outline the best way to show the entire flow of ideas from conception to the finished product.

- MAMA Friday 13 Sept, 1.30pm – 2.30pm, Year 11-12, Limit 12

Steven Herrick

Sessions for years: 3 – 10

Steven Herrick is Australia's most popular poet for young people. He has written twenty-four books and won numerous awards including the NSW Premier's Literary Award (twice) and the WA Premier's Literary Award. His books have been shortlisted for the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards on nine occasions. He is widely recognised as the pioneer of verse-novels for young people in Australia. Steven has performed his poetry in fifteen countries over the past twenty-five years and is renowned as a dynamic performer and educator.

His seminal verse-novel, *The Simple Gift*, is a mainstay of set texts in schools throughout Australia and was recently shortlisted for the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis - Germany's most prestigious literary award for youth literature.

His latest young adult novel is *The Bogan Mondrian* which was shortlisted for Book of the Year in the 2019 Children's Book Council of Australia Awards.

Poetry to the Rescue

Presentation: Years 3-4, 5-6, 7-10

An innovative and energetic performance by one of Australia's most respected authors for young people. A unique opportunity to appreciate the vision and humour of Steven's poetry. The students will quickly recognise this poetry as being accessible, entertaining and relevant to their lives. Steven's experience and skill as a poet and performer effectively dispels any uncertainties students may have about enjoying poetry. After this performance, every student will believe poetry belongs on the stage as well as the page. Steven is offering sessions pitched to primary and secondary year levels.

- Albury LibraryMuseum Friday 13 Sept, 10am – 11am, Year 5-6, Limit 150
- Albury LibraryMuseum Friday 13 Sept, 11:30am – 12:30pm, Year 7-10, Limit 150
- Albury LibraryMuseum Friday 13 Sept, 1:30pm – 2:30pm, Year 3-4, Limit 60

**Recommended reading:*

For Primary Students: *Untangling Spaghetti; Pookie Aleera is not my Boyfriend; Bleakboy and Hunter Stand Out In The Rain.*

For Secondary Students: *The Simple Gift, By the River, The Bogan Mondrian.*

Secondary School Sessions

**Oliver Phommavanh, Alison Lester, and Steven Herrick* are also offering sessions to primary and secondary students. Please see the previous section above for descriptions of their secondary school sessions.

Scot Gardner

Sessions for years: 7-10

Scot Gardner has been writing for young people since last century. His books are mostly about misfits making peace with the world, death and love. He came to writing down a long winding path of careers including landscape gardening, massage and counselling, professional music, teaching, waiting tables and driving delivery trucks. *Changing Gear* is his eighteenth novel in as many years and his backlist includes award winning and internationally acclaimed books such as *Burning Eddy, The Dead I Know* and *Sparrow*. He has a bristling fascination for the natural world.

A look at writing and the author's life

Presentation: Years 7-10

Entertaining and provocative, Scot looks at personal narrative and the oral storytelling traditions and how they are tied to fiction. With humour and a pitch tailored to the audience, Scot is renowned for engaging even the most reluctant students.

"Scot Gardner speaks and writes with honesty, feeling and humour. He has important things to say and he says them with irresistible energy. If I were booking a writer for a school, he'd be one of the first I'd sign up - especially for a boys' program." - John Marsden

- Albury LibraryMuseum Wednesday 11 Sept, 10am – 11am, Year 7-8, Limit 60
- Albury LibraryMuseum Wednesday 11 Sept, 12pm – 1pm, Year 8-10, Limit 150

Writing Like a Wild Thing

Talk: Years 7-11

Scot will discuss the idea of using personal narrative (our own stories) as a springboard into gripping fiction. Using the telling of real-life stories and brief timed-writing exercises, Scot will guide the students in the artful use of detail, showing emotion (rather than *telling*) and separating the writing process into *creating* the story and *editing* it.

Students will benefit by the fine-tuning of their 'story radar' – that intangible part of the storyteller's arsenal that allows them to bridge stories back and forth between the real world and the worlds of their imaginations. A willingness to write long hand on paper is required and confidence in relating some of their own yarns is desirable because the nuances in language and expression are best learned through spoken story.

- Albury LibraryMuseum Wednesday 11 Sept, 1:30pm – 2:30pm, Year 9-10, Limit 30
 - Albury LibraryMuseum Thursday 12 Sept, 10am – 11am, Year 9-11, Limit 30
 - Albury LibraryMuseum Thursday 12 Sept, 11:30am – 12:30pm, Year 8-9, Limit 30
 - Albury LibraryMuseum Thursday 12 Sept, 1:30pm – 2:30pm, Year 7-8, Limit 30
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Alice Pung

Sessions for years: 9-12

Alice Pung is an award-winning writer, editor, teacher and lawyer based in Melbourne. She is the bestselling author of *Unpolished Gem* and *Her Father's Daughter* and the editor of the anthologies *Growing Up Asian in Australia* and *My First Lesson*. Her first novel, *Laurinda*, won the Ethel Turner Prize at the 2016 NSW Premier's Literary Awards.

Finding your voice

Workshop: Years 11-12

Often, young adults think their lives are boring and uneventful, so choose to write in a way that replicates older writers/television/popular fiction/the Twilight series. This workshop encourages students to find their true voice by looking at their own experiences, families and feelings; and to use their writing as a tool of discovering more about their own worlds, and not the vicarious world of others. The workshop covers characterisation, plot, dialogue and language.

- Albury LibraryMuseum Friday 13 Sept, 11:30am – 12:30pm, Year 11-12, Limit 30

Growing up Asian in Australia

Talk: Years 9-12

Alice Pung isn't a crazy rich Asian, but when the award-winning writer, speaker and lawyer wrote about her own life in the best-selling book *Unpolished Gem*, she took a light-hearted view, despite the pain and hardships revealed in this powerful story. In this talk, Alice explores important and current issues about growing up Asian in Australia, being a migrant, identity and belonging, race and gender, and being a teenager in Australia. In her wonderfully engaging and humorous style, Alice shares her experiences of failure and resilience, the pressures of high school and her own school struggles, and shares insights about the HSC/VCE experience.

- Albury LibraryMuseum Friday 13 Sept, 1:30pm – 2:30pm, Year 9-12, Limit 150

| Wednesday 11 September | Thursday 12 September | Friday 13 September |
|--|---|--|
| 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM | 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM | 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM |
| <p>Deborah Abela Yr 3-6, <i>Spelling Bees...</i> Temp.Ex, Limit 150</p> <p>Scot Gardner Yr 7-8, <i>Author talk</i> Meeting Room, Limit 60</p> | <p>Deborah Abela Yr K-2, <i>Cheeky Monkeys...</i> Lavington Library, Limit 30</p> <p>Oliver Phommavanh Yr 7-9, <i>Thai-riffic life</i> Temp.Ex, Limit 150</p> <p>Scot Gardner Yr 9-11, <i>Writing workshop</i> Meeting Room, Limit 30</p> | <p>Oliver Phommavanh Yr 7-8, <i>Fire up your writing</i> Activity Room, Limit 24-30</p> <p>Steven Herrick Yr 5-6, <i>Poetry to the rescue</i> Temp.Ex, Limit 150</p> |
| 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM | 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM | 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM |
| <p>Deborah Abela Yr 3-4, <i>Spelling Bees...</i> Meeting Room, Limit 60</p> <p>Scot Gardner Yr 8-10, <i>Author talk</i> Temp.Ex, Limit 150</p> | <p>Deborah Abela Yr 3-4, <i>Writers are Troublemakers</i> Lavington Library, Limit 30</p> <p>Scot Gardner Yr 8-9, <i>Writing workshop</i> Activity Room, Limit 24-30</p> | <p>Steven Herrick Yr 7-10, <i>Poetry to the rescue</i> Temp.Ex, Limit 150</p> <p>Alice Pung Yr 11-12, <i>Workshop</i> Meeting Room, Limit 30</p> |
| 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM | 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM | 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM |
| <p>Deborah Abela Yr K-2, <i>Cheeky Monkeys...</i> Kidspace, Limit 30</p> <p>Scot Gardner Yr 9-10, <i>Writing workshop</i> Meeting Room, Limit 30</p> | <p>Oliver Phommavanh Yr 5-6, <i>Thai-riffic life</i> Meeting Room, Limit 60</p> <p>Alison Lester Yr 3-6, <i>Author talk</i> Temp.Ex, Limit 150</p> | <p>Alison Lester Yr K-2, <i>Author talk</i> Kidspace, Limit 60</p> <p>Oliver Phommavanh Yr 3-4, <i>Writing Humour</i> Activity Room, Limit 30</p> |
| VENUES: All sessions are at the LibraryMuseum except as highlighted: | 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM | 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM |
| <p>Lavington Library</p> <p>MAMA</p> | <p>Deborah Abela Yr 5-6, <i>Spelling Bees...</i> Lavington Library, Limit 30</p> <p>Oliver Phommavanh Yr K-2, <i>Making stuff happen</i> Kidspace, Limit 60</p> <p>Alison Lester Yr 3-4, <i>working with watercolours</i> MAMA tbc, Limit 30</p> <p>Scot Gardner Yr 7-8, <i>Writing workshop</i> Activity Room, Limit 24-30</p> | <p>Oliver Phommavanh Yr 5-6, <i>Writing Humour</i> Activity Room, Limit 30</p> <p>Alison Lester Yr 11-12, <i>Revealing the process</i> MAMA tbc, Limit 12-15</p> <p>Steven Herrick Yr 3-4, <i>Poetry to the rescue</i> Meeting Room, Limit 60</p> <p>Alice Pung Yr 9-12, <i>Author talk</i> Temp.Ex, Limit 150</p> |