LONDON BOOK FAIR 2018

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PUBLICATION DETAILS ARE CORRECT AS OF APRIL 2018 BUT ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
From the 2016 Victorian Premier’s Literary Award-winning author of *Ghost River*

In this unforgettable new collection, Tony Birch introduces a cast of characters from all walks of life. These remarkable and surprising stories capture common people caught up in the everyday business of living and the struggle to survive. From two single mothers on the most unlikely night shift to a homeless man unexpectedly faced with the miracle of a new life, Birch’s stories are set in gritty urban refuges and battling regional communities. His deftly drawn characters find unexpected signs of hope in a world where beauty can be found on every street corner – a message on a T-shirt, a friend in a stray dog or a star in the night sky.

*Common People* shines a light on human nature and how the ordinary kindness of strangers can have extraordinary results. With characteristic insight and restraint, Tony Birch reinforces his reputation as a master storyteller.

**PRAISE FOR COMMON PEOPLE**

‘Common People *is a book of great empathy and even greater faith: in the goodness of people, even in bad circumstances, in the desire for, and power of, human connection, and in resilience and the ability to recover, regardless of whatever damage, half-understood or otherwise, has come before.*’ Australian Book Review

‘The stories are varied, sustained and filled with beautiful writing that shows a rare talent for getting inside the minds of a huge cast of characters. There is not one word out of place.’ The Herald Sun

Tony Birch is the author of *Ghost River*, which won the 2016 Victorian Premier’s Literary Award for Indigenous Writing and *Blood*, which was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award. He is also the author of *Shadowboxing*, and two short story collections, *Father’s Day* and *The Promise*. Tony is a frequent contributor to ABC local and national radio and a regular guest at writers’ festivals. He lives in Melbourne and is a Senior Research Fellow at Victoria University.
Trick of the Light
Laura Elvery

Shortlisted for the unpublished manuscript category in the Queensland Literary Awards

An art teacher sends four of her students on a guerrilla mission. A young runner struggles to make sense of his best friend’s death. A health-food company adopts a farcical promotional strategy. A factory worker spends her days applying radioactive paint to watches, while dreaming of a future with her new suitor.

With a keen eye for detail and rich emotional insight, Laura Elvery reveals the fears and fantasies of everyday people searching for meaning. Ranging from tender poignancy to wry humour, Trick of the Light is the beguiling debut collection from one of Australia’s rising stars.

PRAISE FOR TRICK OF THE LIGHT

‘Moving seamlessly from the realistic, to the satirical, to the deeply moving, Trick of the Light is an outstanding collection of stories: radiant, accomplished and exquisitely written.’ Ryan O’Neill, winner of the Prime Minister’s Literary Award for Their Brilliant Careers

‘Trick of the Light is at times haunting and poetic, other times bright and sharp, and always memorable and hopeful … This thoroughly profound, bold and playful debut pulled me along and pulled me apart.’ Brooke Davis, bestselling author of Lost and Found

‘Standout stories include the competition winner, Joiner Bay by Laura Elvery, in which a boy struggling with loss contemplates the extremes of life and is supported by a couple of briefly but beautifully drawn adult men.’ Kerryn Goldsworthy, Age/Sydney Morning Herald

Laura Elvery is a writer from Brisbane. Her work has been published in The Big Issue Fiction Edition, Review of Australian Fiction, Kill Your Darlings and Griffith Review. She has won the Josephine Ulrick Prize for Literature and the Margaret River Short Story Competition, and was awarded a Griffith Review Queensland Writing Fellowship. She has been shortlisted for the Overland NUW Fair Australia, Neilma Sidney and Victoria University prizes. In 2016, Laura was shortlisted for the Queensland Literary Award for an unpublished manuscript.
Finally, convicted murderess Louisa Collins can tell her own story. But will she confess?

Louisa Collins was hung in New South Wales in 1889. She was tried four times for the alleged murders of her two husbands. In three of those trials the juries could not agree that she was guilty. At her fourth trial the testimony of Louisa’s young daughter, May, contributed to Louisa’s conviction.

Intimately reimagined from Louisa’s perspective, with a story that just might fit the historical facts, this clever and compelling novel visits Louisa in her prison cell as she reflects on her life and the death and loss that have dictated her fate. Will she confess? Or was an innocent woman brutally hanged?

PRAISE FOR THE KILLING OF LOUISA

‘The Killing of Louisa follows the tradition of Burial Rites and Alias Grace, with one woman unfairly sent to death by men in the judiciary. This novel provides a creative re-imagining of colonial Australia, rich with historical detail and high drama.’ Queensland Literary Awards judges’ comments

Janet Lee writes award-winning short fiction that has been published in national and international anthologies. In 2017 Janet was awarded a Doctorate of Creative Arts from the University of the Sunshine Coast for her research into the creative relationship between the sisters Cassandra and Jane Austen. She lives in south east Queensland with her family and is currently working on her second novel.
A dark and funny new novel from the multi-award-winning author of *Mullumbimby*.

Wise-cracking Kerry Salter has spent a lifetime avoiding two things – her hometown and prison. But now her Pop is dying and she’s an inch away from the lockup, so she heads south on a stolen Harley.

Kerry plans to spend twenty-four hours, tops, over the border. She quickly discovers, though, that Bundjalung country has a funny way of grabbing on to people. Old family wounds open as the Salters fight to stop the development of their beloved river. And the unexpected arrival on the scene of a good-looking dugai fella intent on loving her up only adds more trouble – but then trouble is Kerry’s middle name.

Gritty and darkly hilarious, *Too Much Lip* offers redemption and forgiveness where none seems possible.

**PRAISE FOR MULLUMBIMBY**

‘Cheeky, thoughtful and real – a powerful novel about country and belonging.’ *Kate Grenville*

‘A wonderfully light and deft novel that manages to straddle romance and a native title claim without the slightest feeling of worthiness.’ *Caroline Baum*

**Melissa Lucashenko** is a Goorie author of Bundjalung and European heritage. She has been publishing books with UQP since 1997, with her first novel, *Steam Pigs*, winning the Dobbie Literary Award and shortlisted for the NSW Premier’s Literary Awards and regional Commonwealth Writers’ Prize. *Hard Yards* (1999) was shortlisted for the Courier-Mail Book of the Year and the NSW Premier’s Literary Awards, and *Mullumbimby* (2013) won the Queensland Literary Award and was longlisted for the Stella Prize, the Miles Franklin Literary Award and the Kibble Literary Award. She has also written two novels for teenagers, *Killing Darcy* (UQP, 1998) and *Too Flash* (IAD Press, 2002). In 2013 Melissa won the inaugural long-form Walkley Award for her *Griffith REVIEW* essay ‘Sinking Below Sight: Down and Out in Brisbane and Logan’.
The haunting, exquisite debut of a gifted writer, set during the Big Freeze of 1963.

During the freezing English winter of 1962, seventeen-year-old Radford is sent to Goodwin Manor, a home for boys who have been ‘found by trouble’. Drawn immediately to the charismatic West, Radford soon discovers that each one of them has something to hide.

Life at the Manor offers a refuge of sorts, but unexpected arrivals threaten the world the boys have built. Will their friendship be enough when trouble finds them again?

At once both beautiful and brutal, The Everlasting Sunday is a haunting debut novel about growing up, growing wild and what it takes to survive.

PRAISE FOR THE EVERLASTING SUNDAY

‘Robert Lukins’ powerful, assured writing cuts like a knife into a world crackling with secrets and tension.’ Lucy Treloar, author of Salt Creek

‘Lukins richly evokes the hermetic world of teenage boys; the defensiveness, the unspoken rules, the vulnerability imperfectly concealed by all this.’ The Saturday Paper

‘Both savage and tender, The Everlasting Sunday, is a haunting debut novel …’ Better Reading

‘Each sentence lingers on a moment, suspending action like frost creeping through a body of water.’ Kill Your Darlings

Robert Lukins lives in Melbourne and has worked as an art researcher and journalist. His writing has been published widely, including in The Big Issue, Rolling Stone, Crikey, Broadsheet and Overland. The Everlasting Sunday is his first novel.

Rights Sold: Italian (Neri Pozza)
The Geography of Friendship
Sally Piper

We can’t ever go back, but some journeys require walking the same path again.

When three young women set off on a hike through the wilderness they are anticipating the adventure of a lifetime. Over the next five days, as they face up to the challenging terrain, it soon becomes clear they are not alone and the freedom they feel quickly turns to fear. Only when it is too late for them to turn back do they fully appreciate the danger they are in. As their friendship is tested, each girl makes an irrevocable choice; the legacy of which haunts them for years to come.

Now in their forties, Samantha, Lisa and Nicole are estranged, but decide to revisit their original hike in an attempt to salvage what they lost. As geography and history collide, they are forced to come to terms with the differences that have grown between them and the true value of friendship.

PRAISE FOR THE GEOGRAPHY OF FRIENDSHIP

‘Sally Piper shows great insight into the intensity and importance of teenage girls’ friendships, and into the way shame and unvoiced anger erode relationships … This is a gripping, haunting, moving novel that made me want to call up my best friends from high school and talk about all the things that were too terrible to face back then.’ Emily Maguire, author of An Isolated Incident

‘Beautifully written, unfolding like the contours of the landscape, and grounded in a deep understanding of friendship between women.’ Inga Simpson, author of Where the Trees Were and Understory

Sally Piper’s debut novel, Grace’s Table (2014), was shortlisted for the Queensland Premier’s Literary Award – Emerging Queensland Author category and she was awarded a Varuna Publishing Fellowship for her manuscript. Sally holds a Master of Arts in Creative Writing from Queensland University of Technology. She has had short fiction and non-fiction published in various print and online publications, including the first One Book Many Brisbanes anthology, The Weekend Australian, WQ plus other literary magazines and journals in the UK. She currently mentors other writers on the Queensland Writers Centre ‘Writer’s Surgery’ program.

Rights Sold: UK (Legend)
A scorching psychological drama about family, betrayal and the limits of forgiveness

Adrian Pomeroy teaches English at an all-boys school. When he finds himself at the centre of an allegation that might end his career, his life starts to unravel in spectacular fashion. With a police investigation underway, Adrian turns to his detective brother for help, but Noel is battling crippling demons of his own.

As the repercussions of this one accusation lead to the implosion of Adrian’s family, he can no longer ignore the secrets buried in his own past. *The Apology* is an explosive and shocking portrait of the lies we tell ourselves and each other in order to survive.

**PRAISE FOR THE APOLOGY**

‘This is a novel that builds tension, page by page, so relentlessly that it leaves you with one option: you must keep reading.’ **Malcolm Knox, author of The Wonder Lover**

**Ross Watkins** is an author and illustrator for both children and adults. His first major publication was as the illustrator of *The Boy Who Grew Into a Tree* (2012), and his picture book *One Photo* (2016) was shortlisted for the CBCA 2017 Picture Book of the Year. His short fiction has been published in various Australian anthologies and journals, and he was shortlisted for the 2011 Queensland Premier’s Literary Award for Emerging Author. Ross is a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at the University of the Sunshine Coast.
A brilliant, fiercely profound work of creative non-fiction in the vein of Maggie Nelson’s *The Argonauts*

In this extraordinary book, Meera Atkinson explores the ways trauma reverberates over a lifetime, unearthing the traumatic roots of our social structures and our collective history.

Using memoir as a touchstone, Atkinson contemplates the causes of trauma and the scars it leaves on modern society. She vibrantly captures her early life in 1970s and ‘80s Sydney and her self-reflection leads the reader on a journey that takes in neuroscience, pop psychology, feminist theory and much more.

Searing in its truthfulness and beauty, *Traumata* deals with issues of our time – intergenerational trauma, family violence, alcoholism, child abuse, patriarchy – forging a path of fearless enquiry through the complexity of humanity.

**PRAISE FOR TRAUMATA**

‘Traumata tells a powerful story with unflinching honesty and forensic curiosity … Passionate, intimate and important storytelling.’ Julianne Schultz AM FAHA

‘Meera Atkinson captures her misspent youth with originality and vigour.’ The Sydney Morning Herald

‘An extraordinary journey through darkness, Traumata emerges courageously where “breath meets love”.’ Leah Kaminsky, author of *The Waiting Room*

**Meera Atkinson** is a Sydney-based writer. She was the recipient of the Varuna Dr Dark Flagship Fellowship for 2017, awarded for non-fiction of outstanding quality in social, historical or political writing. Her monograph, *The Poetics of Transgenerational Trauma*, was published by Bloomsbury Academic in 2017. She teaches creative writing at the University of Sydney.
A brave, heartrending memoir of family, love and longing in the turbulent era of Apartheid in South Africa.

During the terrifying years of Apartheid in South Africa, Shelley Davidow's family was a crime. At a time when it was illegal for black and white people to live together, Shelley's social activist parents took in Rosie, an abandoned black three-year-old. Rosie grew up as a beloved daughter and sister in a white household. Against the backdrop of racist laws and ever-present threats of violence, Shelley's parents did all they could to provide a safe, happy home for their five children. But when Rosie was sixteen, devastating truths came to light, shattering the family's understanding of the past.

In this haunting memoir, Shelley Davidow unravels the memories of her early life, searching for truth and reconciliation. *Shadow Sisters* leaves us with a deeper understanding of family love – but what if, sometimes, love is not enough?

**PRAISE FOR SHADOW SISTERS**

‘Shadow Sisters is a powerful memoir of place: a young woman coming of age in a divided nation on the verge of great upheaval. For a time they are one story, held together by the vast South African landscape. Perceptive, tender, beautifully told.’ **Inga Simpson, author of Understory**

‘Shadow Sisters takes us on a beautiful, heartrending, unflinching voyage to a South Africa we have seldom if ever seen in contemporary literature.’ **Molly Gloss, award-winning author of The Hearts of Horses and The Jump-off Creek**

Shelley Davidow is originally from South Africa but has spent the last two decades living and teaching in Europe, the Middle East and the USA. The author of forty books, she writes across genres. Her work includes children's fiction, award-winning young adult fiction, and adult non-fiction. Now based in Australia, she lives on Queensland's Sunshine Coast with her husband and son. Visit her website at www.shelleydavidow.com
In Danger
Josepha Dietrich

One woman’s powerful story of how her mother’s death saved her life.

When Josepha Dietrich was 21, her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. Years later, after her mother’s death, the disease reared up in Josie’s own cells. She was 35, and her high-needs son was not yet one.

As the daughter of a woman who had sought out alternatives to conventional medicine, Josie used her own knowledge and her mother’s experience to find solutions for herself. Later, with what she’d learnt, she also helped her son rise out of his autistic state.

Capturing Josie’s energy and force-of-nature personality, In Danger tells of her journey through breast cancer, exploring disease and the human condition, and shedding light on life’s darker aspects. At its heart, this moving memoir delves deep into how it feels when everything you love is in danger.

PRAISE FOR IN DANGER

‘In Danger is much more than a breast cancer memoir – though it covers that territory eloquently and courageously. It is also an insightful meditation on the push and pull of mother-daughter relationships, on what we inherit through blood and example.’ Kristina Olsson

Josepha (Josie) Dietrich is an English immigrant to Australia. She lives in Brisbane in the home that she and her partner built on Passive House principles. After coming out of a long reign of being a carer, she’s worked as a research assistant for universities on projects to improve psychiatric discharge planning and women’s wellness after cancer. Her prior long-term work was in the After Hours Child Protection Unit, assessing children’s risk of harm alongside the Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Unit of Victoria Police. To remain sane during this period, she flitted off overseas for months at a time to climb cliff faces while sleeping on beaches or in abandoned shepherds’ huts. After her cancer treatments finished and in light of her experience caring for her dying mother, Josie joined the advisory committee of CanSpeak Queensland as a cancer and consumer advocate.
This ground-breaking book will change the way we think of, farm and grow food.

In *Call of the Reed Warbler*, Charles Massy explores regenerative agriculture and the vital connection between our soil and our health. Using his own farming experience as a touchstone, Massy tells the real story behind industrial agriculture and the global profit-obsessed corporations driving it. He shows how innovative farmers are finding a new way, regenerating their land and witnessing astounding transformations. He captures what it truly means to live in connection with the land and offers a powerful affirmation of our potential to change.

**PRAISE FOR CALL OF THE REED WARBLER**

‘This is a marvellous book, full of wonder and wisdom, and both visionary and deeply practical. A magnificent achievement.’ **Professor Tom Griffiths, ANU**

‘Profound, complex, anecdotal, Call of the Reed Warbler wants to change the world. It could be the most important book you will ever read.’ **Bill Gammage**

‘Its gentle yet compelling voice, its depth of feeling and honesty, its sense of purpose and vision, is sure to make it an Australian classic.’ **Books+Publishing**

**Charles Massy** gained a Bachelor of Science (Zoology, Human Ecology) at ANU (1976), before going farming for 35 years, developing the prominent Merino sheep stud ‘Severn Park’. Concern for ongoing land degradation and humanity’s sustainability challenge led him to return to ANU in 2009 to undertake a PhD in Human Ecology. Charles was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for his service as Chair and Director of a number of research organisations and statutory wool boards. Charles has authored several books on the Australian sheep industry, the most recent being the widely acclaimed *Breaking the Sheep’s Back* (UQP, 2011).
A wild roller-coaster ride through the ups and downs of motherhood and mental illness

At 26, Nikki found herself knocking on her best friend’s door with a suitcase, a jar of coins and two little boys – all she had in the world. *Madness, Mayhem and Motherhood* is her funny, sad and brutally candid account of her life through poverty, homelessness, child-rearing, friendships, lust, love and loss.

In *Madness, Mayhem and Motherhood*, the struggles are raw but the laughs are loud and the love is palpable. Being a poor, mad mother has its challenges but Nikki McWatters humanises the face of poverty, while arm-wrestling her mental illness into submission and packing school lunches like a boss.

**PRAISE FOR MADNESS, MAYHEM AND MOTHERHOOD**

‘Nikki’s voice is one that’s not often heard. Raw, unfiltered, honest, this the story of a mother who, through sheer guts and determination, took up arms against poverty, mental illness and hopelessness in pursuit of a “Happy Ever After”. And that’s just the first bit …’ *Wendy Harmer*

‘If you’ve ever felt like you weren't a good enough parent, partner or person, Nikki McWatters is the most important companion. She reminds us all – with rich insight, and without sentimentality – that to be flawed is to be richly and captivatingly human.’ *Benjamin Law*

*Nikki McWatters* was shortlisted for a Queensland Premier’s Literary Award (2010) and has published a memoir and two young adult novels. She won the Irish Moth Award (2016) and has written for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, The UK *Huffington Post* and *The Big Issue*. She is currently the spokesperson for the annual Vinnie’s CEO Sleepout. Nikki also has a law degree in her bottom drawer somewhere.
If you or someone you love has been diagnosed with a terminal illness, how do you plan for the best possible death?

In April 2008 Sarah Winch’s husband, Lincoln, died from kidney cancer that was diagnosed only four months earlier. He was 48.

Sarah and Lincoln prepared as best they could for his death. Her 30 years as a registered nurse and ethicist, specifically focused on end-of-life care, did not fully prepare Sarah for Lincoln’s death, but it did help them plan for the best death possible.

This book advocates for taking control of the final stages of life. It opens up the conversation around death and encourages us to become more informed about how we want to die.

This is an intimate, compassionate and practical guide, from someone with uniquely relevant personal and professional experience.

PRAISE FOR THE BEST DEATH

‘In my decades as a medical practitioner, I have come to know that while death is inevitable, few people understand how to approach the physical, emotional and spiritual experience of dying. The Best Death is a practical and valuable resource for people who are facing the final challenge of their lives.’ Professor Kerryn Phelps AM

Dr Sarah Winch is head of the Medical Ethics, Law and Professionalism discipline at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Queensland. She is also the CEO of Health Ethics Australia, a charity that aims to improve death literacy for everyone and raise compassion awareness among clinicians. She teaches healthcare ethics and researches end-of-life care. Sarah’s professional health ethics advice is sought nationally and internationally by clinicians and government agencies. A widely published author, she draws on her expertise and experiences in end-of-life healthcare to help others get the best death possible.
Winner of the 2017 Thomas Shapcott Prize for Poetry

*Milk Teeth* is a highly original debut volume of poetry by the 2017 Thomas Shapcott Prize winner. It interrogates notions of category, including but not limited to gender. Rae White has produced poetry that is playful and edgy yet, at the same time, accessible and meaningful. It is a wise, adventurous and provocative collection that announces the arrival of a significant new talent in Australian poetry.

**PRAISE FOR MILK TEETH**

‘Innovative and engaging poetry which shows the poet’s ability to incorporate new techniques without alienating the reader. White has tamed modernism to produce a poetry that is playful and edgy and, at the same time, accessible and meaningful. It is both highly readable and provocative.’ *Judges’ comments, Thomas Shapcott Prize*

*Rae White* is a non-binary poet and writer living in Brisbane. Their poetry has been published in *Meanjin Quarterly, Cordite Poetry Review, Andromeda Spaceways, Woolf Pack* and others. Their short stories have been published in *Seizure, Capricious* and *Slink Chunk Press*. Rae’s poem ‘what even r u?’ placed second in the 2017 Overland Judith Wright Poetry Prize. Rae is the editor of #EnbyLife, a collaborative zine about non-binary experiences. They hold a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Creative Writing Production) from Queensland University of Technology, and previously worked at 4ZZZ community radio as an on-air announcer. *Milk Teeth* is Rae’s first poetry collection.