THREE DAYS OF LITERARY FUN AND FESTIVITIES

~ FESTIVAL GUIDE ~

9 to 11 MARCH 2016

THE WRITERS’ FESTIVAL FOR THE GOLD COAST
As Mayor of the City of Gold Coast, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2016 Somerset Celebration of Literature. The City of Gold Coast is proud to support this event, as it has grown to become one of Australia’s premier youth literature festivals.

After 22 years, the Somerset Celebration of Literature is arguably the most significant literary event in the city. Getting young people excited about reading and writing is important. In addition to enabling access to information, developing a sense of community and lifelong learning; literacy remains central to the ability to learn, grow and achieve in society.

We need to deepen the literacy skills of our young people if they are to survive and thrive in the digital age – an age where the written word is king. Certainly, I am keen to see the cultural landscape of the Gold Coast grow and develop.

Congratulations to Somerset College for again organising the Celebration of Literature as the festival not only plays a vital role in breathing life to this vision, but is now a literary institution for the city.

I hope everyone involved gains a fresh perspective of literature and leaves inspired to write their own story.

Tom Tate
Mayor
Of course, there are the other pragmatic reasons for encouraging reading and writing, such as enabling one to live successfully in this ever-changing and complex world, but even then there is a fascinating synergy between these life skills and creativity and gaining a meaningful understanding of life.

The 2016 Somerset Celebration of Literature festival, the 23rd consecutive festival, bringing together over 28 writers to the College over 3 days in March, celebrates these benefits that reading and writing brings to adolescents and adults. Events to look out for are the Somerset Alumni Prologue Party on the Wednesday (9 March) from 5.30 pm with food, drink, entertainment and fireworks, The Literary Lunch on Thursday (10 March) at 12.30 pm in the Ray Building Dining Room and the Tweed Banora Dental Literary Long Table Dinner on Friday (11 March) at 6.30 pm in the Towers Quad.

The festival also actively promotes the next generation of writers and poets with the National Novella Writing Competition and the National Poetry Prize. We extend this community involvement further with our commitment to bring students from regional schools to the festival through the generosity of the contributors to the Somerset Literary Fund, one singular contributor being the Thyne Reid Foundation. We thank and welcome all our sponsors - publishers, businesses and individuals alike. You are instrumental in freeing the minds of our children and there can be no other more noble pursuit. Finally, the programme comes together each year due to the unstinting passion and commitment of the Festival Committee, parent volunteers, Somerset students and the support of the Headmaster, Craig Bassingthwaighte and the College Board. Welcome to our Festival; we organise it but it belongs to the community of the Gold Coast.

Dr Michael Brohier
Chairperson

READING AND BEING FREE

Frederick Douglas, the African-American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman, once said, “Once you learn to read you will be forever free”. The French novelist, critic, and essayist, considered by many to be one of the greatest authors of all time, Marcel Proust supports this when he says, “There are no days of our childhood we lived so fully as those spent with a favourite book”.

I know when I look back on my childhood in the dim and distant past, what stands out like a beacon in my memory are the languid days spent reading without a care for anything else in the world. Were these wasted days? On the contrary, these were the days that built the bedrock for my life.

Reading and as a natural consequence, writing, provides one with the building blocks for creativity and imagination and imbues one with a love of the story, the narrative; so important in understanding and comprehending the value of life’s universal truths, like the value of belonging, the importance of family, the restorative power of overcoming adversity and a host of other equally important codes by which to live. Through reading, we experience the ‘lived experiences’ of other human beings and if our reading process is sacred and full of intent, we then learn to apply these universal truths from books, poems and songs to inform, enhance, simplify and bring meaning to our own lives.

This is the mission of our Festival of reading and writing; to bring stories to young and not so young minds, through the texts of our authors, poets and song writers and in doing so freeing their minds forever.

Of course, there are the other pragmatic reasons for encouraging reading and writing, such as enabling one to live successfully in this ever-changing and complex world, but even then there is a fascinating synergy between these life skills and creativity and gaining a meaningful understanding of life.
MEET THE AUTHORS

Deborah Abela
Session 151 Wednesday 9 at 1.45pm
Session 224 Thursday 10 at 10.15am
Session 333 Friday 11 at 11.15am

After finishing a teaching degree, Deb went to Africa where she was caught in a desert sandstorm, harassed by monkeys and thrown in jail…twice! She produced and wrote a national kids’ TV show before leaving to write novels, including Max Remy Superspy and Jasper Zammit (Soccer Legend). New City, the sequel to the bestselling, Grimsdon, is about kids living in a climate-changed world, with sea monsters and flying machines. Teresa: A New Australian, was inspired by her dad who was born in a cave during one of the heaviest bombing raids of WW2. Deb’s won awards for her books but mostly hopes to be as brave as her characters.

www.deborahabela.com

Felice Arena
Session 142 Wednesday 9 at 12.45pm
Session 223 Thursday 10 at 10.15am
Session 242 Thursday 10 at 12.45pm
Session 323 Friday 11 at 10.15am

Felice Arena is one of Australia’s most popular children’s authors. His books have topped bestseller lists and won several awards, including six Australian Children Choice Book Awards. Felice is also an accomplished actor and TV presenter. He has starred in London West End theatre shows such as Godspell, What a Feeling and Hair, and his prominent television roles include Neighbours, playing Marco Alessi. In 2013 Felice was awarded KOALA (Kids Own Australian Literature Awards) Legend of the Year.

www.felicearena.com

Tim Baker
Session 147 Wednesday 9 at 12.45pm
Session 217 Thursday 10 at 9.15am
Literary Lunch Thursday 10 at 12.30pm
Session 354 Friday 11 at 1.45pm


www.randomhouse.com.au/authors/tim-baker

Tristan Bancks
Session 124 Wednesday 9 at 10.15am
Session 153 Wednesday 9 at 1.45pm
Workshop Thursday 10 at 9.30am
Room to Read Launch Thursday 10 at 12.15pm
Session 253 Thursday 10 at 1.45pm
Session 342 Friday 11 at 12.45pm

Tristan Bancks is a children’s and teen author with a background in acting and filmmaking. His books include the My Life series, Mac Slater Coolhunter (Australia and US) and Two Wolves, a crime-mystery novel for middle-graders (US release as On the Run, November 2015). Tristan is an ambassador for literacy charity Room to Read. He is excited by the future of storytelling and inspiring others to read and create.

www.tristanbancks.com
Angelica Banks is the author of the *Tuesday McGillycuddy* trilogy for young readers. Her books, *Finding Serendipity*, *A Week Without Tuesday* and the forthcoming *Blueberry Pancakes Forever*, are published in Australia, Germany and the USA. But did you know Angelica Banks is not one writer but two? When Heather Rose and Danielle Wood began writing together they decided to create a pen name to make things easy. Heather and Danielle are both award-winning authors of adult fiction. Danielle teaches writing at the University of Tasmania, and Heather is currently undertaking a Bachelor of Fine Arts.

www.daniellewood.com.au
www.heatherrose.com.au

David Burton is a writer from Brisbane, best known for his theatre work. His play *April’s Fool* (Playlab Press) toured nationally in 2012. He has recently co-written *Hedonism’s Second Album* for La Boîte indie, and *The Landmine Is Me* for Queensland Theatre Company. A speaker and presenter in schools across Queensland, David is passionate about sharing his remarkable story with young people. *How to Be Happy* won the Text Prize for Young Adult and Children’s Writing in 2014.

www.daveburton.com.au

Peter Carnavas grew up in Brisbane and on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. He became a primary school teacher and it was during this time that he began to immerse himself in picture books. His first book, *Jessica’s Box*, was shortlisted for the 2008 Queensland Premier’s Literary Award and the 2009 CBCA Crichton Award for Emerging Illustrators. He has since written and illustrated many picture books, which have been translated into German, Italian, Portuguese and Dutch. Peter lives on the Sunshine Coast with his wife, two daughters and a scruffy dog that occasionally escapes.

www.petercarnavas.com

Nick Earls writes long, short and medium-sized fiction, so far including twelve novels and numerous shorter works. With the publication of the *Word Hunters* trilogy in 2012/13, he is now officially also a writer for children. He is the winner of a Betty Trask Award (UK) and Children’s Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Award. *Perfect Skin* was the only novel to be a finalist in the Australian Comedy Awards in 2003, and was adapted into a feature film in Italy (Solo un Padre, Warner Brothers/Cattleya). *48 Shades of Brown* was a Kirkus Reviews (US) book of the year selection, and was adapted into a feature film in Australia (Buena Vista/Prima). Five of his novels have been adapted into stage plays.

www.nickearls.wordpress.com
Nikki Gemmell is the bestselling author of seven novels and four works of non-fiction for adults, and two novels for children. Her work has received international critical acclaim and been translated into many languages. In France she’s been described as a female Jack Kerouac, in Australia as one of the most original and engaging authors of her generation and in the US as one of the few truly original voices to emerge in a long time. Nikki is currently a columnist for the Weekend Australian’s Saturday magazine, and a Friday regular on the Today programme in Australia. Born in Wollongong, Australia, Nikki lived in London for many years but has now returned to Australia with her family.

www.nikkigemmell.com

Dave Hackett was currently seen each week on Channel Eleven’s Toasted TV and Channel Seven’s It’s Academic and has also featured as live cartoonist on Saturday Disney, Totally Wild and cheeZ TV. Dave has presented to over 130,000 children in schools and libraries. He has written six instructional cartooning books and is also the creator of the UFO – Unavoidable Family Outing novel series, which is included in the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge; Sumo Granny Smackdown, Norman Enormous, Hamilton’s Handstand, and he recently co-created The Burn Book. Dave’s most recent titles are The Summer of Kicks a YA novel following an action packed high school summer and Time for Bed, Daddy a hilarious picture book that turns the tables on bedtime.

www.cartoondave.com

C.M. Gray (aka Carmen) lives in Central Queensland in a house that was once a butcher’s shop. She shares this house/shop with several cats, a varying number of goldfish, two small boys and a large one. Carmen is said to enjoy rock climbing, deep sea diving and base jumping but the people that say this are lying. She is actually pretty scared of all these activities and would rather curl up on the sofa with a good book. Or even a mediocre one. Occasionally, when she’s feeling especially adventurous, she does archery with her two boys. At eleven and thirteen, they are much better at it than her, so like most adults, she pretends to let them win on purpose. At the moment, Carmen is busy working on a series to be published through ABC Harper Collins.

www.cmgray.net

Leanne Hall is the author of two novels for young adults: This Is Shyness and its sequel, Queen of the Night. Leanne Hall was born in Melbourne and has lived there most of her life. She began her writing career with short stories, some of which have been published in Sleepers Almanac, Meanjin and Best Australian Stories. She won The Text Prize in 2009 with her debut novel This Is Shyness.

www.thelongblinks.com
Jacqueline Harvey knew she wanted to be an author at a young age. She couldn’t say exactly when, but winning a minor writing competition as a teenager inspired her to think that maybe, sometime in the future, she might be able to write books. Jacqueline lives in Sydney with her husband Ian and is currently working on more Alice-Miranda and Clementine Rose adventures. She relishes any opportunity to get back into school and work with the children who inspire her writing. In her spare time she likes to play golf in exotic locations.

www.jacquelineharvey.com.au

Based in Melbourne, Nicole Hayes is an author whose debut novel, The Whole of My World, deals with family, friendship, and football. In 2014 it was longlisted for the Gold Inky Award, and shortlisted for the Young Australians’ Best Book Award (YABBA). Her second novel for teens, One True Thing, is about music, politics, and gender. She has a Master of Arts in Creative Writing, and has taught writing for different organisations, including University of Melbourne, Australian Writers Centre, Writers Victoria, and various secondary schools. She is the Writing Facilitator at Phoenix Park Neighbourhood House.

www.nicolehayesauthor.com

Jack Heath exploded on the Australian publishing scene as a teenager with his debut novel The Lab which was published to high acclaim. Since then Jack’s been published in the US and UK, and shortlisted for numerous awards including the Aurealis Award for Best Sci Fi Novel as well as the Nottinghamshire Best Book Award, and in 2009 was the ACT Young Australian of the Year. Jack’s most recent novel is The Cut Out.

www.jackheath.com.au

Megan Jacobson grew up in Darwin and the far north coast of NSW but now lives in Sydney where she works in TV news production at the ABC. She has a degree in journalism and has worked as a question writer for TV game shows and as an in-house script story-liner and script editor for several Australian television dramas, including the Emmy-nominated series Dance Academy. Her short stories have been published in the Sydney Morning Herald, aired on ABC radio, and appeared in the UTS Writers Anthology. Yellow is her first novel.

www.meganjacobson.com
Andy Jones is an in-demand children’s entertainer. He constantly tours schools Australia-wide with his music and humour-based shows. Andy is also the bestselling author of *The Enormous Book of Hot Jokes for Kool Kids* and *The Fartionary.*


Leisel Jones is rightly regarded as one of the greatest breaststrokers ever. At just fifteen, she won two silver medals at the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000; she went on to win three Olympic gold medals, and many Commonwealth and world championship medals. At London 2012, she became the first Australian swimmer to compete at four Olympics. She was a commentator for the Commonwealth Games 2014 and recently appeared on the Australian *I’m a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here.*

www.blackincbooks.com/authors/leisel-jones

Luka Lesson is a Greek-Australian writer cut from a different cloth. With an original and yet instantly classic style Luka’s work touches people from all walks of life, holding a humanity simultaneously intricate and eternal. Since exploding onto the scene in 2010, Luka has constantly influenced those who witness his work to pick up a pen again, or endeavour to write for the first time. A winner of Slams, including the Australian Poetry Slam final & Melbourne Poetry Festival final, and a songwriter from way back, Luka spent 2012 touring writers’ festivals and independent venues throughout Australia, Asia, Oceania and North America.

www.lukalesson.com.au

Michael Pryor, author of *Machine Wars* and *10 Futures* has published more than thirty popular and critically acclaimed novels, more than fifty short stories, and has over one million words in print. His work has been longlisted for an Inky award, shortlisted for the WAYBR award and six times shortlisted for the Aurealis Award. Seven of his books have been awarded Children’s Book Council of Australia Notable Book status. His latest book is *Leo da Vinci Vs the Ice-cream Domination League.*

www.michaelpryor.com.au
Alice Pung is the author of *Laurinda*. Her first novel, *Laurinda* was shortlisted for the 2015 Indie Awards and 2015 Inky Awards, and was the Children’s Book Council of Australia 2015 Notable Book of the Year for Older Readers. Alice’s previous books include the best-selling memoirs *Unpolished Gem* (winner of the Australian Book Industry Newcomer of the Year Award) and *Her Father’s Daughter*, and she was the editor of the anthology *Growing up Asian in Australia*. Alice’s work has appeared in the Monthly, Good Weekend, the Age, The Best Australian Stories and Meanjin. She is a Melbourne-based writer and lawyer.

www.alicepung.com

Christopher Richardson had been working on his debut novel, *Voyage of the Moon Child* – first book in the Empire of the Waves series – for ten years when it was plucked from the slush pile. He wrote a huge chunk of the story while house-sitting in Tuscany and finished it while undertaking his PhD on North Korean children’s culture. Christopher has been passionate about storytelling and writing since he was a young boy, once winning a regional creative writing competition where the prize included meeting Diana Kidd.

www.christopherrichardson.com.au

Lian Tanner (author of the best-selling *Keepers* trilogy) has been dynamited while scuba diving and arrested while busking. She once spent a week in the jungles of Papua New Guinea, hunting for a Japanese soldier left over from the Second World War. She likes secrets, old bones, and animals that are not what they seem. Nowadays she lives by the beach in southern Tasmania with a large fluffy tomcat called Harry-le-beau. Lian’s new series, *The Hidden*, consists of *Ice Breaker, Sunker’s Deep* and *Fetcher’s Song* (published in January 2016).

www.liantanner.com

Matthew Ryan began theatre-making with his first play *So You Die A Little*, which was short-listed for the George Landen Award at Queensland Theatre Company. He won the same award the following year for his second play *Chasing The Whale* (as “The Dance Of Jeremiah”). Matthew made his mainstage debut with *Chasing The Whale* at La Boite Theatre Company in 2005.

Created with *The Escapists*, Matthew’s production of boy girl wall sold out three separate seasons in Brisbane and went on to be performed at several companies around Australia, selling out at Melbourne Theatre Company’s Studio Season before embarking on a National Australian Tour with Critical Stages. In 2010, Matthew was one of only five screenwriters selected for Screen Queensland’s inaugural Writers’ Room Program to develop his screenplay *Danny Fisher*, a drama set during the Battle of Brisbane in 1942.

www.matthewryan.net.au

**Alice Pung**

Session 136 Wednesday 9 at 11.15am  
Session 155 Wednesday 9 at 1.45pm  
Session 216 Thursday 10 at 9.15am  
Stella Prize in Schools Launch Thursday 10 at 5.30pm  
Session 344 Friday 11 at 12.45pm

**Matthew Ryan**

Session 16 Wednesday 9 at 9.15am  
Workshop Thursday 10 at 9.30am  
Session 246 Thursday 10 at 12.45pm  
Session 317 Friday 11 at 9.15am

**Lian Tanner**

Session 144 Wednesday 9 at 12.45pm  
Session 251 Thursday 10 at 1.45pm  
Session 343 Friday 11 at 12.45pm
PJ Tierney’s fiction draws from her early career backstage on shows for stars such as Madonna, U2 and Bon Jovi. It was on the set of *The Matrix,* and on the barges and bays of Hong Kong for the Handover Celebrations, that the Jamie Reign series took form. The first in the series, *The Last Spirit Warrior* was shortlisted for the inaugural Readings Children’s Book Prize. PJ lives in Sydney, surrounded by Chinese food and kung fu films – all for research purposes of course.


Gabrielle Tozer is an Australian YA author, journalist and editor. She has written for publications including Dolly, Girlfriend, Cleo, Cosmopolitan and TV Week. Her debut novel *The Intern* won the 2015 Gold Inky Award and is out in Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the US. The sequel *Faking It* is out now and due for overseas publication next year. Gabby is currently writing her third contemporary YA novel, which hits bookstores in 2016, and tinkering with her first children’s picture book.

[www.gabrielletozer.com](http://www.gabrielletozer.com)

Frances Watts was born in Switzerland and grew up in Australia. She has won the Prime Minister’s Award for Children’s Fiction and the Children’s Book Council of Australia Book of the Year award for her bestselling picture books and is also the author of the medieval fantasy/adventure Sword Girl series (ill. Gregory Rogers) and the highly acclaimed Gerander Trilogy. The Raven’s Wing, set in Ancient Rome, and The Peony Lantern, set in nineteenth-century Japan, are her first middle grades/YA novels.

[www.franceswatts.com](http://www.franceswatts.com)

Tammy Williams is a Murri woman and was admitted as a barrister in 2002. Her legal career includes Commonwealth prosecutor and appointments to quasi-judicial bodies. She has been a member of the National Human Rights Consultative Committee and in 2003 was named the Queensland Women Lawyers Association Emergent Lawyer of the Year. Tammy was profiled in the documentary *Black Chicks Talking* and in 2011 was included in the International Women’s Day ‘Power of 100’ – a list of one hundred women who have helped to shape Australia.

Lesley Williams is a respected Murri (Aboriginal) Elder. She is best known for instigating the domestic and international Justice for Aboriginal Workers campaign. In 2002 this campaign resulted in the Queensland State Government delivering an historic reparation package of $55.4 million to all Indigenous workers who had their wages and savings controlled by past governments. In 2003 she was awarded the Centenary Medal for her distinguished services to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Lesley has co-produced and consulted on a number of documentary films including The Ration Shed and For Their Own Good, and co-wrote On The Banks of the Barambah: A History of Cherbourg. She is a proud and devoted ‘Nana’ to six grandchildren.

www.notjustblackandwhite.com.au

Fiona Wood wrote television scripts for twelve years before braving up to write her first novel, Six Impossible Things. Her next novel, Wildlife, won the CBCA Book of the Year Award for Older Readers 2014, and was shortlisted for the Victorian Premier’s Literary Award, the Queensland Literary Award and the NSW Premier’s Literary Award, Ethel Turner Prize. Her new novel is Cloudwish. Fiona lives in Melbourne with her family.

www.fionawood.com

Claire Zorn lives on the south coast of New South Wales with her husband and two small children. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Post Graduate Diploma in writing. She is a music lover, retro furniture collector and amateur swim-club enthusiast.

www.clairezorn.wordpress.com
Bleach* Festival illuminates, reflects, beams, focuses and most importantly connects art, with community... come with us and challenge the conventional as we strive to change perceptions at Bleach* Festival 2016, 4 March to 20 March.

With sophisticated, contemporary and innovative artistic programming, Bleach* Festival is an expression of music, theatre, dance, visual arts, outdoor events and much more. Bleach* Festival 2016 will feature six world premiere works created by some of Australia’s leading contemporary artists, across three huge weekends.

As the signature annual multi-arts festival of the Gold Coast, we shine a light on our unique creativity and culture by presenting the city in a new way, to new audiences, both locally and internationally as we build towards the 2018 Commonwealth Games and beyond.

Quintessentially Gold Coast, Bleach* Festival celebrates the city’s best artists, welcomes renowned Australian and international collaborators and engages a broad audience through a range of accessible events.

Utilising the Gold Coast’s world famous natural landscapes as unconventional venues, Bleach* Festival is a platform for expression, curated to encourage community ownership and participation, provide legacy building capacity and ultimately play a role amongst the world’s leading arts sector festivals.

Visit bleachfestival.com.au for further information
EDUCATIONAL TOURISM PACKAGE FOR SCHOOLS

Each package includes accommodation, continental buffet breakfast and buffet dinner and author sessions, visits to the bookshop and book signings.

This package provides the opportunity for students and teachers to experience the Somerset Celebration of Literature, the writers’ festival for the Gold Coast. This annual three day event features a bookshop, panel discussions, interactive author sessions and workshops, and the awe-inspiring finale dinner. It’s a great opportunity to meet authors and illustrators, have your books signed and enjoy a festival dedicated to reading and writing.

The Programme’s objective is to expose as many children as possible to writers, illustrators and their books, giving the students the opportunity to workshop stories with their presenting authors thereby encouraging the students to embrace the value of reading. There is no substitute for books in the life of a child.

2016 Packages:

- **2 Days - 1 Night Package**
  Cost per person (excluding travel) - $175

- **3 Days – 2 Night Package**
  Cost per person (excluding travel) - $250

- **4 Days – 3 Night Package**
  Cost per person (excluding travel) - $350

For further information please visit www.SomersetCofL.org.au or contact the Events Office - events@somerset.qld.edu.au
# Programme: Wednesday 9 March

## Day 1

### 9.15am to 10.00am

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<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Grades</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td><em>What’s the Joke?</em> presented by best-selling children’s entertainer, author and songwriter, Andy Jones. Lower Primary Students (aged 5 to 8 years)</td>
<td>5 to 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>Jacquie Harvey</td>
<td>3 to 6</td>
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<td>113</td>
<td>P.J. Tierney</td>
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<td>114</td>
<td>Christopher Richardson</td>
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<td>115</td>
<td>Gabrielle Tozer</td>
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<td>116</td>
<td>Matthew Ryan</td>
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<td>117</td>
<td>Nicole Hayes</td>
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### 10.15am to 11.00am

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<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>Nikki Gemmell</td>
<td>2 to 4</td>
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<td>122</td>
<td>Angelica Banks</td>
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<td>123</td>
<td>Michael Pryor</td>
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<td>124</td>
<td>Tristan Bancks</td>
<td>7 to 9</td>
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<td>125</td>
<td>Fiona Wood</td>
<td>8 to 10</td>
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<td>126</td>
<td>Megan Jacobson</td>
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<td>127</td>
<td>David Burton</td>
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### 11.15am to 12noon

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<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>131</td>
<td>Peter Carnavas</td>
<td>2 to 4</td>
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<td>132</td>
<td>Nick Earls</td>
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<tr>
<td>133</td>
<td>C.M. Gray</td>
<td>4 to 7</td>
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<td>134</td>
<td>Frances Watts</td>
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<td>135</td>
<td>Luka Lesson</td>
<td>8 to 10</td>
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<td>136</td>
<td>Alice Pung</td>
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<td>137</td>
<td>Leisel Jones</td>
<td>10 to 12</td>
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### 12.45pm to 1.30pm

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>141</td>
<td><em>Rap Rhyme</em> presented by best-selling children’s entertainer, author and songwriter, Andy Jones. Upper Primary Students (aged 9 to 12 years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>142</td>
<td>Felice Arena</td>
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<td>143</td>
<td>Angelica Banks</td>
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<td>144</td>
<td>Lian Tanner</td>
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<td>145</td>
<td>Dave Hackett</td>
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<td>146</td>
<td>Fiona Wood</td>
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### Bonus for Students

#### 9.30am to 11.00am

**Creating Crazy Cartoon Animals** *(for students aged 9+)* $18

If you want to draw heaps of crazy dogs, cats, chickens, monkeys, sharks and even amoebas... Get set for an awesome time with TV’s ‘Cartoon Dave’ Hackett. In this fully interactive workshop, you’ll be learning to draw your own awesome versions of loads of different animals – in fact, you’ll learn how to turn every animal on the planet into a cool cartoon animal!

#### 9.30am to 11.00am

**Short and Surreal** *(for students aged 14+)* $18

Art, creative experiments, dreams and short stories collide in a writing workshop with award-winning author Leanne Hall, inspired by the antics of the Surrealist artists. Be inspired by weird and famous works of art, dabble in concrete poetry, dream journaling and automatic writing to create your own out-there short stories.
## Programme: Thursday 10 March

### 9.15am to 10.00am

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<td><em>What's the Joke?</em> presented by best-selling children’s entertainer, author and songwriter, Andy Jones. Lower Primary Students (aged 5 to 8 years) See website for full details.</td>
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<td>214</td>
<td>PJ Tierney</td>
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<td>215</td>
<td>Claire Zorn</td>
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<td>216</td>
<td>Alice Pung</td>
<td>10 to 12</td>
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### 10.15am to 11.00am

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<tr>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>221</td>
<td>Nikki Gemmell</td>
<td>2 to 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>222</td>
<td>C.M. Gray</td>
<td>3 to 6</td>
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<td>223</td>
<td>Felice Arena</td>
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<td>224</td>
<td>Deborah Abela</td>
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<td>225</td>
<td>Gabrielle Tozer</td>
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<tr>
<td>226</td>
<td>David Burton</td>
<td>8 to 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>227</td>
<td><em>The Politics of Writing Women</em> with authors Nicole Hayes and Fiona Wood. Chaired by Stella Prize Schools Coordinator Bec Kavanagh. Reading should be enjoyable - so how do writers approach themes of gender equality and diversity in their work whilst also writing a book that readers will want to read. Bec Kavanagh talks to Fiona Wood and Nicole Hayes about the politics of writing women - how are women stereotyped in YA? How has their work pushed against these stereotypes? Do readers want these kind of characters?</td>
<td>10 to 12</td>
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### 11.15am to 12noon

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<tr>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>231</td>
<td>Jacque Harvey</td>
<td>2 to 4</td>
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<td>232</td>
<td>Dave Hackett</td>
<td>4 to 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>233</td>
<td>Nick Earls</td>
<td>6 to 8</td>
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<td>234</td>
<td>Frances Watts</td>
<td>7 to 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>235</td>
<td>Christopher Richardson</td>
<td>9 to 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>236</td>
<td>Tammy and Lesley Williams</td>
<td>10 to 12</td>
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### 12.45pm to 1.30pm

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>241</td>
<td><em>Rap Rhyme</em> presented by best-selling children’s entertainer, author and songwriter, Andy Jones. Upper Primary Students (aged 9 to 12 years) See website for full details.</td>
<td>241</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 to 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>242</td>
<td>Felice Arena</td>
<td>6 to 8</td>
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<td>243</td>
<td>Jack Heath</td>
<td>7 to 9</td>
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<td>244</td>
<td>Dave Hackett</td>
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<td>245</td>
<td>Nicole Hayes</td>
<td>9 to 11</td>
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<td>246</td>
<td>Matthew Ryan</td>
<td>10 to 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>247</td>
<td>Megan Jacobson</td>
<td>10 to 12</td>
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### 1.45pm to 2.30pm

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<tr>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>251</td>
<td>Lian Tanner</td>
<td>2 to 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>252</td>
<td>Angelica Banks</td>
<td>3 to 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>253</td>
<td>Tristan Bancks</td>
<td>4 to 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>254</td>
<td>Leanne Hall</td>
<td>6 to 8</td>
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<td>255</td>
<td>Michael Pryor</td>
<td>7 to 9</td>
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<td>256</td>
<td>Fiona Wood</td>
<td>8 to 10</td>
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<td>257</td>
<td>Leisel Jones</td>
<td>9 to 11</td>
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### BONUS FOR STUDENTS

#### 9.30am to 11.00am
**Writing Funny**
(for students aged 9+) $18

*Tristan Bancks* is the author of *My Life & Other Exploding Chickens*, the fourth in his *My Life* series of weird-funny-gross short story collections. Tristan uses his own life as inspiration for the Tom Weekly stories, like the time he did a runner from the dentist and the time an evil clown tried to kill him. In this workshop, have lots of laughs and discover ways to mine your own life for cool, weird, funny stories that your friends will love.

#### 9.30am to 11.30am
**Writing for Performance**
(for students aged 14+) $18

*Matthew Ryan* is the writer of *Brisbane, Kelly* and numerous other plays that have been produced all around Australia. In this workshop, Matthew shares the skills he uses as one of the most prolific playwrights in the country. Matthew uses games and improvisational challenges to show you how plays are built from the first inspiration to a fully formed dramatic work.
PROGRAMME: FRIDAY 11 MARCH

9.15am to 10.00am

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>311</td>
<td>What's the Joke?</td>
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<td>presented by best-selling</td>
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<td>children’s entertainer,</td>
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<td>author and songwriter,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Andy Jones.</td>
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<td>(aged 5 to 8 years)</td>
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<td>details.</td>
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<tr>
<td>312</td>
<td>Peter Carnavas</td>
<td>3 to 6</td>
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<td>313</td>
<td>PJ Tierney</td>
<td>4 to 7</td>
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<td>314</td>
<td>Christopher Richardson</td>
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<td>315</td>
<td>Luka Lesson</td>
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<td>316</td>
<td>Megan Jacobson</td>
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<td>317</td>
<td>Matthew Ryan</td>
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<td>Tristan Bancks</td>
<td>4 to 7</td>
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<td>343</td>
<td>Lian Tanner</td>
<td>5 to 8</td>
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<td>344</td>
<td>Alice Pung</td>
<td>8 to 10</td>
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<td>345</td>
<td>David Burton</td>
<td>10 to 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>346</td>
<td>Meet the Novella Finalists</td>
<td>9 to 12</td>
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1.45pm to 2.30pm

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<td>Leanne Hall</td>
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<td>352</td>
<td>Nick Earls</td>
<td>4 to 7</td>
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<td>353</td>
<td>Frances Watts</td>
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<td>354</td>
<td>Tim Baker</td>
<td>8 to 10</td>
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<td>Nicole Hayes</td>
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BONUS FOR STUDENTS

9.30am to 11.00am

Writing for the Stage
(for students aged 12+) $18

David Burton is the writer behind over twenty-five professionally produced theatre works, including works for children, musicals and award-winning contemporary theatre. In this workshop, learn about how you and your friends can create imaginative stories and go about performing them. Learn the secret tools that you can use to keep an audience on the edge of their seats, and create the most spectacular scenes with just your imagination.

HIGHLIGHTS

AUTHOR SESSIONS
Wednesday 9 to Friday 11 March

WORKSHOPS AND PANELS
Interactive writing workshops and panel discussions for children and adults

SPECIAL EVENTS
Somerset Alumni Prologue Party, Literary Lunch and Tweed Banora Dental Literary Long Table

SOMERSET NATIONAL NOVELLA WRITING COMPETITION AND POETRY PRIZE
Entries close in December each year – 2015 winners announced at the Literary Long Table

EXTENDED PROGRAMME
Free community events throughout the Gold Coast

AUTHOR BOOK SIGNINGS
In the Festival Bookshop

CHILL OUT ZONE, WRITERS’ WALL AND PHOTOBOOTH
In Towers Quad
EXTENDED PROGRAMME

The Surfer and the Mermaid
Saturday 12 March
FREE Community Event - Suitable all ages
The Surfer and The Mermaid, written by Gold Coast local Tim Baker, is a magical and mystical children's picture book which has now been reimagined into a stage production as part of the Somerset College Celebration of Literature. This performance piece for children, tells the story of a young surfer who encounters a group of mermaids after taking a tumble from his board.

Creating a new avenue for an important message to be shared, this production highlights the importance of preservation of the marine environment to which we are so lucky to have access. This wondrous performance invites audiences to take a journey to the depths of the ocean and consider the impacts of our choices on the world around us.

Tom Atkin Hall (Tugun Progress Association), 433 Golden Four Drive, Tugun – 9.00am

Genesis AR Writer’s Wall
Don’t miss the Writer’s Wall located in Towers Quad next to the Genesis AR marquee. Look for the witty words of wisdom from our visiting authors and let us know what you like about the Festival. Check out the latest in gaming technology at the Genesis AR marquee!

Photo Booth
A favourite of festival goers, visit the photo booth with your friends to take home a lasting memory of your time at the Festival. Photo booth kindly sponsored by Crasto Properties and Medland Orthodontics.

CHILLOUT ZONE

The Chill Out Zone is a place to take time out, watch the world go by and enjoy the wonder of the Festival!

Wednesday 12.15pm
Risa Utama
Join 16 year old author/illustrator, Risa Utama, as she talks about her motivation for writing and her passion to save the Bilby. Risa will explain the process and provide fellow aspiring youth authors an insight as to how to get your manuscript published!

Thursday 12.15pm
Launching Leadership for Literacy

You can help!
Join room to read’s writer ambassadors and take leadership for literacy, engaging your families and your school communities to help raise awareness and funds to help room to read provide solutions. Learn more by joining Room to Read’s Writer Ambassadors Tristan Bancks, Deborah Abela, Jacquie Harvey and Alice Pung.

Friday 12.15pm
Presentation by Genesis AR
Join award winning young entrepreneurs, Ryan, Long and William as they discuss and show you the latest in gaming technology. If you’re a gamer or interested in technology, this is a free session, not to be missed.
Flawed and Fabulous

Join authors Jack Heath, Megan Jacobson, Gabrielle Tozer and Nicole Hayes as they discuss the importance of writing flawed characters.

DATE: Thursday 10 March
TIME: 5.30pm to 6.30pm
SESSION: S11
CHAIRPERSON: Molly Ward
VENUE: Mudgeeraba Markets Shopping Village

QLD Stella Prize Schools Program Launch

Join us for a very special free event to celebrate the launch of the Stella Prize Schools Program in QLD. Authors Steph Bowe, Leanne Hall, Alice Pung and Paula Weston will discuss the ways unconscious bias affected their teenage reading habits, and how their books seek to address contemporary issues around gender and diversity. The panel will be moderated by Stella Prize Schools Coordinator Bec Kavanagh, and followed by book signings.

DATE: Thursday 10 March
TIME: 5.30pm
MODERATOR: Stella Prize Schools Coordinator, Bec Kavanagh
VENUE: The Arts Centre Gold Coast
**BONUS FOR STUDENTS**

**Wednesday 9 March**

9.30am to 11.00am  
Creating Crazy Cartoon Animals  
(for students aged 9+) $18  
If you want to draw heaps of crazy dogs, cats, chickens, monkeys, sharks and even amoebas... Get set for an awesome time with TV’s ‘Cartoon Dave’ Hackett. In this fully interactive workshop, you’ll be learning to draw your own awesome versions of loads of different animals – in fact, you’ll learn how to turn every animal on the planet into a cool cartoon animal!

9.30am to 11.00am  
Short and Surreal  
(for students aged 14+) $18  
Art, creative experiments, dreams and short stories collide in a writing workshop with award-winning author Leanne Hall, inspired by the antics of the Surrealist artists. Be inspired by weird and famous works of art, dabble in concrete poetry, dream journaling and automatic writing to create your own out-there short stories.

**Thursday 10 March**

9.30am to 11.00am  
Writing Funny  
(for students aged 9+) $18  
Tristan Bancks is the author of My Life & Other Exploding Chickens, the fourth in his My Life series of weird-funny-gross short story collections. Tristan uses his own life as inspiration for the Tom Weekly stories, like the time he did a runner from the dentist and the time an evil clown tried to kill him. In this workshop, have lots of laughs and discover ways to mine your own life for cool, weird, funny stories that your friends will love.

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Writing for Performance  
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**Friday 11 March**

9.30am to 11.00am  
Writing for the Stage  
(for students aged 12+) $18  
David Burton is the writer behind over twenty-five professionally produced theatre works, including works for children, musicals and award-winning contemporary theatre. In this workshop, learn about how you and your friends can create imaginative stories and go about performing them. Learn the secret tools that you can use to keep an audience on the edge of their seats, and create the most spectacular scenes with just your imagination.
IN THE CASE OF FIRE OR EVACUATION PLEASE ASSEMBLE HERE. Don’t panic or run. Close doors and windows. Leave all articles behind.

1 Lepp Building
2 Performing Arts Theatre
3 The Great Hall
4 Senior Learning Centre
5 Chill Out Zone
6 The Arnison Building
7 Parents’ and Friends’ Volunteers Room
8 Festival Bookshop
9 Towers Quad
10 The Brown Building
11 Year 11 Common Room
12 Fitness Centre
13 Volleyball Court Marquee
14 The Ray Building

Ticket Booth
Tickets may be purchased here

Meeting Point

Parking
At the front of the college or along Clover Hill Drive

Information

First Aid

The Hardback Café
Booking Information
Tickets are $7.00 (GST inclusive) per person per session. For adult sessions, workshops and catered functions, please refer to individual event information. Tickets will be emailed to you, so you can then print them out at home. Tickets may also be collected from the Somerset College Events Office between 8.00am and 4.00pm Monday to Friday.

Bookings can only be processed on receipt of full payment. Bookings can only be accepted online, or in person at the Events Office. There are no refunds or exchanges once bookings are processed. Your tickets and confirmation of your booking will be emailed to your designated email address.

Purchasing Your Tickets
Tickets will be on sale from Monday 1 February 2016. You may book online anytime. Many sessions have limited numbers, so please book early to avoid disappointment. Please note there is no allocated seating. You must present your ticket to gain entry.

Note about Venues
Venues for the author sessions will be allocated closer to the Festival. The capacities of the Somerset College venues vary, so final venue allocation is determined according to the number of tickets purchased for each session. Please check the website prior to your visit to find the location of your sessions.

Photography and Videography Permissions
The Somerset Celebration of Literature will have a photographer and videographer on-site to record events throughout the Festival. These photos are for archival and marketing purposes and purchase of a ticket implies permission to use the photos taken for these purposes.

Supervision Policy
Any child 14 years or younger must be accompanied by a supervising parent/guardian or teacher while on campus at all times during the Somerset Celebration of Literature.

Food and Drink
The Hardback Café operates throughout the Festival. Look out for Dippin’ Dots ice creams, Dutch Poffertjes, snow cones and other treats.

Festival Bookshop
The Festival Bookshop stocks an extensive range of books by all the authors and illustrators attending the Somerset Celebration of Literature and is open between 8.00am and 4.00pm. It will also open during The Prologue Party. At the end of each of their sessions, authors are available for book signings!

How to Get Here
The Festival is located on campus at Somerset College, Somerset Drive, Mudgeeraba, Gold Coast.

Car
Take Exit 82 off the Pacific Motorway (M1), head west along Somerset Drive. Somerset College is located on the left. There is limited parking off Somerset Drive, Clover Hill Drive and Sara Carrigan Court (accessed by turning right off Clover Hill Drive).

Public Transport
The nearest Queensland Rail station is Robina. From here, Somerset College is approximately five minutes by car/taxi. Public buses are available from various locations around the Gold Coast. For further details, visit the TransLink website www.translink.com.au.

School Bus Transport
Koala Koaches has a special rate for Gold Coast schools travelling to the Somerset Celebration of Literature. Schools travelling to the Gold Coast by train are also eligible for a special rate on a shuttle service between Robina Train Station and Somerset College. Please contact Bede Young, Manager, Koala Koaches to make your necessary travel arrangements by phoning 07 5535 2711.

School Bookings and Reservation Policy
One complimentary ticket is provided to teachers with each group of up to 10 children (additional teachers are required to purchase more tickets). Tickets may be reserved for up to 14 days without payment. All payments must be finalised at least seven days prior to the Festival. If payment is not received for your reservation, this will result in automatic cancellation of your booking and tickets will be released.

Bags
There is no cloakroom facility at the Somerset Celebration of Literature. We encourage students to bring a small carry bag, as some venues have limited access for school bags. We advise students to leave valuables at home. All lost property can be collected from the Somerset College Events Office.

Have Questions?
Phone: (07) 5559 7382
Email: bookings@somerset.qld.edu.au
Join the Somerset Alumni Association as we celebrate our twenty third reading extravaganza! Through the next three days you will be able to discover the philosophy behind Cover to Cover and it all starts at The Prologue Party. It’s a fun opportunity for you to meet some of Australia’s best authors and illustrators.

Bring the whole family and enjoy the fairground atmosphere with games and activities for the kids. The festival bookshop will be open during this event, this is a great opportunity for adults and children to browse the bookshelf and find that perfect book.

Don’t miss the fireworks!

**DATE**  
Wednesday 9 March

**TIME**  
5.30pm

**VENUE**  
Towers Quad, Somerset College

**DRESS CODE**  
Smart Casual

**TICKETS**  
Free Community Event  
Food and drinks available for purchase.
Best-selling author Tim Baker has forged a far-fetched career combining two of his favourite activities - surfing and writing.

A deep love of story has helped propel him from a landlocked, surf-obsessed teenager in suburban Melbourne to a celebrated surfing writer with an open brief to travel and document the surfing world. Tim has written biographies of some of the world’s most legendary surfers but, more than that, he is fascinated by the way life lessons gained from the ocean can inform our lives on land - teaching balance, flow, spontaneity, considered risk-taking and humility in the face of a higher power.

More recently, his editorship of quarterly lifestyle journal, Slow Living, celebrates taking the time to savour the important things in life - family, friends, the shared table, traditional arts and crafts, an ethical and examined life. Tim weaves this varied life journey into an engaging and candid conversation about how to make the most of life, how to resist the time-poor and micro-scheduled existence many of us feel shoe-horned into and to truly pursue our bliss.

www.randomhouse.com.au/authors/tim-baker
Luka Lesson is once again joining the party this time as the keynote speaker at the final event of the 2016 Somerset Celebration of Literature.

Cut from a different cloth, Greek-Australian raised Luka touches people from all walks of life. Luka is a spoken word artist, musician and dynamic lyricist from Australia. With two years of international touring, 11 Writers’ Festivals, 7 years of workshop experience and almost ten years of writing under his belt, Luka has written commissions and performed for the likes of The Nuyorican Poets’ Cafe (NYC), The National Gallery of Victoria, Trinity International Hip-hop Festival, Greece’s pioneer Hip-hop group ‘Active Member’ and China’s most celebrated living poet Xi Chuan in Beijing. He is also the Australian Poetry Slam champion of 2011 and recently returned from a successful tour of South Africa where he supported Jean Grae (NYC).

www.lukalesson.com.au
Join playwrights, David Burton and Matthew Ryan, as teams battle it out at a Theatresports event at this year’s Festival. Hosted by the Sit Down Comedy Club, in the quirky space of the Dust Temple, it’s a guaranteed night of fun and laughter!

Theatresports™ is improvised theatre entertainment played as a spectator sport. Teams of players invent scenes from suggestions they are given, while following particular sets of rules we call “games”. Everything is made up on the spot; the lights, music, dialogue, mime and song. The teams are judged on their ability to follow the rules of each game, deliver a cohesive story line and entertain the audience. Theatresports™ delivers a vast variety of different theatrical styles: opera, comedy, drama, mime and poetry can appear all in the one show. It is fast paced, unpredictable, and hilarious. Best of all, it’s fun.

The audience is encouraged to get involved in the show, by offering their suggestions for scene “titles”, and by barracking for their favourite teams. The raw energy and excitement generated by truly improvised theatre creates magic, and because it’s not scripted, each new show promises something different.

**Student Round commences at 6.00pm**
Students are encouraged to put teams together for the student rounds.

**Student Team Registration - $20** (Teams 4 to 6). Teams must register at least one week prior to event.

**Adult Round commences at 7.30pm**

**Spectator tickets $10** - Limited seating available.

**DATE** Saturday 12 March
**TIME** 6.00pm
**VENUE** Dust Temple
Penguin Random House welcomes our authors to the Somerset Celebration of Literature

Christopher Richardson  Deborah Abela  Felice Arena
Jacqueline Harvey  Megan Jacobson  Michael Pryor
Nicole Hayes  Nikki Gemmell  Tristan Bancks
HarperCollins Publishers proudly welcomes

P.J. Tierney  Frances Watts  Gabrielle Tozer  Andy Jones  C.M. Gray

to the Somerset Celebration of Literature 2016

ALLEN&UNWIN PROUDLY WELCOMES

Jack Heath  Angelica Banks  Lian Tanner

Pen name of Heather Rose & Danielle Wood www.allenandunwin.com

Proud sponsor of The Prologue Party
Take a break at RACV Royal Pines Resort.
Enjoy 8 restaurants and bars, lagoon pool, golf course, day spa, kids playground and activities including ozbobbles and segways.

- From $179* per room, per night for auto club members
- From $239* per room, per night for non members
- Kids 12 and under eat free with every paying adult*

For bookings please call 07 5597 8700 or email royalpines_enquires@racv.com.au

Ross Street, Benowa, Gold Coast

*Conditions apply. Valid until 30.06.16. Subject to availability. Auto club members include RACQ, NRMA & RACV.

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**AMAZE**
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Flawed and Fabulous:
As part of the Somerset Celebration of Literature, Mudgeeraba Market Shopping Centre will host this session for adults.

Join authors Jack Heath, Megan Jacobson, Gabrielle Tozer and Nicole Hayes as they discuss the importance of writing flawed characters. Enjoy a complimentary glass of wine on arrival.

Thursday 10 March from 5.30pm to 6.30pm.
This session is a free community event.
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Somerset Celebration of Literature
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This project receives financial assistance through collaboration with the City of Gold Coast. We gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance provided through the City of Gold Coast’s Special Events Programme.

We would like to acknowledge the donors who have contributed to the Somerset Literary Fund in support of the Sponsored Schools Programme.

Thyne Reid Foundation

Families: Brohier, Burns, Burrows, Catakovic, Chan, Collins, Danesi, Davidson, Dunn, Focas, Gardiner, Chess, Johnson, Lewis, Macgregor, MacIntyre Young Writers, Manley, McNamara, Reynoldson, Sauer, Scott, Shepherd, Sutton, Thurnwald, Walker, Welch

Cr William Owen-Jones - Division 2
Cr Glenn Tozer - Division 9
Cr Daphne McDonald - Division 13
Cr Chris Robbins - Division 14

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