



VERB

**WRITERS
FESTIVAL**

6-10 NOVEMBER

FEAT.

 **LitCrawl**
WELLINGTON



Harry Giles in *Drone*

Welcome to Verb Festival 2019

Kia ora koutou,

Verb Festival 2019 welcomes writers from across Aotearoa and the world to Pōneke. We begin our festival with a big question and from there embark on five days of discovering stories and enjoying conversations about books and the ideas they contain. This is a time to nourish your mind.

From the extraordinary world of Harry Giles' performance piece called 'Drone', to poetry readings in unusual spaces, to fiction set in post-climate crisis Aotearoa, to the lives of new parents, to the mind of a crime writer, to LitCrawl: Verb Festival has something for everyone. Stories travel far but can always be carried close to the heart. Welcome in and make yourself at home. Thank you to everyone who helped build it.

Claire Mabey & Andrew Laking
Festival Directors

Linda Halle & Luke Finnigan
Festival Coordinators

Brannavan Gnanalingam, Catherine Robertson & Nigel McIntyre
Trustees

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Wednesday

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Verb Festival Opening Night

6.30pm, Public Trust Hall, 131 Lambton Quay
Tickets from \$20

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Thursday

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For the Love of the Library

12pm, He Matapihi Molesworth Library, 70 Molesworth St
Free

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Christos Tsiolkas: Damascus

6pm, San Fran, 171 Cuba St
Tickets from \$20

P 6

Lie Down and Listen: World Builders

6.30pm, Wellesley Boutique Hotel, Maginnity St
Tickets from \$15

P 6

Shayne Carter with Nick Bollinger

7.30pm, San Fran, 171 Cuba St
Tickets from \$20

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Verb Festival Poetry Showcase

8.30pm, Meow, 9 Edward St
Tickets from \$20

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Friday

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Collections Upon Collections

12pm, Public Trust Hall, 131-135 Lambton Quay
Tickets from \$15

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Val McDermid: My Scotland

6pm, Public Trust Hall, 131-135 Lambton Quay
Tickets from \$20

P 7

Lie Down and Listen: Poetics

6.30pm, Wellesley Boutique Hotel, Maginnity St
Tickets from \$15

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Michael Connelly: The Night Fire

7.30pm, Public Trust Hall, 131-135 Lambton Quay
Tickets from \$20

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Drone by Harry Giles

7.30pm, Te Auaha, Tapere Iti, 65 Dixon St
Tickets from \$25

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Lit-Sync For Your Life

9pm, Meow, 9 Edward St
Tickets from \$20

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Saturday

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In The Time I Have Left

10am, Te Auaha, Bar Area, 65 Dixon St
Tickets from \$15

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Fragments from Planet Parent

11am, Meow, 9 Edward St
Tickets from \$15

P 9

By the Stars: Writing place

11am, Te Auaha, Tapere Iti, 65 Dixon St
Tickets from \$15

P 9

Dr Natalie Flynn: BS of Bombardment

11am, Karori Library, 247 Karori Rd
Free

P 9

Pūrākau: Stories for all Time

12.30pm, Meow, 9 Edward St
Tickets from \$15

P 10

Chen Chen: Further Possibilities:

12.30pm, Te Auaha, Tapere Iti, 65 Dixon St
Tickets from \$15

P 10

A Write Thrill

2pm, Meow, 9 Edward St
Tickets from \$15

P 10

D.Nandi Odhiambo: Smells Like Stars

2pm, Te Auaha, Tapere Iti, 65 Dixon St
Tickets from \$15

P 11

Sarah Moss: Ghost Wall:

3.30pm, Meow, 9 Edward St
Tickets from \$15

P 11

Writing My Best Life

3.30pm, Te Auaha, Tapere Iti, 65 Dixon St
Tickets from \$15

P 11

Drone by Harry Giles

7.15pm, Te Auaha, Tapere Iti, 65 Dixon St
Tickets from \$25

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LitCrawl 2019

6pm-Late. 27 Events, 23 Venues, 100+ Writers.
Entry by donation

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Sunday

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How To Read My Poem

10am, Te Auaha, Bar Area, 65 Dixon St
Tickets from \$15

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My Wild Story: Selina Tusitala Marsh

10am, City Gallery, Civic Square
Koha

P 13

Growing up Wāhine Māori

11am, Meow, 9 Edward St
Tickets from \$15

P 13

Sarah Moss & Carl Shuker

11am, Te Auaha, Tapere Iti, 65 Dixon St
Tickets from \$15

P 13

Singing the Trail: The Story of New Zealand Mapping

11.30am, City Gallery, Civic Square
Koha

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Pakaru: Writing Family

12.30pm, Meow, 9 Edward St
Tickets from \$15

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Aotearoa Road Trip: Ruby Porter & Becky Manawatu

12.30pm, Te Auaha, Tapere Iti, 65 Dixon St
Tickets from \$15

P 14

Constellations: Sinéad Gleeson & Kim Hill

2pm, Meow, 9 Edward St
Tickets from \$15

P 15

Climate Changing Fiction

2pm, Te Auaha, Tapere Iti, 65 Dixon St
Tickets from \$15

P 15

Toby & Toby Live

3.30pm, Meow, 9 Edward St
Tickets from \$15

P 15

For the full programme and information on our Family & Kids events see verbwellington.nz

All tickets available from verbwellington.nz Student & unwaged tickets are available for most events. You can also purchase multi-trip passes.

Workshops and Special Events

SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER

Food, Memory & Poetry with Nina Mingya Powles

10am, Te Auaha, Studio, 65 Dixon St

Tickets: \$45

Swim: A creative nonfiction workshop with Annette Lees

10.30am, Island Bay Surf Club
Tickets: \$45. Includes hot drinks and biscuits.

Going to Custard: High Tea

2.30pm, Field & Green, 262 Wakefield St
Tickets: \$45. Includes cakes, tea and coffee.

SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER

Writing Place & Displacement with D. Nandi Odhiambo

11am, Te Auaha, Studio, 65 Dixon St
Tickets \$45

More of Us

1.30pm, Book Haven, 160 Riddiford St
Koha. This event is part of the Newtown Sunday Stroll.

New Animals

2.15pm, BookHound, 132 Riddiford St
Koha. This event is part of the Newtown Sunday Stroll.

The Newest AUP New Poets

3pm, Another Chapter, 6 Riddiford St
Koha. This event is part of the Newtown Sunday Stroll.

Shared Dinner with Rose & Nina

6.30pm, Te Auaha, Bar Area
Tickets: \$45. Includes dinner.

WEDNESDAY 6

Verb Festival Gala Night The Essential Struggle

6.30pm. Public Trust Hall, 131–135 Lambton Quay

Tickets from \$20

Celebrate the start of Verb Festival with a trip into the unanswerable question of “what is the essential struggle”? Verb authors offer ideas that will take us from the personal to the political, the beautiful and the ludicrous, so prepare for a multi-faceted journey to the heart of it all. Speakers include: Nadine Anne Hura, Sarah Moss (UK), Sinéad Gleeson (Ireland), D. Nandi Odhiambo (Africa/Canada), Nick Ascroft, Eamonn Marra, Rijula Das, Harry Giles (Orkney), Duncan Sarkies. Grab a drink and meet the authors afterwards.

THURSDAY 7

For The Love Of The Library

12pm. He Matapihi Molesworth Library, 70 Molesworth St

Free

The loss of Wellington Central Library revealed just how much we love and need our libraries. Three librarians — Laurinda Thomas, Bee Trudgeon, & Jackson Nieuwland — discuss, with author Elizabeth Knox, what they value most about their work, their workplace and how they see the libraries of the future for Aotearoa.

Damascus: Christos Tsiolkas

6pm. San Fran, 171 Cuba St

Tickets from \$20

Much-loved Australian Christos Tsiolkas (*The Slap*) sits down with Kate Duignan to discuss his much-anticipated first novel in six years, *Damascus*. Taking on the founding of the Christian Church through the story of St Paul and the generations after the death of Christ, the book reverberates with some of the most pressing concerns of today: unity, division, patriarchy and false constructs.

Lie Down and Listen: World Builders

6.30pm. Freemasons' Lodge, Wellesley Boutique Hotel, Maginnity St

Tickets from \$15

We've been let into the plush ritual room belonging to the Freemasons of Wellington. Join us for an hour of readings as ritual — lie down on the thickest carpet of your life and listen to writers whose written worlds will take your inner eye on a cinematic journey. Readers include: Elizabeth Knox, Helen Vivienne Fletcher & James McNaughton. *Limited capacity*.

Shayne Carter with Nick Bollinger

7.30pm. San Fran, 171 Cuba St

Tickets from \$20

In *Dead People I Have Known*, New Zealand musician Shayne Carter describes over 40 years of making music in Aotearoa. The frank and often funny memoir is a feat of craft in its own right. For this very special Verb Festival event, Shayne Carter speaks with RNZ's Nick Bollinger about his life as a musician, writer and icon.

Verb Festival Poetry Showcase

8.30pm. Meow, 9 Edward St

Tickets from \$20

An hour of poetry in performance from some of Aotearoa and the world's most lyrically vibrant voices. Gather together in the spirit of words in action and let these poets work their magic. Feat. Chen Chen (US), Michael Pedersen (Scotland), Freya Daly Sadgrove (NZ), Omar Musa (AUS), Marty Smith (NZ), Harry Giles (Scotland), Sara Hirsch (UK / NZ), and more. Co-curated with Motif Poetry.

Proudly supported by the Embassy of the United States of America and Scottish Books International

THURSDAY 7



D. Nandi Odhiambo, see pages 5, 9, 11 & 24 for events.

Collections Upon Collections

12pm. Public Trust Hall, 131–135 Lambton Quay

Tickets from \$15

Join us for a very special event with some of Aotearoa's greatest poets: Bill Manhire, Cilla McQueen, David Eggleton, Elizabeth Smither, Apirana Taylor, Rachel McAlpine & Jenny Bornholdt. Each poet will read from their very first collections and from their very latest. With questions in between from our host, writer Paula Morris.

Val McDermid: Queen of Crime

6pm. Public Trust Hall, 131–135 Lambton Quay

Tickets from \$20

We welcome the Queen of Crime herself, Val McDermid, to Wellington. Val McDermid has been publishing acclaimed crime fiction for over 30 years. Her work has been translated into 40 different languages and sold over 16 million copies worldwide. Val joins RNZ's Noelle McCarthy for a discussion about her latest books: the beautiful *My Scotland*, an ode to the Scotland in her stories and what those places mean to her, and the rather more bloody, *How the Dead Speak*.

Lie Down and Listen: Poetics

6.30pm. Freemasons' Lodge, Wellesley Boutique Hotel, Maginnity St

Tickets from \$15

For our second edition of Lie Down and Listen you will be treated to a line up of poets so fine you'll never want to peel yourself from the velvet surrounds of the Lodge ritual room. Poets include David Eggleton, Hannah Mettner, Cilla McQueen, Amy Brown, Nina Powles, Vanessa Crowsley and essa may ranapiri. *Limited capacity.*

Michael Connelly: The Night Fire

7.30pm, Public Trust Hall, 131–135 Lambton Quay

Tickets from \$20

Bosch is back. A giant of the crime fiction universe with over 70 million books sold worldwide, Hollywood film adaptations (*The Lincoln Lawyer*), a true crime podcast (*Murder Book*) and multiple awards, Michael Connelly joins us to celebrate the release of *The Night Fire*, his latest in the acclaimed, internationally best-selling Harry Bosch series. Fellow award-winning crime writer Liam McIlvanney joins Michael for a conversation about the brain behind Bosch.

Special Performance: Drone

7.30pm. Te Auaha, Tapere Ihi, 65 Dixon St

Tickets from \$25. Duration 45 minutes.

If a drone could descend to earth to tell you her story, what would she say? Drone is the tragicomic autobiography of the 21st century's strangest and most frightening technology. With live poetry, music and video, this glitchy cabaret spectacular is a tender, furious and bleakly funny drone's-eye-view of anxiety, violence, surveillance, work and survival. "Drone is daring posthuman theatre, captivatingly executed." – ★★★★★ Edinburgh Festivals Magazine.

Written by the Forward-shortlisted Scottish poet Harry Josephine Giles and performed by them with international sound artist Neil Simpson (*Buffalo buffalo Buffalo buffalo*) and live video artist Jamie Wardrop (*Beats, The Dwelling Place*), Drone is the astonishing culmination of five years of work. Directed by Rob Jones, the performance is mixed new every night, the three artists making a live cabaret band for an intense and groundbreaking multimedia gig theatre. *Second show on Saturday 9 (page 29). Proudly supported by Creative Scotland.*

Lit-Sync For Your Life

9pm. Meow, 9 Edward St

Tickets from \$20. Doors open 8.30pm.

Category is: literary sequels. Last year's LitCrawl smash hit is back with an even bigger line-up that will lend you life. Six of Wellington's most dynamic and fearless drag performers will shablam the house down in a literary drag show celebrating New Zealand books and writers. Featuring The Bombay Bombshell, Bunny Holiday (House of Drag), Hariel, Lord Bi-Ron, True d'Heaux, and 2019 Mx Capital Drag champion Willy SmacknTush. *Curated by Chris Tse.*



Harry Giles in Drone

In The Time I Have Left

10am. Te Auaha, Atea (Bar Area), 65 Dixon St

Tickets from \$15. Includes coffee and treats

Start your literary day with a voyage into imagined, urgent futures (with coffee & treats). Writers Christos Tsiolkas, Emmy Rākete and Nick Ascroft talk with Jo Randerson about what they would do if they knew the world as we knew it was going to end in six months' time.

Fragments from Planet Parent

11am. Meow, 9 Edward St

Tickets from \$15

The arrival of a child warps time and transforms adult humans. Writers Renee Liang, Michele Powles (*When We Remember to Breathe*) and Amy Brown (*Neon Daze*) discuss the ways in which they go about trying to capture moments, manage emotions, and explain to themselves and others what planet they have arrived on and how to survive it. Hosted by Michele A'Court.

By the Stars: Writing Place

11am. Te Auaha, Tapere Iiti, 65 Dixon St

Tickets from \$15

Writers Diane Comer and D. Nandi Odhiambo talk with Ella Borrie about how place informs their writing and the stories they want to tell. Diane is the author of *The Braided River: Migration and the Personal Essay* and African-Canadian novelist Nandi Odhiambo is the award-winning author of *Smells Like Stars*.

Dr Natalie Flynn: The BS of Bombardment

11am. Karori Library, 247 Karori Rd

Free

Clinical Psychologist Dr Natalie Flynn wrote the book she always wanted to read. After seeing patient after patient stressed out by screeds of conflicting information on parenting, she waded through all of the claims around breast feeding, sleep training, day care, and myriad other decisions parents have to make. The result is the book *Smart Mothering*. Dr Flynn talks with RNZ's Caitlin Cherry about sorting through the BS to help others make science-based decisions about caring for babies.

Pūrākau: Stories for all Time

12.30pm. Meow, 9 Edward St

Tickets from \$15

Pūrākau is an extraordinary collection of stories by Māori writers that retell traditional Māori myths and legends. The book reveals just how vividly those characters live in and around us. Contributing authors Patricia Grace, Renée and Apirana Taylor talk to editor Whiti Hereaka about why we need to keep telling our stories and what they teach us about the times we live in today.

Further Possibilities: Chen Chen

12.30pm. Te Auaha, Tapere Iiti, 65 Dixon St

Tickets from \$15

"A poet of Whitman's multitudes and of Langston Hughes' blues, of Dickinson's 'so cold no fire can warm me' and of Michael Palmer's comic interrogation... Chen is a poet I'll be reading for the rest of my life." – Jericho Brown

Chen Chen's debut poetry collection, *When I Grow Up I Want to Be a List of Further Possibilities*, is a collection that crackles with humour, love, grief and longing. Reaching right into the heart of essential human struggles, this award-winning collection shares the complexity of human entanglements and the many identities one person can occupy: queer, immigrant, Asian, American, son, lover, poet. Chen Chen talks with Aotearoa poet Chris Tse.

Proudly supported by the Embassy of the United States of America

A Write Thrill

2pm. Meow, 9 Edward St

Tickets from \$15

A powerhouse panel of crime and thriller writers reveal the motivations and stories behind the creation of their un-put-downable novels. UK writer Val McDermid (*How the Dead Speak*) joins three of Aotearoa's finest: Charity Norman (*See you in September*) Renée (*The Wild Card*) and Alix Bosco (Greg McGee, *Slaughter Falls*).

Smells Like Stars: D. Nandi Odhiambo

2pm. Te Auaha, Tapere Iiti, 65 Dixon St

Tickets from \$15

Nandi Odhiambo won the 2018 Elliot Cades Award for Literature for an Established Writer. His latest novel *Smells like Stars* is set in a Pacific tourist haven and follows four characters who are each fighting for love against layers of historic and contemporary hurdles. Part investigative thriller, part family drama, the story explores queer and interracial love, suffering, communication and the search for meaning in a place steeped in colonial history. Nandi speaks with Tina Makereti (*The Imaginary Lives of James Pōneke*) about this thought-provoking book and the experiences behind it.

Ghost Wall: Sarah Moss

3.30pm. Meow, 9 Edward St

Tickets from \$15

“Ghost Wall is a burnished gem of a book, brief and brilliant, and with it Moss’s star is firmly in the ascendant.” – The Guardian

Noelle McCarthy (RNZ) talks with celebrated UK novelist Sarah Moss, whose latest book *Ghost Wall* is a taut, heart-stopping work that has captivated readers world-wide. During a hot summer at a camp designed to experience Iron Age living, a family’s deep tensions boil over. A story so compelling it is impossible not to read it in one sitting, *Ghost Wall* stirs truths about domestic violence, the physicality of living, and the historical and contemporary brutality of the patriarchy. Join one of the finest writers of our time for a conversation about her life and work.

Writing My Best Life

3.30pm. Te Auaha, Tapere Iiti, 65 Dixon St

Tickets from \$15

To read memoirs and personal essays is to walk through the landscapes of another life while also surveying your own through the prism of another’s memories and reflections. Rose Lu (*All Who Live on Islands*), Linda Burgess (*Someone’s Wife*) and Sinéad Gleeson (*Constellations*) speak to Ingrid Horrocks about the draw of writing creative nonfiction, memoir and the essay. What gets left out? What happens to the truth between memory and the page? And whose lives do our authors draw upon when they are writing their own?

Proudly supported by Culture Ireland

LitCrawl 2019

6pm–Late, Various Venues.

Entry by donation

LitCrawl returns with 27 events in Wellington’s CBD over one night. Join writers from across Aotearoa and the world for the lit party of the year. See pages 26–31 for the full programme.



Sarah Moss by Sophie Davidson

How To Read My Poem

10am. Te Auaha, Atea (Bar Area), 65 Dixon St

Tickets from \$15. Includes coffee and treats.

Gregory Kan (*Under Glass*), Helen Rickerby (*How to Live*), Chen Chen (*When I Grow Up I Want to Be A List of Further Possibilities*) and Jane Arthur (*Craven*) join host Rosabel Tan for a revelatory event. Each poet has selected a poem from within their own collections and will lead us through the writing of them. Where were they when the idea was sparked? And has the poets' relationship with their poems changed over time?

Proudly supported by the Embassy of the United States of America

My Wild Story: Selina Tusitala Marsh

10am. City Gallery, Civic Square

Koha. Suitable and recommended for ages 10 and up.

"When I was 10 I was teased for having big hair. Not just thick curly hair but wild Afakasi hair."

Selina Tusitala Marsh's *Mophead* is story to inspire all ages. A vibrant graphic memoir, it reveals the artist as a young girl who embraces her difference and the heritage that gave her hair that defies gravity and signifies the untameable talent inside. Once free to be her truly wild self the young Selina soars ... Selina talks to comic artist and writer Sarah Laing (author of *Let Me Be Frank* and *Mansfield & Me*) about championing your own story, and turning ugly words into a powerful and positive truth.

Growing up Wāhine Māori

11am. Meow, 9 Edward St

Tickets from \$15

"I didn't intend to be a Māori writer" – Patricia Grace.

Nadine Anne Hura talks with one of our greatest writers Patricia Grace (*Pōtiki*), and powerhouse of poetry, Tayi Tibble (*Pōūkahangatas*), about the ways that being a Māori woman has influenced their written worlds: from storytelling, to publishing, to reception and beyond. *Curated by Ataria Sharman.*

High Stakes: Sarah Moss & Carl Shuker

11am. Te Auaha, Tapere Iiti, 65 Dixon St

Tickets from \$15

In Sarah Moss' novel *Ghost Wall*, a heady blend of situation and domestic power dynamics lead towards an extraordinary moment of tension. In his novel, *The Mistake*, Carl Shuker keeps the reader on a knife's edge as medical misadventure plays out across a landscape of political meddling and personal integrity. Both authors are masters of writing high stakes. They talk with novelist Pip Adam on how and why they do it.

Singing the Trail: The Story of New Zealand Mapping

11.30am. City Gallery, Civic Square

Koha.

Since its discovery by humankind, Aotearoa New Zealand has been carved up many times with different kinds of knives.

John McCrystal gives an illustrated lecture on his stunning new book on all of the different kinds of maps that have articulated Aotearoa since it was first sighted by humankind. From the aural mapping of the Polynesian voyagers, to the earliest mapping taonga we have, to town plans, and traces of our mountains and coastlines, this is a treasury of cartographical knowledge beautifully collected and considered. Join John for a visual journey through time, place and Aotearoa.

Pakaru: Writing Family

12.30pm. Meow, 9 Edward St

Tickets from \$15

Mitch Tawhi Thomas' award-winning play *Pakaru* offers an intimate look at a nuclear family doing their best despite the pressures that society and history pit against them. Greg McGee's novel *Necessary Secrets* similarly takes the reader deep into the inner workings of a family ruptured by addiction and tumult. Mitch and Greg talk with Whiti Hereaka on making tightly framed views of family life against the much larger landscape of humanity.

Aotearoa Road Trip: Ruby Porter & Becky Manawatu

12.30pm. Te Auaha, Tapere Iiti, 65 Dixon St

Tickets from \$15

Attraction by Ruby Porter and *Auē* by Becky Manawatu are first novels from two extraordinary new talents. Both stories are close and compelling, deftly evoking contemporary life and the complexities of human relationships. Jessie Bray Sharpin speaks to the authors about their influences, ambitions and what it feels like to have your work compared to the likes of Sally Rooney and admired by authors such as Patricia Grace and Renée.

Constellations: Sinéad Gleeson

2pm. Meow, 9 Edward St

Tickets from \$15

“Constellations is a glitteringly brilliant book ... It dazzled me with its adventure and ambition. Political, poetic, tender and angry, this is a remarkable book and an astonishing debut.” – Robert MacFarlane.

Constellations by Sinéad Gleeson (Ireland) is an acclaimed work of creative non-fiction that tells the story of life in a body. The author's eye and mind reflects on the physicality of being in pain, of being a mother and a woman by drawing upon her own stories and looking to the lives and works of other artists such as Frida Kahlo, Franko B, Tracy Emin and Jo Spence. Traversing memoir, science, poetry and art writing, *Constellations* is a book to read over and keep close. Sinéad talks with RNZ's Kim Hill about the creation of this exquisite book. Proudly supported by Culture Ireland.

Climate Changing Fiction

2pm. Te Auaha, Tapere Ihi, 65 Dixon St

Tickets from \$15

The latest works from Jeff Murray (*The Melt*), Lawrence Patchett (*The Burning River*), Maru Nihoniho (*Metia Interactive*) and Elizabeth Knox (*The Absolute Book*) all explore our world in the wake of climate catastrophes. Their works look at the complexity of environmental issues such as Pacific climate refugees, new political orders, biculturalism, colonisation and how Aotearoa might adapt. Join the authors with Helen Lehndorf for a fascinating hour on art as activism and imagination as a vehicle for hope. #CliFi

Toby & Toby Live

3.30pm. Meow, 9 Edward St

Tickets from \$15

Welcome to the grand finale of the festival. *The Spinoff's* Toby Manhire and Toby Morris live interview and live draw while you sit back and watch them work. We'll announce the guests in October.



Special Events

SATURDAY 9

Going to Custard: High Tea

2.30pm. Field & Green, 262 Wakefield St

Tickets: \$45. Includes High Tea.

Marriage trouble, juggling work with parenting, illness, how to make a living from farming ... Danielle Hawkins' novel *When it All Went to Custard* is a fictional serving of the very real challenges of living. Catherine Robertson's novel *What You Wish For* is a funny and poignant story of small town New Zealand whose characters make the world feel complex and full of colour. The pair of best-selling Aotearoa writers sit down and tuck into talk about how they draw upon life to spin into stories for their beautifully Kiwi pages.

SUNDAY 10

Celebrating Lauris Edmond A Grass Street Tea Party

11am. 22 Grass Street

Free

Join family, friends and fans of Lauris Edmond at 22 Grass Street where a plaque commemorating the time that the much-loved poet lived at that address will be unveiled. Celebrations will include memories and poetry readings from Dame Fiona Kidman, Diana Bridge, and Harry Ricketts, morning tea and remembering the renowned writer who gave Wellington the now iconic lines, "this is the city of action, / the world headquarters of the verb", that inspired the name of this festival, for which we are forever grateful.

Supported by Wellington City Council.

Shared Dinner with Rose & Nina

6.30pm. Te Avaha, Atea (Bar Area), 65 Dixon St

Tickets: \$45. Includes dinner.

Join poet Nina Mingya Powles and essayist Rose Lu for dinner and discussion about the role that food plays in their writing lives. From the gardening and gathering, to the preparation and feasting, the friends and authors interview each other while we all enjoy the time to create a new food memory together for Verb Festival 2019.

Newtown Sunday Stroll

Tour the Riddiford St bookshops in Newtown and enjoy readings and discussion from some of Aotearoa's freshest and finest writers while you're there. Each event is 30 mins duration with time between them so you can stroll and catch the next. Koha entry.

More of Us

1.30pm. Book Haven, 160 Riddiford Street

Koha.

More of Us is a collection of poetry from people who have come to Aotearoa as migrants or refugees. Their poems speak to us about family, place, language, fear, loss, food and time. Join contributors to the book, Nicky Subono, Kirsten Le Harivel and Sudha Rao, and the marvellous behind-the-scenes team, poets Adrienne Jansen and Carina Gallegos.

New Animals

2.15pm. Book Hound, 132 Riddiford Street

Koha.

Poet and queen of creatures Rebecca Hawkes sits down with Pip Adam and Sugar Magnolia Wilson to talk about writing animals. Adam's Ockham-winning novel *The New Animals* is about a young woman slipping out of her domestication and into a new skin, while Wilson's collection *Because a Woman's Heart is Like a Needle at the Bottom of the Ocean* is a complete ecosystem all of its own, a home for everything from womb-infesting reptiles, to a beloved horse. *Curated by Annaleese Jochems.*

The Newest AUP New Poets

3pm. Another Chapter, 6 Riddiford Street

Koha.

We welcome you all to join us for a showcase of talent from the new poetry voices featured in the latest of the long-running *AUP New Poets* series. Poetry godmothers, Anna Jackson, Rebecca Hawkes and Carolyn DeCarlo hand over their wands to the future of the series.

SUNDAY 10

27 OCT – 10 NOV

Sarah Laing: Talking Mural

Te Auaha windows, 65 Dixon St

Free

We are thrilled to be working with artist and writer Sarah Laing (*Let Me Be Frank, Mansfield & Me*), Te Auaha and Wellington City Council on a special, one-off mural project for Verb Festival. For two weeks you can come to 65 Dixon St to see and interact with Sarah Laing's re-writable mural. The scene is a day in Pōneke some time in the near future. What are our Wellingtonians talking about? You decide! Full details online at verbwellington.nz/talkingmural

Proudly supported by Wellington City Council.

9 – 10 NOV

Micro-Residencies 2019

Thanks to the support of five wonderful Wellington art galleries and the Mātātuhi Foundation, we have been able to support five micro-residencies for five fresh Aotearoa voices. We have partnered with *Sweet Mammalian* journal who selected our five residents, who are: Jasmine Gallagher, Jackson Nieuwland, Miriama Gemmell, Sam Duckor-Jones, and Chris Holdaway.

Huge thanks to Bowen Galleries, PlayStation, Bartley + Company Art, Millers O'Brien, and Meanwhile for their support of this opportunity for Aotearoa writers.

Digital Programme

Our digital programme is new to Verb Festival for 2019. We will be uploading podcast recordings of poets and writers which will complement the live content you will see over the Festival.

You can also join our digital writing community with a social media creative writing challenge co-hosted by poets Kani Te Manukura & Nida Fiazi.

Between 6–10 November we will be setting up a Facebook event page with details and a # theme to bring our writing to focus and collection. Full details will be up on our website from September.

Verb Digital is supported by the Mātātuhi Foundation.

SATURDAY 9

Polhill Hikoi

10am. Meet at the Aro St entrance of Polhill Reserve

Tickets \$8

Bring the kids and join a hikoi in Polhill Reserve with Paul Stanley Ward (Capital Kiwi), Arihia Latham (writer & rongoā practitioner) and Robert Vennell, author of the beautiful *The Meaning of Trees*. Perfect for a family outing this is a stroll through one of our vibrant inner-city sanctuaries. Paul, Arihia and Rob will point out feathers and fronds en route.

Suitable for ages 8 and up. Duration 45mins. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. Limited capacity.

KidsCrawl Porirua!

11am. Porirua Library, 17 Parumoana St

Free event but registration is essential.

Email kidscrawl@verbwellington.nz to register

We have misplaced some writers... and illustrators... at the Porirua Library. Can you help us find them? All we have are our wits and a map. Join us for a mission to recover some of Aotearoa's most talented storytellers and score some skills of your very own (we've heard that our lost authors might be carrying a few secrets with them...). Lost authors include Sacha Cotter and Josh Morgan (multi-award winning creators of *The Bomb*) and Paul Beavis (*Mrs Mo's Monster*).

Suitable for ages 8–12 years.

Hoiho Turituri Noisy Party!

1.30pm. Capital E, 4 Queens Wharf

Free.

Clear your throats and prepare your voices for a very noisy book launch. *Hoiho Turituri* is the te reo Māori translation of Gecko Press's best-selling *The Noisy Book*. We launch this fantastic edition with a group read-aloud and we need your help! Small readers bring your big readers along and join the fun.

Family & Kids Events

SUNDAY 10

Family Adventures at Tararua Tramping Club

10am–11.30am. Tararua Tramping Club, 4 Moncrieff St

Tickets: \$10 (adults free with kids. Includes entry to both events.)

Bring the kids to the beautiful Tararua Tramping Club for tales of high adventure, the outdoors, nature and Aotearoa. Morning tea provided between events for hungry humans.

10am–10.30am, High Adventure: Mike Allsop

Mike Allsop shares his heart-racing, thrilling stories of climbing Everest, flying planes and other mind-boggling adventures... all with kids and as a family! Come and hear some inspiring tales and tips for how to be an adventure family.

11am–11.30am, The Meaning Of Trees: Robert Vennell

Robert Vennell reveals the secrets of trees from his stunning book *The Meaning of Trees*. Explore the lives of native Aotearoa plants and listen to the stories that Robert learned through his journey of getting to know our special flora.

Animal Stories Workshop with Phoebe Morris

1pm. Te Avaha, Studio, 65 Dixon St

Tickets: \$15, includes materials.

Phoebe Morris is extremely good at drawing lions. And birds, and houses, trees, people, smoke, sunglasses, aeroplanes... anything! In this workshop, Phoebe helps you define the animal at the heart of your own story and together create a take-home creation that features drawings and words all made by you. Learn from one of Aotearoa's very best.

Limited spaces. Suitable for 8–12 year olds. Duration: 90mins.

Santa's Christmas Party

2pm. Te Avaha, Atea (Bar Area), 65 Dixon St

Free

Join HUIA Publishers for the launch of *Santa's Worst Christmas | Te Kirihimete i Whakakorea!* Bring the whole family for Christmas treats, a read-along and a story with the setting and trimmings of an Aotearoa Christmas.



Phoebe Morris, p 21.



Sacha Cotter, KidsCrawl, p 20.



Josh Morgan, KidsCrawl, p 20.



Robert Vennell by Matthew Catin, see pages 20 & 21.

Writing Workshops

SATURDAY 9

Food, Memory & Poetry: with Nina Mingya Powles

10am-12pm. Te Auaha, Studio, 65 Dixon St
Tickets: \$45, includes hot drinks and food.

tip in the flour, sunlight, onions, salt and rainwater. light the flame, test the heat with the tips of your knuckles. catch your wrist on the wok, gasp, kiss it cold.

– from 'Spring Onion Pancake' by Nina Powles

In this workshop with award-winning poet Nina Mingya Powles you will reach into the branches of your memory to pick food-related fragments to inspire new poetry. Your ticket includes food prepared by your teacher.

Nina Powles is of mixed Malaysian-Chinese heritage, was born in Wellington, and now lives in London. She is the author of poetry pamphlet collections including *field notes on a downpour*, *Luminescent* and *Girls of the Drift*. Her prose debut, a food memoir, will be published by The Emma Press in late 2019. Nina is co-editor of *The Shanghai Literary Review* and founding editor of *Bitter Melon* 苦瓜, a new press that publishes limited-edition poetry pamphlets by writers from Asian diaspora communities.

Swim: A Creative Nonfiction Workshop

10.30am-1pm. Island Bay Surf Club, 250 The Esplanade
Tickets: \$45, includes hot drinks and biscuits.

Annette Lees' book *Swim* is a collection of stories gathered from people all over Aotearoa who share a passion for dipping into our wild waters. Annette's diary of a year of swimming documents the history and future of our passion for rivers, lakes, water holes, creeks, wetlands and oceans. Join the author and fellow travel writer, Ingrid Horrocks, for an (optional) dip in Island Bay followed by warming hot drinks and a workshop on creative non-fiction inspired by travel and nature.

Sea swim at 10.30am; hot drinks and workshopping starts at 11am. Bring warm clothes to change into!

Writing Workshops

SATURDAY 9

Workshop for Migrant Women with Renee Liang

2pm-4pm. Newtown Library, 13 Constable Street
Free, but register with Zoe by phone: 022 108 2158

Poet, playwright and memoirist Renee Liang leads a creative writing workshop for migrant women. Come together for food, talk and to take pen to paper to write your story. *Supported by Wellington City Libraries*

All About Zines

2pm-3pm. Te Auaha, Studio, 65 Dixon St
Koha.

Curious about zines? Four local literary groups give their take on self publishing. Hosted by Wellington Zinefest and featuring members of *Food Court*, *Salty*, *Seraph Press* and *Sweet Mammalian*. They discuss how to utilize zines as a way of getting your work out there.

Writing Place & Displacement

With D. Nandi Odhiambo
11am-1pm. Te Auaha, Studio, 65 Dixon St
Tickets: \$45

Join D. Nandi Odhiambo for a writing workshop to explore questions of home and identity: What does it mean to lose your place? How do you steer your readers through the complex landscapes of colonisation? D. Nandi Odhiambo is the 2018 Elliot Cades Award for Literature for an Established Writer. His novels include the latest *Smells Like Stars*, *The Reverend's Apprentice*, *Kipligat's Chance* and *diss/ed banded nation*. Currently, he is Associate Professor of English at the University of Hawai'i—West O'ahu.

SUNDAY 10



Nina Mingya Powles,
see pages 7, 17 & 23 for events.

LitCrawl 2019 is 27 events, in 23 venues in a little over 3 hours.

Events are entry by donation (suggested \$5).

Choose your own literary path below!

SATURDAY 9

Phase 1
6pm-6.45pm

1 Ways of Seeing

City Gallery, Civic Square

Five writers talk about an encounter with art that prompted an intense reaction, whether joy, anger, confusion, enlightenment or something else altogether. Speakers include Sinéad Gleeson, Vanessa Crofskey, Mary Macpherson, Megan Dunn and host Rosabel Tan.

2 Wilding

Customs, 39 Ghuznee St

Six writers give readings and insights into being wild. How their relationship with nature and the outdoors defines them, and how they define it. Featuring Mike Allsop, Annette Lees, Philippa Werry, Arihia Latham and Lynda Chanwai-Earle.

3 Manifesto

Hunters & Collectors, 134 Cuba St

Welcome to your future. Activist Emmy Rākete (People Against Prisons Aotearoa) and futurist Dan Taipua offer visionary frameworks that will tug at your imaginations and pour anarchic balm on problematic boundaries. Hosted by Jack MacDonald. *Curated by Morgan Godfery.*

4 The Savage Eye

Wellington Chocolate Factory, 5 Eva St

In *The Imaginary Lives of James Pōneke*, a young Māori man finds himself both enthralled and repulsed by the savage streets of London in the 1840s. Author Tina Makereti invites five compelling writers to respond to a provocation at the end of the novel, to reveal 'The Savage Eye' in several glorious manifestations. Featuring: Anahera Gildea, Brannavan Gnanalingam, essa may ranapiri, Ruby Solly, and D. Nandi Odhiambo. *Curated by Tina Makereti.*

5 Sweet Mammalian

Milk Crate, 35 Ghuznee St

Milk will boil over at the launch of *Sweet Mammalian's* sixth issue. Come, perch, fan yourself as the poets from the latest edition read their hot, frothy, toothsome work. Featuring LitCrawl x Sweet Mammalian Micro-Residents Jasmine Gallagher, Sam Duckor-Jones, Miriama Gemmell, Jackson Nieuwland, and Chris Holdaway, plus some other poets with work in the launching issue.

6 Bad Diaries Salon: Crush

Meow, 9 Edward St

Kate Camp, Victor Rodger, Renee Liang and Christos Tsiolkas read from their unpublished diaries. This is raw, raucous, unedited and candid: the written word, rediscovered and shared. Bad Diaries Salon is a series created by Melbourne writer Jenny Ackland, co-curated by Ackland and Wellington writer Tracy Farr, your MC for the event.

7 4th Floor: The Activism Issue

Pegasus Books, Cuba Mall, 204 Left Bank

The Whitireia Creative Writing Programme is closing, but its legacy is still packing punches. These writers are fiery, but compassionate. They're asking questions. They're reclaiming stolen heritage. They're slow-dancing on the graves of our assumptions. Feat. Madison Hamill, Romesh Dissanayake, Johanna Knox and Marlon Moala-Knox.

8 Rāmere Shorts Live

Hashigo Zake, 25 Taranaki St

Each Friday the New Zealand Book Council invite you to create a twitter story in less than 140 characters using 6 prompt words. Get your game on for the live version hosted by RNZ's Caitlin Cherry and judged by the New Zealand Book Council's Melissa Wastney. Freakin' rad prizes. #rāmereshorts

9 Pūrākau

Meow, 9 Edward St

Stories from *Pūrākau: Māori Myths Retold by Māori Writers* are read aloud by contributors and performers with musical interludes. Settle in for Aotearoa stories brought to vivid life. Featuring Paula Morris, Mitch Tawhi Thomas and Whiti Hereaka.

10 Fan Fiction

Arty Bees, 106 Manners St

Jean Puawananga Sergeant leads a fan fiction love-in: join her for readings and chat about this fascinating literary realm that envelops readers and writers across the world. Jean is joined by fan-fiction writer Lily Cameron.

11 Feminist Rage Night

Caroline, 1 Manners St

There's a lot to get pissed off about: come and get it off your chest. Want to give the finger to the patriarchy? Injustice? Inequality? We are here for you. Express your rage your way: swearing welcome. Songs, rants & poetry too. Hosted by Michele A'Court.

12 CliFi

Theosophical Society Hall, 19 Marion St

We're living amid a crisis of near apocalyptic proportions. Tim Jones (*Where We Land*), Nicola Easthope (*Working the Tang*), Maru Nihohino (*Metia Interactive*) and Jeff Murray (*Melt*) talk with writer Arihia Latham about how environmental catastrophe influences their creative lives.

13 Reclaiming the Neoliberal

Bicycle Junction, 1 Marion St

Many of the problems of our time are attributed to neoliberalism. But what is neoliberalism? In a *New Zealand Herald* column earlier this year the lobbyist and political commentator Matthew Hooton argued that neoliberalism needs to be reclaimed, and its values promoted. So, neoliberal values, Wellington? Anyone? Essayist and novelist Danyl Mclauchlan interviews Hooton. They have words.

SATURDAY 9

Phase 2

7.15pm-8pm

14 Crip the Lit: Across Two Worlds

The Ferret Bookshop, 175 Cuba St

Acclaimed young adult author L.J. Ritchie (*Like Nobody's Watching*, *Monsters of Virtue*) talks to author Trish Harris about his current project, a novel featuring two autistic characters. How do you write from your own experience and still tell a cracking good story? What are the pressures? And what is the richness you can tap into?

15 Drone

Te Auaha, Tapere Ihi, 65 Dixon St

Fresh from Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2019 comes poet Harry Giles' extraordinary performance piece. Drone is a live jam of sound, visuals and poetic storytelling. Telling the fragmented story of a military drone's lives and fears. *This session is ticketed: from \$25.*

16 Literary Periods

Double Denim, 110 Cuba St (upstairs)

Anna McAllister hosts a discussion with writers Ruby Porter (*Attraction*), and Anahera Gildea (*Poroporoaki to the Lord My God: Weaving the Via Dolorosa*) about menstruation in women's literature. *Curated by Ataria Sharman*

17 AUP Old Poets

Bowen Galleries, 39 Ghuznee St

Trip between the years 1999 to 2019 with *AUP New Poets* Anna Jackson, Chris Tse, and Erin Scudder who reflect on the previous 20 years of the series as they welcome newcomers Rebecca Hawkes and Carolyn DeCarlo. Each poet will offer a few poems from their debut collections alongside newer work.

SATURDAY 9

Phase 3

8.30pm-9.15pm

18 Dead Ladies Show

Crumpet, 109 Manners St

We return for our second ever episode of a Berlin-based podcast created to celebrate women who led remarkable lives. Presentations by Jessie Bray Sharpin, Matariki Williams and Helen Heath.

19 Women's Bodies: Conflict Zone

Meanwhile, Level 2, 99 Willis St

In 2019 women around the world experience compromised body autonomy: politics, parenting, illness, media... women's bodies are sites of conflict. Writers read from work that reflects themes of intrusion, battle and vulnerability but also strength, power and love. Featuring Sarah Moss (UK), Rangimarie Jolley, Amy Brown, Hadassah Grace and Danielle Hawkins. Hosted by Michele Powles.

20 OMD!

Caroline, 1 Manners St

Omar Musa (Queanbeyan, AUS), Michael Pedersen (Scotland) and Dominic Hoey (NZ) have joined forces for a one-off, no holds barred, powerhouse of poetry in performance that will shuck your Oyster, muckle your mirth and tip the wink from your twinkling eye. *Supported by Scottish Books International.*

21 What is Happening to the Humanities?

St Peter's, 211 Willis St

Between institutional closures (RIP Whitireia Creative Writing) and a decline in enrolments it looks like we are turning away from the Humanities. Authors Mandy Hager, Selina Tusitala Marsh and Associate Professor Sarah Ross discuss with RNZ's Lynn Freeman why this is happening and what we must do to reassert the value of a Humanities education.

22 Lie Down and Listen

The Design Library, 21 Marion St

Three authors read from their work while you lie back and listen. Low lighting, excellent writing, rest your legs and enjoy the latest prose from Lawrence Patchett, Jess Richards and Craig Cliff.

SATURDAY 9

Phase 3

8.30pm-9.15pm

23 Songwriters

Alistair's Music, 215 Cuba St

Nick Bollinger returns for episode six in this ongoing songwriter interview series. Our guests are Justin Firefly Clarke and Nigel Collins, both of whom have long musical histories that recently converged with Congress of Animals. They're joined by a surprise guest.

24 Motif Poets

Bicycle Junction, 1 Marion St

Two of Pōneke's sharpest performance poets were commissioned to respond to Bicycle Junction. The result? Brand new pieces written especially for LitCrawl, inspired by the venue itself. Join these Wellington wordsmiths for the first performance of these works in situ. *Hosted and curated by Motif Poetry's Ben Fagan.*

25 Starling: Love Bites

Black Dog Brewery, 216 Cuba St

Seven young writers from the pages of *Starling* read new work covering the important topics: love, food, family and the end of the world. Featuring Ash Davida Jane, Caroline Shepherd, Isabelle McNeur, Mel Ansell, Rhys Feeney, Sinead Overbye and Vita O'Brien.

26 Food Court Goes to the Airport

Miller's O'Brien, Level 1, 85 Victoria St

Food Court presents an international team of young writers to showcase what the future of Antipodean poetry has in store for us. A free zine featuring these authors' work is included in the poetry reading event. Featuring Vanessa Crofskey, Rory Green, Ria Masae, Manon Revuelta, Chris Stewart & Stacey Teague.

27 After Party

Meow, 9 Edward St, starts 9.30pm

You did so well! You are thirsty. Come and party.

Tickets at verbwellington.nz



Rose Lu by Ebony Lamb Photography, see pages 11 & 17 for events.

Ticketing Info

Ticketed events

All tickets can be purchased at verbwellington.nz.

Listed prices are for discounted earlybird tickets which can be purchased up until the day before the event. Door sales will also be available, unless sold out.

There is a student / unwaged price for most events which you can select when you go to purchase your ticket online.

On the day of the event you can just show your ticket receipt to our ushers using your phone (you don't have to print them).

Passes

Verb passes are a good way to get the full festival experience and they make great gifts and can save you up to 40%. Passes are not valid for Special Events (pages 17-18), Family & Kids events (pages 20-21) and Workshops (pages 23-24).

Pass Types

Four Trip: four events for \$55, choose your events at the time of purchase.

Six Trip: six events for \$80, choose your events at the time of purchase.

Wing It: this pass gets you into every single event, except special events and workshops, unless the event is sold out. You don't have to select in advance what you want to see – just buy this pass and turn up on the day of the event. This pass is not transferable and can only be used under your name. \$145.

LitCrawl

There are no tickets for LitCrawl on Saturday 9 November. Just rock up and donate if you can spare the change.

We are a not-for-profit organisation. All of the income from ticket sales and donations goes straight to the making of this festival. Thank you to our generous sponsors and supporters who allow us to keep ticket prices low and accessible.

Durations

Ticketed events are 60 minutes duration, unless otherwise stated.

LitCrawl events are 45 minutes duration.



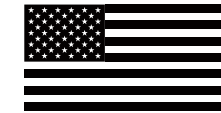
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It's true you can't live here by
chance, you have to do and be,
not simply watch or even describe.
This is the city of action, the world
headquarters of the verb

—Lauris Edmond, from *'The Active Voice'*
in *Scenes from a Small City*