

# Scribblers Family Festival



Featuring:

**Sheena Dempsey** (UK) • **Sally Rippin** (VIC)

**Morris Gleitzman** (QLD) • **Danny Katz** (VIC) • **Justin Somper** (UK) • **Mitch Vane** (VIC)

and many more!

**26 & 27 October 2024**  
**11:00am - 4:00pm**  
**Cathedral Square, Perth**

FORM acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians throughout Western Australia both past and present, whose enduring connection to this Country and ongoing contributions to our collective culture and communities we respect and honour. We appreciate and are deeply grateful for the privilege of working on these lands.



@scribblersfest  
[scribblersfestival.com.au](https://scribblersfestival.com.au)  
@formwa  
[form.net.au](https://form.net.au)

Designed and published by FORM Building a State of Creativity Limited.

39 Guger Street, Claremont  
Western Australia, 6010

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The Scribblers Family  
Festival Program Venues are  
**WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE**

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# Hello Rebels & Dreamers,

## WELCOME TO SCRIBBLERS 2024!

**FORM Building a State of Creativity's Scribblers Family Festival** returns to the **Cathedral Square Precinct** in the **City of Perth** with a weekend-long celebration of storytelling and creativity for children and young people, bringing imagination, fun and families together with stories and storytellers from across Western Australia, Australia and the world. This year is all about you, the Rebels and the Dreamers; those who dare to be bold, think differently and imagine new and infinite possibilities.

Our jam-packed weekend of **FREE fun for the whole family, is an all-ages** program which includes:

- Inspiring sessions in the **Scribblers Central Lotterywest Marquee** featuring our **headlining authors and illustrators** (pages 8 - 9)
- **Book readings, stories and hands-on fun** in the **Storytelling Zone** (pages 10 - 11)
- **Entertainment** in the **Sound Garden** featuring the next generation of talented **musicians, performers and podcasters** (page 10)
- Thoughtful gifts and beautifully crafted wares for you to peruse and shop at the **Scribblers Youth Makers Market** (Sunday only)
- Plus, **Boffins Books pop-up** Festival bookshop, **book signings** by your creative heroes, selfies galore with **roving performers**, a student exhibition and **heaps of pop-in art and craft activities**
- **Auslan interpreted sessions** in the **Lotterywest Marquee on Saturday** and a **sensory-friendly session** with Children's Laureate **Sally Rippin** (see page 12)

## WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING?

### Creative Workshops

Those wanting to hone their storytelling and creative skills will find our ticketed Creative Workshops series bigger and better than ever! From drawing to writing, comics, ceramics and board games, we've got something for everyone.

[EXPLORE THE WORKSHOPS ON OFFER HERE](#)

### The YA Collective

We're bringing back the YA Collective on Sunday, 27 October 2024! Curated by teens for teens, this program is completely FREE for ages 13+! See page 15 for more information or [BOOK HERE](#).

### Professional Learning

For the very first time, Scribblers Schools and Family Festival program headliners will unite with creative practitioners from FORM's Creative Schools program on Saturday, 26 October 2024, to share expert knowledge, insights and strategies to help educators transform students' wellbeing, learning and agency through the power of creativity.

[FIND OUT MORE AND BOOK HERE](#)

## HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM



Auslan Interpreted



Hands-on Activity



Optional Audience Interaction



Quiet Space



Free Event - Bookings Necessary



Paid Event - Bookings Necessary

# Cathedral Square Precinct

Scribblers Family Festival takes place in four zones across the Cathedral Square Precinct in the Perth CBD. Enter the main Festival zones via Cathedral Avenue, St George's Terrace and Hay Street.

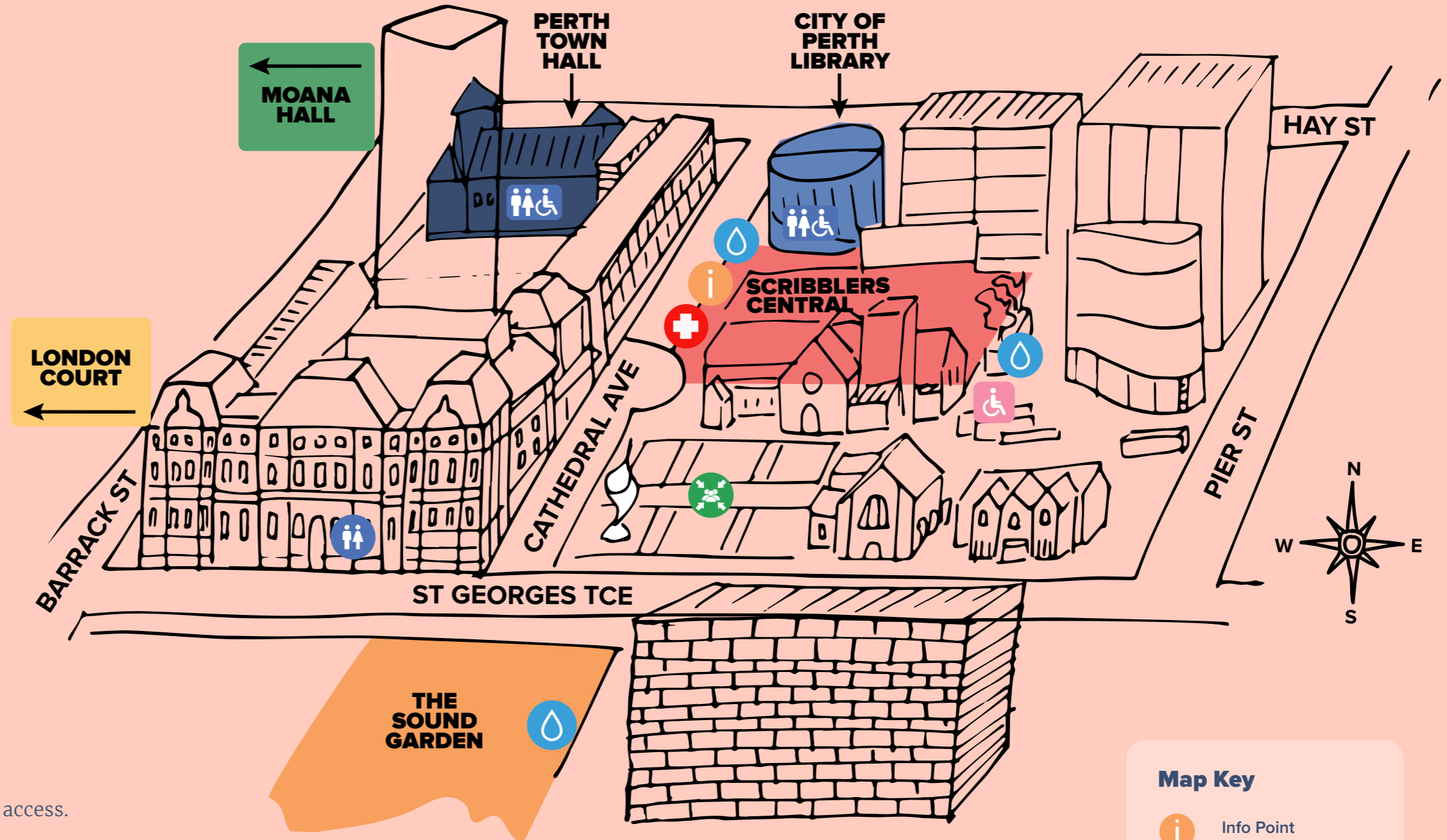
Some workshop venues are located outside of these Zones and just a short walk from Cathedral Square at:

**Moana Hall**  
Level 1  
618 Hay Street Mall  
Perth








**London Court**  
Suite 1, Level 1  
London Court  
Perth

All Scribblers venues have wheelchair access.

For more information about getting to Scribblers Family Festival, accessibility and planning your day [head to our website](#).



## Map Key

-  Info Point
-  Toilets
-  Accessible Toilets
-  Water
-  Wheelchair Ramp
-  First Aid
-  Emergency Assembly Point

### Scribblers Central

- Lotterywest Marquee
- Storytelling Zone
- Sustainability Zone
- Boffin's Festival Bookshop
- The Book Doctors
- Book Signings

### City of Perth Library

- Auditorium (Mezzanine)
- Tree of Dreams (Lvl 4)
- Chill Out Cubby (Lvl 4)
- Children's Floor (Lvl 4)

### Perth Town Hall

- When I Dream Showcase
- Youth Makers Market
- Professional Learning
- YA Collective

### The Sound Garden

- Youth Stage
- Conversation Caravan
- Kindling Creative
- NOW I OWN (Council House)

### Moana Hall

- Workshops

### London Court

- Workshops

# Scribblers Central

CATHEDRAL SQUARE

SATURDAY



LOTTERYWEST MARQUEE

11:00am - 11:40am

## WELCOME TO COUNTRY & NOONGAR STORYTELLING (ALL AGES)

OLMAN WALLEY (WA)

Olman Walley welcomes Scribblers Family Festival to Whadjuk Noongar Boodjar, inviting the community to come together to honour and celebrate the Traditional Custodians of Boorloo, their stories and contribution to our city.

11:45am - 11:55am

## GOLDEN PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY (ALL AGES)

Announcement of the winners of this year's Golden Feather and Golden Pen Storytelling Competition.

12:00pm - 12:30pm

## LITTLE LUNCH UNLEASHED (ALL AGES)

DANNY KATZ (VIC) & MITCH VANE (VIC)

The creators of *Little Lunch* take you on a wild ride of lunchtime antics and schoolyard shenanigans. Get ready for plenty of laughs as this dynamic duo hit the stage.

1:00pm - 1:30pm

## LIT LIVE'S GOLDEN MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA (ALL AGES)

LIT LIVE (WA)

Winning stories from the Golden Pen competition are brought to life in a musical storytelling extravaganza!

2:00pm - 2:30pm

## MEET THE STARS: MORRIS GLEITZMAN (ALL AGES)

MORRIS GLEITZMAN (QLD)

Listen to Australia's favourite children's author Morris Gleitzman in conversation introducing his new novel, *Tweet*, spilling the beans on the ups-and-downs of his career and answering all your burning questions.

3:00pm - 3:30pm

## THE SUPREME SCRIBBLERS STORY BATTLE (ALL AGES)

DANNY KATZ, SHANE MCCARTHY, SALLY MURPHY & SHEENA DEMPSEY

Four superstars go head-to-head in this battle of wits and skill. Only one can be crowned the Supreme Storyteller. A fast-paced, hilarious show you won't want to miss!

SUNDAY



LOTTERYWEST MARQUEE

11:00am - 11:30am

## MEET THE STARS: SALLY RIPPIN (ALL AGES)

SALLY RIPPIN (VIC)

Author of the bestselling series *Hey Jack*, *Bille B Brown* and *School of Monsters*, Sally Rippin, takes to the stage to talk all thing books, chasing dreams and knowing when to do things differently.

12:00pm - 12:30pm

## MONSTERS AND MAYHEM: FROM SUPERVILLAINS TO SUPERNATURAL FORCES (ALL AGES)

JUSTIN SOMPER (UK/WA) & SHANE MCCARTHY (WA)

Epic battles between good and evil have captivated audiences since ancient times. Shane and Justin unpack the appeal of tales that pit heroes against nightmarish forces and monstrous villains and reveal their tips for page-turning thrills. Then we put them to battle, pitting them against the audience in an epic game of *Celebrity Heads - Villain Edition!*

1:00pm - 1:30pm

## REBELS WITH A CAUSE - BREAKING RULES AND BLAZING NEW TRAILS (ALL AGES)

SHANE MCCARTHY (WA) & SCOTT WILSON (WA)

Scott Wilson, creator of the world's first Indigenous superhero universe, and Shane McCarthy, the first-ever Australian to write Batman comics for DC, reveal their secrets to defying the odds, dreaming big and achieving the impossible.

2:00pm - 2:30pm

## PABLO AND SPLASH: INTREPID PENGUINS ON BIG ADVENTURES (ALL AGES)

SHEENA DEMPSEY (UK)

Sheena Dempsey has travelled all the way from the UK to introduce you to the stars of her new graphic novel for kids - the cheeky time-travelling penguins Pablo and Splash.

3:00pm - 3:30pm

## EPIC ILLUSTRATOR BATTLE - EAST COAST V. WEST COAST (ALL AGES)

MITCH VANE (VIC) & PETER CHEONG (WA)

Scribblers' all-time favourite show is back with a twist! Illustrators from opposite sides of Australia battle it out with a pen, racing the clock to bring your ideas to life. Who will reign supreme?

# Scribblers Central

CATHEDRAL SQUARE

SATURDAY



STORYTELLING ZONE

11:30am - 12:00pm

## SLEEP TIGHT, PLATYUP (ALL AGES) 🖐️

RENÉE TREML (WA)

Platypup overcomes his fear of the dark in this cosy picture. Enjoy the story and a delightful dreamy drawing activity with Renée.

12:30pm - 1:00pm

## TANZANIAN TALES, TEXTILES & TOYS (ALL AGES) 🖐️

ANNICK AKANNI (WA)

A tactile, mesmerising journey into Tanzanian stories told through folktales, khangas (printed cloth) and traditional dolls.

1:30pm - 2:00pm

## MAVEY & BETH'S DOUBLE ACT: BOOK READING & KAZOO MAKING (ALL AGES) 🖐️

KRISTY NITA BROWN (WA)

Hear Kristy read from her music-inspired book *Mavey & Beth's Double Act: Where's My Whistle?* Then make a personalised kazoo to take the musical fun home with you!

2:30pm - 3:00pm

## SPANISH STORYTIME WITH LE TOBBOGAN (ALL AGES) 🖐️

FILIPA PINTO (WA)

Spread your wings and take flight with a captivating bilingual reading of *Cuando las Niñas Vuelan Alto (When Girls Fly High)*, in Spanish and English.

3:30pm - 4:00pm

## DJINANG BONAR: PICTURE BOOK READING IN ENGLISH AND NOONGAR (ALL AGES) 🖐️

EBONY FROOME (WA)

Discover the six seasons of the Noongar calendar in English and Noongar as author Ebony Froome reads *Djinang Bonar: Seeing Seasons*.

SUNDAY



STORYTELLING ZONE

12:30pm - 1:00pm

## AN A-Z OF DREAMING DIFFERENTLY (ALL AGES) 🖐️

TRACEY DEMBO (WA)

Relax as Tracey reads her fun book, pulsing with positive vibes and bold affirmations. Then get curious and creative as you celebrate the uniqueness of you!

1:30pm - 2:00pm

## DJINANG BONAR: PICTURE BOOK READING IN ENGLISH AND NOONGAR (ALL AGES) 🖐️

EBONY FROOME (WA)

Discover the six seasons of the Noongar calendar in English and Noongar as author Ebony Froome reads *Djinang Bonar: Seeing Seasons*.

2:30pm - 3:00pm

## I WANT TO BE SPAGHETTI (ALL AGES) 🖐️

CLAUDIA LAM (WA)

*I Want To Be Spaghetti* by Kiera Wright-Ruiz is about one little ramen packet finding self-love and belonging in a spaghetti-obsessed world. Hear the story and enjoy a super-cute food-themes colouring activity with the book's illustrator, Claudia Lam.

3:30pm - 4:00pm

## FRENCH STORYTIME WITH LE TOBBOGAN (ALL AGES) 🖐️

FILIPA PINTO (WA)

Follow the adventure of a little who grows up in the forest amongst animals, gets found by hunters and finds the world of men less beautiful. "Sauvage" by Emily Hughes in French and English.

## POP-IN ACTIVITIES 🖐️

ALL FREE - ALL AGES - ALL WEEKEND (11AM - 4PM)

- **Sustainability Area presented by WA Parks Foundation (from 12pm):** Step inside an evolving forest that celebrates the wonder and beauty of nature. Artists from Educated By Nature will guide you to create your own creatures and trees and add them to this sustainable art installation.
- **Boffins Books' Festival Bookshop**
- **Book signings with Scribblers Creative Stars**
- **The Book Doctors**
- **Pebbles Studios' Rebel Pirate Princess, giant bubbles, games and more!**

# City of Perth Library

CATHEDRAL SQUARE

SATURDAY



AUDITORIUM

10:30am - 11:00am

## MEET THE STARS: SENSORY FRIENDLY EDITION (ALL AGES)



FREE: BOOK HERE

SALLY RIPPIN (VIC)

A special 'low intensity' session for fans of *Billie B Brown*, *Hey Jack!*, *School of Monsters* and other books by Sally Rippin, wanting a quiet and calm Festival experience.

11:45am - 12:45pm

## WORKSHOP: POETRY IN PIECES (AGES 9-14)



PAID: BOOK HERE

SALLY MURPHY (WA)

Sally Murphy's latest book *The Riding Gallery*, based on true events, is a cleverly structured, multiple point-of-view story that includes poems created from newspaper headlines. In this workshop, Sally will show you how to use these newspaper clippings to create original found poetry (also known as cut-up poetry).

You'll learn all about the importance of structure, rhythm, and various poetic devices, as you playfully experiment with text from multiple found sources to produce your own original poems.

1:15pm - 2:15pm

## WORKSHOP: ANIMAL ANTICS & FUNNY COMICS

(AGES 5+)

PAID: BOOK HERE

SHEENA DEMPSEY (UK)

Have you dreamed of crafting your own comics or graphic novels? Learn everything you need to know from Sheena Dempsey, the award-winning creator of *Pablo and Splash*, and illustrator of the *Bad Panda* and *Dave Pigeon* series, who's travelled all the way from the UK to teach you her best tips and tricks! You'll learn how to sequence panels, create exciting and plots, and invent your own cheeky, adventurous animal characters sure to make readers giggle with delight.

2:45pm - 3:45pm

## WORKSHOP: SHADOW DREAMING & SHADOW PLAY

(AGES 5+)

PAID: BOOK HERE

RACHEL RIGGS (WA)

Puppeteer and artist Rachel Riggs takes you on a wonderful, immersive journey into the world of shadow puppetry. Imagine, play and create as you make your own puppets and scenery and bring your own 'dreamscape' inner world alive with colour, light and shadow. You'll learn basic shadow puppetry skills and techniques that draw on traditional and contemporary practices.

This unique workshop is perfect for intergenerational family engagement, or for young people to explore and experience on their own or with friends.

In the City of Perth Library, find the Auditorium workshop space on the Mezzanine Level as well as activities, a student art installation and the Chill-Out Cubby on Level 4.

All areas of the Library are open for business as usual, so you can drop in to explore, read a book or find a quiet space to relax.

SUNDAY



AUDITORIUM

12:15pm - 1:15pm

## WORKSHOP: MISCHIEVOUS MIDNIGHT ILLUSTRATIONS (AGES 5+)



PAID: BOOK HERE

PETER CHEONG (WA)

If you could turn into any animal, what would it be? Inspired by Peter's acclaimed picture book, *Every Night At Midnight*, you'll dream up your own mischievous animal character and imagine all sorts of midnight adventures.

1:35pm - 2:35pm

## WORKSHOP: TRIPPY TALES & PLAYFUL PLOTS (AGES 7-12)



PAID: BOOK HERE

TRACEY DEMBO (WA)

Author Tracey Dembo writes books that inspire children to be bold, brave and believe in themselves – and now she's going to show you how to do that in your own writing! Drawing on the quirky, rule-breaking and utterly hilarious style of her latest picture book, *This Book Is A Time Machine*, Tracey will take you on a madcap adventure of wrangling wild ideas into stories that make sense.

2:55pm - 3:55pm

## WORKSHOP: MASH-UP STORY MAYHEM (AGES 8+)



PAID: BOOK HERE

JUSTIN SOMPER (UK/WA)

Anything goes in this genre-bending, rule-breaking workshop with the internationally bestselling author of the *Vampirates* series, Justin Somper. You'll learn how to build stories and worlds from well-thought out characters, and stretch your creative muscles by mixing, mashing and messing with all the classic character types you know and love. Vampires pirates. Robot unicorns. Elephant zombies. The possibilities are endless! What crazy concoctions will you come up with?

## POP-IN ACTIVITIES

ALL FREE - ALL AGES - ALL WEEKEND

- **Tree of Dreams (Level 4, Outdoor Playspace):** Marvel at the dreamscape created by students who attended the Scribblers School Program.
- **Children's Floor (Level 4):** Read a book, do some origami or a colouring activity.
- **Chill-Out Cubby (Level 4):** Kids and adults needing a break from the noise and crowds can retreat to this special nook. You'll find earmuffs, sensory gadgets and comfy pillows to provide a calm break for your senses.

# Perth Town Hall

HAY ST & BARRACK ST

SATURDAY



TOWN HALL

11:00am - 4:00pm

## WHEN I DREAM (ALL AGES)

### STUDENT SHOWCASE

A mesmerising showcase of art and stories by children and young people.

Includes:

- Artwork from students who attended the Scribblers Schools Program.
- Shortlisted entries from the 2024 Golden Pen Storytelling Competition.

SUNDAY



TOWN HALL

11:00am - 4:00pm

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11:00am - 4:00pm

## YOUTH MAKERS MARKET (ALL AGES)

Kids, teens and young adults will showcase their beautiful and cleverly handcrafted products. Come along and support these incredible, entrepreneurial young people!

2:30pm - 3:30pm

## WORKSHOP: THE ART OF COMIC WRITING

SHANE MCCARTHY (WA)

(AGES 12+)

PAID: BOOK HERE

Learn from DC and Marvel writer, Shane McCarthy, as he explores the power and importance of character and theme, while also sharing his favourite writing techniques to really give your comics and graphic novels that extra kick!

PAID: BOOK HERE

3:30pm - 5:00pm

## SPECIAL AUTHOR EVENT: MURDER IN THE TOWN HALL

KATE EMERY (WA) & BIANCA BREEN (WA)

For grown-up YA devotees and mystery aficionados - an afternoon of thrills and intrigue. Afternoon tea in the grand hall, followed by a conversation with Kate Emery and Bianca Breen about all things Agatha Christie, murder, and Kate's new YA novel, *My Family & Other Suspects*.

# The YA Collective

The YA Collective presents panel discussions with YA storytellers curated by teens, for teens. Youth Curators – *Bella, Brooke, Lila, Rafael* and *Sophie* – have worked with award-winning YA author A.J. Betts to design a program that asks our stars the questions you *really* want the answers to.

The YA Collective is FREE but bookings are essential. Sign up here and go into the draw to WIN a book pack!

FREE: BOOK HERE

SUNDAY



TOWN HALL

10:00am - 10:40pm

## MYTHOLOGY & MODERNITY: TWO WORLDS UNITE

GRAHAM AKHURST (NSW) & SCOTT WILSON (WA) INTERVIEWED BY SOPHIE

They say there's nothing new under the sun, but what about making something new from the old? Graham Akhurst and Scott Wilson are experts at this, having both adapted traditional First Nations stories in their contemporary narratives. Graham and Scott will join Youth Curator Sophie to talk about the importance of keeping ancient cultures alive and writing genre fiction that thrills and entertains. (AGES 13+)

11:00am - 11:40am

## PICTURING THE WORDS (AGES 13+)

SARAH WINIFRED SEARLE (WA) & SCOTT WILSON (WA) INTERVIEWED BY LILA

A picture tells a thousand words, so how better to tell a story than using both? Graphic novelist Sarah Winifred Searle and comic-book writer Scott Wilson have a way with words *and* pictures and are telling their stories one panel at a time. Youth Curator Lila will ask them about the similarities and differences of super-hero comics and fantasy graphic novels, and how storytelling can be bright, beautiful, and FUN.

12:20pm - 1:00pm

## CHANGING THE WORLD ONE REBEL AT A TIME (AGES 13+)

YUOT A. ALAAK (WA), GRAHAM AKHURST (NSW) & KATE EMERY (WA)

INTERVIEWED BY BELLA

At the heart of YA novels are rebellious characters compelled to disrupt the status quo and fight for what they believe in. Yuot A. Alaak, Graham Akhurst, and Kate Emery will unpack their recent novels with Youth Curator Bella, chatting about the importance of rebellion and how they tackle serious topics when writing for a young audience.

1:20pm - 2:00pm

## LIVING THE (CREATIVE) DREAM (AGES 13+)

MORRIS GLEITZMAN (QLD), SARAH WINIFRED SEARLE (WA) & WOLFGANG BYLSMA (WA) INTERVIEWED BY SOPHIE

Prolific children's and YA author Morris Gleitzman, graphic novelist Sarah Winifred Searle, and comics editor and publisher Wolfgang Bylsma chat with Youth Curator Bella about the high and lows of their careers, how creativity and a rebellious spirit have shaped their work and lives, and their advice for budding creatives dreaming of seeing their own stories and comics published.

WANT MORE?

We've scheduled some exciting Creative Workshops specially for teens, taking place after the YA Collective. Check pages 14 and 17 for more info.

# The Sound Garden

FREE ACTIVITIES AT  
STIRLING GARDENS &  
COUNCIL HOUSE

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY**



STIRLING GARDENS

11:30am - 3:00pm

## YOUTH STAGE (ALL AGES)

VARIOUS YOUTH PERFORMERS

Half hour performances at: 11:30am, 12:30pm, 1:30pm, 2:30pm.

Be entertained by budding young Perth musicians and performers who'll delight you with their creativity and talent.

12:00pm - 3:30pm

## CONVERSATION CARAVAN (ALL AGES)

I HAVE MORE TO SAY PODCAST

Half hour broadcasts at: 12:00pm, 1:00pm, 2:00pm, 3:00pm.

Listen to live broadcasts by FORM's *I Have More To Say* student podcasters as they chat about the importance of stories and creativity for wellbeing, confidence and connecting with others. Tune in for interviews with Creative Stars and lucky members of the audience.

11:00am - 4:00pm

## REBEL ART & DREAMTIME PLAY (ALL AGES)

KINDLING CREATIVE

A pop-up art and play space, filled with possibility for young rebels and dreamers amidst the tranquil oasis of Stirling Gardens.

Pop-Up Art Trailer:

- **Block-printing** - Create and share your dreams and aspirations with the world.
- **Dreamcatchers** - Sit a while and unwind as you make your own dreamcatcher to hold your dreams and chase away negative vibes.
- **Cloudscape** - A dreamy, interactive space to relax and reflect. Want something more hands-on? Get inspired by famous young 'rebels with a cause' and express yourself through a stamp craft activity.



COUNCIL HOUSE

11:00am - 4:00pm

## NOW I OWN : A CELEBRATION OF CREATIVE BRAVERY (ALL AGES)

Discover the incredible work produced by students in FORM's Creative Schools CARE program.

# London Court

647 HAY ST  
PERTH

**SATURDAY**



SUITE 1 - LEVEL 1

11:00am - 12:00pm

## WORKSHOP: SKELETONS AND SPECIMENS DRAWING WORKSHOP (AGES 7+)

RENÉE TREML (WA)

PAID:  
BOOK  
HERE

Learn how to draw from 3-D models using real scientific specimens and museum skeletons to create quirky and unique characters for your own stories and artwork.

2:00pm - 4:00pm

## WORKSHOP: GAMING BY YOUR OWN RULES

JAKE BAMFORD (WA)

(AGES 7-14)

PAID:  
BOOK  
HERE

Join local game developer Jake from Dapper Cranium Studios and discover the journey of game development, from scribbles on scrap paper, to busting out your very own flashy board game at the next party!

# Moana Hall

618 HAY STREET MALL  
PERTH

**SUNDAY**



LEVEL 1

10:15am - 11:45am

## WORKSHOP: MY DREAMS, MY STORY - MIXED MEDIA COLLAGE ART (AGES 8-14)

ANNICK AKANNI (WA)

PAID:  
BOOK  
HERE

Learn core elements of design, textile art and visual storytelling to create a mixed media collage that tells a story about you and what matters to you most.

12:15pm - 1:45pm

## WORKSHOP: DELICIOUSLY DISHY CERAMICS (AGES 8+)

CLAUDIA LAM - THE FOREST MORI (WA)



Make your own ceramic sauce dish, inspired by illustrator and ceramic artist Claudia Lam's picture book *I Want To Be Spaghetti*.

2:15pm - 3:45pm

## WORKSHOP: REBEL JOURNALLING FOR FEARLESS CREATIVITY

KRISTIN CONNOLLY (WA)

(AGES 13+)

A playful, hands-on workshop exploring creative and visual journalling techniques to boost creativity, overcome obstacles and embrace your truest self.

# 2024 Creative Stars



**Sheena Dempsey**  
UNITED KINGDOM

Sheena Dempsey is an award-winning author and illustrator, and creator of graphic novel series *Pablo and Splash*, which came from a web-comic about a pair of penguins (alter-egos for her and her husband) Sheena created during pandemic lockdowns. She is

originally from Ireland, but now lives in England with her husband and pet greyhound.



**Morris Gleitzman**  
QUEENSLAND

Morris Gleitzman grew up in England and came to Australia when he was sixteen. After university he became a screenwriter. Then he had a wonderful experience. He wrote a novel for young people. Now, after 43 books, he's one of Australia's most popular authors.

He was appointed the Australian Children's Laureate for 2018–2019.



**Wolfgang Bylsma**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Wolfgang Bylsma is the Editor-in-Chief for Perth-based publishing house Gestalt Comics, and serves as chief executive for Comics On Country, a not-for-profit organisation established to support more First Nations voices in Australian comics.

His publishing endeavours have helped change the nature of the comics industry in Australia and assisted in building reputations and careers for Australian talent in the international market.



**Kristy Nita Brown**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Kristy is an independently published author who loves to write junior fiction about small characters who do big things. Her debut book, *Looking for Lily*, was shortlisted for the 2023 West Australian Young Readers' Book Award and placed second in the 2022 Children and Young Adult Aspiring

Author Competition. Her next book, *Mavey and Beth's Double Act: Where's My Whistle?*, secured fourth place in the 2023 edition of the same competition.



**Sally Rippin**  
VICTORIA

Sally Rippin has over 10 million books in print worldwide. Her most popular series include *Billie B Brown*, *Hey Jack!* and *School of Monsters*. In 2024, Sally became the eighth Australian Children's Laureate, promoting the importance and transformational

power of reading, creativity and story in the lives of young Australians.



**Peter Cheong**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Peter Cheong is the illustrator of *I'm a Hero Too*, *Nothing Alike*, the *Pow Pow Pig* series and the *Freddie Spector* series. *Every Night at Midnight* is his first book as both author and illustrator. Peter lives in Perth with his very understanding wife and son

and less understanding cat. *Shadow Judging* was the winner of CBCA Picture Book of the Year 2024.



**Yuot A. Alaak**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Yuot A. Alaak is an Australian-Sudanese writer whose memoir, *Father of the Lost Boys*, is about growing up in a warzone, and the bravery of his father. Yuot lives in Perth with his family where he works as a mining professional. When not writing or

mining, Yuot loves to relax with family and friends over a barbecue.



**Graham Akhurst**  
NEW SOUTH WALES

Graham Akhurst is a Kokomini writer who grew up in Meanjin (Brisbane), and now lives on Gadigal Country in Sydney where he enjoys walking Centennial Park with a good audiobook. His debut book *Borderland* is a young adult novel that looks at

issues of urban Indigenous youth identity.



**Danny Katz**  
VICTORIA

Danny Katz writes books for kids and adults, including the hit *Little Lunch* series. Born in Canada, Danny moved to Australia because he was allergic to maple syrup. After failed careers as a musician, comedian and car-washer, he turned to writing. Danny lives with

his wife Mitch Vane, a speckled dog named Specky and a badly washed car.



**Sally Murphy OAM**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Sally Murphy, OAM, is a beach-walking, animal-loving life-loving author of verse novels, poetry and historical fiction. She loves reading and writing, and talking about reading and writing and, when she isn't doing those things, can be found living in

the southwest with her dog and cat, spending time with her large family, or working at Curtin University.



**Mitch Vane**  
VICTORIA

Mitch Vane is a multi-disciplinary artist who loves creating quirky, humorous characters with watercolour and her scratchy dip pen. Mitch has illustrated dozens of picture books and collaborates with her husband, Danny Katz, to create the

much-loved *Little Lunch* series.



**Justin Somper**  
UK / WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Justin Somper is the award-winning author of the six *Vampirates* books, published in 35 countries and 25 languages. A Brit by birth, Justin recently relocated to Perth, where he's writing a brand-new fantasy adventure series, *Pirate Academy*.



**Claudia Lam**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA / HONG KONG

Claudia Lam, also known as The Forest Mori, grew up between Perth and Hong Kong. She is an independent illustrator, designer, and ceramic artist and uses all those mediums to tell stories. Her purpose is to bring joy to people through her artwork and

being a children's book illustrator.



**Tracey Dembo**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Tracey Dembo, author of picture books *An A to Z of Dreaming Differently* and *This Book Is A Time Machine*, is passionate about encouraging big questions, daring dreams and wild imaginations. She believes in the power of good stories, well-timed

jokes and freshly baked cakes.



**Renée Tremblé**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Renée Tremblé lives on Beeliar Country (Fremantle). She is the creator of picture books and graphic novels, including the *Sherlock Bones* mysteries and *The Super Adventures of Ollie and Bea* series. When Renée isn't writing or illustrating, she enjoys walking in

the bush or on the beach with her family and her super-enthusiastic little dog.



**Scott Wilson**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Scott Wilson is a proud Gooniyandi and Gadgerong man from the remote Kimberley community of Muludja. Ever since Scott was a kid, he's always had a vivid imagination and passion for storytelling, drawing and comic books. Adam Heart (aka Dark Heart)

of the Indigiverse is Scott's Aboriginal superhero character, inspired by his ancestors and the Dreaming.



**Annick Akanni**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Annick Akanni is a textile designer, arts educator and teaching artist. She is passionate about creating inclusive, accessible, and immersive spaces where explorative art and multi-sensory play allow people of all ages to engage in mindful, meditative art therapy methodologies that promote, disrupt, and encourage open dialogue. She has worked in FORM's Creative Schools program since 2023, and previously served on the ArtPlay Disability and Inclusion Advisory Group for the City of Melbourne.



**Ebony Froome**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Ebony is a Wardandi Noongar woman born in Busselton (Undalup). She now lives and works in Perth on Wadjuk Country with her family. *Djinang Bonar: Seeing Seasons* is her first published work. Ebony hopes her book will increase awareness and respect for Noongar language and culture, and inspire the next generation of Indigenous allies.



**Olman Walley**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Olman Walley is a Wilman, Balardong, Binjareb, Wadjuk Nyoongar man who was raised in the Wilman (Wheatbelt) region and now lives in Boorloo (Perth). He was taught Noongar culture by his family and elders, and as owner and director of *Boorloo Aboriginal Cultural Experiences*, is passionate about sharing the stories, history, music, dance and knowledge of the ancient Noongar culture. His Noongar name is Chitty Chitty (Willy Wagtail).



**Sarah Winifred Searle**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Sarah Winifred Searle originally hails from the USA and now lives in Perth with their beloved spouse and cat. They write and draw comics and prose, exploring themes of identity, health, relationships, and history across many genres. *The Greatest Thing*, their YA graphic novel, is a Lammy Award and CBCA Book of the Year finalist, and a Prime Minister's Literary Award winner. Their latest book, *The Sweetness Between Us*, comes out in October 2024.



**Jake Bamford**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Jake is a one-man creative army, making games, illustrations, novels, voiceover, films and many more. Blending entertainment and education, his mission is to engage players, readers and viewers in something meaningful that will enrich their lives and improve the world as a whole. His favourite stories are those with a balance of whimsical fantasy and thought-provoking philosophy – because why shouldn't we explore the challenges and joys of life with haughty elves or disgruntled aliens?



**Kristin Connolly**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Kristin Connolly has been using stories to understand the world around and within her for as long as she can remember. As a visual storyteller and life coach, Kristin uses creativity as a tool to connect people to themselves and each other. Combining her background in art and creative direction; skills in live scribing, illustration, and painting; with her life coaching experience, she aims to do her part in making the world a better, more connected place, with a lot of heart.



**A.J. Betts**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

A.J. Betts is a Fremantle-based author, speaker, teacher, columnist and cyclist. Her latest work is a contemporary young-adult novel called *One Song*, about a teenage band trying to record a song to enter into the prestigious Triple J Unearthed High competition. Her earlier books include the two-book speculative fiction series *Hive and Rogue*, *Zac & Mia* (which was adapted into an Emmy Award-winning Hollywood television series), *Wavelength* and *Shutterspeed*.



**Rachel Riggs**  
UK / WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Rachel Riggs is an internationally experienced visual theatre artist/producer and puppeteer who has designed and directed work all over the world using traditional and contemporary puppetry techniques. She is the director of DNA Puppetry.



**Lit Live**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Bringing the page alive on the stage, Lit Live is a collective of performers who make theatre for the mind and soul from the world's most beloved stories. Lit Live is produced by seasoned actor and storyteller, Sarah McNeill, who develops and presents each Lit Live show with a team of talented actors and musicians.



**Jasmine Huriwai-Kahuroa**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Jazz is a proud resident of Port Hedland of Maori descent (Ngati Porou, Ngati Kahununu tribe), who is deeply connected to her cultural roots through the teachings of her rangatira (Elders) and the stories passed down through generations. Jazz shares these stories to preserve cultural heritage, and pass on the wisdom and knowledge of her ancestors.



**Bianca Breen**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Bianca Breen is a professional book nerd, founder of *YA for WA*, and former Communications Director at the Australian Young Adult Literature Alliance (#LoveOzYA) and co-host of The YA Room. Bianca devours stories with magic, adventure, forests, and a dragon or two and her debut YA fantasy novel will be released in 2025 with Stag Beetle Books.



**Shane McCarthy**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Shane McCarthy is a freelance comics writer, whose work has been published internationally by the likes of DC Comics, Marvel Comics and more. His writing credits include *Detective Comics* (starring Batman), *Batman Legends of the Dark Knight*, *Star Wars*, *Deadpool Team Up* and *Transformers: All Hail Megatron*. Shane has been writing comics professionally for over 20 years (during which he was also an international dance instructor and performer) and presently resides in Perth with his wife and two gorgeous cats.



**Filipa Pinto**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

As a Portuguese-born, French-raised book enthusiast, married to a Peruvian, it's no wonder Filipa has raised a multicultural family and owns and runs Le Toboggan, an online bookstore that exclusively sells international and bilingual titles.



**Kate Emery**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Kate Emery lives in Perth and works as a senior reporter for The West Australian. Her first novel, *The Not So Chosen One* was shortlisted for the 2020 Text Prize, the Aurealis Awards (Best Fantasy Novel) and longlisted for the CBCA Book of the Year Awards, Older Readers.

## THANK YOU

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FORM's Scribblers Family Festival would not be possible without the support of our generous partners including Lotterywest; the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries; the City of Perth; the US Consulate; Culture Ireland; MinterEllison; Spinifex Trust; and Cathedral Square.

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