



17 - 20 July 2025

mildura writers festival

Date	Venue, Time & Price	Details
Thur 17.07.25	Powerhouse Precinct 122 Hugh King Drive Registrations for packages and dinner packs from 5.30pm for a prompt 7.00pm start \$27	Damon Young: Immortal Gestures A tilted head. A finger to the lips. Gestures constitute a whole realm of communication that often goes overlooked. Infused with different histories as they accrue layers of meaning, gestures point to a hidden richness in language. Join celebrated philosopher Damon Young in conversation with Jaclyn Crupi as they journey into the unspoken, in what is sure to be a warm and convivial opening night.
Fri 18.07.25	Powerhouse Precinct 122 Hugh King Drive 10.00am – 11.00am \$22	The Poet's Voice Readings from Thuy On , arts critic and author of <i>Turbulence</i> , <i>Decadence</i> , and <i>Essence</i> ; Prithvi Varatharajan , essayist and writer of the poem and prose collection <i>Entries</i> ; and the recipient of this year's Tina Kane Emergent Writer Award Megan Cartwright .
	Powerhouse Precinct 11.30am – 12.30pm \$22	Robyn Davidson: Unfinished Woman In her memoir <i>Unfinished Woman</i> , writer and world traveller Robyn Davidson shares life's hard-won lessons and reflects on her formative childhood in the country, marked by both freedom and the tragic early loss of her mother. Robyn talks with Melinda Hinkson on the power of the past and the draw of adventure.
	Powerhouse Precinct 12.30pm – 1.45pm \$35	Lunch by Twenty Seven Café + Providore Continue the literary conversations with a warming vegetarian offering from our principal caterer by the riverfront with a glass of wine.
	Powerhouse Precinct 2.00pm – 3.00pm \$22	Poetry: Craft and Life Raft Wiradjuri poet Jeanine Leane has spent decades using poetry to engage memory, history, culture, and the self. In conversation with Thuy On , Jeanine reflects on the truths that poetry can reveal to us and the unique sanctuary it offers. This session will surely change the minds of those who "don't read poetry".
	Powerhouse Precinct 3.15pm – 4.30pm \$22	Friends of the Festival Cameos In celebration of our thirtieth anniversary, we invite contributions from former festival attendees on projects they wish to share. Evelyn Juers , Paul Carter , and Peter Goldsworthy will feature in this session, moderated by Finley Japp .
	Powerhouse Precinct 6.00pm – 9.30pm \$35	Flip the Food Bowl Dinner, documentary film and panel discussion <i>Flip the food bowl</i> explores surprising stories of local growers and activists working against the grain of expanding industrial-scale agriculture to find ways to grow, distribute and share fresh food to benefit people and environments.

ARTS MILDURA



Date	Venue, Time & Price	Details
Sat 19.07.25	Powerhouse Precinct 9.00am – 10.00am Registration essential for this free session	Ask the Expert: Erik Jensen on Writing for the Media Founding editor of <i>The Saturday Paper</i> and editor-in-chief of Schwartz Media Erik Jensen shares his experienced views on writing for the media, covering a range of aspects from pitching to publications and interviewing subjects to advice on the craft of journalistic writing. Join for this opportunity to voice your questions about media writing in a friendly, relaxed environment.
	Powerhouse Precinct 10.00am – 11.00am \$22	Tina Kane Emergent Writer Award Poet, scholar and former artistic director of the Mildura Writers Festival Paul Kane presents the Tina Kane Emergent Writer Award. The 2025 recipient is Megan Cartwright , a Canberra-based poet and college teacher whose work has been published in <i>Island Magazine</i> , <i>Authora Australis</i> , and <i>Cordite Poetry Review</i> , amongst other publications.
	Powerhouse Precinct 11.30am – 12.30pm \$22	Brian Castro: Chinese Postman Brian Castro is the award-winning author of eleven novels, and his most recent is <i>Chinese Postman</i> , an intoxicating portrait of old age, living alone, and the richness of language. Join Brian in conversation with Michael Winkler , who in a rave review called <i>Chinese Postman</i> “soaring” with a “dizzying erudition and scallywag sensibility”.
	Powerhouse Precinct 12.30pm – 1.30pm \$27	Lunch by Twenty Seven Café + Providore Have a break with a vegetarian baguette with baker Paul Clarke’s sourdough bread and a seasonal salad.
	Powerhouse Precinct 1.30pm – 2.30pm \$22	The Art of Nonfiction What makes nonfiction writing exciting? What standard of truth should it uphold? Does nonfiction imply a different audience to fiction writing? And does the critic’s opinion still matter? Moderated by Erik Jensen with Damon Young , Thuy On , and Prithvi Varatharajan , our speakers reflect on the capacious forms and exciting possibilities of nonfiction writing.
	Powerhouse Precinct 3.00pm – 4.30pm \$22	Ask Me Anything: Literary Idol Edition In this special intergenerational conversation, literary celebrities Brian Castro , Robyn Davidson , and Jeanine Leane respond to the burning questions of young and aspiring writers from our community. The authors share their best tips, reveal how they do what they do, and reflect on the writing craft in this session of invaluable advice, moderated by Nikita Vanderbyl .
	Powerhouse Precinct 7.00pm for 7.30pm \$145 includes food & wine	Big Italian Night Out Inspired by the 1996 film ‘Big Night’ with Stanley Tucci and Isabella Rossellini, this feature dinner celebrates the history of the Italian diaspora around the world and its influences in Mildura through food and wine served on the night. Jaclyn Crupi , author of <i>Nonna Knows Best</i> , <i>Garden Like a Nonno</i> and <i>Pasta Love</i> , joins us to share her stories with Donata Carrazza .
Sun 20.07.25	La Trobe University 11am – 12.00pm Registration essential for this free session	The Murray Talk 2025 Time and Wonder Pioneering publisher and lifelong literary critic Ivor Indyk offers thoughts on literature’s relationship to time, wonder and contemplation. The Murray Talk is presented by an esteemed writer on any subject. It was established in dedication to the memory of our festival patron, the late Les Murray, and the enduring vitality of the Murray River.
	400 Gradi 31 Deakin Avenue 12.30pm \$80	Festival Finale Lunch This gathering is popular for its informality and comforting winter fare. Guest writers provide amusing and thought-provoking responses to questions from their peers.



1995 – 2025



Festival Package (all sessions plus food events) \$499

Opening Night dinner pack by Twenty Seven Café + Providore \$30

Friday Package (four sessions plus lunch) \$99 | Saturday Package (four sessions plus lunch) \$99

Friday Lunch only \$35 | Saturday Lunch only \$27

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