

FESTIVAL PROGRAM

HISTORY UNBOUND

2025 HISTORICAL NOVEL FESTIVAL
presented by HNSA

SAT NOVEMBER 1, 2025

9.00 - 9.40am	THE GREAT HALL	
	Welcome to Country <i>Uncle Chris Tobin</i> Welcome to History Unbound 2025 <i>Elisabeth Storrs & Kate Forsyth</i>	
9.40 - 10.30am	THE GREAT HALL	
	<i>Kelly Gardiner</i> In conversation with <i>Toni Jordan</i>	
10.30 - 11.00am	Morning tea & book signings	
	THE GREAT HALL	CHARLES BYRNES ROOM
11.00 - 11.50am	<i>Linda Funnell</i> In Conversation with <i>Emily Maguire</i> and <i>Lauren Keegan</i>	Identity and Diaspora: tracing multicultural identity Chair: <i>Renee Otmar</i> 📖 <i>Angelo Loukakis</i> 📖 <i>Nadia Mahjouri</i> 📖 <i>Jelena Curic</i>
12.00 - 12.50pm	What would Jane think? The Bridgerton effect Chair: <i>Elizabeth Leydin</i> 📖 <i>Alison Goodman</i> 📖 <i>Kelly Gardiner</i> 📖 <i>Sharmini Kumar</i>	The Subjective Voice: depicting authentic historical characters Chair: <i>Robert Horne</i> 📖 <i>David Dyer</i> 📖 <i>Marion Taffe</i> 📖 <i>Belinda Murrell</i>
1.00 - 2.00pm	Lunch & book signings	
	THE GREAT HALL	CHARLES BYRNES ROOM
2.00 - 2.50pm	<i>Greg Johnston</i> in conversation with <i>Robbie Arnott</i> and <i>Suzanne Leal</i>	On the Cusp - what is the essence of Young Adult historical fiction? Chair: <i>Sophie Masson</i> 📖 <i>Lauren Keenan</i> 📖 <i>Rebecca Lim</i>
3.00 - 3.50pm	THE GREAT HALL	
	<i>Belinda Lyons-Lee</i> In conversation with Guest of Honour, <i>Fiona McIntosh</i>	
3.50 - 4.15pm	Afternoon break & book signings	
	THE GREAT HALL	
4.15 - 5.30pm	First Pages Pitch Contest Chair: <i>Lucy Watson</i> 📖 <i>Rochelle Fernadez</i> 📖 <i>Sophie Masson</i> 📖 <i>Cassandra di Bello</i>	
6.30 - 9.30pm	Festival Dinner Club Parramatta <i>Additional tickets to be purchased through ticket site, and numbers are strictly limited</i>	

SATURDAY PITCH SESSIONS WILL BE HELD BETWEEN 9AM - 4.00PM

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SUN NOVEMBER 2, 2025

9.00 - 9.50am	THE GREAT HALL	CHARLES BYRNES ROOM
	First Nations Voices: the importance of oral histories Chair: <i>Yvonne Weldon</i> 📖 <i>Lenora Thaker</i> 📖 <i>Leonie Norrington</i> 📖 <i>Tasma Walton</i>	Meet the Debutantes: the highs and lows of a first time author Chair: <i>Roanna Gonsalves</i> 📖 <i>Vanesa Croft</i> 📖 <i>Kyra Geddes</i> 📖 <i>Amanda Willimott</i>
10.00 - 10.50am	THE GREAT HALL <i>Kate Evans</i> in conversation with Guest of Honour, <i>Pip Williams</i>	
11.00 - 11.30am	Morning tea & book signings	
11.30 - 12.20pm	THE GREAT HALL	CHARLES BYRNES ROOM
	<i>Stephen Romei</i> in conversation with <i>Matthew Reilly</i> and <i>Malcom Knox</i>	The Future of Publishing: AI, audio & digital publishing 📖 <i>Sandie Docker</i> 📖 <i>Alison Stuart</i> 📖 <i>Sophie Groom</i> 📖 <i>Chiara Priorelli</i>
12.30 - 1.20pm	THE GREAT HALL	CHARLES BYRNES ROOM
	Book Club with Nicole Alexander & Kate Forsyth Chair: <i>Lisa Storrs</i> 📖 <i>Nicole Alexander</i> 📖 <i>Kate Forsyth</i>	Colonial Crime: sleuthing and survival under British Rule Chair: <i>Claudine Tinellis</i> 📖 <i>Nilima Rao</i> 📖 <i>Michael Burge</i> 📖 <i>Ally Burnham</i>
1.30 - 2.30pm	Lunch & book signings	
2.30 - 3.20pm	THE GREAT HALL <i>Elisabeth Storrs</i> in conversation with Guest of Honour, <i>Natasha Lester</i>	
3.20 - 3.45pm	Afternoon break & book signings	
3.45 - 4.30pm	THE GREAT HALL	
	Historic Heads - a parlour game Chair: <i>Lucy Watson</i> 📖 <i>Natasha Lester</i> 📖 <i>Michael Burge</i> 📖 <i>Pamela Hart</i>	
4.30 - 4.45pm	THE GREAT HALL Festival Wrap up with <i>Elisabeth Storrs</i>	

SUNDAY PITCH SESSIONS WILL BE HELD BETWEEN 9AM - 3.30PM