

## **MEDIA KIT**

**VARUNA SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **VARUNA SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL**

Blue Mountains Program

15-22 MAY 2016



### **HEADLINE TAGS**

- ♦ **TOP AUTHORS FOR VARUNA FESTIVAL LINE UP**
- ♦ **VARUNA SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES SENSATIONAL LINE UP FOR BLUE MOUNTAINS.**
- ♦ **ABORIGINAL HISTORIES REVEALED AT WRITERS FESTIVAL: KODRI MAIL – April**
- ♦ **AWARD WINNING WRITERS HEADLINE VARUNA SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL 2016**
- ♦ **A 'STELLA' LINE UP FOR VARUNA SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL – spectrum**
- ♦ **MAGDA SZUBANSKI AT VARUNA SYDNEY WRITERS FESTIVAL 11TH ANNIVERSARY**
- ♦ **AUSTRALIA'S' FIRST LADY OF COMEDY COMES TO THE CARRINGTON FOR**

Contact: Zoe Jerrat

Festival Coordinator

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# VARUNA SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL



The Blue Mountains is set for five days of stimulating conversation, lively discussion and hot debate. Now in its 11th year, the Varuna Sydney Writers' Festival is bringing some of the biggest names in contemporary writing to the Carrington, Katoomba, for a wonderful 5 day program, from 15– 22 May. Varuna is delighted to announce a stellar line up for 2016, featuring the likes of Vivian Gornick (NY), Magda Szubanski (AUS) , James Rebanks (UK), Charlotte Wood (AUS), Ignatius McGovern (IRE), Andrew Fowler (AUS), and Tegan Bennett Daylight (AUS). Winner of the Victorian Premiers Literary Award, Mireille Juchau and shortlist nominated Miles Allinson (VIC) join Stella Prize short list nominee Peggy Frew to discuss debut fiction, the landscape of memory, broken families and survival.

Join the Varuna Sydney Writers regional festival as they present more than 5 events , 18 sessions - with over 45 participants in a week designed to stimulate, move, inspire and provoke.

Celebrated writers overseas from overseas and around Australia will gather in the Blue Mountains for the annual Varuna Sydney Writers' Festival.

Aboriginal histories, climate change, and vexed questions of history will be explored in free and ticketed shows from 15 -22 May. Varuna's Director-Jansis O'Hanlon is thrilled to launch the festival on Sunday 15 May, in collaboration with a MAP ( Modern Art Project) presentation of Wantangunura celestial dreaming and Indigenous visual storytelling installation at Varuna House. Join The five day program will be announced online, along with the much anticipated annual Eric Dark memorial lecture, in honour of the gifting of the Dark's residence, Varuna, as a natural home for the development of Australian writers.

Make sure you check out the full program and book your tickets available 31 March at the Varuna web site. [Varuna.com.au](http://Varuna.com.au)

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## MEDIA ALERT

# VARUNA SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL



**WHO:** Varuna, The National Writers' Centre is bringing Sydney Writers' Festival regional program to the Blue Mountains for its 11th year running. Varuna a Not for Profit writers' house has been collaborating with the Sydney Festival since 2009.

**WHAT:** SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES SENSATIONAL LINE UP FOR 2016 PROGRAM

The Varuna Sydney Writers' Festival is bringing some of the biggest names in literature to Katoomba, Blue Mountains, for five days of inspiring talks, panels and lectures. Varuna is excited to announce a stellar line up for 2016 featuring the likes of Vivian Gornick (NY), Magda Szubanski, James Rebanks (UK), Charlotte Wood, Ignatius McGovern (IRE), Andrew Fowler, Tegan Bennett Daylight and more. Join the Varuna Sydney Writers regional festival as they present more than 5 events with over 45 participants in a week designed to stimulate, move, inspire and provoke.

Make sure you check out the full program and book your tickets available 31 March at the Varuna web site. [Varuna.com.au](http://Varuna.com.au) (80 word copy)

**WHERE** Varuna Sydney Writers' Festival regional program makes this literary event accessible for all. With three venues offering community events, workshops, forums and writers sessions. Main program days 16-17 May held at the Carrington Hotel are ticketed and give access to book sales and signing with your favourite Authors. Community events at Varuna House explore poetry and the celestial dreaming's of Wantaganura. The Katoomba Library at Blue Mountains Cultural centre invites you to attend forums in their seminar room.

**WHEN:** The Varuna Sydney Writers' Festival is a regional program running alongside Sydney Writers Festival. 15– 22 May 2016

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# FACT SHEET

# VARUNA SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL



- ♦ Varuna Sydney Writers' Festival celebrates 11th year in the Blue Mountains.
- ♦ Varuna Sydney Writers' Festival spread over three locations will showcase writers in community events, workshops, forums and discussions at the Carrington Hotel for 2016 festival.
- ♦ Varuna Sydney Writers' Festival Writers is thrilled to announce Vivian Gornick, James Rebanks and Magda Szubanski are among the 25 writers who will be participating in this year's festival from 15 to 22 May.
- ♦ Award winning Australian writers showcase at Varuna Sydney Writers' Festival 2016 program.
- ♦ A 'STELLA' Line up for 2016 Varuna Sydney Writers' Festival, - 2016 program features Charlotte Wood, Peggy Frew, Mireille Juchau and Tegan Bennet Daylight.
- ♦ Magda Szubanski and her new memoir *RECKONING* at Varuna Sydney Writers' Festival 2016.
- ♦ Charlotte Wood's *Natural Way of Things* set for the big screen.
- ♦ Good News, Bad News : Award winning investigative journalist Andrew Fowler sheds light on the current state of the press in new work 'The War on Journalism' for the 2016 Dr Dark lecture.

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## MEDIA PRE PROGRAM

# VARUNA SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL



### TWEETS FOR PRE-PROGRAM MARKETING VSWF16

TWITTER: @Varunawriters

- ♦ Varuna SWF16 program is nearly confirmed tickets on sale 31 March  
[varuna.com.au](http://varuna.com.au)
- ♦ I love May in the Blue Mountains - Varuna Sydney Writers Festival 2016 runs  
from 15-22 MAY
- ♦ Make time to relax & read in front of the fire @ Varuna SWF16 Visit the Blue  
Mountains 15-22 May Tickets on sale 31 March
- ♦ Writers + Books + Readers + Blue Mountains = Varuna Sydney Writers Festival  
15-22 MAY tickets on Sale 31st March
- ♦ You might need another bookshelf Why? Varuna SWF16 15-22 MAY [varuna.com.au](http://varuna.com.au)
- ♦ May is Thinking Season in the Blue Mountains Tickets on sale for Varuna SWF  
31st MARCH
- ♦ "You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me"  
- C.S. Lewis @ Varuna SWF16 15-22 MAY you can!
- ♦ Autumn leaves outside & a book by the fire inside @ the Varuna SWF 15-22 May  
Tickets on sale 31 March
- ♦ Only 3 days till program and tickets released for Varuna Sydney Writers' Festival  
2016. See you in May !

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## PRE PROGRAM INFORMATION

# VARUNA SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL



The leaves are already starting to turn and here at Varuna things are marvellously busy as we gear up for the Varuna & Sydney Writers' Festival 2016 -- bringing to the Blue Mountains an exciting program of free and ticketed events. Tickets on sale on the 31 March at [varuna.com.au](http://varuna.com.au).

Experience Varuna, with free community events Sunday 15th, Saturday 21st and 22nd May.

Visual storytelling from local Indigenous artists presented in partnership with MAP (Modern Art Projects), fire circle yarns, workshops and a poetry party at Varuna will inspire, enlighten and enchant. While self publishing forums held at the BM Cultural Centre and Katoomba Library will give you access to the tools of the trade.

Immerse yourself in conversations with writers, Monday 16 & Tuesday 17 May.

We can't tell you who just yet, but we are excited to bring to the Carrington Hotel a sensational program of award winning National and International authors from the US, Europe and Interstate. Blue Mountains authors join forces for panels and literary fiction sessions. Our annual Dr Dark Lecture will explore cutting edge contemporary issues and debates effecting society at large.

Rest, Relax and Read by the Fire at the historic Carrington Hotel. Writers Festival packages available. Program and Tickets released 31 March. Festival dates 15-22 May 2016 see [Varuna.com.au](http://Varuna.com.au) for further details

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# DR DARK Memorial Lecture

# VARUNA SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL



## THE 2016 DR ERIC DARK MEMORIAL LECTURE

ANDREW FOWLER: GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS

The Carrington Hotel, Monday 16 May, 6:00pm – 7:00pm

In 1949 Dr Eric Dark, husband of Australian novelist Eleanor Dark, wrote his prescient article *The Press Against the People* in which he warns of the dangers of a press driven by commercial and political imperatives. In the 2016 Dr Dark Memorial Lecture International award-winning investigative journalist Andrew Fowler *The War on Journalism* and *The Most Dangerous Man in the World* interrogates the current state of the press, the rise of thin journalism and its implications for a democratic society. Burdened by public distrust and undermined by surveillance the fourth estate is in crisis. Andrew Fowler looks at what has led to this situation and asks how we can do better. Hosted by Peter Minter.

Event Title: The Dr Dark Memorial Lecture: Good News, Bad News

Date: Monday 16th May

Start Time: 6.00pm

Finish Time: 7.00pm

Venue: The Grand Dining Room, The Carrington Hotel 15-47 Katoomba Street, Katoomba

Free/Ticketed: Ticketed \$15/ \$10 conc

Ticketing Details (price, booking details): [varuna.com.au](http://varuna.com.au)

Short copy (30 words): In the 2016 Dr Dark Memorial Lecture award-winning journalist Andrew Fowler interrogates the current state of the press, the rise of thin journalism and its implications for a democratic society.

Long copy (80 words): In the 2016 Dr Dark Memorial Lecture international award-winning investigative journalist Andrew Fowler *{The War on Journalism}* and *{The Most Dangerous Man in the World}* interrogates the current state of the press, the rise of thin journalism and its implications for a democratic society. Driven by commercial and political imperatives, burdened by public distrust and undermined by surveillance the fourth estate is in crisis. Andrew Fowler looks at what has led to this situation and asks how we can do better.

Very short copy (15 words): The mainstream media is in crisis and Andrew Fowler *{The War on Journalism}* tells us why.

List of participants: Andrew Fowler, Peter Minter

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DIGITAL  
ASSETS

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**SYDNEY WRITERS FESTIVAL**

**BLUE MOUNTAINS PROGRAM**  
**15-22 MAY 2016**

**AT THE CARRINGTON HOTEL,  
BLUE MOUNTAINS  
CULTURAL CENTRE AND  
VARUNA, KATOOMBA**

**[www.varuna.com.au](http://www.varuna.com.au)**

*Our supporting partners*

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