



Not Writers' Week: Constellations

Media release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From 28 February to 5 March – the week left vacant by this year's cancelled Adelaide Writers' Week – the local writing community, including authors, booksellers and publishers, will come together with a range of events for readers and writers under a one-off umbrella festival, **Constellations**.

"This festival will not replicate the programming of much-respected Adelaide Writers' Week director Louise Adler," said local author Jennifer Mills. "We won't try to recreate the scale and feel of Adelaide Writers' Week – we don't have the time or resources for that. Instead, we are supporting decentralised, community-driven events. This is a collective response to the frustration and disappointment felt by so many of us at the way this year's Writers' Week was lost. We want to create spaces where readers and writers can come together in a show of strength and solidarity."

The umbrella festival has been organised by a broad range of local representatives, including booksellers, publishers and authors, with not-for-profit industry body Writers SA acting as a central point of communication and logistics. It was initiated to show support for the writers and readers who withdrew from Adelaide Writers' Week 2026 in protest at the previous Adelaide Festival board's discriminatory decision to cancel the appearance of Dr Randa Abdel-Fattah. The new board has subsequently apologised to Dr Abdel-Fattah and invited her to speak in 2027.

"Adelaide Writers' Week is a huge opportunity for writers – from bestselling international authors, to local debuts – to participate in fruitful discussions about their work, to meet readers and to sell their books. Those authors are missing out on key financial and professional opportunities, which is particularly devastating for local authors," according to Alisa Ahmed,

managing editor at Hardie Grant Publishing.

A number of key events will be announced in the coming weeks, including autonomously curated First Nations, poetry, and children's and YA programming.

Author and poet Ren Wyld said, “Adelaide Writers Week 2026 program was set to feature the largest line-up of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers and poets since the festival's inception. Over many decades, SA Aboriginal writers and poets have approached directors to include more First Nations speakers. *Mob Club*, a half-day curated by Dominic Guerrera, a Ngarrindjeri Kaurna poet, was to be a highlight this year. To ensure the shift towards increased inclusion continues, *Rivers of Reason*, an Aboriginal-led event, expands *Mob Club* to present local and interstate Aboriginal, and Palestinian and other Arab writers in conversation.”

Under the heading of Constellations, organisers are inviting bookshops, libraries, schools and other venues and community groups across both Adelaide and the rest of the state to register events and get involved. Participants can organise an event independently, or the group is happy to play matchmaker, putting interested venues and authors in touch to coordinate details as needed.

“We have been overwhelmed by the number of people offering their time, their expertise or their space to support this grassroots festival,” local bookseller Annie Waters commented. “Now that we are opening up the call to the wider community, we can't wait to see what kind of creative events will occur. We do ask that events have a registration page even if they are free so that they can be shared; that all writers involved are paid at ASA rates; and that the events are organised in the spirit of the festival: highlighting the importance of literary conversations in South Australia. Watch this space – or, better yet, be a part of it.”

Guidelines for Events:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tVXpodexTnr_Y5XdLCueN2SypNMm1dfz/view

Event Involvement and Support Form: <http://forms.gle/wDAmVDU6E91KNNGN8>

Donation link: <https://writerssa.org.au/whats-on/not-writers-week-constellations/>

For more information or to arrange an interview, contact the group via
constellationsfestival26@gmail.com