

# Program



Sunday  
23 May

Open 1pm

Welcome to our first local author salon, where you can meet our authors, all of whom live in the Gippsland region, get to know them and their works, listen to them read and browse or buy their books.

Readings  
program

- 1.15pm Reading from 'The Extraordinary, Unordinary Gum Tree' by Karen Casey  
Children's picture book.
- 1.30pm Reading from 'My Princess Wears a Superhero Cape' by Melissa Gjisbers  
Children's picture book.
- 1.45pm Reading from 'Raymund and the Fear Monster' by Megan Higginson  
Children's picture book.
- 2pm Reading from 'Eridu' by Alanah Andrews  
Young Adult spec-fic novel.
- 2.15pm Reading from 'It's All Within You' by Aisha Alim  
Adult self-help book.
- 2.30pm to 4.30pm Chat to the authors, book sales and signings.

To book tickets visit [www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/latrobeliteraryfestival](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/latrobeliteraryfestival)

The Latrobe Literary Festival is proudly supported by Reader's Emporium.  
Books will be available at all locations, Eftpos or cash sales.



FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 23 MAY

Your local festival for all things  
reading and writing.

LOCAL AUTHOR SALON PROGRAM

Reader's  
Emporium

WRITERS  
VICTORIA  
All about writers



## Local Authors



**Aisha Alim** is an empowerment coach, speaker, consultant, mentor, facilitator and now a published author. She is a mother and a former primary school teacher with a Diploma and Bachelor's degree. In 2017 she turned her attention specifically to life coaching and facilitating adult workshops, with a passion in helping people find their purpose, overcome fear and developing confidence. She takes a very balanced view of things and believes true authenticity comes from experience and a willingness to learn.



**Alanah Andrews** is a high school English teacher and writer of speculative fiction. She has won several awards including the Birdcatcher Books Short Story Award and the Avid Readers Flash Fiction Prize. Alanah has published a post-apocalyptic novella Exiles, and currently has two books in her YA dystopian Eridu series which explores a near-future world where emotions have been forbidden.



**Karen Casey** is a journalist and author from regional Victoria. She worked for newspapers around Australia and in Northern Ireland, freelanced for lifestyle and industry magazines and wrote and studied fiction every moment in between. Karen's first adult fiction manuscript was longlisted for an Australian Vogel Literary Award. She has since published a children's book, The Extraordinary, Unordinary Gum Tree, which raises money for Australian farmers facing hardship. The second book in the series is called The Extraordinary Tom Fink and was published in late 2019. In the adult literary world, Karen has released The Misadventures of the Travelling Quirkus, a humorous memoir about a chaotic outback road trip with her family.



**Sarah Jane Duncan** is a dark romance author, with her debut, the Heavy Hearts Series. Sarah lives in the beautiful Gippsland region in Victoria, Australia, with her high-school-sweetheart-turned-hubby and three young children. She has a very close relationship with her young adult children, who are more like her best friends. When she's not busy writing, Sarah can be found sewing dance costumes for her daughter or helping her hubby in their family business. Sarah writes about females who have to fight against the odds to find their power, find their voice, and find their truth. The heroines in Sarah's stories possess the strength that only comes when you have to fight for your life/experience and a willingness to learn.



**Melissa Gijbbers** is an author with three middle grade books and one picture book currently available, as well as working with young writers. She lives in Traralgon with her two teenage boys, pet blue-tongue lizard, and pet budgies. Find out more at [www.melissagijbbers.com](http://www.melissagijbbers.com).



**Megan Higginson** is the author of Raymund and the Fear Monster, illustrated by Ester de Boer. My Princess Wears a Superhero Cape by Melissa Gijbbers is Megan's debut book as an illustrator and it came out in March 2021. Megan lives in her own superhero hideout in Latrobe Valley where she scribbles and paints. Megan has always drawn and thought up stories since she was a kid but never felt she was good enough, until she decided she was. So, she put on her princess crown and superhero cape, and since then, dragons haven't been able to keep her away from her brushes and paints, or her notebook. Through sharing her own story of having dyslexia, Megan hopes to inspire children to read, and to create their own stories, even if for some it is difficult.