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Earth Canvas

# WRITERS AT THE WOOLSHED

4th & 5th April 2020

A FESTIVAL FOR WRITERS AND READERS

Earth Canvas is about linking writers and readers with regenerative farmers to create a better future. An opportunity for writers and readers to experience an ecological cattle farm on the Southwest Slopes of Southern NSW.

Be inspired by the Murray Valley landscape and ecosystems working on Bibbaringa by enjoying a weekend of author presentations and a day of specialised workshops with world renowned writers.

## Saturday 4th April

9:30am ~ 4:30pm

Writers in Conversation

6:00 ~ 10:00pm

Paddock to Plate Dinner

Dinner Speaker Alison Pouliot

## Sunday 5th April

10:00am ~ 2:30pm

Farm Landscape Writing Workshops

Drawing from the Landscape

## Where

'Bibbaringa' 1268 Wymah Road, Bowna NSW  
(45kms from Albury)

### Guest Authors

Patti Miller

Alison Pouliot

Kim Mahood

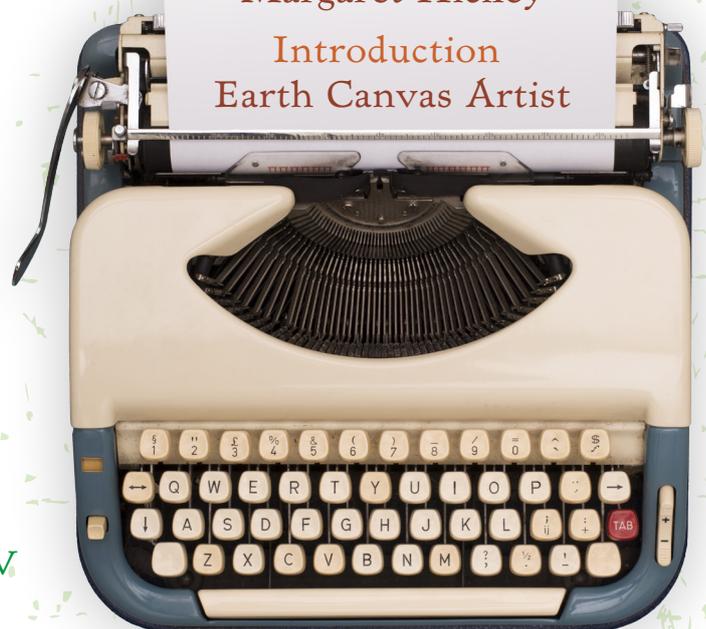
Karen Viggers

Amanda Webster

Richard Anderson

In conversation with  
Margaret Hickey

Introduction  
Earth Canvas Artist



www.earthcanvas.com.au Phone Lynne 0408 244 016 Email writers@earthcanvas.com.au  
Accommodation at Great Aussie Resort ~ Phone 02 6020 3236 (mention Earth Canvas for discount)



**Richard Anderson** is a writer and second-generation farmer from northern New South Wales. He has been running a beef-cattle farm for twenty-five years, but has also worked as a miner and had a stint on the local council. Richard is the author of *The Good Teacher* (Harper Collins) and two rural-crime novels, *Retribution* and *Boxed* (Scribe). His new novel is *Small Mercies*. Richard lives with his wife, Sue, three dogs, and a cat.



**Patti Miller** is an award winning writer, tutor and mentor. She is the author of nine books of non-fiction, memoir and fiction as well as writing texts and including *The Mind of a Thief*, *Ransacking Paris*, *Writing True Stories* and her latest work *The Joy of High Places*. Patti founded *Life Stories Workshop* in 1991 and offers non-fiction and memoir classes in Australia, Fiji, Bali, London and Paris.



**Kim Mahood** is the author of *Craft for a Dry Lake*, which won both the 2000 Age Book of the year and 2001 NSW Premiers Award for non-fiction, and *Position Doubtful*, which received multiple short-listings including 2016 Victorian Premier's Award for non-fiction, 2017 National Biography Award and 2017 Queensland Literary Awards. Kim's essays have been published widely and her art work is held in state, territory and regional galleries.



Photo by Valerie Chetelat

**Alison Pouliot** is a natural historian and environmental photographer who uses words and images to evoke stories of the living world, as well as the non-living. Alison is especially interested in forgotten corners and lifeforms; the stuff that slips between the cracks and is partial to the fungal and the spineless. Alison released her book, *The Allure of Fungi* in 2018 and is an Honorary Fellow at the Australian National University.



**Karen Viggers** is a wildlife veterinarian and author of four internationally bestselling novels: *The Stranding*, *The Lightkeeper's Wife*, *The Grass Castle* and *The Orchardist's Daughter*. Karen writes contemporary realist fiction set in Australian landscapes. Her books tackle contentious issues, and explore connection with the bush, grief and loss, healing in nature, family, marriage and friendship.



Photo by Justine Gordon

**Amanda Webster** is the author of *The Boy Who Loved Apples* and *A Tear in the Soul*. Amanda grew up in Kalgoorlie and graduated from the University of Western Australia as a doctor. She left medicine to raise a family and turned to writing after her son Riche's illness. Amanda has a Masters in Fine Arts from the City University of Hong Kong and her work has appeared in several US literary journals.

### Writing Nature; Remembering History

Richard's workshop will focus on writing about and finding inspiration in Australian nature while including the context of its history. The landscape we live in is a transformed one: first by the indigenous people then by white settlement and development. So when we see, hear and sense nature we need to remember it is almost never pristine.

### Writing the Senses

Patti will offer a writing workshop which can be used by both memoir and fiction writers. The aim of the workshop is to create strong detailed writing which appeals to the senses. It's an enjoyable and practical approach to getting out of the head (abstract, orderly, analytical) and into the body (warm, sensual, vivid). The workshop will engage participants with readings, discussion and writing exercises to heighten their observation and enrich their expression.

### Place, Land, Landscape & Country

In Kim's workshop participants will carry out several exercises that require them to observe, experience and write about place/land/landscape/country in different ways. There will be an introduction to a range of ideas, and a discussion of the writing people produce in the workshop.

### Visual Narratives – Finding Words through Images.

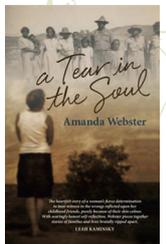
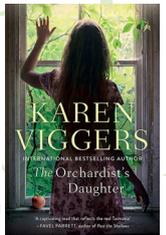
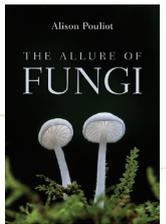
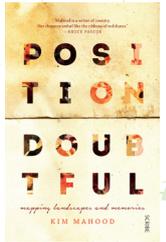
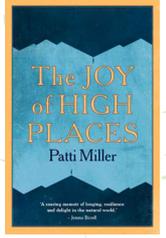
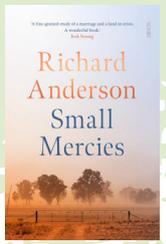
As forms of artistic expression, photography and poetry share much in common. Both are the outcome of intense honing, of distillation, of eloquent exactitude. Both can convey a point of view or story that goes beyond mere description. Photographers often borrow literary devices such as irony, but writers also have much to gain from photographs. This workshop explores the crossovers and co-habitations of words and images and how they might enhance and inspire one another.

### Immersing in Country: Light in the Landscape.

In Karen's workshop participants will use memory, free verse, character and the senses to find inspiration in place.

### Leaving a Mark

How does landscape retain the memory of the people who lived in it and events that have taken place? And how do those memories affect the present story? Through a series of exercises, participants will explore these themes and learn how to write a scene, where the setting itself is a character in the story. This workshop is suitable for new and developing writers, and for fiction or non-fiction. Participants are asked to bring a photo of a place of significance to them.



## WRITERS AT THE WOOLSHED: DINNER SPEAKER

### ALISON POULIOT Writing in Place – A Thousand Days in the Forest

Between 2012 and 2016, photographer, ecologist and author Alison Pouliot spent a thousand days in the forests of twelve countries. She sought fungi and their followers and the answer to one question – why are fungi regarded so differently to other forms of life? Alison recorded her findings – in a 100,000 words – in situ, with a notebook and pencil. Her work has been published in a new book, *The Allure of Fungi*.

In an increasingly virtual and less sensorial world, writing in place enables one to tune to the seasons, rhythms and nuances of the surrounds. It nurtures the imagination and offers the chance to roam uncharted

territory, both literally and allegorically. It opens possibilities for serendipity and risk, space for intuition and curiosity. Australia's vast and ancient landscapes relative to Europe's geologically young terrain helped recalibrate notions of time and space, to imagine another outlook on uncertain futures. Most importantly, writing in place provided the opportunity to foster the 'ecologies of creativity' necessary for an ecologically resilient and socially just future.

In this talk Alison will share her experiences of the forest, visual impressions and some excerpts from her book.