

MILFORD ASSET MANAGEMENT

PRESENTS

aspiring conversations

22-24
APRIL 2016



time for
thinking



PRESENTED BY

festival of colour
a celebration of the arts ♦ southern lakes

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Tim Flannery



Veronika Meduna



Suzi Kerr



Cool it! Dealing with climate change

We know we need to start work today or even yesterday to deal with climate change, but the politicians emerged from the climate change talks in Paris with just a set of good intentions. So how do we do something real and substantive to avert rising sea-levels, catastrophic weather events, and drastic threats to farming and to our lifestyles – and to save the planet for our grandchildren?

Our keynoter is **Tim Flannery** and his latest book is *Atmosphere of Hope: The Search for Solutions to the Climate*. He became Australia's Chief Climate Commissioner, and when the Abbot government withdrew funding, established the independent Australian Climate Council. As well as deep emission cuts, he urges new forms of carbon capture.

Our two NZ respondents are Motu fellow and climate researcher **Suzi Kerr** who was visiting Professor at Stanford in 2009/10 and at the University of the Andes in Bogotá in 2013 ; and science journalist **Veronika Meduna** whose book *Towards a Warmer World* looks towards the very different world of 2100.

SUPPORTED BY



WHEN 6.00pm Friday 22 April
WHERE Lake Wanaka Centre
TICKETS \$20
DURATION 75 minutes

WELCOME!

It's time for thinking, for exploring ideas and issues that matter to us as individuals and as a wider community. Our speakers and our sessions move from questions of individual identity to issues that stretch across NZ society and also to climate change which affects the whole planet. Food for thought and for some intense discussion amongst festival-goers and your friends.

Many thanks to all our supporters, our sponsors, funders, benefactors, patrons and volunteers – you make it all possible!

Hetty Van Hale (Chair)
Anna McConville (Venue Manager)
Philip Tremewan (Director)
Lindsey Schofield (General Manager)



Vanessa van Uden –
Mayor Queenstown Lakes
District Council

"Welcome to Aspiring Conversations. We're delighted to see this unique and thought provoking festival back in Wanaka and hope you enjoy a weekend of ideas, conversation and debate."

The Festival Team

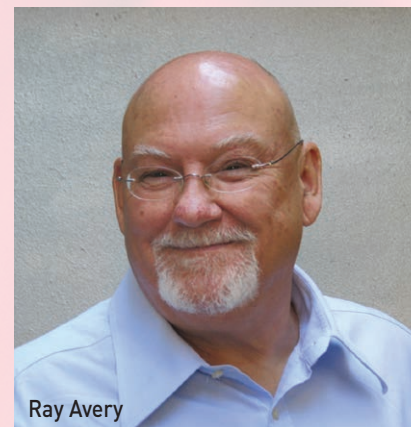
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Mark Verbiest, Annabel Wilson.



Ray Avery



Kate Smaje

Creativity and innovation drive prosperity

As technological developments accelerate, organisations can't stand still. Innovation becomes increasingly vital for their success. **Sir Ray Avery** and **Kate Smaje** explore how creativity and innovation work within organisations and for New Zealand as a nation.

Sir Ray is a former street kid turned scientist – the low-cost medical devices invented in his garage make a difference to the world's most vulnerable. He is 2010 New Zealander of the Year and also won the national Disruption Award. Kate Smaje is a Director in the London office of McKinsey & Company. She is also a member of the company's Global Operating Committee, which oversees digital and technology for the Firm.

The session will be facilitated by
Mark Verbiest, Chairman of Spark.

WHEN 9.30am Saturday 23 April
WHERE Lake Wanaka Centre
TICKETS \$20
DURATION 75 minutes

The New Zealand project



Max Harris



David Farrar

New Zealand was founded on a spirit of adventure and ambition.

Max Harris argues that we need that same drive for this country to forge ahead in difficult global times.

This session highlights trends affecting New Zealand politics - celebrity culture, demographic change, the rise of the Internet - and springboards off these to suggest a principled approach to policy and politics, on issues such as prisons, climate change refugees, and an independent foreign policy.

Max Harris is a Rhodes Scholar who became a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford in 2014. Previously, he helped set up criminal justice group JustSpeak and Law For Change, and also worked as a consultant for UNDP in New York. His book *The New Zealand Project* will be published this year.

His progressive views about the welfare state and social democracy will be tested against the editor of Kiwiblog – **David Farrar**. David previously worked in Parliament and served two National Party Prime Ministers. He directs Curia Market Research.

Max says: “It’s important we get clear on the values that can bring us together in a lonely age. And we need to build a culture that values ideas and experimentation.”

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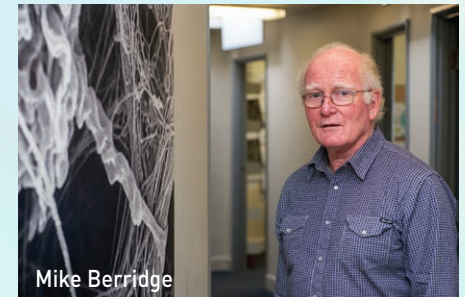
WHEN 11.15am Saturday 23 April
WHERE Lake Wanaka Centre
TICKETS \$15
DURATION 75 minutes

Moods, microbes and the gut

How brain function and immune health depend on our microbial life partners

Research has established that the bacteria in your gut have a direct influence on your brain – on moods and behaviour – and on resistance to disease. In fact the sheer range, quantity and distribution of our bacterial partners qualify them as another organ whose functions are only now beginning to be revealed.

Prof Mike Berridge will explore these linkages and scope the dramatic changes they have brought to human health over the past 50 years. The increasing use of antibiotics and other medicines, and changes in our diets and lifestyles have impacted hugely on our human identity with some unexpected consequences that are only now becoming apparent.



Mike Berridge

Mike is a researcher at the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research where he established and leads the Cancer Cell Biology Research Group. He is a past James Cook Fellow in the health sciences. His book *The Edge of Life* looks at controversies and challenges in the health sciences (including fluoridation and vaccination).

A new book about three ‘brothers’ raised in small town NZ will explore tensions between upbringing and genes.

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WHEN 1.30pm Saturday 23 April
WHERE Lake Wanaka Centre
TICKETS \$15
DURATION 60 minutes

Patricia Grace



Photo: Jane Usher

Tina Makereti



Who are we?

Strike out what doesn't apply: Māori / Pākehā / Irish

Our identity as New Zealanders swirls and shifts and two writers have been exploring some of our very different roots.

When the All Blacks were welcomed on to **Patricia Grace's** home marae at Plimmerton to learn first-hand about their haka, she saw a strong recognition of different cultures and a sense of pride in themselves as New Zealand men. It hasn't always been like this. Her latest novel *Chappy* looks at a young man of both Māori and European ancestry who finds he has a Japanese grandfather. The book explores racial intolerance, cross-cultural conflicts and the universal desire to belong.

Patricia is one of our major writers, of Ngāti Toa, Ngāti Raukawa, Te Āti Awa and Irish descent and affiliated to Ngāti Porou by marriage. She began writing while teaching and raising her seven children, and has since won many awards, including the Deutz Medal for Fiction, and the Neustadt International Prize for Literature. In 2005 she was honoured as an Arts Icon.

Tina Makereti is of a younger generation. Her book *Where the Rēkohu Bone Sings* explores the complexity of being Moriori, Māori and Pākehā and of finding a place of belonging. Tina is of Ngāti Tuwharetoa, Te Āti Awa, Ngāti Maniapoto, Pākehā, and according to family stories, Moriori descent.

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WHEN 3.00pm Saturday 23 April
WHERE Lake Wanaka Centre
TICKETS \$15
DURATION 60 minutes



Tami Neilson

Photo: Jacko Andrews



Bella Kalolo

Photo: Louise Hutton



Colleen Davis

Photo: Calypso Paoli



Anna Coddington

Photo: Maree Vegas

Dust to Dusky

Come and enjoy **Tami Neilson, Bella Kalolo, Anna Coddington** and **Colleen Davis** as they pay tribute to the iconic Dusty Springfield, and put their spin on one of the unique voices in the history of pop music. Hitch a ride on Dusty's trail, from her folk beginnings through the Memphis years, to the soulful 60s England she championed, and on to her adventures with the Pet Shop Boys in the 90s. Country-singer Tami and soul-singer Bella, join Anna and Colleen to celebrate the queen of blue-eyed soul. They re-imagine her hits and remember the smoky-voiced pop-soul vocalist who passed away in March 1999.

With thanks to Auckland Arts Festival who commissioned this show.

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WHEN 7.30pm Saturday 23 April
WHERE Lake Wanaka Centre
TICKETS \$38
DURATION 90 minutes, no interval



Colin James



Stephanie Johnson

Advance Australia fair?



We've seen their attitude to boat people and how they've set up detention centres in places like Christmas Island. We've also witnessed the behaviour of some of their sports teams. Their 1901 constitution includes provision for NZ to join up with the states of Australia, but we went our own way. After a century of living in their relatively benign shadow, are we splitting apart for good? Will we cease waltzing with Matilda?

Colin James is an experienced New Zealand political journalist and commentator and a life member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery. You can read his weekly columns in the ODT. He believes that NZ will never join with Australia.

NZ writer **Stephanie Johnson** has always had an affinity for Australia and lived there for some time. She even had an Aussie budgie who would say "Gedaye Steefnee". Her latest novel is *The Writers Festival*.

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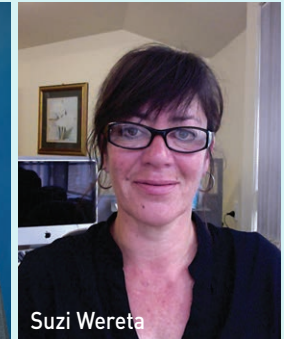
WHEN 9.30am Sunday 24 April
WHERE Lake Wanaka Centre
TICKETS \$15
DURATION 75 minutes



David Vann



Jesse Bering



Suzi Wereta

To be or not to be Issues around suicide

Suicide is a difficult topic for discussion and the NZ media have for a long-time followed strict guidelines in keeping reporting to a minimum. That is starting to change as we seek to deal with this country's high suicide rate. Suicide ripples through families and friendships and our speakers bring their own expertise and experience to this conversation.

American writer **David Vann** based his first book on his own father's suicide. *Legend of a Suicide* was initially rejected by literary agents and Vann spent a decade working at sea before the book was published in 20 languages and won 10 prizes. He has gone on to write such powerful novels as *Caribou Mountain* and *Aquarium*. **Jesse Bering** is an American writer and psychologist who is investigating patterns of suicides and motivations driving people to take their own lives. He also teaches science communication at Otago University. NZ researcher **Suzi Wereta** has been interviewing Maori in Dunedin about their attitudes to suicide - for her doctoral thesis *Talking about It*.

If you would like to talk to someone about the issues raised in this session then please call one of the following helplines:

Tautoko Suicide crisis support line 0508 828 865
Lifeline 0800 543 354
Youthline 0800 37 66 33

WHEN 11.15am Sunday 24 April
WHERE Lake Wanaka Centre
TICKETS \$15
DURATION 75 minutes



Albert Wendt



Victor Rodger

Childhood is a different country

So often we return to our childhood and teenage experiences and find our lives shaped by those years. Both **Albert Wendt** and **Victor Rodger** have mined those experiences for their work, both have felt the loss of a parent, both have grappled with success and with depression, both have a rich and powerful collection of work.

In 1952 Albert Wendt won a scholarship from Apia to a New Plymouth boarding school and thence to university. His first novel *Sons for the Return Home* was born out of this "terrible separation from mother and family, country and culture". His latest memoir deals to his childhood in the Apia slums. Albert recently retired from his professorship at Auckland University.

Victor Rodger was raised in his born-again Christian family in Christchurch in the 1970's and 80's, the son of a Palagi mum and a Samoan father. He has been a writer and actor for Shortland Street, a successful playwright (including *Sons* and *Black Faggot*), a Fulbright scholar, and currently is Burns Fellow at Otago University.

WHEN 1.30pm Sunday 24 April
WHERE Lake Wanaka Centre
TICKETS \$15
DURATION 60 minutes

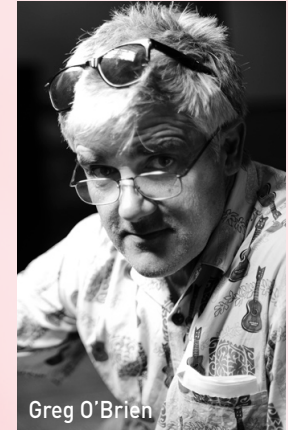
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Louise Wallace



Káte Camp



Greg O'Brien

A still small voice What does poetry do for us

Poetry has kept going for at least 3,000 years – what is its appeal?

And what poem would you take to a desert island? Or into your apartment in a locked-down city in Europe as the police patrol the streets?

Three poets discuss what poetry does in today's whirling world – what it means to them and their readers.

Louise Wallace was Burns Fellow last year and has founded an on-line journal for young writers at starlingmag.com. Her latest book of poems is *Enough*. **Kate Camp** is well-known for Kate's Klassics on Kim Hill's Saturday radio show; her most recent book is *Snow White's Coffin*. **Greg O'Brien** is a poet, commentator and illustrator and recently published *Whale Years*.

WHEN 3.00pm Sunday 24 April
WHERE Lake Wanaka Centre
TICKETS \$15
DURATION 60 minutes

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INFORMATION

Venue

The Lake Wanaka Centre, 89 Ardmore Street, Wanaka.

Booking information

Book online at www.aspiringconversations.co.nz

Priority Booking - Benefactor Plus and Patron Plus of Aspiring Conversations can book online from 7pm Thursday 18 February; Benefactors and Patrons of the Festival of Colour can book online from 9am Wednesday 24 February.

Public ticket sales start 8.30am Friday 26 February.

All sessions are general admission.

The box office in the Lake Wanaka Centre will be open on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 February from 8.30am to 2pm for cash and eftpos sales. It will be open from 9am on Friday 22 April for any remaining sales and ticket collection.

The **Aspiring Pass** gives you access to all nine Wanaka speaker and panel sessions (not *Dust to Dusky*) without having to book and pay for separate tickets. The pass is \$140 and can be booked online or by phone. There are a limited number available. The pass is non-transferrable and needs to be shown at the door for all events. To guarantee a seat, **Aspiring Pass** holders must arrive at least 10 minutes before the session starts.

For all ticketing queries please email ticketing@aspiringconversations.co.nz or phone 022 4 TIX NOW (022 4 849 669).

For disabled access please contact the Festival office on 03 443 4172.
View booking conditions online.

Food and drink

The **Last Chapter Café and Bookstore** is our very own pop-up café/bar in the Lake Wanaka Centre run by Gin & Raspberry. Come and enjoy morning coffee, afternoon tea or a glass of Mt Difficulty wine or Quartz Reef bubbly with a selection of delicious hot and cold food. You can catch up with friends and continue the discussion on topics raised. Open from 5pm on Friday 22 April and all day Saturday and Sunday.



Paper Plus Wanaka will also be selling books and donating a percentage of their takings to the Festival. There will be opportunities to have them signed by the authors.



Thanks to Anna McKay and Sarah Shore at Barefoot Styling for theming the pop-up café and foyer.



SESSIONS AT A GLANCE

All sessions take place at the Lake Wanaka Centre, 89 Ardmore Street, Wanaka.

More information about each session can be found on the page in the programme or on the website www.aspiringconversations.co.nz

Session	Participants	Page	Time	Duration	Cost
Friday 22 April					
Cool it!	Tim Flannery, with Veronika Meduna and Suzi Kerr	3	6pm	75 mins	\$20
Saturday 23 April					
Creativity and innovation drive prosperity	Sir Ray Avery and Kate Smaje	5	9.30am	75 mins	\$20
The New Zealand project	Max Harris with David Farrar	6	11.15am	75 mins	\$15
Moods, microbes and the gut	Prof Mike Berridge	7	1.30pm	60 mins	\$15
Who are we?	Patricia Grace and Tina Makereti	8	3pm	60 mins	\$15
Dust to Dusky (music performance)	Tami Neilsen, Bella Kalolo, Anna Coddington and Colleen Davis	9	7.30pm	90 mins	\$38
Sunday 24 April					
Advance Australia fair?	Colin James and Stephanie Johnson	10	9.30am	75 mins	\$15
To be or not to be	David Vann, Jesse Bering and Suzi Wereta	11	11.15am	75 mins	\$15
Childhood is a different country	Albert Wendt and Victor Rodger	12	1.30pm	60 mins	\$15
A still small voice	Louise Wallace, Kate Camp and Greg O'Brien	13	3pm	60 mins	\$15

Aspiring Conversations is organised by the Southern Lakes Arts Festival Trust that also runs the biennial celebration of the arts – the Festival of Colour. The next festival takes place 4-9 April 2017.

If you like what you see here and would like to know more about supporting Aspiring Conversations or the Festival of Colour either as a volunteer, performer, sponsor or to make a donation then please get in touch today – info@festivalofcolour.co.nz. We'd be delighted to hear from you.

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And there'll be more Aspiring Conversations in the Festival of Colour
4 to 9 April 2017 • www.festivalofcolour.co.nz

Presented by Southern Lakes Arts Festival Trust

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