

GATEWAYS FESTIVALS

MEET OUR PRESENTERS

Allen Dickson is an educator with a passion for ensuring learning is innovative, practical and enjoyable. For nearly 20 years he has specialised in the fields of Drama, English and Maths, and uses his diverse range of unique skills to initiate change in classroom practice. Allen runs his own educational consultancy, RethinkPD.

Andrea Blake loves anything to do with words – reading, writing, discovering, inventing or investigating them! One of the things she enjoys most of all is working with enthusiastic young wordsmiths who love them too. An experienced teacher and specialist in Gifted Education, Andrea designs programs that inspire curiosity and ignite imagination, developing creative writing abilities and creative thinking skills.

Annette Subhani is an educator, a parent and a person of varied life experience with a passion and desire to contribute to the character development of children from an early age. She has been presenting with G.A.T.E.WAYS for close to ten years and she encourages students to question the world around them and to transfer their learning to real-life. She has a love of history, reading and literature, maths, story-telling, the arts and living life.

Damian Robb's love of storytelling led him down a forgotten path, through a hidden door, and into the world of writing. He has a Masters in Screenwriting from the VCA, has written for children's tv, and has had a number of short stories published. When not working on his own projects he teaches story craft at Melbourne Young Writers Studio and screenwriting at RMIT.

Debi Cohen is a highly enthusiastic and creative arts and crafts teacher. She runs art programs at many schools around Melbourne. Debi does not specialise in any one medium but allows her students to experience many different mediums, techniques and a variety of art products to further their knowledge.

Emma Carter has Bachelors' degrees in Science and Engineering, with majors in Physics and Electrical Engineering from the University of Melbourne. She has taught secondary school maths, science and physics, and has worked at Scienceworks as well as the Discovery Science and Technology Museum where she was an Outreach Education Officer. Emma now enjoys presenting science workshops for G.A.T.E.WAYS.

Jesse Chambers is a STEM educator who provides exciting and challenging learning experiences for high-ability students. He has a double degree in science and education with honours and has recently completed a Master of Science Communication Outreach. Since joining G.A.T.E.WAYS, Jesse has delivered workshops spanning astronomy to zoology. He has a strong passion for inspiring students to learn about science.

Joanne Davis developed a fascination for science at a young age, getting her first microscope at 6 years old! As a research scientist with a PhD in Immunology and over 20 years' experience in the lab, Joanne is devoted to looking for a cure for cancer, and teaching. Joanne taught in the CSIRO Scientist in Schools program, and has conducted a range of G.A.T.E.WAYS Programs, including Science Eureka's, Festivals and journeys – usually about science with a twist. She has a passion for experimenting daily, whether it's in the lab, or in the backyard creating potions!

Kim Edwards teaches English literature and creative writing to university and high school students, and drama and theatre skills to both adults and kids all over Melbourne. She has run book clubs and cabarets, performed Shakespeare and written sonnets, dabbled in Dickens and is best buddies with the Brontës, and while she loves a ripping good yarn, she is still convinced everything we get to read and write in our lives is always a thrilling new adventure!

Layla Sacker teaches English Literature to both primary and secondary school students. She is passionate about the need for writers to have the time to develop their writing skills by exploring a wide range of written and spoken texts from the past and present. She exhibits her own paintings and applies her training in the arts to enable her writers to use art as a further source of inspiration. She has a firm belief in the capacity of children to think outside the box and her creative writing students from primary school to university have done just that. She delights in using technology and multimedia as texts as well as drawing on traditional literature

For **Liam Mackay**, teaching is all about cultivating relationships, in particular the relationships his students have with the content of their learning. Whether in his tertiary studies or in the classroom, he loves seeing students connect Science and Maths with a story or characters. Those 'Ah-ha' content moments become more deeply embedded when his students discover them in a narrative context. Liam is currently the recipient of a much-sought after education internship at Belgrave Heights Christian School where he is learning more about the practice and theory of SBL (Story-Based Learning).

Mark Maxwell is an artist, technician, builder and workshop presenter who has a giant studio to work his ideas. His practice encompasses sculptural marques, woodwork, animation, set design and lighting. When creating miniature models, he explores engineering principles and tries to design projects that promote open ended creativity. His creative process involves constructing working models from scratch and using technology to program basic functions.

Megan Dredge is a passionate and inspiring presenter, who has spent two decades teaching in both the public and private education sectors. Megan is committed to helping students aim higher, reach further, and learn stronger. She has authored four books, developed numerous resources for teachers, and most recently developed the education resources for the ABC's sustainability series, Project Planet. She has spoken extensively in Australia, Asia and Europe and is currently the Global Leadership Coach for Propel Women, actively training over 4000 leaders in 44 nations around the world.

Rebecca Fraser is an Australian author with a Master of Arts in Creative Writing, and a Certificate of Publishing (Copy Editing & Proofreading). She copywrites in a freelance capacity and copy edits for a publisher of children's and speculative fiction ... however her true passion lies in storytelling. Rebecca's fiction has appeared in numerous anthologies, magazines, and journals since 2007. Her junior teen fantasy adventure novel *Curtis Creed and the Lore of the Ocean* was released in 2018. Rebecca is passionate about sharing her skills and knowledge with aspiring young authors and budding writers.

Sharon Leibowitz is an experienced educator with enthusiasm for ensuring that learning is creative, practical and enjoyable. She has specialised in the area of gifted education for over 20 years in schools and has been running exciting journeys for G.A.T.E.WAYS over the last eight years. One of her passions is mathematics and she particularly enjoys the task of designing mathematical curriculum using the 'thinking treasure' of children's literature, art and science

Stephanie Axon has been a secondary school teacher for many years and has a passion for education. Her dynamic, hands-on workshops provide many opportunities to encourage and foster the enquiring minds of children. She loves all things Science and relishes the opportunity to share her enthusiasm and love of learning with children.

Tim Byrne enjoys all areas of science. Science is a way of looking at the world and trying to figure out what's going on, so every day brings another challenge to look further, deeper or differently. He likes to share his passion for science with anyone who will take the time.

GATEWAYS

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years of
inspiration
and challenge