

MELVILLE FESTIVAL STORYLINES

10 days across the City of Melville
celebrating all things story



**11 to 20
SEPTEMBER**

City of
Melville

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The City of Melville acknowledges the Bibbulmun people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which the City stands today and pays its respects to the Whadjuk people, and Elders both past and present.

A WORD FROM THE MAYOR

Melville Storylines Festival brings a packed 10-day program of more than 20 events to venues across the City of Melville from 11 to 20 September, celebrating storytelling in all its forms.

Born from the shared vision of our Library and Arts teams and now in its fourth iteration, the festival encourages people of all ages to explore, create and connect through stories, whether told in words, music, art or performance.

We have created welcoming spaces where families, friends and neighbours can come together to discover new interests, celebrate local talent and perhaps even surprise themselves by stepping outside their comfort zone. Whether attending a performance, making art or taking to the microphone at an open mic poetry night, there's something for everyone to get involved in.

I hope you enjoy everything Melville Storylines Festival has to offer and leave feeling inspired by the stories you've heard, shared and created.

- Mayor Katy Mair

ABOUT MELVILLE STORYLINES FESTIVAL

The City of Melville is defined by a series of lines drafted across a piece of paper in the years between 1901 and 1968 and known as a map. We might locate ourselves within it according to the streets we ride along to school, the trees which shade a favourite park bench, or the fastest route to the local shops.

Of course, our community sits upon Country far older than the lines of our City's borders, understood by thousands of generations through story, song and dance, and charted in the calls of birds, the annual flowering of banksia, and the river's changing edge.

Over the 10-day Melville Storylines Festival, we invite you to explore how we understand and navigate place in both literal and imaginative ways.

We hope you'll feel surprised by a place you thought you knew, expand your knowledge, discover something unexpected in the corners of our community, and bring your friends and family to the very edge of our own map for a Sunday picnic on the border.



An Imaginary Life

FRI, 11 and SAT, 12 SEP

Mystery location on the border

7.00pm to 8.30pm

\$20.00 Standard | \$12.00 Concession

Experience David Malouf's Australian classic novel *An Imaginary Life* in this intimate performance, adapted and performed by Humphrey Bower with live music by Pavan Kumar Hari.

An Imaginary Life follows the exiled Roman poet Ovid and his encounter with a wild child on the edge of the Black Sea. Together, they discover new ways of understanding language, nature and belonging in a moving story about finding home in unfamiliar places.

Placed on the very edges of Melville's own map, this is an intimate performance inviting audiences to a place they might not expect to find themselves, both in physical location, and in their own imagining.

FILM SCREENING | EXHIBITION



Places Unsaid

THU, 17 SEP

City of Melville Main Hall

5.30pm – 7.30pm | FREE

Join us for the launch of Places Unsaid – an interactive map charting memories of living and working in the City of Melville, as told by seniors and captured through photography, documentary film and interviews.

The launch will include a screening and panel discussion with project participants; and be accompanied by the photographic exhibition *Places Unsaid – Through Their Eyes*, an intergenerational media project with students from Leeming Senior High school.

Offering a vibrant understanding of Melville's past, present, and future, *Places Unsaid* re-defines our shared sense of community, place and personal identity through a map of stories.

EVENT TIMES

5.30pm | Doors & exhibition open

6.00pm | Screening & panel discussion

7.30pm | Event ends



Echo-Location

Presented by Goolugatup Sounds

MUSIC

SAT, 12 SEP

Goolugatup Heathcote

4.00pm – 9.00pm | FREE

"I speak to maps. And sometimes they say something back to me. This is not as strange as it sounds." – Aldulrazak Gurnah

Echo-Location is a special edition of Goolugatup's ongoing live music series and explores the mapping of places, spaces and stories through sound.

Showcasing a diverse lineup of local and national artists including Helen Svoboda and Theo Carbo (VIC), Echo-Location considers how sound can recall landscapes and journeys and shape our sense of the world; how sound can tell stories, with or without text; and how musical instruments become maps of sonic possibilities – with their fringes pointing towards unexplored, adventurous territory.

Embroider a Melville Map

FRI, 18 SEP

AH Bracks Library +
Creative Space

10.00am - 12noon | \$10.00

Try your hand at embroidery and create a unique keepsake.

Under the guidance of members from the Embroiderers Guild of WA and with supplied materials, embroider an outline of Melville and embellish it with your favourite landmarks, be they building, bush or river.

Treasure Map to Inner Peace

WED, 16 SEP

Bull Creek Library

11.30am - 1.30pm | \$10.00

FRI, 18 SEP

Wilgi Kaartdijin Mia Willagee Library

12.30pm - 2.30pm | \$10.00



Press pause on the busyness of life and reconnect with a sense of peace through this creative workshop with Dawn, creator of Moving Expressions Art Therapy.

Reflect on what feeling at one with yourself looks like, then design your own treasure map to guide you back to that place of calm whenever you need it.

Build Your Aussie Town

SUN, 13 SEP

AH Bracks Library + Creative Space

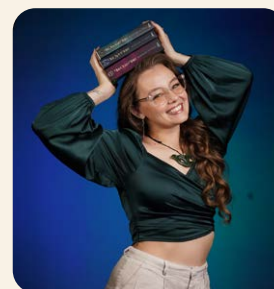
11.00am - 1.00pm | FREE



Kids aged 6 years and above are invited to become inventive town planners as they draw, map and imagine an entire community from scratch with illustrator Jasmine Berry.

Using big imaginations and playful storytelling, they'll solve fun "town problems" and bring their ideas to life, creating everything from quirky street names and cosy homes to parks, shops and colourful landmarks.

Every child will take home their own illustrated Aussie town map, while building creativity, confidence and storytelling skills along the way.



Create a Fictional Fantasy World

FRI, 11 SEP

AH Bracks Library +
Creative Space

6.30pm - 8.00pm | FREE

People aged 15 to 25 are invited to join local author Madeline Te Whiu to discuss what it takes to create rich, immersive worlds in fiction writing. Covering everything from the creative process, to keeping your world consistent, and considerations for that 'lived-in' feeling, participants will leave the workshop with a complete world to fill in all the blank edges of their very own map!

Maps, Memory & Mixed Media

TUE, 15 SEP

AH Bracks Library +
Creative Space

10.00am - 12noon | \$15.00

Join Juliette from The Art Branch for this fun mixed media art workshop for adults. Create a concertina art book from an old Swan River map, using mixed media to capture memories of a special day by the river. Take home a unique artwork inspired by place and personal stories.



The Body is a Map: A Journey from the Body to the Page

SAT, 12 SEP

AH Bracks Library + Creative Space

10.30am - 12.30pm | \$15.00



Join award-winning poet, editor, mentor and educator Bron Bateman for a writing workshop exploring the relationship between the body, memory, place and the stories we carry.

Through a series of carefully crafted prompts, Bron will guide writers of all experience levels - from beginners to seasoned poets and prose writers - to create work that is grounded, original and deeply felt.

Sonic Pilgrims

FRI, 11 SEP – SUN, 20 SEP

Westfield Booragoon, Kardinya Park Shopping Centre, Bull Creek Central Shopping Centre

Shopping centre opening hours | FREE



Sonic Pilgrims by David Richardson invites you on a self-guided audio walk transforming an everyday shopping centre into an immersive listening experience.

Using your own headphones and an app on your smartphone you'll follow a mapped trail where different sounds are triggered as you move. Discover recordings of Western Australian coastlines and forests, ambient music, archival audio and personal stories, encouraging you to slow down, listen closely and see a familiar place in a new way.

Visit our website for information on how to download the Echoes app, and embark on an experience which is part map, part ritual and part ecological fiction.

Sonic Pilgrims Artist Talk



SAT, 12 SEP

Westfield Booragoon

2.30pm To 3.30pm

FREE

Join media artist David Richardson for a glimpse behind the scenes of how *Sonic Pilgrims* was created, using cutting edge GPS mapping technology.



Picnic at the Border

SUN, 20 SEP

Douglas Freeman Park

11.00am - 2.00pm

FREE

Join us at the edge of our map for the Melville Storylines Festival closing celebration. Picnic at the Border is a fun, family-friendly day of exciting activities in Douglas Freeman Park.

Bring a picnic and sprawl out on the grass, discover a storybook trail, interactive games, scavenger hunts and a curious response to the border by acclaimed artists Jessee Lee Johns and Nelson Mondlane.

FAMILY EVENT



Yagan Mia Djinanginy

EXHIBITION

12 AUG - 27 SEP

Yagan Mia Wireless Hill Museum

Weds - Fri: 10.00am - 4.00pm

Sat & Sun: 10.00am - 3.00pm

FREE

Yagan Mia Djinanginy invites you to slow down and look deeply.

In Noongar, *Djinanginy* speaks to the act of looking, seeing, and paying close attention. This exhibition brings together Noongar artists who share observations and creative responses to Yagan Mia and their connection to it as Custodians through Country, memory and story.

The exhibition features the diverse creative practices of Emily Rose, Ian Wilkes, Jayden Boundry and Phil Sillifant. Through photography, artefacts, language, and material-led making, *Yagan Mia Djinanginy* shares a gentle unfolding of place — honouring what is seen, what is felt, and what Boodja reveals over time.



History in Conversation: The Shape of Country

PANEL TALK

FRI, 18 SEP

City Of Melville Main Hall

6.00pm - 8.00pm | FREE

How do we use cultural mapping to learn to see Country differently?

As part of the *Yagan Mia Djinanginy* exhibition, this panel discussion brings together Ian Wilkes, Noongar theatre-maker, dancer and performer, and Ngarma Aboriginal Association to share how caring for urban bushland, rivers, and waterways strengthens cultural connections while restoring the health of Country.

Through stories of cultural, ecological, and community-led projects, the discussion will peel back the layers of the familiar landscape, revealing the enduring knowledge, relationships, and histories that continue to shape the places we live.

Poetry at the Pub

It's back! The ever-popular Poetry at the Pub returns to explore the theme 'What is a Map?' through the words of both seasoned and emerging poets.

Settle in with a meal and a drink at the cosy tavern, or sign up for the open mic and share your own poem.

THU, 17 SEP

Kardinya Tavern

7.00pm - 9.00PM | FREE



Navigating the Suburbs: A Wildlife Perspective

What would your map of the City look like if you were a bobtail skink, a quenda or a fairy-wren?

While black-cockatoos and ringneck parrots revisit native trees when the seeds are ripe, every species navigates the landscape in its own way.

Join ecologists Mike and Mandy Bamford to discover how wildlife maps the suburbs, what features matter most to different animals, and how we can create backyards and parks that help native species thrive.



SAT, 19 SEP

AH Bracks Library + Creative Space

10.30am - 12noon | FREE

Aboriginal Journey Ways

TUE, 15 SEP

AH Bracks Library + Creative Space

6.45pm - 8.00pm | FREE



Learn how Aboriginal journey ways, songlines, trade routes, migration journeys, family walking trails and ceremonial routes align with modern main roads and bridges.

Over the last twelve years, Dr Noel Nannup OAM and Dr Francesca Robertson worked together at Kurungkurl Katitjin, Edith Cowan's Centre for Aboriginal Education and Research. Together they developed koodjal djinang (two way seeing), a synergy of traditional Aboriginal knowledge and contemporary natural and social sciences. Using this method, for Main Roads WA, they mapped the Aboriginal origins and stories of bidi (journey ways - now main roads) by travelling them and collecting local traditional knowledge and personal stories. Join them for an illustrated presentation which shows the processes and joys of mapping in time and place.



WED, 16 SEP

AH Bracks Library + Creative Space

6.45pm - 8.00pm | \$10.00

Collecting the West: Mapping Western Australian Collections

Discover a fresh perspective on Western Australia's history through the stories held in museum, library and gallery collections. Join researcher and curator Dr Baige Zylstra as she explores how the global mapping these of collections reveals insights into WA's history, identity and place in the world.

Dr Zylstra is the co-author of *Collecting the West: Revealing Western Australia Through its Collections*.



WED, 16 SEP

City Of Melville Main Hall
6.30pm - 8.00pm | FREE

Murdoch Lecture 2026: Mapping the Second World War in Asia

Discover how maps shaped the way Australians understood World War II in Asia, influencing perceptions of conflict, identity and the region's future. In the 40th annual Murdoch Lecture, historian Professor Sandra Wilson explores how wartime maps became powerful tools of both propaganda and military strategy, communicating vulnerability, victory and visions of a new regional order. Presented by the Melville History Society and the City of Melville.

Mapping the Crime



SAT, 19 SEP

**AH Bracks Library +
Creative Space**
3.00pm - 4.30pm | FREE

Ever wondered how crime writers plan authentic crimes, decide on locations for villainy and plot their novels to keep you turning the pages?

The scene of the crime, the whereabouts of the body, the movements of the suspects and the timing of events all need to be carefully mapped to craft a realistic and convincing story.

Whether you're a reader with an addiction to crime novels or a writer hoping to pen the perfect crime – this is the panel for you. Join Fremantle Press publisher Georgia Richter, Police Consultant Rob Kirby and authors Lisa Ellery and David Whish-Wilson as we journey into the world of the crime writer, their creations and the consultants that help them along the way.

VHS Tracking Presents: Born In Flames (1983)

WED, 16 SEP

Goolugatup Heathcote
6.30pm - 7.00pm
FREE



Join us for a special Storylines edition of Goolugatup's monthly artist-led film club, curated by beloved local film critic Tristan Fidler.

Artist Tom Rogers presents *Born in Flames* (1983), Lizzie Borden's cult feminist classic set in an alternative future New York. Through pirate radio stations, political protests and social upheaval, this bold and thought-provoking film explores power, identity and the invisible boundaries that shape our world.

Free popcorn, tea & coffee. BYO snacks welcome



TUE, 15 SEP

City Of Melville Main Hall
6.45pm - 8.45pm
FREE | (MA15+)

Putuparri and the Rainmakers

"The painting is like a map of all people that come from the desert ... to show the government this is our country..." - Tom 'Putuparri' Lawford

Catch *Putuparri and the Rainmakers* on the big screen - a powerful documentary about the sacred relationship between people and place.

Follow the traditional rainmakers of Australia's Great Sandy Desert as they fight a twenty-year battle to reclaim their traditional homeland.

Spanning two transformative decades in the life of Tom 'Putuparri' Lawford, this visually breathtaking film is a moving story of love, hope and the survival of Aboriginal law and culture against all odds.

RITA3: Fit for People

EXHIBITION

Featuring archival material alongside contemporary art works, this exhibition takes inspiration from the life and work of Paul Ritter, Perth's first urban planner.

RITA3: Fit for People explores how public spaces are designed, used and experiences, asking whether our cities are truly 'fit for people'.

SAT, 8 AUG – SUN, 25 OCT (CLOSED MONDAYS) | **Goolugatup Heathcote** | **10.00am - 4.00pm** | **FREE**

Goolugatup LAB Workshop - RITA3: Fit for People

WORKSHOP

In this hands-on workshop, children aged 8 to 12 will create their own small plaster artwork inspired by buildings, parks, playgrounds, patterns and public spaces. Using simple sculpting and modelling techniques, participants will make a unique artwork to take home.

This workshop invites children to consider the importance of design in the spaces they use every day, encouraging imaginative play and experimentation.

SAT, 12 SEP | **Goolugatup Heathcote** | **2.00pm - 4.00pm** | **\$5**

Swamped

EXHIBITION

Swamped is the third exhibition by anonymous Naarm-based art collective MSAC, organised by AM Stuart, and also launches the first publication on the group by art historian and curator Doreen Landis-Lee.

Featuring paintings, sculptures and drawings from the MSAC archive, and blurring borders between truth, authenticity and authorship in the arts world, *Swamped* maps an Australia wide art fraud conspiracy.

SAT, 8 AUG – SUN, 25 OCT (CLOSED MONDAYS) | **Goolugatup Heathcote** | **10.00am - 4.00pm** | **FREE**

Goolugatup Morning Talks:

GUEST SPEAKER

Gallery Tour with Curator Paul Boye

Join Goolugatup Gallery Curator Paul Boye on a tour of our current exhibitions – *RITA3: Fit for People* and *Swamped*. Both exhibitions feature a series of works concerned with archives, their making and their meaning. Take a closer look at the work of leading contemporary artists, such as Deborah Halpern and Katie West.

FRI, 18 SEP | **Goolugatup Heathcote** | **10.00am - 11.00am** | **FREE**

Goolugatup LAB

CREATIVE LEARNING

Visit our new drop-in creative learning space for all ages to enjoy, from the very young to the very old.

Stay, play, experiment and test your creativity with materials, methodologies and ideas inspired by the current exhibition.

FRI, 8 AUG – SUN, 25 OCT (CLOSED MONDAYS) | **Goolugatup Heathcote** | **10.00am - 4.00pm** | **FREE**

River Stories

EXHIBITION

Follow us along the river breeze, where we share stranger things, tactile strings, fact-find-ings, analogue windings and creative adventures exploring all things map-related. This exhibition showcases artwork created by participants in Melville's Term 3 ART CLUB program, led by artist and educator Matt Aitken.

18 – 20 SEP | **Goolugatup Project Space** | **10.00am – 4.00pm** | **FREE**

A Map is a Poem

EXHIBITION

An exhibition of cyanotypes on fabric that explore what a map might be, produced by young creatives from Melville's Term 2 ART CLUB program, guided by artist Zali Morgan. These 'map poems' locate their makers in place and space, revealing inner and outer worlds.

12 SEPT - 11 OCT | **AH Bracks Library + Creative Space** | **Library Hours** | **FREE**

FIND OUT MORE



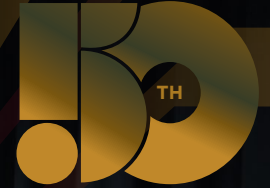
For more information on each event, accessibility information
and to register and purchase tickets, please visit

melvillecity.com.au/storylines

COMING UP...

50th Anniversary

Melville Art Awards 2026



SAVE
THE
DATE!

25 October to 9 November
City of Melville Main Hall

Image: 2025 Overall Winner Robert Gear with his artwork
Sanctity of the ordinary. Photograph by Miles Noel

City of
Melville

City of Melville

PRINCIPLE PARTNER



SUPPORTED BY

