

About Open Page

Open Page is a writing program for emerging to early-career writers and creatives aged 18-30. Kindly supported by VicHealth through the Future Reset program, Open Page is designed to allow writers to learn essential building blocks for writing and test out their skills. There will be 3 sessions across 3 different locations: Footscray, St Albans and Tarneit.

The Open Page Sessions

Power and Poetry with Tariro Mavondo (Poetry and Spoken Word)

Register here: <https://airtable.com/appaJTdGWi9JqPA2a/pagtZQwsixp16tNtH/form>

Participants will be introduced to different poetic styles before doing grounding and visualisation exercises that will lead to a state of creative flow. Prompts will be provided to ease the participants into crafting a longer piece to be shared with the group (optionally).

Off the Cuff with Bao Ngouansavanh (Improvisation to Scene Writing)

Register here: <https://airtable.com/appaJTdGWi9JqPA2a/pagcSbMwz3eAykKGh/form>

The workshop will focus on utilising improvisation and theatre exercises to create characters and scenes. It will lead participants to a more collaborative form of playwriting, where ideas from the rehearsal floor are transformed into scripts.

Story and Self with Alice Pung (Autobiographical Writing)

Register here: <https://airtable.com/appaJTdGWi9JqPA2a/pag7YBqBcFUhUPEuS/form>

This session will focus on introducing emerging writers to the idea of storytelling from their lived experiences. The aim is for the participants to learn the basics of autobiographical writing so they can use this as a take-off point to be able to eventually craft their own pieces across different writing styles and genres.

About Western Edge

Western Edge is a not-for-profit arts organisation creating safer spaces for young artists from Melbourne's west to tell their own stories, with their own voice, in their own way.

What to expect at the workshops

Session Structure:

- Each workshop will begin with an Acknowledgement of Country.

- The facilitators will introduce themselves and may ask the participants to also give a short introduction.
- There will be brain breaks in each session, including at least 1 x 10 minute break for people to have a snack and stretch.
- Activities will be signposted during the beginning of each session so participants can know what to expect.

Materials:

You are welcome to bring your own writing materials or electronic device to write with.

Western Edge will also provide participants with:

- Writing materials (notebooks/paper, pens/pencils)
- Butcher's paper
- Textas
- Fidget/stim toys to use during the session

Participants:

- Estimated number of participants: up to 20, maximum
- Age range: 18 – 30 years old

Outcomes:

- No specific output (such as a writing draft) is expected from the participants, though they are encouraged to join the exercises.

Collaboration:

- In some of the sessions, the participants may be asked to participate in group creative exercises that will lead up to a writing exercise.
 - In the Poetry workshop, this may look like doing some optional breathing or visualisation exercises led by the facilitator.
 - In the Improvisation workshop, this may look like opting in to join an improvisational scene with the facilitator and other participants, building a story and responses together in real time.

Sharing:

- Facilitators may ask participants to share their work with the group, on a volunteer basis.

- Sharing is encouraged but optional.
- No one will be required or forced to share their work.
- You can attend and not share your work.
- The Improvisation workshop with Bao Ngouansavanh will involve more live improvisation (using your words and actions) than the other two workshops.

Engaging with the event and participants:

We encourage you to make new connections and connect with other attendees in your own way and time.

We encourage you to take up space in a way that makes you feel comfortable and let your facilitator know if you have any access needs.

With an invitation of “come as you are”, we value hospitality (food!), care, authenticity and play in all our workshops.

Accessibility

Wheelchair access

All Open Page venues are wheelchair accessible, including wheelchair-accessible bathrooms.

Auslan interpretation is available on request

Please notify us as soon as possible if you are requiring Auslan interpretation to participate.

Quiet Spaces and Breakout Spaces

For Tariro’s Poetry workshop at Phoenix Youth Centre, **we do not have a private quiet space with a closing door**. Instead, participants who need a break from the main session, can use the following spaces:

- Phoenix Youth Centre Foyer (minimal noise unless a large group is exiting or entering)
- Kitchenette
- Outdoors in Phoenix entrance/garden

For Bao’s Improvisation workshop at St Albans Community Centre (STACC), **we do not have a private quiet space with a closing door**. Instead, participants who need a break from the main session, can use the following spaces:

- Outdoors near the STACC entrance/oval. There is a bench provided near the main entrance.
- Foyer (low-to-medium background noise from other users of the centre)

For Alice's Memoir writing workshop at Tarneit Community Learning Centre, **we do not have a private quiet space with a closing door**. Instead, participants who need a break from the main session, can use the following spaces:

- Communal quiet seating area (low noise)
- Courtyard/garden (low noise)

Workshop Schedule

Power & Poetry with Tariro Mavondo, Sat 12 October

2:00 pm – Doors open at Phoenix Youth Centre

2:30 pm – Workshop starts

4:00 pm – Estimated time for a snack break

5:30 pm – Workshop ends

5:30 pm – Packdown and depart

Off the Cuff with Bao Ngouansavanh, Sat 26 October

1:45 pm – Doors open at St Albans Arts and Community Centre

2:00 pm – Workshop starts

3:30 pm – Estimated time for a snack break

5:00 pm – Workshop ends. Packdown and depart

Story and Self with Alice Pung, Wed 20 November

5:45 pm – Doors open at Tarneit Community Learning Centre

6:00 pm – Workshop starts

7:30 pm – Estimated time for a snack break

9:00 pm – Workshop ends. Packdown and depart.

Western Edge Staff

Western Edge staff, Aisha and Ricardo, will be helping supervise the workshop along with the facilitator for the day. They will be introduced in the beginning and participants may go to them for any issues, concerns, or questions.

Program Manager, Aisha Trambas (she/her)

Production Coordinator, Ricardo Magno (he/him)

Open Page Facilitators

Tairo Mavondo (she/her)

Bao Ngouansavanh (he/they)

Alice Pung (she/her)

Venues:

Phoenix Youth Centre

Address: 72 Buckley St, Footscray VIC 3011

About the venue

Phoenix Youth Centre is the only youth-specific facility in the City of Maribyrnong that caters specifically for young people and welcomes all young people inclusive of race, disability, gender, age, culture, religion, sexuality or family structure. It is a place where young people can hang out, get involved in fun activities, run their own events, and access support services.

The workshop will take place in [The Bunker](#).

The Bunker (named as it was originally built as an Air Raid Bunker in World War II) is a windowless and soundproof space perfect for small music events or rehearsals, film screening, meetings and events.

The Bunker features include:

- projector, large screening wall
- soundproof
- external Entrance and foyer
- kitchenette access
- chairs and tables available
- performance and sound equipment available for hire at extra charge.
- Dimensions: 7.9 x 8.5 metres

Floor type: carpet

This is a wheelchair accessible venue. Gender neutral bathrooms are available.

Getting there

By car: There is a small car park available directly outside Phoenix Youth Centre, with free parking, and 2P-4P free street parking available on nearby streets.

It can be difficult to secure a park on weekends, so please leave enough time to do this before starting the session. You are welcome to take breaks to move your car as needed.

St Albans Community Centre

33 Princess Street, St Albans VIC 3021

About the venue

St Albans Community Centre (STACC) and The Bowery Theatre is home to a range of arts and community spaces ideal for performances, events, rehearsals, meetings, training and more.

All spaces at the Bowery Theatre and STACC are wheelchair accessible and close to accessible bathrooms.

Gender neutral bathrooms are available.

A lift services both levels.

Each space has:

- access to wifi
- temperature controls
- power points
- lighting

Getting there

By train: STACC is within 300m from St Albans Train Station.

By bus: Routes 408 and 418 have stops close by.

By car: [There are various parking spots available near the venue. Please see STACC's parking map here.](#)

[You can find more information on getting to the venue here.](#)

Tarnet Community Learning Centre

Address: 150 Sunset Views Boulevard, Tarnet VIC 3029

About the venue

Tarnet Community Learning Centre, a hub that provides affordable activities and programs, also aims to make council services more accessible and responsive to the community by providing more services closer to where people live.

Getting there

By train: Tarnet CLC is 400m from Tarnet Train Station.

By bus: Routes 180 and 182 have stops close by.

By car: There is a car park with a limited amount of free parking spaces available at Tarneit CLC.

Sensory info for all venues:

Noises

- Outside the venue:

Expect to hear sounds of cars and trains from the surrounding roads and train tracks in the area.

- Inside the venue, the main noises will be:

Sounds from the workshops

Possible sounds from other groups using the venue

Smells

- No smoke, haze, or fog machines
- Food smells from Western Edge catering or other hirers in the venues

Visuals

- Some areas have dim lighting
- Some areas have bright, fluorescent lighting
- There is no strobe lighting to be used

Temperature

- Each space has adjustable air conditioning/temperature control. Staff will do their best to accommodate any temperature change requests during the sessions, so please let them know your needs.

Supporting your access

Social Expectations

- Dress code: Come in whatever you feel comfortable in.

- This is a space for connection as well as learning. You may be asked to introduce yourself to the group, or talk with people around you as part of the workshop.
- While we try and give you as much information as possible in advance and at the start of each workshop, parts of each session will involve stepping into the unknown together to experiment and try new things.
 - This is especially true for Bao's Improvisation workshop called "Off the Cuff" where you can expect about 70% group improvisational activities and 30% solo/reflective writing activities.
- We encourage you to participate in a way that is comfortable. You are welcome to sit/lay on the floor, get up to stretch at any time and so on.
- Support workers are very welcome. Please let us know in your registration for the session if you plan on bringing a support worker.
- Your boundaries will be respected:
 - You **do not have to** participate in every activity within each session.
 - You **do not have to** share what you have written, although there will be opportunities to do so.
 - You can step out of the room at any point if you need air, quiet space or just need to leave.
- We acknowledge and respect the different perspectives and backgrounds of everybody in the room.
- We acknowledge, respect and do our best to include perspectives that may not be in the room.

Photography + Filming

- Photos may be taken by Western Edge staff or a photographer during your session. If you do not wish to be photographed, please tell our staff and they will ensure you are not captured.
- Sessions will not be filmed or recorded in entirety, if at all.

Catering

- Halal and vegan options available
- Gluten-free options available
- Allergies - please inform any Western Edge staff member of any allergies as part of your registration

Staff support

- Western Edge staff will be inside the venue at all times, and they will be introduced at the start of each session.

Feedback Survey

- A survey will be given to participants after the session, which may be answered anonymously on a volunteer basis

COVID-19 Safety

Please **do not** attend this event if you have a cough, sore throat, fever, shortness of breath or flu-like symptoms.

To minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission, we advise all patrons, artists and staff to:

- Practise physical distancing where possible
- Practise good hygiene by washing and or sanitising your hands often
- Wear a mask if you are able
- If feeling unwell, test for COVID before attending using a rapid antigen test (RAT)

Contact Us

Call us: (03) 8658 4052

Email us: programs@westernedge.org.au