

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## INSPIRATION ABOUNDS IN THE LITERATURE PROGRAM AT THE 2008 NOOSA LONGWEEKEND

The 2008 Noosa Longweekend festival has another stand-out literature program with opportunities to be inspired, transported and to learn from authors including Christopher Koch, Alice Pung, Venero Armanno, Kaz Cooke, Maggie Beer, Hugh Mackay, John Buchanan, Hedley Thomas, Leigh Sales, Ric Natrass and Sean Dooley.

Now in its seventh year, The Noosa Longweekend festival runs during school holidays from 4 to 13 July, with tickets available from 28 April. It will offer up ten fantastic fun-filled days and nights with more than 220 performances and activities across theatre, literature, music, dance, forum, film, art and cuisine in the breathtaking setting that is Noosa.



“The Noosa Longweekend literature program offers the quality of a capital city writers’ festival, but with an intimacy they just can’t match thanks to restaurant venues,” said Gail Hewton, Festival General Manager.

“Headlining our literature program this year is Christopher Koch, one of this country’s most influential and acclaimed writers most recently awarded one of the highest career achievement honours in Australian literature – The Australia Council for the Arts’ Writers Emeritus Award,” said Gail.

“Christopher has twice been awarded the Miles Franklin Award and his novel *The Year of Living Dangerously*, was made into an Academy Award nominated film by Peter Weir.”

Festival goers have two opportunities to hear Christopher, the first as part of *The Asian Inspiration*, discussing the growing Asian influence in Australian literature, and the second *Secrets and Shared Obsession* exploring the mystical nature of secrecy, spies and shared obsession, as studied in his latest book *The Memory Room*.

“Alice Pung’s portrait of her Chinese-Cambodian family in her first book *Unpolished Gem* has already won her the Australian Newcomer of the Year award in the Australian Book Industry Awards and had her shortlisted for a multitude of other awards,” said Gail.

“This striking story and the book she is currently editing *Growing Up Asian In Australia*, has her well placed to talk with Caroline Baum about being *A Cultural Go-Between*, and to be part of the panel looking at the Asian influence on Australian literature.”

In addition to Christopher Koch and Alice Pung, Blanche d’Alpuget and Louise Adler will join Caroline Baum to talk about Australian writers’ growing consciousness of our Asian neighbours in *The Asian Inspiration*.

**THE NOOSA LONGWEEKEND** Suite 13, 10 Arcadia Walk, Noosa Junction P.O. Box 2200, Noosa Heads 4567  
Phone: 61-7 5474 9941 Fax: 61-7 5474 9940 Email: [info@noosalongweekend.com](mailto:info@noosalongweekend.com) [www.noosalongweekend.com](http://www.noosalongweekend.com)



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“Dr Venero Armanno is the author of seven novels and a book of short stories but it took him 14 years and 10 unpublished novels before his first book hit the shelves. He will appear in conversation with Caroline Baum to speak about his latest great success, *The Dirty Beat*, inspired by his experiences in a rock band and the fulfillment of making music,” said Gail.

“Funny, vibrant and entertaining, Kaz Cooke’s bestselling books are loved for their funny but sensible takes on everything in the madness of life and family. Her latest book *Girl Stuff* has everything a girl needs to know, as well being a great book for bewildered grown-ups and parents.”

“With Noosa a culinary capital, we are so happy to have Australia’s favourite cook, Maggie Beer, in conversation with Noosa’s own iconic foodie Leonie Palmer-Fisher.”

In addition to her involvement in the very successful ABC TV series *The Cook and the Chef*, Maggie has written and co-authored many well-loved cookbooks including her most recent *Maggie’s Harvest*.

“Festival goers can take a long hard look at Australia in *Advance Australia Where?* with Australia’s top social researcher and author of 11 books, Hugh Mackay – an eloquent and entertaining speaker who’s very passionate about Australian society and where it’s heading.”

For those needing a little motivation, John Buchanan, Australia’s most successful cricket coach, will talk to Peter Thompson about his first book *If Better is Possible*, on leadership principles, drive and his encounters with some of the true legends of Australian sport.

For a behind-the-scenes insight into the rigours of investigative reporting and the writing of non-fiction novels, we have *The Power of Journalism* with award winning journalists and authors Hedley Thomas, author of *Sick to Death* about infamous surgeon Jayant Patel, and Leigh Sales author of *Detainee 002: The Case of David Hicks*.

A two and a half day discovery program revealing the essence of successful non-fiction writing, *Reality Bites*, presented by Butter Factory Arts Centre Cooroy will bring many great authors of memoir, biography, history, commentary, satire, documentary and verbatim theatre.

Other authors, writers and journalists at the festival include Max Gillies, Paul Kelly, Dennis Atkins, Professor John Croucher, Peter Meredith, Kate Fitzpatrick, Kim Mahood, Robyn Davidson, Kathleen Noonan, George Williams, Gideon Haigh, Susanna de Vries, Paul Brown, Phyllis McDuff and Loani Prior.

To request a program visit [www.noosalongweekend.com](http://www.noosalongweekend.com) email [info@noosalongweekend.com](mailto:info@noosalongweekend.com) or phone 07 5474 9941. For bookings please call The J box office on 07 5455 4455, or visit at 60 Noosa Drive, Noosa Junction or check out [www.noosalongweekend.com](http://www.noosalongweekend.com) from 28 April.

For media inquiries, including photos and footage, further press releases and interviews with artists contact Cathy Reade, Festival Media Manager, 07 54483095 / 0413 575 934 [creade@squirrel.com.au](mailto:creade@squirrel.com.au)

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