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# Page Break Reading Retreat

Join us for a Page Break at the inaugural VATE Reading Retreat.

Through a blend of quiet reflection, lively discussion and collegial connection, participants will consider their own habits as readers, explore how they engage with stories and ideas, and deepen their sense of belonging to a vibrant community of fellow book lovers. Guided by thoughtfully curated literary experiences with guest authors, the Page Break Reading Retreat offers a space to not only appreciate the personal dimensions of engaging with texts, but also to share insights, swap perspectives, and celebrate the collective joy that emerges when we experience literature alongside others.

**Date:** Friday 29 May – Sunday 31 May 2026

**Venue:** The Trawool Estate, 8150 Goulburn Valley Highway, Trawool, on the lands of the Taungurung People

**Cost:** \$850 (inc. GST) per person (2026 VATE members only)

Want to share a room with your VATE mate? Shared rooms (2-3 people) are available at a reduced rate of \$650 (inc. GST) per person. Registrations for this option must be made through the VATE office. Please email [events@vate.org.au](mailto:events@vate.org.au) to discuss this option

Please contact The Trawool Estate if you have specific accessibility requirements.

**[Read about the Retreat inclusions here.](#)**



# Contents

## **Prologue:** **Reading will save us**

A reflective conversation curated and led by ABC Radio National's The Book Show host, Sarah L'Estrange.

## **Chapter 1:** **Open tabs**

A shared discussion of interesting articles, social, political and literary commentary and newsletters worth subscribing to.

## **Chapter 2:** **I read a lot**

A book club discussion of the shared retreat read facilitated by author, librarian, and YA Book Stack host, Karys McEwen.

## **Chapter 3:** **Beyond the book**

Hear from acclaimed Australian author, Nova Weetman, as she reveals the books that have shaped her practice, style and motivations for writing.

## **Epilogue:** **In the good books**

A shared discussion of our reading reflections and resolutions with Nova and Karys.

## Invited friends and readers



### **Sarah L'Estrange**

Sarah L'Estrange is a producer and broadcaster at ABC Radio National and has been steeped in books and writing for almost 20 years. [Read more.](#)

### **Karys McEwen**

Karys McEwen is a school librarian, education advisor for the Melbourne Writers Festival, and project officer for VATE. She is a member of the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Victorian Branch committee, and the Committee on Standards for the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). [Read more.](#)



### **Nova Weetman**

Since leaving the world of screenwriting, Nova Weetman has published 21 books for children and young adults, including: Sonny & Tess, Sick Bay, Outlaw Girls and The Edge of Thirteen. Nova's books have been CBCA Notables, shortlisted for the Readings Children's Prize, Japan's Sakura Medal, the NSW Premier's History Prize and more. [Read more.](#)