



29 June 2023

**Media Release**

**Two exciting literary events will see slam poets, spoken word artists, and good old fashioned wordsmiths head for the Hills this July.**

The brainchild of Mount Barker District Council's Arts Officer, Sally Hardy, both events will bring some of South Australia's most highly esteemed writers into our region, while also providing a platform for the many talented local writers who call this region home.

The first event on Thursday 6 July at 7.30 pm is called *Words on the Mountain*, and will see six lauded and culturally diverse South Australian poets share a selection of their poetry in the Robert Charles Room of Mount Barker's historic Auchendarroch House. In keeping with the inclusive, community spirit of the council's Arts Plan, audience members, who are feeling brave, will also have an opportunity to share one of their own original poems.

"Something I'm really passionate about is providing opportunities for artists and arts lovers from every level – from grassroots community artists, to highly-awarded professionals – to mix and mingle in the same room. There's so much positive energy that community-based and professional artists alike can share with each other when they connect over their shared love of creative expression, and their craft," Ms Hardy said.

Featured artists for *Words on the Mountain* include multi-award-winning poet, novelist and librettist, Peter Goldsworthy; former host of Poetica (ABC RN) and nine-times published poet, Mike Ladd; recent winner of the Mary Gilmore Award, Jelena Dinic; local Peramangk Woman and talented poet, Mandy Brown; former political prisoner of the Pinochet regime, Juan Garrido; and 2019 Slam Poetry State Champion, Emilia Haskey.

On the following evening - Friday 7 July at 6.30pm - the second event, *Summit Slam* at the heritage listed clubrooms of the Mount Barker Croquet Club will have the town buzzing. Poets across the region will compete in a poetry slam for generous cash prizes on offer. Featuring the legendary 'Kami' (aka Cameron McInnes) as MC, performance from local singer-songwriter Eamonn (Mo) O'Farrell, and with slam stars Emilia Haskey and Matthew Pankhurst already lined up to compete, it's set to be a night to remember.

"If you've never been to a poetry slam before, you don't know what you're missing. It's more like going to see a gig than attending a literary event," Ms Hardy said.

"The spoken word / slam poetry scene has grown enormously in recent years, and slam events have this ability to connect people of every age, and from every cultural background, in a way that very few other art forms manage to achieve."

People wanting to compete for the \$500 prize money that's up for grabs, should prepare two original poems of two minutes or less, as there will be two rounds to the competition. Standard slam rules will apply - [www.australianpoetryslam.com/rules](http://www.australianpoetryslam.com/rules).

Tickets for each event are only \$5.00.

Booking and further information about both events can be found on Eventbrite:

Words on the Mountain <https://tinyurl.com/Wordsonthemountainpoetry>

Summit Slam <https://tinyurl.com/Wordsonthemountain slam>

Available for interview:

**Mike Ladd – former host Poetica on ABC RN**

Mike is in Thailand until 2 July and can be contacted on [likemadd2@gmail.com](mailto:likemadd2@gmail.com)

After 2 July:

Mob 0402 769 148

Email [mikeladd@optusnet.com.au](mailto:mikeladd@optusnet.com.au)

**Matthew Pankhurst – Mt Barker local, and successful slam poet**

Mob 0418 899 425

**Emilia (Millie) Haskey - 2019 SA Poetry Slam champion**

Mob 0435 139 792

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