

KIM SWIVEL



ACADEMIC HISTORY

Bachelor of Arts University of Sydney and University of New England, in English, History, and Classics in Translation (Greco-Roman Literature), 1995.

Master of Creative Writing Macquarie University, 2022, earning the Award for Academic Excellence, and the Faculty of Arts Fred Rush Convocation Prize for writing.

Doctor of Philosophy – Literature I am currently undertaking a PhD in Literature at Macquarie University under the supervision of novelist and cultural historian Professor Hsu-Ming Teo, and via a Research Excellence Scholarship. This research explores the representation of Jewish people and history in Australian fiction.

Conference papers

‘Fantasy Figures: Jews in historical fiction as figments of western emotion.’ Historical Fictions Research Network Conference 2026, Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany.

“‘Impeccably Researched’: How the Digital Age is Changing (my) Australian Historical Fiction.’ Association for the Study of Australian Literature + International Auto/Biography Association Conference, Asia-Pacific 2025 Conference, Flinders University.

‘From villain to victim: Stereotypes of Jews in popular Australian fiction’, International Australian Studies Association Conference 2025, Macquarie University.

‘The problem with Australian Holocaust fiction as a safe cultural space for Jews, and alternative sanctuaries of Jewishness in new Jewish Australian writing’, Australian Association for Jewish Studies Conference 2025, Melbourne Holocaust Museum. Presented also as a workshop paper at ‘Holocaust History and Memory: New Research in Australia and Beyond’, Mandelbaum House, Sydney University, 2025.

Academic publications

‘Impeccably Researched: How the Digital Age is changing (my) historical fiction.’ *The Journal of Historical Fictions* (peer reviewed), December 2025.

Lectures (industry)

Macquarie University 2023, Faculty of Arts, ENGL3035 Novella and Novel Writing (bachelor’s level), ‘Structural Editing’.

Macquarie University 2025, Faculty of Arts, ENGL8026 Developing the Novel or Novella (master's level), 'Writing Practice: Imagining, Developing and Writing *The Rat Catcher: A love story*'.

Macquarie University 2025, Faculty of Arts, ENGL8026 Developing the Novel or Novella (master's level), 'Editing Your Own Work'.

Creative work supervision and marking

I have mentored and marked the creative works of students enrolled in the Macquarie University Master of Creative Writing unit ENGL8036 (2025).

EDITORIAL WORK HISTORY

Random House Australia, editor, 1996 – 2001

Freelance 2001 – present

For over 25 years, I have worked with a broad range of acclaimed and award-winning Australian authors of fiction and narrative non-fiction. Recent highlights include: Sue Woolfe, *Do You Love Me or What?* (Simon & Schuster); Helen Ennis, *Olive Cotton* (Fourth Estate); Megan Rogers, *The Heart is a Star* (Fourth Estate), Robyn Cadwallader, *The Fire and the Rose* (HarperCollins Australia) and Jock Serong, *Cherrywood* (HarperCollins Australia).

Australian Society of Authors mentor 2025 – present

I mentor authors during the developmental stages of their manuscripts through the ASA's mentorship program.

CREATIVE WRITING under penname Kim Kelly

Longform fiction

Black Diamonds (2007 HarperCollins Aus; 2021) Brio Books

This Red Earth (2013 Pan Macmillan Aus; 2021) Brio Books

The Blue Mile (2014 Pan Macmillan Aus; 2021) Brio Books

Paper Daisies (2015 Pan Macmillan Aus; 2021) Brio Books

Wild Chicory (2015 TAP; 2021) Brio Books

Jewel Sea (2016 TAP; 2021) Brio Books

Lady Bird & The Fox (2018; 2021) Brio Books

Sunshine (2019; 2021) Brio Books

Walking (2020; 2021) Brio Books

Her Last Words (2020; 2021) Brio Books

The Truth & Addy Loest (2021) Brio Books

The Rat Catcher: A Love Story (2022) Brio Books

Ladies' Rest and Writing Room (2023) Finlay Lloyd

Dust & Wonder (2026) Bolinda

Shortform fiction

'Messerschmitt', short story, appears in *Hope Shines* (2018) Simon & Schuster

Nonfiction

‘Transplantation: A romance of live organ donation and white, unsettled privilege’, lyric essay, appears in *Living with Illness and Disability: Poised on the Pointe of Pain: Nureyev's Foot and Other Essays* (2025) Westwords Books
Touched: A small history of feeling (2025) Finlay Lloyd

CRITICAL RECEPTION

‘colourful, evocative and energetic’ – Kerryn Goldsworthy, *Sydney Morning Herald, Spectrum*

‘Kelly’s prose is gorgeous; reading this book is like studying a painting by a master or listening to a symphony.’ – Elizabeth Caulfield Felt, *Historical Novel Review*. Editor’s Choice.

‘It is uplifting to know that there are people who can write like this with clarity, a bit of devilment and a hint of a smile. Why can’t more people write like this?’ – Frank O’Shea, *The Age*

‘Kim Kelly’s spry and endearing period novella ... offers an elegant tonic for grief.’ – Cameron Woodhead and Steven Carroll, *Sydney Morning Herald/The Age*.

‘Kelly’s book put me in mind almost immediately of Madeleine St John ... [Her] evocation of 1920s Sydney is convincingly electric.’ – Bram Presser, *A Book For Ants*

More reviews at: <https://kimkellyauthor.com/they-said-what/>

WRITING AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Winner, Finlay Lloyd 20/40 Prize for the memoir, *Touched: A small history of feeling*, 2025.

Winner, Finlay Lloyd 20/40 Prize for the novella, *Ladies’ Rest and Writing Room*, 2023.

Winner, Fred Rush Convocation Prize for outstanding creative writing, Macquarie University, 2023.

Shortlisted, Neilma Sidney Short Story Prize (Overland), for ‘Unnoted: Birdsong on the Road to Nowhere’, 2023.

Longlisted, ARA Historical Novel Prize, for *The Rat Catcher*, 2022.

Shortlisted, Viva la Novella, for *The Rat Catcher*, 2021.

Writing Residency, Rosie Scott Writer’s Studio, 2020.

Shortlisted, NLA Fellowship for Australian Writing 2016 and 2018.

Third place in The Hope Prize for short story, ‘Messerschmitt’, *Hope Shines*, S&S, 2018.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND EVENTS EXPERIENCE

I am an experienced speaker, conference participant, panellist and writing workshop convenor, having participated in a wide variety of events, including:

- Panel chair, ‘Mad Studies,’ Association for the Study of Australian Literature + International Auto/Biography Association Conference, Asia-Pacific 2025 Conference
- Committee and panel chair, Macquarie University, MCCALL Conference 2024
- Guest speaker, NSW Parliament House, annual Horizon Author Lunch, 2024, 2022
- Judging panel, Finlay Lloyd 20/40 Prize 2024
- High school English Extension creative writing mentor, 2024
- Panellist, online seminar for March of the Living, ‘A Fraction Too Much Holocaust Fiction’, 2023
- Gungahlin College high school writing workshop, ‘Getting into Character’, 2023
- TV appearance, Prime7, as judge for Banjo Paterson Writing Awards, 2021
- Australian Writers Centre workshop, Sydney, 2019
- Various NSW regional literary festival, 2015-
- Historical Novel Society of Australasia conferences 2015-2023
- Varuna, The Writers’ House, author mentor 2011–2017
- Frequent library talks and writing workshops throughout NSW 2014-
- Various ABC and commercial regional radio/print media interviews, 2007-

BOOK REVIEWS

The Newtown Review of Books

Titles I have reviewed include: *Doll’s Eye* by Leah Kaminsky (Penguin Australia); *The True Story of Maddie Bright* by Mary-Rose MacColl (Allen &Unwin); *The Day They Shot Edward* by Wendy Scarfe (Wakefield Press); *Bodies of Men* by Nigel Featherstone (Hachette Australia); *The Dead Still Cry Out* by Helen Lewis (Text Publishing); *The Good Germans: Resisting the Nazis 1939-1945* by Catrine Clay (Hachette Australia).