

# KIM SWIVEL

writer, editor, researcher

## 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. Expected completion late 2026.

### Academic papers

I have presented several academic papers at a variety of conferences, including: the Historical Fictions Research Network Conference 2026, Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany; the Association for the Study of Australian Literature + International Auto/Biography Association Conference, Asia-Pacific 2025 Conference, Flinders University; and the International Australian Studies Association Conference 2025, Macquarie University.

### Academic publications

‘Impeccably Researched: How the Digital Age is changing (my) historical fiction.’ *The Journal of Historical Fictions* (peer reviewed), 2026.

### Lectures (industry)

I have recorded a variety of Creative Writing lectures for Macquarie University, including: ‘Structural Editing’; ‘Writing Practice: Imagining, Developing and Writing *The Rat Catcher: A love story*’; and ‘Editing Your Own Work’.

### Creative work supervision and marking

I have mentored and/or marked the creative works of students enrolled in the Macquarie University Master of Creative Writing unit ENGL8036 (2025, 2026) and ENGL8015 (2026).

## EDITORIAL WORK HISTORY

**Random House Australia, editor, 1996 – 2001**

**Freelance 2001 – present**

For almost 30 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); Jock Serong, *Cherrywood* (HarperCollins Australia); Jane Messer, *Raven Mother* (NewSouth).

### **Australian Society of Authors mentor 2025 – present**

I mentor authors during the developmental stages of their manuscripts through the ASA's mentorship program. Previously, I have also been an author mentor at Varuna, 2011-2017.

### **CREATIVE WRITING** under penname Kim Kelly

#### **Longform fiction**

*Black Diamonds* (2007 HarperCollins Aus; 2021) Brio Books; Bolinda audio

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

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

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

*Wild Chicory* (2015 TAP; 2021) Brio Books; Audible

*Jewel Sea* (2016 TAP; 2021) Brio Books; Audible

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

*Sunshine* (2019; 2021) Brio Books; Bolinda audio

*Walking* (2020; 2021) Brio Books; Bolinda audio

*Her Last Words* (2020; 2021) Brio Books; Bolinda audio

*The Truth & Addy Loest* (2021) Brio Books; Bolinda audio

*The Rat Catcher: A Love Story* (2022) Brio Books; Bolinda audio

*Ladies' Rest and Writing Room* (2023) Finlay Lloyd; Bolinda audio

*Dust & Wonder* (2026) Bolinda audio

#### **Shortform fiction**

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

#### **Creative 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

#### **Works set as study texts**

*The Rat Catcher: A love story*, Macquarie University, Master of Creative Writing, ENGL8026 Developing the Novel or Novella

*Touched: A small history of feeling*, Macquarie University, Master of Creative Writing, ENGL8015 Writing Creative Nonfiction

### **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.

Farah Mendlesohn Prize, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, for best conference paper (HRFN, Erlangen, Germany, 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:

- Addi Road Writers' Festival 2026, panellist, 'Attacking Anxiety'
- Newcastle Writers' Festival 2026, panellist, 'Poised on the Pointe of Pain' launch
- Panel chair, 'Mad Studies,' Association for the Study of Australian Literature + International Auto/Biography Association Conference, Asia-Pacific 2025 Conference
- Guest speaker, NSW Parliament House, annual Horizon Author Lunch, 2024, 2022
- Judging panel, Finlay Lloyd 20/40 Prize 2024, 2026
- Various NSW regional literary festivals, 2015–
- Historical Novel Society of Australasia conferences 2015–2023
- Frequent library talks and writing workshops throughout NSW 2014–

– Various ABC radio and commercial regional 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).