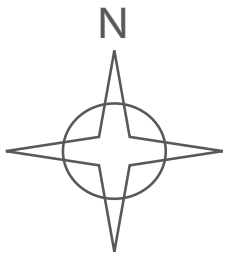


Fremantle Trails



Writers Walk



FREMANTLE HARBOUR

BATHERS BAY

INDIAN OCEAN

CHALLENGER HARBOUR

FISHING BOAT HARBOUR

 FREE CAT BUS
RUNS EVERY 10 MINS

0m 300m



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Writers Walk

The Fremantle Writers Walk is a series of art installations along High Street in the city's West End that celebrate past and present local writers. The 'walk' is part of the West End Streetscape Improvement Project that has included widening and repaving of footpaths, new street lighting and furniture to assist with the revitalisation of this important area of the city.

The art installations have been designed and fabricated by Fremantle artist Bridget Norton. Each installation features one selected writer and incorporates a short passage of writing. The artworks are in the form of 2.4m high markers or totems, with the writer's name and selected text on the face of the totem. Glass light boxes within the totem also provide text and graphic images relevant to the selected writing.

The 'walk' incorporates 5 writers and extends along High Street between Pakenham Street and Cliff Street.

1. Tim Winton

Fremantle's living legend of writing, winner of several Miles Franklin and WA Premiers Awards for literature. Also CROW and Young Australia Best Book awards. The passage which is highlighted in the Writers Walk comes from *Cloudstreet* (1991). Other novels include *The Riders*, *In The Winter Dark*, *Shallows*, *That Eye The Sky*, *An Open Swimmer* and *Dirt Music*. Books for young people include *Lockie Leonard* and *Bugalugs Bum Thief*.

Location: The Tim Winton totem is located on the right hand corner (if you are facing the Round House) of Pakenham Street and High Street. Ships and cranes at Fremantle Harbour can be seen in the view North along Pakenham Street.

2. Joan London

Won the Age Book of the Year and WA Week Literary awards for *Sister Ships* and the *Steele Rudd* and WA Premiers Award for *Letter to Constantine*. The passage which is highlighted in the Writers Walk comes from *Gilgamesh* (2001), and refers to Fremantle as a safe harbour for refugees.

Location: The Joan London totem is located on the left hand corner (if you are facing the Round House) of High Street near Pakenham Street. *Victoria Quay*, at the north end of Pakenham Street, has been the place of arrival in Australia for many immigrants and refugees.

3. John Boyle O'Reilly

JFK's favourite poet, John Boyle O'Reilly was an Irish political prisoner (a Fenian) who escaped from Fremantle Gaol in 1869. O'Reilly who later organised the escape of a further six Fenians in 1876 on the American whaler, *Catalpa*. O'Reilly wrote Western Australia's first novel, *Moondyne* (1880) based on his experiences as a convict in Western Australia, a passage of which is highlighted in the Writers Walk.

Location: The John Boyle O'Reilly totem is located on the corner of Henry and High streets. The *Orient Hotel*, located opposite the totem is on the site of the *Emerald Isle Hotel*, where most of the *Catalpa escape* was planned.

4. Xavier Herbert

Xavier Herbert lived in Fremantle between the ages of 12 – 14 and began his writing career here. Herbert wrote one on the world's longest novels, *Poor Fellow My Country*, for which he won the Miles Franklin Award. The passage that is highlighted on his totem comes from his autobiography, *Disturbing Element* (1963), and reflects on the pub heritage of the Port City.

Location: The Xavier Herbert totem is located in High Street near Mouat Street. The totem is surrounded by hotels – the P&O, *Cleopatra*, *Orient* and the *Fremantle Hotel with His Majesty's Hotel* around the corner in Mouat Street. Some still operate as hotels while others have been converted for other uses.

5. Kim Scott

Fremantle's indigenous writer of merit, Kim Scott, won the Miles Franklin Award and Kate Challis RAKA Award for Indigenous Fiction for *Benang* (1999). Scott also wrote *True Country* and wrote a special piece for the Writers Walk which references the Round House.

Location: The Kim Scott totem is located in High Street near Cliff Street. The *Round House* at the end of High Street was built in 1831 as a gaol and was the first permanent building in the Colony.

It is hoped that in the future if further funding becomes available the walk will be progressively extended eastwards along High St to include many of the other Fremantle writers of distinction.

Many of the books written by these writers are available from local bookshops, refer to our links page for details.

Your comments on the trails are invited and can be forwarded to:

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