

# September 2023

Aah, the novelty of a new season. A time to take in the evolving landscape. For us to the south of the equator, Spring has emerged with blossoming plants and warmer days.

This photo captures the view I was taking in as I began to write this post. As most of my photos are, this is unedited.

It's such a joy to call the Victorian high country home. To indulge in Australia's pristine backyard and explore a diverse gathering of flora and fauna that stretches as far as the eye can see, even when gazing from the tallest mountains.

This particular area is home to the Dhudhuroa peoples, who, along with other clans, used this place as a ceremonial and spiritual site.



As I step foot on these lands, I feel that energy; I want to reflect, celebrate and connect.

## **A look at September**

September was quite a cocooning month for me, focusing on studying and working from home more than touring. One of the projects I've been working on this month

is my next book, which, with much excitement, relief, and a bit of exhaustion, I can say is complete.

Completing a passion project always takes more of you than you expect. However, it offers a new piece of you in exchange, as if the process reveals a new part of yourself you hadn't yet discovered.

I've learned a lot about myself in the process of writing the new book, and it's left me feeling almost like a different person with a fresh perspective and outlook.

Also, this month, I popped into Border Christian College to talk with Year 9 students about poetry and creativity. A great group of thinkers and a fantastic teacher, too. Thank you for having me!



Solli Raphael speaking with Year 9 at Border Christian College. (Photo: Border Christian College)

**Coming up next month**

There's lots to look forward to in October, especially for Sydneysiders. Next week, I'll be in Sydney for this year's Story Week! My public events in Sydney have been few and far between in recent years, so I'm looking forward to this one.

Story Week, run by Word Travels, is a week-long event that brings together poets, storytellers, comedians, lyricists and idea-spreaders to celebrate, as Word Travels calls it, 'great writing powerfully performed'.

This year's Story Week runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>. I'll be part of a panel discussion on October 5<sup>th</sup>, exploring the relationship between creatives and working from home – a fascinating one.

Then, on October 6<sup>th</sup>, aka 'Kid's Story Day', I'll co-facilitate a workshop for 7-12-year-olds and host a kids poetry slam! If you're in Sydney this coming week, please come down. It'll be fun, it'll be unexpected, all in the art of performance. [Follow this link to check out my events; I hope to see you there!](#)