

# PETRONELLA McGOVERN

## PETRONELLA McGOVERN MEDIA KIT

### Contact info

Australian media and event enquiries can be sent directly to Petronella through the contact form on her website or via her publicist, Sam Ryan, at Allen and Unwin.

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Book, film and translation enquiries can be sent to Petronella's agent, Alex Adsett of Alex Adsett Literary at: [alexadsett@alexadsett.com.au](mailto:alexadsett@alexadsett.com.au)

### SHORT BIO (50 WORDS)

Petronella McGovern is an Australian author who writes twisty page-turners focusing on everyday characters and hot-button topics. Her new release, *Every Time She Wakes*, is a time-bending thriller about family and identity. Her best-selling novels, *The Last Trace*, *The Liars*, *The Good Teacher* and *Six Minutes*, have been nominated for a number of awards.

### MEDIUM BIO (100 WORDS)

Petronella McGovern is fascinated by what makes us tick, the lies we tell, and the secrets we keep. Her new novel, *Every Time She Wakes*, is a time-bending thriller about family and identity. She is the best-selling author of *The Last Trace*, *The Liars*, *The Good Teacher* and *Six Minutes*. Her books have been nominated in the Ned Kelly Awards, the Davitt Awards and the Australian Independent Bookseller Awards. *The Liars* was selected in the Top 100 Big W/Better Reading list for 2023. Petronella has a Master of Arts in Creative Writing and tutors in creative writing. She lives with her family in Sydney, on Gadigal Country.

### LONG BIO (400 WORDS)

Petronella McGovern's books have been described as domestic noir and psychological suspense. With strong characters and gripping storylines, her twisty novels keep readers turning the pages late into the night.

Her new book, *Every Time She Wakes*, is a time-bending thriller about family and identity. It has received great early praise with *New York Times* bestseller author, Sally Hepworth calling it: 'a brilliant race against fate and time', and saying, 'I'll be adding this to my most-often recommended list.'

Petronella's first novel, *Six Minutes*, was published in July 2019 by Allen and Unwin and debuted on the Australian best-seller list. It was short-listed in the 2020 Ned Kelly Awards by the Australian Crime Writers' Association and in the Sisters-in-Crime Davitt Awards, and long-listed for the 2020 Australian Independent Bookseller Awards.

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*The Good Teacher* was released in September 2020 and long-listed in the Sisters-in-Crime Davitt Awards, 2021. *The Liars* was published in September 2022 and rapidly became a book club favourite. It was selected in the Top 100 Big W / Better Reading list for 2023.

Her fourth novel, *The Last Trace*, was published in July 2024. It's a gripping thriller about siblings and secrets, and the traces we can never erase. Some parts of it were inspired by Petronella's travels in eastern Africa and working at a summer camp in America.

Petronella has co-written two non-fiction books: an Olympic memoir (*Trailblazers: Australia's First Olympic Equestrians*) and a travelogue (*For Love and a Beetle*). For many years, Petronella worked in marketing and corporate communications. She has written magazines for tertiary students, international education and Australia / international business networks. As an editorial consultant, she has worked for government agencies, not-for-profits and private organisations.

She is a member of the Australian Society of Authors, the Australian Crime Writers Association, and Sisters in Crime Australia. Petronella has a Masters of Arts in Creative Writing from the University of Technology, Sydney and works as a creative writing tutor for the Australian Writers Centre. Petronella presents regular writing workshops and has spoken at numerous literary events and festivals, both as a guest and as an interviewer.

Petronella grew up in a large family on a farm in the Central West region of New South Wales – building tree houses, chasing cows and avoiding snakes. Bitten by the travel bug, she backpacked in Africa, Europe, America and Russia. After working in Canberra for a number of years, Petronella now lives in Sydney with her family.

## Download headshots here

<https://www.petronellamcgovern.com.au/about>

## Bibliography

*Every Time She Wakes*, Allen and Unwin, 2026

*The Last Trace*, Allen and Unwin, 2024

*The Liars*, Allen and Unwin, 2022

*The Good Teacher*, Allen and Unwin, 2020

*Six Minutes*, Allen and Unwin, 2019

## Non-fiction, co-written

*For Love and a Beetle*, Ivan Hodge with Petronella McGovern, New Holland Press, 1999 and 2003 revised edition

*Trailblazers: Australia's First Olympic Equestrians*, Wyatt Thompson with Petronella McGovern, Rosenberg, 2008

“I inherited my love of reading and writing from my mum. She believed in the power of books to comfort, entertain, educate, enlighten and change lives.”