



CANBERRA WRITERS FESTIVAL

SPECIAL EVENT

KITCHEN ROYALTY

Elizabeth's passion for flavour has inspired generations of Australian foodies. Come and bask in the warmth of her enduring fire. **P4**



SPECIAL EVENT

LIGHT BULB MOMENT

Not to be missed is CWF's signature closing night event Light-Bulb Moment with a stellar line-up set to reveal their personal epiphanies. **P16**



POWER POLITICS PASSION

“

I lost my possessions, my salary, my status, my career, my country. And in that fall, I gained everything.

”

Om Dhungel





WELCOME



ANDREW BARR

ACT CHIEF MINISTER

The ACT Government is proud to sponsor this year's Canberra Writers Festival, a reflection of power, politics and passion that could only be found in this city.

Congratulations to the team for once again developing a program that offers something for all literary tastes. It is no small feat to bring such a much-loved festival to life each year and drawing people together over a shared love of the written word.

Whether it is the stories of our First Nations peoples, or a debut novel from a local author, stories dig beneath the surface and offer a way to learn and connect like nothing else.

The 2023 Canberra Writers Festival showcases the work of local, national and international writers and authors across a broad range of genres. The program is sure to throw up questions that we don't often consider and get us thinking in new ways.

Our ambition for Canberra to be recognised as the arts capital of Australia is made even more possible with such a renowned festival on our events calendar.

I'd like to thank foundation partners The Australian National University, National Museum of Australia, the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House and the National Press Club of Australia for opening their doors and their collections for attendees to enjoy.

Thank you to corporate sponsors the National Press Club of Australia, Doma Hotels Group, BAL Lawyers and 4 National.

Thank you to the festival's cultural partners, including Molonglo, Kambri at ANU, the Copyright Agency and The Australia Institute.

My thanks also to the media partners for their support, including ABC Radio Canberra, Her Canberra, The Saturday Paper, Region Media Group and the Canberra Times.

Finally, to the volunteers and event organisers, thank you for your time and energy in making this event such an amazing cultural experience. I am sure it will be another successful event.

Enjoy the 2023 Canberra Writers Festival.



BEEJAY SILCOX

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

There is no better place for a writers festival than Canberra/Kambri – the book buying capital of Australia. I love this city of readers. I love its compassionate curiosity. I love its idea hunger. I love its book shops and book fairs and street libraries. I even love the city's bone-chilling winters – the perfect excuse to hunker down and lose yourself in an oblique novel (or ten).

As a literary critic, my job has been to bridge the gap between books and readers. Now I get to make that connection in person rather than on the page. Creating the program for CWF23 has been one of the great joys of my literary life. And that word – joy – has been at the front of my mind as the program has taken shape.

After years of pandemic isolation and upheaval, I wanted this year's festival to feel gleeful and indulgent – a celebration of the ambition, variety, heft and craft of Australian storytelling.

I am excited about the story CWF23 is telling about who we are, and who we could be. My excitement has become a running joke among the CWF team as the festival draws closer and I fumble to describe the shape and force of my enthusiasm. Deeply excited. Profoundly excited. Monumentally excited. By the time you read this, I'll be indescribably excited. But even more than excited, I am hopeful – hopeful that the readers of Canberra/Kambri will see themselves reflected here. This program – my first as Artistic Director – is a love letter to this city. My city.

Thank you to everyone who has worked to make CWF23 a reality: authors, publishers booksellers, sponsors volunteers. I am so grateful for your loyalty, generosity and support. And now, as the ever-brilliant Maurice Sendak once wrote, let the wild rumpus start!

P.S. It is my great hope that there will be something at CWF23 for every kind of reader, from politics boffins to incurable romantics. If you feel spoiled for choice, choose surprise instead. I have curated a series of day passes for each weekend day and venue: three sessions; one low ticket price; one grand adventure.

MEET THE TEAM

BOARD

Jane O'Dwyer, Chair
Gregory Andrews, Deputy Chair
Putri Handrianti, Treasurer
Ronald Mizen, Public Officer

MEMBERS

Tom Greenwell
Stephanie Bull
Steve Lewis
Allan Behm
Hannah Brown
Sunil Badami
Frank Bongiorno

TEAM

Paul Donohoe, Festival Director
Beejay Silcox, Artistic Director
Liz Neild, Media & Communications
Giorgi Couch, Social Media
Tim Duck, Production Manager
Craig Ebeling, Artist Liaison
Ashleigh Gleeson, Venue Management
Paul Skrzeczek, Graphic Design & Website
George Mackintosh, Art Director
Damsel & Sprout, Volunteers Manager
Becky Carter, Travel Consultant

FOLLOW US ONLINE

Facebook
[facebook.com/canberrawritersfestival](https://www.facebook.com/canberrawritersfestival)

Instagram
[@cbrwritersfest](https://www.instagram.com/cbrwritersfest)

Twitter
[@cbrwritersfest](https://www.twitter.com/cbrwritersfest)

JOIN THE CONVERSATION #CBRWritersFest

TICKET INFORMATION

HOW TO BOOK

All tickets must be booked and paid for online at www.canberrawritersfestival.com.au.

Please have your eTicket downloaded on your mobile phone for scanning for each session.

Concession and Junior ticket holders must show ID at the door to gain entry.

TICKET REFUNDS

Ticket processing fees and costs apply to all tickets and will be paid by the purchaser.

No ticket refunds or exchanges will be made unless an event is cancelled.

Program information is correct at the time of printing. Please visit www.canberrawritersfestival.com.au for updates or changes to the program.

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND ADVICE IN THE ACT

The Canberra Writers Festival is a registered COVID-Safe event. To ensure the well-being of our visitors, we are following strict guidelines set by the ACT Government. Please help us keep everyone safe by supporting our COVID Safety plan.

IF YOU FEEL UNWELL:

Please do not attend the festival if you have experienced cold or flu-like symptoms, are awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test or require isolation. Instead, stay home, take care, and ensure your ticket can be used by someone else.

For further information about COVID-19 in the ACT, please go to: <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/>

TICKET PRICES

OPENING NIGHT DINNER

Adult \$150

No Concessions

SPECIAL EVENTS

Adult \$35

Concessions \$30

Junior \$20

STANDARD EVENTS

Adult \$25

Concessions \$20

Junior \$15

BEEJAY'S CHOICE

Adult \$54

No Concessions

NATIONAL PRESS CLUB EVENTS

Lunch Events \$90

Breakfast Events \$60

No Concessions

LONGTABLE LUNCHES

Adult \$75

No Concessions

LITERARY LUNCHES

Adult \$75

No Concessions

MASTERCLASS SERIES

Adult \$120

Concessions \$100

VENUE INFORMATION

Please refer to individual websites for facilities and parking.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

Lawson Crescent, Acton
<https://www.nma.gov.au/>

KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

University Avenue,
Australian National University, Acton
<https://kambri.com.au/>

MARIE REAY REACHING CENTRE

155 University Ave, Canberra
<https://kambri.com.au/venues/marie-reay-teaching-centre/>

MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY AT OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE

18 King George Terrace, Parkes
<https://www.moadoph.gov.au/>

NATIONAL PRESS CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

16 National Circuit, Barton
<https://www.npc.org.au/>

4 NATIONAL

4 National Circuit, Barton
<https://www.nationalcircuit.com.au/>

MUSE

Ground Floor, East Hotel
69 Canberra Avenue Griffith
<http://www.musecanberra.com.au/>



EVENTS



SPECIAL EVENT

WHITHER THE LIBERAL PARTY?

PARTICIPATING CHAIR: BARRIE CASSIDY
NIKI SAVVA
DAVE SHARMA
AMY REMEIKIS

THURSDAY 17 AUGUST
7.45 AM – 9.30 AM
NATIONAL PRESS CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

With support across the country crumbling – women alienated and teals ascendant – the Liberal Party seems trapped “somewhere between a glitch and a death spiral”. Can the party of Menzies and Howard survive? What kind of vision can it offer the next generation of voters?



SPECIAL EVENT

OPENING NIGHT: KITCHEN ROYALTY

ELIZABETH CHONG IN CONVERSATION WITH JOANNA SAVILL

WEDNESDAY 16 AUGUST
6.30 PM – 10.30 PM
GANDEL ATRIUM
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

She is undisputed kitchen royalty – the “Empress of Chinatown” – and at 92 she is still going strong. Join national treasure, Elizabeth Chong, for a night of delectable storytelling.

You’ll enjoy a curated meal inspired by Elizabeth’s life in food, a culinary journey that began in Guangdong Province and blossomed in the produce markets of Melbourne.

Elizabeth’s passion for flavour has inspired generations of Australian foodies. Come and bask in the warmth of her enduring fire.



FREE EVENT

TIME AFTER TIME

JAKELIN TROY IN CONVERSATION WITH MATTHEW COLLOFF

THURSDAY 17 AUGUST
11.30 AM – 12.30 PM
4 NATIONAL

The knowledge systems of Indigenous Australians blur the distinction between the past, present and future. How might we approach questions of history, sovereignty and selfhood if we thought of time as unmoored? This conversation is an invitation to rethink our most elemental of ideas.



SPECIAL EVENT

LONGTABLE LUNCH

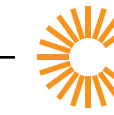
SHARE A MEAL WITH EDWINA PRESTON

THURSDAY 17 AUGUST
12.30 PM – 2.30 PM
MUSE BOOKSHOP AND CAFE

Across the ACT, readers have been delighting in Edwina Preston’s *Bad Art Mother* – our inaugural pick for Canberra’s Biggest Bookclub. Join Edwina for an indulgent and intimate lunch at Muse Bookshop. Beautiful food and writerly insights – a treat for Canberra’s most ardent bibliophiles.

Tickets include a two course meal and glass of wine. Only 18 seats are available for this exclusive event. Book yours today.

Presented in conjunction with Harper Collins and The Wheeler Centre



FREE EVENT

TEST TUBE TRAILBLAZERS

MODERATOR: LISH FEJER
JANE CAREY
LAURA DAWES

THURSDAY 17 AUGUST
1.00 PM – 2.00 PM
4 NATIONAL

The scientific contribution of Australian women deserves to be celebrated – and interrogated. But for too long, this rich and remarkable history has languished in the dark. Ignored. Sidelined. Uncredited. A new book sets out to change that. But has the STEM world changed for women?

Presented in conjunction with ABC Canberra



PORTRAIT OF A SCANDAL

MODERATOR: ESTHER ANATOLITIS
KIM ANDERSON
ELSPETH PITT

THURSDAY 17 AUGUST
1.00 PM – 2.00 PM
JAMES FAIRFAX THEATRE
NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA

“When two artists enter the 1943 Archibald Prize, a scandal erupts that grips not only the art world, but the nation...”

Inspired by real events, Kim Anderson’s new novel, *The Prize*, captures a turning point in Australian culture. Join the author and Senior Curator, Elspeth Pitt, for a conversation about the intimate power of portraiture, the politics of scandal and the role of fiction in queering Australian history.



SPECIAL EVENT

FEARED AND REVERED: RADICALS, REBELS AND REFORMERS

MODERATOR:
VIRGINIA HAUSSEGGER
MICHELLE ARROW
GILLIAN APPLETON
CATHY EATOCK
GAIL RADFORD
ELIZABETH REID
BIFF WARD

THURSDAY 17 AUGUST
6.00 PM – 7.30 PM
GANDEL ATRIUM
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

Join this panel of living legends for a deep dive into the moments, the issues, the brawls and brainstorming behind the headlines. Inspired by the book, *Women and Whitlam* by Michelle Arrow, hear the stories from the women themselves – those ‘libbers’ and ‘femocrats’ who were there at the centre of Australia’s most radical feminist reforms.

How do they look back on those years of change? What advice do they have for the next generation of feminist activists?

A 90 minute special event.



SPECIAL EVENT

INSIDERS LIVE

HOSTED BY: DAVID SPEERS
SAM MAIDEN
AMY REMEIKIS
DAN BOURCHIER
MIKE BOWERS

THURSDAY 17 AUGUST
6.00 PM – 7.00 PM
NATIONAL PRESS CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

New federal government; age-old dilemmas. In a signature, special festival ‘live’ episode of the ABC’s *Insiders*, join host David Speers, and sharp-minded pundits Sam Maiden, Amy Remeikis and Dan Bourchier, as they rake over the political year that was as well as Mike Bowers with Talking Pictures.



SPECIAL EVENT

FLAWED HERO

CHRIS MASTERS IN CONVERSATION WITH LAURA TINGLE

FRIDAY 18 AUGUST
7.45 AM – 9.30 AM
NATIONAL PRESS CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

Ben Roberts-Smith was the most highly decorated Australian soldier, the best of the best. When he returned to civilian life, he became a poster boy for a nation hungry for warrior heroes. He embodied the myth of the classic Anzac, seven-foot-tall and bulletproof. But as his public reputation continued to grow, inside the army rumours were circulating.

Gold Walkley Award-winning journalist Chris Masters was the first to hear the rumours of summary executions, bloodings and bullying, and began to examine more closely the man we wanted to hero-worship. His work would shake the country to its core, and spark the defamation trial of the century.

Come and hear the story behind the headlines in this incendiary conversation with Laura Tingle.



EVENTS


SPECIAL EVENT

KEEPING HOPE ALIVE

A NATIONAL PRESS CLUB ADDRESS BY H.E. MR WAHIDULLAH WAISSI, AMBASSADOR OF AFGHANISTAN TO AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND FIJI

FRIDAY 18 AUGUST
11.30 AM – 1.30 PM
NATIONAL PRESS CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

When the Republic of Afghanistan fell to the Taliban in August of 2021, a network of Afghan ambassadors across the world stayed in place to represent the idea of the country that had been lost, and the dream of the country that could be. We hear from the remarkable man who is keeping the embassy doors open in Australia.


FREE EVENT

THE WOMEN WHO SAVED CRICKET

MARION STELL IN CONVERSATION WITH GENEVIEVE JACOBS

FRIDAY 18 AUGUST
11.30 AM – 12.30 PM
4 NATIONAL

After the contentious 'Bodyline' men's series in 1932–1933, sporting relations between Australia and England were at an all-time low. The long traditions built on fair play and sportsmanship had been shattered and controversy raged in the media. At the same time, a group of talented young women were invited to play for their country...

Here is their astonishing story.

Presented in conjunction with *The RiotACT & Region Group*


SPECIAL EVENT

LONGTABLE LUNCH

SHARE A MEAL WITH MAGGIE MACKELLAR

FRIDAY 18 AUGUST
12.30 PM – 2.30 PM
MUSE BOOKSHOP AND CAFE

Maggie Mackellar knows how to pay attention – how to capture our sensory world in language. And what better way to celebrate the senses than with a luxurious lunch. Join Maggie at Muse Cafe for an afternoon of gourmet indulgence and book talk – a treat for Canberra's most ardent bibliophiles.

Tickets include a two course meal and glass of wine. Only 18 seats are available for this exclusive event. Book yours today.


FREE EVENT

LIFE AFTER LIFE

MODERATOR: SALLY PRYOR
JACKIE DENT
JANE DAHLSTROM

FRIDAY 18 AUGUST
1.00 PM – 2.00 PM
4 NATIONAL

Jackie Dent's grandparents — Ruby and Julie — donated their bodies to science. The decision was a grand family mystery: Was it an act of generosity or funeral-averse frugality? Where did their bodies end up? What good did they serve? In the search for answers, Jackie discovered the fascinating world of anatomists.

Sponsored by *The Canberra Times*


SPECIAL EVENT

THE PERILS OF MUSEHOOD

MODERATOR: THEODORE ELL
ANGELA O'KEEFFE
LUCINA WARD

FRIDAY 18 AUGUST
1.00 PM – 2.00 PM
JAMES FAIRFAX THEATRE
NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA

Two women, a century apart, are stuck in the same hotel room in Paris. One is writing the story of the other...or so she thinks.

Angela O'Keeffe's new novel, *The Sitter*, is inspired by the life of Marie-Hortense Fiquet, the wife of Paul Cezanne. Marie-Hortense posed for dozens of paintings. We know her face, but not her story.


SPECIAL EVENT

WHAT'S NEXT? THE CHANGING FACE OF JOURNALISM

MODERATOR: TRACEY KIRKLAND
MICHELLE GRATTAN
MARK KENNY
DAVID SPEERS

FRIDAY 18 AUGUST
6.00 PM – 7.00 PM
KINGS HALL
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

Truth is one of the most valuable commodities in a successful democracy. It underpins everything from human engagement to sustaining a robust media. And, in an era of diminishing public trust, truth has become more elusive, yet more important than ever.

Public trust was stress tested during the pandemic. Join this panel of stalwart Aussie journos as they grapple with the impact of these last volatile years. How have the nation's truth-tellers adapted? Has the media emerged better equipped to tell Australia's stories?


SPECIAL EVENT

FEARED AND REVERED: POWER AND POSSIBILITY

ANGELA SAINI IN CONVERSATION WITH LOUISE MILLIGAN

FRIDAY 18 AUGUST
6.00 PM – 7.00 PM
GANDEL ATRIUM
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

"By thinking about gendered inequality as rooted in something unalterable within us, we fail to see it for what it is, something more fragile that has had to be constantly remade and reasserted."

Two brilliant women. One radical idea: patriarchy is not inevitable. An unmissable conversation about power and possibility.

Presented in conjunction with *Harper Collins and The Wheeler Centre*



TIME FOR A RECKONING

STAN GRANT IN CONVERSATION WITH LOUISE MILLIGAN

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
10.00 AM – 11.00 AM
MANNING CLARK HALL
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

"History is not weighted on the scales, it is felt in our bones. It is worn on our skin. It is scarred in memory."

When Queen Elizabeth II died, the world lost two women: one flesh and blood; the other a potent symbol of empire. It should be possible to mourn the former and critique the latter. Will Australia dare to redress the past, or will it sleepwalk into a new era of monarchy?

Presented in conjunction with *BAL Lawyers*



AFTER THE FALL

MODERATOR: VIRGINIA HAUSSEGGER
AHMAD SHUJA JUMAL
WILLIAM MALLEY
WAHIDULLAH WAISSI

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
10.00 AM – 11.00 AM
MEMBERS DINING ROOM
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

Two years on from the fall of Kabul, we remember the promises that were made – and broken – in Afghanistan. The Ambassador of Afghanistan to Australia, H.E. Mr Wahid Waissi joins this necessary conversation.



FATES, FURIES AND POWER NUNS

LAUREN GROFF IN CONVERSATION WITH KATE EVANS

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
10.30 AM – 11.30 AM
CINEMA
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

There's something gorgeously, gleefully alchemical about Lauren Groff's fiction. Her pages fizz and crackle with life. Beloved by readers and critics alike, every one of Lauren's books is magnificently different. She's written about the punctured idealism of 1960's communes (*Arcadia*), the secrets and bargains of a marriage (*Fates and Furies*), and empire building nuns (*Matrix*). Power! Passion! Politics!

Lauren's new novel is out in September. Where will her brilliant literary mind take us next?

(Please note: Lauren will be appearing live via Zoom).



EVENTS



OFF CAMPUS

MODERATOR: AARTI BETIGERI
ZEYNAB GAMIELDIEN
VIDYA MADABUSHI

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
10.30 AM – 11.30 AM
T2
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

Professorial egos. Departmental turf wars. Youthful idealism. Student politics. Sex, love and disillusionment. Universities are rich settings for novels – from political dramas to high farce. Come and meet the young novelists who are stretching the possibilities and remit of the Australian campus novel.



PERSONAL SCORE

ELLEN VAN NEERVEN IN CONVERSATION
WITH KIERAN PENDER

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
10.30 AM – 11.30 AM
SENATE CHAMBER
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

"As First Nations people from Australia are the oldest surviving living culture in the world, we are also the oldest living sporting culture and the oldest sportspeople in the world."

Ellen van Neerven's first work of nonfiction, *Personal Score*, is a ground-breaking look at sport on this continent from a First Nations and queer perspective.

In a country where sport is a foundational part of the national identity, what does it mean to play on stolen land? What power do athletes have – on and off the field – to challenge our preconceptions of gender and sexuality?

On the eve of the Women's World Cup final, don't miss this vital conversation.



THE JOYFUL GENIUS OF BLUEY

JOE BRUMM IN CONVERSATION
WITH BEEJAY SILCOX

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
12.00 PM – 1.00 PM
MANNING CLARK HALL
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE

To *Bluey's* millions of fans – parents, children and everyone in between – its expert balance of fun, tenderness and wisdom captures the joys and heartaches of family life. In this special craft-focused conversation, creator Joe Brumm tells us how he manages this storytelling triumph. How is it possible to tell such layered and multigenerational tales in less than ten minutes? What has writing *Bluey* taught him about the child in all of us? And how does it feel to have created one of Australia's most successful – and loved – cultural exports?

Join two of Australia's favourite storytellers for a masterclass in child's play.

(Note: while the subject of this discussion is a beloved children's character, this is a conversation for grown-ups. Younger readers are welcome, but Bluey herself won't be present. Families can watch Bluey episodes any time on ABC iview.)



LITERARY LUNCH

THE LIBRARY OF MY LIFE

STAN GRANT IN CONVERSATION WITH
EMMA MACDONALD

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
12.00 PM – 2.00 PM
AMBUSH GALLERY
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

You can learn a lot about somebody by snooping through their bookshelves. In this special lunchtime event, join Stan Grant for a literary tour of his life. Which novel does he reread every year? How high is his to-read pile? What was the last book that changed his mind?

Presented in conjunction with HerCanberra

Tickets include a two course meal and glass of wine. Only 60 seats are available for this exclusive event. Book yours today.



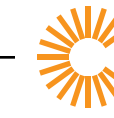
SEIZING THE MOMENT

MODERATOR: POLLY HEMMING
ALAN FINKEL
JOËLLE GERGIS
MURRAWAH JOHNSON

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
12.00 PM – 1.00 PM
MEMBERS DINING ROOM
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

The solutions we need to live sustainably already exist. So how do we turn climate paralysis into meaningful action? With experience at the front-line of the climate crisis, these panellists have some ideas.

*Presented in conjunction with
The Australia Institute*



INVINCIBLE SPIRIT

MODERATOR: ALISTAIR OTT
BEBE BACKHOUSE
JOHN 'MUKKY' BURKE
LAY MALONEY
ELLEN VAN NEERVEN

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
12.30 PM – 1.30 PM
CINEMA
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

Nangamay Mana Djurali (Dream Gather Grow) is a ground-breaking collection of First Nations Australia LGBTQIA+ poets and storytellers – a world first. We've invited contributors from across the country to come and share their work and have a yarn. Don't miss this life-affirming, love-affirming lyrical showcase.

*This session is supported by the
Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund*



A WOMAN OF THE WORLD

BRIGITTA OLUBAS IN CONVERSATION
WITH FRANK BONGIORNO

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
12.30 PM – 1.30 PM
T2
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

She was a girl from the Sydney suburbs 'with a head full of poetry' who became a globetrotting literary legend. Now the magnificent Shirley Hazzard has the biography she so richly deserves.

*Presented in conjunction with Australian
Book Review*



POLITICAL LIVES

MODERATOR: BARRIE CASSIDY
CHRIS WALLACE
NIKI SAVVA

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
12.30 PM – 1.30 PM
SENATE CHAMBER
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

John Howard thought they were a terrible idea. Paul Keating thought they were a waste of time. But there's no doubting their power...

A well-timed biography of a sitting politician can make or break a career. Chris Wallace and Niki Savva have first-hand experience of that cultural power. They take us behind the scenes in crafting a political narrative. Is it possible to be objective when you're writing about a partisan figure? How have biographers of the past used – and abused – their influence? What stories are missing from Australia's political history?



PUTIN'S WAR

MODERATOR: PETER TESCH
MARK EDELE
GORANA GRGIC

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
2.00 PM – 3.00 PM
MEMBERS DINING ROOM
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

Humiliated, betrayed and anxious, Putin and his allies have retreated into a resentful ultra-nationalism. But dreams of past imperial glory stand in place of any attempt to solve the problems of the present.

In a Canberra Writers Festival exclusive, historian Mark Edele – a world authority on the history of the Soviet Union – will launch his incisive new book, *Russia's War Against Ukraine*.



CANBERRA'S BIGGEST BOOKCLUB

MODERATOR: KATE EVANS
EDWINA PRESTON
BEEJAY SILCOX

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
2.00 PM – 3.00 PM
MANNING CLARK HALL
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

You've read the book. You've sent in your questions. It's time!

When we announced Edwina Preston's *Bad Art Mother* as our bookclub pick in May, we promised you a grand "spoiltastic" conversation. Here it is.

Join CWF's Artistic Director, Beejay Silcox, and Kate Evans from ABC's *The Bookshelf*, as they get answers to your most burning literary questions.

There's so much to unpick in this Stella Prize-shortlisted novel. Who gets to be an art-maker? At what cost? Whose artistic voices are valued, and whose are lost? These questions are as relevant today as they were half a century ago. That's what makes this novel so vital and beguiling.

But what do you think? Come along and tell us. We can't wait to meet all of the joyful readers who have taken part in Canberra's Biggest Bookclub.

*Presented in conjunction with ABC RN's
The Bookshelf and the Stella Prize*



EVENTS



BODY POLITICS

MODERATOR: KAYA WILSON
ELOISE GRILLS
KRIS KNEEN

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
2.30 PM – 3.30 PM
CINEMA
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

Two of the country's most fearless and form-exploding writers consider the cultural weight of the fat body. Prepare for a literary burlesque – beautifully unruly books about beautifully unruly bodies.

This session is supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund



THE HUMMINGBIRD EFFECT

KATE MILDENHALL IN CONVERSATION WITH ASTRID EDWARDS

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
2.30 PM – 3.30 PM
T2
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

An epic, kaleidoscopic story of four women connected across time and place by an invisible thread and their determination to shape their own stories.

It's one of the most anticipated Aussie novels of the year. A genre-bending feast of a book that's being compared to cult favourites like David Mitchell's *Cloud Atlas* and Jennifer Egan's *A Visit from the Goon Squad*.

Be among the first readers in the country to hear about Kate Mildenhall's new novel, *The Hummingbird Effect*.



VIRTUE SCEPTICISM

LUCINDA HOLDFORTH IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARLOTTE WOOD

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
2.30 PM – 3.30 PM
SENATE CHAMBER
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

Authenticity. Vulnerability. Humility. Transparency. These are some of the 21st-century virtues proselytised by mindset gurus, paraded (if not practised) by big corporations, and lauded by professionals on LinkedIn...

But are Australia's newest virtues fit for purpose, or are they destabilising our democracy? A conversation and a provocation.

Charlotte Wood drops in for a special one-on-one with acclaimed speechwriter, Lucinda Holdforth.



INDELIBLE CITY

LOUISA LIM IN CONVERSATION WITH STAN GRANT

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
4.00 PM – 5.00 PM
MEMBERS DINING ROOM
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

Is journalistic neutrality possible – is it ethical – as democracy crumbles? Louisa Lim faced down that question on the streets of Hong Kong. Her book is a love letter to a city she can no longer call home.



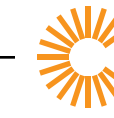
CELEBRATING THE CLASSICS

PARTICIPATING CHAIR:
DEBRA DANK
EVELYN ARALUEN
ELLEN VAN NEERVEN
YASMIN SMITH

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
4.00 PM – 5.00 PM
MANNING CLARK HALL
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

A new literary project sets out to change the way we tell the story of Australian literature. Join series editor, Yasmin Smith and a stellar panel of writers as they celebrate the first edition of *First Nations Classics*. Essential reading for all generations.

This session is supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund



THE QUIET POWER OF ATTENTION

MAGGIE MACKELLAR IN CONVERSATION WITH ANNA VIDOT

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
4.30 PM – 5.30 PM
CINEMA
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

"What I've learnt, or rather what I'm learning is that to be received in a place I must be alert, open. And I must be quiet."

In her exquisite new memoir, *Graft*, Maggie MacKellar describes a year on a Merino wool farm on the east coast of Tasmania, and all of life – and death – that surrounds her through the cycle of lambing seasons. It's a hymn to the quiet power of attention and the merciless beauty of the natural world.

An intimate one-on-one conversation about writing the wild, and finding it in ourselves.

Presented in conjunction with ABC Canberra



THE LURE OF THE PAST

MODERATOR: KATE MILDENHALL
PAUL DALGARNO
MIRANDI RIWOE

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
4.30 PM – 5.30 PM
T2
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

Two sumptuous new historical novels are anchored in the 1940s. What is it about these wartime years that makes for such rich and resonant fiction? What does the past tell us about our present?

In a Canberra Writers Festival exclusive, readers will be able to get their hands on Mirandi Riwoe's new novel, *Sunbirds*, weeks before its national release.

This session is supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund



ORE STRUCK

MODERATOR: STEPHEN ROMEI
PETER PAPANATHASIOU
ROD CAMPBELL

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
4.30 PM – 5.30 PM
SENATE CHAMBER
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

An incendiary new novel is set in the ore-heavy guts of Western Australia – a tale of secrets and lies in mining country. Join Canberra's own Aussie noir superstar, Peter Papathanasiou, and mining expert, Rod Campbell, for a dig in the red dirt.

Peter Papathanasiou will be launching his new novel, The Pit, from this special event.



THE SPARROWS OF KABUL

FRED SMITH IN CONVERSATION WITH KAREN MIDDLETON

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
MEMBERS DINING ROOM
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

We all remember the footage: the desperate souls outside Kabul Airport, pushing at the gates in a last bid for freedom. Aussie diplomat and songwriter, Fred Smith, was there. As the narrative around the Fall of Kabul hardens, he offers a vital, human counterpoint – a first-hand account of those frenetic, final days of the Afghan Republic.

In a special 90-minute event – exclusive to Canberra Writers Festival – Fred will share his extraordinary story, first in conversation and then in song. Wry, warm-hearted, honest and humane, this is a concert experience you'll never forget.

Presented in conjunction with The Saturday Paper



SPECIAL EVENT

FEARED AND REVERED: MEGAN DAVIS IN CONVERSATION WITH CLARE WRIGHT

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
6.00 PM – 7.00 PM
GANDEL ATRIUM
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

She's a clarion voice in the national discourse, but how does an NRL-loving, Johnny Farnham fan from regional Queensland become an internationally recognised constitutional lawyer and the first Indigenous Australian to sit on a United Nations body? Who were the women – feared and revered – who inspired Professor Megan Davis' journey from railway kid to national powerbroker? Join Megan in this intimate and timely conversation with historian, Clare Wright.



EVENTS



KICKING THE DOOR DOWN

KATE GRENVILLE IN CONVERSATION WITH NICOLE ABADEE

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
10.00 AM – 11.00 AM
MANNING CLARK HALL
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

Kate Grenville's grandmother, Dolly Maunder, was born at the end of the nineteenth century, when society's long-locked doors were finally starting to creak ajar for women. Born into a poor farming family in country New South Wales but clever, energetic and determined, she spent her restless life pushing at those doors.

In her new novel, Kate Grenville imagines her way into the life of her grandmother. Join Kate and Nicole Abadee for an intimate conversation about the stories – and voices – we lose to history, and how they might be reclaimed.



FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER: GRAPPLING WITH AI

MODERATOR: MICHELLE RYAN
TRACEY SPICER
CLINTON FERNANDES

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
10.00 AM – 11.00 AM
MEMBERS DINING ROOM
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

'Mum, I want a robot slave.'

Broadcaster Tracey Spicer had an epiphany when her young son uttered these six words. Suddenly, her life's work fighting inequality seemed futile. What's the point in agitating to change the present, if bigotry is being embedded into our futures?

We grapple with that question, and the other hidden traps, cruelties – and possibilities – of our algorithmic age.



A JEWEL OF A BOOK

DEBRA DANK IN CONVERSATION WITH EVELYN ARALUEN

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
10.30 AM – 11.30 AM
CINEMA
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

We Come with This Place is deeply personal, a profound tribute to family and the Gudanji Country to which Debra Dank belongs, but it is much more than that. Here is Australia as it has been for countless generations, land and people in effortless balance, and Australia as it became, but also Australia as it could and should be...

Debra Dank never set out to publish her memoir, *We Come With This Place*. Thank goodness she did. Come and hear the story behind this remarkable "jewel of a book", which is beguiling readers and sweeping-up awards across the country.



VENGEANCE IS MINE

MODERATOR: ALICE GRUNDY
ZÖE COYLE
SARAH SMITH

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
10.30 AM – 11.30 AM
T2
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

A wakeful ghost tries to solve her own murder from beyond the grave. A betrayed wife, tired of broken promises, decides to teach the feckless men in her orbit a lesson.

Revenge is a dish best served...on the page. Two dark and delicious new novels of women provoked.



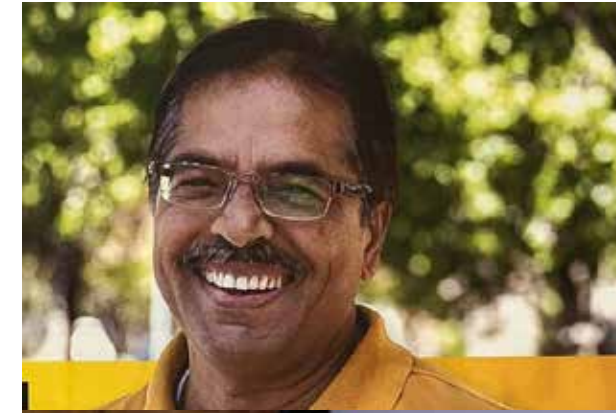
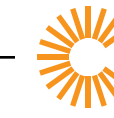
NAKED AMBITION

MODERATOR: MONICA DUX
ROBERT GOTT
STEVE LEWIS

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
10.30 AM – 11.30 AM
SENATE CHAMBER
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

You do not have to look hard to find absurdity in Australian politics. This is the country where a deputy prime minister issued a televised death warrant for Johnny Depp's toy poodles, and a state politician had to publicly deny interfering with a quokka. So why are political satires so few and far between?

Robert Gott's new novel, *Naked Ambition*, is a rare exception – a cheeky little tale of political vanity. He joins Steve Lewis, co-author of *The Marmalade Files*, to talk all things farcical and wry. Perhaps these literary jokers have an answer for why we take ourselves so seriously?



BHUTAN TO BLACKTOWN

OM DHUNGEL IN CONVERSATION WITH FRAN KELLY

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
12.00 PM – 1.00 PM
MANNING CLARK HALL
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

I lost my possessions, my salary, my status, my career, my country. And in that fall, I gained everything.

Bhutan is known as the land of Gross National Happiness, a Buddhist Shangri-la hidden in the Himalayas. But in the late 1980s, Bhutan waged a brutal ethnic-cleansing campaign against its citizens of Nepali ancestry, including Om Dhungel and his family.

Bhutan to Blacktown tells Om Dhungel's remarkable story — his journey from a remote village to a senior position in the Bhutanese Civil Service, to life as a human rights activist in Nepal and, eventually, to his work as a community leader in Blacktown, western Sydney. Every step prepared Om for the central role he would play in settling more than 5000 Bhutanese refugees, in one of the most successful refugee initiatives in Australia's history.

Join Om and Fran Kelly for a conversation you won't forget.

Presented in conjunction with BAL Lawyers



LITERARY LUNCH

MY LIFE IN STORIES

THOMAS KENEALLY IN CONVERSATION WITH STEPHEN ROMEI

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
12:00 PM – 2.00 PM
AMBUSH GALLERY
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

He's one of the country's most beloved storytellers. Now, join Thomas Keneally for a tour of the stories that have shaped his life. From his first reading memory to his newest discoveries, spend an hour touring the bookshelves of his mind.

Does Tom dog-ear his pages, or write in the margins? Is there a book he cannot bear to revisit? There's nothing quite as revealing as our literary love affairs.

Tickets include a two course meal and glass of wine. Only 60 seats are available for this exclusive event. Book yours today.



HARD TO BEAR

PARTICIPATING CHAIR:
GABRIELLE JACKSON
ISABELLE ODERBERG
DR NEELA JANAKIRAMAN

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
12.00 PM – 1.00 PM
MEMBERS DINING ROOM
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

A vital and taboo-busting conversation about medical misogyny, miscarriage and the ways our health system silences women.



DARK POWER

MODERATOR: EBONY BENNETT
TARA CALABY
MARIJA PERIČIĆ

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
12.30 PM – 1.30 PM
T2
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

Melbourne 1980: a grieving woman is locked away in Kew Lunatic Asylum, a prisoner to social orthodoxies. Stockholm 1930: A doctor becomes so enthralled with his young patient that not even death can save her from his obsessive attentions.

Two lush new historical novels by Australian women mine the dark power of the gothic. Twin tales of institutional control and women's bodies, and the limits of desire.

Presented in conjunction with The Australia Institute



EVENTS



UPROOTED AND UPROARIOUS

MODERATOR:
GENEVIEVE JACOBS
DEIRDRE MACKEN
RACHAEL MOGAN MCINTOSH

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
12.30 PM – 1.30 PM
CINEMA
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

"I imagined lounging on a veranda overlooking folds of hills striped with vines. I'd be clothed in linen and surrounded by friends. On the table would be tumblers of wine we'd picked in last year's harvest. Then we arrived at Cockatoo Hill and discovered a dump."

Ever fantasised about wildly upending your life? The authors on this panel have done just that. Drunk on vineyard dreams, Deirdre Macken and her husband, Roger, bought an unpromising sheep paddock on the outskirts of Yass. Rachael Mogan McIntosh packed her bags and moved to rural France with her three school-age children.

What could possibly go wrong? Absolutely everything. Join these two crazy dreamers as they share their tales of misplaced adventure. A riotously funny hour of fish-out-of-water tales and tender life lessons.

Sponsored by The Riot ACT



PRUDISH AND SHRINKING

MODERATOR: KAREN MIDDLETON
PAUL DALGARNO
GRAEME TURNER

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
12.30 PM – 1.30 PM
SENATE CHAMBER
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

It's a tenacious gap in the Australian psyche: the gap between who we think we are, and who we really are. In this state-of-the-nation conversation, we take a good, long look at ourselves in the cultural mirror.

Presented in conjunction with The Saturday Paper



INTO THE WILD

ROBBIE ARNOTT IN
CONVERSATION WITH
ASTRID EDWARDS

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
2.00 PM – 3.00 PM
MANNING CLARK HALL
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

Robbie Arnott's fiction is steeped in the wild: women return from the dead as walking ecosystems; mythic birds circle the skies; the water calls to us. In writing these sumptuous, near-sentient landscapes, he grapples with our most wrenching and necessary questions: eco-grief, stolen land and human frailty.

Join Robbie Arnott for this intimate discussion about his abiding love for the natural world and how he brings it to life on the page.



TAKE THE LEAD

MODERATOR: NICOLE ABADEE
KIRSTIN FERGUSON
SASHA KUTABAH SARAGO

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
2.00 PM – 3.00 PM
MEMBERS DINING ROOM
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

How do you insist on your own value and values? What does it mean to lead with compassion? From the ethically thorny to the downright weird, three wise Aussie women take your workplace etiquette, self worth and leadership questions in this special interactive session.



KEEPING THE FAITH

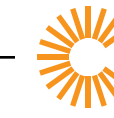
PARTICIPATING CHAIR: MONICA DUX
STEPH LENTZ
BRENDAN WATKINS

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
2.30 PM – 3.30 PM
CINEMA
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

What happens when your deepest beliefs are shaken?

Steph Lentz once defended her church's conservative teachings about marriage and sex, until she fell in love with a woman and her world turned upside-down. Brendan Watkins grew up unaware of the identity of his birth parents, only to discover that his mother was a nun. And his father was a celebrated outback missionary.

Two remarkable true stories.



HOMECOMING

MODERATOR: GENEVIEVE JACOBS
KIRSTY JAGGER
ZOYA PATEL

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
2.30 PM – 3.30 PM
T2
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

A young woman is drawn back into her estranged family when she learns her mother is dying. A reporter on assignment returns to the public housing estate where she grew up, only to find it demolished.

Two debut novels ebb between the past and the present – twin tales of family, memory and fraught returns. Join their authors as they grapple with that eternally knotty question: what does it mean to come home?



THE GOOD DEATH

MODERATOR: TRACEY SPICER
CAITLIN MAHAR
DR NEELA JANAKIRAMANAN

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
2.30 PM – 3.30 PM
SENATE CHAMBER
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

As ACT law-makers consider the case for Voluntary Assisted Dying, we place that deeply human question in historical context.



HEAD AND HEART

A LEADERSHIP MASTERCLASS
WITH KIRSTIN FERGUSON

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
4.00 PM – 5.00 PM
MANNING CLARK HALL
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

"Leadership is simply a series of moments, and every moment gives us the opportunity to leave a positive legacy in our wake."

In a CWF exclusive, Dr Kirstin Ferguson AM will be conducting her acclaimed leadership masterclass for the price of a festival ticket.

Compassionate, brilliant and inspiring, Kirstin Ferguson is one of Australia's most prominent leadership experts. Her workplace advice column in the Sydney Morning Herald is essential reading, and new book, *Head and Heart*, has just been named as one of the Top 10 management texts of the year – the only Australian work on an international list.

Kirstin's masterclass draws out the lessons of this globally-lauded book. Using storytelling, videos and practical examples Kirstin makes her own leadership experiences and research relevant for all. Each attendee will receive a free, personalised report to help them be the most effective modern leader they can be, in any context.

*Presented in conjunction with
BAL Lawyers*



POLITICAL EXECUTIONS AND SECRET POLICE

LEA YPI IN CONVERSATION WITH
CLARE WRIGHT

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
4.00 PM – 5.00 PM
MEMBERS DINING ROOM
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

Lea Ypi grew up in one of the most isolated countries on earth, a place where communist ideals had officially replaced religion. Albania, the last Stalinist outpost in Europe, was almost impossible to visit, almost impossible to leave. It was a place of queuing and scarcity, of political executions and secret police. To Lea, it was home...

In this intimate conversation with the ever-brilliant Clare Wright, Lea discusses her biting-funny – and internationally celebrated – memoir, *Free*.

*Presented in conjunction with
The Australia Institute*



EVENTS



ICE DREAMING

MODERATOR: KAYA WILSON
DENNIS GLOVER
JONATHAN LINEEN

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
4.30 PM – 5.30 PM
CINEMA
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

'Scott's lost expedition was still here, she thought – frozen, preserved, waiting to be rescued from the thaw. The truth lay beneath the surface, and she was going to bring it up.'

A bewitching new novel is set amid the Antarctic frost. What is it about this cold desert world that calls to us so insistently? What secrets – cultural, scientific and existential – lie beneath the ice?



BLOODTHIRSTY BRILLIANCE

PARTICIPATING CHAIR:
EMMA MACDONALD
PETER PAPATHANASIOU
ALISON BOOTH
LUCY CAMPBELL

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
4.30 PM – 5.30 PM
T2
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

Some of the best crime writing in the country is being penned in Canberra. What is it about this city that encourages such bloodthirsty brilliance? Is it the proximity to the shadowy halls of Parliament House? Or do roundabouts inspire plot twists? Not one, not two, but three local authors have new noirish novels to share! We join them for a discussion of this murderously fascinating genre.

Presented in conjunction with HerCanberra



ADVANCE AUSTRALIA WHERE?

PARTICIPATING CHAIR: ALLAN BEHM
CLINTON FERNANDES
EMMA SHORTIS

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
4.30 PM – 5.30 PM
SENATE CHAMBER
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

What is Australia's place in the world? Should we be a defender of the status quo, or a force for radical change? Australians often think of ourselves as at the mercy of global events. But we have the sixth largest landmass, and the 12th largest economy. We have global clout. How can we make the most of it?

*Presented in conjunction with
The Australia Institute*



SPECIAL EVENT

CLOSING NIGHT: LIGHT BULB MOMENT

ROBBIE ARNOTT
OM DHUNGEL
KIRSTIN FERGUSON
DR NEELA JANAKIRAMANAN
THOMAS KENEALLY
PETER PAPATHANASIOU
STEPHEN ROMEI
TRACEY SPICER
LEA YPI

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
6.00 PM – 7.30 PM
MANNING CLARK HALL
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

There are moments in life when everything changes – small moments with mammoth consequences. CWF's signature closing night event, *Light Bulb Moment*, is not to be missed. Join a stellar line-up of speakers as they divulge their personal epiphanies – from the profound to the profoundly funny. End your festival weekend on a high with this warm-hearted night of storytelling.

WHAT'S ON

MAS-TER-CLASS SERIES



THE ART OF WRITING ART

THEODORE ELL

FRIDAY 18 AUGUST
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
TIM FAIRFAX LEARNING STUDIO
NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA
MAX PARTICIPANTS: 10

Art makes us think in a language all its own. How do we translate it into words, to share the experience with others? This session explores the devices – description, perspective, imagery – of ekphrasis, writing that arises from art. Participants are invited to wander the collections of the National Gallery and seek inspiration for a short piece of writing in a genre of their choice – poetry, essay, memoir, short fiction – to share in a final workshop with award-winning poet and essayist Theodore Ell.



SPEECHWRITING

LUCINDA HOLDFORTH

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
MARIE REAY TEACHING CENTRE, ANU
MAX PARTICIPANTS: 15

You know the feeling. You are drafting a speech – or meant to be – but find yourself gazing at a blank screen wondering where to start. Lucinda Holdforth can help. Lucinda is one of Australia's leading speechwriters – working with government, business and not-for-profit organisations. Over the years she has developed seven practical ways to build great speeches, faster. In this two-hour small group session she will show you how.



HARNESSING THE POWER OF INTERVIEWS

PAUL DALGARNO

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
MARIE REAY TEACHING CENTRE, ANU
MAX PARTICIPANTS: 20

Learn how to conduct, write and edit compelling interviews for print and online. In this hands-on workshop, author and journalist Paul Dalgarno will draw on 20 years of experience to teach you the fundamentals of conducting effective interviews and gaining killer quotes. You'll learn professional techniques such as building rapport, using silence, developing interview strategies and asking questions that get to the heart of the matter. You'll also learn how to select and edit the quotes that show your interviewees, and you, in the best and most revealing light.

MASTERCLASS SERIES



GRAPHIC LIFE

ELOISE GRILLS

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
MARIE REAY TEACHING CENTRE, ANU
MAX PARTICIPANTS: 10

In this engaging workshop, graphic memoirist Eloise Grills will help participants to create writing and art that draws from their lives in new and unexpected ways. The workshop will allow writers to explore the ways in which visual stimuli can be incorporated to stir emotion, add humour and depth, and to create texture and dynamism in work that reflects the embodied complexities of life. No drawing experience required!



FROM FANDOM TO FEATURE-WRITING: SPORTS WRITING MASTERCLASS

KIERAN PENDER

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
MARIE REAY TEACHING CENTRE, ANU
MAX PARTICIPANTS: 20

From the toil of grass roots heroes to the theatrics of multi-million dollar superstars, sport reflects and refracts the human condition. There are few things as addictive as cheering on your team with tribal passion in a frenzied cauldron of fandom; almost nothing as exhilarating as leaping from your seat following a last minute point, basket, goal or try. The job of the sports writer is to report, explain, analyse and understand the joy that is sport. And with the changing media landscape, more people than ever are having the opportunity to write about the thing they love: sport. Join acclaimed sports journalist, Kieran Pender, fresh from covering the FIFA Women's World Cup, for this interactive workshop.



WRITE ME A SONG

FRED SMITH

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
MARIE REAY TEACHING CENTRE, ANU
MAX PARTICIPANTS: 12

"Fred Smith is an exceptional songwriter...one of our finest lyricists... he shows true mastery of crafting melodies and marrying them to the words without recourse to a shotgun..." John Shand, SMH

Fred Smith lays out a basic songwriting toolkit and offers a crash course in how to write a song. Canberra's own master songwriter will take workshop participants through a user-friendly process for capturing those initial sparks of inspiration, fleshing them out, and shaping them into songs that don't suck. Bring an instrument if you play one, or just a pen and a couple of pieces of paper. This could get messy.



WEAVING MEMOIR

KRIS KNEEN

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
MARIE REAY TEACHING CENTRE, ANU
MAX PARTICIPANTS: 16

People often think a memoir must go from A to B in a timeline that marches with a calendar. In this innovative memoir workshop Kris Kneen will take you through a different process of structuring your memoir. The work will be a weaving of several different stories across different timelines that are organised by a unifying theme. This method is more like making a basket than building a wall and allows the author to highlight connections and repetitions that would be lost using any other method. This is a method that Kris has used successfully in their three memoirs; *Affection*, *The Three Burials of Lotty Kneen* and *Fat Girl Dancing*. It is a method that frees the author from the straightjacket of linear time and allows you to chase a theme through different parts of a life.

MASTERCLASS SERIES



CHASING HISTORY

MIRANDI RIWOE

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
MARIE REAY TEACHING CENTRE, ANU
MAX PARTICIPANTS: 20

In this workshop with acclaimed novelist, Mirandi Riwoe, you will learn in what ways research can enhance both your writing practice and historical fiction. Through authorial insights, discussion and a series of writing exercises, you will further develop your own writing process, and practice techniques for incorporating research into a work of fiction. The workshop will suit people who are at the beginning of their writing project or who are struggling to manage their research process and output.



SCULPTURAL SENTENCES

ALICE GRUNDY

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
MARIE REAY TEACHING CENTRE, ANU
MAX PARTICIPANTS: 20

In the same way that relishing the journey rather than only focusing on the destination will make your travels more enjoyable, so dedicating attention to sentences will allow your reader to enjoy your prose, not just ingest your message. In this practical workshop, editor and publisher Alice Grundy will help you deconstruct fine writing to be understand how to implement some of the techniques in your own work. Whether you are an experienced writer looking to switch genres or just starting out, this workshop will help you refine your practice and develop your skills.



WORK LESS, MAKE MORE

KIM NORTHWOOD

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
MARIE REAY TEACHING CENTRE, ANU
MAX PARTICIPANTS: 30

You're in the most affluent city (Canberra) in one of the richest nations on the planet (Australia), at the most prosperous time in human history (now). And yet, you feel stressed by money and unsure how to make the best use of it? Join Kim as he walks through the themes and information from his book 'Work Less, Make More: The Millennial's Guide to Financial Freedom'. So much of the anxiety about money is related to our lack of practical information. By gaining even just a few sound nuggets of financial understanding, your financial decision-making can become so much clearer.

Please note: the financial information in this talk is of a general nature only and does not take into account your specific financial situation. The information has been compiled from sources considered to be reliable at the time, but not guaranteed. Before acting on this information, you should consider its appropriateness to your own financial situation, objectives and needs.



REIGNITE YOUR IMAGINATION

ZOE COYLE

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
MARIE REAY TEACHING CENTRE, ANU
MAX PARTICIPANTS: 40

Join us for a captivating workshop that delves into the heart of creativity. Drawing inspiration from influential figures like Rick Rubin, Ed Catmull, Ira Glass, Liz Gilbert, and Julia Cameron, this experience will deepen your connection to your creative potential. Discover practical strategies to stoke the fires of your creative self and overcome common obstacles. Leave the workshop invigorated, with a fresh vitality and a renewed relationship to your creative powers—the wellspring of joy, connection, expression, and purpose.



BIOGRAPHIES

A

AARTI BETIGERI is a Canberra-based writer and former former foreign correspondent, who spent almost a decade based in South Asia. She is a correspondent for *Monocle*, a columnist with the Lowy Institute's *The Interpreter*, and editor of the forthcoming *'Growing Up Indian In Australia'* anthology, part of the *Growing Up series* published by Black Inc (out in July 2024). Her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Public Radio International* and others. She has interviewed three world leaders and worked on major investigative journalism initiatives. She has also worked as a television news journalist and presenter with ABC and SBS.

AHMAD SHUJA JAMAL is a Special Advisor to the Refugee Council of Australia. A former Afghan civil servant now in exile, Shuja served as the director-general for international relations and regional cooperation at the Afghan National Security Council, where he helped manage Afghanistan's security partnerships. He also served as director for peace and civilian protection and handled Afghanistan's policy portfolio on international sanctions, including those of the UN Security Council and the US against Taliban, Al-Qaeda, and ISIS.

ALAN FINKEL was Australia's chief scientist from 2016 to 2020. He is a neuroscientist, engineer and entrepreneur. He led the 2017 National Electricity Market Review and the 2019 development of the National Hydrogen Strategy, and chaired the 2020 panel developing the Low Emissions Technology Roadmap. He is currently special adviser to the Australian government on low-emissions technologies. His latest book is *Powering Up*.

ALICE GRUNDY has been a book editor for the past fifteen years and is completing a PhD at ANU. Her thesis is the basis for a minigraph, *Editing Fiction: Three cases studies from postwar Australia* published by Cambridge University Press and her reviews and essays have appeared in the *Sydney Review of Books*, *The Conversation* and *The Canberra Times*.

ALISON BOOTH has published seven novels, the most recent being *Bellevue*, a mystery and crime novel set in the 1970s. Her fiction has been translated into French and her short stories have appeared in international publications including *Antipodes* and *New Writing*. Her fiction awards include a Varuna Longlines Fellowship from the Eleanor Dark Foundation, Highly Commended in the ACT Book of the Year Award, and Highly Commended in the ACT Notables Award. Alison is Emeritus Professor at the Australian National University, a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, a Fellow of the Econometric Society, and recipient of the ESA Distinguished Fellow Award.

ALISTAIR OTT (They/He) is a Wiradjuri Queer artist. Born on Gundungurra and raised on Ngunnawal Land, they were taught Dreamtime stories and their family's language and culture from their Ngama and Mudyigang. These stories, his time on country with mob and family, and his queer community inspire his writing; these are the spaces where his spirit resides. When they aren't writing, Alistair spends their time working in LGBTQIA+ community services and on their PhD at the Australian National University. He hopes to continue writing stories that spark joy for queer blakfullas like himself. Dyiramadilinya badhu Wiradjuri!

ALLAN BEHM specialises in political and security risk evaluation, policy analysis and development, and negotiating the policy/politics interface. Following a career spanning nearly thirty years in the Australian Public Service, he was Chief of Staff to Greg Combet, from 2019 to 2013. And from March 2017 until February 2019 he was senior advisor to the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Penny Wong. He has a significant publishing record in academic and professional journals, and is a respected commentator in both the electronic and print media. His book *No, Minister* – an insider's account of the what actually goes on in Parliament House – was published by Melbourne University Publishing in 2015.

AMY REMEIKIS is a political reporter with the *Guardian*. She makes regular appearances on ABC's *Insiders*, the *Drum* and radio national, as well as *Network Ten's The Project*. She is the best selling author of *On Reckoning*.

ANGELA O'KEEFFE grew up with nine siblings on a farm in the Lockyer Valley, Queensland. She completed a Master of Arts in Writing at UTS, and her first novel, *Night Blue*, was shortlisted for the UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing and the Prime Minister's Literary Awards. She was awarded the 2023 Varuna Eleanor Dark Fellowship.

ANGELA SAINI is an award-winning British journalist and author based in New York. She presents radio and television programmes, and her writing has appeared in *National Geographic*, *New Scientist*, and *Wired*. Her latest book *The Patriarchs: How Men Came to Rule* was published in spring 2023, and is a finalist for the Orwell Prize for Political Writing. Her last two books *Superior: The Return of Race Science* and *Inferior: How Science Got Women Wrong* have been translated into fourteen languages and are on university reading lists across the world. As the founder and chair of the 'Challenging Pseudoscience' group at the Royal Institution, Angela researches and campaigns around issues of misinformation and disinformation.

ANNA VIDOT has been the host of ABC Canberra Drive since 2018. Before that, she spent a decade as a rural reporter for the ABC in NSW, Tasmania and Parliament House.

ASTRID EDWARDS is a bibliophile. When not reading, she is also a teacher, interviewer and occasional judge of literary prizes.

B

BARRIE CASSIDY is one of Australia's leading political journalists and analysts having had a long career at the ABC including 18 years as host of the Sunday morning discussion program *Insiders*. He is now chair of Old Parliament House in Canberra.

BEBE BACKHOUSE is a descendant of the Bardi Jawi people of the Kimberley region of north-Western Australia, and an award-winning writer and creative leader who's called Naarm home for many years. Beginning his creative practice as a classical pianist and composer, Bebe later made a name for himself as a producer and director of theatre, festivals, and public art projects in New Zealand, France, and Belgium. A writer, poet, illustrator, speaker, and facilitator living on the unceded land of the Kulin peoples, Bebe's works encompass love, loss, identity, Aboriginal and gay existence, place, and Country.

BEEJAY SILCOX is a literary critic and the Artistic Director of Canberra Writers Festival.

BIFF WARD A founding member of Canberra Women's Liberation, has been an antiwar activist, feminist activist and adult educator in human communication and harassment prevention. Author of *Father-Daughter Rape* (The Women's Press, 1984), one of the first books in the world about child sexual abuse; *In My Mothers Hands* (2014), a memoir about growing up with a mother living with schizophrenia which was short listed for major awards; and *The Third Chopstick* (2022) a memoir about the Vietnam war.

BRENDAN WATKINS learned he was adopted at eight years of age. He discovered his birth mother had been a Catholic nun at thirty. A DNA test at sixty revealed his father was a celebrated Catholic priest. In late 2018, after a diverse career in the entertainment and not-for-profit sectors, he resigned from his job to investigate and record his story. Brendan's debut memoir explores the questions, anxieties and reflections arising from his hidden past. He has two children, a loving partner and he swims, a lot. He lives in Melbourne.

BRIGITTA OLUBAS was born in Hobart, Tasmania and now lives in Sydney. She is professor of English at the University of New South Wales where she teaches and researches in Australian Literature. Her publications include books and essays on Australian Literature, particularly on writing by migrant, diasporic and refugee writers, and she has published extensively on and edited the work of Shirley Hazzard. She is a recent, late, and passionate convert to the practice of biography.

C

DR CAITLIN MAHAR lectures in history at Swinburne University of Technology. She completed a PhD in history at the University of Melbourne in 2016 and was awarded the Society for the Social History of Medicine Roy Porter Essay Prize, the Australian and New Zealand Society for the History of Medicine Ben Haneman Memorial Award and the University of Melbourne's Dennis-Wettenhall Prize. She previously taught literature and was a restaurant critic for Fairfax Media Publications.

CATHY EATOCK is a Gayiri/Badtjula woman, with traditional ties to the lands of central Queensland, Australia. Cathy is a PhD Candidate at the University of Sydney where her thesis is considering the capacity of the United Nations to support the recognition of Indigenous rights. Cathy is the elected Co-Chair of the Indigenous Peoples' Organisation-Australia (IPO), a national coalition of First Nations peoples committed to advocating for the rights of Indigenous peoples. Cathy is also the elected Pacific Representative to the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

CHARLOTTE WOOD is the prizewinning author of six novels and three books of non-fiction. Her latest book is *The Luminous Solution*, a book about creativity and the inner life. Her seventh novel, *Stone Yard Devotional*, will be published in October 2023.

CHRIS MASTERS PSM is a powerful force in Australian journalism. A multi Walkley Award winner, his reports 'The Big League' and 'The Moonlight State' both led to royal commissions that helped transform the nation. He spent extended periods with Australian forces in Afghanistan, and he is the author of the bestselling *Jonestown, Uncommon Soldier* and *No Front Line*.



Political historian **DR CHRIS WALLACE** is a professor at the University of Canberra, and the author of *Political Lives: Australian prime ministers and their biographers*. Her previous book, *How To Win An Election*, drew important lessons for Labor from its shock 2019 election loss. Wallace was formerly a longstanding member of the Canberra Press Gallery, and her political analysis and commentary currently appears in *Nikkei Asia*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age*, *The Saturday Paper* and *The Conversation*.

PROFESSOR CLARE WRIGHT OAM is an award-winning historian, author, broadcaster and public commentator. Clare is currently Professor of History and Professor of Public Engagement at La Trobe University. She is the author of four works of history, including the best-selling *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka* and *You Daughters of Freedom*, which comprise the first two instalments of her Democracy Trilogy. Clare hosts the ABC Radio National history series, *Shooting the Past*, and co-hosts the La Trobe University podcast *Archive Fever*.

CLINTON FERNANDES is Professor of International and Political Studies at the University of New South Wales. He has published on the relationship between science, diplomacy and international law, intelligence operations in foreign policy, the political and regulatory implications of new technology and Australia's external relations more generally. His research in the Future Operations Research Group at UNSW analyses the operational environment, and the threats, risks and opportunities that military forces will face, in the 2030-50 timeframe.

D

DAN BOURCHIER is a multi-award winning journalist and broadcaster with the ABC. He is co-host of the current affairs show *The Drum* and special correspondent for *The Voice* referendum. Dan grew up in the remote Northern Territory town of Tennant Creek, where he was mentored by elders from around the region, while coming to understand his own Indigenous heritage from his mum's family in Victoria. He has reported across the country and around the world for more than 20 years.

DAVE SHARMA is a former Australian diplomat and ambassador, currently working in the technology sector. He was a Liberal Member of Parliament for the seat of Wentworth from 2019 to 2022.

DAVID SPEERS is the host of "Insiders" on ABC TV, where he interviews leading political figures and explores the big issues with an expert panel. David also writes political analysis each week for ABC News online, and appears across TV and radio platforms. He joined the ABC in 2020 after 19 years as the Political Editor of Sky News Australia. David has won a number of Walkleys, Kennedys, a Logie and the Press Gallery Journalist of the Year Award. David served 3 years as Press Gallery President and 15 years on the board of the National Press Club.

DEBRA DANK is a Gudanji/Wakaja woman, married to Rick, with three adult children and two grandchildren. An educator, she has worked in teaching and learning for many years – a gift given through the hard work of her parents. She continues to experience the privilege of living with Country and with family. Debra completed her PhD in Narrative Theory and Semiotics at Deakin University in 2021. Her book *We Come With This Place* won a record four NSW Premier's Awards in 2023.

DEIRDRE MACKEN is a journalist who has worked for *The Age*, *SMH* and *Financial Review* and is currently a columnist with *The Australian's* Review section. She has written two previous books and is still working in a vineyard and renovating a fibro cottage.

DENNIS GLOVER was educated at Monash and Cambridge universities and he has made a career as one of Australia's leading speechwriters and political commentators. His first novel, *The Last Man in Europe*, was published around the world in multiple editions and was nominated for several literary prizes, including the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction. His second novel, *Factory 19*, was published in 2020 and his newest novel, *Thaw*, is out in August.

DR NEELA JANAKIRAMANAN is a reconstructive plastic surgeon, author, commentator and health advocate. She was a clinical lead in the Kids off Nauru and 'Medevac' campaigns to improve access to healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers in offshore migration detention. She is a health commentator, writing for publications including *Women's Agenda*, *The Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Saturday Paper*, and regularly appears on ABC Weekend Breakfast and ABC's *The Drum*. Her bestselling debut novel, *The Registrar*, was released in 2022.

E

EBONY BENNETT is deputy director of independent think tank the Australia Institute and host of its popular webinar series and *Follow the Money*. Beginning her career as a journalist in the Canberra press gallery, Ebony has worked in federal politics in a variety of roles for almost 20 years. Ebony is a regular commentator and contributor across broadcast and print media; she appears regularly as a commentator on ABC and Sky News and has a fortnightly column in *The Canberra Times*.

EDWINA PRESTON is a Melbourne-based writer and musician. Preston is the author of a biography of Australian artist Howard Arkley, *Not Just a Suburban Boy* and two novels *The Inheritance of Ivorie Hammer*, and *Bad Art Mother*. Her writing and reviews have appeared in *The Age*, *The Australian*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *Heat*, *Island*, the *Conversation* and *Griffith Review*. *Bad Art Mother* was shortlisted for the 2023 Stella Prize and the 2023 NSW Premier's Literary Awards (Christina Stead Prize for Fiction).

ELIZABETH CHONG AM is one of the most loved and enduring personalities within the Australian food industry. She is dedicated to breaking down the barriers between those of different cultural backgrounds, and ensuring the intricacies of Chinese Cuisine are understood and appreciated by everyone. Elizabeth has written 8 books and taught over 35,000 students in her cooking school. Through extensive writing, travelling, touring and TV appearances she conveys her message in an honest, energetic and eloquent manner. Elizabeth is currently working on her memoir.

ELIZABETH REID was Adviser on matters relating to the welfare of women and children to E. G. Whitlam, the Australian Prime Minister from 1972 to 1975. She has contributed a chapter to the collection, *Whitlam and Women: Revisiting the Revolution* (2023), edited by Michelle Arrow. She subsequently worked internationally on matters related to gender, the HIV epidemic, and development.

ELLEN VAN NEERVEN is an award-winning writer of Mununjali and Dutch heritage. Ellen's first book, *Heat and Light*, was the recipient of the David Unaipon Award, the Dobbie Literary Award and the NSW Premier's Literary Awards Indigenous Writers Prize. They have written two poetry collections: *Comfort Food*, which was shortlisted for two awards, and *Throat*, which won the Kenneth Slessor Prize for Poetry and the Multicultural NSW Award and Book of the Year in the NSW Premier's Literary Awards.

ELOISE GRILLS is an award-winning writer, comics artist, poet and critic. Her work has been published widely in literary journals and anthologies including *Meanjin*, *The Saturday Paper*, *The Rumpus*, *Going Down Swinging*, *Kill Your Darlings*, *Sydney Review of Books*, *The Lifted Brow* and *Borderless*. Eloise lives on Dja Dja Wurrung country with her fiancé Jackie, and their two dogs, Ripley and Vince, as well as her mother-in-law, Madeleine, and her dog, Minnie. *big beautiful female theory* is her first collection of essays, which was shortlisted for the Stella Prize.

ELSPETH PITT is Senior Curator, Australian Art, at the National Gallery of Australia, Kamberri/Canberra.

EMMA MACDONALD OAM is a multi-award winning journalist, speaker and maternal health advocate. In the Queen's Birthday Honours list in 2022 Emma was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for services to journalism and women. Emma has been writing about Canberra and its people for nearly three decades, winning numerous awards for her journalism - including a Walkley or two - along the way. Canberra born and bred, she's fiercely loyal to the city, tribally inner-north, and grateful to tell stories for a living.

EMMA SHORTIS is a historian, writer and commentator focused on the history and politics of the United States. Her first book, *Our Exceptional Friend: Australia's Fatal Alliance with the United States*, was published in 2021. Emma is a Lecturer in the Social and Global Studies Centre at RMIT University. Before that, she was a Fox-Zucker International Fellow at Yale University.

ESTHER ANATOLITIS, Editor of *Meanjin*, is one of Australia's most impactful advocates for arts and culture. She is Hon A/Prof at RMIT School of Art and a member of the National Gallery of Australia Governing Council. Across two decades Esther has led arts and media organisations across all artforms, including Craft Victoria and the National Association for the Visual Arts. Esther regularly facilitates strategic, creative and political conversations, and is a prolific writer, critic and commentator. Most recently her work has appeared in the *Guardian* and *Crikey*, and her book *Place, Practice, Politics* was published in 2022.

EVELYN ARALUEN is a poet, researcher and co-editor of *Overland Literary Journal*. Her widely published criticism, fiction and poetry has been awarded the Nakata Brophy Prize for Young Indigenous Writers, the Judith Wright Poetry Prize, a Wheeler Centre Next Chapter Fellowship, and a Neilma Sidney Literary Travel Fund grant. Born and raised on Dharug country, she is a descendant of the Bundjalung Nation. Evelyn's debut collection *Dropbear* was shortlisted for the 2021 Judith Wright Calanthe Award for a Poetry Collection and the 2022 Kenneth Slessor Prize for Poetry, and won the 2022 Stella Prize. It was Highly Commended for the 2021 Anne Elder Award.

F

FRANK BONGIORNO is a Canberra-based historian who teaches at the Australian National University. He is also a Distinguished Fellow of the Whitlam Institute at Western Sydney University and President of the Australian Historical Association.



BIOGRAPHIES

FRAN KELLY is one of Australia's leading interviewers and commentators. She has earned a reputation as an intelligent, informed and balanced journalist who has been a key contributor to the nation's political, social and cultural debates for the past 25 years. In that time she's been the ABC's Europe Correspondent based in London, the political editor for The 7.30 Report and the political correspondent for the prestigious AM program. Fran was the host of ABC RN Breakfast, Australia's leading national current affairs radio show, for 17 years. She also hosted her own Friday night TV chat show, Frankly. She's also co-host of the long running political podcast. The Party Room.

FRED SMITH writes songs. Some of them are sad. Some of them are funny. Some of them are sad and funny. Some of them are quite serious. They have melodies and stories you can remember - that stay with you and keep you company. Fred's songs reflect the world he has seen in what, so far, has been a messy and interesting life. He was the subject of an Australian Story documentary feature about his experiences in Afghanistan and Bougainville. His book, *The Dust of Uruzgan*, was published by Allen and Unwin.

G

GABRIELLE JACKSON is the associate editor for audio and visual at Guardian Australia. She is the author of *Pain and Prejudice: How the Medical System Ignores Women – and What We Can Do About It*, and won the 2016 Medicinewise award for excellence in media reporting for her work covering endometriosis. She also sits on the Walkleys Judging Board.

GAIL RADFORD spent more than twenty years working in senior positions in public services in Australia and overseas. Gail became interested in Women's Liberation and the Civil Rights movement while studying in North America. On her return to Australia she joined Women's Liberation and was a founding member of the Women's Electoral Lobby (WEL). Her involvement in feminist politics resulted in her joining the public service to introduce EEO programs for women and minority group members; programs that she shaped and led throughout Australia for the next 15 years.

GENEVIEVE JACOBS AM has been a journalist for 30 years, working in print and radio. She sits on the Cultural Facilities Corporation board and chairs the Canberra International Music Festival. Genevieve was the inaugural chair of the arts minister's Creative Council, and inaugural co-chair of the Reconciliation Council. Genevieve has an enduring interest in building community, and creating discussions that include us all. And she still loves nothing better than a good yarn.

GILLIAN (GILL) APPLETON is a writer and researcher who has been involved in the women's movement since the late 1960s. Gill was a member of the International Women's Year Secretariat under the leadership of Elizabeth Reid and Margaret Whitlam from 1975-6, and worked in various capacities for the ABC and major government agencies in film, broadcasting and cultural policy. She has served on a number of arts-related boards and committees, including as Chair of the NSW Government's Arts Advisory Council.

DR GORANA GRGIĆ is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Social and Political Sciences and the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney. She is also an Expert Affiliate at the ANU National Security College. Gorana has been a Research Fellow at prestigious international institutions, including the Harvard Center for European Studies. She has been a regular political analyst for broadcasters such as ABC Australia and Bloomberg, and has contributed to a number of Australian and international media outlets and policy institutes.

GRAEME TURNER AO is Professor Emeritus of Cultural Studies at the University of Queensland, Australia. One of the founding figures of media and cultural studies in Australia, he has been writing about Australian media, culture and society for many years, with a continuing focus on the idea of the nation. He has published over twenty-nine books, the most recent of which is *The Shrinking Nation* (2023).

I

ISABELLE ODERBERG has worked as a journalist for two decades in newswires across Europe, Asia and Australia, where she was the country's first social media editor for Melbourne's Herald Sun. She is a former editor of Pro Bono News and has worked as a media and communications strategist across the not-for-profit sector. She is now the Deputy CEO of the Public Interest Journalism Initiative. *Hard to Bear: Investigating the science and silence of miscarriage* is her first book.

J

JACKIE DENT is an author, journalist and communications person. She has worked for many media outlets including the ABC, the Sydney Morning Herald, Reuters, the New York Times, Monocle, the Guardian, Stretwh! and others. She has curated public talks for Tedx Sydney, the Ethics Centre and Clear Spot Club. She has done stints with the United Nations in Afghanistan, Pakistan, North Ossetia and South Sudan, and is currently doing a PhD on "The Pleasures of War" at the University of Sydney.

JAKELIN TROY is the director of Indigenous research at the University of Sydney. She is editor in chief of *ab-Original: Journal of Indigenous Studies and First Nations and First Peoples' Cultures*.

JANE CAREY is an Associate Professor in history at the University of Wollongong where she was a founding co-director of the Centre for Colonial and Settler Studies. Her work spans across settler colonial, women's and Indigenous histories, with a focus on questions of race and science. She is the editor of several collections including *Creating White Australia* (2009) *Indigenous Networks* (2014) and *Colonial Formations* (2021). Her most recent book is *Taking to the Field: A History of Australian Women in Science*.

JANE DAHLSTROM is a Perinatal Pathologist at ACT Pathology for Canberra Health Services and Chair and Professor of Pathology, School of Medicine and Psychology, at the Australian National University (ANU) College of Health and Medicine. In 2002, due to the generous donations from residents in Canberra and the surrounding regions, she was able to establish a surgical specimen teaching museum. In 2019 Jane received an Order of Australia for her contributions to Medical Education and Pathology.

JOANNA SAVILL Long-time food journalist and dedicated food explorer. Joanna has written books, made television shows, created festivals, edited restaurant guides, hosted events and written for most of Australia's leading publications, almost always about food – a subject so fascinating and inspiring she never tires of it.

JOE BRUMM is the creator, writer and series director of the animated series, Bluey, produced by Ludo Studio for ABC and BBC Studios. In 2011 Joe founded Studiojoho, which now has an expanding body of quality animation work behind it. Joe is Company Director and Joho's clients include College Humor, Viacom, ABC's Good Game, New Form Digital, GOMA, Ludo Studio/ Cartoon Network, Gallery of Victoria and Halfbrick. In partnership with Halfbrick, his original web-series, Dan The Man has been turned into a successful mobile game with over 10 million downloads. In 2015 Joe won the Austin Film Festival with his short The Meek. His numerous other short films have all been awarded internationally. Joe worked as a lead animator for 10 years in London on numerous children's series, including the BAFTA-winning Charlie and Lola. He also worked in Kenya on Tinga-Tinga Tales for BBC/Disney.

DR JOËLLE GERGIS is an award-winning climate scientist and author based at the Australian National University. She is an internationally recognised expert in Australian and Southern Hemisphere climate variability and change who has authored over 100 scientific publications. Joëlle served as a lead author on the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on the Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report, a global review of climate change science. She is the author of *Sunburnt Country: The future and history of climate change in Australia* and cohost of The Conversation's podcast Fear and Wonder. Her latest book is *Humanity's Moment: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope*.

JOHN MUKKY BURKE is an Elder of the Wiradjuri Nation. He lives in Wagga Wagga.

K

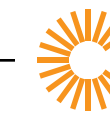
KAREN MIDDLETON is chief political correspondent for The Saturday Paper and author of two books, *An Unwinnable War: Australia in Afghanistan and Albanese: Telling it Straight*. Karen has worked in the Canberra press gallery since 1989 and served as its president for four years. An experienced television, radio and newspaper commentator, she appears regularly on the ABC's Insiders and Network Ten's The Project. She is a freelance contributor to ABC radio, Monocle 24 Radio UK and Radio New Zealand and is based in Canberra.

KATE EVANS co-hosts ABC Radio National's weekly broadcast and podcast offering, The Bookshelf (with Cassie McCullagh). She regularly interviews writers at festivals; has a PhD in history and a ridiculous number of books.

KATE GRENVILLE is the author of fifteen books, including fiction, non-fiction, biography, and books about the writing process. Her international bestseller, *The Secret River* was awarded local and overseas prizes, has been adapted for the stage and as an acclaimed television miniseries. Her most recent novel is the bestselling *A Room Made of Leaves*. In 2017 Grenville was awarded the Australia Council Award for Lifetime Achievement in Literature.

KATE MILDENHALL'S debut novel, *Skylarking*, was longlisted for Debut Fiction in The Indie Book Awards 2017 and the 2017 Voss Literary Award, and her bestselling *The Mother Fault* was longlisted for the 2021 ABIA General Fiction Book of the Year and shortlisted for the 2020 Aurealis Awards. Kate teaches creative writing and co-hosts The First Time podcast - which features conversations with Australian writers. Kate lives in Hurstbridge on Wurundjeri lands, with her partner and two children. The Hummingbird Effect is her third novel.

KAYA WILSON is a writer and tsunami scientist who somehow finds himself in Canberra. His first book *As Beautiful as Any Other* was shortlisted for the ACT book of the year and listed by the Guardian as one of the 25 best books of 2021.



KIERAN PENDER is an Australian writer, lawyer and academic. He is an award-winning journalist, contributing to The Guardian, The Monthly, The Saturday Paper and The New York Times. Kieran has covered the world's biggest sporting events, from the Olympics to the Men's and Women's World Cups to the Tour de France. He is also a senior lawyer at the Human Rights Law Centre and an honorary lecturer at the ANU College of Law.

KIM E ANDERSON has worked for a variety of book publishers and media organisations including HarperCollins, PBL Online, the Nine Television Network and Southern Star Entertainment. In 2009 she founded a social media site for readers based in New York. An avid reader, she now lives in Sydney and is also a non-executive director of a number of ASX listed companies and a director of the Sax Institute.

KIM NORTHWOOD has over a decade of experience in business, trade, economics and investing, and is the author of *Work Less, Make More: The Millennial's Guide to Financial Freedom*. He is a contributor on personal finance and money for the Canberra Times, and manages an importing and distribution business. He was formerly an advisor to Australia's Trade and Investment Minister. Frustrated by the way we endlessly chase more income without understanding personal finance, Kim demonstrates how very simple steps can make a lifetime of difference.

DR KIRSTIN FERGUSON AM is one of Australia's most prominent leadership experts and the author of two award-winning books. She writes a weekly column in the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age and sits on a range of company boards. Kirstin is the former Deputy Chair of the ABC and was the creator of the viral #CelebratingWomen campaign.

KIRSTY JAGGER is a journalist by trade. In 2019, she won the inaugural Heyman Mentorship Award, established by acclaimed Australian author Kathryn Heyman for a writer from a background of social or economic disadvantage. *Roseghetto* takes some inspiration from growing up in the housing commission estates of Sydney's western suburbs. This is her first novel.

KRIS KNEEN is the award-winning author of fiction, poetry and non-fiction including *An Uncertain Grace* which was shortlisted for the Stella Prize. They have written and directed broadcast television documentaries and were the Copyright Agency Ltd Non-fiction Fellow in 2020. *Fat Girl Dancing* is their latest book.

L

LAURA DAWES is an award-winning historian, author and broadcaster, who is devoted to the vibrant communication of science and medicine through both non-fiction and fiction. She holds a PhD from Harvard University in the History of Science, and is a Research Fellow in medico-legal history at the Centre for the Public Awareness of Science at the Australian National University. Her second book, *Fighting Fit: The Wartime Battle for Britain's Health* was shortlisted for ACT Book of the Year.

LAURA TINGLE has reported on Australian politics for more than 40 years and has worked for the ABC since 2018, having previously held senior positions in print media. She is the chief political correspondent for 7.30. In 2023, she became the staff-elected director on the ABC Board. She has written four Quarterly Essays, won two Walkley Awards, and is President of the National Press Club of Australia

LAUREN GROFF is the author of six works of fiction, including the novels *Fates And Furies* and *Matrix*, and the story collection *Florida*. Her new novel, *The Vaster Wilds*, will be published in September 2023.

LAY MALONEY is a young storyteller of the Gumbaynggirr and Gunggandji nations and South Sea Islander heritage currently based on Wurundjeri Country in Naarm / Melbourne. They are the recipient for the black&write! Fellowship with the State Library of Queensland for their LGBTQIA+ YA manuscript titled *Weaving Us Together*. Lay is published in 'NANGAMAY dream MANA gather DJURALI grow - First Nations Australia LGBTQIA+ Poetry', edited by Alison Whittaker & Steven Lindsay Ross.

LEA YPI is Professor of Political Theory at the London School of Economics and Political Science. A native of Albania, she studied Philosophy and then Literature at the University of Rome, La Sapienza, and was a Prize Research Fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford. She is the recipient of many academic and literary prizes. Her last book, *Free*, was awarded the Slightly Foxed Best First Biography Prize 2021 and the RSL Ondaatje Prize 2022, and shortlisted for many more. It has been sold in more than 25 languages. Lea contributes regularly to *The Guardian*, *New Statesman*, and *Financial Times*.

LISH FEJER grew up on large stations in the bush before studying Biochemistry at ANU. After graduating she ventured off on her bike to cook in Europe. After a few years of eating her wages in cheese, she squeezed back into Australia to work at Questacon. She has worked in the field of science communication as a presenter, speaker, writer and exhibition developer ever since. Lish was co-host of ABC TV's eco-home-reno show Carbon Cops. She joined the ABC Radio Canberra team in 2010 and she loved working on the wireless so much, she didn't want to leave. Lish rides a bike, does science experiments at parties (she met her husband when she fired a scone out of a potato cannon), has over 15,000 worms and loves Canberra.

LOUISA LIM is an award-winning author and journalist. She covered China and Hong Kong for a decade as a correspondent for the BBC and NPR, and has reported for the New York Times, Washington Post and the Guardian. Louisa's most recent book is *Indelible City: Dispossession and Defiance in Hong Kong*, which was shortlisted for the Walkley Book Award, the Stella Prize and the Victorian Premier's Non-Fiction Award. Raised in Hong Kong, she lives in Australia with her two children and teaches at the University of Melbourne.

LOUISE MILLIGAN is an investigative reporter for the ABC TV Four Corners program and author of *Witness, The Brutal Cost of Seeking Justice* and *Cardinal, The Rise and Fall of George Pell*. Her groundbreaking work, often telling the stories of survivors of trauma, has led to government inquiries and legislative change and won her many awards, including the Walkley Book Award, The Gold Quill and the Press Freedom Medal. Louise's first novel will be released next year.

DR LUCINA WARD is Senior Curator of International Art at the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, where her projects include: *Love & desire: Pre-Raphaelite masterpieces* from Tate (2018-19); *American Masters 1940-1980* (2018); and *Versailles: Treasures from the Palace* (2016-17). She has a particular interest in modern and contemporary sculpture, and also regularly publishes and lectures on many aspects of the NGA collection. Lucina's doctorate was granted by the Australian National University, and she is also a graduate of the Canberra School of Art and the University of Canberra.

LUCINDA HOLDFORTH is one of Australia's leading speechwriters and the author of *21st Century Virtues: How they are Failing our Democracy* (2023). Her other books are *True Pleasures* (2004), *Why Manners Matter* (2007) and *Leading Lines* (2019).

LUCY CAMPBELL has worked as a writer and sub-editor across magazines, newspapers and non-fiction books. *Lowbridge* is her first novel. She lives in Canberra with her husband and three children.

M

MAGGIE MACKELLAR was born in 1973. She has published two books on the history of settlement in Australia and Canada and two memoirs, *When It Rains* and *How To Get There*. She now lives on the east coast of Tasmania with her partner and two children.

MARIJA PERIČIĆ is a writer based in Naarm/Melbourne. Her first novel *The Lost Pages*, won The Australian/Vogel's Literary Award 2017, and she was named a Sydney Morning Herald Best Young Australian novelist for this work. Her second novel, *Exquisite Corpse* was released in June 2023. Marija's short stories, essays and poetry have appeared in Meanjin, Southerly, Going Down Swinging, and The Big Issue Fiction Edition. Marija is currently completing a Creative Writing PhD at The University of Melbourne.

DR MARION STELL is an author and historian investigating the social and cultural history of sport. She is the author of a number of popular books, including the classic *Half the Race: A History of Australian Women in Sport*, as well as books on cricket, surfing, swimming, and soccer. She was the foundation curator of the exhibition 'Sportex' (at the AIS), 'Eternity' and 'Women with Attitude' (NMA). *The Bodyline Fix: How Women Saved Cricket* is her ninth book.

MARK EDELE is Hansen Professor in History and Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Melbourne. He is the author of six books on the history of the Soviet Union, most recently *Stalinism at War: The Soviet Union in World War II* (2021). He has worked in archives in Russia, Ukraine, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Germany and the United States. He teaches the histories of the Soviet Union, of World War II, and of dictatorship and democracy in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

MARK KENNY joined ANU's Australian Studies Institute in 2019 after a high-profile career in journalism culminating as chief political correspondent at the Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, and the Canberra Times. He was promoted to professor by ANU in 2020. He continues to write columns for the Canberra Times, Australian Book Review, and many other mastheads. Kenny hosts the Democracy Sausage podcast, and is a sought-after broadcast commentator on politics across the nation and internationally.

MATTHEW COLLOFF works at the Fenner School of Environment and Society at the Australian National University and before that was a research scientist at CSIRO for twenty-three years. He has had a distinguished career in the areas of climate change adaptation, conservation, ecosystem ecology and water policy reform. His most recent book, *Landscapes of Our Hearts*, won a NSW Premier's history award in 2021.



BIOGRAPHIES

PROFESSOR MEGAN DAVIS is the Pro Vice-Chancellor Society (PVCS) at UNSW Sydney. Professor Davis is also the Balnaves Chair of Constitutional Law, a UNSW Scientia Professor, a Professor of Law and Director of the Indigenous Law Centre UNSW Law. She is a Cobble Cobble woman of the Barunggam Nation and a renowned constitutional lawyer and public law expert, focusing on advocacy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Her work extends internationally, through roles at the United Nations, focusing on global Indigenous rights. Prof Davis is an Acting Commissioner of the NSW Land and Environment Court, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law, and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Social Sciences. She is also a member of the Australian Rugby League Commissioner.

MICHELLE ARROW is professor in Modern History at Macquarie University. She is the author of three books, including *Friday on Our Minds: Popular Culture in Australia Since 1945* (2009) and *The Seventies: The Personal, the Political and the Making of Modern Australia* (2019), which was awarded the 2020 Ernest Scott Prize for history. Her most recent book is the edited collection *Women and Whitlam: Revisiting the Revolution* (2023).

MICHELLE GRATTAN AO is one of Australia's most respected political journalists. She has been a member of the Canberra parliamentary press gallery for more than 40 years, during which time she has covered all the most significant stories in Australian politics. She was the former editor of The Canberra Times, was Political Editor of The Age and has been with the Australian Financial Review and The Sydney Morning Herald. Michelle currently has a dual role with an academic position at the University of Canberra and as Associate Editor (Politics) and Chief Political Correspondent at The Conversation.

PROFESSOR MICHELLE RYAN is a world-renowned gender equality expert, Professor of Social and Organisational Psychology, and the inaugural Director of the Global Institute for Women's Leadership at The Australian National University. Her work centres on understanding the psychological processes underlying workplace gender inequality, and designing and implementing innovative and evidence-based interventions to increase gender equality.

MIKE BOWERS is a photographer and has worked for 28 years in the Canberra press gallery. He is a regular commentator on ABC Radio and host of Talking Pictures on the ABC's Insiders. Mike has published four books, including Gallipoli Untold Stories and The Big Picture: Diary of a Nation, featuring 175 years of reportage from The Sydney Morning Herald.

MIRANDI RIWOE is the author of *Sunbirds*. Her novel, *Stone Sky Gold Mountain*, won the ARA Historical Novel Prize and the Queensland Literary Award and was shortlisted for the Stella Prize and longlisted for the Miles Franklin Award. Her novella *The Fish Girl* won Seizure's Viva la Novella and was shortlisted for the Stella Prize. Her short fiction and novellas can be found in the collection *The Burnished Sun*.

MONICA DUX is the author of two memoirs: *Lapsed: losing your religion is harder than it looks*, and *Things I Didn't Expect (when I was expecting)*. She is the co-author of *The Great Feminist Denial*, and editor of the anthology *Mothermorphosis*. Monica was a founding board member of the Stella Prize and the Feminist Writers Festival. From 2013 until 2022 she was a columnist for The Saturday Age. She is currently working on a third memoir and doing a PhD in Creative Practice at RMIT.

MURRAWAH JOHNSON is a Wiridi woman from North and Central Queensland, where the Wiridi/Wiridi language dialect ties to the broader Birri Gubba Nation. Murrawah also has ties to Kanggalou, Kullillli, Iman, Mununjali and Bigambul Peoples. She holds ties to Wangan and Jagalingou country as a Wiridi Traditional Owner. Murrawah has worked on Aboriginal rights litigation in the Federal Court, Supreme Court of Queensland and the Land Court of Queensland; lobbying State and Federal governments, and international financial corporations; submits to UN agencies and rapporteurs on human rights breaches; and building research and policy agendas. She also works on community-level Indigenous and climate justice strategies; and has facilitated First Nations solidarities in CANZUS countries.

N

NICOLE ABADÉE is the books writer for *Good Weekend*, out on Saturdays in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*, and is also a regular contributor to their much-loved *Two of Us* column. She has a segment, 'Between the Covers' every second Friday on ABC Sydney where she talks books with Josh Szeps on his *Afternoons* show and she appears regularly as an interviewer at writers' festivals and literary events.

NIKI SAVVA is an award winning journalist, author and political commentator. She is a columnist with The Age and the SMH and appears regularly on ABC's Insiders. She has written four books and in 2016 she received a lifetime achievement award from the Melbourne Press Club "for her outstanding coverage of Australian politics as a reporter, columnist and author." First was a memoir, *So Greek, confessions of a conservative leftie*. In 2017 her best-selling book *The Road to Ruin, how Tony Abbott and Peta Credlin destroyed their own government*, won the Australian Book Industry Award for the best non-fiction book of the year. In 2019 she wrote another bestseller, *Plots and Prayers, Malcolm Turnbull's demise and Scott Morrison's ascension. Bulldozed, Scott Morrison's fall and Anthony Albanese's rise*, is also a best seller, winning two prestigious awards, one from ABIA and the other from BookPeople for best non-fiction book 2023.

O

OM DHUNGEL is a trained telecommunications engineer turned 'Inner Engineer'. A former refugee from Bhutan and an author of the newly released book: *Bhutan to Blacktown – Losing everything and finding Australia*, Om Dhungel combines his cross-sectoral professional expertise and rich lived experience to help shift thinking and drive transformational change. A Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, he serves on different Boards and Committees including the NSW Health Ministry and NSW Police. Amongst many other accomplishments, Om is a recipient of the 2016 NSW Premier's Multicultural Community Medal for Lifetime Achievement.

P

PAUL DALGARNO is the author of four books: *And You May Find Yourself* (2015); *Poly* (2020); *A Country of Eternal Light* (2023); and *Prudish Nation* (2023).

PETER PAPATHANASIOU is an author of four books and has published many articles in mainstream media and literary journals. His first book in 2019 was a memoir about his international adoption; since then, he has authored a series of crime novels that have been published and translated internationally. Peter is currently working on his next novel and also screenwriting with filmmakers as his books are adapted to the screen.

PETER TESCH retired from the Australian Public Service in August 2022 after more than 35 years in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Department of Defence, where he was Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy, and Industry. His DFAT roles included: Ambassador to the Russian Federation (2016-2019); Ambassador to Germany (2009-2013); Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations (2002-2005); Ambassador to Kazakhstan (1997-1999); and Third Secretary, Moscow (1989-1991).

POLLY HEMMING is Director of the Australia Institute's Climate & Energy program. She has extensive experience working in policy, marketing and engagement roles in both not-for-profit and public sectors. Her current work focuses on carbon and environmental markets, climate integrity and greenwashing. Having previously led the development of a government eco-label recognising voluntary climate action by the private sector, she maintains a strong interest in non-state climate ambition and the policies and regulation that interact with this. Polly's previous roles have included academic publishing, remote Indigenous education, refugee advocacy and science communication, bringing a range of perspectives and experiences to her public policy research.

R

RACHAEL MOGAN MCINTOSH is a mum and crisis counsellor from the south coast of NSW. Her writing has appeared in publications across Australia, France and the USA. Rachael loves books, baths, coffee, podcasts, Below Deck Mediterranean and Terry's Chocolate Orange; consuming them simultaneously whenever possible. *Pardon My French* is her first book. Her second, *Mothering Heights* will be published by Affirm in April 2024.

ROBBIE ARNOTT'S acclaimed debut, *Flames* (2018), won a *Sydney Morning Herald* Best Young Novelist award and a Tasmanian Premier's Literary Prize, and was shortlisted for a Victorian Premier's Literary Award, a New South Wales Premier's Literary Award, a Queensland Literary Award, the Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction and the Not the Booker Prize. His follow-up, *The Rain Heron* (2020), won the Age Book of the Year award, and was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award, the ALS Gold Medal, the Voss Literary Prize and an Adelaide Festival Award. He lives in Hobart.

ROBERT GOTT is the author of 95 books of non-fiction for children, and eight historical crime novels (set in Australia in the 1940s) for adults. Two of these, *Amongst the Dead* and *The Holiday Murders* have been shortlisted for the Ned Kelly Award for Best Crime Fiction. He is the creator of the cartoon *The Adventures of Naked Man*, which ran weekly for 19 years in 'The Age' and appeared also in three newspapers in New Zealand. His latest novel is *Naked Ambition*, a comedy about politics, religion and the Archibald Prize.

ROD CAMPBELL is the research director at the Australia Institute. An economist by background, Rod's work focuses on the economics of mining and energy. He has appeared as an expert witness in major mining court cases and has published numerous landmark reports and peer-reviewed articles. Rod and his research have appeared in media as diverse as the ABC, Guardian, News Limited papers, the Allan Jones Show, Sky after Dark, and Chinese Government television.



S

SALLY PRYOR Born-and-bred Canberra, Sally is features editor at The Canberra Times, where she sifts through large piles of books every week. She has worked there for more than a decade.

SAMANTHA MAIDEN is the political editor for news.com.au. She won a Walkley Award for her coverage of federal politics and Scott Morrison's secret holiday to Hawaii in 2020. She has covered federal politics for more than 20 years, including for The Australian and NewsCorp's Sunday papers. She is a regular guest on the ABC's Insiders and The Project. Her first book, *Party Animals*, was published in 2020, and her second book, *Cause and Solutions*, is forthcoming in September 2022.

SARAH SMITH has had a long career in TV drama as a creator, writer, producer, and showrunner. Her many credits include *Amazing Grace*, *Bite Club*, *Love Child*, *House of Bond*, *The Killing Field*, *Winter*, *Dripping in Chocolate*, *Wild Boys* and *McLeod's Daughters*. She is currently developing new shows and writing her second novel.

SASHA KUTABAH SARAGO is a Wadjanbarra Yidinji, Jirrbal and African-American woman. A former model, Sasha grew frustrated by the invisibility of multicultural women in fashion and media. In 2011, she founded Ascension, Australia's first digital lifestyle platform for women of colour. As a speaker, filmmaker and commentator, Sasha raises awareness around culture, diversity and equity in the business, media and lifestyle sectors. Sasha's TEDx talk, 'The (de)colonising of beauty', was selected as TED.com 2021 Editor's Choice and has fuelled her passion for redefining beauty and sparking conversations around femininity and womanhood from a First Nations woman's perspective.

STAN GRANT is a Wiradjuri and Kamilaroi man. A journalist since 1987, he has worked for the ABC, SBS, the Seven Network and Sky News Australia. From 2001 to 2012 he worked for GNN as an anchor and senior correspondent in Asia and the Middle East. As a journalist, he has received a string of prestigious international and Australian awards. In 2015, he published his bestselling book *Talking to My Country*, which won the Walkley Book Award, and he also won a Walkley Award for his coverage of Indigenous affairs. In 2016 he was appointed to the Referendum Council on Indigenous recognition. Stan is now Professor of Global Affairs at Griffith University and International Affairs Analyst at ABC.

STEPHEN ROMEI is a former literary editor of The Australian and a current film critic for the same paper.

STEPH LENTZ is a former advertising writer and secondary school teacher. She came to public attention in 2021 after she was sacked from her job as a teacher because of her sexuality. Steph is based in Sydney.

STEVE LEWIS is the driving force behind the Canberra Writers Festival and a best-selling author whose novels inspired the global smash TV hit *Secret City*. A former senior journalist in the Canberra press gallery, Steve now works as a political and media consultant and is Vice President of the National Press Club. Steve is determined to put Canberra on the global map as a top destination for high-quality and high-rating political drama.

T

TARA CALABY lives on Boon Wurrung country in Gippsland, Victoria with her wife and far too many books. She is currently a PhD candidate at La Trobe University, researching the social worlds of women in Victorian lunatic asylums. Tara's debut novel, *House of Longing*, was published by Text Publishing earlier this year, and her short fiction has appeared in numerous anthologies and journals. In her free time, she enjoys playing video games, attempting to learn Danish, and patting other people's dogs.

THEODORE ELL studied literature and modern languages in Sydney and in Italy. For several years he worked as an editor and translator and co-founded the international journal *Contrappasso*. From 2018 to 2021 Ell lived in Lebanon, accompanying his wife on a diplomatic posting. Ell's essay 'Façades of Lebanon,' about the Beirut port explosion, won the 2021 Calibre Essay Prize. His poetry collection *Beginning in Sight* won the 2022 Anne Elder Award. He is an honorary lecturer in literature at the ANU.

THOMAS KENEALLY was born in 1935 and his first novel was published in 1964. Since then he has written a considerable number of novels and non-fiction works. His novels include *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith*, *Schindler's List* and *The People's Train*. He has won the Miles Franklin Award, the Booker Prize, the Los Angeles Times Prize, the Mondello International Prize and has been made a Literary Lion of the New York Public Library, a Fellow of the American Academy, recipient of the University of California gold medal, and is now the subject of a 55 cent Australian stamp.

TRACEY KIRKLAND has spent more than 30 years writing for broadcast and print. During COVID, she was the ABC's national newsgathering editor and is now the continuous news editor for ABC News Channel.

TRACEY SPICER AM is a multiple Walkley Award winning author, journalist and broadcaster. The inaugural national convener of Women in Media, Tracey is one of the most sought-after keynote speakers and emcees in Australia. In 2019 she was named the NSW Premier's Woman of the Year, accepted the Sydney Peace Prize alongside Tarana Burke for the Me Too movement, and won the national award for Excellence in Women's Leadership through Women & Leadership Australia. In 2018, Tracey was chosen as one of the Australian Financial Review's 100 Women of Influence.

V

VIDYA MADABUSHI is an Indian writer living in Sydney. She has an MA in Creative Writing from the University of Sydney, and her first novel, *Bystanders*, was published in India in 2015. *Bystanders* was shortlisted for the Tibor Jones South Asia Prize, and a previous version was longlisted for the Australian Vogel Award. In 2018, Vidya received the Writing NSW Grant for Fiction for the creation of this novel. *The Days Topped Over* is her Australian debut.

VIRGINIA HAUSSEGGER AM is an award-winning journalist and gender equity advocate. Her extensive media career spans 30 years, in which Virginia has reported from around the globe, for primetime current affair programs on Channel 7, the 9 Network and ABC TV. She anchored the ABC's flagship TV News in Canberra for 15 years. Virginia is Deputy Chair of the news media think tank, PIJI, the Public Interest Journalism Initiative; and member of the Yindymarra Institute for Democracy Advisory Group, Charles Sturt University. In 2019 Virginia was named ACT Australian of the Year. Virginia is currently working on a book examining feminist movements as witnessed through a media lens, to be published in 2025.

W

WAHIDULLAH WAISSI is a career diplomat who represented the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as Ambassador to the Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji since March 2017. Despite the political upheaval in Afghanistan since August 2021, Ambassador Waissi persists in fulfilling his diplomatic responsibilities, operating outside the realm of Taliban influence.

WILLIAM MALEY is Emeritus Professor of Diplomacy at The Australian National University, and a Member of the Order of Australia, a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of International Affairs. His books include *Rescuing Afghanistan* (2006), *What is a Refugee?* (2016), *Transition in Afghanistan: Hope, Despair and the Limits of Statebuilding* (2018), *The Afghanistan Wars* (2021), and *Diplomacy, Communication, and Peace: Selected Essays* (2021).

Y

YASMIN SMITH is an editor, writer and poet of South Sea Islander, Kabi Kabi, Northern Cheyenne and English heritage. Beginning her publishing career at the black&write! Indigenous Writing and Editing Project, she has worked across literary fiction, nonfiction, children's books and poetry. Yasmin was shortlisted for the Judith Wright Poetry Prize in 2020, with her most recent work published in Australian Poetry Journal's *Best of Australian Poems 2022*. She is currently an editor at University of Queensland Press where her work includes overseeing their groundbreaking First Nations Classics series.

Z

ZEYNAB GAMIELDIEN is the inaugural winner of the 2022 Westwords/Ultimo Prize. Her work has been shortlisted for the Rachel Funari Prize for Fiction and featured in publications such as the Sydney Morning Herald's Daily Life section and the Australian Muslim Times. *The Scope of Permissibility* is her first novel.

Pilot Light Founder and Director **ZOE COYLE**, is an author, leadership facilitator, and communications training leader, with experience that spans 20 years. Zoe is globally regarded in the corporate, government and not-for-profit sectors for her work in creating transformational change. She is one of Asia Pacific's leading facilitators of Dr Brené Brown's Dare to Lead™ Programme and a sought after public speaker on leadership and human connection.

ZOYA PATEL is the author of *No Country Woman, a memoir of race, religion and feminism*, and *Once A Stranger*, a novel about family, tradition and loss. She is co-host of The Guardian's Book It In podcast, and the Margin Notes podcast alongside Yen Eriksen. Zoya is a columnist for the RiotACT, and regular books critic and writer for The Guardian, Canberra Times, SBS Voices, Refinery29 and more. Zoya has won numerous awards for her writing and editing, and she was a 2020 judge for the Stella Prize and Chair of the 2021 Stella Prize judging panel.

AT A GLANCE

EVENT PLANNER

● SPECIAL EVENT ● FREE EVENT ● LITERARY LUNCH

WED 16 AUG	EVENT	VENUE	PAGE
6.30 PM – 10.30 PM	KITCHEN ROYALTY ●	National Museum of Australia Gandel Atrium	4

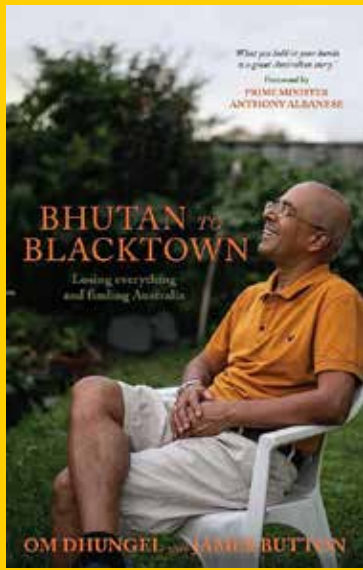
THU 17 AUG	EVENT	VENUE	PAGE
7.45 AM – 9.30 AM	WHITHER THE LIBERAL PARTY? ●	National Press Club of Australia	4
11.30 AM – 1.30 PM	HOW MEN CAME TO RULE ●	National Press Club of Australia	4
11.30 AM – 12.30 PM	TIME AFTER TIME ●	4 National Circuit	4
12.30 PM – 2.30 PM	SHARE A MEAL WITH EDWINA PRESTON ●	Muse	4
1.00 PM – 2.00 PM	TEST TUBE TRAILBLAZERS ●	4 National Circuit	5
1.00 PM – 2.00 PM	PORTRAIT OF A SCANDAL	National Gallery of Australia James Fairfax Theatre	5
6.00 PM – 7.30 PM	FEARED AND REVERED: RADICALS, REBELS AND REFORMERS ●	National Museum of Australia Gandel Atrium	5
6.00 PM – 7.00 PM	INSIDERS LIVE ●	National Press Club of Australia	5

FRI 18 AUG	EVENT	VENUE	PAGE
7.45 AM – 9.30 AM	FLAWED HERO ●	National Press Club of Australia	5
11.30 AM – 1.30 PM	KEEPING HOPE ALIVE ●	National Press Club of Australia	6
11.30 AM – 12.30 PM	THE WOMEN WHO SAVED CRICKET ●	4 National Circuit	6
12.30 PM – 2.30 PM	SHARE A MEAL WITH MAGGIE MACKELLAR ●	Muse	6
1.00 PM – 2.00 PM	LIFE AFTER LIFE ●	4 National Circuit	6
1.00 PM – 2.00 PM	THE PERILS OF MUSEHOOD ●	National Gallery of Australia James Fairfax Theatre	6
6.00 PM – 7.00 PM	FEARED AND REVERED: POWER AND POSSIBILITY ●	National Museum of Australia Gandel Atrium	7
6.00 PM – 7.00 PM	WHAT'S NEXT? THE CHANGING FACE OF JOURNALISM ●	Museum of Australian Democracy King's Hall	7

SAT 19 AUG	EVENT	VENUE	PAGE
10.00 AM – 11.00 AM	TIME FOR A RECKONING	Kambri Cultural Centre Manning Clark Hall	7
10.00 AM – 11.00 AM	AFTER THE FALL	Museum of Australian Democracy Members' Dining Room	7
10.30 AM – 11.30 AM	FATES, FURIES AND POWER NUNS	Kambri Cultural Centre Cinema	7
10.30 AM – 11.30 AM	OFF CAMPUS	Kambri Cultural Centre T2	8
10.30 AM – 11.30 AM	PERSONAL SCORE	Museum of Australian Democracy Senate Chamber	8

SAT 19 AUG	EVENT	VENUE	PAGE
12.00 PM – 1.00 PM	THE JOYFUL GENIUS OF BLUEY	Kambri Cultural Centre Manning Clark Hall	8
12.00 PM – 2.00 PM	THE LIBRARY OF MY LIFE ●	Kambri Cultural Centre aMBUSH Gallery	8
12.00 PM – 1.00 PM	SEIZING THE MOMENT	Museum of Australian Democracy Members' Dining Room	8
12.30 PM – 1.30 PM	INVINCIBLE SPIRIT	Kambri Cultural Centre Cinema	9
12.30 PM – 1.30 PM	A WOMAN OF THE WORLD	Kambri Cultural Centre T2	9
12.30 PM – 1.30 PM	POLITICAL LIVES	Museum of Australian Democracy Senate Chamber	9
2.00 PM – 3.00 PM	CANBERRA'S BIGGEST BOOKCLUB	Kambri Cultural Centre Manning Clark Hall	9
2.00 PM – 3.00 PM	PUTIN'S WAR	Museum of Australian Democracy Members' Dining Room	9
2.30 PM – 3.30 PM	BODY POLITICS	Kambri Cultural Centre Cinema	10
2.30 PM – 3.30 PM	THE HUMMINGBIRD EFFECT	Kambri Cultural Centre T2	10
2.30 PM – 3.30 PM	VIRTUE SCEPTICISM	Museum of Australian Democracy Senate Chamber	10
4.00 PM – 5.00 PM	CELEBRATING THE CLASSICS	Kambri Cultural Centre Manning Clark Hall	10
4.00 PM – 5.00 PM	INDELIBLE CITY	Museum of Australian Democracy Members' Dining Room	10
4.30 PM – 5.30 PM	THE QUIET POWER OF ATTENTION	Kambri Cultural Centre Cinema	11
4.30 PM – 5.30 PM	THE LURE OF THE PAST	Kambri Cultural Centre T2	11
4.30 PM – 5.30 PM	ORE STRUCK	Museum of Australian Democracy Senate Chamber	11
6.00 PM – 7.00 PM	FEARED AND REVERED: MEGAN DAVIS IN CONVERSATION WITH CLARE WRIGHT	National Museum of Australia Gandel Atrium	11
6.00 PM – 7.30 PM	THE SPARROWS OF KABUL ●	Museum of Australian Democracy Members' Dining Room	11

SUN 20 AUG	EVENT	VENUE	PAGE
10.00 AM – 11.00 AM	KICKING THE DOOR DOWN	Kambri Cultural Centre Manning Clark Hall	12
10.00 AM – 11.00 AM	FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER: GRAPPLING WITH AI	Museum of Australian Democracy Members' Dining Room	12
10.30 AM – 11.30 AM	A JEWEL OF A BOOK	Kambri Cultural Centre Cinema	12
10.30 AM – 11.30 AM	VENGEANCE IS MINE	Kambri Cultural Centre T2	12
10.30 AM – 11.30 AM	NAKED AMBITION	Museum of Australian Democracy Senate Chamber	12
12.00 PM – 1.00 PM	BHUTAN TO BLACKTOWN	Kambri Cultural Centre Manning Clark Hall	13
12.00 PM – 2.00 PM	MY LIFE IN STORIES ●	Kambri Cultural Centre aMBUSH Gallery	13
12.00 PM – 1.00 PM	HARD TO BEAR	Museum of Australian Democracy Members' Dining Room	13
12.30 PM – 1.30 PM	UPROOTED AND UPROARIOUS	Kambri Cultural Centre Cinema	14
12.30 PM – 1.30 PM	DARK POWER	Kambri Cultural Centre T2	13
12.30 PM – 1.30 PM	PRUDISH AND SHRINKING	Museum of Australian Democracy Senate Chamber	14
2.00 PM – 3.00 PM	INTO THE WILD	Kambri Cultural Centre Manning Clark Hall	14
2.00 PM – 3.00 PM	TAKE THE LEAD	Museum of Australian Democracy Members' Dining Room	14
2.30 PM – 3.30 PM	KEEPING THE FAITH	Kambri Cultural Centre Cinema	14
2.30 PM – 3.30 PM	HOME COMING	Kambri Cultural Centre T2	15
2.30 PM – 3.30 PM	THE GOOD DEATH	Museum of Australian Democracy Senate Chamber	15
4.00 PM – 5.00 PM	HEAD AND HEART	Kambri Cultural Centre Manning Clark Hall	15
4.00 PM – 5.00 PM	POLITICAL EXECUTIONS AND SECRET POLICE	Museum of Australian Democracy Members' Dining Room	15
4.30 PM – 5.30 PM	ICE DREAMING	Kambri Cultural Centre Cinema	16
4.30 PM – 5.30 PM	BLOODTHIRSTY BRILLIANCE	Kambri Cultural Centre T2	16
4.30 PM – 5.30 PM	ADVANCE AUSTRALIA WHERE?	Museum of Australian Democracy Senate Chamber	16
6.00 PM – 7.30 PM	CLOSING NIGHT: LIGHT BULB MOMENT ●	Kambri Cultural Centre Manning Clark Hall	16



BHUTAN TO BLACKTOWN

OM DHUNGEL IN CONVERSATION WITH FRAN KELLY

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
12.00 PM – 1.00 PM
MANNING CLARK HALL
KAMBRI CULTURAL CENTRE (ANU)

“I lost my possessions, my salary, my status, my career, my country. And in that fall, I gained everything.”

Bhutan is known as the land of Gross National Happiness, a Buddhist Shangri-la hidden in the Himalayas. But in the late 1980s, Bhutan waged a brutal ethnic-cleansing campaign against its citizens of Nepali ancestry, including Om Dhungel and his family.

Bhutan to Blacktown tells Om Dhungel's remarkable story — his journey from a remote village to a senior position in the Bhutanese Civil Service, to life as a human rights activist in Nepal and, eventually, to his work as a community leader in Blacktown, western Sydney. Every step prepared Om for the central role he would play in settling more than 5000 Bhutanese refugees, in one of the most successful refugee initiatives in Australia's history.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.