

**CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER  
LIVE STREAMING SCHEDULE**

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**WEEK 2022**

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**7 - 10 MARCH 2022**

# MONDAY 7 MARCH

## The Artful Dickens

John Mullan

9:30AM



*LIVE STREAMED TO THE GARDEN FROM LONDON, UK*  
"What is so good about Dickens' novels?" asks John Mullan – and then proceeds to answer in thirteen essays of exquisite prose. From Dickens' evocation of the senses, particularly taste and smell, to his inventiveness with names; from the melodrama of Little Dorrit to the high-mindedness of Hard Times, Mullan's Dickens emerges as a shapeshifter and conjuror extraordinaire. Whether you know your Twist from your Copperfield, or you're a complete Dickens newbie, The Artful Dickens is a riveting read and brings a welcome focus to one of the English language's greatest minds.

**Chair: Linda Jaivin**

## Growing Up In Australia

Anita Heiss, Benjamin Law, Fiona Murphey and Alice Pung

10:45AM



In 2008, Black Inc published Growing Up Asian in Australia, a collection of stories from Asian Australians about what it was like to grow up as an outsider in your own country. The Growing Up series has been entertaining, informing and inspiring readers across the country ever since. To celebrate the release of a compilation anthology, the editors of the Asian, Queer and Aboriginal editions, and a contributor to the Disabled edition, come together to celebrate the diversity of our nation, captured so movingly and delightfully in this important series.

**Chair: Anton Enus**

## Compounding Damage

Michael Bradley, Rachel Doyle and Saxon Mullins

12:00PM



Events of the last year have brought a renewed and urgent focus on the experiences of women seeking redress after experiencing harassment or assault. With exhausting regularity, the perpetrator is protected at the expense of the victim, with the justice system and corporate culture accused of exacerbating trauma. In their books System Failure and Power and Consent, Michael Bradley and Rachel Doyle draw on their legal experience to highlight the flaws in our current laws. Advocate and survivor Saxon Mullins was instrumental in changing the definition of consent in NSW.

**Chair: Sophie Black**

# MOUNT GAMBIER LIBRARY MULTIFUNCTION ROOM

## The Luminous Solution

Charlotte Wood

1:15PM



In her latest book, *The Luminous Solution: Creativity, Resilience and the Inner Life*, Charlotte Wood shares the insights into creativity she has gained over her long career in literature, paying close attention to her own mind, to the world around her and to the way she and others work. Her message is powerful: "A rich inner life is not just the preserve of the arts. The joys, fears and profound self-discoveries of creativity ... I believe to be the birthright of every person on this earth."

**Chair: Kerryn Goldsworthy**

## Australia's War On Whistleblowers

Bernard Collaery, David  
McBride and Jennifer Robinson

2:30PM



Australia's recent treatment of high-profile whistleblowers has been shockingly punitive. Three lawyers speak from intimate experience. Bernard Collaery has faced an ongoing four-year ordeal for representing Witness K, a former ASIS officer who alleged the Commonwealth illegally spied on impoverished neighbour Timor Leste for private commercial gain. David McBride faces life in prison after the Government elected to pursue charges against him for revealing the allegations of war crimes in Afghanistan that led to the Brereton Report. Jennifer Robinson represents Wikileaks founder and abandoned Australian citizen Julian Assange.

**Chair: Andrew Fowler**

## Continuous Creation: The Poetry of Les Murray

Peter Carroll

3:45PM



The late Les Murray was our unofficial poet laureate – irascible, generous, thoughtful, refractory. His poetry was so influential it rewrote our vernacular. He moves us as he is effortlessly profound. In this special event, veteran of the Australian stage Peter Carroll performs a broad survey of Les's verse, from his early work in the Sydney years to selections from the newly released posthumous *Continuous Creation*. Joseph Brodsky described Les as "quite simply, the one by whom the language lives." In this presentation by another of our national treasures, the language lives on.

**Introduced by Peter Goldsworthy**

# TUESDAY 8 MARCH

## My Body Keeps Your Secrets

Lucia Osborne-Crowley

9:30AM



"Despite our best efforts," writes Lucia Osborne-Crowley, "the body finds a way to express what the mind cannot." The author of *I Choose Elena* returns with *My Body Keeps Your Secrets* in which she interviews other women and non-binary people from diverse backgrounds about the impacts of their respective traumas on their bodies, interweaving the results with rigorous research and her own story. She explores the weight of shame and the process of reclaiming a whole self in this deeply empathetic and intelligent book.

**Chair: Sophie Black**

## Bad Energy

Ian Lowe and Jeremy Moss

10:45AM



Two brilliant books concerned with the morality intrinsic to energy policy. In *Long Half-Life*, Emeritus Professor of Science, Technology and Society Ian Lowe demolishes nuclear energy, arguing it is indivisible from the industry's role in weaponry, and that the issue of waste has never been solved. Political philosopher Jeremy Moss's *Carbon Justice* posits we have a responsibility to recognise and combat the moral harm done by the mining and exporting of our fossil fuels. Far from being a minor contributor to climate change, he contends, our massive exports of fossil fuels make us one of its key drivers.

**Chair: Natasha Mitchell**

## Good International Citizenship: The Case For Decency

Gareth Evans

12:00PM



As our Foreign Minister from 1988 – 1996 and President of the Brussels based International Crisis Group thereafter, Gareth Evans is uniquely qualified to discuss the importance of good international citizenship in our interconnected world. Outlining four key tenets to assess a country's record – foreign aid generosity, reaction to conflicts and their consequences, response to human rights violations, and contribution to global crises – he finds Australia wanting on all of them. His essay is a call for change and decency in the way we engage with the world.

**Chair: Kerry O'Brien**

# THE RIDDOCH ARTS & CULTURAL CENTRE

## MEDIA & VR SUITE

7 ½

Christos Tsiolkas

1:15PM



In Christos Tsiolkas's first foray into autofiction, *7½*, his protagonist Christos declares he is tired of the lofty ambitions many novelists hold for their writing on politics, sexuality, race, history, gender, morality or the future. "All of them now bore me," he declares. Instead, he will write about beauty. His powerful memories of the past, the strange present in which he tries to write – surrounded by the magnificently evoked natural world – and the novel on which he embarks are masterfully woven together into one compelling whole.

**Chair: Michael Williams**

Wild Abandon

Emily Bitto

2:30PM



Following heartbreak, self-absorbed young Melbourne boy Will flees to New York in search of adventure and forgetting. When wild hedonism doesn't help, and with his visa and money fast running out, Will finds himself in Littleproud, Ohio, working for Wayne Gage, Vietnam veteran, amateur shaman and collector of exotic animals. Emily Bitto's follow up to her Stella Award-winning *The Strays* is a clever, complex tale, full of opulent writing and meditations on human nature and our relationship with the natural world.

**Chair: Claire Nichols**

A Bloody Good Rant

Thomas Keneally

3:45PM



For over fifty years, Tom Keneally has been writing about everything that makes us tick – and the contentious, disputed land that is 'Australia'. In his new collection of thought-pieces, he moves seamlessly between deep questions of our past and moments of private revelation. *A Bloody Good Rant* is exactly what it says it is – a bit of ratbaggery, some judicious hindsight, and a generous serve of wisdom. The author of *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith*, *Schindler's Ark* and *Corporal Hitler's Pistol* gets a few things off his chest.

**Chair: Angela Savage**

# WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH

## The Legend of Charmian Clift

Tanya Dalziell, Paul Genoni and Polly Samson

9:30AM



*POLLY SAMSON LIVE STREAMED FROM LONDON, UK*

To celebrate the new edition of her classic texts, *Mermaid Singing and Peel Me a Lotus*, Polly Samson (A Theatre for Dreamers) and Tanya Dalziell and Paul Genoni (*Half the Perfect World: Writers, Dreamers and Drifters on Hydra, 1955-1964*) discuss the life and literary legacy of Charmian Clift. Glorious accounts of the bohemian life Charmian, husband George Johnston and their family led in Greece, these two books encapsulate the vivid, passionate and outrageously talented woman who was years ahead of her time.

**Chair: Sophie Cunningham**

## Signs and Wonders: Dispatches From a Time of Beauty and Loss

Delia Falconer

10:45AM



"Is it true the world's going to die soon?" the young daughter of Walkley Award-winning writer Delia Falconer asks her. Delia struggles for an answer. This exquisite series of essays from one of our finest writers contemplates the way climate change is impacting not just our natural environment but our culture. They movingly capture a natural world infused with a deep sense of loss, and intimations of doom, along with Delia's profound sadness at the damage we have wrought on our wounded world.

**Chair: Kerryn Goldsworthy**

## Violeta

Isabelle Allende

12:00PM



*LIVE STREAMED TO THE GARDEN FROM CALIFORNIA, USA*

Literary superstar Isabel Allende's latest novel is a family saga bookended by two pandemics – the Spanish flu and the COVID-19 coronavirus. 100-year-old Violeta del Valle recounts her life story to her grandson in a letter, a life marked by the dramatic events of the 20th Century. Encompassing war, the Great Depression, the rise and fall of tyrants, and the fight for women's rights, Violeta is an extraordinary story about a passionate woman caught up in the grand sweep of history. It is another epic tale, both inspiring and emotional, from one of the biggest selling authors of our time.

**Chair: Claire Nichols**



# MOUNT GAMBIER LIBRARY MULTIFUNCTION ROOM

## Keeping It Tense

J.P. Pomare and Christian White

1:15PM



When his debut crime novel, *The Nowhere Child*, became a runaway blockbuster, Christian White's life was transformed. More success followed with another bestseller, a feature film and a Netflix TV series. His latest book is *Wild Place*, set in the Australian bayside suburbia of 1989 when a teenager goes missing. J.P. Pomare is following in Christian's footsteps, with his literary thrillers winning awards and legions of fans, and being optioned for screen adaptation. His most recent novel is *The Last Guests*, a page-turning tale of suspense exploring ideas of surveillance and voyeurism.

**Chair: David Sly**

## Love Stories

Trent Dalton

2:30PM



The genesis of Trent Dalton's *Love Stories* was a blue Olivetti typewriter and a street corner in the Brisbane CBD. After inheriting the typewriter from the mother of a friend, Trent took to the streets and solicited real stories from passers-by: "Sentimental writer collecting love stories. Do you have one to share?" The result is a warm, poignant, funny and deeply humane book that weaves the many stories that were shared about love in all its guises with generous memories of Trent's own special moments.

**Chair: Ashley Hay**

## The Reckoning

Jess Hill and Grace Tame

3:45PM



2021 was a year of reckoning. When Grace Tame accepted the Australian of the Year Award in January 2021, she exhorted survivors of sexual violence, long silenced by shame and law, to use their voices and "make some noise". They've been doing just that ever since. Grace and Jess Hill, author of *Quarterly Essay 84: The Reckoning: How #MeToo is Changing Australia*, discuss the dramatic events of the last fifteen months, their impact on contemporary politics, and how the fight for women's justice has reshaped the nation.

**Chair: Jo Dyer**

# THURSDAY 10 MARCH

**Fulfillment: Winning and Losing in One-Click America**

Alec MacGillis

**9:30AM**



*LIVE STREAMED TO THE GARDEN FROM BALTIMORE, USA*

There is a price to be paid for convenience. The one-click wonder of Amazon comes at a cost. In *Fulfillment: Winning and Losing in One-Click America*, Alec MacGillis sets out to explore what that cost is for the “America that fell in the company’s lengthening shadow”, namely the places where Amazon’s influence proved pernicious. Alec tells a chilling but utterly gripping dystopian tale of the pervasive destructive impact of Amazon on American life and many of its cities.

**Chair: Royce Kurlmelovs**

*Supported by the Consulate of the United States.*

**Mortals: How the Fear of Death Shaped Human Society**

Rachel Menzies  
and Ross Menzies

**10:45AM**



This affirming book is less about death than how to counteract the fear of it and live a better life. Psychologists Rachel and Ross Menzies examine the many ways humans grapple with the dread of our demise, from the good, such as enduring art, to the bad, such as rampant consumerism and overpopulation. Insightful, illuminating and generous, *Mortals: How the Fear of Death Shaped Society* gives us the tools to overcome the fear of our own mortality – death anxiety – to enjoy our life while we have it.

**Chair: Rick Sarre**

**Grift, Lies and Influence**

Fiona McLeod and  
Michael West

**12:00PM**



As we lurch from one scandal of misspent public money to the next, transparency and accountability in public life have never seemed rarer. Fiona McLeod is Chair of the Accountability Round Table. Her book, *Easy Lies and Influence*, documents how community interests have been undermined. Through his fiercely independent news site, Michael West is known for following the money, highlighting those corporations exercising insidious power over our democracy. They ask: where have we gone wrong and what should we do now?

**Chair: Royce Kurlmelovs**



# THE RIDDOCH ARTS & CULTURAL CENTRE

## MEDIA & VR SUITE

### The Magician

Colm Tóibín

1:15PM



*LIVE STREAMED TO THE GARDEN FROM LOS ANGELES, USA*

From *The Heather Blazing* to *The Master*, Colm Tóibín is acclaimed for his skill at entering the mind of the writer. In *The Magician*, he turns his perspicacious eye to Thomas Mann. Outwardly genteel, inwardly tormented, cautious yet impatient, suspicious of the powerful but welcomed in their homes, Colm's Mann is a writer who withdraws from a world losing its sanity but finds himself dragged back into the mess of the times. Desire, exile, family – the themes are ambitious, but in Colm's deft hands, a superbly crafted epic has emerged.

**Chair: Caroline Baum**

### Into Her Own Hands

Jane Caro and Debra Oswald

2:30PM



The strong female protagonists in Jane Caro's *The Mother* and Debra Oswald's *The Family Doctor* take matters into their own hands. Debra's Paula is a dedicated suburban GP, devastated by the murder of a friend and her children by their estranged husband and father. Jane's Miriam is a successful businesswoman whose life is upended when her daughter's marriage turns sour. These provocative, urgent novels brim with fury, grief and deep love as they explore what happens when you are tested to the limit, and ask when is it justified to fight fire with fire?

**Chair: Ashley Hay**

### History, Storytelling and the Collective Imagination

Tom Griffiths and Bruce Pascoe

3:45PM



With its descriptions of the sophisticated economic and socio-political livelihoods of many First Nations' communities, Bruce Pascoe's 2014 multi-award-winning *Dark Emu* called for a reconsideration of pre-colonial Aboriginal Australia. Confronting criticism from some who reject its portrayal of Aboriginal agriculturalists, and following the COVID-cancellation of their anticipated Melbourne Writers' Festival session, Bruce and eminent historian Tom Griffiths (*The Art of Time Travel*) come together to consider the productive conversation emerging around Australia's understanding of Aboriginal histories, and discuss the best way to deepen our shared knowledge of our nation's vital first stories.

**Co-presented with Melbourne Writers' Festival**

# NOTES

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City of  
Mount Gambier

**\* Program is correct at time of print,  
subject to change via *Adelaide  
Writers Festival*.**

**Mount Gambier Library**

6 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier

Phone 08 8721 2540

[www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au/library](http://www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au/library)

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**The Riddoch Arts & Cultural Centre**

1 Bay Road, Mount Gambier

Phone 08 8721 2563

[theriddoch.com.au](http://theriddoch.com.au)

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