

**CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER
LIVE STREAMING SCHEDULE**

ADELAIDE

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WRITERS'

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WEEK 2023

4 - 9 MARCH 2023

MONDAY 6 MARCH

9:30AM

LITERARY LIVES

Bernadette Brennan, Heather Clark, Samantha Rose Hill, Hermione Lee, Sean O'Beirne and Brigitta Olubas



HERMIONE LEE LIVE STREAMED FROM LONDON

According to one critic: "Biography is a very definite region bounded on the north by history, on the south by fiction, on the east by obituary and on the west by tedium." Is there truth in this statement? Catriona Menzies-Pike chairs an expansive discussion with the doyenne of the genre, Dame Hermione Lee, and award-winning biographers Bernadette Brennan, Brigitta Olubas, Sean O'Beirne, Heather Clark and Samantha Rose Hill.

Chair: Catriona Menzies-Pike

Supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund

10:45AM

HYPE, HYPOCRISY & HISTORY SPEEDING UP

David Hare



Sir David Hare, one of the greatest British playwrights of our time, explores his anxiety that our world has sped up and that history in this century is a dizzying, unpredictable and unsettling succession of events. Hare has always imbued the political with the personal, exposed the aphrodisiac of power and the creative energy of anger. His latest book, *We Travelled: Essays and Poems*, continues his life's work of arguing against economic rationalism and the bankers, politicians, plutocrats and churchmen who profit from it.

Chair: Bob Carr

12:00PM

THE IRISH QUESTION

John Boyne, Esther Freud and Louise Kennedy



James Joyce in *Ulysses* wrote: "Every life is many days, day after day. We walk through ourselves, meeting robbers, ghosts, giants, old men, young men, wives, widows, brothers-in-love, but always meeting ourselves." John Boyne, Esther Freud and Louise Kennedy examine the Irish soul.

Chair: Claire Nichols

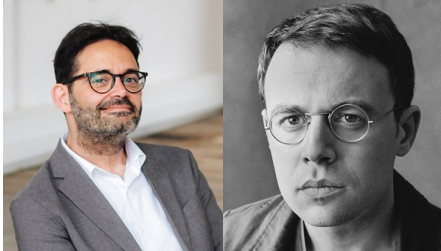
Supported by Culture Ireland

MOUNT GAMBIER LIBRARY MULTIFUNCTION ROOM

1:15PM

MEET THE COHENS

Josh Cohen and Joshua Cohen



JOSHUA COHEN LIVE STREAMED FROM TEL AVIV

“No matter what arguments I’d advance, I’d be the loser and murdered.” The credo of Benzion Netanyahu in Joshua Cohen’s novel *The Netanyahus* encapsulates the cost of winning and of losing. Novelist Joshua Cohen and psychoanalyst Josh Cohen discuss the haunting figure of the loser in literature, politics and psychoanalysis.

Chair: Jon Faine

2:30PM

AN AUSTRALIAN PUBLISHING ICON

Hilary McPhee



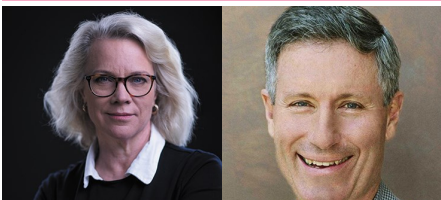
Hilary McPhee, together with her business partner Di Gribble, established Australia’s first woman-owned publishing house in 1975. For over two decades, McPhee discovered new writers who are now revered as greats of the Australian literary canon, including Helen Garner, Tim Winton and Drusilla Modjeska. *Monkey Grip*, *Puberty Blues* and *Cloudstreet* are just some of the books this Grand Dame of Australian letters nurtured into being. In this insightful conversation, McPhee talks about those halcyon days, her friend the late Carmen Callil and the state of modern publishing.

Chair: Anne Summers

3:45PM

WHY BOOKS ABOUT POLITICS MATTER

Laura Tingle and John Warhurst



Once upon a time the publishing mantra was that books about politics only sell if written by progressives. The past decade has proven that truism wrong. But what makes for a good book about contemporary politics? Is it scandal? Revelation? Good writing? Laura Tingle and John Warhurst (with Laurie Oakes) spent much of the past 12 months reading as judges of the inaugural Australian Political Book of the Year. So, what did they conclude?

TUESDAY 7 MARCH

9:30AM

THE POLITICS OF PANDEMICS

Chip Le Grand and Raina MacIntyre



How should we judge Australia's response to the pandemic? We were quick to declare a pandemic, to close our borders, to grow COVID in a lab. But we could also have done better – the pandemic divided the federation and our government failed to protect the elderly or the young. Our COVID report card is mixed. Join *The Age's* Chief Political Reporter, Chip Le Grand, and renowned epidemiologist Raina MacIntyre for a fascinating conversation.

Chair: Jon Faine

10:45AM

POETRY IN THE AGE OF ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING

Simon Armitage



British Poet Laureate Simon Armitage is also a playwright, a novelist, a screenwriter and a musician. While he has turned his hand to many art forms, he recognises the continued need for poetry: "It seems to me that, in this age of over-information, poetry is more important than ever, because it refuses to be garrulous and to join in with the constant diarrhoea of information. It is resolutely compact." Join us as Armitage looks back on his life and work.

Chair: Felicity Plunkett

12:00PM

WHEN CHILDREN ARE CANNON FODDER

Paul Byrnes



Too young to shave and still wearing short pants, boys as young as 13 lined up and lied about their age to volunteer in the Second World War. These boys must have forgotten the horrors their fathers and grandfathers endured in the First World War or not understood their true impact. Paul Byrnes shares some of these tragic and deeply moving personal stories with Paul Daley, a journalist and author with an abiding interest in history and national identity.

Chair: Paul Daley

MOUNT GAMBIER LIBRARY MULTIFUNCTION ROOM

1:15PM

“FROM THE PULSE OF MY HEART”

Louise Kennedy



Growing up Catholic on the outskirts of 1970s Belfast, Louise Kennedy's earliest memories are marked by violence: flying glass lacerating her grandmother when a bomb went off during the Troubles. Her novel, *Trespases*, is a love story set against a backdrop of escalating violence. It won the award for Novel of the Year at the 2022 An Post Irish Book Awards and has been hailed as a brilliant and devastating debut.

Chair: Nicci Gerrard

Supported by Culture Ireland

2:30PM

MODERN RELATIONSHIPS

Sloane Crosley, Laura Kipnis and
Diana Reid



Gender dynamics in the 21st century can be befuddling. Through fiction and non-fiction alike, three renowned authors explore the humour, pathos, heartbreak and the challenges of human connection in the modern city. Sloane Crosley, author of *Cult Classic*, Laura Kipnis author of *Love in the Age of Contagion* and Diana Reid, author of *Seeing People*, are keen observers of contemporary etiquette and the morality of modern personal relationships. They share their observations with Katrina Strickland.

Chair: Katrina Strickland

3:45PM

AMERICA, AMERICA

Shalom Auslander, James Curran,
John Keane and Fintan O'Toole



The 20th century was deemed 'The American Century'. In more recent times, that title has been challenged by the might and power of China. Experts describe the new world order as multipolar. As America has turned inwards and its exceptionalism engendered skepticism, what are the ramifications? Is a world where spheres of influence are more balanced good for nation states, for their citizens and for collective international action? The Hon Bob Carr tests these propositions with Shalom Auslander, James Curran, John Keane and Fintan O'Toole.

Chair: Bob Carr

WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH

9:30AM

"YES, HE HAS COME TO THE END OF HIS SENTENCE, BUT DOES THAT MEAN HE HAS NOTHING MORE TO SAY?"

John Banville



LIVE STREAMED FROM LONDON

Irish novelist John Banville is the author of 26 books, including seven crime novels under the name Benjamin Black. In 2005, he won the Booker Prize for his novel *The Sea*. His latest novel, *Singularities*, is a virtuosic, referential work in which he revisits some of his most celebrated characters and playfully grapples with the abiding literary problems of representation, invention and truth.

Chair: Sean O'Beirne

10:45AM

SLOANE CROSBY: IN PROFILE

Sloane Crosby



"Marriage is agreeing to live in someone else's narrative", according to the 30-something heroine at the heart of Sloane Crosby's second novel, *Cult Classic*. An acerbic wit and whip-smart observations are the hallmark of Crosby's writing in her essays, columns and novels, drawing the praise of writers such as Nick Hornby and Elif Batuman. Crosby discusses her process and the connections between her fiction and non-fiction writing.

Chair: Diana Reid

Supported by the Consulate of the United States

12:00PM

THE PERILS OF PUBLISHING

Michael Bradley, Adele Ferguson, Samantha Maiden and Louise Milligan



Publishing books on topical issues can be a health hazard, requiring deft footwork to avoid defamation suits, suppression orders, risk-averse publishers, cautious lawyers and, most particularly, litigious subjects. Veteran journalists and authors Louise Milligan, Adele Ferguson and Samantha Maiden revisit some of their most challenging projects with Michael Bradley, a lawyer who has steered many an author through this process.

Chair: Grant McAvaney

MOUNT GAMBIER LIBRARY MULTIFUNCTION ROOM

1:15PM

A TENDER LADY CHATTERLEY

Alison MacLeod



LIVE STREAMED FROM LONDON

Alison MacLeod's historical novel *Tenderness* is a powerful recreation of the origins of D. H. Lawrence's scandalous love story, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. From the author in exile, dying bereft in 1930s France, to the high drama of the obscenity trial, MacLeod's novel captures the 20th century conflicts over censorship and sexuality. She talks about the power of literature to disturb, our urge to repress and the resonances of this historical chapter for our time.

Chair: Felicity Plunkett

2:30PM

A VISION IN TEAL

Simon Holmes à Court, Margot Saville
and Brook Turner



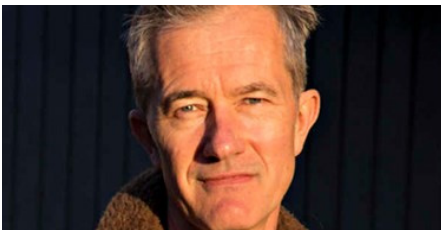
The rise of the Teals with the election of over 10 independents to the Australian Federal Parliament changed Australian politics. These are candidates who shared a commitment to climate change, integrity in politics and gender equality. Does their election mean we are witnessing the end of the two-party system? Will independents improve the quality of decision-making? Marian Wilkinson talks with Simon Holmes à Court, Margot Saville and Brook Turner about the Teals and their future.

Chair: Marian Wilkinson

3:45PM

ON ENDINGS

Geoff Dyer



The problem of endings is particularly acute for a master of digression. In *The Last Days of Roger Federer*, Geoff Dyer's own encounter with the existential drama of late middle age is set against the late work of great artists – from Bob Dylan to John Coltrane, Annie Dillard to Giorgio de Chirico. In conversation with Jonathan Green, Dyer talks about final chapters, twilight achievements, a little about tennis and why he had to complete his latest book before Roger Federer's retirement.

Chair: Jonathan Green

THURSDAY 9 MARCH

9:30AM

LIFE IS A BRIEF AFFAIR

Alex Miller



Two-time winner of the Miles Franklin Literary Award, Alex Miller is a giant of Australian literature. His latest novel, *A Brief Affair*, engages with one of literature's most compelling subjects – unhappy women. He talks to journalist Jonathan Green about this deeply moving novel, the question of authenticity and the writer's fidelity to imaginative truth.

Chair: Jonathan Green

10:45AM

"MAY THESE WORDS BRING YOU HOME"

Grace Tame



Former Australian of the Year Grace Tame is a public voice and advocate for survivors of sexual abuse. She is also the author of a new memoir, *The Ninth Life of a Diamond Miner*. Tame sits down with award-winning *Four Corners* journalist Louise Milligan for a conversation about finding one's voice, speaking truth to power and why sometimes only a side-eye will suffice.

Chair: Louise Milligan

12:00PM

COLD WAR, HOT CULTURE

Louis Menand



LIVE STREAMED FROM NEW YORK

Louis Menand, the author of Pulitzer Prize-winning book *The Metaphysical Club*, tells the story of America after the Second World War in his latest book, *The Free World*. With references to luminaries such as Jack Kerouac, Elvis Presley, Susan Sontag and James Baldwin, Menand explores the significant cultural figures of the Cold War period, when "ideas mattered, painting mattered, movies mattered, poetry mattered".

Chair: Bob Carr

THE RIDDOCH ARTS & CULTURAL CENTRE

DRESS CIRCLE

1:15PM

THE AUSSIE QUEEN OF NOIR

Jane Harper



Critic Beejay Silcox has suggested that Jane Harper's "outback noir mega-hit *The Dry* kick-started a crime-writing boom... the drought blighted bush town became a genre trope: Australia's sunburned answer to the arid cold of Scandi noir". Her subsequent novels have received international acclaim and have cemented Harper's place in the crime genre. She joins Silcox to talk about the intersection of character, plot and landscape and what becoming an international bestseller has meant to her writing.

Chair: Beejay Silcox

2:30PM

THE PLANET'S CLOCK IS TICKING

Rose Garnaut and Simon Holmes à Court



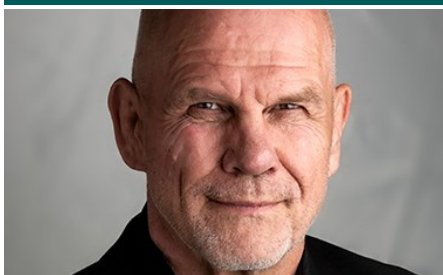
Two of the most innovative minds in the business tell us if the energy transition plan can work in time to save our planet. Join Simon Holmes à Court, founder of Climate 200, and economist Ross Garnaut in conversation with Marian Wilkinson, a Walkley Award-winning journalist and author of *The Carbon Club*.

Chair: Marian Wilkinson

3:45PM

THE BATTLE FOR LONG TAN

Peter FitzSimons



The Battle of Long Tan was the deadliest battle for Australian forces in Vietnam and every ANZAC who fought there could hold his head high. Peter FitzSimons and military historian Peter Brune discuss the events leading up to that terrible battle and the long war that followed.

Chair: Peter Brune

NOTES

NOTES

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

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www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au/library

The Riddoch Arts & Cultural Centre

1 Bay Road, Mount Gambier
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theriddoch.com.au

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