



Australian  
National  
University

National Centre  
of Biography

## National Centre of Biography News

June 2025

The NCB News is the monthly newsletter of the National Centre of Biography. Got biographical news to share? Send us an email at [ncb@anu.edu.au](mailto:ncb@anu.edu.au).



The Australian Crowd, by Stephen Baxter (2014)



L-R: Stephen Wilks, Melanie Nolan, Barry Jones and Christine Fernon, May 2025.

### A 'desert island book for anyone interested in biography, history, and humanity itself'

The latest iteration of the *Dictionary of World Biography* by Barry Jones was recently published by ANU Press in the Biography Series, an initiative of the National Centre of Biography.

This tenth edition was celebrated on 29 May at an event hosted in Melbourne by the Redmond Barry Society, during which Jones and former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull discussed the case for such a book, contemporary political culture, and the future of the printed word, among other things.

Read a full and lively report on the event by [Dr Stephen Wilks](#) on the [NCB website](#).

## News & notices



### King's Birthday honour

On Monday Dr Beverley Kingston, former chair of the ADB's NSW Working Party and Editorial Board member, was [appointed AM](#) for significant service to community history and to tertiary education. Congratulations, Bev!



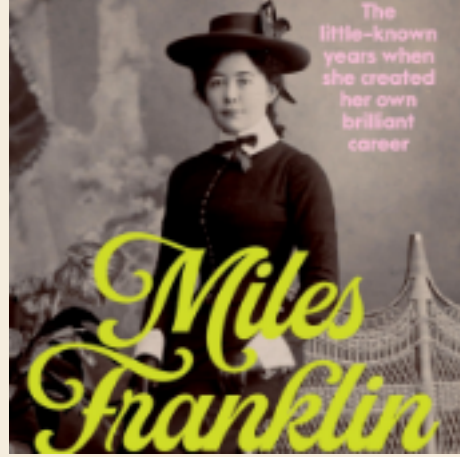
### Good luck!

The NCB's Dr Shauna Bostock is among the ten shortlisted finalists in the running for a place in the [ABC TOP 5 Humanities Media Residency Program](#). The winner will be announced on 20 June. Best of luck, Shauna!



### Biography workshop

This month Dr Matthew Lamb will speak about his book *Frank Moorhouse: Strange Paths* (Knopf, 2023). The session will take place on Thursday 26 June, 11am-12.30pm. More details will be posted on the NCB [website](#) in due course.



### In conversation

On 14 July Harry Hartog bookshop (ANU) will be hosting an in conversation event about *Miles Franklin Undercover* (Allen & Unwin). Author Dr Kerrie Davies (UNSW) will discuss Miles Franklin, the book, and Franklin's legacy with the NCB's Dr Michelle Staff. [Registration](#) is free but essential.



### Join us on Bluesky!

Did you know the *ADB* is now on Bluesky?  
Follow us at [@ausdictionarybiography.bsky.social](#)

## Read, listen, learn



### AJBH no. 9

A special issue of the *Australian Journal of Biography and History*, 'Oceania Lives', has just been published by ANU Press. This volume is guest-edited by members of the ADB's Oceania Working Party. [Download](#) your open-access copy now.



### New biography series title

The latest addition to our 'Biography Series' with ANU Press is out now: 'I buy this piece of ground here': *An Italian market-gardener community in Adelaide, 1920s-1970s*, by Madeleine Regan. Purchase the print book or download your open-access digital copy via the press' [website](#).



### Biography podcast

Since our last newsletter, NCB visitor Dr Gabriella Kelly-Davies has released several new episodes of her podcast *Biographers in Conversation*. Visit the [website](#) to hear conversations with Oliver Soden, Kerrie Davies, Lamsisse Hamouda, and Sally Bayley.



### Memo to the Coalition

Acting managing editor Dr Stephen Wilks has published an opinion piece with *Inside Story*: 'Memo to the Coalition: be grateful for what you've got'. In it he looks at the history of the Liberal and National Parties. [Read](#) it now.



### New blog post

The latest addition to our 'Gender and Biography' series with *VIDA! The blog of the Australian Women's History Network* has been published this past month. In it Dr Peter Woodley asks: *where were the women in the 1891 bush workers' strike?* [Read](#) it online.



### Indigenous biography

Haven't had a chance to read *Reframing Indigenous Lives* (edited by Shino Konishi, Malcolm Allbrook, and Tom Griffiths) yet? Check out an adapted [excerpt](#) from the introduction published by the Australian Academy of the Humanities, and this [review](#) written by Professor Angela Wanhalla for *The Journal of Pacific History*.

## ADB feature entry

Each month we highlight a new addition to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

It's Pride Month, and very fittingly we have just published a new entry on Welsh-born, Melbourne-based fashionista and trans personality, Lady Paula Howard.

Read more about her in the [entry](#) written by Noah Riseman.



Lady Paula Howard, 1980, Greer McGearey/Seahorse Victoria

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