



Australian
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of Biography

National Centre of Biography News

October 2026

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.



The Australian Crowd, by Stephen Baxter (2014)



A new look for the ADB

If you follow us on socials, you might have noticed that the ADB is having a bit of a refresh.

We're so excited to show off our brand-new logo! Giving a nod to our almost 70-year history while also looking ahead to the years to come, we think it represents the ADB's distinctive character and our place as a key player in Australia's public history landscape.

This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to innovations at the ADB. Visit our website from next Wednesday to see what else we've been working on. (Hint: it's been 20 years since we first went online...)

News & notices



ADB Medal

Last month former chair of the ADB's Queensland Working Party, Hon. A/Prof. Ross Johnston, became the 28th recipient of the ADB Medal for long and distinguished service. Read more on our news [page](#).



The Precarious Oral Histories Project

The team at The Precarious Oral Histories Project are seeking information about oral history collections in New South Wales and the ACT. To complete the survey, or to learn more about the project, visit the [website](#).



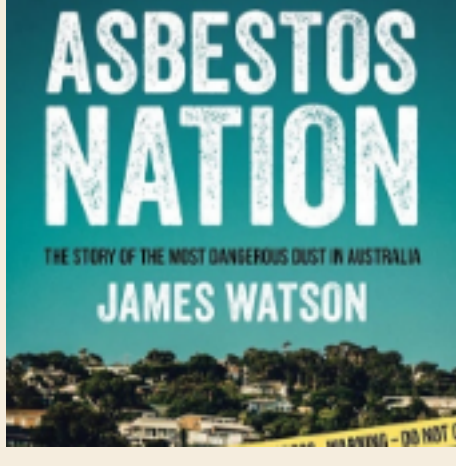
Canberra Writers Festival

The NCB is partnering with the Canberra Writers Festival on a session called 'Art of Biography: Startles and Scandals', featuring Em Profs Rae Frances and Bruce Scates and A/Prof Patricia O'Brien. 17 October, 10am. [Tickets](#) available now.



ANU Archives lecture

This year's ANU Archives Lecture will be delivered by Em. Prof. Grace Karskens (UNSW) on 'Remembering Ballandella: re-reading the archive'. This annual event will be held in the RSSS auditorium on 28 October (5.30-7pm). For more information and to register, visit the ANU Archives' [website](#).



Politics in the Pub

NCB graduate Dr James Watson will be celebrating the release of his book *Asbestos Nation: The story of the most dangerous dust in Australia* on Wednesday 28 October (6.30pm). Join him in conversation with Professor Frank Bongiorno and Ebony Bennett at Verity Lane Market for Politics in the Pub, hosted by The Australia Institute. [Register](#) now.



Biography Workshop

At his month's Biography Workshop (please note the date change to Friday 30 October) Dr Meaghan McEvoy (ANU) will speak on 'Licinia Eudoxia: Writing the Life of a Fifth-Century Empress'. More information is available on the [event page](#).



Vulnerable life writing

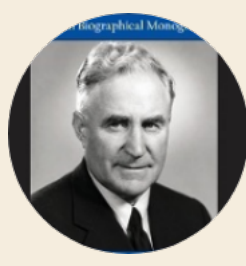
In this special seminar Dr Kim Huynh (ANU) will discuss the ethics, politics, and craft of telling hardship stories in a conversation with Emeritus Professor Christine Helliwell about Kim's latest book, *My Old Man and Me: A story of escape, survival and caring*. 3 November, 1-2pm. More information on the [event page](#).



Donate to the ADB Endowment

Love our work and want to see more of it? Consider donating to the ADB Endowment! All donations over \$2 are tax deductible, and it's as easy as filling out this online [form](#).

Read, listen, learn



Earle Page book review

Dr Stephen Wilks' latest book *Earle Page* (Connor Court Publishing) has been reviewed in *Inside Story*. Have a read of what the reviewer thought about it free [online](#).



The letters of Gwen Harwood & Larry Sitsky

Last month Dr Susan Lever appeared in our Writing Lives series to discuss *Fiery Tales: The correspondence of Gwen Harwood and Larry Sitsky* with Dr Ann-Marie Priest. You can listen to a [recording](#) of that talk on our website. And if you want to know more still, read Susan's [piece](#) on the book in *Inside Story*.



Review of *Alice's dreaming*

Friend of the NCB Anne-Marie Condé has reviewed Professor Tom Griffiths' latest book *Alice's dreaming* (Black Inc.) for, you guessed it, *Inside Story*. Read it [online](#) now.



The ADB on ABC Radio

Members of the ADB staff are continuing to appear on ABC Radio Canberra every Wednesday around 3.15pm to play a game of 'Who Am I?' You can listen to previous weeks' segments [online](#) via ABC Listen.



New podcast episodes

The podcast *Biographers in Conversation* is hosted by NCB visitor Dr Gabriella Kelly-Davies. Visit the [website](#) to listen to new interviews with James Bailey, Nigel Cameron, Kathryn Herman, Jeffrey Meyers, Adam Plunkett, and Ramie Targoff.

ADB feature entry

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

This month's feature is a special one. Geoff Serle was a Melbourne-born historian, WW2 veteran, general editor of the ADB, and a lifelong supporter of the Hawthorn Football Club.

Read all about Serle's life and career in the [entry](#) written by the ADB's current general editor Professor Melanie Nolan now.



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