



Australian
National
University

National Centre
of Biography

National Centre of Biography News

July 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)

ABC Radio Canberra



Listening to the radio at home, c.1930. Source: NLA.

We are super excited to share that we have begun a new collaboration with ABC Radio Canberra.

Each Wednesday afternoon around 3.15pm, someone from the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* team will be hitting the airwaves to play a game of 'Who Am I?'

It's a fun way to share the latest entries being added to the *ADB*, as well as some older ones too. So far we've used our slot on the afternoon Canberra Drive show to share the stories of a [soccer player](#), a [suffragist](#), a [diplomat/jazz musician](#), and a [First Nations singer](#).

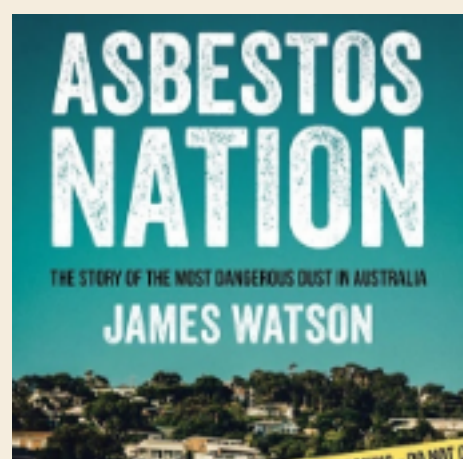
Tune in each Wednesday to hear more, or catch up on the Canberra Drive show [website](#). (We feature around 15 minutes into each recording.)

News & notices



Congratulations!

We are so pleased to share that Dr Emily Gallagher's book *Playtime: A history of Australian childhood* (La Trobe, 2025) has won the W.K. Hancock Prize! This prestigious award is given by the Australian Historical Association to an Australian scholar for a first scholarly book in any field of history. *Playtime* also received a Highly Commended in the nonfiction category at the ACT Literary Awards. Congratulations Em!



More congratulations!

In further exciting news, we were thrilled to hear that Dr James Watson, a PhD graduate of the NCB, has won the AHA's Serle Award for his thesis 'Fibro Modernity: A Social History of Asbestos in Australia, 1878-2024'. James' first book, *Asbestos Nation: The Story of the Most Dangerous Dust in Australia*, which is based on his thesis, will be published next month by Monash University Press. Congratulations James!



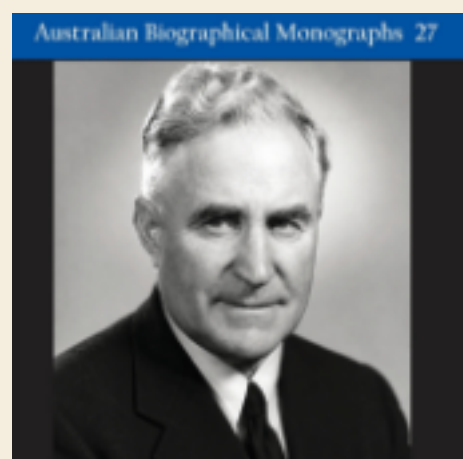
Biography Workshop

This month's Biography Workshop (30 July, 11am-12pm) will be given by Professor Nicole Moore (UNSW Canberra) on 'Biography as Justice: Recasting Cultural Legacies of Harm', which draws on her research on the poet Dorothy Hewett. All welcome! Read more on the [event page](#).



Writing Lives

Over the coming months we will be hosting two Writing Lives book talks. On **11 August** Dr Naomi Parry-Duncan will talk about her new book *Musquito: The real story of a legendary colonial warrior* with Dr Shauna Bostock. Then on **1 September** Dr Ann-Marie Priest will discuss *Fiery Tales: The correspondence of Gwen Harwood and Larry Sitsky* with Dr Susan Lever. Keep an eye on our [events page](#) for more information.



Save the date

The NCB's Dr Stephen Wilks will be launching his short monograph *Earle Page* (Connor Court Publishing) on the evening of **Wednesday 19 August** at the Canberra campus of Charles Sturt University. A/Prof's Geoffrey Hawker's *Peter Wilenski*, also part of the Australian Biographical Monographs series, will be launched at this event as well. Featuring Prof. Andrew Podger and Senator the Hon. Bridget McKenzie as speakers. Further details to follow in the August edition of the NCB News.



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

The Dead Can't Sue



Historians and friends of the NCB, A/Profs Alecia Simmonds and Leigh Boucher, have launched a brand new history podcast with the ABC: The Dead Can't Sue. It has a strong biographical focus, and we hear that the Australian Dictionary of Biography has been an important resource for the show. Listen in each Tuesday via [ABC Listen](#) or wherever you get your podcasts.

Biographers in Conversation



The podcast Biographers in Conversation is hosted by NCB visitor Dr Gabriella Kelly-Davies. Visit the [website](#) to listen to new interviews with Sylvia Martin, Cynthia Banham, Sheryle Bagwell, Nigel Hamilton, Zachary Leader, and others.

Mullins on Janet Flanner



Friend of the NCB Dr Patrick Mullins has written about Mark Braude's *The Typewriter and the Guillotine: An American Journalist, a German Serial Killer, and Paris on the Eve of WWII* for one of our favourite Australian magazines, *Inside Story*. Read it online [now](#).

ADB feature entry

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

Sometimes, instead of focusing on one individual we publish joint entries, especially when the people involved shared entangled lives. This is the case for our recent biography of married duo Ruth and Maurie Crow, communists and community activists.

Read all about their lives in the [entry](#) written by Sheila Byard now.



Image courtesy of SEARCH Foundation

Contact

ncb@anu.edu.au
history.cass.anu.edu.au/centres/ncb



The Australian National University,
Canberra

TEQSA Provider ID: PRV12002 (Australian University)
CRICOS Provider : 00120C
ABN : 52 234 063 906

