

PETER COCHRANE is the author of *Colonial Ambition: Foundations of Australian Democracy*, the Age Book Of The Year and was joint winner of the first Prime Minister's Prize for Australian History.

CATHY CRAIGIE is one of the original founders of Koori Radio and has been the Director of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board of the Australia council and the Deputy Director General of the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs. She has written several plays and fostered a number of children. Right now she's writing a book, raising two kids and working part time as an Aboriginal arts consultant.

ANN CURTHOYS is author of many books and essays, and has edited many collections of historical essays. Her work includes: *Freedom Ride: A Freedomrider Remembers* (Allen and Unwin, 2002); *Is History Fiction?* (with John Docker) (UNSW Press, 2005, new edition appearing 2010); and (with Ann McGrath) *How to Write History that People Want to Read* (UNSW Press, 2009). A collection she edited with Ann McGrath entitled *Writing Histories: Imagination and Narration*, has recently been reissued as an e-book by Monash University Press. Appearing in 2010 is Frances Peters-Little, Ann Curthoys and John Docker, eds, *Passionate Histories: Myth, Memory and Indigenous Australia* (ANU E Press).

PETER DOYLE is the author of *Crooks Like Us* and *City of Shadows*. He lectures at Macquarie University.

MARK DUNN is a professional historian who has worked in the heritage industry in Sydney for the last 12 years, writing histories for sites from Paddington terraces to defence installations, convict sites to weather stations and everything in between, including working on archaeological digs and leading historic walking tours. He is currently the president of the History Council of NSW.

DELIA FALCONER is the author of two novels *The Service of Clouds* (Picador 1997) and *The Lost Thoughts of Soldiers and Selected Stories* (2006). She is also the editor of *Best Australian Stories 2008* and *2009* and of *The Penguin Book of the Road*. She holds a PhD in English Literature and Cultural Studies from the University of Melbourne and is a lecturer at UTS. Delia's personal history of her home town, *Sydney: Haunted City*, will be published later this year.

SHIRLEY FITZGERALD was the City Historian, City of Sydney, 1987-2009. She has published widely on Sydney's history, is currently Adjunct Professor, UTS and on the Board of the Dictionary of Sydney.

TOM GILLING is the author of three novels, all of which have been published in US and UK. He also co-authored several non-fiction books, including *Bagman*, about police corruption in Queensland, and *Smack Express*, a study of organised crime, which is a primary source for the television series *Underbelly 2*. He is currently working on a history of the Mount Rennie Outrage of 1886.

ROBERT GRAY has published eight volumes of poetry and has won many major literary prizes: the Adelaide Arts Festival Award, Victorian Premier's Award (twice), the NSW Premier's Literary Award, the Age Book of the Year Award, the Patrick White Award, the Grace Leven Prize (twice) and the Marten Bequest travelling scholarship. He has been a writer-in-residence at universities in Australia and Japan and has toured the UK, Germany and China, and reading at most major literary festivals. His work was set for many years as an HSC English text in New South Wales and has also been a set text in Victoria. He was awarded the CAL Waverley Library Award for Literature in November 2009 and his memoir, *The Land I Came Through Last*, is "mainly about his eccentric relatives and some notable figures he has known".

PAULA HAMILTON teaches in the public history program at UTS. She has conducted consultancies and research with museums, including Powerhouse, Australian Museum and National Museum of Australia. She has strong links with the oral history community, indicative of her long-term interest in cultural memory, particularly collective remembering through oral narratives. Paula has extensive experience interviewing working women, migrants, journalists and women survivors of disaster. She remains committed to facilitating historical work for wider audiences and promoting links between the academe and the public sphere.

ASHLEY HAY is the author of four books of narrative non-fiction: *The Secret, Gum, Herbarium* and *Museum*, the latter two with visual artist Robyn Stacey. A former literary editor of *The Bulletin*, her writing has also appeared in publications including *The Monthly* and *The Griffith Review*. Her first novel, *The Body in the Clouds*, will be published in 2010.

CATHERINE JINKS is a graduate in medieval history and the author of more than thirty internationally published books for all ages. She has garnered many awards, including the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Award (three times), the Victorian Premier's Award, the Aurealis Award for Science Fiction, the Australian Ibbly Award, and the Davitt Award for Crime Fiction. Catherine and her family live in Leura. *The Dark Mountain* is set in the Southern Highlands in the 1800s and based on a true story. Her latest book is a teenage novel, *The Genius Wars*, published last year by Allen & Unwin.

JACQUELINE KENT was born in Sydney and grew up there and in Adelaide. Originally trained as a journalist and broadcaster, she is the author of three biographies, as well as two general social histories and six books of fiction for young adults. Her biography *A Certain Style, Beatrice Davis, a literary life* won the 2002 National Biography Award and the 2002 Nita B. Kibble Literary Award for Women Writers. *An Exact Heart, the story of Hephzibah Menuhin* won the 2009 Nita B. Kibble Award. Her most recent book is *The Making of Julia Gillard*.

MARK MCKENNA is a Senior Research Fellow in History at Sydney University. After completing his doctorate in 1996, he took up a research fellowship in political science at the Research School of Social Sciences at the ANU in Canberra. From 2000 till 2005 he was an ARC QEII Fellow in History at the ANU, before taking up his current position Sydney University in August 2006. Over the last decade he's published mainly in two areas – the history of Australian republicanism and monarchy and Aboriginal history.

DAVID MCKNIGHT is a Senior Research Fellow at the Journalism and Media Research Centre at the University of NSW. He is the author of three books on topics diverse as contemporary politics, recent Australian history and international espionage. David also contributes regularly to the opinion pages of Australian newspapers.

LISA MURRAY has been a historian at the Council of the City of Sydney since 2001 and is currently the Acting City Historian and Chair of the Dictionary of Sydney. Her research interests include Sydney's urban, cultural and social history; and cultural landscapes, memory and heritage. Her current research project for the council is a social history of the southern-city industrial areas of Redfern, Waterloo and Alexandria. Lisa is actively involved in the History Council of NSW and the Professional Historians' Association (NSW).

CAMILLA NELSON's first novel, *Perverse Acts*, won the *Sydney Morning Herald's* Best Young Australian Novelist of the Year award. Her second novel, *Crooked*, was published in August last year.

PETER READ is working on a history of Aboriginal Sydney in the History Department at Sydney University. He has lectured in Australian and Aboriginal history, held a Research Fellowship in the Urban Studies Program, is an ARC Research Fellow, an ARC Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Cross Cultural Research, and was Deputy Director of the National Centre for Indigenous Studies.

SUE ROSEN is a Sydney based historian and heritage consultant specialising in local and Australian colonial history. Her latest book (to be published in early autumn 2010) is titled *Australia's Oldest House: Surgeon John Harris and Experiment Farm Cottage*. Dr Rosen presents a critical assessment of the application of historical evidence in heritage practice and reveals the true identity and significance of Experiment Farm Cottage, as the oldest surviving European structure in Australia.

LEANNE TOBIN is a descendent of the Darug, the traditional Aboriginal people of Greater Western Sydney. Her works in storytelling and visual arts set out to convey a strong sense of commitment and responsibility to the place of her Ancestors; to tell local Darug stories of the people and place and evoke a spiritual and environmental connection toward the land and its original people.



2010 History Festival WRITING THE PAST

Saturday 13th March

9.30am - 5pm

History, and historians, can be riveting, entertaining, and richly informative. Even funny. History can explain the world and place us in a better position to deal with the future.

Ann Curthoys and Ann McGrath
How to Write History that People Want to Read (UNSW Press, 2009)

"Writing the Past" is the name of the 2010 History Festival and it's a deceptively simple one. It is certainly a good definition of the broad genre of history writing, but we could hear this title in another way. Perhaps as "Righting the Past".

All writers can be said to be making the world right. Telling a story their way, making their world, introducing characters and a situation and then making it "turn out right". Even a sad ending can be the right one, for that story, for that writer and her readers. Perhaps all writers are therefore, in their individual ways, creating the "right" story.

Doesn't this also apply to history writing? Isn't it also "righting the past", trying to tell a story, a true story, in the right way? Doesn't it show the reader how a particular piece of the past should be seen — this person's life, that story of a nation, a crime in high or low places, the tale of a city or of a local community? But immediately problems arise. Which voices to choose? Whose perspective to write from? What research to select, and what to discard?

These and many other questions will be asked at this the 2010 History Festival. A wide variety of writers will be onboard to help. Some are professional or academic historians, others are novelists. All will be able to advise and inspire history writers.

MARK ROSSITER, Festival Coordinator



Leanne Tobin



Cathy Craigie



Gabrielle Carey

PARTICIPANTS OF THE FESTIVAL...

PAUL ASHTON is Associate Professor of Public History at the University of Technology, Sydney. He is Co-Director of the Australian Centre for Public History and co-editor of the journal *Public History Review*. His publications include *The Accidental City: Planning Sydney Since 1788* and *Sutherland Shire: A History*.

MARGO BEASLEY is a consultant historian and author of several books of commissioned history including *Wharfies: A History of the Waterside Workers' Federation of Australia*, amongst others. She has a PhD from Wollongong University, is a contributor to the Dictionary of Sydney, and currently holds the position of Oral Historian with the City of Sydney's History Program.

MEENAKSHI BHARAT is a translator, reviewer and critic. Her special interests include children's literature, women's fiction and English studies – areas which she has researched extensively. Currently, she is engaged in translating a volume of Hindi short stories. She is also preparing a volume of short fiction ready for publication. Meenakshi teaches at the University of Delhi. In 2009 she edited and contributed to a collection of essays on Salman Rushdie, *The Novelist: From Grimus To The Enchantress Of Florence*.

JAMES BRADLEY is the award-winning author of three novels, *Wrack*, *The Deep Field* and the international bestseller, *The Resurrectionist*, and a book of poetry, *Paper Nautilus*. His new novel, *Black Friday*, will be published by Faber in 2011. He blogs at www.cityoftongues.com.

GABRIELLE CAREY's first novel, the co-written *Puberty Blues*, was published when she was 20. She has since written both fiction and non-fiction books, including *So Many Selves*, *In My Father's House* and *The Borrowed Girl*, as well as essays and newspaper articles. Her most recent book, *Waiting Room*, published by Scribner, is a personal essay about her late mother, Joan Carey, and was described by Gail Jones as "A wise, sorrowful and graceful work, at once exquisitely tender and beautifully written." Gabrielle lives in the Inner West and teaches creative writing at UTS.

BRUCE CARTER is the Local Historian at Leichhardt Council. As an MA candidate at UTS he undertook secondary research and interviewed community members for the Coolaburoo Neighbourhood Centre to identify sites of cultural significance for the post-war migration history of the Canterbury-Bankstown Local Government Areas.



James Bradley



Ann Curthoys



Paul Ashton



Communities
arts nsw

gleebooks

WRITING THE PAST

DOUBLE ROOM

Opening: Writing the Past 9.30am-11.00am

An Indigenous storyteller and her dramaturge, a historian who has published on history writing, and an Australian freelance historian talk about what writing the past means to them.

PETER COCHRANE
CATHY CRAIGIE AND LEANNE TOBIN
ANN CURTHOYS Chair: **PAULA HAMILTON**

Local/Community 11.15am-12.45pm

Important history isn't always "big" and "somewhere else". Stories worth telling and hearing can be right next door, within our own communities. Our local historians discuss how to find them.

BRUCE CARTER **MARK DUNN**
LISA MURRAY Chair: **SUE ROSEN**

Lunch 12.45pm-1.30pm

Sydney Stories 1.30pm-3.00pm

A fascinating mix: early C20 crime photographs, tales of Aboriginal Sydney, capturing the whole city in a dictionary and a very personal story of Sydney.

PETER DOYLE **SHIRLEY FITZGERALD**
PETER READ Chair: **DELIA FALCONER**

Historical Fiction 3.15pm-4.45pm

Begging, borrowing or stealing from real history to make fiction. Hear our novelists talk about their art.

JAMES BRADLEY **ASHLEY HAY**
CATHERINE JINKS Chair: **TOM GILLING**

"On The Veranda" 5pm-6pm



Ashley Hay



Paula Hamilton



Shirley Fitzgerald



Peter Doyle (HHT Justin Mackintosh)



Margo Beasley

New in this festival ...

On The Veranda
Come and join us on the veranda for post-festival drinks from 5pm to 6pm.

Find a Fellow Writer
Or a writing group: pin a card on the board with your project details and contact information.

How to Book Tickets

Online at www.nswwriterscentre.org.au or by phone: (02) 9555 9757.

Cost: NSW Writers' Centre Members \$50

Member Concessions \$45, Non-members \$75

Plenty of free parking at the Centre and a café with deli-style food is open all day.

Writers' Centre Workshops

GETTING IT RIGHT: THE NEWS STORY with Dr Meenakshi Bharat (Sat 20 March, 10am – 4pm). Why do some news stories stick in the mind while others drift away? This workshop aims to train aspiring journalists to zero in on the right ingredients for an effective 'telling'. We will examine samples of the various kinds of articles that make up a newspaper, understanding & learning how to handle them. The headline eye-catcher, the juicy Page 3 report, the editorial page, the travel section and sports coverage. And we'll examine journalistic language: vocabulary, registers, shapes and forms of different styles.

WRITING HISTORY with Chris Cheng (Sun 18 April, 10am – 4pm). Historians are storytellers. They take raw data, old newspapers, shipping lists, or ephemera like theatre programs and ticket stubs, and they turn it into a tale. This workshop investigates Australian and international history and is suitable for anybody interested in writing historical fiction, from the beginner to the experienced writer, whether it's local or family history, the history of people, places, or things. What makes historical fiction and how do you get started in research – Chris will show you. And how to organise and shape your material, and develop a story. He will teach you how to flesh out those telling historical details, bringing your history to life. No prior experience required. Participants can bring material for discussion.

IMAGINING HISTORY with Tom Gilling (Sun 27 June, 10am – 4pm). Want to write a historical novel but unsure how to get started? Through a mixture of discussion and practical exercises we will explore how to research a historical period for the purpose of writing a novel; how to turn historical research into fiction; the pitfalls of using real characters; how to write dialogue; what is "authenticity", how can we achieve it – and does it matter?

For more information and prices please go to www.nswwriterscentre.org.au

THE NSW WRITERS' CENTRE THANKS THE HISTORY FESTIVAL SUBCOMMITTEE

Paula Hamilton, Shirley Fitzgerald, Paul Ashton and John Dale

NSW WRITERS' CENTRE

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The NSW Writers' Centre is situated in the grounds of Callan Park (Rozelle Hospital), Balmain Road, Rozelle.

STAFF of the Writers' Centre:

DAVID RYDING, Director
JULIA TSALIS, Program Manager
STEVE WIMMER, Office Manager
JACQUI DENT, Program Officer
JESSICA GILLAN, Membership Officer



Delia Falconer



Tom Gilling



Camilla Nelson



Robert Gray



Catherine Jinks

BOARDROOM

Opening panel in Double Room 9.30am-11.00am

Crime and Politics 11.15am-12.45pm

A true crime writer now researching a C19 gang rape outrage, a political novelist and a writer on the Cold War and Soviet espionage spill secrets on the gritty business of writing crime and politics.

TOM GILLING **CAMILLA NELSON**
DAVID MCKNIGHT Chair: **CAMILLA NELSON**

Lunch 12.45pm-1.30pm

Biography 1.30pm-3.00pm

There is properly no history; only biography. So said Ralph Waldo Emerson. Our panellists, who have written about writers, politicians and other historians, compare notes.

MEENAKSHI BHARAT **JACQUIE KENT**
MARK MCKENNA Chair: **PAUL ASHTON**

Memoir & Individual Lives 3.15pm-4.45pm

This panel investigates that most intimate form of writing, one's own history, the memoir. How can individual voices be captured and held for posterity in the rush of our everyday lives?

MARGO BEASLEY **GABRIELLE CAREY**
ROBERT GRAY Chair: **SHIRLEY FITZGERALD**

"On The Veranda" 5pm-6pm