

SATURDAY 29 AUGUST



John Keane

FROM 10AM

DOES DEMOCRACY HAVE A FUTURE?

VENUE BMW Edge **CODE** 2911
One of Britain's leading political writers, **John Keane** posits that democracies everywhere are sleepwalking their way into deep trouble. **Stefan Auer** and **John Carroll** argue that on the contrary democracy is alive and well. Chaired by **Adrian Jones**. Proudly supported by the Innovative Universities European Union Centre.

FOOTNOTES TO HISTORY

VENUE ACMI 1 **CODE** 2931
The Russian Revolution and the Paris Commune had unexpected Australian links. Booker prize winner **Tom Keneally** and renowned novelist **Michael Meehan** discuss the tiny antipodean footnotes to history. Chaired by Radio National's **Michelle Rayner**.

REIF LARSEN IN CONVERSATION

VENUE ACMI Studio 1 **CODE** 2971
Reif Larsen has taught at Columbia University, where he received his MFA in fiction. *The Selected Works of T.S. Spivet* is his first novel and follows the charming adventures, through life's mysteries great and small, of T.S. Spivet, a 12-year-old genius mapmaker who lives on a ranch in Montana. He discusses his work with *The Age's* Literary Editor, **Jason Steger**.

WORDPLAY @ ARTPLAY

VENUE ArtPlay, Birrarung Marr
DURATION 5hrs **CODE** 2951
COST Children \$20, Parents FREE
Featuring **Meredith Badger** and **Elise Hurst**. For more info on our Events for Kids see p.7

THE MORNING READ

VENUE Festival Club **FREE**
Do you enjoy a civilised start to the day? Well, join us every morning for a cup of tea and some of our best writers. This morning features novelists **Marie Darrieussecq** and **Afsenah Knight** and poet **Sallie Muir**. Chaired by *Torpedo's* **Chris Flynn**.

SEMINAR: ASPECTS OF THE NOVEL

VENUE RMIT **DURATION** 3hrs **CODE** 2981
Featuring **Philip Hensher** and **Wayson Choy**. For more info on our Workshops see p.25

WORKSHOPS

VENUE RMIT **CODES** 2982, 2983, 2984
DURATION Various
Featuring: **Jessa Crispin**, **M J Hyland**, **Stephen Miller**. For more info on our Workshops see p.25. NB. MJ Hyland's workshop begins at 11.30am.

FROM 11AM

WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE

VENUE Atrium **DURATION** 3hrs **FREE**
Featuring **Shaun Tan**. For more info on our Special Events see p.23

FROM 11:30AM

ON HUMBAG AND BULLS@#T

VENUE BMW Edge **CODE** 2912
Australia's foremost men of travel and letters together in the same room? Strap yourselves in for the ride as **Robert Dessaix** and **Don Watson** circumnavigate the world of humbug, bullshit and modern management techniques. **Peter Clarke** watches from the sidelines.



Thomas Keneally

THE BIRTH WARS

VENUE ACMI 1 **CODE** 2932
Mary Rose MacColl's *The Birth Wars* looks at the conflict between those who see birth as normal and natural and those who see birth as high-risk medical procedure which is putting Australian women and babies at risk. A mix of narrative and reportage, the women's stories are extraordinary. **Mary Rose** talks to **Melinda Tankard Reist**, author of *Defiant Birth, Women who Resist Medical Eugenics*.

WRITING OTHER PEOPLE'S STORIES

VENUE ACMI Studio 1 **CODE** 2972
How do writers reconcile ethical, practical or artistic barriers that emerge when telling other people's stories? **Hilary Glow**, **Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli**, **Lenny Robinson** and **Sophie Cunningham** discuss their experiences. Proudly supported by Deakin University.

MURRAY RIVER COUNTRY LAUNCH

VENUE Festival Club **FREE**
John Doyle and **Monica Morgan** will launch *Murray River Country*, by **Jessica K Weir**, which discusses the water crisis from a unique perspective – the intimate stories of love and loss of Aboriginal people whose traditional country encompasses the inland rivers.

FROM 12.30PM

CHAPEL OF CHIC WALK

DURATION 2hrs **CODE** 2993
For more info on our Walks see p.9

FROM 1PM

WHY AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE?

VENUE BMW Edge **CODE** 2913
Has globalisation made national literature redundant? Is Australian literature in decline? **Tom Keneally**, **Peter Goldsworthy**, and **Hannie Rayson** consider the point of 'Australian literature' with regard to the new *Macquarie PEN Anthology of Australian Literature*. Chaired by editor, **David McCooney**.

WRITER AS ACTIVIST

VENUE ACMI 1 **CODE** 2933
When the world needs changing people write about it. Is the pen more effective than the gun or even the TV camera in achieving change? Four authors, **Petina Gappah**, **Sarah Maddison**, **Andrew McMillan** and **Andrew Westoll** discuss situations they'd like to see changed with activist, **Jeff Sparrow**.

ETHAN CANIN IN CONVERSATION

VENUE ACMI Studio 1 **CODE** 2973
Ethan Canin gave up medicine for writing, and has had four of his stories made into films, including the *The Palace Chief*, which became *The Emperors Club*. He discusses his most recent work, political and ethical saga, *America America* with local publisher, **Russ Radcliffe**.

INSCAPE LAUNCH

VENUE Festival Club **FREE**
Launching the 14th edition of this annual VCE literary and art magazine featuring poetry, short fiction, non-fiction, art, as well as winning essays from Monash University's Castan Centre's competition, *Writing For Human Rights*.

FROM 1:30PM

ECLECTIC BOOKSHOPS WALK

DURATION 2hrs **CODE** 2994
For more info on our Walks see p.9



Don Walker

FROM 2PM

SEMINAR: TRANSLATE A CLASSIC

VENUE RMIT **DURATION** 3hrs **CODE** 2985
Featuring **Peter Bush**. For more info on our Workshops see p.25

FROM 2:30PM

THE BIG AUSTRALIAN

VENUE BMW Edge **CODE** 2914
After conquering Hollywood with a screen version of his novel *Juryman* (filmed as *Storyville*), the Prime Minister's biographer **Robert Macklin** weighs in with a new book about an equally lofty Australian icon – BHP Billiton.

PHILIP HENSHER IN CONVERSATION

VENUE ACMI 2 **CODE** 2924
Philip Hensher is a Granta Best of Young British novelist, arts critic for *The Spectator* and columnist for *The Independent*. He discusses his work and most recent novel, *The Northern Clemency*, which was shortlisted for the 2008 Man Booker Prize with critic **Peter Craven**.

READING ESSAYISTICALLY: TOWARD AN ETHICS OF READING AND AN OPEN-ENDED PHILOSOPHY

VENUE ACMI 1 **CODE** 2934
Philosopher **Michelle Boulos-Walker** explores what an open-ended philosophy might be from the perspective of how we read. If reading is a performance that can be judged in ethical terms, then reading essayistically (or in the mode of the essay) suggests a model of open-ended rumination that takes its time and returns – time and time again – to the matter at hand. Such a reading thwarts our modern preoccupation with speed and haste, and opens us to the wondrous space of a slow engagement that welcomes thought. Proudly supported by Monash University

WHAT'S LEFT OUT?

VENUE ACMI Studio 1 **CODE** 2974
When writing memoirs where do tell-all memoirists draw the line? **Krissy Kneen**, **Catherine Therese** and **Don Walker** discuss what's hidden under the white-out.

STAND UP STRUMMER LAUNCH

VENUE Festival Club **FREE**
Russ Harris unleashes his savage wit, shares quirky anecdotes about his time spent in an impotence clinic and launches his hilarious novel *Stand up Strummer*.

FROM 4PM

GROWING UP WITH MUSIC

VENUE BMW Edge **CODE** 2915
Dominic Knight meets **Nick Earls**, his inspiration for *Disco Boy* (that is literary inspiration not his dance moves). Music weaves its way through all of Nick's novels, never more so than in *Butterfish*, a novel about an ex-rockstar finding his way back home.



John Doyle

AUSTRALIANS: TOM KENEALLY IN CONVERSATION

VENUE ACMI 2 **CODE** 2925
One of Australia's best-loved authors **Tom Keneally** has just completed volume one of *Australians*, a three-volume history of Australia from prehistory to the present. He discusses the first volume, the story of Australia's Aboriginal inhabitants and European settlers up to the early days of the Gold Rush and the Eureka rebellion with his old friend, **Brian Johns**.

IS THE PEN MIGHTIER THAN THE STETHOSCOPE?

VENUE ACMI 1 **CODE** 2935
Apollo managed to combine a dual career as the Greek god of both poetry and medicine. Copernicus, Maimonides, Bulgakov and Chekhov were all physicians who purloined their patients' narratives. **Leah Kaminsky** talks to award-winning doctor-writers **Ethan Canin**, **Peter Goldsworthy** and **Jacinta Halloran**, about their own experiences of medicine and the muse.

VANITY OF VANITIES, ALL IS VANITY

VENUE ACMI Studio 1 **CODE** 2975
Italian writer **Vincenzo Cerami** reads from *Book of Ecclesiastes*, a book of the Hebrew Bible, in a haunting performance accompanied by contemporary artist **Domenico de Clario** on keyboards. An oft quoted book of the Bible, it gained most modern recognition as the Byrds' song *To every thing there is a season*. Proudly supported by Crown Coffee.

BEE HUT LAUNCH

VENUE Festival Club **FREE**
The Bee Hut, **Dorothy Porter's** fifteenth book, brings together the poems she wrote in the last five years of her life.

FROM 5:30PM

WAUGH ON WAUGH

VENUE BMW Edge **CODE** 2916
How does it feel having Auberon and Evelyn Waugh looming over your shoulder? Heir apparent **Alexander Waugh** chats to **Peter Craven** about his family legacy and book *Fathers and Sons*.

OUTSIDERS

VENUE ACMI 2 **CODE** 2926
Isolation, exclusion, trauma and being on the outside are dealt with differently by adults and children. Two of our most prominent authors, **MJ Hyland** and **Nikki Gemmill**, come together with critically acclaimed debut author **Catherine Therese** to reflect on how we adapt to difficult situations.

THE SAME, SAME OLD STORY

VENUE ACMI 1 **CODE** 2936
The relationship between fathers and sons, husbands and wives is fraught at the best of times. UK authors **Afsenah Knight** and **Evie Wyld** and US author **Lisa Unger** discuss the surprises that families can dish up.

REPORTS FROM THE NORTH

VENUE ACMI Studio 1 **CODE** 2976
The Northern Territory is Victoria's antipodes and it couldn't be more different. It is young, volatile, monsoonal and largely indigenous. **Sarah Maddison** and **Andrew McMillan** report from the front-line.



Evie Wyld

FROM 6PM

BIG IDEAS: IS NEO-LIBERALISM FINISHED?

VENUE RMIT Capitol Theatre **CODE** 2941
For more info on our Big Ideas see p.4

FESTIVAL CLUB LIGHTS UP!

VENUE Festival Club **FREE**
At 6pm forget the swill and saunter to the Festival Club for bookish hilarity, hi-jinks and knieschlagen. Hosted by the debonair **Michael Nolan** and with music, performances and comedy. For more info on our Festival Club see p.7

FROM 7PM

NICOLAS ROTHWELL ON THE RED HIGHWAY

VENUE BMW Edge **CODE** 2917
After reporting the Iraq War, **Nicolas Rothwell** returns to Australia, to explore the hidden worlds of the north. As he travels, his journey gathers momentum and it becomes a quest for a sense of home. *The Red Highway* offers a fresh vision of Australia, its deserts and ancient past, art and people. It explores death, friendship, travel and art, and evokes a unique and mesmerising part of the country. He talks to **Sally Warhaft**.

GLEN DAVID GOLD IN CONVERSATION

VENUE ACMI 2 **CODE** 2927
Glen David Gold loves finding the brilliant and bizarre in history. His highly successful first novel, *Carter Beats the Devil* won the Guardian First Book Award and *Sunnyside* is his long-awaited second novel. He talks with **Michael Williams**.

THE ART OF LITERARY TRANSLATION

VENUE ACMI Studio 1 **CODE** 2977
Legendary translator **Peter Bush** opens our eyes to the beauty of translation as an art, in the company of French author, **Marie Darrieussecq** and her translator, **Lia Hills**, and translators **Judith Rodriguez** and **Elaine Lewis**.

FROM 8PM

MCSWEENEY'S (FUTURISTIC) ANTIPODEAN ADVENTURE

VENUE Toff in Town **CODE** 2995
DURATION 3hrs
For more info on our Toff Events see p.5

BIG IDEAS: THE FORGING OF MODERN AUSTRALIA

VENUE RMIT Capitol Theatre **CODE** 2942
For more info on our Big Ideas see p.4

INTERNATIONAL PEN THE LEADING VOICE OF WRITERS WORLDWIDE

Founded in 1920, PEN affirms that literature knows no frontiers. Melbourne PEN is one of 150 centres in over 100 countries. PEN works on behalf of writers who are currently imprisoned, tortured, threatened, attacked or exiled for the peaceful practice of their professions. The empty chair at festival sessions represents a writer who could not be here because of these circumstances. The project has been a regular feature of MWF over the past decade. It has highlighted the plight of many persecuted writers, some of whom have been murdered for their courageous pursuit of justice.