

REALITY BITES

THE TRUTH ABOUT NON FICTION
4-6 JULY 2008

SUN

PROGRAM

- 10.00** Who was the real Daisy Bates?
Susanna de Vries will introduce the *Queen of the Never Never* - the many lives and loves of Daisy Bates
- 11.00** Living, Loving and Learning - where do you draw the line?
Phyllis McDuff talks about unravelling the secrets
Jan Cornall explores the ups and downs of collaborative writing
Annette Hughes talks about the wonder and wisdom of changing lifestyle
- 12.00** Truth, History, Justice
James Gerrand will discuss the making of, and hazards encountered, on his current film project Cambodia's Hun Sen, *The Strongman who followed Pol Pot*
Paul Brown discusses his experiences as writer and facilitator of the verbatim theatre play *Half a Life*
Unlikely Voyages
Sandy Mackinnon discusses his voyage a long way from home
Virginia Lloyd discusses her voyage of renovation at home
- 3.30** In Conversation
Gideon Haigh will lead an open discussion with the facilitators - exploring the reality of non-fiction writing, publishing and reading - why are we so fascinated with the truth?

SEMINARS

- 12.00 TO 3.30** Becoming a freelance writer (S2)
Ever wanted to have your own column in a newspaper? Perhaps you want to be able to write full-time and not have to worry about the daily grind any more. **Tiana Templeman**, a full-time freelance writer and a spirited adventurer, has been exploring the globe since 1988. Her first book *Absolutely Faking It* has been reprinted numerous times and translated for overseas publication. Tiana will let you know how you can become a regular name in local, statewide and national press.
- Write Here:Write Now (S3)
1.30 TO 3.30 **Jan Cornall's** seminar will focus on writing community histories and how to use your writing in a rapidly changing world. Some writing, some talking; be prepared to be involved.

SESSION CHAIRS

Louise Adler (Melbourne University Publishing), Madonna Duffy (University of Qld Press), Steve Hooper (University of Sunshine Coast), Christina Kargillis (Sunshine Coast Regional Council), Lesley McFadzean, (Editor, Literary Agent, Writer) Alexandra Payne (University of Qld Press)

PROGRAM

- 6.30** Buffet & BYO at Berkelouw Books Eumundi
- feast among the books!
Mayor Bob Abbott will launch Reality Bites,

Annette Hughes, author of *Art Life Chooks: Learning to Leave the City and Love the Country*, will share some stories from her book

PROGRAM

- 9.30** Opening & Welcome
- 10.00** Living Politics
Margaret Reynolds discusses her experiences and passions from grass roots activism to international human rights
- 11.00** In Conversation with Birmo
John Birmingham chats to Annette Hughes about anything and everything from falafels to fiascos; fact to farce
- 12.00** Who owns the Past?
Gideon Haigh discusses representation and independence in writing
Frank Chalmers discusses how contemporary culture portrays old stories
- 3.30** Art and Life on the Edges
Susan Cochrane tells of some extraordinary encounters with arts and artists in Melanesia
Chris Dew talks about researching the underground galleries of Australia
- 5.00** Integrity of Representation
Graham Pitts discusses the seductive authenticity of documentary theatre

SEMINARS

- 1.45 TO 3.30** Writing Memoir (S1)
Phyllis McDuff's seminar will provide practical advice to get you started and keep you writing. Tips for finding your way through the maze from someone who found her way - slowly, sometimes painfully - but ultimately with great success.

HOW TO BOOK:

Unless otherwise indicated, complete and return the booking form to:

Post:

Butter Factory Arts Centre,
(Reality Bites)
PO Box 141,
Tewantin, Qld 4563

Email:

bernice.childs@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Phone:

The Majestic **07 5485 2330**
Butter Factory Arts **07 5472 0107**

COST:

Weekend Pass	\$50.00
One Day Pass	\$30.00
Single Sessions	\$8.00
Seminar 1	\$25.00
Seminar 2	\$25.00
Seminar 3	Bookings to: Qld. Writers Centre 07 3839 1243 jbeveridge@qwc.asn.au
Buffet & BYO	at Berkelouw Books, Friday 4 July, 6.30pm \$25.00 Bookings to: Berkelouw Books 07 5442 8366 eumundi@berkelouw.com.au

If booking single sessions, please tick the relevant sessions		No	\$
Saturday 5 July			
1	Living Politics	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	In Conversation with Birmo	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3	Who owns the Past?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4	Art and Life on the Edges	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5	Integrity of Representation	<input type="checkbox"/>	
S1	Seminar 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sunday 6 July			
6	Who was the real Daisy Bates?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7	Living, Loving and Learning - Where do you draw the line?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8	Truth, History, Justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9	Unlikely Voyages	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10	In Conversation with the facilitators	<input type="checkbox"/>	
S2	Seminar 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	
S3	Seminar 3 (bookings to QWC)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Weekend Pass		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Day Pass (Tick which day)		Saturday <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Total: \$	

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ P/C: _____ State: _____

Email: _____

Total: \$ **PAYMENT ENCLOSED:** (Please tick) Cheque Cash Credit Card (Details below)

Visa Mastercard (only) Name on Card: _____

Card No: _____ Expiry Date: _____

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SUN

REALITY BITES

THE TRUTH ABOUT NON FICTION

Reality Bites presents a weekend discovery program revealing the essence of successful non-fiction writing.

Covering memoir, biography, history, social/political commentary, satire, film, performance and seminars.

Friday 4	6.30pm	Berkelouw Books, Eumundi
Saturday 5	10.00am-6.00pm	Majestic Theatre, Pomona
Sunday 6	10.00am-6.00pm	Majestic Theatre, Pomona



Sunshine Coast
Regional Council



JOHN BIRMINGHAM



John Birmingham is an Australian author who was born in Liverpool UK and migrated to Australia with his parents in 1970. Birmingham is best known for the novel *He Died With A Felafel In His Hand* (1994), which has since been turned into a play, a film and a graphic novel. The play was written and produced by 36 unemployed actors and went on to become the longest running stage play in Australian history. The sequel is *The Tasmanian Babes Fiasco* (Duffy & Snellgrove, 1997). Other works include *How To Be A Man*, a semi-humorous guide to contemporary Australian masculinity, *Dopeland*, a history of marijuana culture in Australia and *Off One's Tits*. He also spent four years researching the history of Sydney for *Leviathan: the unauthorised biography of Sydney* (Random House, 1999), which won Australia's National Prize for Non-Fiction in 2002.

PAUL BROWN



Currently Head of the School of History and Philosophy at UNSW, Paul's career combines Creative Writing, Science and Arts. He is the co-founder of Urban Theatre Projects, and author of the verbatim play *Aftershocks* about the Newcastle earthquake. A participant in the International Landmines theatre project involving playwrights from seven South East Asian countries, he was also the writer on Alphaville's documentary *Sixty Thousand Barrels* (made for SBS Independent). His current major project is as Writer and Facilitator for a verbatim theatre play, *Half a Life*, about veterans of British nuclear testing.

FRANK CHALMERS



Frank is currently writing two documentaries, one in Xinjiang, China, about archaeologists (robbers?) taking artefacts from the ancient Silk Road, the other on an early Australian 'weatherman' trying, oddly, to control our weather. He is also curating a multiplayer games-based museum exhibition to challenge how we decide who may come to this country and who may not as well as designing a distributed multiplayer game on ethics in government. *Admit One*, an exhibition at the Museum of Brisbane, a documentary *Bundy's Last Great Adventure* (Ch 7) and a book *Murilla - the first 100 years* are just some of the ways Frank fills his days.

SUSAN COCHRANE



Susan grew up in Papua New Guinea and, since the late 1980s, has undertaken extensive fieldwork leading to publications on art and social change in Melanesia. These include *Contemporary Art in Papua New Guinea* (1997) and *Beretara: Contemporary Pacific Art* (2001). Other recent publications include *Art and Life in Melanesia* (2007). She has worked as a curator on major art events including the Queensland Art Gallery's Asia-Pacific Triennial and the Sydney Olympics Arts Festival. Other achievements include a UQ Postdoctoral Fellowship for Women (2005), a National Museum of Australia Fellowship (2007) and a Harold White Fellowship from the National Library of Australia (2008).

JAN CORNALL



Writer/performer Jan Cornall has written more than 10 produced plays and musicals, a feature film, three musical CDs, a writing manual and a novel. For many years Jan has taught memoir, fiction, creative non-fiction and script writing at a range of educational institutions including the University of Technology Sydney and the University of Western Sydney. She runs popular writing workshops in Australia and Indonesia using meditative writing techniques. Jan is currently working on a stage show of her novel, *Take Me To Paradise* (set in Bali), and a collaborative book of short stories with Indonesian writer Triyanto Triwikromo.

CHRIS DEW



Chris Dew is a writer, researcher and photographer interested in landscape, memory and place. Formerly a senior lecturer in the History Program at La Trobe University, she currently holds an arts residency in the Southern Moreton Bay Islands near Brisbane. Her photographs have been exhibited in Melbourne's Counihan Gallery and in many print publications. She advises local government and community organisations on graffiti-related matters. Her book, *Uncommissioned Art: An A-Z of Australian Graffiti*, published September 2007 and due for reprint April 2008 (Melbourne University Press) is a spectacularly illustrated volume, offering new ways to look at street art and exploring its cultural and aesthetic impact.

SUSANNA DE VRIES



Susanna is an international author and former lecturer at the Queensland University of Technology. She was an adopted child; daughter of a well-known Anglo-Irish author and journalist, and the quest to discover her own past took her to Ireland. Susanna's 14 books have won her literary awards in Ireland and Britain, an Order of Australia for services to literature and a Winston Churchill Fellowship. She speaks fluent Spanish and French and has lived and worked in London, Edinburgh, Berlin, Florence, Barcelona and Sydney but now lives in Brisbane and has nine grandchildren. Susanna's most recent work, *Desert Queen: The many lives and loves of Daisy Bates* (Harper Collins Australia) was released in March 2008.

JAMES GERRARD



An independent documentary filmmaker, Jim has focused on Asia and especially Cambodia for the past 40 years. In 1967-68 Jim paddled a solo canoe down the Mekong River from war-torn Laos to the Vietnam border. He returned to produce his first documentary, *Mekong Downstream*. Based in Phnom Penh soon after the outbreak of the war that eventually brought Pol Pot to power, he began his first news filming of the war as a stringer for Visnews and CBS (America). From this came his seminal documentary study, *Khmer! Khmer! Cambodia in Conflict* (1972). His recent major departure from documentary has been to co-produce Doan Minh Phuong's Vietnamese feature film, *Bride of Silence*.

GIDEON HAIGH



Journalist (experienced), cricketer (mediocre), cat lover (devoted). Haigh has been a journalist for 24 years and now works mainly for the *Monthly* and the *Guardian*. He has edited seven books and written 20, the latest of which is Unspeakable Crime: *How Abortion became Legal in Australia*. (Melbourne University Press). Haigh is the author of the multi-award-winning book *Asbestos House*, the secret history of James Hardie Industries. He was winner of the 2007 Blake Dawson Waldron prize for Business Literature, the 2007 Gleebooks Prize, NSW Premier's Literary Awards and the 2006 Queensland Premier's Literary Award for a literary or media work advancing public debate.

ANNETTE HUGHES



After training as an art and English teacher in Brisbane, Annette Hughes fell for the charismatic art dealer Ray Hughes. When the marriage failed in 1996, she learned the nuts and bolts of book publishing with an independent publisher. Following that she became, first, a theatrical agent then a literary agent, mentored by the esteemed Rose Creswell, and worked with some of Australia's finest authors. In 2004, she left the publishing industry to farm trees (karmal). Her first book *Art Life Chooks: Learning to Leave the City and Love the Country* is the story of Annette and her partner Geoffrey who move from Sydney to a farm in Noosa's hinterland. Published by HarperCollins Australia, *Art Life Chooks* will be released in July 2008.

VIRGINIA LLOYD



Virginia Lloyd is the author of the 2008 memoir *The Young Widow's Book of Home Improvement: A True Story of Love and Renovation* (UQP). She has worked as a book editor, editorial mentor, website developer and literary agent. Virginia currently works with a not-for-profit organization in the area of public health and also works on manuscript development with select clients. She is a member of the Management Committee of Sydney PEN and is a recent graduate of New York University's Heyman Centre for Philanthropy and Fundraising.

PHYLLIS MCDUFF



A spinner of yarns; a weaver of webs - a dreamer of dreams: a knitter of threads. McDuff's Austrian family lived in Vienna under occupation of the Allies at the time when the Iron Curtain descended across Europe. She asks "How do I take an idea out of my head and put it into your head? Completely?" This challenge has been met through public speaking, poetry, writing fiction and non-fiction as well as working as a professional storyteller. Phyllis has earned significant awards in each of these fields. Her best selling memoir, *A Story Dreamt Long Ago*, (Random House, 2003) records the impacts of the author's early experiences, presenting some of the conclusions she has reached after a lifetime of connecting.

AJ MACKINNON (SANDY)



A.J. (Sandy) Mackinnon, born in Australia in 1963, spent his childhood between England and Australia, travelling as a small boy with his family on the last P&O liners to sail between the two countries; a factor to which he attributes his life-long love of maritime travel. His interests include painting, philosophy, writing, conjuring and homemade fireworks, and he has written and directed a number of plays and musicals. He currently lives and teaches at the renowned Timbertop campus of Geelong Grammar School where he teaches English and recounts his life's adventures to any willing listeners. His students don't believe a word he says. Sandy's book, *The Unlikely Voyage of Jack de Crow*, will be released on 4 July 2008 by Black Inc.

GRAHAM PITTS



Graham Pitts is a professional writer, researcher and playwright with more than 40 plays and film documentaries to his credit as well as two non-fiction books. He is best known for *Emma-Celebration!*, the story of an Italian migrant to Australia, which was produced Australia wide. He has written extensively on East Timor, the most recent being *Tour of Duty* performed at the Melbourne International arts Festival in 2001. His most recent work, currently showing in Carlton's La Mama Theatre, is *Haneef... The Interrogation*. Pitts describes himself as a playwright, not a political activist, but hopes that his recent work will lead to changes in the law.

MARGARET REYNOLDS



Margaret's extensive experience covers social policy development and advocacy, working at local, state and federal government levels. She was elected to the Townsville City Council in 1979 -1983 and the Australian Senate 1983-1999. She has worked with international organizations to promote human rights; was National President of the United Nations Association of Australia 1999-2005 and has represented Australia at a number of UN Conferences and at the UN General Assembly in 1997. She holds the position of Adjunct Professor at the University of Tasmania and, since 2004, has worked in disability policy and advocacy and is State Manager of National Disability Services (Tas). Her book, *Living Politics* (UQP), tracing her career in Australian and international politics, was released in October 2007.