

## Australian Literary Futures

What is the state of Australian literature in the 21st century? Is it really in crisis?

To celebrate the publication of the keenly-awaited *Macquarie PEN Anthology of Australian Literature*, this symposium takes the temperature of our literary culture. A distinguished panel takes the stand to debate the condition of Australian writing: among authors and the reading public, and in our schools and universities.

### Program

10.15 **Is there a need for an Anthology today?** (chair: Jill Roe)

Welcome and introduction: Nicholas Jose

Dr Ben Saul (Sydney PEN), Imre Salusinszky

Australian literature in schools: Donna Gibbs and Kerry-Ann O'Sullivan

DVD screening

11.15 *Morning tea provided*

11.45 **How do you fit 200 years of literature into one volume?** (chair: Nicholas Jose)

Robert Dixon, Elizabeth McMahon & Philip Mead in discussion with the editorial and publishing team: Peter Minter, Elizabeth Webby, Nicole Moore, Kerry Goldsworthy, David McCooey, Nicholas Jose, Mary Cunnane, Elizabeth Weiss, Geoff Payne, Jill Roe, Chris Cunneen

1.00 *Lunch (not provided)*

2.00 **Australian literature on the international stage** (chair: David McCooey)

Carol Hetherington: American friends, Ivor Indyk: Australian cosmopolitanism, Chen Hong: China's Australia

3.00 **Interpretations** (chair: Nicole Moore)

Authors read and discuss writing from the anthology:

Penne Hackforth-Jones, Jill Roe, Chris Wallace-Crabbe, Alexis Wright, Gail Jones

4.00 Symposium End

**Date:**

**Saturday 1 August**

**Time:**

10 am to 4 pm

**Venue:**

Dixson Room, Mitchell Wing

State Library of NSW

Macquarie Street, Sydney

**Cost:**

\$25

\$15 (Friends, Members of ASAL & PEN, Students)

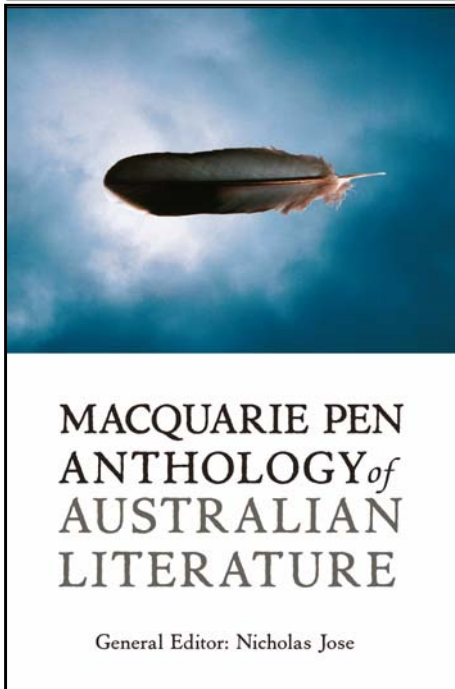
Morning tea served.

**Bookings essential!**

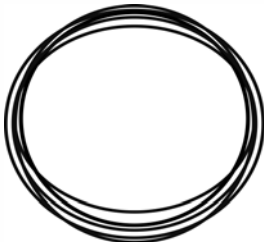
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## Australian Literary Futures Speakers

- **Professor Nicholas Jose**, General Editor of the *Macquarie PEN Anthology of Australian Literature* and author, has a Chair in Writing at the University of Western Sydney.
- **Dr Imre Salusinszky**, Chair of the Literature Board of the Australia Council for the Arts.
- **Professor Robert Dixon** holds the chair of Australian Literature at the University of Sydney.
- **Dr Elizabeth McMahon**, senior lecturer at the University of NSW, co-editor of *Southerly* and president of the Association for the Study of Australian Literature (ASAL).
- **Professor Philip Mead**, recently appointed to the inaugural Chair of Australian Literature at the University of Western Australia.
- **Carol Hetherington** is a professional librarian and content manager for the Australian Literature database.
- **Professor Ivor Indyk** holds the Whitlam Chair in Writing and Society at the University of Western Sydney. He founded the literary magazine *Heat* and is publisher at Giramondo Publishing Company.
- **Associate Professor Chen Hong**, director of the Australian Studies Centre, East China Normal University, Shanghai, and Vice President, National Association of Australian Studies in China is a member of the international advisory group for the *Macquarie PEN Anthology*.
- Actor and writer **Penne Hackforth-Jones** has appeared in the films *Muriel's Wedding*, and *Mao's Last Dancer*. In 1991 she published a biography of her great-grandmother, the writer Barbara Baynton.
- **Chris Wallace-Crabbe**, poet, essayist, literary critic, and teacher is foundation director of the University of Melbourne's Australian Centre.
- **Alexis Wright** is a member of the Waanyi people. Her critically acclaimed novel *Carpentaria* won the Miles Franklin Literary Award.
- **Professor Gail Jones** is a writer and academic. She has received numerous literary awards including the Australian Literature Society Gold Medal and the Western Australia Premier's Prize.