

# Media Release



The  
Wheeler  
Centre  
Books  
Writing  
Ideas

Embargoed until Thursday, January 21, 2010

## The Conversation Begins! Wheeler Centre rolls out huge programme of events

Melbourne's newest talking point - The Wheeler Centre - today announced its first programme with over 100 events and 200 speakers, which runs from **February to May 2010** in the City of Literature.

*Wheeler Centre Director **Chrissy Sharp** said "We have assembled an impressive list of writers, journalists, academics and opinion makers who I know will entertain and edify in this, our inaugural season of events at The Wheeler Centre....it's an exciting start to 2010".*

The series of mostly free events marks the start of a new chapter in Melbourne's famed cultural life. Focusing on books, writing and ideas, the inaugural programme invites everyone to participate in a wide variety of storytellings, forums, launches and discussions. From high brow to low brow, in-depth to purely entertaining, there is something to suit all tastes.

The programme combines **Regular Sessions** with **One-off Events** and a **Reading the City** series.

**Regular Sessions** - all FREE (excluding the May *In Conversation with Jennifer Byrne*) - include:

- **Lunchbox/Soapbox:** a weekly half-hour lunchtime spot where a guest writer gets the opportunity to sound off on a topic of their choice. Speakers include **Peter Singer, George Megalogenis, Toni Jordan and Stephanie Alexander.**
- **In Conversation with Jennifer Byrne:** bimonthly interviews of high-profile writers with the host of ABC TV's *First Tuesday Book Club*.
- **Debut Mondays:** every fortnight, four 10-minute readings by writers from their debut novels. Try before you buy!
- **The Writer's Mix Tape:** a monthly music interview where notable writers reveal to a 3RRR presenter the 10 songs that have most moved and shaped their career.
- **Ethically Speaking:** bi-monthly discussion on moral philosophy and ethics. Media & Journalistic Ethics to be chaired by **Michael Gawenda**; Corporate & Business Ethics by **Alan Kohler.**

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The **One-Off Events** range from in-depth interviews with significant local and international writers to celebrations marking significant writers or anniversaries. Guests include:

- Former PM **Malcolm Fraser**, the celebrated journalists **Jana Wendt** and the U.S.'s **Mark Danner** and best-selling international authors **Lee Child**, **Sarah Dunant**, **Geoff Dyer** and **Irvine Walsh**.

The **FREE Reading the City** series in March puts the focus on Melbourne from different angles, celebrating its recent naming as a UNESCO City of Literature.

- **Art on the City:** three prominent Melbourne artists, reveal how they depict the city in their work. Chaired by Chris McAuliffe.
- **Art in the City:** a discussion on Melbourne's public art - from statues of dead governors to temporary installations.
- **Urban Sprawl:** a public forum on the issues and pitfalls of Melbourne's development plans.
- **Melbourne on the Page:** three Melbourne writers discuss how they use our buildings, lanes and streets in their work.
- **The Trouble with Water:** a public forum to discuss our water situation and the anxiety it is creating.
- **Bricks and Mortar:** Four of our architectural experts will name their favourite, and least favourite, Melbourne buildings.
- **Historians on Melbourne:** Four of our finest historians will reveal fascinating, little-known stories about Melbourne's past.

*Michael Williams, Head of Programming for The Wheeler Centre said, "The wealth of talent and ideas in the Melbourne community has provided us with an embarrassment of riches for our inaugural programme. Between the one-off special events and the regular series there's something for everyone here."*

**The Wheeler Centre**  
176 Little Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne

## Tickets & Bookings

Pre-purchase online or at door one hour prior to event start time.

See website for details [wheelercentre.com](http://wheelercentre.com)

Bookings recommended for all free events except *Lunchbox/Soapbox* and *Debut Mondays*.

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