

Media Release

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Gala profits to go to damaged Queensland libraries.

Today Melbourne's **Wheeler Centre** for Books Writing and Ideas pledged all profits raised by their **2011 Gala Night of Storytelling** will go to flood-affected libraries across Queensland. The opening event for the year, the gala will feature writers from near and far to share their stories, in their own words, in their own language.

Chrissy Sharp, director of the **Wheeler Centre**, said

"We're excited to be starting our second year at the Wheeler Centre with a gala event celebrating the importance of storytelling. In light of the devastation experienced by communities across Queensland in recent days, we feel very concerned about the damage to cherished local and school libraries. The profits from this year's gala will be donated to support the rebuilding of Queensland's network of libraries."

A Gala Night of Storytelling 2011: Voices from Elsewhere

Friday 11 February, 2011. 7:00 – 8:30pm

Melbourne Town Hall, corner Swanston and Collins streets, Melbourne

Tickets \$20/\$12 concession through wheelercentre.com

Last year, the Wheeler Centre's first ever event celebrated twelve of Australia's finest writers and storytellers. They shared personal recollections and tales from folklore, they told stories of great power and they made us laugh. This year will expand the conversation when some of our own finest writers are joined by a selection of extraordinary international voices. With local actors reading the English translations, visiting writers such as award-winning French author **Yannick Haenel**, German poet **Dagmar Leupold** and acclaimed Indian novelist **Abha Dawesar** will deliver their stories in languages ranging from Chinese to French, German to Hindi. From the universal to the intensely personal, the international writers' stories will be interwoven with contributions from our local greats.

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**The
Wheeler
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**Books
Writing
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The Wheeler Centre

A Victorian Government initiative and the centrepiece of Melbourne's designation as a UNESCO City of Literature.