

# Media Release



The  
Wheeler  
Centre  
Books  
Writing  
Ideas

Embargoed until Thursday 14 April

## A packed programme of events to keep the mind in shape this winter

**Bold thinkers and challenging ideas abound in the Wheeler Centre's bumper new programme running from May to August.**

Available on **14 April**, the new programme includes:

- Intellectual heavyweights Israeli writer **Amos Oz (3 August)**, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and journalist **Thomas Friedman (29 July)** and Professor **Gail Dines (27 May)**, author of *Pornland*
- The extraordinary personal stories of politician and former hostage **Ingrid Betancourt (25 May)**, Pakistani political heir and poet **Fatima Bhutto (18 May)**, Catholic priest and campaigner for Holocaust witnesses **Fr Patrick Desbois (2 June)** and Palestinian peace activist **Dr Izzeldin Abuelaish (23 May)**;
- **Intelligence Squared** debates that tackle the thorny issues of public funding of private education (**24 May**) and the war in Afghanistan (**28 July**)
- And, of course, visits from some of the world's best-loved storytellers like **Meg Rosoff (4 May)**, **Michael Cunningham (24 May)**, **David Mitchell (17 May)** and **Michael Connelly (26 May)**

With the best of the **2011 Sydney Writers' Festival** visiting Melbourne in May, a great new series exploring the connections between food and writing – **The Writers' Banquet** – and collaborations with the **State of Design** and **Emerging Writers' Festivals**, the next four months are full to bursting. The second programme for 2011 also sees the return of **Lunchbox/Soapbox**, **Texts in the City** for VCE English students, **The Talking Point's** investigations of the hottest issues and **The Wheeler Centre on the Road** visits the Goldfields and other regional centres across the state. **The Late Great** celebrates **Ruth Park** and **Marcus Clarke**, plus the monthly celebration of the first-time author, **Debut Mondays**, is back with the freshest writers reading their brand new work.

**Full media kit with calendar of events available upon request. For media enquiries contact Anna Lensky 03 9094 7806, 0425 766 780 or [anna.lensky@wheelercentre.com](mailto:anna.lensky@wheelercentre.com)**

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MELBOURNE  
CITY OF  
LITERATURE

ARTS  
VICTORIA



The Wheeler Centre

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