

Media Kit



The
Wheeler
Centre

Books
Writing
Ideas

Embargoed until 28 January 2011

PROGRAMME

February 2011

Fri, 11 Feb *A Gala Night of Storytelling: Voices From Elsewhere*
Melbourne Town Hall, 90 – 120 Swanston Street, Melbourne • 7:00 – 8:30pm • Tickets \$20 and \$12 concession

The 2010 Gala brought together some of our finest writers and storytellers to celebrate our City of Literature. This year, we're broadening the conversation to writers from near and far, sharing their stories in their own words, in their own languages. Join Chinese author **Murong Xuecun**, Indian novelist **Abha Dawesar**, French novelist **Yannick Haenel** and German poet **Dagmar Leupold**, as well as locals **Nam Le**, **John Birmingham**, **Mem Fox** and **Sonya Hartnett** for another Gala Night of Storytelling. All profits to go to the flood-damaged QLD libraries.

Mon, 14 Feb *Murong Xuecun*
Wheeler Centre • 6:15 – 7:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

From a debut novel that prompted authorities to convene a conference opposing it, to his more recent work as an investigative journalist, celebrated author **Murong Xuecun** doesn't believe in half-measures. Fresh from our 2011 Gala, he discusses the challenges that face an 'independent' writer in modern China. Chaired by the Melbourne Writers Festival's **Jenny Niven**.

Tue, 15 Feb *Thousands of Sails: Launching Australian Poetry*
Wheeler Centre • 7:00 – 8:00pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

Chris Wallace-Crabbe calls poetry an '*often quiet art*', though a large community of Australians read, write, and are passionate about the form. To celebrate the launch of Australian Poetry, a new national organisation, **Dagmar Leupold**, **Yvette Holt** and **Ouyang Yu** reflect on the many voices of poetry in Australia.

Wed, 16 Feb *Jan Karski, The Messenger*
Wheeler Centre (N.B. venue change) • 6:15 – 7:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

Published to immense acclaim in France, under the title *Jan Karski, The Messenger* is a compelling and tragic story. This extraordinary novelised biography by **Yannick Haenel** is about a man's moral courage and our collective humanity, with parallels to Thomas Keneally's *Schindler's Ark* and WG Sebald's *Austerlitz*. **Yannick Haenel** speaks with **Mark Baker**, Director of the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation, Monash University.

Thu, 17 Feb *Lunchbox/Soapbox: Jon Faine, Why All the Complaining?*
Wheeler Centre • 12:45 – 1:15pm • Free event, no booking required.

The weekly piece of polemic for lunching folk to chew on returns. First cab off the rank is ABC 774's **Jon Faine** who asks when we are amongst the luckiest people on the planet, are we developing a culture of complaint and creating a nation of whingers?

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Fri, 18 Feb ***Secrets & Lies: How WikiLeaks has Changed the World***
Capitol Theatre, 113 Swanston Street, Melbourne (N.B. venue change) • 6:15 – 7:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

Without exception, the biggest news story to close out 2010 was the rise and rise of WikiLeaks. As cable after cable appeared in the world's newspapers, and the governments of the world dissembled as diplomatic niceties were washed away, journalists and citizens alike raised their voices in defence of the website and its controversial founder. But what are the lasting implications of WikiLeaks? Where does the public's right to know begin and end? With **Paul Ramadge**, the *Age's* Editor-in-Chief, and **Julian Burnside**, QC and others.

Tue, 22 Feb ***The Late Great: Patrick White***
Wheeler Centre • 6:15 – 7:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

How better to launch our series on Australian literary legends than with the incomparable Nobel Laureate? Unlike many of his contemporaries White has remained a household name but how widely is he still read? Chaired by the Malthouse's **Stephen Armstrong**, featuring White biographer **David Marr**, actor **Kerry Walker** and poet and writer **David Musgrave**.

Thu, 24 Feb ***Lunchbox/Soapbox: Sophie Cunningham, Still Shocking***
Wheeler Centre • 12:45 – 1:15pm • Free, no bookings required.

People hate dealing with change. Alvin Toffler's 1971 *Future Shock* outlined humanity's failure to adapt. **Sophie Cunningham** asks: does it still apply in a world where even the climate is changing?

Sun, 27 Feb ***Leaving Microsoft to Change the World***
Wheeler Centre • 5:00 – 6:00pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

Leaving Microsoft to Change the World is the story of **John Wood**, who abandoned a high-flying corporate career to found Room to Read, an innovative global non-profit dedicated to delivering literacy and gender equality in education, currently operating in nine countries in Asia and Africa.

Sun, 27 Feb – Fri, 4 Mar ***Big Gay Week***

At the Wheeler Centre we like to combine the celebratory with the cerebral. Between Midsumma and Mardi Gras, join us for the politics and the writing, the romance and the taboos, the agonies and the ecstasies of being queer.

Sun, 27 Feb ***Armistead Maupin***
Athenaeum Theatre, 188 Collins Street, Melbourne • 7:30 – 8:30pm • Tickets \$20 and \$12 concession.

Much-loved author **Armistead Maupin** brings his new tales to the city of literature. In 1976, he launched his daily newspaper serial, *Tales of the City*, in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. The first fiction to appear in an American daily for decades, *Tales* grew into an international sensation. Maupin's seven volumes are now multi-million bestsellers published in eleven languages. His latest novel is *Mary Ann in Autumn*, a new *Tales of the City* story. **Maupin** will be in conversation with **Noni Hazlehurst**.



Sun, 27 Feb – Fri, 4 Mar *Big Gay Week continued...*

Mon, 28 Feb *Erotic Fan Fiction: The GLTBI Edition*

Wheeler Centre • 6:15 – 7:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

One of last year's crowd favourites, the unstoppable cultural phenomenon that is Erotic Fan Fiction returns, with another adults-only night of fantastical tales where anything goes. The Imperial Panda team asked writers they like to write a short piece of filth about a celebrity or fictional character, which they then read in public. Five writers turn their craft to a night of smut and hilarity that's same-same but different.

Tue, 1 Mar *The Only Gay Book in the Village*

Wheeler Centre • 6:15 – 7:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

When Alan Hollinghurst won the 2005 Man Booker Prize for *The Line of Beauty*, the mainstream press celebrated it as the first time a gay novel had taken home the award. But what makes a piece of writing gay? The author? The subject matter? The characters? Is Queer literature alive and well in Australia and what value is there in identifying it as such. We ask some of Australia's finest gay and lesbian writers if they are Gay and Lesbian Writers. How central is sexuality to their work? With **Benjamin Law, Fiona McGregor, William Yang and Sophie Cunningham.**

Wed, 2 Mar *Coming Out Stories*

Wheeler Centre • 6:15 – 7:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

Guests share personal accounts of the agonies and ecstasies of telling all to loved ones, friends and the world. Speakers TBA

Thu, 3 Mar *Lunchbox/Soapbox: The Gay Movement Forty Years On*

Wheeler Centre • 12:45 – 1:15pm • Free, no bookings required.

The weekly piece of polemic for lunching folk to chew on. During our Big Gay Week the author of the seminal 1971 *Homosexual: Oppression and Liberation*, **Dennis Altman**, reflects on the past four decades.

Thu, 3 Mar *Literary Speed Dating: Men seeking Men*

Wheeler Centre • 7:00 – 8:30pm • Tickets \$20 and \$12 concession.

The Wheeler Centre's match-making sensation is back for 2011, and as part of our Big Gay Week this time we're offering the chance for those same-sex inclined book lovers to find that kindred spirit. Thursday night is gentleman's night: whether it's Edmund White or David Sedaris, Ernest Hemingway or Alice Munro, this is your chance to come and talk books... with intent. Hosted by **Jane Clifton.**

Fri, 4 Mar *Literary Speed Dating: Women seeking Women*

Wheeler Centre • 7:00 – 8:30pm • Tickets \$20 and \$12 concession.

On Friday night, it's time for the women to raise a glass of wine over their literary picks: from Jeanette Winterson to Susan Sontag, Jonathan Franzen to Val McDermid, this is your chance to come and talk books... with intent. Hosted by **Jane Clifton.**



March 2011

Tue, 1 Mar **Texts in the City: Maestro by Peter Goldsworthy**

Wheeler Centre • 4:30 – 5:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

There comes a point, when a book or film becomes a text, that study can take the joy out of reading. Every Tuesday afternoon in terms one and two, we try to rediscover a sense of love and wonder about the texts on the VCE English list. This week: **Peter Goldsworthy's *Maestro***.

Mon, 7 Mar **Angus Trumble: The Finger**

Wheeler Centre • 6:15 – 7:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

Angus Trumble, Senior Curator of Paintings for the Yale Centre for British Art, is the author of the acclaimed *The Smile* and now provides some pointers on the finger. *The Finger* is a collision between art and science, history and pop culture. From Guernica to the Sistine Chapel, **Trumble** offers a witty and perverse look at matters digital. **Trumble** will be in conversation with curator **David Hansen**.

Mon, 7 Mar **Two Sides of the Story – Music Theatre: Casey Bennetto & Mathew Frank**

Wheeler Centre • 7:30 – 8:30pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

Life is a musical old chum... but how do those who write for Music Theatre even begin? How does song relate to story? Do you sacrifice narrative integrity in the name of something you can tap your toe to? **Casey Bennetto's** triumphant *Keating!* and **Mathew Frank's** celebrated *Prodigal* and *Once We Lived Here* could not have been more different. Was writing them?

Tue, 8 Mar **Texts in the City: The Crucible by Arthur Miller**

Wheeler Centre • 4:30 – 5:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

There comes a point, when a book or film becomes a text, that study can take the joy out of reading. Every Tuesday afternoon in terms one and two, we try to rediscover a sense of love and wonder about the texts on the VCE English list. This week: **Arthur Miller's *The Crucible***.

Tue, 8 Mar **On the Road: Andrew O'Hagan in Mildura**

Stefano's Gallery 25, 25 Deakin Avenue Mildura • 7:30 – 8:30pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

Award-winning Scottish novelist **Andrew O'Hagan** returns to Australia. The author of *Be Near Me*, *Personality* and his new book *The Life and Opinions of Maf the Dog, and of His Friend Marilyn Monroe*, discusses a life in writing: love, religion, class hatred, the clash of generations and Scottish Maltese poodles. In conversation with **Chrissy Sharp**, director of the Wheeler Centre.

Wed, 9 Mar **Andrew O'Hagan**

Wheeler Centre • 6:15 – 7:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

Award-winning Scottish novelist **Andrew O'Hagan** returns to Australia. The author of *Be Near Me*, *Personality* and his new book *The Life and Opinions of Maf the Dog, and of His Friend Marilyn Monroe*, discusses a life in writing: love, religion, class hatred, the clash of generations and Scottish Maltese poodles. In conversation with writer **Michael McGirr**.

Thu, 10 Mar **Lunchbox/Soapbox: Joanne Faulkner, The Enemies of Innocence**

Wheeler Centre • 12:45 – 1:15pm • Free, no bookings required.

The weekly piece of polemic for lunching folk to chew on. Academic and writer **Joanne Faulkner** examines how the Australian media uses and abuses issues affecting children to their own ends.

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Thu, 10 Mar **Griffith Review: Ways of Seeing**

Wheeler Centre • 6:15 – 7:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

For their first issue of 2011, *Ways of Seeing*, the prestigious literary journal tackles the academy head on. In the lead essay, **John Armstrong**, Philosopher-in-Residence at Melbourne Business School, presents a compelling case for radical reform in our universities' teaching of the humanities. Sure to cause ripples, this promises to be a provocative discussion. With editor **Julianne Schultz** and journalist **Peter Clarke**.

Fri, 11 Mar **Annie Proulx**

The Capitol Theatre, 113 Swanston Street, Melbourne • 7:30 – 8:30pm • Tickets \$20 and \$12 concession

Since winning the 1993 Pulitzer for the international best-seller *The Shipping News*, **Annie Proulx** has gone on to become one of the most celebrated, best-loved novelists and short story writers of our time. She is the author of twelve books, including *Postcards*, *Accordion Crimes* and *That Old Ace in the Hole* and her acclaimed short stories set in and around Wyoming that introduced the world to *Brokeback Mountain*. In her only Melbourne appearance, she discusses her new memoir, *Birdcloud*, and more with the Wheeler Centre's Michael Williams.

Mon, 14 Mar **IQ2: Both Major Parties are Failing the Australian People**

Melbourne Town Hall, 90 – 120 Swanston Street, Melbourne • 6:30 – 8:30pm • Tickets \$20 and \$12 concession

Beyond the soundbites, beyond the sloganeering, beyond the posturing, there's the debate. In partnership with St James Ethics Centre, the Wheeler Centre is once again presenting Intelligence Squared debates across 2011. As the old truism would have it, 'Whoever you vote for the Government always gets in'. By the end of last year, the Australian electorate's sense of fatigue and disillusionment was palpable. Differences between Labor and Liberal felt incremental, and the big stories seemed to centre on alternatives, from the Greens to the Independents. Have the old forces in Australian politics lost their way? Speakers TBA

Tue, 15 Mar **Texts in the City: Peter Weir's Witness**

Wheeler Centre • 4:30 – 5:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

Every Tuesday afternoon in terms one and two, we try to rediscover a sense of love and wonder about the texts on the VCE English list. This week: **Peter Weir's Witness**.

Wed, 16 Mar **Hazel Rowley and Alex Miller**

Wheeler Centre • 6:15 – 7:15pm • Free Event, bookings recommended.

One of the world's most respected biographers joins one of Australia's literary greats to discuss literature and life on the page. After acclaimed accounts of the lives of Christina Stead and Richard Wright, and the relationship between Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre, **Rowley** turns her compassionate and penetrating gaze to Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

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Thu, 17 Mar **Lunchbox/Soapbox: Larissa Behrendt, *Why is Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage so Hard?***

Wheeler Centre • 12:45 – 1:15pm • Free event, no bookings required.

The weekly piece of polemic for lunching folk to chew on features **Larissa Behrendt**. Why is the money and goodwill spent on indigenous issues producing so few noticeable results?

Sun, 20 Mar ***She Must Be Seeing Things***

Wheeler Centre • 3:00 – 5:00pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

An event that examines what happens when women use cameras to cast new eyes on the cultures around them. Organised by the Melbourne Centre of International PEN to mark 2011 International Women's Day, with **Deb Verhoeven**.

Mon, 21 Mar ***Debut Mondays***

Wheeler Centre • 6:15 – 7:15pm • Free event, no booking required.

Four first time authors read from their work. Come and have a glass of wine and discover the best new writers around. This week, **George Ivanoff, Krystin Low, Meg Mundell** and **Angela Smith**.

Tue, 22 Mar ***Texts in the City: Dreams from My Father by Barack Obama***

Wheeler Centre • 4:30 – 5:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

Every Tuesday afternoon in terms one and two, we try to rediscover a sense of love and wonder about the texts on the VCE English list. This week: **Barack Obama's *Dreams from my Father***.

Tue, 22 Mar ***Jeffrey Archer***

Collins Street Baptist Church, 174 Collins Street, Melbourne • 7:30 – 8:30pm • Tickets \$20 and \$12 concession.

With over two dozen books and international sales passing 250 million, **Jeffrey Archer** is a publishing and cultural phenomenon. Former Deputy Chairman of England's Conservative Party, he served five years in the House of Commons, fourteen years in the House of Lords and two in Her Majesty's prisons. The divisive icon visits Australia to coincide with his latest book *Only Time Will Tell* and is in conversation with **Jennifer Byrne**.

Wed, 23 Mar ***Quarterly Essay – The Good Life: Happiness and Virtue in the Modern World***

The Wheeler Centre • 6:15 – 7:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

Across 2011, the Wheeler Centre will continue to partner with the respected Quarterly Essay to launch and discuss each of their four issues. In *The Good Life: Happiness and Virtue in the Modern World*, **David Malouf** in conversation with **Raimond Gaita** returns to one of the most fundamental questions and gives it a modern twist: what is it to live a good life?

Thu, 24 Mar ***Lunchbox/Soapbox: Bon Pobjie, In Defence of Offensiveness***

Wheeler Centre • 12:45 – 1:15pm • Free event, no bookings required.

The weekly piece of polemic for lunching folk to chew on. Comedy is relative. One person's hilarity is another's wounding words. But surely there's a place for material that's on the nose. With **Ben Pobjie**.

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Thu, 24 Mar ***Drama Queens: Why do we see so few plays by Australian women?***
Wheeler Centre • 6:15 – 7:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

Something, somewhere, in Australian theatre is not working. Are female playwrights not out there, or are they being denied opportunities? And if there is a problem, what's being done? With calls of sexism and a push for the introduction of quotas, many Australian women playwrights are on the warpath. Playwrights **Patricia Cornelius** and **Van Badham** talk with Malthouse Artistic Director **Marion Potts** and others.

Tue, 29 Mar ***Texts in the City: Così by Louis Nowra***
Wheeler Centre • 4:30 – 5:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

Every Tuesday afternoon in terms one and two, we try to rediscover a sense of love and wonder about the texts on the VCE English list. This week: **Louis Nowra's Così**.

Wed, 30 Mar ***Meanland: The Evolution of the Bookshop***
Wheeler Centre • 6:15 – 7:15pm • Free event, booking recommended.

In partnership with *Meanjin* and *Overland*, we continue this series in 2011. With Amazon.com, ebooks and print-on-demand, are we seeing the end of the traditional bookstore? In the first Meanland event for 2011, a panel of retailers, e-traders and industry insiders discuss how book selling is changing and what that evolution means for readers, writers and literature.

Thu, 31 Mar ***Lunchbox/Soapbox: Tim Soutphommasane, The Pleasures of Hate Mail***
Wheeler Centre • 12:45 – 1:15pm • Free event, no bookings required.

The weekly piece of polemic for lunching folk to chew on with philosopher **Tim Soutphommasane**.

April 2011

Fri, 1 Apr ***Humourists Read Humourists***
Wheeler Centre • 7.30 – 8.30 pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

At the first ever Melbourne International Comedy Festival, a collection of writers, performers and others came together to celebrate their favourite humourists. That was twenty-five years ago. This year, *Humourists Read Humourists* returns to Melbourne, presented by the Wheeler Centre and the Comedy Festival. Find out who makes your favourite comedian laugh. Listen to someone you've never heard of read someone you've always loved, or someone you've always loved reading something you can't find on YouTube. Imagine that. One night only.

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Sun, 3 Apr **Children's Book Festival**
Lawns of State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne • 10:00am – 4:00pm •
Free event, no booking required.

Some of Australia's favourite authors and illustrators are taking over the State Library for a day of books, books, books. There'll be puppet shows and readings, music and magic. With fun activities organised by the Children's Book Council of Australia, Playgroups Victoria, Books Illustrated and others, as well as the State Library of Victoria's Look exhibition of Children's illustrations, you won't even have time to stop for an icecream...but you can.

Plus, on Monday and Tuesday following, there are programmed events for **primary school classes**; Bookings through education@slv.vic.gov.au

Mon, 4 Apr **Two Sides of the Story – Memoir: Kate Holden & David Astle**
Wheeler Centre • 7:30 – 8:30pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

Autobiography, memoir, life-writing: countless genres, countless approaches. Exposing one's life experiences on the page seems somewhat daunting. From **Kate Holden's** personal and romantic travails to **David Astle's** professional peccadilloes and linguistic shenanigans, these two very different memoirists compare notes.

Tue, 5 Apr **Texts in the City: Life of Pi by Yann Martel**
Wheeler Centre • 4:30 – 5:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

Every Tuesday afternoon in terms one and two, we try to rediscover a sense of love and wonder about the texts on the VCE English list. This week: **Yann Martel's Life of Pi**.

Thu, 7 Apr **Lunchbox/Soapbox, Leslie Cannold, The Problem with Feminists...**
Wheeler Centre • 12:45 – 1.15pm • Free event, no bookings required.

The weekly piece of polemic for lunching folk to chew on with ethicists and writer **Leslie Cannold**.

Fri, 8 Apr **Is Australian Democracy Broken?**

Storey Hall RMIT, 342 Swanston Street, Melbourne • 7:30 – 8:30pm • Tickets \$20 and \$12 concession.

After the extraordinary outcomes of the 2010 Federal Election, Australian voters, pundits and politicians alike are asking the same questions: what happened? Where does this apparent disillusionment come from? What's wrong with our political system and what kind of constitutional change is needed to fix it? Former Prime Minister **Malcolm Fraser** will be joined by **Lindsay Tanner** and **Malcolm Turnbull** to discuss political leadership and the party machines, candidate preselection and campaign fundraising as well as need for a bipartisan approach on fundamental and moral issues. If Australian democracy is broken, significant changes must be made. Chaired by ABC Radio National's **Fran Kelly**.

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Mon, 11 Apr – Thu 14 Apr *So Who The Bloody Hell Are We?*

National identity is built on the stories we tell ourselves about who we are. What are the defining clichés that make up and shape Australian identity? From the battler to mateship, larrikin spirit to the cry of ‘no worries’, is there any truth to the way we see ourselves or is it all an outdated, self-serving furphy?

Mon, 11 Apr *The Sentimental Bloke*

Wheeler Centre • 6:15 – 7:15pm • Free event, booking recommended.

Paul Hogan and Shane Warne. Ned Kelly and Russell Crowe. Footballers, diggers, shearers and cobbers. Matter of fact I’ve got it now. Australian masculinity is most often presented as an uncomplicated beast: stoic, sports-loving, beer-drinking, emotion-hiding, hard-working, authority-bucking, laconic. We know what an Aussie man looks like. Or do we? Chaired by Bush Telegraph’s **Michael Cathcart**.

Tue, 12 Apr *The Quarter Acre Block*

Wheeler Centre • 6:15 – 7:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

We love a sunburnt country as long as it stays on the far side of a picket fence. Partitioning off our own little parts of the wide brown land, and replacing the sprawling menace of the Australian bush with the reassuring symmetry of the Hills Hoist, we’re all living the great suburban dream. Chaired by By Design’s **Alan Saunders**.

Wed, 13 Apr *The Fair Go*

Wheeler Centre • 6:15 – 7:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

Is there any myth more pervasive than that of egalitarian Australia? Mates look out for one another and good honest hard work is rewarded in the land of opportunity. Probably best not to look too closely at how refugees and Aborigines, women and the workers fare in the Lucky Country. Still, she’ll be right. Chaired by the Law Report’s **Damien Carrick**.

Thu, 14 Apr *Our World Class Culture*

Wheeler Centre • 6:15 – 7:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

The MCG has the highest lighting fixtures of a sporting venue on earth. The Melbourne’s Symphony Orchestra is widely recognised as one of the best in the Southern Hemisphere, and many of Australia’s finest artists and thinkers are respected on the world stage. Even Oprah says we’re great. So does Australia still suffer from the cultural cringe? Chaired by All in the Mind’s **Natasha Mitchell**.

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Tue, 12 Apr **Sir Terry Pratchett**

Storey Hall RMIT, 342 Swanston Street, Melbourne • 7:30 – 8.30pm • Tickets \$20 and \$12 concession.

The 38 tales of the Discworld, a strange yet strangely familiar world on the back of a giant turtle, have defied the limits of genre and attracted adoring fans around the world. Translated into 32 languages and selling over 60 million copies worldwide, Pratchett received a knighthood in 2009. He has been winner of the British Science Fiction Award, the Carnegie Medal, the Writers Guild Award and the Smarties Prize Silver Award. He is also Britain's most shoplifted author. In 2007 Terry was diagnosed with a rare variant of Alzheimer's that he has referred to as his 'embuggerance'. He has championed the disease, donating £500,000 and raising awareness through a BBC documentary series. While grateful for offers of help, Terry has said he would entertain them 'only from very high-end experts in brain chemistry'. He remains hopeful. The satirist, novelist and much-loved icon is in Melbourne for one event only.

Thu 14 Apr **Lunchbox/Soapbox: David Tacey Breaking Free from Modern Medicine**

Wheeler Centre • 12:45 – 1:15pm • Free event, no bookings required.

The weekly piece of polemic for lunching folk to chew on. This week, **David Tacey**, author of *Gods and Diseases: Making Sense of our Physical and Mental Wellbeing*

Sat, 16 Apr **Jeez Louise**

Wheeler Centre • 3:00 – 4:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

The Wheeler Centre and the Melbourne International Comedy Festival ask Where Do Funny Women Work? Moderated by Canada's **DeAnne Smith**. Join a distinguished panel of comedy ladies as they discuss programming opportunities for female comedians.

Mon, 18 Apr **Debut Mondays**

Wheeler Centre • 6:15 – 7:15pm • Free event, no booking required.

Four first time authors read from their work. Come and have a glass of wine and discover the best new writers around. Debutants TBA.

Tue, 19 Apr **The Late Great: Thea Astley**

Wheeler Centre • 6:15 – 7:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

Four-time Miles Franklin Award winner **Thea Astley's** books are sharp and funny, at times savage but always wise. But fewer than half of those books are still in print. It's time to rediscover **Thea Astley**.

Wed, 20 Apr **David Foster Wallace: A Tribute**

Wheeler Centre • 6:15 – 7:15pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

Readings from *the* publishing event of 2011, the posthumous release of **David Foster Wallace's** final novel *The Pale King*.

Thu, 21 Apr **Lunchbox/Soapbox**

Wheeler Centre • 12:45 – 1:15pm • Free event, no bookings required.

The weekly piece of polemic for lunching folk to chew on. Lunchboxer TBA.

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Thu, 28 Apr **Lunchbox/Soapbox: Dave Graney, Social Networks and the Unknown**
Wheeler Centre • 12:45 – 1:15pm • Free event, no bookings required.

The weekly piece of polemic for lunching folk to chew on. This week: **Dave Graney**.

Thu, 28 Apr **On the Road: Sale event**

Esso BHP Billiton Wellington Entertainment Centre • Further details TBA at wheelercentre.com

Why should Melbourne get all the fun? In 2011, we're getting in the Tarago and bringing our great events to venues across the state.

Fri, 29 Apr **The Book Club**

Wheeler Centre • 7 – 8:00 pm • Free event, bookings recommended.

The days when reading was thought of as a solitary activity are long gone. Sure, curling up alone with a book is all well and good, but the real fun kicks in when you get a chance to talk about what you've read with other book-lovers. In partnership with the CAE Book Clubs, the largest network of organised clubs in the country, we're offering our own occasional book club with the ABC's **Alan Brough** to help keep the discussion lively.

Texts in the City continues through May and June 2011:

Tue, 3 May **Richard III by William Shakespeare**
Tue, 10 May **Things We Didn't See Coming by Steven Amsterdam**
Tue, 17 May **A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams**
Tue, 24 May **Ransom by David Malouf**
Tue, 31 May **Great Short Works by Edgar Allen Poe**
Tue, 7 Jun **Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks**
Tue, 14 Jun **Twelve Angry Men by Reginald Rose**
Tue, 21 Jun **Elia Kazan's On the Waterfront**
Tue, 28 Jun **The Secret River by Kate Grenville**

The Wheeler Centre
176 Little Lonsdale Street
Melbourne 3000

Tickets, bookings & information

Pre-purchase on-line at wheelercentre.com

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

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