

# Media Release



The  
Wheeler  
Centre  
Books  
Writing  
Ideas

## The Wheeler Centre comes out with Big Gay Week

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

### Armistead Maupin

**Sunday 27 February, 7.30pm – 8.30pm**

Athenaeum Theatre, 188 Collins Street, Melbourne

Tickets \$20/\$12 concession. Bookings through [wheelercentre.com](http://wheelercentre.com)

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 six volumes have sold in the multi-millions and been published in eleven languages. His latest novel is *Mary Ann in Autumn*, a new *Tales of the City* story.

### Gay Marriage and the Question of Conscience

**Monday 28 February, 6.15pm – 7.15pm**

Wheeler Centre, 176 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

Free but bookings recommended through [wheelercentre.com](http://wheelercentre.com)

While we've endlessly heard since the federal election that we've entered a 'New Paradigm' what does it mean for issues that have little support from the two major parties? Recent polls suggest a comfortable majority of Australians support same-sex marriage, yet federally Labor and Liberal seem united in their unwillingness to discuss the issue, holding firm to party lines. Despite repeated calls from the Greens and from the wider community to take the issue to a conscience vote, the new paradigm has so far failed to shift the debate.

### The Only Gay Book in the Village

**Tuesday 1 March, 6.15pm – 7.15pm**

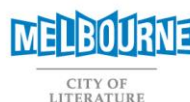
Wheeler Centre, 176 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

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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? Featuring Benjamin Law, Fiona McGregor and others.

Continued...

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

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## **Erotic Fan Fiction: The GLBTI Edition**

**Wednesday 2 March, 6.15pm – 7.15pm**

Wheeler Centre, 176 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

Free but bookings recommended through [wheelercentre.com](http://wheelercentre.com)

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. These select writers turn their craft to a night of smut and hilarity that's same same but different.

## **Literary Speed Dating**

**Thursday 3 March and Friday 4 March, 7.00pm – 8.30pm**

Wheeler Centre, 176 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

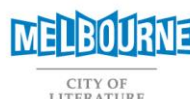
Tickets \$20/\$12 concession. Bookings through [wheelercentre.com](http://wheelercentre.com)

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 for the bookish blokes and on Friday night, it's time for the women to raise a glass of wine over their literary picks. Hosted by book-lover, author and marriage celebrant Jane Clifton, being bookish never felt so desirable.

**Tickets for Armistead Maupin on sale now. For all other events bookings open 28 January 2011.  
Further details to be announced online.**

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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