

Between the Past and Future: The Australian Dictionary of Biography

The Australian Dictionary of Biography is celebrating an important milestone this year. On 19 June 1959 the Dictionary's provisional Editorial Committee met for the first time in the office of its chairman, (Sir) Keith Hancock, at Old Canberra Hospital. Also in attendance were committee members, Professors Manning Clark and Jim Davidson, Dr Robin Gollan, Laurie Fitzhardinge and Ann Mozley (Moyal), the ADB's first member of staff. They defined their objective as the publication of the Dictionary of Australian Biography (as it was then called) within ten years and set up two Working Parties to organise the first two volumes. Since then 18 volumes of the ADB, containing some 11,500 biographies by over 4500 authors, have been published.

Please join us in celebrating the ADB's first 50 years.

Tuesday, 1 December 2009
Haydon-Allen Lecture Theatre, ANU
10 am - 7.30 pm

Cost: Free (but bookings are required)

RSVP: (02) 6125 2676 or adb@anu.edu.au

PROGRAM

10.00-10.30 am: Registration and morning tea

10.30-10.40 am: Welcome

Professor Melanie Nolan, Director of the National Centre of Biography and General Editor of the ADB

10.40-11.20 am: The Idea: Professor Keith Hancock, ANU

Dr Jim Davidson, author of a forthcoming biography of Sir Keith Hancock

11.20 am -12.00 pm: The Establishment Era (1959-1962)

Dr Ann Moyal, the ADB's first employee

12.00-12.40 pm: Douglas Pike era (1962-1973)

John Calvert, writer of MA thesis on Pike

12.40 am-1.30 pm: LUNCH

1.30 pm-2.15 pm: Bede Nairn/Geoffrey Serle era (1973-1987)

Dr Chris Cunneen, ADB Research Fellow (1974-82) and deputy General Editor (1982-96)

2.15-3.00 pm: Onto the Modern Period: The John Ritchie (1988-2002) & Di Langmore (2001-2008) eras

Emeritus Professor Geoff Bolton, author of 80 ADB articles and a long-time member of the ADB Editorial Board

3.00 pm-3.30 pm: Afternoon tea

3.30-4.15 pm: Panel on National Collaboration: Working Parties and Editorial Board

Emeritus Professor John Poynter (other panellists to be announced)

4.15-5 pm: From the First Fleet to Underbelly: Writing for the ADB

Gerry Walsh, the ADB's most prolific author, with 192 articles - and counting

5.30-7.30 pm: Launch of ADB Endowment campaign (in the foyer of the Hedley Bull Building)

Special guests ANU Vice-Chancellor, Ian Chubb, and writer, lawyer, social activist, quiz champion, former politician and ADB author and supporter, the Hon. Barry Jones AO, will launch the ADB's Endowment Fund campaign.