

## National Centre of Biography News

June 2024

In this newsletter we share everything that has been happening at the NCB of late, from new publications to upcoming events. Got biographical news to share? Send us an email at [ncb@anu.edu.au](mailto:ncb@anu.edu.au).



### Behind the scenes at the NCB



NCB staff and the ADB editorial board, May 2024

Every day in the NCB corridor you'll find our research editors hard at work fact-checking the latest ADB entries while in pursuit of that perfectly crafted sentence.

We're a collaborative bunch, often reading each other's draft work and seeking advice from our office neighbours - especially from our web programmer Howie Chen, who patiently explains time and again everything IT-related. Once a year we meet with the ADB's editorial board; once a month we are joined by a guest speaker at the Biography Workshop.

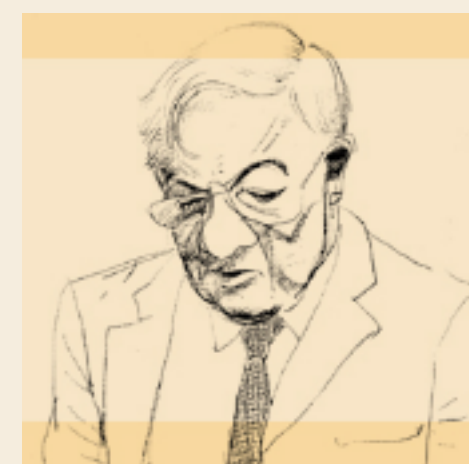
There are lots of excursions for staff, too. From visiting the archives to dropping by the ABC studios or meeting curators at Canberra's museums, there's always something interesting happening at the NCB. Drop us a line to say hi!

### News & notices



#### NLA fellowship talk

On 20 June Dr Bernadette Brennan will deliver a talk on her research into the archives of author and editor Drusilla Modjeska. To book your free ticket, visit the NLA's [website](#).



#### Biography workshop

The NCB's 27 June Biography Workshop argues for a new look at Peter Porter (1929-2010), the lauded Australian poet whose broad international span (poems on subjects as diverse as Auschwitz and the Australian magpie) and acute satirical lens are cultural gifts that deserve to be revisited and celebrated. "Time for a new one" says our presenter, Morag Fraser, one of Australia's most experienced arts commentators and who knew Porter well. More info [here](#).



#### Gender Institute grant

A big thank you to the ANU Gender Institute for awarding the NCB team a grant for the project 'The Privilege of Trailblazing'. Plans are underway for a workshop to be held in March 2025; keep an eye out in the NCB News for further updates!



#### Convicts & digital history

PhD student Matt Cunneen recently delivered a paper at a Digital History Tasmania workshop with Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart (UNE).

Stemming from Matt's thesis, they spoke about estimating the number of former convict departures from Tasmania to Victoria across the mid-nineteenth century. Keep your eyes peeled for a follow-up journal article that is in the works.



### Congratulations

Congratulations to research editor Dr Emily Gallagher, whose PhD thesis has been shortlisted for the Australian Historical Association's Serle Award for the best postgraduate thesis in Australian history!

Emily is about to jet off to the UK to be a keynote speaker at the Children's History Society Conference - more about this to come on her return.

### Listen up!

#### Late Night Live interview



On 10 June ABC Radio's Late Night Live shared the story of Kay Kinane, the first woman producer at ABC. Author of Kinnane's ADB entry, Dr Kylie Andrews, and Dr Michelle Staff were interviewed by Phillip Adams for the program. Listen to the whole episode [here](#).

#### Biographers in Conversation



In the latest episode of Biographers in Conversation, host Gabriella Kelly-Davies interviews Ann-Marie Priest, author of *My Tongue Is My Own: A Life of Gwen Harwood*. Access the episode [here](#).

### ADB feature entry

Each month we highlight a new addition to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

This time it's Nellie Simpson, equal pay and peace activist. Not only can you read about her fascinating story, but alongside her entry you can see photos from across her life, and listen to an audio recording of her voice too!



Access all of this in the [ADB here](#).

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