



National Centre of Biography News

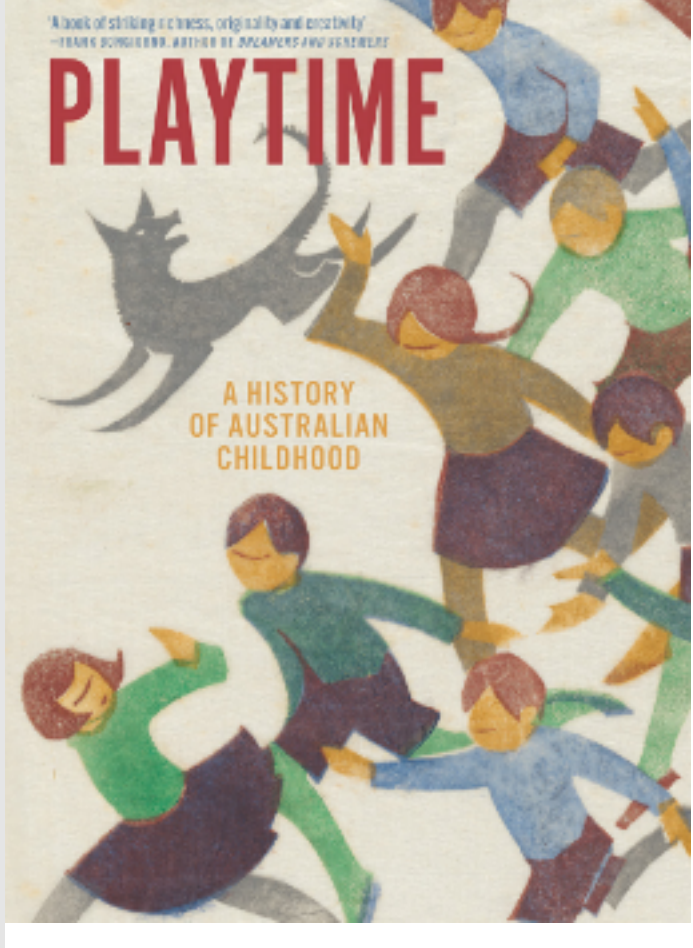
September 2025

The NCB News is the monthly newsletter of the National
Centre of Biography. Got biographical news to share? Send
us an email at ncb@anu.edu.au.



The Australian Crowd, by Stephen Baxter (2014)

'An instant classic of Australian history'



We are so excited to share the news
that our colleague Dr Emily
Gallagher's first book, *Playtime: A
History of Australian Childhood*, is out
this month with Black Inc.

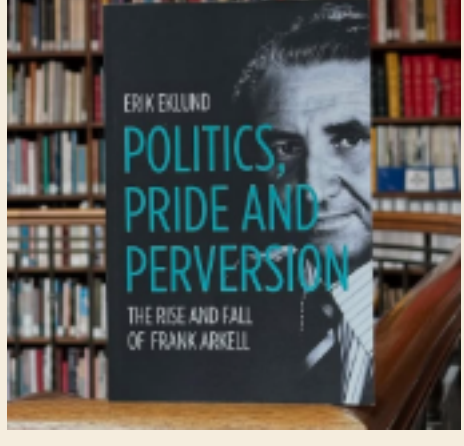
This book began as Emily's award-
winning PhD thesis. It is an
innovative and creative account of
Australian children's imaginative
worlds between the 1890s and
WWII.

In the words of Professor Frank
Bongiorno, 'Playtime is a book of
striking richness, originality and
creativity that will change your
understanding of the possibilities of
Australian social history.'

Emily's book will be launched by
actress and children's entertainer
Justine Clarke at Harry Hartog on 22
September; [register](#) to attend now.

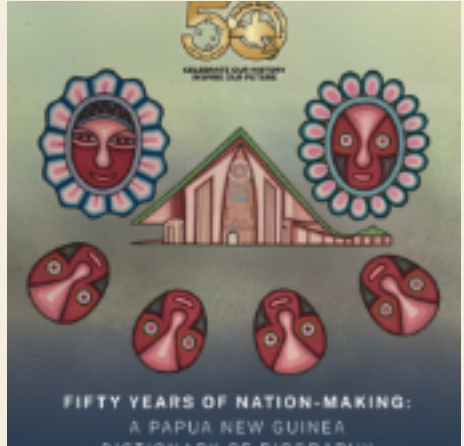
Congratulations, Em –we are very
proud of you!

News & notices



Longlisted & shortlisted

Congratulations to Erik Eklund whose book
*Politics, Pride and Perversion: The Rise and Fall
of Frank Arkell* has been [longlisted](#) for the
Australian Political Book of the Year Award and
[shortlisted](#) for the NSW History Awards'
Community and Regional History Prize. This
book is part of our Biography Series with ANU
Press. Good luck, Erik!



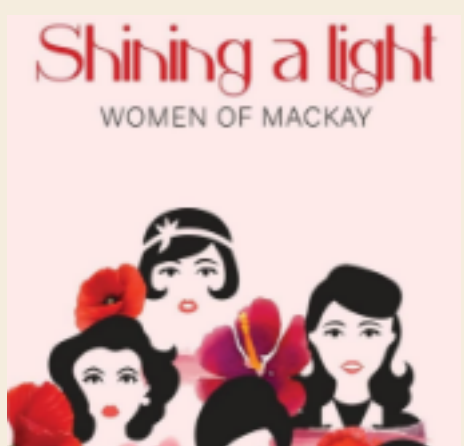
PNG Dictionary of Biography

In September 1975 PNG declared its
independence from Australia. To mark the 50th
anniversary of this major historical milestone,
the revived *Papua New Guinea Dictionary of
Biography* will be launched at the University of
Papua New Guinea on 11 September. The new
PNGDB is published by the Department of
Pacific Affairs and available online via their
Publication series. A revised and expanded
version is planned for 2026 with an academic
press. Visit the project's [website](#) to find out
more.



Convict expert

Last month PhD student Nicola Garvey was
invited to be a subject-matter expert on the
SBS show *Who Do You Think You Are?* She took
the celebrity guest through various documents
that shed on light on the life of their ancestor
Sarah Greggs, one of the women of the
Neptune whom Nicola is researching for her
thesis. Keep your eyes peeled for the episode
in due course!



Biography workshop

In this month's Biography Workshop (25
September) Kaaren Sephton will be speaking
about her group biography of the women of
Mackay, Queensland. Further details are on our
[website](#).



Canberra Writers Festival

The [program](#) for the 2025 Canberra Writers
Festival has just dropped! Note our very own
Emily Gallagher and friend of the ADB Anne-
Marie Condé will be in conversation at MoAD
on Sunday 26 October.



The ADB goes abroad

In case you missed it: the ADB has been hitting the streets of London! Our
outreach manager Michelle Staff has been exploring the city & digging up
stories from the ADB of people who lived, worked & came from the iconic city.
Head over to our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages to see what she has found -
the series continues this week!

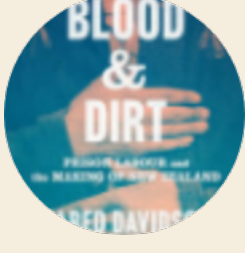
Read, listen, learn

New journal article



Senior academic research editor Sam Furphy's latest
journal article, "'He does not speak of civilizing the
Australians now': Matthew Moorhouse, Craniology,
and Aboriginal Protection in South Australia, 1839-
1865", has been published in *Australian Historical
Studies*. You can read it [online](#) now.

Book review



PhD student Matthew Cunneen has reviewed *Blood
and Dirt: Prison Labour and the Making of New Zealand*
by Jared Davidson for *law&history*, the journal of the
Australian and New Zealand Law and History Society
(vol 11, no. 1). Read it now via the society's [website](#).

Latest podcast episodes



Host of *Biographers in Conversation* Dr Gabriella Kelly-
Davies is a visitor at the NCB this year. Recent
episodes include interviews with Dr Nathan Hobby on
his book *The Red Viper* and Em. Prof. Megan Marshall
on *After Lives: On Biography and the Mysteries of the
Human Heart*. Visit the [website](#) to listen to each of
these conversations and more.

Larger than life



We enjoyed reading a recent article on the genre of
biography by American literary critic Parul Sehgal
and wanted to share it with followers of the NCB
News. You can access it via the [Sydney Morning
Herald](#) or the [New York Times](#) (subscriptions required).

ADB feature entry

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

This time we are spotlighting the story
of Alice Carrard (1897–2000), concert
pianist and music teacher, who is the
only subject in the ADB to have lived
across three centuries.

Read all about her in the entry
authored by John A. Meyer on our
[website](#) now.



Alice Carrard, National Archives of
Australia

Contact

ncb@anu.edu.au
history.cass.anu.edu.au/centres/ncb



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