



## National Centre of Biography News

October 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](mailto:ncb@anu.edu.au).



The Australian Crowd, by Stephen Baxter (2014)

### Latest news from the NCB



Melanie Nolan with workshop  
organiser Inger Marie Okkenhaug  
and others

The NCB team has been quite busy lately getting out and about for various events.

In August director Prof. Melanie Nolan was invited to a workshop at Volda University College in Norway. Over two days participants discussed biography combined with microhistory as a methodological approach to writing history.

Then in September two of our research editors officially launched their respective books. Early in the month Dr Peter Woodley's *'We Are a Farming Class': Dubbo's Hinterland 1870-1950* was celebrated at multiple well-attended events in Dubbo. And most recently Dr Emily Gallagher's book *Playtime: A History of Australian Childhood* was launched by actress and former Play School presenter Justine Clarke at Harry Hartog ANU.

To read more about all these activities, visit the NCB [website](#).

### News & notices



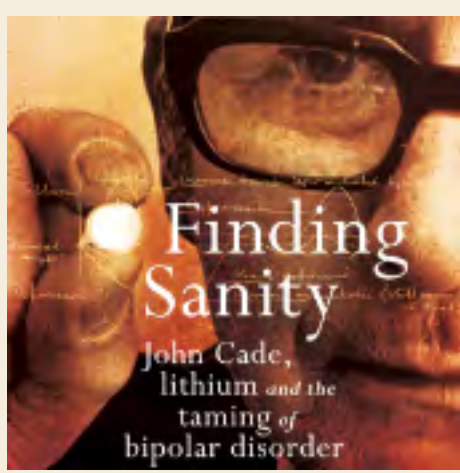
#### Congratulations

We are delighted to share that research editor Dr Emily Gallagher won a prestigious Australian Academy of the Humanities [Publication Subsidy](#) to support her recently published book *Playtime*. Well done!



#### Canberra Writers Festival

The 2025 Canberra Writers Festival is on this month (22-26 October), with a [program](#) full of fascinating book talks. Keep an eye out for Emily Gallagher's session with friend of the ADB Anne-Marie Condé (MoAD) on Sunday 26.



#### Biography workshop

In this month's Biography Workshop (30 October) A/Prof. Greg de Moore will be speaking about his biography of Australian psychiatrist John Cade. Further details are available on our [website](#).



#### History seminar

We were excited to hear NCB student Michèle Horne speak about her PhD research into the making and shaping of the heroic reputation of Sir Edward (Weary) Dunlop at the School of History seminar series on 1 October. She previously co-authored [Dunlop's ADB entry](#).



#### Hazel Rowley Literary Fellowship

Applications are [now open](#) for the 2026 Hazel Rowley Literary Fellowship, valued at \$20,000, and which supports Australian writers working on biography projects. This is the last time the Fellowship will be offered.



### PNG Dictionary of Biography

The Papua New Guinea Dictionary of Biography team have just completed a series of events to mark the release of Volume One timed for the golden jubilee celebrations in PNG. Launches occurred at University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG), University of Goroka, and Divine Word University. You can read more about the UPNG launch [via this blog post](#).

You can also download the new PNG Dictionary [for free online](#).

### Read, listen, learn



#### New podcast episodes

Several new episodes of *Biographers in Conversation* have been released in the past month, with guests including Shauna Bostock, Judith Brett, Sam Elkin, and Charlotte DeCroes Jacobs. Visit the [website](#) to listen to each in-depth interview, hosted by NCB visitor Dr Gabriella Kelly-Davies.



#### Taking children's history seriously

If you're curious to know more about *Playtime*, read this [blog post](#) Emily wrote for the Australian Academy of the Humanities.



#### Kellerman in the news

Read about Australian swimming legend Annette Kellerman and her efforts to push the boundaries of propriety in Martin McKenzie-Murray's [recent article](#) in *The Saturday Paper*.



#### Now, down to business

Check out NCB visitor Dr Patrick Mullins' [recent review](#) in *Inside Story* of Adam Sisman's new book, *The Indefatigable Asa Briggs*.



#### Growing bananas at the South Pole

Our very own Dr Stephen Wilks [recently wrote](#) for *Inside Story* about the great tariff clash that once threatened the Liberal and Country Party alliance.

### ADB feature entry

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

This month our pick is Dame Roma Alma Flinders Mitchell (1913-2000), judge, governor, and human rights commissioner. Among many other achievements, Mitchell was the first woman in Australia to be made a Queen's Counsel.



Read all about her in the entry authored by Susan Magarey on our [website](#) now.

Dame Roma Mitchell, c.1954, State Library of South Australia

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