



# National Centre of Biography News

March 2026

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)

## New book talk series



At one of our 2025 pilot events, a conversation between Sita Sargeant (She Shapes History) and Michelle Staff.

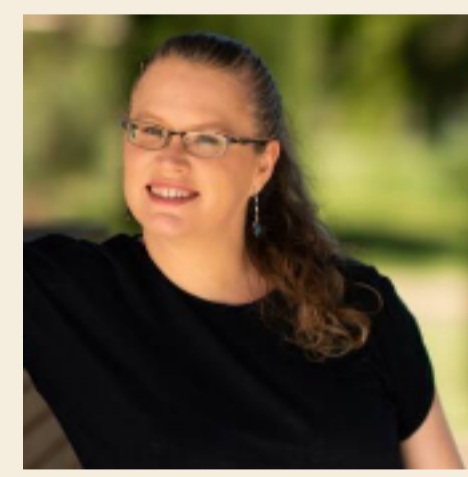
We are super excited to share that in 2026 the NCB will be hosting a new book talk series: **Writing Lives**.

Held throughout the year as new works of biography are published, these events will place authors in conversation with a member of the wider NCB community. All sessions will be free to attend (but please do remember to register via our website). Thanks to our friends at Harry Hartog, audience members will be able to purchase the relevant title at each event and have it signed by the author.

Our first event will be on 17 March with Professors Rae Frances and Bruce Scates (see the 'News & Notices' section of this newsletter for more).

We are keen to see you all there! Head to our [website](#) for more details.

## News & notices



### Supervisor of the month

Congratulations to NCB academic, Dr Karen Fox, who has been named HDR Supervisor of the Month! Read more about her approach to supervision on the university [website](#).



### Canberra Day Oration

The 2026 Canberra Day Oration (Thursday 12 March) will be delivered by Prof. Frank Bongiorno on the question 'Does history have a future in Canberra?' Register to attend at the NLA or online [now](#).



### Masterclass reminder

A reminder for those in Melbourne/Naarm regarding the upcoming masterclass with award-winning writer and journalist Lance Richardson on 'Going the Distance: Writing Life Through Biography' on Thursday 12 March. Tickets are available through [Writers Victoria](#).



### Writing Lives

Join us for the first Writing Lives event of 2026 on 17 March at 6pm! ANU Emeritus Professors Rae Frances and Bruce Scates will be in conversation with the NCB's Dr Michelle Staff about their latest joint book project *Mary Booth: The Woman who Shaped the Anzac Legend*. [Register](#) now.



### Biography Workshop

This month's Biography Workshop (Thursday 26 March) will be given by Em. Prof. Tessa Morris-Suzuki on her experience writing about twin artistic prodigies, Edward Julius and Charles Maurice Detmold. Visit the [event page](#) for more details.



## Who Am I? Wednesdays

On a Wednesday we invite our Instagram followers to play a little game of Australian history 'guess who'. Head on over to our [page](#) to join in!

## Read, listen, learn



### A studio of one's own

Drusilla Modjeska's latest book, *A Woman's Eye, Her Art* (2025) is about the lives and art of six European modernist women. Read the [review](#) written by Prof. Maria Nugent, head of the School of History, in *Inside Story*.



### New podcast episodes

Season 4 of *Biographers in Conversation*, hosted by NCB visitor Dr Gabriella Kelly-Davies, is now well underway. Visit the [website](#) to listen to new interviews with Lance Richardson, Francesca Wade, Nicholas Boggs, and Mark Hussey.

## ADB feature entry

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

As we've just entered the Year of the Horse, this month we're highlighting Jessie Wong, a Melbourne-born Chinese Australian Pentecostal missionary.

Read her story in the [entry](#) written by Andrew Yanqi Huang now.



Contact [ncb@anu.edu.au](mailto:ncb@anu.edu.au) [history.cass.anu.edu.au/centres/ncb](mailto:history.cass.anu.edu.au/centres/ncb)



The Australian National University, Canberra  
TEQSA Provider ID: PRV12002 (Australian University)  
CRICOS Provider : 00120C  
ABN : 52 234 063 906

