



The Australian Crowd, by Stephen Baxter (2014)



PLAYTIME
A HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN CHILDHOOD

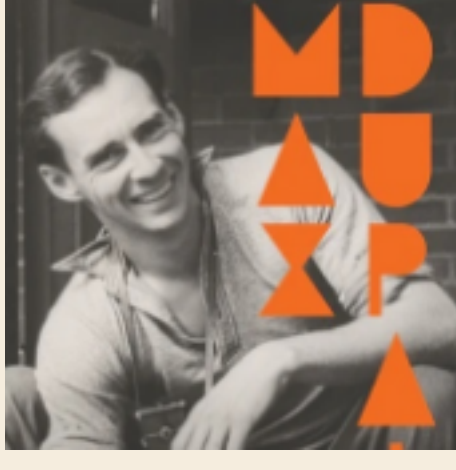
Shortlisted!

Special congratulations to Dr Emily Gallagher whose book *Playtime: A history of Australian childhood* has been shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Awards (Australian History category)! This is a remarkable achievement, especially for a first-time author.

The judges described *Playtime* as 'a striking and often delighting work of cultural history' that is 'meticulous in its approach and elegant in expression'. Read the full citation on our [website](#). The winners will be announced on 10 September. Good luck Em!

Testament to the excellence of this work, *Playtime* was also Highly Commended for the Australian History Prize at the NSW Premier's History Awards. Read that citation on the State Library of NSW's [website](#).

News & notices



National Biography Award

Congratulations to Em. Prof. Helen Ennis (ANU) who has won the 2026 National Biography Award for *Max Dupain: A Portrait* (HarperCollins)! Also to Dr Micaela Sahhar for her memoir, *Find Me at the Jaffa Gate: An encyclopaedia of a Palestinian family* (NewSouth), which was awarded the Michael Crouch Award for a Debut Work. Read more about the winners [here](#).



Meet the Author events

Several upcoming events in the Meet the Author series will be of interest to the NCB community, including:

- 10 September: Prof. James Curran with Prof. Frank Bongiorno about his latest book *Grand Ambition: Paul Keating's Global Vision for Australia*.
- 21 September: Em. Prof. Tom Griffiths (chair of the ADB Editorial Board) with the NCB's Em. Prof. Mark McKenna on *Alice's dreaming*.
- 1 October: Shaun Micallef with Prof. Frank Bongiorno on his book *Matthew Flinders*.
- 6 October: Kate Grenville with Karen Viggers on *The Country Schoolmaster: A Mystery in 88 Letters*.

See the series' [website](#) for details and registrations.



History Week talk

On 13 September Dr Emily Gallagher will be speaking about her award-winning book *Playtime* with writer and artist Vanessa Berry for a History Week event at Marrickville Library and Pavilion. [Learn more](#) and reserve your spot now.



Poetry Plus @ MCH

On 17 September at Manning Clark House, Carmel Summers will present 'Finding Eliza Cook in many odd corners', a talk on her research on Eliza Cook, wife of the captain, for her upcoming book: *The Silence of Eliza Cook: a biography in verse*. This will be accompanied by poetry readings from Canberra poets who have contributed to her poetic journey. Refreshments provided. Bookings essential. [Register now](#).



Biography Workshop

At his month's Biography Workshop (24 September) Dr Emma Kindred (National Portrait Gallery) will speak about dress and the self portraits of Nora Heysen and Stella Bowen. See the [event page](#) for further details.



All creatures great and small?

Sydney-based readers may be interested to hear of another event with a biographical focus. Dr Ruby Ekkel (ANU) will be speaking about her research on children's nature study and religion to the St James' Institute on 8 October. Her talk will feature three key women: Marie Ellis, Amy Mack and Thistle Harris. [Read more](#) and register now.



Canberra Writers Festival

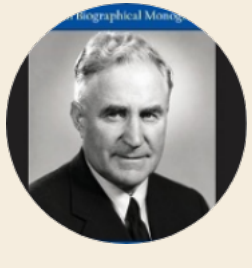
The program for the Canberra Writers Festival is now live! It features a session called 'Art of Biography: Startles and Scandals', in which the NCB's Dr Michelle Staff will talk to Em Profs Rae Frances and Bruce Scates and A/Prof Patricia O'Brien about their recent books on Mary Booth and Errol Flynn. [Tickets](#) available now.



Donate to the ADB Endowment

Love our work and want to see more of it? Consider donating to the ADB Endowment! All donations over \$2 are tax deductible, and it's as easy as filling out this online [form](#).

Read, listen, learn



New book on Earle Page

Congratulations to Dr Stephen Wilks on the publication of his book on Earle Page as part of the Australian Biographical Monographs series! [Get your copy](#) now.



NCB graduate's first book

NCB graduate Dr Joshua Black –now a lecturer at the Centre for Public Ideas at the University of Canberra – has published his first book! [Get your copy of Performance Politics: Australian politicians and the stories they tell](#) (NewSouth) now.



And another NCB graduate's first book

Dr James Watson (postdoctoral research fellow at The Australia Institute) has just published his first book, based on his PhD thesis completed at the NCB. *Asbestos Nation: The Story of the Most Dangerous Dust in Australia* (Monash) is [available](#) now!



The ADB on ABC Radio

Members of the ADB staff are continuing to appear on ABC Radio Canberra every Wednesday around 3.15pm to play a game of 'Who Am I?' You can listen to previous weeks' segments [online](#) via ABC Listen.



New podcast episodes

The podcast Biographers in Conversation is hosted by NCB visitor Dr Gabriella Kelly-Davies. Visit the [website](#) to listen to new interviews with Sophia Lambton, Helen Ennis, Micaela Sahhar, S. Shaktidharan, and Robert Dessak.

ADB feature entry

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

Sydney-born Eileen Louisa Powell was an important trade unionist, equal pay campaigner, and industrial advocate.

Read all about Powell's life and career in the [entry](#) written by the ADB's General Editor Professor Melanie Nolan now.

