

The La Trobe University/ABR Annual Lecture

The Mildura Writers' Festival is always one of the most congenial and stimulating events on our literary calendar. Clive James, our lead reviewer this month, has just agreed to attend this year's festival and to deliver the 2003 La Trobe University/ABR Annual Lecture. The lecture will take place at 8 p.m. on Friday, 25 July, and the festival will follow that weekend (July 26–27). Clive James (pictured below) will also deliver the lecture in Melbourne soon after the Mildura Writers' Festival. Full details of both events will follow in the June/July issue. *ABR* subscribers will be entitled to attend this major lecture gratis.

Sydney Writers' Festival

May 19–25 sounds like a good week to spend in Sydney, with thirty international and 150 Australian authors taking part in 100 events at the Sydney Writers' Festival. Guests include Janette Turner Hospital, Jonathan Franzen and William Dalrymple. For information about the programme, phone (02) 9252 7734 or visit the website: www.swf.org.au.

Going Down Auctioning

Last December, *Going Down Swinging* launched its twentieth annual issue. Unfortunately, some non-swinger purloined the entire door-takings — \$1400. Such a loss is close to disastrous for any magazine, and *Going Down Swinging* needs to recoup this money. Co-editor Stephen Grimwade informs us that the journal is organising a literary auction. Among the many items up for auction will be a copy of 'the infamous *GDS* #1 (1980)'; a copy of Jeff Kennett's *Dog Lovers' Poems*, autographed and endorsed by his successor, Steve Bracks; a bundle of new releases from Allen & Unwin valued at more than \$450; prose and poetry manuscript assessments by Sophie Cunningham and Kevin Brophy, respectively; and subscriptions to ten literary magazines (including, naturally, *ABR*). The auction will take place at the Old Colonial Inn, 127 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 15. For more information, to subscribe, or to return the missing \$1400, call Stephen Grimwade on 0425 766 288 or e-mail: info@goingdownswinging.org.au.

Magazine chairs

It's hard to keep up with all the changes in Australian magazines. *Eureka Street*, as we have already noted, is now edited by Marcelle Mogg, while her predecessor, Morag Fraser, becomes a most welcome new board member of *ABR*. Philip Harvey, a regular contributor to our magazine, becomes the Poetry Editor of *Eureka Street*. *The Adelaide Review*, edited for many years by Christopher Pearson, is now edited by Peter Ward. Katherine Wilson and Nathan Hollier have taken over as Editors of *Overland*. Their first issue, 'Bludgers', is now available. Meanwhile, the ABC has announced that *Limelight*, a new monthly arts and entertainment magazine, will absorb *24 Hours* magazine in July.

Training course for writers

Writers 'who have had some publishing success' might be interested in an intensive four-day training course that will be hosted by the SA Writers' Centre from 22–25 July. Guest speakers will include Christine Harris ('Breaking into Interstate Markets: An SA Perspective'), Tom Shapcott ('Taxation, Accounting and Effect Record-keeping') and José Borghino ('Contracts and Copyright'). The cost is a mere \$100 for members, or \$180 for non-members.

Writers in focus

Raimond Gaita, our La Trobe University Essayist this month, is always worth hearing. On May 6, he will be in conversation with Stephanie Dowrick at the State Library of Victoria. The cost is \$12 (\$10 concession). Bookings: (03) 8664 7016.

Dangerous times

'We live in dangerous times,' writes Greg Mackie in introducing the prospectus for this year's Adelaide Festival of Ideas. Indeed we do. All the more reason not to miss this festival, which will run from 10–13 July. Overseas speakers will include Robert Fisk and George Monbiot, from the UK. Australian guests will include Dennis Altman, Peter Beilharz and Fiona Stanley. To apply for a detailed programme of events, send an e-mail to lwagstaff@adelaidefestival.net.au.

Ringling the changes

The NSW Writers' Centre has a new Chair and Deputy Chair: Angelo Loukakis and Pat Woolley, respectively. Meanwhile, the Centre's events programme continues apace. Over the next few weeks, Patti Miller, whose new book, *Whatever the Gods Do*, is reviewed in this issue of *ABR*, will conduct a course in life-writing. The cost is \$150 for members, \$180 for non-members. Full details of the Centre's programme are available on (02) 9555 9757 or nswwc@ozemail.com.au.

Spreading the word

Finally, inside this issue you will find a copy of our new promotional flyer. If you already subscribe, why not help us spread the word by giving it to a friend? We would be more than happy to send you more flyers if you can use them. Flyers are available from the Office Manager, Dianne Schallmeiner, on (03) 9429 6700 or abradmin@vicnet.net.au.

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Letters

ABR welcomes letters from our readers. Correspondents should note that letters may be edited. Letters and e-mails must reach us by the middle of the current month, and must include a telephone number for verification.

The missing five years

Dear Editor,

Kerryn Goldsworthy's valuable piece on the early years of *ABR* ('The Oily Ratbag and the Recycled Waratah', *ABR*, April 2003), giving details of *Australian Book Review* under Max Harris and Rosemary Wighton from 1961 to 1973, does not mention what caused its disappearance from 1973 to 1978, when John McLaren and the National Book Council revived it. Perhaps it is time for the explanation to be given.

When the Literature Board of the Australia Council was inaugurated in early 1973, one of the early decisions of that Board was to create a monthly journal of review and comment, rather in the style of the *New York Review of Books*. Contributors would be paid appropriately. In the ensuing discussion, it was suggested that the already existing *Australian Book Review* could be acquired by the Board and developed along these lines. The Board was enthusiastic and approached Max Harris, negotiating a price, which he gladly accepted. He promptly ceased work on any forthcoming issues. But there was one unexpected snag. The Australia Council might be up and running (with heady enthusiasm), but the Australia Council Act had not been passed through legislation.

By the time the financial implications of this were made known to the Board — it could not acquire any property — months had passed, and *ABR* was no longer. It was not until 1974 that the Act finally became legislation. Max Harris and co-editor Rosemary Wighton did not have the heart (nor, most probably, the finance) to revive the journal, which had now lapsed as a going concern. The Literature Board backed out of the initial deal and put in some money for a 'book pages' review section in the new ABC monthly, *24 Hours*, and that was that. A sad gap existed until 1978, when John McLaren persuaded the National Book Council to revive the journal — with assistance from the Literature Board of the day.

Tom Shapcott, Adelaide, SA

ABR forever!

Dear Editor,

Marx annoyed Fred Engels by complaining that he [Marx] was a machine condemned to devour books. Fred, for his part, merely had to foot the bills. Here, one hundred and fifty years later, there is still room for a review of nothing but books, as symbols of our lives. Glory to god, and pass the *ABR*! *ABR* is as useful as the *TLS* — you can carry it anywhere, no batteries required, and when your bus or plane is late, you can simply start over, read it again. Thanks, and happy birthday for issue 250.

Peter Beilharz, Bundoora, Vic.

Superior laid

Dear Editor,

Richard Travers's interesting letter (*ABR*, April 2003) is a real compliment to MUP, which opted for 115 gsm Euro Matt Art paper for Ann Galbally's book. It is fascinating that good modern papers, produced mechanically, in this way mimic certain types of early (and superior) laid, as opposed to cheaper woven, papers, whose fibres tend to point in any old direction.

Come to think of it, some fine handmade Japanese papers also contrive to arrange the fibres in parallel, for ease of opening and closing scrolls. Conservators have to fill gaps and holes in old paintings with tiny pieces of new paper that match the disposition of the original fibres. Otherwise, the thing won't roll up properly. Goodness knows how they manage it.

Angus Trumble, Canberra, ACT

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**ARTS
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Unsolicited manuscripts will not be returned unless accompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelopes. Editorial matters should be directed to the editor; advertising/marketing ones to the assistant editor; and subscription queries to the office manager. Letters to the editor will only be considered for publication if accompanied by a telephone number, for verification.

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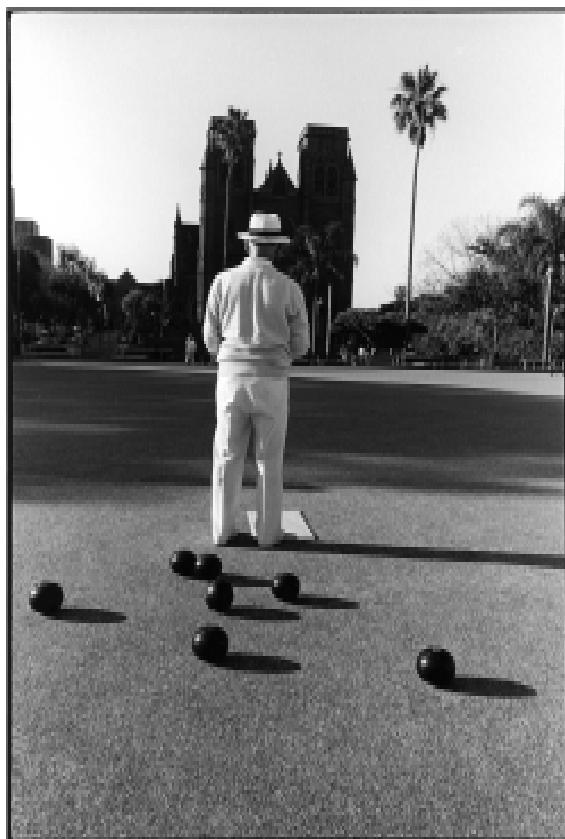
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Our cover this month shows a lawn bowler playing at the (now demolished) City Bowling Club, Cook Park, opposite St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, in 1986. The photograph is from a collection of eighty-five images by the Japanese-born photographer Satoshi Kinoshita, held by the National Library.

The collection, created between 1986 and 2000, when Kinoshita lived and worked mainly in Australia, maps the differing experiences of life in Sydney by day and by night. Photographs include a number of works from Kinoshita's 'Night People' series. Subjects range from children playing outside the Art Gallery of New South Wales and scenes in Hyde Park on Anzac Day, to the participants and performers at RAT (Recreational Arts Team) parties, the Mardi Gras Cabaret, and the Hellfire Club and Drag Trade parties at Blackmarket.

Currently based in New York, Satoshi Kinoshita was born in Osaka in 1959 and educated in California and Kyoto. He studied photography in Osaka from 1983 to 1984, and has held exhibitions in Australia, Tokyo and San Francisco. A selection of his early work is published in *AUST II: Australia 1986-1988*.



Satoshi Kinoshita (1959-)
City Bowling Club, Cook Park, Sydney, 1986
gelatin silver photograph; 35 x 25.5 cm
Pictures Collection, an24229253
National Library of Australia

Contributors

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Judith Armstrong's most recent book is *The French Tutor*.

Georgie Arnott is a Masters student at the University of Melbourne.

Peter Beilharz is Director of the Thesis Eleven Centre at La Trobe University.

Judith Beveridge has published two volumes of poetry: *The Domesticity of Giraffes* and *Accidental Grace*. A third is due this year.

Frank Bongiorno teaches in the School of Classics, History and Religion at the University of New England.

Alison Broinowski's new book, *About Face: Asian Accounts of Australia*, will be reviewed in the next issue.

Silas Clifford-Smith is a horticulturist employed by the National Trust of Australia. He contributed several entries, including that on orchids, to the recently published *The Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens*.

Christy Dena is an *ABR* editorial assistant.

Kristie Dunn is a Melbourne-based lawyer and writer.

Stephen Edgar's new book of poetry, *Lost in the Foreground*, is reviewed in this issue.

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Eamon Evans is an editorial assistant at *ABR* and will one day resume his Masters thesis on the philosophy of emotions.

Terry Flew is the Head of Media and Communications in the Creative Industries Faculty at the Queensland University of Technology. He is the author of *New Media: An Introduction*.

Raimond Gaita is Professor of Philosophy at the Australian Catholic University and Professor of Moral Philosophy at King's College, University of London. His most recent book is *The Philosopher's Dog*.

Gideon Haigh is a Melbourne journalist.

Russell Hogg teaches in the Faculty of Law, ANU, and is co-author (with David Brown) of *Rethinking Law and Order*.

Joy Hooton's many books include (with William Wilde) *The Oxford Companion to Australian Literature*.

Michael Humphrey is Associate Professor and Head of the School of Sociology at the University of New South Wales.

His recent publications include *The Politics of Atrocity and Reconciliation: From Terror to Trauma*.

Clive James is a frequent contributor to *ABR*. His many collections of essays include *Reliable Essays: The Best of Clive James* and *Even As We Speak: New Essays 1993–2001*. His long essay 'Our First Book' appeared as the La Trobe University Essay in the December 2002/January 2003 issue.

Gail Jones's most recent novel is *Black Mirror*.

Brian McFarlane, an Honorary Associate Professor of Monash University, has compiled the *Encyclopedia of British Film*, which Methuen and the British Film Institute will publish next month.

Michael McGirr is the fiction editor of *Meanjin*. His books include *Things You Get for Free*.

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