



## Media Release

Tuesday 25 February

### **The Wheeler Centre announces Autumn events with Richard Roxburgh, Peter Greste, Jess Hill and Brooke Boney**

In a further expansion of its 15th anniversary programming, The Wheeler Centre has announced a season of new events for early Autumn, including an action-packed day of school holiday activities for Wheeler Kids x Abbotsford Convent.

The Wheeler Centre's CEO, Erin Vincent says: It's been a strong start to the year, and we are heading into March and April with such an exciting mix of events. We are thrilled to be offering children and families a wonderful day out at Abbotsford Convent and to be taking events to our audiences in Kyneton and Warrnambool once again. We will also be presenting audiences with many opportunities to hear from changemakers and compelling storytellers, the kind of public talks The Wheeler Centre is renowned for.

This April, Wheeler Centre audiences will be offered a first look at the much-anticipated Australian biopic, *The Correspondent*, in an exclusive preview screening and in-conversation event featuring the film's star, beloved actor Richard Roxburgh, and subject, investigative journalist Peter Greste. Following the screening, Roxburgh and Greste will unpack the process of bringing Greste's remarkable true story to the big screen.

Trailblazing journalist and proud Gamilaroi woman Brooke Boney opens up in a candid and deeply personal chat about Boney's upbringing, career and the pressures of modern womanhood. While reflecting on her work in the media (Boney was the first Indigenous host on Australian commercial breakfast television) and life in the public eye, Boney will uncover what drives purpose and meaning for her, while also grappling with the generational impacts of colonisation, love, friendship, fertility and ambition.

Award-winning journalist Jess Hill returns to The Wheeler Centre with the release of her new Quarterly Essay: *Losing It. Can We Stop Violence Against Women and Children?* Appearing in conversation with Tarang Chawla, a leading educator, activist and co-founder of Not One More Niki, the pair will dissect Australia's National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032 and look at how it's failing to break the constant waves of violence in the home and online.

Revered Australian storyteller, critic and artist, Robert Dessaix shares his new memoir, *Chameleon*, with audiences in Melbourne and the Macedon Ranges. Joined in Kyneton by RRR's Mel Fulton for a regional event and then in town at The Wheeler Centre with Michael Veitch, Dessaix will cast a self-reflective eye over the many tales of love, travel and adventure that have come to shape his writing life.

In a special edition of *The Fifth Estate*, Sally Warhaft sits down with children's rights researcher and advocate, Hye Jung Han, to ask if enough is being done to protect younger generations in an evolving online landscape. They will consider the recent social media ban, cyber safety tools and other incremental efforts to improve the country's privacy laws against the urgent need to close critical gaps in Australia's digital infrastructure. Presented in partnership with Human Rights Watch. Winner of the 2024 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an Unpublished Manuscript, Rachel Morton, arrives



with her now-published debut, *The Sun Was Electric Light*. Morton will discuss her sublime new work, described by Helen Garner as 'pure, pained [and] beautiful', with fellow novelist, Allee Richards.

Following the release of the Australia Institute's new anthology *What's the Big Idea: 32 Ideas for a Better Australia*, contributors Maiy Azize, Professor Patrick McGorry, and Dr Emma Shortis join host Jacinta Parsons to share their visions for Australia. Challenging and motivating in equal measure, they'll retrain the agenda on homegrown creative thinking with ideas to solve a variety of our national issues, from poor mental health in our younger generations to the shifting sands of our geopolitical landscape.

Next Big Thing returns for 2025 in late-March with a genre-loving edition celebrating the early work of Imii Lang, Nadia Mahjouri, Laura McCluskey, Eleanor Nguyen, Lisa Tirreno and Jane Yang. Also in late-March, the Best of Australian Poems 2024 Showcase presented by Thabani Tshuma will share works by contributors from the latest anthology collection. The following month, The Wheeler Centre hosts the unveiling of this year's Stella Prize shortlist.

For The Wheeler Centre's younger set, a fun-filled day of workshops and play at the Abbotsford Convent will officially kick-off the school holidays on Saturday 5 April. Felice Arena brings the silly-ness with plenty of word play and read-aloud theatrics while Corey Tutt, former NSW Young Australian of the Year and First Nations science and wildlife advocate, introduces youngsters to the world of Australia's scaly reptile critters. The Crafty Kids Lab will provide young audiences with a series of hands-on workshops led by Kids' Own Publishing, Anna Walker and Cat Rabbit.

Down the coast, children's author Karys McEwen visits Warrnambool Library to share the inspirations behind *The Paperbark Tree Committee* – a touching story of family, friendship and the difficulty of leaving childhood behind. At this free interactive event for middle-grade readers, McEwen delves into the challenges of growing up, the power of sibling bonds and learning when to hold on and to let go. McEwen will then host a workshop for budding young writers of all experience levels, guiding participants through the fundamentals of storytelling – from how to overcome creative roadblocks, harness ideas and channel the joy of writing.

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#### Media centre

Author images available here.

The full list of events and dates are listed below. For more information, please visit [wheelercentre.com/events](http://wheelercentre.com/events).



**Jess Hill on Stopping Family Violence**

Jess Hill, Tarang Chawla  
6.30pm, Tuesday 25 March  
The Wheeler Centre

**Robert Dessaix: Chameleon**

Robert Dessaix, Mel Fulton  
6.00pm, Tuesday 25 March  
Kyneton Town Hall

**The Restless Mind of Robert Dessaix**

Robert Dessaix, Michael Veitch  
6.30pm, Wednesday 26 March  
The Wheeler Centre

**Best of Australian Poems 2024 Showcase**

Toby Fitch, Madison Griffiths, LK Holt, Andy Jackson, Georgia Kartas, Jeanine Leane, Scott-Patrick Mitchell, Roslyn Orlando, Munira Tabassum Ahmed  
6.30pm, Thursday 27 March  
The Wheeler Centre

**The Next Big Thing: Twists and Turns**

Imii Lang, Nadia Mahjouri, Laura McCluskey, Eleanor Nguyen, Lisa Tirreno, Jane Yang  
6.30pm, Monday 31 March  
The Moat

**The Correspondent: Special Preview Screening**

Peter Greste, Richard Roxburgh, Lisa French  
7.00pm, Tuesday 1 April  
The Capitol

**The Fifth Estate – Digital Natives, Data Captives: Protecting Kids Online**

Hye Jung Han, Sally Warhaft  
6.30pm, Wednesday 2 April  
The Wheeler Centre

**Love, Loss and Ambition with Brooke Boney**

Brooke Boney, Jamila Rizvi  
6.30pm, Friday 4 April  
The Wheeler Centre

**Wheeler Kids x Abbotsford Convent**

From 9.30am, Saturday 5 April  
Crafty Kids' Lab with Kids' Own Publishing, Anna Walker and Cat Rabbit; Caution! This Event Contains Deadly Reptiles with Corey Tutt; Felice Arena: Live & Hilarious  
Abbotsford Convent



**Stella Prize 2025 Shortlist Announcement**

6.30pm, Tuesday 8 April  
The Wheeler Centre

**What's the Big Idea?**

6.30pm, Wednesday 9 April  
Maiy Azize, Dr Emma Shortis, Pat McGorry, Jacinta Parsons  
The Wheeler Centre

**Karys McEwen: The Paperbark Tree Committee**

10.30am, Wednesday 9 April  
Karys McEwen  
Warrnambool Library

**Karys McEwen: Kids' Writing Workshop**

2.30pm, Wednesday 9 April  
Karys McEwen  
Warrnambool Library

**Rachel Morton: The Sun Was Electric Light**

6.30pm, Thursday 10 April  
Rachel Morton, Allee Richards  
The Wheeler Centre

The Wheeler Centre is Melbourne's home for smart, passionate and entertaining public talks, and exists to support writers, readers and thinkers. Through live and digital conversations, debates, readings, performances and discussions, it deepens public engagement with the most pressing topics of the day. It is dedicated to creative collaboration, community engagement, diversity, and innovation.