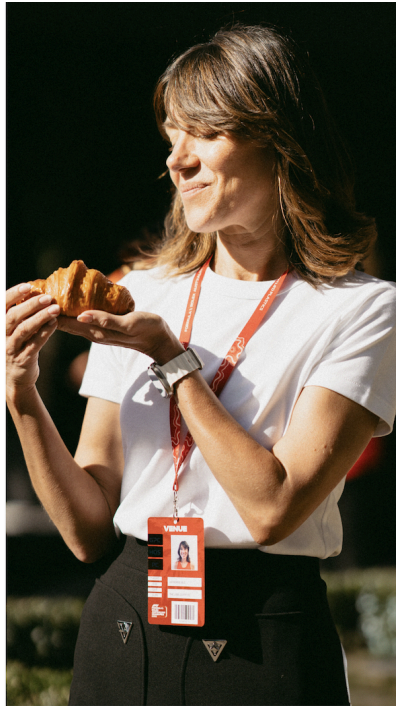




## THE WHEELER CENTRE ROUNDS OUT THE YEAR WITH KATE REID, ZOE TERAKES, MADELEINE GRAY AND BRI LEE

Tuesday 23 September



The Wheeler Centre's final instalment of events for 2025 delivers a powerful mix of conversations and celebrations across literature, history and culture. Panels will tackle urgent issues from Australia's frontier wars to freedom of expression, while writers share their journeys of resilience, stories of myth and reflections on family, friendship and the creative process.

### QUOTE ATTRIBUTABLE TO ERIN VINCENT, CEO, THE WHEELER CENTRE:

'As we head into the final months of our 15th anniversary year, The Wheeler Centre's program continues to be defined by the discussion of ideas. This latest release of events brings together established voices and bold new talent, reaffirming our commitment to supporting Australia's literary community. We are proud our 2025 program is attracting incredible speakers and a growing number of new audiences at the same time.'

Playwright **Benjamin Law**, ceremony creator **Kimba Griffith** and host **Marieke Hardy** come together for a powerful conversation inspired by Cory Taylor's acclaimed memoir *Dying*. Adapted for the stage by Law for Melbourne Theatre Company, Taylor's unsentimental reflection on mortality sparks a discussion about the rituals, language and taboos that shape our



relationship with death. This special free event explores, with compassion and clarity, what it means to live well, face death honestly, and make the most of the time we have.

Experience a bold reimagining of Greek mythology as acclaimed actor and writer **Zoe Terakes** presents their debut short story collection, *Eros*. Best known for their roles in *Talk to Me* and Marvel's *Iron Heart*, Terakes now turns to fiction, weaving together five electrifying tales that entwine queerness, myth and their Cretan heritage. By turns erotic, surprising and inventive, *Eros* reclaims figures from Zeus to Icarus in stories of lust, revenge, passion and power. Joined in conversation by **Christos Tsiolkas**, Terakes invites audiences into a vivid celebration of queer and trans lives across mythology and time.

From Formula 1 engineer to international croissant queen, **Kate Reid** has lived a life full of unexpected turns. Founder of the world-renowned Lune Croissanterie, Reid reflects on her journey from studying aerospace engineering at RMIT and chasing her dream job in F1, to walking away and reinventing herself as the creator of 'the best croissant in the world' (*The New York Times*). In conversation with **Alice Zaslavsky**, she explores perfection, obsession and what it means to create success on your own terms.

Celebrate the 100th edition of *Quarterly Essay* with special guests **David Marr**, **Laura Tingle** and **Sean Kelly**, three of Australia's most insightful writers. Together they reflect on their contributions to the agenda-setting journal, exploring what it has taught them about politics, writing and the nation's shifting identity. This wide-ranging conversation will examine the power, impact and legacy of a series that continues to illuminate Australia's most pressing political, intellectual, and cultural debates..

Acclaimed authors **Madeleine Gray**, **Bri Lee** and **Kate Mildenhall** connect for a lively panel exploring the depth and scope of contemporary Australian fiction. Gray's *Chosen Family* is a funny, intimate portrait of queer friendship and alternative parenting; Lee's *Seed* is a suspenseful literary thriller set between Antarctica and the unsettling world of antinatalism; and Mildenhall's *The Hiding Place* is a razor-sharp tale of deception billed as *White Lotus* meets *The Slap*. With host **Veronica Sullivan**, discover three bold new novels that probe love, fear, family and the secrets we keep.

Uncover the untold history of Australia's frontier wars in this powerful conversation with **Rachel Perkins**, **Marcia Langton**, **Henry Reynolds** and **David Marr**. Sparked by Perkins' landmark documentary and companion book *The Australian Wars*, the panel shines a light on the 150 years of conflict that claimed an estimated 100,000 lives yet remains largely absent from national memory. Together, they confront silences in the historical record, share stories of First Nations



resistance and survival, and reflect on how the legacy of colonial violence continues to shape modern Australia.

Join journalist **Mary Kostakidis**, writer and educator **Micaela Sahhar** and human rights lawyer **Sarah Schwartz** for a galvanising discussion on the urgent fight to protect freedom of expression. At a time when writers and journalists in Australia and around the world face increasing censorship and suppression, the trio reflects on personal experiences, the risks of speaking truth to power, and the importance of defending dissent and open political discourse.. Together, they highlight the urgent imperative to protect writers and journalists' right to free speech, dissent and open political discourse.

For the final **Bookish Club** of the year, writer and broadcaster **Benjamin Law** dives into Edmund White's candid and witty memoir ***The Loves of My Life: A Sex Memoir***. In the relaxed setting of The Moat, Law will unpack why this intimate exploration of gay life and desire resonates so strongly, leading a discussion that spans New York's 1970s debauchery to the realities of modern queer life in the age of apps. With host **Richard Watts**, enjoy a glass of wine, lively conversation and an afternoon of unapologetically high-brow literary smut.

Discover the future of Australian writing at **The Next Big Thing**, as five emerging voices share stories of power, control and self-discovery. From **Ange Crawford's** YA tale of breaking free from coercion, to **Darcy Green's** queer rom-com set in the world of AFL, to **Sophie Quick's** sharp satire on Melbourne's property market, these works showcase bold new perspectives. **Maithree Wijesekara's** epic fantasy, inspired by ancient India, and **Frances Newbound's** poignant short fiction round out a thrilling lineup at The Moat.

Later that same month, writers awarded a 2025 Hot Desk Fellowship will take the stage to share excerpts from their works-in-progress for the final edition of **The Next Big Thing** for 2025. Grab a drink and settle in as host **Pranati Narayan Visweswaran** introduces **Violet Kieu, Josephine Mead, Madeline Nunn, Ruby-Rose Pivet-Marsh** and **Yasmin** to the Moat for an evening of captivating readings – from poetry and horror to experimental non-fiction – along with insights into their creative practice.

Finally, fresh from winning the 2025 Miles Franklin Literary Award for his novel, *Ghost Cities*, **Siang Lu** offers reflections on persistence, reckoning with success and what it means to embrace failure for this year's **E. W. Cole Lecture**. In a frank and honest appraisal of the writing life, he considers the role that failure plays in the creative process and the hard-earned wisdom he's gleaned from his extraordinary creative journey.

– ENDS –



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**Media centre:** 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)

**Dying: A Life Well Lived**

Kimba Griffith, Benjamin Law, Marieke Hardy  
6.00pm, Wednesday 29 October  
The Lawler, Southbank Theatre  
*Presented in partnership with Melbourne Theatre Company*

**Bookish Club with Benjamin Law**

Benjamin Law, Richard Watts  
2.30pm, Saturday 1 November  
The Moat

**Up Late: Queer Myths for Lovers**

Zoe Terakes, Christos Tsiolkas  
8.00pm, Friday 7 November  
The Wheeler Centre

**The Australian Wars**

Professor Marcia Langton, Rachel Perkins, Henry Reynolds, David Marr  
6.30pm, Wednesday 12 November  
The Wheeler Centre

**We Will Not Be Silenced**

Mary Kostakidis, Sarah Schwartz, Micaela Sahhar  
6.30pm, Thursday 13 November  
The Wheeler Centre  
Presented in partnership with PEN Melbourne

**The Next Big Thing: Fates and Furies**

Ange Crawford, Darcy Green, Rachel Newbound, Sophie Quick, Maithree Wijesekara  
6.30pm, Monday 17 November  
The Moat



**Quarterly Essay at 100: What We Have Learned**

David Marr, Sean Kelly, Laura Tingle

6.30pm, Tuesday 18 November

The Wheeler Centre

**Contemporary Connections**

Madeleine Gray, Bri Lee, Kate Mildenhall, Veronica Sullivan

6.30pm, Wednesday 19 November

The Wheeler Centre

**The E. W. Cole Lecture: Siang Lu on Failure**

Siang Lu, Toni Jordan

6.30pm, Thursday 20 November

The Wheeler Centre

**The Next Big Thing: Hot Desk 2025 Edition #3**

Violet Kieu, Josephine Mead, Madeline Nunn, Ruby-Rose Pivet-Marsh, Yasmin, Pranati Narayan  
Visweswaran

6.30pm, Monday 24 November

The Moat

**Kate Reid: On Fast Cars and Croissants**

Kate Reid, Alice Zaslavsky

6.30pm, Tuesday 25 November

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.*