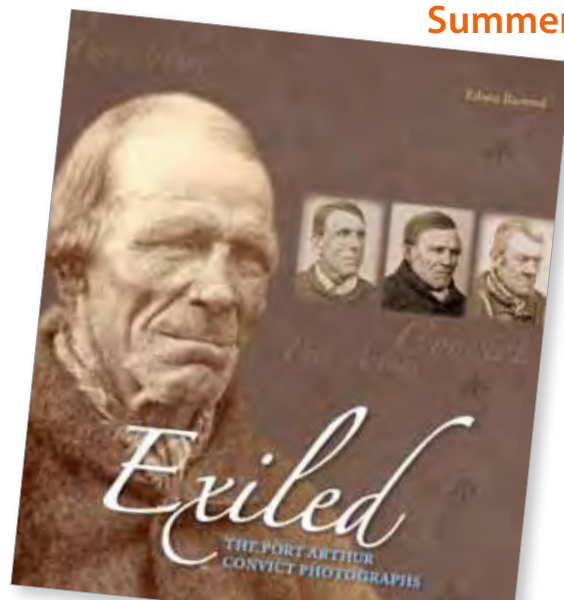




NATIONAL
LIBRARY
OF AUSTRALIA

in print

News from the National Library Bookshop



Face to face with the convicts

I came to think of them as 'my convicts'—20 men who had originally been transported to Australia between 1822 and 1853, most of them for stealing. They were among a handful of felons selected by fate and prison authorities to sit for the camera, probably at Tasmania's Port Arthur penal settlement in the early 1870s, where they were being punished for crimes committed after their original sentences had expired. These images are part of the largest group of convict photographs in existence—portraits of some 160 individuals. Exactly what happened to the photographs over the course of the next 130 years is unclear, but 81 of them ended up in the National Library of Australia, where they are among the collection's more intriguing artefacts.

It seemed to me that I came to know these men quite well over the course of the two years I spent in their company, researching their stories for *Exiled*. Their photographs would greet me every morning as I sat down at my desk and I would often pick them up and examine them anew every time their stories took an unexpected twist.

I found it impossible not to form opinions about the character of the men, even before I knew anything about them. After all, we spend our entire lives scrutinising people's faces as we try to gauge what their owners are thinking and feeling.

So what do we make of these faces? The men had obviously been ordered not to look at the camera, which counts against them for a start, since people who will not meet our gaze appear shifty. They also seem to have been told to keep their mouths tightly shut, which makes them look grim and humourless. Not that they had much to laugh about as inmates in one of Australia's toughest prisons.

When they see the images for the first time, some people say that the men look rather frightening. But is that just what we think convicts should look like? Would we think differently about the men if we were told that these were soldiers or merchant seamen? Others think that the men look worn-out and exhausted. They are probably right. Most of them were manual labourers in their fifties (some were well into their seventies) and they had all led pretty hard lives.

One wonders if any of the men had been photographed before. These days most of us are photographed thousands of times. Part of becoming aware of ourselves as individuals in the modern world involves knowing what we look like in photographs and which 'face' to adopt on being told to 'smile for the camera'. But what sort of expression would you assume if you were placed before the camera for the first time as an adult, only ever having seen your image in a mirror?

Photographs had become commonplace by the early 1870s, so most of the men would have seen examples. It is possible that a few



might have been photographed before, especially those who were married and had children. In most cases, however, it is difficult to see why a poor labouring man with no family might pay a visit to a photographer. Curiosity, perhaps, but a photograph cost a shilling or more and that amount would have bought a couple of meals. For many of the men, therefore, these prison portraits were probably the only photographs ever taken of them, and they almost certainly never saw the result. Did they wonder how they turned out?

Perhaps the most puzzling thing about the photographs is the way in which they serve as a focus for our thoughts and feelings. Take away the photographs and *Exiled* would be a very different book. As each man's tale unfolds it is difficult not to glance again at his portrait. Why? To reassess our ability to read character in a face? To see if we can detect signs of hardship and suffering in a man's features or expression? Shakespeare reminds us that 'There's no art to find the mind's construction in the face', but that does not stop us from trying.

Edwin Barnard is an author with a 40-year career in book publishing.

Exiled: The Port Arthur Convict Photographs
by Edwin Barnard
National Library of Australia, RRP \$39.95



Would you like to join our mailing list and receive this newsletter electronically? Email your details to us at nlshop@nla.gov.au and we will add you to our mailing list.

National Library Bookshop
Open daily, 9 am – 5 pm

National Library of Australia, Parkes Place, Canberra, ACT, 2600
02 6262 1424 nlshop@nla.gov.au <http://shop.nla.gov.au>

Three latest Library publications make a perfect gift

***Funny English Errors and Insights Illustrated* compiled by Troy Simpson
National Library of Australia, RRP \$14.95**

Funny English Errors and Insights Illustrated is a fresh collection of humorous uses and misuses of English. Illustrated with photographs from the Library's Pictures Collection, this book makes an ideal gift for students, teachers, parents, public speakers and anyone with a sense of humour.

***A Book for Every Woman*, National Library of Australia, RRP \$14.95**

A Book for Every Woman includes essential information for the modern woman of 1924, including how to be graceful, the secret behind a trim ankle, and, of course, advice on what makes a perfect woman. Originally published in 1924 by the Associated School of Dressmaking, Sydney, this reproduction published by the Library provides an entertaining look at the past.

***Men and How To Manage Them by An Old Housekeeper*
National Library of Australia, RRP \$14.95**

Back in 1885, the Australian woman certainly knew how to keep her man in order, and it was never too early to start. *Men and How to Manage Them* gives a humorous reflection of times past, with its practical advice for women on topics such as when to ask for money and what to do with nuisance men (the ones who like to help with the cooking or buying of bonnets).



BOOKSHOP BESTSELLERS

Fiction

1. *Something in Common* by James Grieve
2. *Campaign Ruby* by Jessica Rudd
3. *Indelible Ink* by Fiona McGregor
4. *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver
5. *Truth* by Peter Temple

Non Fiction

1. *Frank Hurley's Antarctica* by Helen Ennis
2. *Bad Characters: Sex, Crime, Mutiny, Murder and the Australian Imperial Force* by Peter Stanley
3. *Gallipoli: A Short History* by Michael McKernan
4. *The Book of Great One-liners* by Jenny Hunter
5. *Here on Earth: An Argument for Hope* by Tim Flannery

Children's Books

1. *Australian Backyard Explorer* by Peter Macinnis
2. *Ellis Rowan's Fairy World* by Susan Hall
3. *The Best Nest* by Penny Olsen
4. *The Very Bad Book* by Andy Griffiths
5. *I've Got a Feeling!* by Stephanie Owen Reeder

WHAT'S NEW on the Shelves



***On the Record: Politics, Politicians and Power* by Laurie Oakes, Hachette Australia, RRP \$35.00**

Laurie Oakes has been writing about politics, power and politicians for over 40 years. He has frequently broken the biggest news stories because of what he knows and who he knows, and because of his ability to get people to tell him what is going on, or will go on. Following from Oakes' previous book, *Power Plays*, this new collection of articles cover the Australia of the era of John McEwen, John Gorton and Gough Whitlam through to the present day.



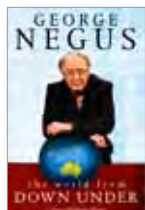
***Bligh: Master Mariner* by Rob Mundle, Hachette Australia, RRP \$49.99**

The eighteenth century was an era when brave mariners sailed their ships beyond the horizon in search of an unknown world. Those chosen to lead these expeditions were exceptional navigators, men who had shown brilliance as they ascended the ranks of the Royal Navy. From ship's boy to vice-admiral, Rob Mundle's *Bligh* puts you at the heart of a great nautical life, a story that embraces the romance of the sea, bravery in battle, the adventure of exploration under sail and the cost of having the courage of your convictions.



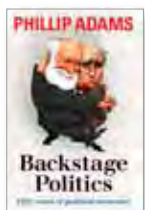
***Curious and Curiouser: Burping Cows, Bending Spoons, Beer Goggles & Other Scintillating Scientific Stories* by Karl Kruszelnicki, Pan Macmillan Australia, RRP \$32.99**

Curious and Curiouser is the new book from Australia's much-loved science guru. Did you know that the vast majority of the universe is missing? Or that Santa would spontaneously combust if he tried to deliver presents to all the children of the world? Is a hand dryer more hygienic than paper towel? When will we be able to cryogenically freeze ourselves? Can we win at the pokies? Does Coca-Cola really dissolve our teeth? Why do we have more accidents on a full moon? And why is the sky blue? All these questions and much more are answered in this dazzling book of fun science stories.



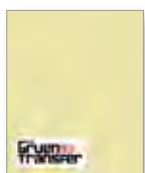
***The World from Down Under* by George Negus, HarperCollins Australia, RRP \$35**

In his latest work, George Negus tackles the big issues that concern, perplex and provoke us. Climate change, poverty, war, indigenous affairs, politics, the role of women and philanthropy are just some of the topics covered. Negus talks about how Australia sees the rest of the world and how the rest of the world regards Australia. Drawing on his own travels and his extensive journalistic background, Negus shares the knowledge that he has gained from some of the world's influential people.



***Backstage Politics: Fifty Years of Political Memories* by Phillip Adams, Penguin Australia, RRP \$32.95**

Phillip Adams has been close to governments of various persuasions for over 50 years. Having been a confidant—or a fierce opponent—of many of Australia's most influential figures over that time, he has built up an unparalleled collection of anecdotes about our political and cultural leaders. *Backstage Politics* is also something of a personal memoir, tracing Adams' life in politics, media and the arts over the years. To make the collection complete, he has even invited the politicians themselves to submit their stories. *Backstage Politics* takes readers on a funny, insightful and revealing journey through the Australian political landscape.



***The Gruen Transfer* by Jon Casimir, ABC Books, RRP \$39.99**

Advertising is everywhere. It surrounds us and submerges us. Industry rule of thumb says we are exposed to 3000 commercial messages each day. *The Gruen Transfer* lifts the lid on the persuasion business, examining how advertising works and how it works on us. Fuelled by brilliant minds, cutting edge science, technological weaponry and a budget of \$500 billion a year, advertising seeks to influence our purchases. Which leads us to question: when we reach for the detergent in the supermarket aisle, can we really be sure our thoughts are our own?

Visit AUSTRALIAN CLASSICS

TIM WINTON

Western Australian born Tim Winton has come to be recognised as one of Australia's leading writers of contemporary fiction. Winton entered the literary stage in 1981 when he was the joint prize winner of the Australian Vogel National Literary Award for an unpublished manuscript for his work *An Open Swimmer*. Since this time he has written twenty works of fiction for adults and children, a number of essays and non-fiction works and his works have been adapted for both the stage and screen. A multi-award winning author who has been awarded the Miles Franklin Literary Award four times for his novels *Shallows* (1984), *Cloudstreet* (1991), *Dirt Music* (2002), and most recently for *Breath* (2009), his books *The Riders* and *Dirt Music* were short-listed for the internationally renowned Booker Prize. In 1999 Winton was celebrated by the Friends of the National Library where a commemorative book of essays was launched titled *Tim Winton: A Celebration*.

Cloudstreet by Tim Winton
Penguin Australia
RRP \$26.95

From separate catastrophes, two rural families flee to the city and find themselves sharing a great, breathing, shuddering joint called 'Cloudstreet', where they begin their lives again from scratch. For 20 years they roister and rankle, laugh and curse until the roof over their heads becomes a home for their hearts. Tim Winton's funny, sprawling saga is an epic novel of love and acceptance. Award-winning *Cloudstreet* is a celebration of people, places and rhythms which has fuelled imaginations world-wide.



Blueback by Tim Winton
Penguin Australia
RRP \$22.95

Abel Jackson's boyhood belongs to a vanishing world. On an idyllic stretch of coast whose waters teem with fish, he lives a simple, tough existence. Only Abel and his mother live in the house at Longboat Bay, but Abel has friends in the sea, particularly the magnificent old Groper he meets when diving. As the years pass, things change, but one thing seems to remain constant: the greed of humans. When the modern world comes to his patch of sea, Abel wonders what can stand in its way. *Blueback* is a deceptively simple allegory about a boy who matures through fortitude and who finds wisdom through living in harmony with all forms of life. It is a beautiful distillation of Winton's art and concerns.

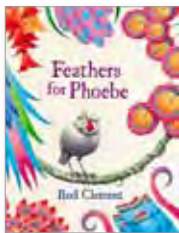


For the BOOKWORMS



Careful What You Wish For by Maureen McCarthy, Allen & Unwin, RRP \$15.99

Ruth Craze thinks life can't get any worse. She fights with her brothers, her parents drive her mad and no one ever listens to her. So when Rodney the Rat suggests a way out, Ruth is ready to risk everything. Three wishes, three chances to create her perfect life and a million ways to get it wrong. Maureen McCarthy's latest work is a life-affirming adventure story for readers 10–12 years.



Feathers for Phoebe by Rod Clement, HarperCollins, RRP \$24.99

Phoebe is small, grey and ordinary—very ordinary. 'I want to get noticed!' she declares. Zelda is glamorous, talented, famous and runs the most popular beauty salon in the forest. And she is only too happy to help Phoebe become the bird she has always wanted to be. First a little feather headdress, followed by wing extensions and, before long, the little grey bird is transformed into a diva. Phoebe looks gorgeous but, when she tries to take off, surprises are in store for both of them. Rod Clement's latest book is a delightful picture book for preschoolers.



A Waltz for Matilda by Jackie French, HarperCollins, RRP \$19.99

In 1894, 12-year-old Matilda flees the city slums to find her unknown father and his farm. But drought grips the land and the shearers are on strike. Her father has become a swaggie and he's wanted by the troopers. Drawing on the well-known poem by A.B. Paterson and from events rooted in history, this is the untold story behind Australia's early years as an emerging nation. *A Waltz for Matilda* will make ideal summer reading for readers 12 and over.



The Monster Maintenance Manual: A Spotter's Guide by Peter Macinnis, Murdoch Books, RRP \$29.95

Have you ever wondered why sometimes after you have washed your socks, one of them mysteriously disappears? Or why your shoelaces always seem to get tangled into tricky knots? The answer is that you probably have a monster problem or, more specifically, two monster problems—with a gobblesock living behind your washing machine and a shoelace monster nesting under your bed. *The Monster Maintenance Manual* is a field guide for monster-philes of all ages. It explains what they look like and what annoying habits they have, and comes complete with a handy section on how to keep them (or get rid of them).



All through the Year by Jane Godwin, illustrated by Anna Walker, Penguin Books, RRP \$24.95

This personal almanac of a little girl and her family opens a window onto each month of the year. Readers are taken on a journey through the Australian seasons. From collecting Easter eggs in May to tobogganing in July and going to the fair in October, this book is ideal for sharing annual traditions. Anna Walker's charming illustrations make this a children's picture book to be treasured by preschoolers. *All through the Year* is everything that is fun about being a kid all year round.



Bear and Chook by the Sea by Lisa Shanahan & Emma Quay, Lothian, RRP \$16.99

Winner of this year's Children's Book Council of Australia Award for Book of the Year: Early Childhood, *Bear and Chook by the Sea* continues the adventures of two unexpected friends. When the two characters decide to visit the sea, Chook is worried that they do not know the way and will get lost, but Bear is confident they will find it just around the pond, under the bridge, through the forest and over the mountain! Bear is a dreamer. Chook just wants a quiet life. But with a best friend like Bear, he has got absolutely no chance of getting it.

What I'm Reading

Fiona Hooton, Events Manager
Events and Education Section



My parents decided to immigrate. Hence, they stepped away from northern England, birthplace of the 'dark satanic mills' described by William Blake during the industrial revolution. From the decaying pink petals of the Empire, two continents presented themselves as available options—Canada or Australia. They chose Australia and so Canada became for me the unfulfilled opportunity

and, as a result, a fascination. Canadian storytellers have therefore always captured my curiosity.

Margaret Atwood is a favourite writer of mine, even though she conjures frightening futuristic dystopias that serve as warnings for current human recklessness. In that context, it is fitting that she should write the foreword to David Suzuki's book *The Legacy*.

In *The Legacy*, the world-renowned environmentalist warns us of the catastrophe awaiting our global habitat. Yet he remains optimistic that we might avert disaster if we choose to use our species' unique faculty for foresight. He argues that we must put the 'eco' back into economics and

claims it is possible to put a price on the processes that nature performs. The Suzuki Foundation has undertaken studies to estimate the cost of the services that the ecosystem provides, such as photosynthesis, water filtration, flood control and animal habitat—services not included on conventional economists' balance sheets.

Suzuki uses his own family history to backshadow the loss of natural resources around his Canadian habitat. He combines anecdote and hard scientific fact to record the immense acceleration in environmental degradation between his grandparents' generation and his own.

While we enjoy the benefits that contemporary democracies provide, there is ample proof that our systems need radical reinvention. The Yorkshire cities that my parents left were once the boomtowns of the industrial revolution, which I read about as a teenager through the work of Thomas Hardy. The harsh reality of people's lives at that time remains testament to human ravages of the market economy.

Suzuki is a great science communicator and has many persuasive points, the most important being that, as a species, we can make change for good.

NLA EVENTS

PERFORMANCE

Carols under the Christmas Tree

Chamber choir Igitur Nos presents a delightful program of traditional and Australian carols for Christmas

Wednesday 15 December, 12.30 pm
Foyer, free

TALK

Innovative Ideas Talk

Hear Liam Wyatt talk about his experience as the British Museum's first 'volunteer Wikipedian-in-residence'.

Friday 11 February, 12.30 pm
Theatre, free

SPECIAL EVENT

Just What a Woman Wants: *The Australian Women's Weekly's* First 50 Years

Presented in association with *The Australian Women's Weekly* Digitisation Project and the Pynton Baker Bequest

Join Deborah Thomas, Susan Sheridan, Helen McCabe and others to celebrate the contribution of *The Australian Women's Weekly* to Australian life. The first 50 years of the magazine are available online through the Library's search engine, Trove.

Friday 25 February, 2 pm
Theatre, free

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Stories under the Christmas tree

(ages 4–6)

Join 'Holly' the Christmas librarian as she reads some great Christmas tales, and sing along with a carol or two.

Monday 20 December
Tuesday 21 December
Conference Room, \$2 (includes activity book)
11.30 am – 12 pm
Bookings not required

Summer Storytime

(ages 4–6)

Come and share your love of reading and stories with some funny and charming yarns from the Library's collection.

Friday 14 January
Friday 21 January
10.30–11 am
Conference Room, \$2 (includes activity book)

Bored? Games!

(all ages)

Enjoy reproductions of amusing and historical board games held by the Library. Drop in and entertain yourselves!

Tuesday 18 January, 10.30 am – 12 pm
Conference Room, free

Notorious and Spooky

(ages 7–10)

Explore hidden spaces of the Library and come face to face with the spooky secrets hidden within the collection.

Thursday 20 January, 11 am – 12 pm
Conference Room, \$2

French Windows

(ages 5–9)

Be inspired by Leonard French's stained-glass windows at the Library. Create your own stained-glass designs for a window at home!

Thursday 27 January, 10.30 am – 12 pm
Conference Room, \$10



image: Donald Friend (1915–1989)
Shoppers at Night, Bondi Junction Mall (detail)
From 'Ayam-Ayam Kesayangan'
Manuscripts Collection, MS 5959, Item 2
National Library of Australia

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BOOKSHOP
ONE-DAY SALE*
Saturday 18 December
20% off the marked price

*Sale does not include already discounted and remaindered stock, limited edition prints, newspapers, stamps and phone cards.