



# 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

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LA TROBE UNIVERSITY PRESS



## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

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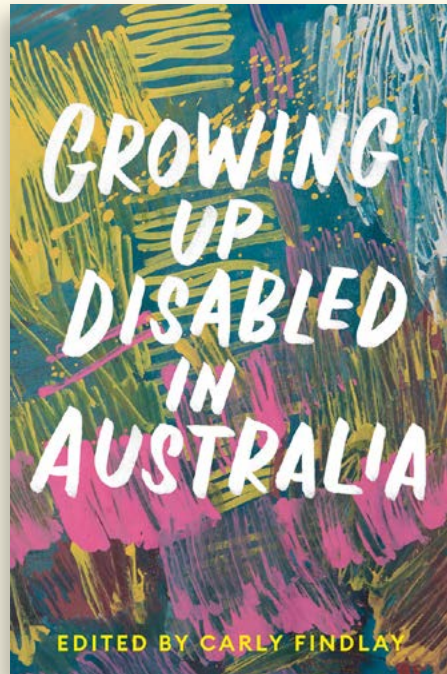
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## Growing Up Disabled in Australia

Edited by Carly Findlay

Imprint: Black Inc.

One in five Australians has a disability. And disability presents itself in many ways. Yet disabled people are still underrepresented in the media and in literature.

*Growing Up Disabled in Australia* is the fifth book in the highly acclaimed, bestselling *Growing Up* series. Edited by Carly Findlay, it includes interviews with prominent Australians such as Senator Jordon Steele-John and Paralympian Isis Holt, poetry and graphic art, as well as more than forty original pieces by writers with a disability or chronic illness. Contributors include Dion Beasley, Astrid Edwards, Jessica Walton, Carly-Jay Metcalfe, Gayle Kennedy and El Gibbs.

‘With the COVID-19 pandemic, it’s more important than ever that the perspectives of people with disabilities are shared with a wider audience. This is a rich and enriching collection.’ —**Kirstie Innes-Will, Publisher**

‘These pieces not only put us in the writers’ shoes but upend our ideas about where the disability lies.’ —*Spectrum*

**CARLY FINDLAY OAM** is a writer and appearance activist. She is the author of *Say Hello* and has been published in *The Guardian*, *The Age*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *Daily Life*, SBS and *Frankie*.



## Reset

Restoring Australia After the Pandemic Recession

Ross Garnaut

Imprint: La Trobe University Press

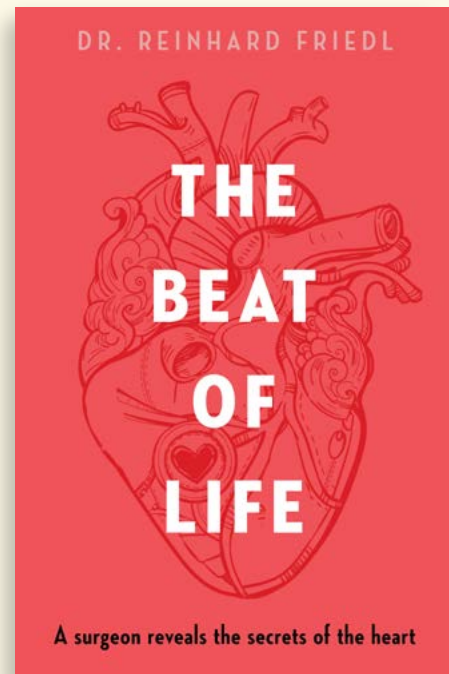
Renowned economist Ross Garnaut shows how the COVID-19 crisis offers Australia the opportunity to reset its economy and build a successful future – and why the old approaches will not work. Garnaut develops the idea of a renewable superpower, he calls for a basic income and he explores what the ‘decoupling’ of China and America will mean for Australia.

In the wake of COVID-19, the world has entered its deepest recession since the 1930s. Shocks of this magnitude throw history from its established course – either for good or evil. In 1942 – in the depths of war – the Australian government established a Department of Post-War Reconstruction to plan a future that not only restored existing strengths but also rebuilt the country for a new and better future. As we strive to overcome the coronavirus challenge, we need new, practical ideas to restore Australia. This book has them.

‘A groundbreaking sequel to *Superpower*.’ —**Chris Feik, Publisher**

**ROSS GARNAUT** is the professorial research fellow in economics at the University of Melbourne. In 2008, he produced the Garnaut Climate Change Review for the Australian government. He is the author of many books, including the bestselling *Dog Days* and *Superpower*.





## The Beat of Life

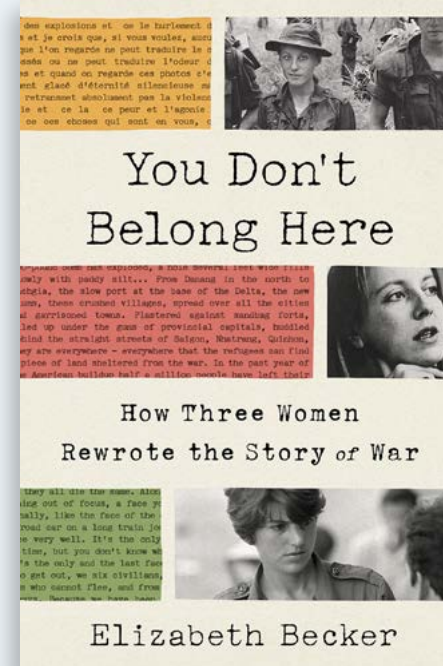
A Surgeon Reveals the  
Secrets of the Heart

Dr Reinhard Friedl with  
Shirley Michaela Seul,  
Gert Reifarth (translator)

Imprint: Black Inc.

The heart is our most important – and perhaps most mysterious – organ. Every day it pumps 9000 litres of blood and beats around 100,000 times. But the heart is more than just a pump. In all major human cultures, it is seen as the source of love, sympathy, joy, courage, strength and wisdom. Why? Having witnessed the extraordinary complexity and unpredictability of human hearts in the operating theatre, heart surgeon Reinhard Friedl went on a search for answers. In the tradition of Giulia Enders' *Gut* and Norman Doidge's *The Brain That Changes Itself*, he uses riveting personal stories to illustrate the complex relationship between the heart, the brain and the psyche. *The Beat of Life* ends with a plea: that we recognise the heart's wisdom and adopt a more heart-centred way of living, which will lead to greater health.

**DR REINHARD FRIEDL** is an eminent German surgeon who has held thousands of hearts in his hands. He has operated on premature babies and repaired the heart valves of the very old, implanted artificial heart turbines and stitched up stabbing wounds to the heart.



## You Don't Belong Here

How Three Women  
Rewrote the Story of War  
Elizabeth Becker

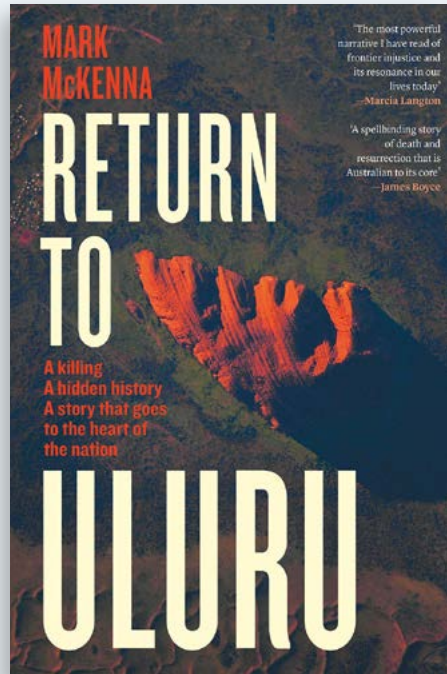
Imprint: Black Inc.

The untold story of three women who bravely reported  
from the frontlines of the Vietnam War.

Kate Webb, an Australian reporter captured by the Vietcong, spent twenty-three days in captivity. French photographer Catherine Leroy jumped off planes to get the perfect aerial shot. American Frankie Fitzgerald reported from war-torn slums and villages. These were among the first female frontline journalists in the history of war reporting. Over the course of the Vietnam War they challenged the rules imposed on them. Elizabeth Becker tells the story of how these three women forged a place for themselves and for generations of female reporters to come.

'When these women were born, "lady journalists" wore white gloves and wrote about housekeeping. Today, because of their tenacity and bravery, women report from the frontlines ... and they aren't wearing white gloves.' —Tony Clifton

Award-winning journalist **ELIZABETH BECKER** was a war correspondent in Cambodia for *The Washington Post*. The author of the definitive book on the Khmer Rouge, *When the War Was Over*, she writes regularly for a range of publications, including *The New York Times*.



## Return to Uluru

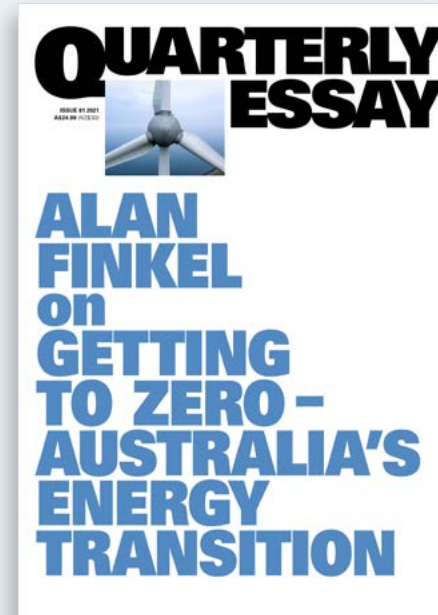
Mark McKenna

Imprint: Black Inc.

When Mark McKenna set out to write a history of the centre of Australia, he had no idea what he would discover. One event in 1934 – the shooting at Uluru of Aboriginal man Yokunnuna by white policeman Bill McKinnon, and subsequent Commonwealth inquiry – stood out as a mirror of racial politics in the Northern Territory at the time. In a sequence of powerful revelations – as he unearths new evidence that transforms the historical record – McKenna explores what truth-telling and reconciliation look like in practice. *Return to Uluru* speaks directly to the Black Lives Matter movement, but is completely Australian. Ultimately it is a story of recognition and return, which goes to the very heart of the country.

‘The most powerful narrative I have read of frontier injustice and its resonance in our lives today.’ —**Marcia Langton**

**MARK McKENNA**, based at the University of Sydney, is one of Australia’s leading historians. His prize-winning books include *An Eye for Eternity: The Life of Manning Clark*, which won the Prime Minister’s Literary Award for nonfiction and the Victorian, New South Wales, Queensland and South Australian premiers’ awards.



## QE81: Alan Finkel on Getting to Zero

Alan Finkel

Imprint: Quarterly Essay

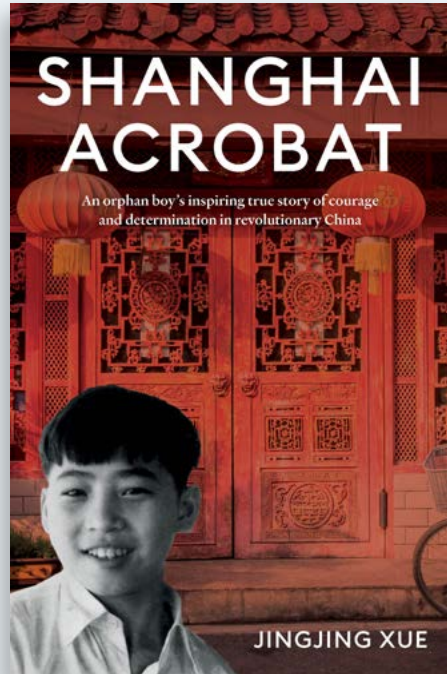
**An essential guide to how Australia can tackle the climate crisis**

The world is overheating, and despite good intentions and significant efforts, emissions increase nearly every year. The challenge is immense, but there are solutions.

In this lucid, persuasive essay, Alan Finkel maps Australia’s energy transition. He focuses on clean technologies, including the use of hydrogen, and addresses the challenge of intermittent supply, showing how we can build a zero-emissions world. Taking into account economics, science and emotions, *Getting to Zero* is an essential guide to how Australia can tackle the climate crisis with realism and ingenuity.

**ALAN FINKEL** was appointed Australia’s chief scientist in 2016. He is a neuroscientist, engineer and entrepreneur. He led the 2017 National Electricity Market Review and the 2019 development of the National Hydrogen Strategy, and chaired the 2020 panel developing the low-emissions technology roadmap.





## Shanghai Acrobat

Jingjing Xue

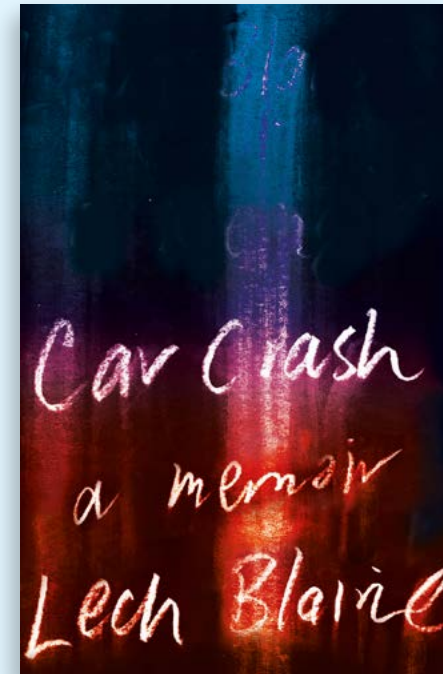
Imprint: Black Inc.

The inspiring true story of a world-class Chinese acrobat who began a new life in Australia.

In 1950s communist China, a young boy called Jingjing was abandoned to an orphanage. He was destined for a life of hardship – until government officials enlisted him to train with the Shanghai Acrobatics School. For readers of *Mao's Last Dancer*, this moving autobiography tells of his rise from poverty to become an admired performer in China and beyond – and of his extraordinary attempt to secure his freedom. Through the turbulent period of the Cultural Revolution to a new life in Australia, this is a tale of hope and perseverance, overcoming adversity and finding a place to belong.

'This success story will resonate for those from all over the world who have called Australia home.' —**Andrew Kwong**

**JINGJING XUE** performed around the world with the Shanghai Circus. He trained performers in China and at the National Institute of Circus Arts in Melbourne, the city he made his home.



## Car Crash

A Memoir

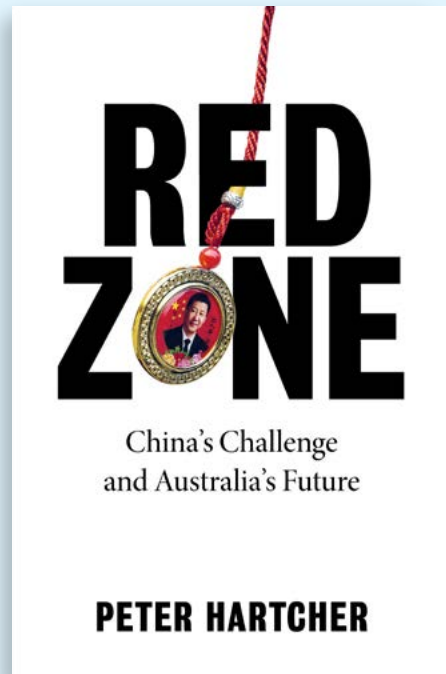
Lech Blaine

Imprint: Black Inc.

Lech Blaine was just seventeen when he was in a crash that changed his life.

On an evening in 2009, seven boys piled into a car to go to a party. They never arrived. The driver made a routine error and overcorrected, and the vehicle flew off the road. Three of Lech's friends were killed and two left in comas, in an incident that convulsed their Toowoomba community. Lech spiralled into risk-taking and depression as he negotiated how an accident – one wretched event of youth and inexperience – had changed the trajectory of so many lives. How does tragedy shape a community? How do we grieve in an age of social media? And how does a teen on the cusp of manhood develop a sense of self when his world has exploded? By turns heartbreaking and morbidly funny, this breathtaking debut marks an exceptional Australian talent.

**LECH BLAINE**, a Toowoomba writer now based in Sydney, wrote *Car Crash* while running a Bundaberg motel. His work appears widely, including in *The Best Australian Essays*, *The Guardian* and *The Monthly*. He won the 2017 Queensland Premier's Young Writers Award, a 2019 Brisbane Lord Mayor's Emerging Artist Fellowship and a Griffith Review Writers Fellowship.



## Red Zone

China's Challenge and  
Australia's Future

Peter Hartcher

Imprint: Black Inc.

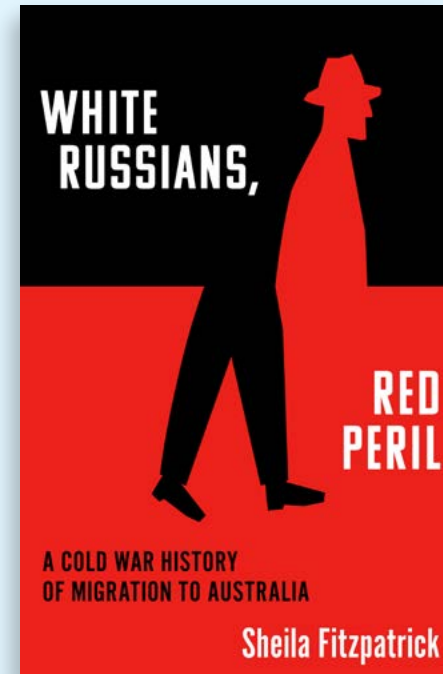
### How Australia woke up to China's challenge – and what comes next

China is a key nation for Australia's security, economy and identity. But what are China's intentions towards us? And what is behind the chill in relations between the two countries? Peter Hartcher shows how Australia woke up to China's challenge, and explores what comes next. Will we see a further deterioration in relations, or is there a smarter way to deal with an authoritarian superpower?

In this gripping book, Hartcher shines new light on Beijing's overt and covert campaign for influence over trade and defence, media and politics, and examines the Australian response.

'Peter Hartcher has been following this story for years, and this is a dramatic and definitive account.' —Chris Feik, Publisher

**PETER HARTCHER** is the political and international editor of *The Sydney Morning Herald*. His books include *Bubble Man*, *The Sweet Spot* and *To the Bitter End*, and two Quarterly Essays, *Bipolar Nation* and *Red Flag*.



## White Russians, Red Peril

A Cold War History of  
Migration to Australia

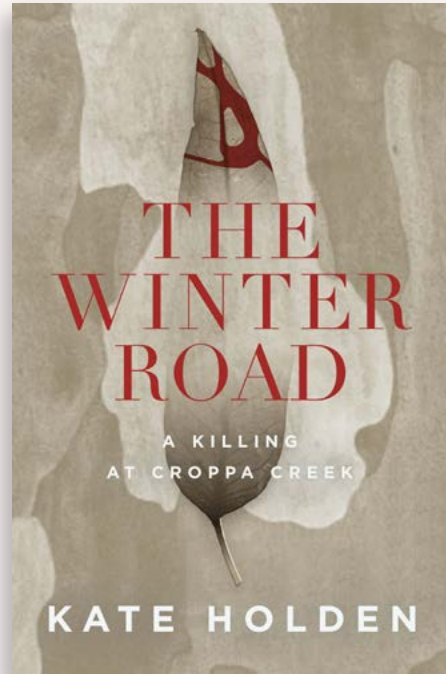
Sheila Fitzpatrick

Imprint: La Trobe University Press

Over 20,000 ethnic Russians migrated to Australia after World War II, yet we know very little about their experiences. Many preferred to keep a low profile in Australia. They had good reason to do so: to the Soviet Union, Australia's resettling of Russians amounted to the theft of its citizens, and undercover agents were deployed to persuade them to repatriate.

Making extensive use of newly discovered Russian-language archives and drawing on a lifetime's study of Soviet history and politics, award-winning author Sheila Fitzpatrick examines the early years of a diverse and disunited Russian-Australian community and how Australian and Soviet intelligence agencies attempted to track and influence them. While anti-communist 'White' Russians dreamt a war of liberation would overthrow the Soviet regime, a dissident minority admired its achievements and hoped to return home.

**SHEILA FITZPATRICK** is the multi-award-winning author of *My Father's Daughter*, *Mischka's War*, *On Stalin's Team* and *The Russian Revolution*, among other titles. She is a regular contributor to the *London Review of Books*.



## The Winter Road

A Killing in Croppa Creek

Kate Holden

Imprint: Black Inc.

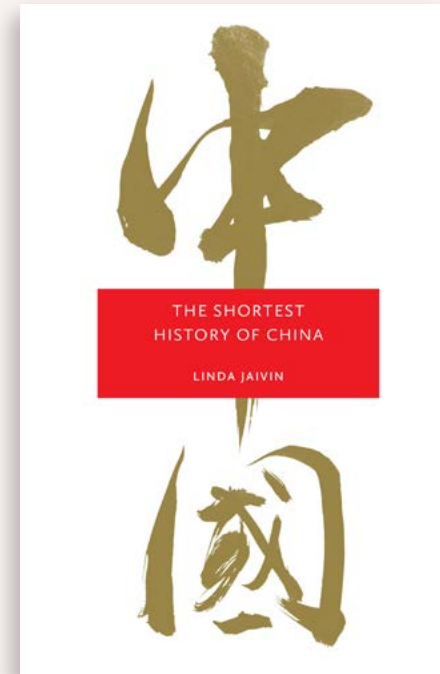
**An epic true story of greed, power and a desire for legacy from an acclaimed Australian storyteller.**

July 2014, a lonely road at twilight outside Croppa Creek, NSW: 80-year-old farmer Ian Turnbull takes out a .22 and shoots environmental officer Glen Turner in the back. On one side, a farmer hoping to secure his family's wealth on the richest agricultural soil in the country. On the other, his obsession: the government man trying to apply environmental laws. The brutal killing of Glen Turner splits open the story of our place on this land.

We are reaping what we've sown. Is our time on this soil a tale of tragedy or triumph? Do we owe protection to the land, or does it owe us a living? And what happens when, hoping for legacy, a man creates terrible consequences? Kate Holden brings her discerning eye to a gripping tale of law, land and inheritance. It is the story of Australia.

'An incredible writer.' —*Books+Publishing*

**KATE HOLDEN** is the author of two acclaimed memoirs, *In My Skin* and *The Romantic*, and a regular contributor to *The Saturday Paper*, *The Monthly* and *The Age*.



## The Shortest History of China

Linda Jaivin

Imprint: Black Inc.

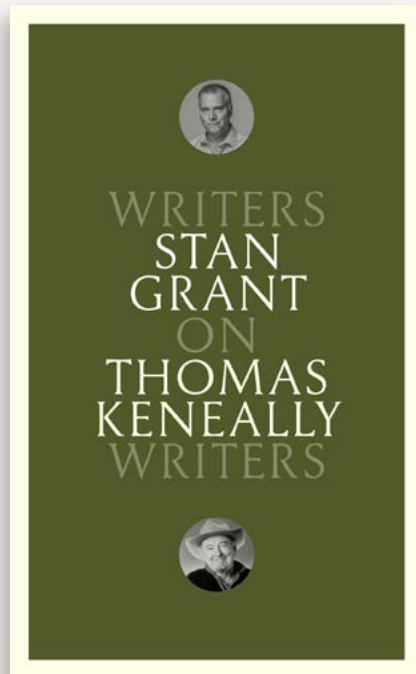
From kung-fu to tofu, tea to trade routes, sages to silk, China has influenced cuisine, commerce, military strategy, aesthetics and philosophy across the world for thousands of years.

Chinese history is sprawling and gloriously messy: full of heroes who are also villains, prosperous ages and violent rebellions, cultural vibrancy and censorious impulses, rebels, loyalists, dissidents and wits. Historical spectres of corruption and disunity, which have brought down many a glorious ruling house, continue to haunt the People's Republic of China today. Jaivin distils a vast history into a short, readable account that tells you what you need to know about the Middle Kingdom, from its philosophical origins to its political system, to the COVID-19 pandemic and where it is likely to lead the world.

'This nimble history of rogues, revolutions and rebellions explains China's past to illuminate today.' —**Julia Carlomagno, Publisher**

**LINDA JAIVIN** has been a foreign correspondent in China, and is co-editor of the *China Story Yearbook* and associate of the Australian Centre on China in the World at Australian National University. The author of several books, she writes regularly for *The Saturday Paper* and *The Monthly*.





## Writers on Writers: On Thomas Keneally

Stan Grant

**Imprint:** Black Inc. in partnership with State Library Victoria and the University of Melbourne

This new instalment in the Writers on Writers series promises to be something special. Stan Grant is interested in Thomas Keneally ‘for many reasons: we share an Irish heritage and a complicated relationship with religion. I am especially interested in focusing on *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith*, which was a formative novel for me. My family shares a connection with the real Jimmy Governor as well. It raises questions about non-Indigenous writers tackling Indigenous issues and characters.’

The Writers on Writers series is published by Black Inc. in association with the University of Melbourne and State Library Victoria.

‘A thoughtful, deep look at Keneally’s *Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith*, which considers race, representation and history.’ —**Chris Feik, Publisher**

**STAN GRANT** is the ABC’s international affairs analyst and the vice-chancellor’s chair of Australian-Indigenous Belonging at Charles Sturt University. He is the author of several books, and won the 2015 Walkley Award for coverage of Indigenous affairs.



## Full Circle

Power, hope and the return of nature

Scott Ludlam

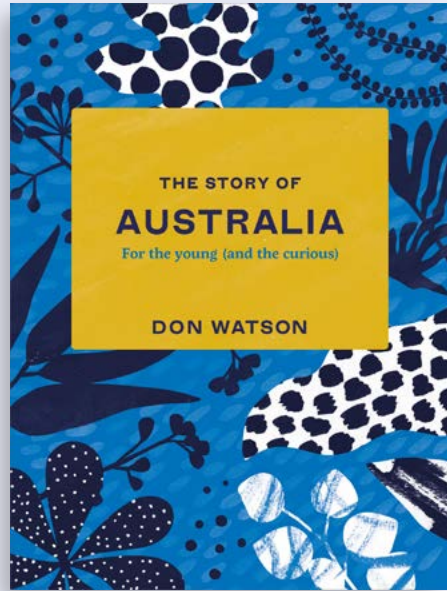
**Imprint:** Black Inc.

*It’s getting late. We have to get moving.*

A scorched eucalyptus leaf twirls out of a clear sky, a premonition that begins a journey into a world on the edge. Drawing on his unique experience as senator and activist, Ludlam travels the world to discover an emerging post-capitalist economics, and investigates everything from systems theory to community activism. Above all, he looks for what works: the falling grain of sand that sets off the avalanche of environmental and democratic change. This is a book about hidden connections and fresh possibilities, and what happens when we invite natural systems back into the urban world. Bringing together a wealth of new ideas, *Full Circle* outlines a new ecological politics. It is a visionary book for our wild times.

‘This is the distillation of Scott’s years of travel, thinking and deep political experience – it turns out he’s a hell of a writer. Like no other book by an Australian politician.’ —**Chris Feik, Publisher**

**SCOTT LUDLAM** was a senator from 2008 to 2017 and served as deputy leader of the Australian Greens. He has also worked as a filmmaker, artist and graphic designer. This is his first book, the fruit of a life of activism, study and travel.



## The Story of Australia

For the Young  
(and the Curious)

Don Watson

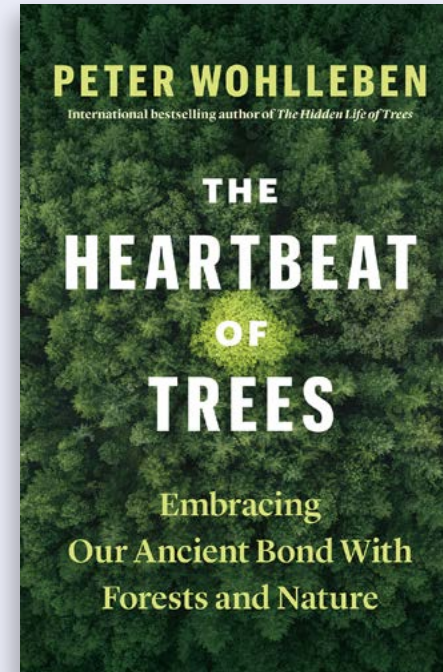
Imprint: Black Inc.

Don Watson's *The Story of Australia* is a modern illustrated history of our nation that integrates new understandings about Indigenous Australia and looks to the future, asking: where will we go from here? In clear, succinct language that both children and adults will appreciate, Watson guides readers from the ancient lands of Gondwana, through human settlement, colonisation and waves of migration, to the challenges facing our diverse nation today. Each era is brought to life in a series of beautifully illustrated spreads that focus on a particular event or development, or give a snapshot of life at that time. There is the familiar and iconic – Burke and Wills, Ned Kelly and the Eureka Stockade – and the lesser known, such as the Spanish flu epidemic and the Coniston massacres.

*'The Story of Australia makes history accessible and appealing for the Rebel Girls generation. Integrating Indigenous Australian history with that of colonisation, it is compassionate, inclusive and compelling.'*

—Kirstie Innes-Will, Editor

**DON WATSON** is the author of many acclaimed books for adults, including *Caledonia Australis*, *Recollections of a Bleeding Heart*, *American Journeys* and *The Bush*. This is his first work for children.



## The Heartbeat of Trees

Embracing Our Ancient Bond  
with Forests and Nature

Peter Wohlleben

Imprint: Black Inc.

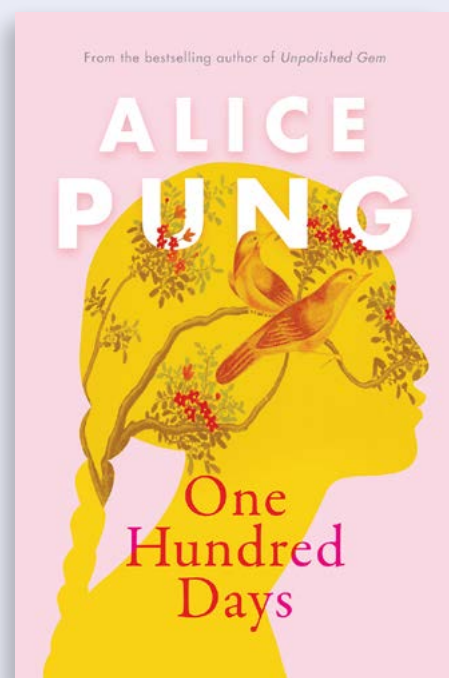
From the author of the international blockbuster *The Hidden Life of Trees* comes a fascinating and enchanting new book.

*The Heartbeat of Trees* reveals the hidden interactions between humans and trees, and how reconnecting with the natural world is key to our survival. In an era of ever-expanding cities, many of us fear we've lost our connection to nature – but Wohlleben is convinced that age-old ties linking humans to the natural world remain alive. Our blood pressure stabilises near trees, green calms us and being in the forest sharpens our senses.

Drawing on new scientific discoveries, *The Heartbeat of Trees* reveals the profound interactions humans can have with nature. Wohlleben shares how to see, feel, smell, hear and even taste your journey into the woods. Above all, he reveals a wondrous cosmos where humans are part of nature, and where conservation is not just about saving trees – it's about saving ourselves, too.

**PETER WOHLLEBEN** spent more than twenty years working for the German forestry commission and now runs an environmentally friendly woodland, working for the return of primeval forests. He is the author of several books on nature and the environment.





## One Hundred Days

Alice Pung

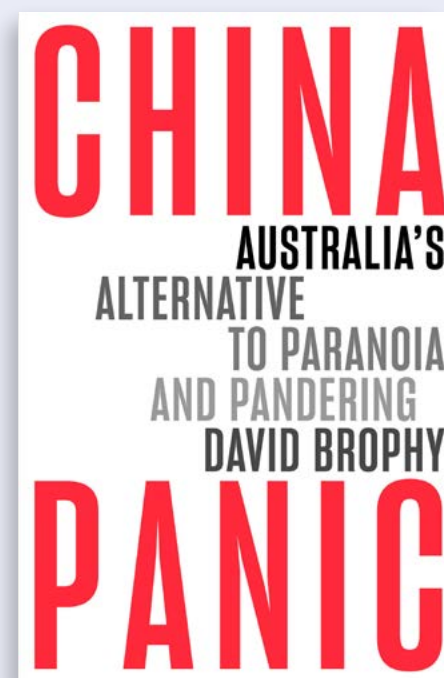
Imprint: Black Inc.

**One day, a boy in a nice silver car gives sixteen-year-old Karuna a ride. So Karuna returns the favour.**

Eventually, Karuna can't ignore the reality: she is pregnant. Incensed, her mother, already over-protective, confines her to their fourteenth-storey housing-commission flat for one hundred days, to protect her from the outside world – and make sure she can't get into any more trouble. Stuck inside for endless hours, Karuna battles her mother and herself for a sense of power in her own life, as a new life forms and grows within her. *One Hundred Days* is a fractured fairytale exploring the fault lines between love and control. At times tense and claustrophobic, it also brims with humour, warmth and character. It is a magnificent new work from one of Australia's most celebrated writers.

'Alice Pung is a true original, and this crisp, dramatic, funny novel breaks new ground.' —Chris Feik, Publisher

**ALICE PUNG** is an award-winning writer, editor, teacher and lawyer based in Melbourne. She is the bestselling author of several books, including the young adult novel *Laurinda*, which won the Ethel Turner Prize at the 2016 NSW Premier's Literary Awards.



## China Panic

**Australia's Alternative to Paranoia and Pandering**

David Brophy

Imprint: La Trobe University Press

When he visited Australia in 2014, Chinese president Xi Jinping said there was an 'ocean of goodwill' between our country and his. Since then that ocean has shown dramatic signs of freezing over. Australia is in the grip of a China Panic. How did we get here and what's the way out?

While the xenophobic right hovers in the wings, some of the loudest voices decrying Chinese subversion come, unexpectedly, from the left. Aligning themselves with hawkish think tanks, they call for new security laws, increased scrutiny of Chinese Australians and, if necessary, military force. In this insightful critique, David Brophy offers a progressive alternative, arguing that we need democratic solutions that strengthen Australian institutions and embrace, not alienate, Chinese Australians, and forms of international solidarity that don't reduce human rights to a mere bargaining chip.

**DAVID BROPHY** is a historian of Uyghur nationalism and the author of *Uyghur Nation*. He is a frequent commentator on the Xinjiang crisis and a senior lecturer on modern Chinese history at the University of Sydney.



## Everything Harder Than Everyone Else

Jenny Valentish

Imprint: Black Inc.

**What drives those who push themselves to extremes in unusual ways?**

When Jenny Valentish wrote a memoir about addiction, she met many who treat drug-taking like an Olympic sport, exploring their capacity to push their bodies. It is this person who, when they quit, might take up marathon running, getting the same kick out of five a.m. starts as two a.m. lines of coke, or become obsessed with rock-climbing, Instagramming cheesy thumbs-ups from mountaintops. Valentish interviews pro-wrestlers, bodybuilders, adult film performers, iron women, performance artists and extreme athletes, exploring what motivates some people to adopt one seemingly extreme persona after another. These rambunctious examples provide a lens for our own habits. By understanding more about those who must always push the boundaries, we can illuminate our own motivations.

**JENNY VALENTISH** is the author of the acclaimed *Woman of Substances*, a regular contributor to *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Saturday Paper*, and former editor of *Time Out Melbourne* and Triple J's *Jmag*. She grew up in Slough, a satellite town of London, moving to Australia in 2006.



## QE82: George Megalogenis on care and fear

George Megalogenis

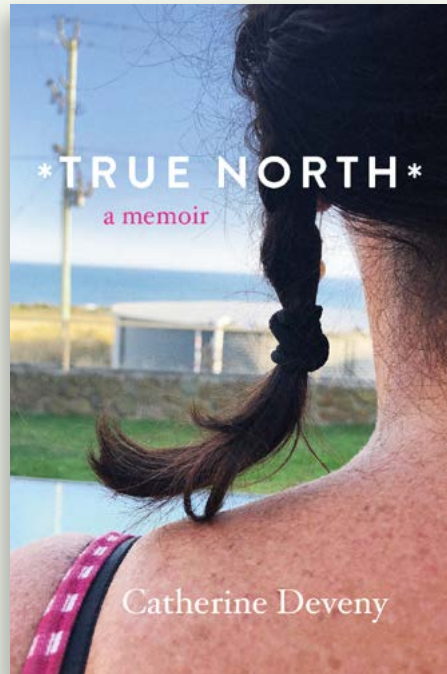
Imprint: Quarterly Essay

**Australia faces recession. In the wake of the pandemic, will we see a new politics of care and fear, of social security and concern for the future?**

In this original essay, George Megalogenis explains what we know about recessions and unemployment and how governments should respond. He explores the gender and generational aspects of job losses, and the fate of higher education – what happened to the clever country? He considers the state of the federation and, as Australia is forced to make its own luck, asks: what future for a divided nation?

**GEORGE MEGALOGENIS** is the author of several books and two Quarterly Essays, *Trivial Pursuit* and *Balancing Act*. His book *The Australian Moment* won the 2013 Prime Minister's Literary Award for Non-fiction and the 2012 Walkley Award for Non-fiction, and formed the basis for the ABC documentary series *Making Australia Great*. He is a regular contributor to *The Australian*, *The Monthly* and the Nine papers.





## True North

A memoir

Catherine Deveny

Imprint: Black Inc.

**When the world you know shatters, how do you remake yourself?**

Comedian and commentator Catherine Deveny knows a lot about break-ups – from emancipating herself from the ‘toxic’ Catholic belief systems of her upbringing to ending a seventeen-year relationship with the father of her children. In this moving and funny memoir, Deveny shares how she survived one of the hardest times in her life, opens up about her difficult childhood in Melbourne’s working-class inner-north, and ultimately discovers that on the other side of grief and loss are freedom and self-fulfilment. From her ‘boy mad’ teenage years and university sharehouses to life in Melbourne’s thriving cultural scene, Deveny’s life is at once highly relatable and utterly unique.

‘An uplifting and cathartic read that will resonate with anyone who has gone through – or is currently going through – a major life crisis.’

—Kirstie Innes-Will, Publisher

**CATHERINE DEVENY** is a writer, commentator and comedian. She is the author of eight books, including *Use Your Words*, *The Happiness Show*, *Free to a Good Home*, *Say When* and *It’s Not My Fault They Print Them*.



## Muddy People

A memoir

Sara El Sayed

Imprint: Black Inc.

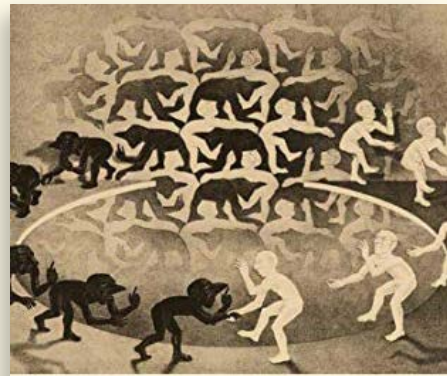
**A hilarious and heartwarming memoir of growing up an Egyptian-Australian Muslim family.**

In the outer suburbs of Brisbane, Soos lives with her eccentric family: Baba, who thinks Islam forbids life insurance; Mama, who is plotting divorce; Nana, who encourages small lies; infuriating brother Mohamed and his white girlfriend; and her can-do-no-wrong sister, Aisha. Kids say Soos is mud-coloured and her culture is confusing. She’s working out how to balance her parents’ strict rules with making friends, having crushes and living a normal teenage life. With each rule Soos comes up against, she is forced to choose between doing what her parents say is right and following her instincts. But when her family faces its greatest challenge, she comes to realise they are her strongest defenders.

‘I wanted to write something that gets to the centre of what it meant for me to be an Arab Muslim girl in a majority white community.’

—Sara El Sayed

**SARA EL SAYED** was born in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1995. She teaches at Queensland University of Technology and is completing a master of fine arts. She won the 2020 Queensland Premier’s Young Writers Award.



**FRANK  
WESTERMAN**  
**WIJ, DE MENS**

QUERIDO FOSFOR

## We, Hominids

Frank Westerman,  
Sam Garrett (translator)

Imprint: Black Inc.

**One of Holland's great writers hunts down answers to anthropology's most fundamental questions.**

With an ancient skull as his starting point, Westerman travels the globe, tracing the search for the first human being – the missing link between humans and apes. The result is a compelling mixture of reportage, travelogue and essay. He discovers a plethora of origin hypotheses, introduces us to skull hunters, and examines the influence of new DNA technology.

The constantly changing theories of human evolution show that we are doomed to continuously review what we think we know. Still, Westerman emphasises the importance of evidence: 'The facts cling to me and I cling to the facts. I will continue to pick them up, turn them around and illuminate them with the headlamp of my imagination.'

**FRANK WESTERMAN** is an acclaimed Dutch writer of nonfiction.

His work has been translated into sixteen languages and won numerous awards, including the Kapuściński Prize (Poland), the Premio Terzani (Italy) and the Prix du Livre du Reàlel (France). *We, Hominids* has been translated by award-winning translator Sam Garrett.



## Currowan

Bronwyn Adcock

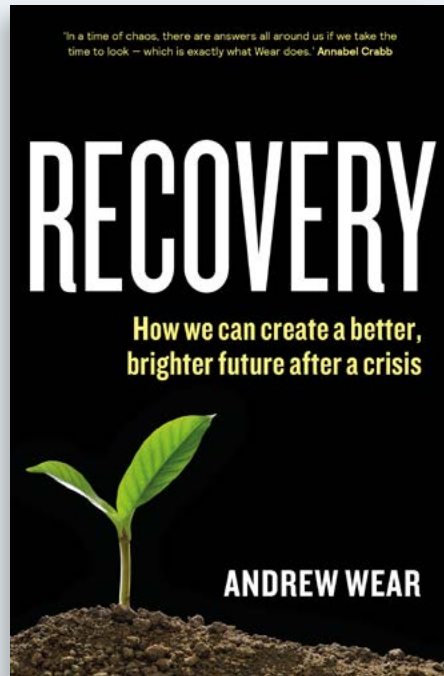
Imprint: Black Inc.

This propulsive narrative reveals the remarkable first-hand account of what people experienced, saw and felt in the face of the massive Currowan fire on the south coast of New South Wales. It is braided with larger themes, including Bronwyn's story, as related in her powerful Monthly essay. Bronwyn writes: 'A fire-fighter told me that the two-hour window after a southerly hits is called the "dead zone" because it is so dangerous ... under climate change fire is behaving in ways we have never seen before. Australia is a poster child for what happens in a climate-changed world. I want to convey what it is like to live in this world: the fear, the dislocation and the danger. I want to convey what happens when people are let down by governments, and show what happens when a country disregards and poorly manages its land – almost like a dystopian horror story that is actually real.'

'Bronwyn was on the front line of the fires herself, and here she combines passion with a journalist's eye to piece together the whole story.' —Chris Feik, Publisher

**BRONWYN ADCOCK** is a freelance journalist whose work appears in *The Griffith Review*, *The Saturday Paper* and on ABC.





## Recovery

How to build back better  
after a crisis

Andrew Wear

Imprint: Black Inc.

**As we contemplate recovery from COVID-19 amid a climate emergency, what lessons can we learn?**

Humanity has recovered from many disasters. Often, we've built a better future. In continental Europe, the Spanish flu was followed by the economic prosperity of the Roaring Twenties; after World War II, German and Japanese economies grew; and in America, the policies responding to the Great Depression laid the foundations for twentieth-century prosperity. Through interviews with policymakers and community leaders, Wear explores the recovery ahead. With governments prepared to lead, listen to experts and involve communities in decision-making, not only is a successful recovery possible but we can also choose to re-evaluate many of the things that we thought were fixed. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build back better.

'Written with Wear's trademark optimism and impeccable research.'  
—Sophy Williams, Publisher

**ANDREW WEAR** is a senior public servant and the author of *Solved!*. He is a graduate of the Senior Executive Fellows Program at Harvard and a director of Ardoch Ltd, a children's education charity.



## The Rome Zoo

Pascal Janovjak

Imprint: Black Inc.

In Rome's ancient heart, surrounded by gardens, is the city's extraordinary zoo. Since 1911 this eccentric institution has been attracting a roll call of personalities, from Mussolini and his tame lioness to the Pope.

*The Rome Zoo* follows the fortunes of Giovanna, the zoo's director of communications, and Chahine, an Algerian architect, drawn together by their fascination for an anteater, the last surviving member of its species. For Pascal Janovjak, 'The zoo is a sanctuary of innocence.' But it is also a mirror reflecting a troubled century, the measuring post of a fantasist humanity. Against this bewitching backdrop, the author seamlessly blends past and present, notoriety and decadence, nostalgia and hope.

'Unique, creepy, spellbinding, with a cast of intriguing characters. The complex relationship between humans and animals is explored with a fierce intelligence and poignancy.' —Sophy Williams, Publisher

**PASCAL JANOVJAK** studied comparative literature and art history in Strasbourg before moving to the Middle East. His works include *Coléoptères* (*Beetles*), *L'Invisible* (*The Invisible One*) and *À Toi* (*To You*). *The Rome Zoo* is translated by award-winning translator Stephanie Smee.



## QE83: Lech Blaine on top blokes: the larrikin, class and politics

Lech Blaine

Imprint: Quarterly Essay

The figure of the larrikin goes deep in Australian culture. But who can be a larrikin, and what are its political uses?

This brilliant essay looks at Australian politics through the prisms of class, egalitarianism and masculinity. Lech Blaine examines some ‘top blokes’, with particular focus on Scott Morrison and Anthony Albanese, but stretching back to Bob Hawke and Kerry Packer. He shows how Morrison brought a cohort of voters over to the Coalition side, ‘flipping’ what was once working-class Labor culture. Blaine weaves his own experiences through the essay as he explores the persona of the Aussie larrikin. What are its hidden contradictions – can a larrikin be female, or Indigenous, say? – and how has it been transformed by an age of affluence and image?

‘Lech Blaine investigates the larrikin, class and Australian politics in unique and riveting style.’ —Chris Feik, Publisher

**LECH BLAINE** is a writer from Toowoomba, Queensland. He is the author of the stunning memoir *Car Crash*, and his writing has appeared in *The Monthly*, *The Guardian*, *The Best Australian Essays* and *Meanjin*. He was an inaugural recipient of a Griffith Review Queensland Writers Fellowship.



## Title Fight

How the Yindjibarndi fought and defeated a \$40 billion mining giant

Paul Cleary

Imprint: Black Inc.

The remarkable story of an epic David-against-Goliath legal battle over mining in the Pilbara.

From Western Australia, to Perth, Canberra and China, Andrew ‘Twiggy’ Forrest’s Fortescue Metals Group has a network of iron ore mines that generate \$17 billion a year in revenue. When it met resistance from the traditional owners of the Pilbara land where Fortescue had amassed a vast network of mining leases, the company would employ what its executives described as a ‘barrage of expedited litigation [at] a gruelling pace’ to wear down native title opposition. But then FMG encountered the Yindjibarndi people. *Title Fight* reveals the Wild West of mining in the remote Pilbara. It tells the story of how a small group of local peoples stood their ground and refused to betray their spiritual connection to their land.

‘A totally absorbing story, which no one but Paul Cleary could have written.’ —Chris Feik, Publisher

**PAUL CLEARY** is a journalist and writer of many years’ experience. His books include *Too Much Luck*, *Mine-Field*, *Shakedown* and *Trillion Dollar Baby*.





## On Helen Garner: Writers on Writers

Sean O'Beirne

Imprint: Black Inc.

From the author of the acclaimed *A Couple of Things Before the End* comes an entertaining, perceptive and altogether original account of one of Australia's greatest writers, Helen Garner. Fellow fiction writer Sean O'Beirne examines Garner's novels and their distinctive Australian voice, in a book for all Garner fans to savour and enjoy.

The Writers on Writers series is published by Black Inc. in association with the University of Melbourne and State Library Victoria.

'The novel helped me understand what writers could do in Australia, that you didn't have to run away from characteristic Australian things; that you could go further into them without being ashamed.'

—Sean O'Beirne on Helen Garner's *Monkey Grip*

'These voices, so superbly heard and rendered, threw me into fits of laughter and slyly broke my heart.'

—Helen Garner on Sean O'Beirne's *A Couple of Things Before the End*

**SEAN O'BEIRNE** is a bookseller and critic, and the author of the acclaimed *A Couple of Things Before the End*. He grew up in Melbourne's outer suburbs, and studied arts, law and acting.



## Scott Morrison

A political portrait

Sean Kelly

Imprint: Black Inc.

An insightful, vivid portrait of a politician in power – in all his strengths and weaknesses.

*'What is a prime minister? Is the prime minister a mirror – exactly like us? Or an ideal – the best among us? Or an apotheosis – the most like us? Most prime ministers simply reign over us. The very skilled, like Howard, manage to articulate the nation as it sees itself. Hawke, a step beyond, embodied a certain ideal, the way we would like to be. But Morrison has done something else.'*

This book is a groundbreaking portrait of Scott Morrison that is also a portrait of a political culture. It traces Morrison's rise – his background in property, his treatment of politics as a game, and the role played by marketing, faith and the Liberal Party, among other things. Scintillating, vividly written and highly intelligent, this book will break new ground for Australian political biography, and capture the figure of the prime minister in an indelible way.

**SEAN KELLY** is a columnist for the Nine papers and a regular contributor to *The Monthly*. He was a political adviser to Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard.



## Sly Fox

**Lachlan Murdoch bio**

Paddy Manning

**Imprint:** Black Inc.

**The first Australian biography of Lachlan Murdoch, heir apparent to the Murdoch media empire.**

In 2019, Lachlan Murdoch emerged as winner of the family's drawn-out succession war, but he remains a mysterious figure of apparent contradiction. The rebellious, tattooed playboy has become the family's hardline-conservative standard-bearer. Lachlan has survived a string of own-goals – including expensive disasters from Super-League to One.Tel – and dodged the fallout from the phone-hacking scandal. He is poised to inherit control of the Fox and News Corp conglomerates. Where will he take the most powerful media empire in the world? At a time of disruption in business and politics, can Lachlan keep the Murdoch empire afloat?

'An essential read about a key figure for Australia's – and the world's – media. Paddy is a fine biographer who combines deep research with pacy, insightful writing.' —Chris Feik, Publisher

**PADDY MANNING** is the author of five books, including *Born to Rule: The Unauthorised Biography of Malcolm Turnbull*. He has worked for the ABC, Crikey, the Nine papers, *Australian Financial Review* and *The Australian* and is presently contributing editor (politics) for *The Monthly*.



## Girt Nation

**David Hunt**

**Imprint:** Black Inc.

**Following on from the award-winning and bestselling *Girt* and *True Girt* comes the highly anticipated third volume in David Hunt's beloved Australian history series, *Girt Nation*.**

In this hilarious yet deeply researched book, David Hunt tells how Australia became a nation. This is a story of spiritualists, suffragettes and bush bards. Of costermongers, mesmerists and larrikins. Hunt weaves a narrative that is both informative and delightful, as he explores the people and forces that helped turn a federation of colonial states into a distinctive nation.

### **Praise for *Girt* and *True Girt***

'An engaging, witty and utterly irreverent take on Australian history.'

—Graeme Simsion, author of *The Rosie Project*

'Very funny stuff ... It's great! The footnotes are consistently hilarious.'

—Matthew Schofield, a director of *The Simpsons*

**DAVID HUNT's** *Girt: The Unauthorised History of Australia* won the 2014 Indie Award for non-fiction and was shortlisted in both the NSW Premier's Literary Awards and Australian Book Industry Awards.



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