

## BLACK INC.

Celebrating 25 years.

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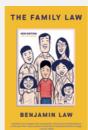
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## Black Inc. at 25 Still Setting the Agenda









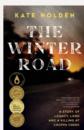




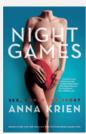


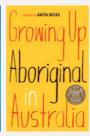




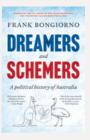












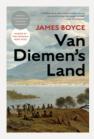


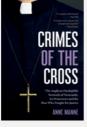


















#### Black Inc. at 25

## **Author Testimonials**

'Both Australian publishing and the wider world of ideas and culture would be the poorer without the twenty-five years that Black Inc. has under its belt. May there be many more.'

> —Frank Bongiorno, author of Dreamers and Schemers

'When I think of Black Inc., I think of a stable and me being a bloody lucky horse. I'm cared for, backed to the hilt and I get to gallop! But most of all it's been an honour. The generosity of Morry Schwartz, the breadth of his commitment to Australia's literary and media landscape, his incisive insight and sparkling curiosity - it is such a privilege to be a part of his vision. As for Chris Feik, publisher and editor of Black Inc., I'm in debt, Forever, I've learnt so much from that man - and am still learning. In good times Feik has referred to me as being like a horse, that I just get a little tap and I'm off, disappearing over the horizon. In bad times, I think I've caused Feik immeasurable anxiety: when will the horse return? Where is that bloody horse? But the stable awaits regardless and for that, I'm grateful.'

—Anna Krien, author of Night Games and Act of Grace

'Black Inc. is one of Australia's last remaining independent publishers, and is committed to publishing great works of Australian literature. (I should know.) In publishing a book with them, I have had the opportunity to work closely with almost everyone in the team – from editorial to rights to design – and I have been constantly impressed by their care, dedication and talent. My book would have been a lesser thing without them, and I will always be grateful for their work. Long may they thrive!'

-Robert Skinner, author of I'd Rather Not

'It's hard to imagine what the current Australian media and publishing scene would be like if there were no Black Inc. The Quarterly Essay alone was an inspired idea which, thanks to Morry Schwartz's commitment and Chris Feik's editing skills, has delivered a sustained level of excellence and a portrait of the nation over time ... At a difficult time in my writing life I was fortunate to have the support of Morry and the skills of Chris who took on some very odd work of mine and didn't blink. Congratulations and a big thank-you to all concerned on the twenty-five anniversary.'

—Amanda Lohrey, author of Vertigo

'On a personal level, Black Inc. has been transformative for me. I am forever grateful to publisher Chris Feik who invited me into the stable after a chance meeting at Janet Clarke Hall, subsequently suggesting I might write a memoir of 'the piano-playing life' – which he gently suggested might be called 'Piano Lessons'. On a social level, Black Inc. is a critical part of the artistic and intellectual fabric of Australian life: a haven for ideas and deep thought that has only become more necessary.'

—Anna Goldsworthy, author of Piano Lessons

'For me, being published by Black Inc. was one of those one-in-a-million events you read about in the newspapers. Having attended the launch of a book by one of my heroes - Robert Manne (I ghost wrote one of the launch speeches) - I got talking to one of Black Inc.'s marvellous editors Julian Welch and mentioned I was writing a novel about George Orwell's struggle to write Nineteen Eighty-Four. The following Monday morning after a coffee with Julian and Chris Feik, I had a two-book deal agreed. Black Inc.'s amazing editorial assistance has helped make my career and I will always be grateful to Chris, Julian, Julia Carlomagno and - most recently - Jo Rosenberg.'

> —Dennis Glover, author of The Last Man in Europe and Repeat

'When studying Asian history at university, I dreamt of writing a popular history of China – decades later, Black Inc. made that dream a reality when they commissioned *The Shortest History of China*. The editors were a joy to work with – both exacting and nurturing. They've managed to sell my little book into well over a dozen other countries since. As both a writer and a reader I'm so thrilled at how they've flourished over the last twenty-five years and wish for them many more thriving quarter-centuries ahead.'

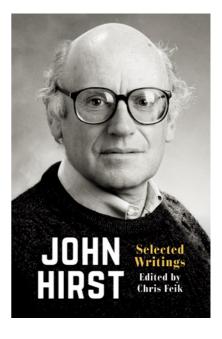
—Linda Jaivin, author of *The Shortest History of China* 

## **John Hirst**

**Selected Writings** 

Chris Feik

A historian like no other, John Hirst captured what is distinctive about Australia



John Hirst was one of Australia's most original and substantial historians. He changed views of many aspects of the nation's history, including the early days of the British colony, the advent of democracy and the forging of Federation. He had a sociological imagination of great power, and the historian's gift of synthesising vast amounts of material and seeing new patterns and meanings.

This volume selects the cream of Hirst's historical essays, as well as key excerpts from his books. It contains three overviews of his work, by Frank Bongiorno, Robert Manne and Alex McDermott. It shows how his writing allows us to understand Australia's past, present and future in fresh ways.

John Hirst (1942–2016) wrote many books on Australian history, including Convict Society and Its Enemies, The Strange Birth of Colonial Democracy, The Sentimental Nation, Sense & Nonsense in Australian History and The Shortest History of Europe. He was a member of the history department at La Trobe University from 1968 to 2007.

#### JULY 2025

History

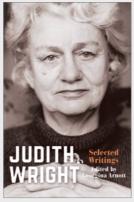
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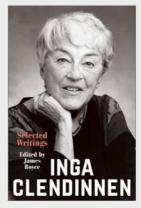
9781760645748 Imprint: La Trobe University Press RRP: AU\$36.99, NZ\$45.00 C PB (234 x 153mm) 368pp

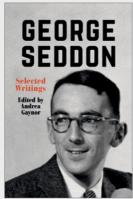
#### AUSTRALIAN THINKERS

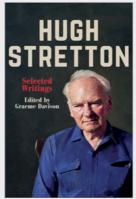
La Trobe University Press publishes leading scholars and experts, producing books of high intellectual quality, substance and originality.

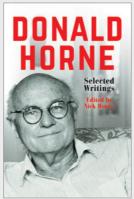












Explore more La Trobe University Press titles blackincbooks.com.au/imprint/latrobeuniversitypress

## The Immigrants

Fabula Mirabilis, or A Wonderful Story

Moreno Giovannoni

A story of love, dreams, exile and tragedy, told with heartbreaking beauty



'Although if they are asked before they die, they all say they came here for a better life, they do not always find a better life, do they?'

In the Victorian town of Mitrefò, tobacco is grown, an Italian cinema and café open, and people travel back and forth from Italy. A boy fishes, wanders the countryside and watches a community form, with its joys, scandals and shared understandings. Interspersed are the 'grotesques' – indelible and terrible events that sit alongside the better future they all seek.

In *The Immigrants*, Moreno Giovannoni depicts a family as they build a new life in a strange land. Through love and exile, industry and tragedy, their unspoken dreams and fears unfold in this astonishing and moving book.

#### Praise for The Fireflies of Autumn:

'I can't remember ever reading anything quite like it. It thrilled me, and made me laugh, and moved me very deeply.'

#### -Helen Garner

'There is immense beauty in this book, and there is great sadness and there is genuine tenderness. I can't recall when I was last thrilled by a book as I am by this one.'

#### -Christos Tsiolkas

'I have never read a migrant tale so original, so breathtaking in scope, or so magical.'

-Alice Pung

Moreno Giovannoni is the author of the critically acclaimed *The Fireflies of Autumn* and a freelance translator. His essay 'The Percheron' was selected for *The Best Australian Essays* in 2014. He was the inaugural winner of the Deborah Cass Prize for Writing in 2016.

#### **JULY 2025**

Literary Fiction

9781760645267 Imprint: Black Inc. RRP: AU\$36.99, NZ\$45.00 C PB (234 x 153mm) 304pp

# The Shortest History of Turkey

Benjamin C. Fortna

The world-changing story of Turkey – a country caught between two worlds





BENJAMIN C. FORTNA

This brilliant distillation traces Turkey's long and complicated history from the rise and decline of the Ottoman Empire – the most enduring, and perhaps the most important, Islamic empire in history – to the emergence of the modern Turkish Republic in the early twentieth century and the populist, authoritarian leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan today.

Over more than nine centuries of change, Turkey has been a cultural melting pot, straddling Asia and Europe, and a nation-state bent on ethnic unity. It has seen conquest and reform, appeals to tradition and calls to modernise. It has been a home to Christians, Jews, Muslims and more, and it has aggressively pursued both secularisation and Islamisation.

In *The Shortest History of Turkey*, historian Benjamin Fortna offers a concise yet nuanced overview of this complex trajectory, revealing how persistent tensions between opposing visions for Turkey have shaped, and continue to shape, the country and its people.

Benjamin C. Fortna is a professor of history and director of the School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies at the University of Arizona. He has published numerous books on the Ottoman Empire, the early Turkish Republic and modern Turkey, and has appeared on the BBC programs Who Do You Think You Are? and The Ottomans: Europe's Muslim Emperors.

#### **JULY 2025**

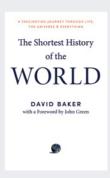
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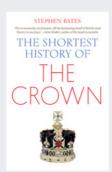
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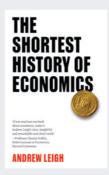
9781760644659 Imprint: Black Inc. RRP: AU\$27.99, NZ\$35.00 B PB (198 x 128mm) 256pp

## Shortest History series Life is short; history is long.

Beginning in 2012, with *The Shortest History of Europe*, our Shortest Histories offer clear and concise accounts of broad-ranging topics from the world's leading subject matter experts. Every book in our Shortest History series can be read in an afternoon and will transform your perspective for a lifetime.

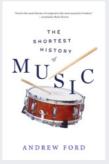


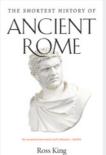






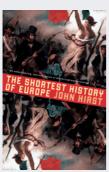








Often humorous and always illuminating, the series has sold over half a million copies across the globe, with rights sold in more than thirty countries.



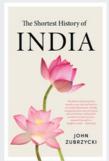














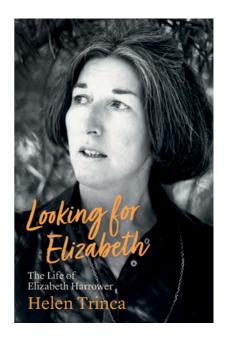
## Explore the series blackincbooks.com.au/series/shortest-history

## **Looking for Elizabeth**

The Life of Elizabeth Harrower

Helen Trinca

The full story of an Australian literary enigma



Why did Elizabeth Harrower – one of the most important authors of postwar Australia – stop writing at the height of her powers? After publishing four books that earned the admiration of Patrick White, Shirley Hazzard and Christina Stead, Harrower published no more novels. She faded from the literary landscape, until being rediscovered decades later to international acclaim.

In Looking for Elizabeth, Helen Trinca unravels this mystery. Exploring the personal and artistic forces that shaped Harrower's writing, she draws a sensitive portrait of a wounded 'divorced child' and the legacy of abandonment she carried throughout her life. She probes the contradictions of a woman who wielded extraordinary insight into

others' lives but guarded her own fiercely. And she vividly brings to life the literary circles of this fascinating era in Australian culture.

Based on private interviews with Harrower and full access to her archive, *Looking for Elizabeth* is the first full biography of this significant figure in Australian letters.

Helen Trinca's biography of Madeleine St John was co-winner of the Prime Minister's Prize for Nonfiction in 2014. As a journalist, she has held senior positions at *The Australian*, including deputy editor, managing editor, European correspondent and editor of *The Weekend Australian Magazine*.

#### JULY 2025

Biography & Memoir

9781760645755 Imprint: La Trobe University Press RRP: AU\$36.99, NZ\$45.00 C PB (234 x 153mm) 320pp

## **Prove It**

#### A Scientific Guide for the Post-Truth Era

Elizabeth Finkel

A compelling journey through science's big breakthroughs, by an award-winning Australian science writer

Humans developed the scientific

from what came before was that

theories should be fuelled by data.

not opinion. Today, the institutions

that underpin democracy - the law,

academia, government, journalism -

facts and interrogating them through

all rely on its central idea: seeking

robust discussion and real-world

testing. Yet in the post-truth era,

public conversations can feel far

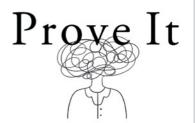
In Prove It, Elizabeth Finkel

method over centuries. Its departure

Full of politics, prejudice, obsession, heroism and eccentricity, Prove It captures the drama and excitement of scientific discovery and debate and argues compellingly that its lessons are more crucial now than ever.

Elizabeth Finkel holds a PhD in biochemistry and spent ten years as a research scientist before becoming an award-winning journalist and author of The Genome Generation, among other books. She is a founding editor of Cosmos magazine and a regular contributor to the US magazine Science, Radio National's Science Show and The Monthly. Her awards include a Queensland Premier's Literary Award for Stem Cells: Controversy at the Frontiers of Science, the National Press Club's award for Higher Education Journalist of the Year and the Eureka Award for Science Journalism. Her forthcoming book is Prove It: A Scientific Guide for the Post-Truth Era.

#### Elizabeth Finkel



A SCIENTIFIC GUIDE FOR THE POST-TRUTH ERA

#### **AUGUST 2025**

Science, Nature & the Environment

9781760642716 Imprint: La Trobe University Press RRP: AU\$36.99. NZ\$45.00 C PB (234 x 153mm) 320pp

from scientific.

describes how the scientific method plays out in a series of controversies, from proving the existence of Einstein's gravitational waves to identifying the origins of Covid-19, from understanding human origins to defining consciousness. Through these tales of dispute and discovery,

elements of scientific thinking.

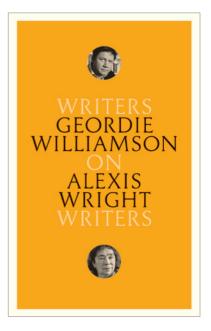
she breaks down the key

## **On Alexis Wright**

**Writers on Writers** 

Geordie Williamson

An insightful exploration of one of Australia's most acclaimed writers, the award-winning Alexis Wright



A brilliant study of renowned Indigenous author Alexis Wright, winner of the 2007 and 2024 Miles Franklin Literary Award and the 2018 and 2024 Stella Prize.

Alexis Wright is the most eminent and influential Indigenous creative writer of recent times. In this eloquent essay, noted critic Geordie Williamson reflects with deep insight on Wright's powerful work. Geordie Williamson is chief literary critic of *The Australian* newspaper and a publisher at large at Pan Macmillan. His essays and reviews have been widely published in newspapers and magazines here and in the UK. In 2011, he won the Pascall Prize for criticism, Australia's only major national prize awarded for critical writing. He published *The Burning Library*, a collection of essays on neglected Australian writers, in 2012. He lives in the Blue Mountains with his family.

#### SEPTEMBER 2025

Literary Criticism

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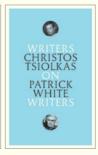
9781760645632 Imprint: Black Inc. RRP: AU\$22.99, NZ\$26.00 HB (181 x 111mm) 96pp

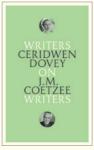
## WRITERS ON WRITERS

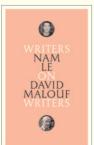
In the Writers on Writers series, leading writers reflect on another Australian writer who has inspired and fascinated them. Provocative and crisp, these books start a fresh conversation between past and present, shed new light on the craft of writing, and introduce some intriguing and talented authors and their work.



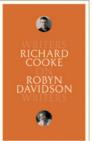




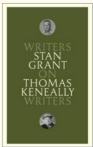




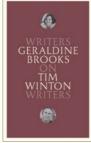


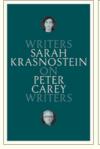














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#### Explore the series

blackincbooks.com.au/series/writers-writers



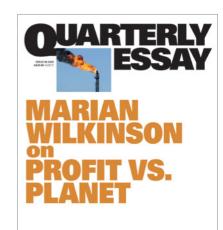


## **Quarterly Essay 99**

On profit vs. planet

Marian Wilkinson

Why is Australia doubling down on fossil fuels?



A story of power and influence, pollution and protest. The world may have committed to curbing fossilfuel use in the 2030s, but Australia's fossil-fuel giants have doubled down. They have plans for increased production into the 2070s. Support from the major parties is locked in, so something has to give.

In this groundbreaking essay, Marian Wilkinson reveals the ways of corporate power and investigates the new face of protest and disruption. The stakes could not be higher. Marian Wilkinson is a multi-awardwinning investigative journalist and a reporter at ABC TV's Four Corners. She has been a foreign correspondent and deputy editor for The Sydney Morning Herald and an executive producer of Four Corners. Her books include The Fixer, Dark Victory (with David Marr) and The Carbon Club.

#### SEPTEMBER 2025

Politics & Government

9781760645014 Imprint: Quarterly Essay RRP: AU\$29.99, NZ\$37.00 PB (234 x 167mm)

## **Playtime**

#### A History of Australian Childhood

**Emily Gallagher** 

The first history of childhood play and imagination in pre-war Australia



This groundbreaking book is a history of the childhood imagination in Australia between 1890 and the outbreak of the Second World War. It is a story about the generations that grew up at a time when nation and empire were being reimagined amid the globalising currents of war, technology and trade. Theirs were faces that would remain forever young in monochrome film, and whose thoughts and dreams would be preserved between the timeless blue lines of the modern school exercise book.

The book is built around six imaginative worlds – the worlds of amateur journalism, bird loving, war and adventure, dolls, the future, and monsters and fairies. It brings these worlds, and the voices of children,

to life, exploring an incredible array of children's artefacts and seeing the social history of Australia through a new lens.

Emily Gallagher is a research editor for the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, at the Australian National University. Her PhD thesis won the Serle Award, a biennial prize awarded by the Australian Historical Association for the best postgraduate thesis in Australian history, and the Lyndall Ryan Thesis Prize. It was also shortlisted for the J.G. Crawford Prize.

#### **SEPTEMBER 2025**

History

9781760645663 Imprint: La Trobe University Press RRP: AU\$36.99, NZ\$45.00 C PB (234 x 153mm) 288pp

## A lick of fireweed

Erik Jensen

Sweet, fragile poems about intimacy and separation



A sequel to Erik Jensen's first collection of memoir poems, *A Lick of Fireweed* takes a spare and unflinching look at love and landscape. These poems are the diary of a relationship ending and the story of how small details make the world beautiful and whole.

Praise for I Said The Sea Was Folded: In these sweet, fresh, fragile poems, Jensen demonstrates courage and skill at

the arts of poetry and of love, and makes the sly suggestion that the one might be a metaphor for the other.'

-The Weekend Australian

Erik Jensen is an award-winning journalist, biographer, screenwriter and poet. He is the founding editor of *The Saturday Paper* and editor-in-chief of Schwartz Media. His first book, *Acute Misfortune*, won the Nib Award for Literature and was adapted into an acclaimed feature film. He has won the Walkley Award for Young Print Journalist of the Year, the UNAA's Media Peace Award and the Keith Dunstan Quill for Commentary. This is his second collection of poetry.

#### OCTOBER 2025

Poetry

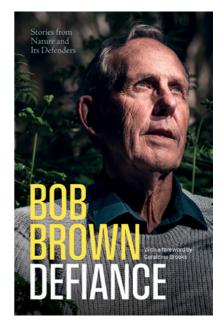
9781760645892 Imprint: Black Inc. RRP: AU\$27.99, NZ\$35.00 B PB (198 x 128mm) 96pp

## **Defiance**

## Stories from Nature and Its Defenders

**Bob Brown** 

Stories of courage and conviction from the environmental frontline



'Our unifying purpose ought to be safeguarding life on earth, honouring happiness and securing humanity for its future in the universe. This simple and obvious pursuit, far ahead of money, offers us meaning to life on our brilliant little planet.'

For half a century, Bob Brown has been standing up to the powerful interests who would put profit before planet.

In *Defiance*, he draws on this experience to inspire a new generation of individual and collective action. He reflects on the people and places that have shaped him, celebrates the irreplaceable beauty and value of nature and shares what motivates him to keep fighting. He considers the challenges facing nature's defenders – hostile corporate lobbyists, vilification in the press, the powerful pull of consumerism – and shows how

courage, persistence and community can defeat them all.

Told with Brown's trademark warmth and humour, these stories will galvanise, uplift and inspire.

With a foreword by Geraldine Brooks.

Bob Brown is an environmental and social justice campaigner and former senator. A founding member of the Wilderness Society, from 1978 he led the successful campaign against the construction of the Franklin Dam. He served in Tasmanian state parliament for a decade, was leader of the Australian Greens, and in 1996 was elected to the federal Senate. His books include Memo for a Saner World and Optimism. After retiring from the Senate in 2012, he established the Bob Brown Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation supporting environmental causes.

#### OCTOBER 2025

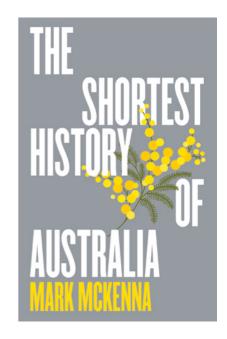
Environmental Conservation & Protection

9781760645861 Imprint: Black Inc. RRP: AU\$36.99, NZ\$45.00 C PB (234 x 153mm) 320pp

# The Shortest History of Australia

Mark McKenna

The history of Australia has been written before – but not like this.



In *The Shortest History of Australia*, Mark McKenna offers a compelling new version of our national story. This is a modern Australia permeated by First Nations history; a multicultural society with an island mindset; a continent of epic beauty and extreme natural events; a country obsessed by war abroad but blind to its founding war at home; and a thriving nation-state still to realise its political independence.

McKenna's wise and humane history reveals the surprising in the familiar, and reframes the past so we can see the present more clearly.

'A deeply imaginative, beautifully written, individual and original book'

-Robert Manne

'McKenna moves masterfully between past and present, opening up the Australian experience for our contemplation and inquiry.'

-Tom Griffiths

Mark McKenna is one of Australia's leading historians, based at the University of Sydney. He is the author of several prize-winning books, including From the Edge: Australia's Lost Histories, Looking for Blackfellas' Point, Return to Uluru and 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. His forthcoming book is The Shortest History of Australia.

#### NOVEMBER 2025

Australasian & Pacific History

9781760643591 Imprint: Black Inc. RRP: AU\$39.99, NZ\$48.00 B+ HB (210 x 135mm) 304pp 'Australia – a future-oriented nation deeply troubled by its past – has still to reconcile what Indigenous leader Noel Pearson has called the 'three epic strands' of its history – the First Nations' narrative of the longest continuous cultures on Earth, the Second Nations' stories of the arrival of British institutions, and the Third Nations' stories of Australia as one of the most successful multicultural, multi-ethnic nations on Earth. Addressing the founding lie of Australian history remains unfinished business: even more reason why the time is ripe for new ways of thinking about the nation's history.'

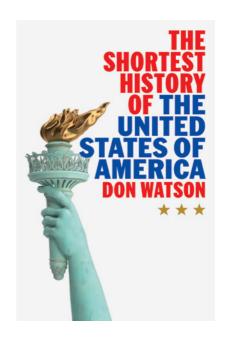
—The Shortest History of Australia



# The Shortest History of the United States of America

Don Watson

A compelling and timely history of the world's most powerful country from acclaimed author Don Watson



This is the extraordinary story of the United States, a nation that contains multitudes.

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