WE ARE DELIGHTED to bring to your attention a handful of our 2018 books – titles we feel deserve a wide audience and should be of interest to your readers.

Proofs are available now for some, while others will be available 3-4 months ahead of publication. As you know some publication dates may change slightly.

If you would like to discuss any of these – proofs, feature reviews, extracts, interviews – please contact me.

All the best,
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Publishing

NEW SOUTH BOOKS

Some of our recent highlights.
Half the Perfect World
Writers, Dreamers and Drifters on Hydra, 1955-1964
By Paul Genoni and Tanya Dalziell

Half the Perfect World is a social and literary account of the expatriate artist community on the Greek island of Hydra from 1955 to 1964, and is richly illustrated by LIFE Magazine eyewitness photographer James Burke. Fostered by celebrated Australian literary couple Charmian Clift and George Johnston, this fabled ‘colony’ came to include renowned singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen and numerous other writers and artists, including many whose youthful ambitions were never realised.

What brought this group to Hydra? What life did they live there? And what does their story reveal about the post-war world? Looking at the Hydra expatriates through their writing, letters, diaries and photographs, Genoni and Dalziell identify a deep restlessness within a rapidly changing time of emerging social movements and counter-cultures, travel, tourism and leisure, shifting geo-political realities, incipient pop-cultures, new technologies of communication and entertainment, and altered understandings of what it meant to live as an expatriate artist.

About the Authors

Paul Genoni works with the School of Media, Culture and Creative Arts at Curtin University. He is a former president of the Association for the Study of Australian Literature, and co-editor (with Tanya Dalziell) of Telling Stories: Australian Life and Literature, 1935–2012 (2013).

Tanya Dalziell works in English and Cultural Studies at the University of Western Australia. She is the author of Settler Romances and the Australian Girl (2004), and co-editor (with Karen Welberry) of Cultural Seeds: Essays on the Work of Nick Cave (2009).

Dunera Lives
A Visual History

By Ken Inglis, Seumas Spark and Jay Winter, with Carol Bunyan

The story of the ‘Dunera Boys’ is an intrinsic part of the history of Australia in the Second World War and in its aftermath. The injustice these 2000 men suffered through British internment in camps at Hay, Tatura and Orange is well known. Less familiar is the tale of what happened to them afterwards. This book tells that story, in two volumes, one in images, and one in life stories.

The images constitute a narrative all of their own. The beauty and power of these traces of the lives of these internees speak for themselves. Once familiar with the images in the first volume, the reader will be able to embrace more fully the profiles in volume two. These are stories of struggle, sadness, transcendence, and creativity that describe the lives of these men and of the society in which they lived, first as prisoners and then as free men.

A contribution to the history of Australia, to the history of migrants and migration, and to the history of human rights, these two volumes put in the public domain a story whose full dimensions and complexity have never been described.

About the authors

Ken Inglis is an Adjunct Professor at Monash University, and Emeritus Professor at the Australian National University. He is one of Australia’s most admired and warmly regarded historians.

Dr Seumas Spark is a Dean of Arts Research Fellow at Monash University.

Jay Winter is Charles J. Stille Professor of History Emeritus at Yale University, and a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Monash University.

Carol Bunyan was born in and raised near Hay, a sixth generation resident of the district. She studied history at the Australian National University in Canberra, where she now lives. A former public servant, her interest in Hay’s history and museums led to her on-going Dunera research project.

Publication: July 2017 PB $39.95 Series: Australian History
Reason and Lovelessness

Essays, Encounters, Reviews 1980-2017

By Barry Hill

Barry Hill is a multi-award winning writer of poetry, essays, biography, history, criticism, novels, short stories, librettis and reportage. His major works include Sitting In (1992), a landmark memoir in Labour History; Broken Song: TGH Strehlow and Aboriginal Possession (2002), a literary biography and essay in Aboriginal and frontier poetics, which has been described as ‘one of the great Australian books’ (John Mulvaney) and ‘a major event in Australian high culture’ (Robert Manne); and Peacemongers (2014), a pilgrimage book set in India and Japan, and a meditation on ‘peace thinking’ by the likes of Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi in the years leading up to the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Each book has been groundbreaking in different ways: deeply, originally researched, crossing genres, multi-disciplinary, combining the personal with the generically philosophical.

As a writer Hill’s voice is informed by his Australian working-class and militant union background, which has been distilled by his higher education in history and philosophy at the Universities of Melbourne and London. After a decade working as a teacher, educational psychologist and a journalist in Melbourne and London, he has been writing full-time since 1976—mainly based in Queenscliff, Victoria, but with stints at the Australia Council flat in Rome, where he finished poetic/dramatic works on Lucian Freud and Antonio Gramsci, and returns to Central Australia. In recent decades he has deepened his studies In Chinese and Japanese, which is in keeping with his long-term interest in Buddhism.

Hill’s voice is unique, and his insight both profoundly important and capable of taking the reader to places not glimpsed before or imagined visible.

This collection of essays, reviews and reportage amply demonstrates the quality and enduring importance of Hill’s contribution, in these genres, to Australian literary and intellectual life.

About the Author

Barry Hill is a much published historian and poet who was short-listed for the 2009 Melbourne Prize for Literature. His work in progress is Peacemonger, ‘a travel essay’ about the history of bombing and Rabindranath Tagore’s prophetic travels in Japan.

Hill was born in Australia and educated in Melbourne and London, where he worked as a psychologist and a journalist (The Age and the Times Educational Supplement). He has been writing full-time since 1975 and has won major awards for poetry, history, non-fiction and the essay.

His short fiction has been widely anthologized, some of it translated into Chinese and Japanese. He writes librettis and has done much work for radio. Necessity: Poems 1996-2006 won the ACT’s 2008 Judith Wright Prize. Lines for Birds, collaboration with the painter, John Wolseley, was short-listed for the 2011 Queensland Premier’s Award. His latest book is Naked Clay: Drawing from Lucian Freud.

Hill also worked as a radio critic on The Age for fifteen years. Between 1998 and 2008, he was Poetry Editor of The Australian, and between 2005 and 2008 was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Melbourne. For decades, he has aspired to be a good Buddhist.

Class Wars
Money, Schools and Power in Modern Australia
By Tony Taylor

How Australians fund schooling has been a matter of bitter political, social and religious division for almost two hundred years. And it remains so. The 2012 Gonski Review, urging all jurisdictions to move towards consensus on a needs-based and socially just education system, has continued to encounter forms of political obstruction. By examining the principles, the motives and the means of those who, since Menzies, have fought to develop and maintain a class-based education system at the expense of a broader view of social justice, this book explains how and why Australian education policy remains mired in political controversy.

Tony Taylor is Adjunct Professor at the Australian Centre for Public History, University of Technology, Sydney, and at Federation University. For half a century he has worked as an educator in schools and universities in the United Kingdom and Australia, teaching, researching and publishing in the fields of educational politics, policy and history.


Introducing our Contemporary Writers Series

Maria Tumarkin
By Patrick Allington

Why is Maria Tumarkin a significant writer today?
What are the worlds – personal, social, and intellectual – that have helped to form her perspective? Where does she ‘fit’ within the circles of key Australian writers and thinkers? What are the boundaries that her work pushes against? And how does she challenge Australia to rethink its present and future?

In this book, which inaugurates the Contemporary Australian Writers series, noted critic and author Patrick Allington registers his intellectual and emotional reaction to Maria Tumarkin’s witty, often blunt, always complex interpretations of Australia and the world.

In the era of the rushed think piece Allington suggests the depth of Tumarkin’s persistent, historically informed concern with questions of personal and social belonging, disruption and dislocation. And he asks how we might most usefully respond to a body of writing that is urgent, important and unsettling but contains no simple manifesto.

About the Author
Patrick Allington is a writer, critic and editor. His novel Figurehead was published by Black Inc., and his essays, short fiction and reviews have appeared widely. He lives in Adelaide, and is a Lecturer in English and Creative Writing at Flinders University.