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NEW AND FORTHCOMING BOOKS

SLOW CATASTROPHES

Living with Drought in Australia
By Rebecca Jones

Living with drought is one of the biggest issues of our times. Climate change scenarios suggest that in the next fifty years global warming will increase both the frequency and severity of these phenomena. Stories of drought are familiar to us, accompanied by images of dead sheep, dry dams, cracked earth, farmers leaving their lands, and rural economic stagnation. Drought is indeed a catastrophe, played out slowly. But as Rebecca Jones reveals in this sensitive account of families living on the Australian land, the story of drought in this driest continent is as much about resilience, adaptation, strength of community, ingenious planning for, and creative responses to, persistent absences of rainfall. The histories of eight farming families, stretching from the 1870s to the 1950s, are related, with a focus on private lives and inner thoughts, revealed by personal diaries. The story is brought up to the present with the author’s interviews with contemporary farmers and pastoralists. In greatly enriching our understanding of the human dimensions of drought, Slow Catastrophes provides us with vital resources to face our ecological future.

Rebecca Jones is an historian of climate, the environment, rural health and wellbeing. She is author of Green Harvest: A History of Organic Farming and Gardening in Australia. Slow Catastrophes was researched and written while Rebecca was postdoctoral fellow in the School of History and Centre for Environmental History at the Australian National University.

RRP: AUD/US $34.95 | 370 pages 45 images | Publication: August 2017 | Series: Australian History
ISBN (paperback): 978-1-925495-43-0
At a time when the labour-market is failing as a source of security and identity for many, domestic tinkering is emerging as a legitimate vocation, in ways we haven’t seen since pre-industrial times. In Australia, practices of repair, invention, building, art-making and crafting — in sheds, back-yards, paddocks, kitchens and home-workshops — are creating informal economies and social cohesion, and complicating distinctions between work and leisure, amateur and professional, production and consumption.

Building on the work of historians, sociologists, psychologists, anthropologists and economists, but with a journalist’s impulse for the currency of her story, Katherine Wilson documents domestic tinkering as an undervalued form of material scholarship, social connection, psychological sanctuary, personal identity and political activism. Equal parts field-guide and love-letter, Tinkering mounts a surprising case for the profound value of domestic tinkering in contemporary Australia.

Katherine Wilson is an author, editor, and award-winning journalist, who also teaches and researches in the university sector, where she has a PhD in cultural studies. Her feature articles have appeared in the Age, Sydney Morning Herald, Conversation, Australian, Courier-Mail, Art Monthly, Crikey.com, New Matilda, the Law Institute Journal and Good Weekend. Her essays have appeared in journals including Griffith Review, Meanjin, Eyeline, Eureka Street and Overland. She edited Overland between 2002 and 2007 and has worked in advocacy roles for non-profit and environmental bodies.

‘Like the backyard inventors whose stories she chronicles, Katherine Wilson exudes intelligence, curiosity and skills acquired from a range of disciplines. Smart, relevant and witty, Tinkering introduces us to eccentrics, autodidacts and visionaries, and then reveals how their passions illuminate the contemporary world. Part page-turning narrative, part provocative argument, this is cultural criticism at its best.’ Jeff Sparrow

‘Truly a pleasure to read. A thoughtful and erudite way to set the scene for the discussion to come.’ Susan Luckman

‘A length of fencing wire, in my farmboy childhood, could fix just about anything. This book has similar miraculous powers.’ Mark Davis

MAKING MODERN AUSTRALIA

The Whitlam Government’s 21st Century Agenda

Edited by Jenny Hocking

‘The changes we have made will remain – like all great Labor legislation – permanent landmarks in our history.’
Gough Whitlam

The Whitlam government propelled Australia out of the presumptions and certainties of twenty-three years of conservative government and changed it irrevocably. It passed a record number of bills into law and became the most successful reformist government in Australia’s history. This book brings to light aspects of Whitlam’s ambitious reform agenda that have been neglected for too long. The Australian Assistance Plan generated networks of regional and community cooperation that remain today. Plans for energy infrastructure and self-sufficiency that would ensure the use of the nation’s resources for the common good, appear more and more visionary. The ground-breaking Royal Commission into Human Relationships is clearly a forerunner of the current royal commissions into institutionalised child abuse and family violence. New research shows the extent to which this reforming agenda continued the post-war reconstruction plans of Curtin and Chifley. The personal dimension of this agenda – how Whitlam’s approach to policy design and implementation was influenced by his childhood in Canberra – is also detailed. Finally this book reassesses the place of the Whitlam government, and its dismissal, in history, in light of new material that continues to emerge from the personal papers of Sir John Kerr, and new analyses that challenge previous assessments.

Contributors include Michelle Arrow, Nicholas Brown, Murray Goot, Jenny Hocking, Carol Johnson, David Lee, Stuart Macintyre, Lyndon Megarrity, Greg Melleuish, Melanie Oppenheimer, Erik Eklund, Joanne Scott and James Walter.

Professor Jenny Hocking is Research Professor, Australian Research Council Discovery Outstanding Researcher Award (DORA) Fellow in the National Centre for Australian Studies at Monash University, the inaugural Distinguished Whitlam Fellow at the Whitlam Institute at Western Sydney University and a celebrated biographer, scholar and political commentator. Jenny is the author of the acclaimed two-volume biography Gough Whitlam: His Time and Gough Whitlam: A Moment in History.

RRP: AUD/US $29.95 | 352 pages | Publication: August 2017 | Series: Australian History
The people of France went to the polls in 2017, narrowly avoiding elevating President Le Pen, a year after ‘Brexit’ and Trump had stood the world on its ear. In Brussels, the EU’s leaders consign Greece to despair, pure colonial repression. In Scandinavia, nativist parties take the place social democrats once staked out, post-liberal governments ride to power as ‘illiberal democracies’ in the East, and the steady wave of migrants from the South is taken as pretext to abandon modernity altogether. What happened to the home of ‘the West’?

In The Gates of Europe, Guy Rundle travels through Europe reporting, reflecting and theorising from the deep forests of France, the shattered northern cities of England, the eerie post-histoire of Germany, the toytowns of Brussels and the Venice Biennale. He asks the key question of our era: Has the deep drive back to the ethnos come about because Europe’s elites have pushed through an arrogant, neoliberal version of the republic? Or does it tell us another tale, quite the opposite: that even the most tentative attempts to create a universal republic will founder on the deep human need for concrete cultural grounding, for something certain and particular to belong to?

Guy Rundle is the correspondent-at-large for Crikey, Australia’s independent online daily, and a regular contributor to The Saturday Paper and other publications. For many years he was an editor of Arena Magazine. He has written four stage shows for the satirist and actor Max Gillies and worked as a TV writer and producer for ten years. His books include Down to the Crossroads: On the Trail of the 2008 US Presidential Election (Penguin), A Revolution in the Making: 3-D Printing, Robots, and the Future (Affirm), and Inland Empire: America at the End of the Obama Era (Crikey).
‘ME WRITE MYSELF’

The Free Aboriginal Inhabitants of Van Diemen’s Land at Wybalenna, 1832-47

By Leonie Stevens

Exiles, lost souls, remnants of a dying race … The fate of the First Nations peoples of Van Diemen’s Land is one of the most infamous chapters in Australian, and world, history. The men, women and children exiled to Flinders Island in the 1830s and 40s have often been written about, but never allowed to speak for themselves. This book aims to change that.

Penned by the exiles during their fifteen years at the settlement called Wybalenna, items in the Flinders Island Chronicle, sermons, letters and petitions offer a compelling corrective to traditional portrayals of a hopeless, dispossessed, illiterate people’s final days. The exiles did not see themselves as prisoners, but as a Free People. Seen through their own writing, the community at Wybalenna was vibrant, complex and evolving. Rather than a depressed people simply waiting for death, their own words reveal a politically astute community engaged in a fifteen year campaign for their own freedom: one which was ultimately successful.

‘Me Write Myself’ is a compelling story that will profoundly affect understandings of Tasmanian and Australian history.

Leonie Stevens researches and lectures in History. Previous to working with true stories, she had an extensive background as a fiction writer and editor. She is the author of six novels and a variety of short fiction.

RRP: AUD/US $29.95 | c.320 pages, c.20 images | Publication: September 2017 | Series: Australian History
ISBN (paperback): 978-1-925495-63-8
AUSTRALIA

A Cultural History (Third Edition)

By John Rickard

John Rickard’s Australia: A Cultural History, first published in 1988, is still the only short history of Australia from a cultural perspective. It has also acquired a unique reputation as an introduction to the development of Australian society and was listed by the historian and public intellectual John Hirst in his ‘First XI: The best Australian history books’.

Although arranged chronologically, this book is not a chronicle, still less a laborious detailing of governors and governments: rather, it focuses on the transmission of values, beliefs and customs amongst the diverse mix of peoples who are today’s Australians. The story begins with the sixty thousand years of the Aboriginal presence and their continuing material and spiritual relationship with the land, and takes the reader through the turbulent years of British colonisation and the emergence, through prosperity, war and depression, of the cultural accommodations which have been distinctively Australian. This third edition concludes with a critical review of the challenges facing contemporary Australia and warns that ‘we may get the future we deserve’.


Rickard has written widely on Australian culture and biography. In his youth he worked as an actor and singer. He is an emeritus professor at Monash University.

‘A perceptive, balanced, wide-ranging interpretation of the evolution of modern Australia which is both erudite and well-written’. Duncan Bythell

RRP: AUD/US $39.95 | c.380 pages c.35 images | Publication: November 2017 | Series: Australian History
ISBN (paperback): 978-1-921867-60-6
THE GOOD COUNTRY

The Djadja Wurrung, the Settlers and the Protectors

By Bain Attwood

In this superbly researched book Bain Attwood eschews the generalisations of national and colonial history to provide a finely grained local history of the Djadja Wurrung people of Central Victoria. Insisting on the importance of grappling with a history that involved a relationship between the people of this Aboriginal nation, the British settlers who invaded their country, and men appointed by the imperial and the colonial governments to protect the Aboriginal people as well as a relationship between the Djadja Wurrung and their indigenous neighbours, Attwood not only tells the shocking story of the destruction, decimation and dispossession of the Djadja Wurrung. He draws on an unusually rich historical record, and forgoes any reliance on historical concepts such as the frontier and resistance, to recover a good deal of the modus vivendi that the Djadja Wurrung reached with sympathetic protectors, pastoralists and gold diggers, showing how they both adopted and adapted to these intruders and were thereby able to remain in their own country, at least for a time. Drawing past and present together, Attwood closes this book with the remarkable story of the revival of the Djadja Wurrung in recent times as they have sought to become their own historians.


RRP: AUD/US $29.95 | c.272 pages c.16 images| Publication: November 2017 | Series: Australian History
Conversations about the role and value of Islamic diversity in Indonesia’s Islamic public sphere are becoming more frequent and intense. For some Muslims, homogeneity is a precondition for a prosperous and pious community. For others, diversity is a resource that is necessary for creating a just society, and for preserving Indonesia’s religious, political and social distinctiveness.

Indonesia’s regional Islamic traditions are increasingly being cited as reference points in these conversations. Hasan Mustapa (1857–1930) was a scholar, mystic and poet who studied in Mecca for thirteen years before commencing his career as an Islamic official in the Netherlands East Indies. He wrote a number of sufistic treatises on Islamic belief and practice, mostly in the Sundanese language.

To the surprise of many, his name and writings are now being more frequently referenced in public discourse. Indonesians are becoming more interested in his work, which they interpret as a characteristically Indonesian mediation of Islamic concepts belonging to the intellectual lineage of figures such as Ibn al-‘Arabi (d. 1240) and ‘Abd al-Karim Al-Jili (d. 1424). Members of the Sundanese ethnic group of West Java, who currently number around forty million, have also shown renewed interest in his work as a model for nurturing a pro-diversity ethic in the province’s unsettled Islamic public sphere.

Hasan Mustapa: Ethnicity and Islam in Indonesia is comprised of chapters by Sundanese scholars, alongside the editor’s contributions. Some provide introductions to Mustapa’s life and work, while others perform a discursive move of increasing importance in contemporary Indonesia: reaching into a regional Islamic past to make authoritative statements about the present. Together, the chapters form a timely addition to the literature on a question of growing importance: what influence should regional traditions have in contemporary Islamic societies?

Julian Millie’s first book, Bidadari: Jewel of Malay Muslim Culture, was a study of Islamic romance in the Malay language. His second, Splashed by the Saint: Ritual Reading and Islamic Sanctity in West Java, was based on a period of field research over fourteen months during which he attended an Islamic intercession ritual in West Java. Since then, Millie has continued to work in West Java, focusing mainly on Islamic preaching and the interactions between subnational and national Islamic spheres.
A NAGA ODYSSEY

Visier’s Long Way Home

By Visier Mayasetsu Sanyü with Richard Broome

Visier Meyasetsu Sanyü, his family and fellow villagers of Khonoma, fled for their lives to the jungles of Nagaland in 1956. He and his family survived privations and starvation for over two years, though many others did not. Visier emerged from the jungle aged eight and into a turbulent world altered by Western influence, civil war and colonial oppression. He found refuge from war in Australia, where during two decades he faced the loss of home and tradition, and found healing and a second home. This powerful story tracks Visier’s fascinating journey from indigenous religion to Christianity, from village school to a professorship, and from small town life to appearances before the United Nations. His kaleidoscopic sixty-year odyssey to find peace, tranquillity, and forgiveness for others, is vividly told against the rich tapestry of the Naga quest to be free.

Visier Sanyü, an Elder of the Meyasetsu clan of the Angami tribe, Khonoma, Nagaland, was the inaugural Head of the Department of History and Archaeology at the University of Nagaland. He is President of the Overseas Naga Association, an International Elder of Initiatives of Change, and on the Board of the Melbourne Interfaith Centre.

Emeritus Professor Richard Broome, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia, has authored twelve books, including three on Indigenous Australians, including Aboriginal Australians (4th edition 2010). He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, and a Fellow and Vice President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Melbourne.

RRP: AUD/US $29.95 | c.320 pages c.30 b&w images | Publication: September 2017 | Series: Investigating Power

ISBN (paperback): 978-1-925495-82-9
RECORDKEEPING INFORMATICS FOR A NETWORKED AGE

By Frank Upward, Barbara Reed, Gillian Oliver and Joanne Evans

‘Without the adequate presence of Recordkeeping Informatics that produce evidence of actions we will be left with information sludge and an environment of increasing chaos – an environment that places us all at risk of underhand practices, unwelcome social consequences, and at a professional loss as to how to operate within the reality of increasingly complex digital ecologies.’

The focus of this book becomes more relevant to governance every day as rational and scientific thought flounders under the weight of post-truth politics and a welter of ‘alternative facts’. Traditional values of openness, transparency and accountability also face new challenges from technical change. Recordkeeping informatics supports archiving processes and few challenges are of greater significance for the survival of humanity than the adequate formation of archives that serve spacetime management, mutual associations and life chances: the major elements of authoritative information resource management as defined by the sociologist Anthony Giddens.

The authors of this book as practitioners and as academics have witnessed and analysed the way changing technologies and the expanding continuum of recorded information have contributed to the disruption of normality in governance. Over time they have developed ideas about the relationship between social functioning, informatics, and the ethics of recordkeeping practices and in this book they use their thinking about archival practices to present a new teamwork and Internet based business application approach that can help a recordkeeping mind to develop and help usher in a new era of cyber-maturity.

Frank Upward, Centre for Organisational and Social Informatics, Monash University; Barbara Reed, Recordkeeping Innovation Pty Ltd (Sydney); Gillian Oliver, School of Information Management, Victoria University of Wellington; Joanne Evans, Organisational and Social Informatics, Monash University.

RRP: AUD/US $49.95 | c.272 pages | Publication: December 2017 | Series: Social Informatics
ISBN (paperback): 978-1-925495-88-1
VERGE 2017

Chimera

Edited by Bonnie Reid, Aisling Smith and Gavin Yates

The thirteenth edition of Monash University’s creative writing annual collects work inspired by this year’s theme: Chimera.

Chimera is something desired but always out of reach. The faceless figures of dreams, the disappearing fountain of an unrelenting desert: for those willing to make the journey, chimera exists as hope unrealised.

This edition of Verge includes a range of original works from established and emerging writers.


PUBLISHING MEANS BUSINESS

Australian Perspectives

Edited by Aaron Mannion, Millicent Weber and Katherine Evans

The Australian publishing industry has transformed itself from a colonial outpost of British publishing to a central node in a truly global publishing industry. Despite challenges, including reduced government support for home-grown authors and the arts, small presses thrive and Australian consumers have access to an unprecedented range of foreign and domestic titles. Social media, big data, print on demand, subscription and new compensation models are subtly reshaping an industry that now also relies on more freelance labour than ever before.

Publishing Means Business examines the current state of this exciting and unpredictable industry, while also asking questions about the broader role of publishing within our culture.

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.

RRP: $29.95 | Publication: Jan 2018 | Series: Monash Studies in Australian Society
ISBN: 978-1-925495-46-1
Half the Perfect World

George Johnston and Charmian Clift on Hydra: 1955-1964

By Paul Genoni and Tanya Dalziell

*Half the Perfect World* offers a social, photographic and literary account of the expatriate artist community on the Greek island of Hydra from 1955 to 1964. 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. That creative types sought out a place thought to be exotic, possibly quixotic, and far removed from where and what they knew best, reflected a deep post-war restlessness within a rapidly changing world. By looking at the Hydra expatriates through their writing, letters, diaries and photographs, *Half the Perfect World* provides new insights into individual lives and tracks emerging social movements and counter-cultures; travel, tourism and leisure; shifting geo-political realities; incipient pop-cultures; technologies of communication and entertainment; and the changing conditions of literary and artistic expatriation.

**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).

RRP: AUD/US $39.95 | c.304 pages c.150 images | Publication: 2018 | Series: Biography

ISBN (paperback): 978-1-925523-09-6
‘A White Hot Flame’

Mary Montgomerie Bennett: Author, Teacher, Activist for Indigenous Justice

By Sue Taffe

Mary Montgomerie Bennett (1881–1961) is an important but under-recognised figure in Australian history. A member of a successful squatting family, she became a voice for reform at a time when Aboriginal Australians had their citizens’ rights curtailed by repressive state laws.

From her late forties until her death she fought for justice on behalf of the first Australians. She was a teacher, a writer and an advocate. She vehemently opposed the separating, on racial grounds, of Aboriginal children from their families. She put the case, decades before campaigns began, for Aboriginal rights to traditional lands. And she argued for citizenship rights, including equal pay and access to old age pensions for Aboriginal people. A friend described her as ‘a white hot flame’, relentless in pursuit of a better world for the people she loved.

This first full-length biography seeks the sources of Mary’s inspiring energy, maintained throughout her life, in her family background and early life experiences.

Sue Taffe is a Melbourne historian who has written about the contributions of twentieth century activists to campaigns for Aboriginal rights. She is the author of Black and White Together FCAATSI: the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, as well as articles and book chapters about these activists.

RRP: AUD/US $34.95 | c.368 pages  c.20 images | Publication: March 2018 | Series: Australian History
Australia’s Northern Shield?  
*Papua New Guinea and the Defence of Australia Since 1880*  
By Bruce Hunt  

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*Essays for Geoffrey Bolton*  
Edited by Stuart Macintyre, Jenny Gregory and Lenore Layman  
RRP: AUD/US $39.95 | 368 pages | Publication: June 2017 | Series: Australian History  
ISBN (paperback): 978-1-925495-60-7

Required Reading  
*Literature in Australian schools since 1945*  
Edited by Tim Dolin, Joanne Jones and Patricia Dowsett  
RRP: AUD/US $39.95 | 384 pages | Publication: June 2017 | Series: Literary Studies  
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Rebecca Jones is an historian of climate, the environment, rural health and wellbeing. She is author of Green Harvest: A History of Organic Farming and Gardening in Australia. Slow Catastrophes was researched and written while Rebecca was postdoctoral fellow in the School of History and Centre for Environmental History at the Australian National University.