



The Wheeler Centre
Books Writing Ideas

176 Little Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000 Australia
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MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 12 December 2023

The Wheeler Centre announces a strong summer program featuring Patrick deWitt, Dassi Erlich, Richard Ford, Rebecca F. Kuang, Stan Grant, Jac Semmler, Jane Smiley and many more.

Award-winning authors, beloved broadcasters and a world-class horticulturist are among the speakers to grace The Wheeler Centre stage in-person across February and March 2024.

Literary sensation **Rebecca F. Kuang** will speak about her groundbreaking novel *Yellowface*, an exposé of the publishing industry that investigates diversity, racism and cultural appropriation. Kuang has garnered *New York Times* and *Sunday Times* accolades, not to mention a devoted community on TikTok.

The program also features Canadian author **Patrick deWitt**, who will speak about his latest novel *The Librarianist* with Marieke Hardy, and American literary stalwarts **Richard Ford** (*Independence Day*) and **Jane Smiley** (*A Thousand Acres*), who will discuss their respective storied careers.

Acclaimed author and broadcaster **Stan Grant** will join media experts from Denmark and Australia to discuss the complexities of global news media and how to work towards a better kind of journalism.

Sarah Krasnostein will host a conversation with **Dassi Erlich** about her powerful story of survival and fight for justice, after years of sexual abuse from former principal Malka Leifer.

Chinese-Australian musicians **Mindy Meng Wang 王萌** and **Sui Zhen** will share insights into their new collaborative album *Origin of You*. Also, a special dinner event, Super Bloom Supper, will be presented at The Moat – the bar and restaurant beneath The Wheeler Centre – where audiences will dine with renowned horticulturalist **Jac Semmler** over a three-course flower-themed menu.

And following a sell-out announcement, The Wheeler Centre has added new seats to the 21 May 2024 event featuring international best-selling author **Bonnie Garmus**. Now presented at Melbourne Town Hall, Garmus will be joined by Astrid Edwards to talk about her captivating debut novel *Lessons in Chemistry*, which was recently adapted into a hit TV series starring Brie Larson.

Quotes attributable to Wheeler Centre CEO Erin Vincent

‘The summer program expands on what The Wheeler Centre does best – presenting rich, topical conversations you won’t see elsewhere.’

‘We are proud to bring these world class writers and thinkers to Melbourne audiences and look forward to a vibrant summer of conversations.’

The full list of performances and dates are listed below. For more information, please visit wheelercentre.com/events

Sharlene Allsopp: The Great Undoing

Monday 12 February 2024, 6.30pm, The Moat

wheelercentre.com

Trading as Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas
ABN 97 134 682 189



Melbourne
City of
Literature





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Launch of the Australian Children's Laureate 2024 – 2025

Tuesday 20 February 2024, 11.00am, The Wheeler Centre

Presented in partnership with the Australian Children's Laureate Foundation

Disinformation and Democracy: Why we need to fix the news

Tuesday 20 February 2024, 6.30pm, The Wheeler Centre

Presented in partnership with Monash University's Constructive Institute Asia Pacific

Dassi Erlich: In Bad Faith

Wednesday 21 February 2024, 6.30pm, The Wheeler Centre

Best of Australian Poems 2023

Thursday 22 February 2024, 6.30pm, The Wheeler Centre

Presented in partnership with Australian Poetry

Super Bloom Supper with Jac Semmler

Monday 26 February 2024, 6.30pm, The Moat

Richard Ford in Conversation

Tuesday 27 February 2024, 6.30pm, The Wheeler Centre

Jane Smiley in Conversation

Wednesday 28 February 2024, 6.30pm, The Wheeler Centre

Patrick deWitt: The Librarianist

Thursday 29 February, 8.00pm, The Wheeler Centre

Rebecca F. Kuang: Yellowface

Tuesday 12 March, 6.30pm, Melbourne City Conference Centre

Origin of You: Mindy Meng Wang 王萌 and Sui Zhen

Tuesday 26 March, 6.30pm, The Wheeler Centre

Bonnie Garmus: Lessons in Chemistry

Tuesday 21 May, 6.30pm, Melbourne Town Hall

Presented in partnership with RMIT Culture

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The Wheeler Centre is Melbourne's home for smart, passionate and entertaining public talks, and exists to support writers, readers and thinkers. Through live and digital conversations, debates, readings, performances and discussions, it deepens public engagement with the most pressing topics of the day. It is dedicated to creative collaboration, community engagement, diversity, and innovation.

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