

Author talks at the Library - October 2007

Bookings essential: (02) 9273 1770 or bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au

Joseph Conrad

This year is the 150th anniversary of the birth of Joseph Conrad, author of *Heart of darkness*, *Lord Jim* and *Nostramo*. One of the most important English-language novelists and of Polish descent, Conrad continues to be profoundly influential. Speakers include the distinguished Polish Conrad scholar Wiesaw Krajka, Terry Collits and Roger Osborne.

Sponsored by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Sydney, and the Sydney Seminar for the Arts and Philosophy

Details: Saturday 6 October at 1.30pm – 5pm

Venue: State Library of NSW, Metcalfe Auditorium, Macquarie Street, Sydney

Cost: \$15, includes afternoon tea

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The human drama of Australian democracy

Peter Cochrane's multi-award winning *Colonial ambition: The foundations of Australian democracy* is the story of how eminent landowners of NSW plotted to transfer power from Downing Street to themselves, only to see it usurped by their enemies — the artisans, shopkeepers and renegade gentry of Sydney. Peter will speak about writing this story and about political history as human drama.

Details: Tuesday 9 October at 10am for 10.30am – 11.30am

Venue: State Library of NSW, Dixon Room, Macquarie Street, Sydney

Cost: \$22, \$20 (seniors) \$15 (Friends & students) includes morning tea

German voyages: The migrant experience

Stephen Thompson from Sydney's Migration Heritage Centre will relate experiences of internees and the German community during WWI. Judy Nunn will speak about her book *Heritage* (also translated into German), and about the German people who came to Australia as part of the Snowy Mountains Scheme. Cindy Dowling (*Daughter of the Reich*) will talk about the extraordinary Louise Fox's wartime years working for the Nazis, her escape across Germany and her voyage to Australia where she still lives.

Details: Tuesday 9 October at 5.30pm for 6pm

Venue: State Library of NSW, Dixon Room, Macquarie Street, Sydney

Cost: \$22, \$20 (seniors), \$15 (Friends, students, Goethe Institut & PEN members) includes light refreshments

The conviction of the innocent

Chester Porter QC, one of Australia's most respected barristers, argues in his new book that wrongful conviction is an issue of urgency, and that governments must do more to protect their citizens from miscarriages of justice.

Details: Monday 15 October at 5.30pm for 6pm

Venue: State Library of NSW, Friends Room, Macquarie Street, Sydney

Cost: \$22, \$20 (seniors), \$15 (Friends & students) includes light refreshments

Tea in the library book launch

Discover the behind-the-scenes experiences and challenges of every booklover's dream: opening your own bookshop. Annette Freeman's dream became reality and

then went bust in an industry ruled by the big players — and are there some stories to tell! Her book, *Tea in the library*, will be launched by Lucinda Holdforth.

Details: Thursday 25 October at 5.30pm for 6pm

Venue: State Library of NSW, Friends Room, Macquarie Street, Sydney

Cost: \$15 includes light refreshments

National Biography Award Lecture 2007: Inga Clendinnen AO

Biography: The impossible art?

‘Biography pretends that a life can be told, when experience teaches us that it cannot. We suppress the knowledge, because we have a need for stories, a need to make sense of lives.’ (Virginia Woolf, *Sketches of the past, moments of being*, 1976) Inga Clendinnen’s lecture will interpret Woolf’s uncomfortable insight.

Details: Tuesday 30 October at 5.30pm for 6pm

Venue: State Library of NSW, Dixon Room, Macquarie Street, Sydney

Cost: \$22, \$20 (seniors), \$15 (Friends & students) includes light refreshments