

Festival of words

“A great mix of acclaimed and popular authors”



The Melbourne Writers Festival is a celebration of the written word that will stimulate, surprise and delight readers. It offers some of the finest writing with over 300 international and Australian authors from August 21-30 at Federation Square.

The Festival brings stories together with over 300 events, including author readings, panel discussions with authors, film screenings, a craft fair, master-classes, literary banquets, kids' activities plus more.

International, national and local writers come together to share ideas and their passion for the written word. This year, the festival will bring in a great mix of acclaimed and popular authors, with social and cultural commentators, philosophers, crime writers, poets, screenwriters and historians who will participate in 10 days of literary events during Australia's premier writers' festival.

Guests include: Antony Beevor, Robin Niblett, Nikki Gemmill, Alexander Waugh, Thomas Buergenthal, Bob Stein, Wells Tower, Philip Hensher, Lisa Lutz, Anne Michaels, John Boyne, Reif Larsen, Petina Gappah, David Kilcullen plus many more outstanding international, national and local writers.

Bernhard Schlink will open the Festival with the keynote address, *Guilt About The Past*. Schlink's acclaimed book *The Reader* was recently made into a movie starring Kate Winslet. Schlink's keynote address will cover the concepts of forgiving, condemning, and reconciliation, and problems facing literary representations of the past.

This will be followed by a late night session with Ian Buruma, who was voted as one of the Top 100 Public Intellectuals by the *Foreign Policy/Prospect* magazines (May/June 2008) he will discuss *Freedom of Speech: Should There Be Limits?*


A successful author, Buruma writes about a broad range of political and cultural subjects for major publications, most frequently for *The New York Review of Books*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Corriere della Sera*, *The Financial Times*, and *The Guardian*.

Big Ideas is bigger than ever. Commentators, academics, authors, philosophers come together to tackle some of the big issues of today. These include Tony Abbott, MP talking with political journalist Paul Kelly on the forging of a modern Australian political model; unionist Bill Kelty will deliver the inaugural John Button Oration; Bob Stein will look at the future of the book; Thomas Buergenthal, is a leading law scholar and is the first US judge of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and a member of the UN member of the International Court of Justice in The Hague. He will discuss international law and its response to genocide and other mass atrocities.

Lawrence M Krauss will ruminate on the future of the universe and ask are the laws of physics tailored for the existence of life?; Robin Niblett is the director of the UK's prestigious Chatham House, the world's foremost international affairs think tank, he will ask: with a new administration in the US, and a global financial crisis, where does the world stand now?

Antony Beevor will discuss *D-Day*. His vivid and engaging handling of pivotal historical events in *D-Day: The Battle for Normandy* is topping international bestseller lists.

The world's foremost counterinsurgency expert, David Kilcullen and Julian Burnside, a barrister and human rights advocate make for a dynamic combination when discussing if the end ever justifies the means.

Pictured is Thomas Worrell, a recent student at the National Institute of Circus Arts 

Full details www.mwf.com.au