



# International MILITARY WRITERS' FESTIVAL



## War Et Words

5-7 APRIL 2019

DARWIN, NORTHERN TERRITORY

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



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# WELCOME

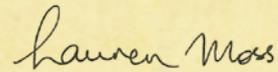
## MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE

*The NT Government is proud to support Territory Tribute, and the International Military Writers' Festival.*

The International Military Writers' Festival is an unparalleled opportunity to share the Territory's military history with the world. The Territory has experienced some of the most significant and poignant moments in Australia's history, including the Bombing of Darwin on 19 February, 1942, the largest single attack ever mounted by a foreign power on Australian soil. But in many ways, we are our own best-kept secret. From training camps for the intrepid Z Special Unit (the forerunner of today's SAS) to the dramatic rescue of Mrs Petrov, a soviet spy who defected to Australia, from a plane in Darwin in 1954, we have so many stories that deserve to be shared with the world.

The Writer's Festival provides a platform to share our stories, but also to assemble Australia's preeminent authors, researchers, playwrights and film-makers to discuss and debate military writing. From how to write about war for children, to uncovering battlefield frauds, to the independence or otherwise of war correspondents, this Program offers something for everyone.

I encourage you to attend as many sessions as possible, to get out and explore the Territory's unique and well-preserved historic sites, and to participate in other Territory Tribute events. No other place in Australia, and arguably our corner of the world, can a festival like Territory Tribute be presented with such authenticity.



**Lauren Moss**  
Minister for Tourism and Culture

## ABOUT TERRITORY TRIBUTE

The International Military Writers' Festival is the centrepiece of Territory Tribute.

Territory Tribute is a festival of existing and new events that will be held between the Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin (19 February) and Anzac Day (25 April), 2019.

Territory Tribute will commemorate and acknowledge the Territory's military history, as well as our continuing strategic military role in Australia's defence. It positions the Territory as Australia's key pilgrimage destination to understand, experience and reflect on the events that shaped Darwin, the Territory and our nation.

LEARN MORE AT [TERRITORYTRIBUTE.COM.AU](http://TERRITORYTRIBUTE.COM.AU)



## MESSAGE FROM THE FESTIVAL CURATORS

We think Darwin is the perfect venue for this inaugural International Military Writers' Festival. It really is different up here and this Festival will prove it.

Darwin was at the intersection of real war and Australia; today, military writers are at the intersection of war and society. They write about people at war, their work explores the soul of our nation.

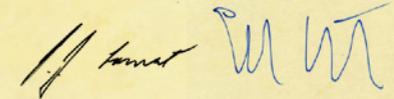
We are delighted to have had the opportunity to create this program and are thrilled that all of our speakers are so positive about the Festival and very keen to be part of it. This is a Festival where stories, ideas, discussion and argument will resonate long and late, far and wide; Darwin is a great place for that!

The Festival brings together many eminent writers who will share a wide range of experience of war and writing about it.

We have been careful to arrange the program so that there is generous scope for the discussion of some central themes - War and Words (communicating war); the Theatre of War (what people saw and said about their experiences); War Isn't Only About Soldiers (supremely important in Darwin, where the civilian population was profoundly impacted by World War Two); and War in the Region (strategies and events in nearby places).

It will all be open for discussion and debate - in the only Australian place ever to have suffered sustained enemy attack.

What better place to talk about War and Words! We look forward to seeing you here!



**Peter & Sheila Forrest**  
Festival Program Curators

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Our International Military Writers' Festival takes place on Larrakia Country, whose ancestors and their descendants are the Traditional Owners. We acknowledge their living culture - their past, present and future connection to land, water and community - and their unique role in the life of this region including its wartime history.

## FESTIVAL INFORMATION

### How to buy tickets

**ONLINE**  
[territorytribute.com.au](http://territorytribute.com.au)  
or [ntix.com.au](http://ntix.com.au)

**PHONE**  
08 8980 3333  
Mon - Fri 9.00 am - 5.30 pm

**IN PERSON**  
Box Office  
Darwin Entertainment Centre  
93 Mitchell Street, Darwin,  
NT 0800

### Venue

DoubleTree by Hilton  
Esplanade Darwin  
116 The Esplanade, Darwin,  
NT 0800

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Tribute events by subscribing  
to our newsletter via the  
website.



### Enquires

For any general enquires  
(excluding bookings)  
contact Territory Tribute at  
[darwin@inspire.com.au](mailto:darwin@inspire.com.au)

All authors have confirmed  
their participation in the  
program. The program may  
change up to and including  
the Festival weekend.

FRIDAY  
5 April

# FESTIVAL OPENING

11.00 AM – 12.30 PM  
FREE – TICKETS ESSENTIAL

## DARWIN REMEMBERS INTERFET

The International Force for East Timor – twenty years on

**Sir Peter Cosgrove, Lindsay Murdoch, Ian McPhedran and John Perryman, in conversation with Host Craig Stockings**

On 30 August 1999, 78.5% of the people of East Timor voted for independence from Indonesia rather than for integration with it. Long running violence had preceded the plebiscite, but within hours of the vote the violence escalated dramatically, and a refugee crisis mounted. The situation provoked profound concern worldwide, particularly in Australia and especially in Darwin where there had always been close connections with East Timor, only 700 kilometres distant. Australia proposed that it should lead an international peace-keeping force. Under the auspices of the United Nations, an International Force for East Timor (INTERFET) was formed. This force was placed under Australian leadership, under the command of Major General Peter Cosgrove.

INTERFET was eventually comprised of 11,000 troops, half of them Australian. It was the largest single deployment of Australian military forces overseas since World War Two and it was the first time that Australia had provided the core force for a UN mandated peace enforcement operation. Most of the Australian logistic support was based in Darwin. INTERFET entered Dili on 20 October 1999; by February 2000 INTERFET was able to withdraw and East Timor was able to begin building a new independent nation.

Join Sir Peter, Lindsay, Ian and John and Craig – who were all in East Timor in 1999 – as they recall and discuss INTERFET and ask whether INTERFET has been adequately acknowledged in Australian military history.

*'I am really excited to be Festival Ambassador for the International Military Writers' Festival. Not only will this festival attract world class authors and experts in military history, but will form an intellectual and educational experience that acknowledges the contributions of military history and research to the literary world.'*

PETER FITZSIMONS, FESTIVAL AMBASSADOR

4.30 PM – 5.30 PM

FREE – TICKETS ESSENTIAL

## AT THE EDGE OF AUSTRALIA

*"It's different up here, it really is!"*

**Peter Forrest and Amos Aikman**

Host – Ted Egan

Darwin-based historian Peter Forrest, *The Australian* newspaper's Northern Correspondent Amos Aikman and host Ted Egan will tell you why it is so. They dare you to tell them they are wrong!

7.30 PM – 9.00 PM

ADULTS \$45. CONCESSION \$40.  
PLUS BOOKING FEES.

## OPENING NIGHT: THE DAY EVERYTHING CHANGED

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

**Roque Lee**

Larrakia man Roque Lee welcomes everyone to Larrakia country and talks about the death of his grandfather, Juan (John) Rocque Cubillo when the first bombs fell on Darwin wharf on 19 February 1942.

## THE DAY EVERYTHING CHANGED

**Peter FitzSimons**

19 February 1942 was the day when Australia's history turned on its hinge.

Darwin was devastated by more bombs than were dropped at Pearl Harbour; more than 220 people were killed and for those who survived life would never be the same.

War had come to Australian soil. Australians were forced to confront the awful reality that they might not be able to defend their nation. Old protectors seemed unable to help. Australia was suddenly forced to find a new place in the world.

The bombs that fell on Darwin that day were destructive – but they built modern Australia.

Peter FitzSimons is a masterful storyteller who will powerfully evoke the events of the day that changed Australia forever.

A gun retrieved from the sunken American destroyer Peary stands just 200 metres from the Festival venue. The gun points to the Darwin harbour location where the Peary rests, along with 92 of its men.



The Darwin Cenotaph was erected by public subscription after World War One. It has evolved into a memorial to sacrifice in all wars.



SATURDAY  
6 April

# TELLING THE STORY

9.30 AM – 10.30 AM

## FROM KHARTOUM TO KABUL

Changing fashions in  
Australian writing  
about war

**Joan Beaumont, Craig  
Stockings and Kevin  
Foster in conversation,  
with Host Martin James**

Ever since the first significant  
Australian involvement in  
an offshore conflict in the  
Sudan in 1885, tastes and  
trends in military writing  
have been changing.

This thought-provoking panel  
discussion among outstanding  
writers will explore how writing  
about war reflects changing  
military circumstances and  
evolving community attitudes.

*A question and answer  
segment will enable the  
audience to join the discussion.*

## TICKETS

EACH SATURDAY AND  
SUNDAY SESSION

**\$15** ADULTS

**\$12** CONCESSION

PLUS BOOKING FEES

BOOK 5 OR MORE SESSIONS  
FOR A 10% DISCOUNT

11.00 AM – 12.00 PM

## THE WRITERS' STORIES

Successful writers talk  
about their craft

Host – *Richard Walsh*

## TELLING THE STORY

**Peter FitzSimons**

Peter FitzSimons is the  
pre-eminent populariser of  
Australia's military history –  
but not every critic admires  
his methods. Some argue  
that Peter often fails to make  
clear where history stops  
and where his storytelling  
takes over. Leading publisher  
Richard Walsh will test Peter's  
reactions to this criticism.  
Together, with help from the  
audience, they will explore  
the dichotomy between  
scholarship and entertainment  
in historical writing.

*Look forward to a candid and  
controversial session!*

## HOW I WRITE WHAT I WRITE

**Christina Twomey**

How do accomplished writers  
approach their task and what  
advice might they have for  
others who would like to write?

*Expect wonderful insights into  
the craft of military writing.*

1.00 PM – 2.00 PM

## WRITERS EMBEDDED OR IN BED?

Do writers sometimes get  
too close to one side of  
the action?

**Lindsay Murdoch and  
Ian McPhedran in  
conversation, with Host  
Michael Tyquin**

Michael opens this session  
with a review of where it all  
began – with Nineteenth  
Century War Correspondents.  
However, recent conflicts  
have raised profound  
questions about the  
opportunities for war  
correspondents to observe  
war, and the obligations  
imposed by the host forces  
within which they may  
be 'embedded'. Does the  
embedding compromise  
the reporter's independence  
and, if it does, is there any  
other way?

Between them, Lindsay  
Murdoch and Ian McPhedran  
have reported on most of  
the recent Middle Eastern  
conflicts. If there are any  
answers to these vexed  
questions, Lindsay and Ian  
will have them.

*Look forward to lively  
exchanges with the audience!*

2.30 PM – 3.30 PM

## LEGENDS AND LANGUAGE

Writers ignore the  
nuances of legend and  
language at their peril

Host – *Ted Egan*

## THE MINEFIELD OF MILITARY HISTORY

**Craig Stockings**

It's hard to write Australian  
military history without  
an awareness of the  
Anzac Legend. Like it or  
not, the legend imposes  
many presumptions and  
suppositions. Craig Stockings,  
Official Historian of recent  
operations in Iraq, Afghanistan  
and East Timor, talks about  
the perils, pitfalls and  
challenges of writing  
Australian military history.  
What do the consequent  
controversies and debates  
mean for the latest Official  
History series?

## LARRIKINS IN KHAKI

**Tim Bowden**

There is much argument  
about many of the qualities  
of Australian soldiers, but  
there is no disputing their  
vivid and down to earth way  
of expressing themselves.

Tim Bowden, Vietnam  
war correspondent, ABC  
personality and prolific author,  
has interviewed hundreds of  
Australian war veterans.

Listen to their stories, in their  
words – stories from the men  
in khaki who told it like it was  
– 'with scant regard for military  
pretensions, military niceties  
and bullshit'.

*Croker Island evacuees in Otford, near Sydney, during the war.  
For six weeks they had travelled overland to escape the war.*



4.00 PM – 5.00 PM

## TELLING THE TRUTH OR TELLING HISTORY

Can truth fight fiction and  
win; must truth always be  
the first casualty of war?

**Kevin Foster in  
conversation with  
Tim Bowden**

Host – *Christina Twomey*

Kevin and Tim look forward  
to lively exchanges with the  
audience as they discuss,  
debate and disagree to what  
extent 'storytelling' and the  
demand for 'popular' history  
should be allowed to extend  
and embroider the hard  
historical evidence.

SATURDAY  
6 April

# THE THEATRE OF WAR

9.30 AM – 10.30 AM

## TALKING TO PEOPLE

And bringing their stories into history

Host – Ian McPhedran

## GETTING THE STORY FROM THE ENEMY

**Peter Williams, in conversation with Alan Powell**

Not everyone everywhere believes that Australian soldiers were always outstanding opponents. Peter Williams will speak of his interviews with more than 50 Japanese war veterans who fought against Australians. Peter found that many of the Japanese had a view of the fighting prowess of the Australian soldiers that would not be shared in Australia.

## REMEMBERING? ACQUIRING AND USING ORAL HISTORY

**Peter Williams, Ted Egan and Tim Bowden in conversation with Host Ian McPhedran**

Interviewers seeking the truth about military events are often challenged by informants who say 'I was there, I saw it, what I say must be right'. Very often, these oral history accounts are not right. Peter Williams, Ted Egan and Tim Bowden, with Ian McPhedran, discuss the perils of gathering and using the oral history of war.

11.00 AM – 12.00 PM

## WRITING FOR THE STAGE AND SCREEN AND PITCHING THE STORY

Successful writers talk about writing for other mediums – and selling their work

Host – Nerys Evans

## THE LENINGRAD SYMPHONY

**Steph Lady**

Leningrad was under German siege when Dmitri Shostakovich wrote and rehearsed his symphony No. 7. Then the symphony was performed and broadcast to the world from Leningrad as defiant proof that Russia was still in the war, still fighting and even winning. Experienced Hollywood screenwriter Steph Lady shares his experience of writing a screenplay about the creation of the symphony.

## PUTTING ON A SMOKE SOCIAL

**Sandra Thibodeaux**

Sandra Thibodeaux' acclaimed play *A Smoke Social* recreated the Darwin gatherings of over a century ago. They were organised to farewell soldiers departing for the Great War. Sandra talks about how she created *A Smoke Social* to enable today's audiences to share Darwin's emotions as its men left to fight the war to end all wars.

*Steph, Sandra and Nerys will welcome your ideas and your questions.*

The Astor Theatre at Nightcliff, one of many created throughout the Territory to fight a sinister wartime enemy – boredom.



1.00 PM – 2.00 PM

## WRITING SPECIAL STORIES FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE

These sessions will prove, yet again, that war isn't only about soldiers

Host – Tom Lewis

## TELLING CHILDREN ABOUT WAR

**Allison Paterson**

Could there be any more challenging task for an author than writing books for children about subjects such as Gallipoli and the Western Front – or why we have Anzac Day, Remembrance Day and War Memorials? Allison Paterson explains how she has done just that, with acclaimed success. Her research and writing is infused by a desire to inspire children with understanding, gratitude and respect for those who served.

## TELLING MY STORY – 21 YEARS AS THE SPOUSE OF A SOLDIER

**Maria Augustus-Dunn**

Who had the hardest fight? Often, in both war and peace, it was the partners of people in uniform. Maria Augustus-Dunn wrote her book *Married Quarter: Boots, Berets and Bloody Uniforms* to give a light-hearted glimpse into the world of the modern service family. Maria loves to write and to talk. Look forward to an entertaining session!

*Host Tom Lewis will welcome audience participation.*

2.30 PM – 3.30 PM

## BATTLEFIELD HEROES OR FRAUDS

Share the experience of the History Detectives

Host – Martin James

## ANTI-HERO REX CRANE

**Lynette Silver**

Rex Crane claimed to have been the victim of unspeakable atrocities in captivity during World War Two. Lynette Silver heard him speak one day at a memorial service. She knew instantly that Crane was a fraud and she set about exposing him. Lynette tells Crane's true story and of her part in revealing his fraud.

## ROBERT OESTREICHER – HERO OF 19 FEB 1942?

**Tom Lewis**

Darwin has always looked for heroes of the first bombing raids. It seemed to have found one when American Kittyhawk pilot Robert Oestreicher claimed to have shot down two enemy aircraft on 19 February 1942. His claim was officially accepted – but recent research by Tom Lewis and others casts grave doubt on Oestreicher's account. The episode has provoked lively debate.

*Abundant scope for questions and answers!*

4.00 PM – 5.00 PM

## CONFLICT AND CREATIVITY

Explore the relationship between art and war

Host – Anthony Cooper

## AUSTRALIA, WAR AND THE VISUAL ARTS

**Margaret Hutchison**

For more than a century Australia has recorded its wartime involvements with paintings and sketches, by both official and unofficial war artists. Margaret will illustrate the work of these artists and speak of the ways in which they have influenced community perceptions of the events of war.

## THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS

**Jared Archibald**

Guns, tanks, and bombs are typical elements in the arsenal of warfare. Words and imagery, cleverly combined, also serve as weapons in wartime. The subtle or confronting art of propaganda can sway the mood and morale of a single soldier, a battalion, or even a nation when used with skill. Jared Archibald, Curator of Territory History at the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT, will discuss a selection of local and foreign propaganda posters and leaflets, and tease out the lies and truths behind them.

*Artistic expressions from the audience will be welcomed!*

SUNDAY  
7 April

# WAR ISN'T ONLY ABOUT SOLDIERS

9.30 AM – 10.30 AM

## BROKEN MEN, BROKEN NATION

**The impact of the Great War on the Australian community**

Host – Lewis Frederickson

## BROKEN NATION

**Joan Beaumont**

Australia was involved in three wars in the period 1914 – 1918 – one on the battlefields, another on the home front, and third in the world of imperial and international diplomacy. Joan Beaumont's *Broken Nation: Australians in the Great War* tells the story of all these "wars", as well as the later "memory wars" associated with the Great War. Joint Winner of the 2014 Prime Minister's Award for Australian History, the book combines erudite scholarship with powerful writing. Joan will speak of how she researched and wrote this notable book.

## MADNESS AND THE MILITARY

**Michael Tyquin**

Michael Tyquin says 'War history does not dwell on the weak, the unlucky, the fragile.' Thousands of Australian soldiers suffered psychological

damage as a consequence of horrendous experiences during the Great War. When those men came home the welcome was not always sympathetic – shellshock and other disturbances were an unsettling contradiction of the Anzac legend. Michael Tyquin wrote this book to redress the disenfranchisement of the soldiers that Michael says Australia let down.

*This session will certainly evoke audience reaction.*

11.00 AM – 12.00 PM

## CAPTIVITY – AND LIBERATION?

**Prisoners of war overseas and at home**

Host – Lindsay Murdoch

## THE BATTLE WITHIN – POWS IN POST-WAR AUSTRALIA

**Christina Twomey**

15,000 Australian prisoners of war were repatriated after World War Two. Their return had profound impacts on their wives and families – and on the general community. Christina Twomey's *The Battle Within* is a 'compelling and important book, essential to understanding the poignant and complex aftermath of

*captivity of Australian prisoners of war'. In this presentation Christina will take us beyond the moment of liberation and return and will reveal how many POWs and their wives struggled with the aftermath.*

## THE SANDAKAN DEATH MARCHES

**Lynette Silver**

The worst atrocity of the Pacific War happened in 1945, just as it was all ending. Almost all of the 2,434 Allied prisoners held at Sandakan, in Malaysian Borneo, died between January and August that year – 1400 from illness, starvation and brutal treatment at the main camp and the remainder on a series of forced marches into the interior. Six Australians, who managed to escape, were the sole survivors. Post war, the truth about the horrific fates of the POWs was suppressed. Lynette Silver will talk about writing the book that broke the *Conspiracy of Silence*.

*Join the conversation with Christina and Lynette.*

1.00 PM – 2.00 PM

## ARMY TIMES

**What did World War Two mean for the Northern Territory's Aboriginal people?**

**Ted Egan in conversation with Kathy Mills**

Host – Peter Forrest

Territory legends Ted Egan and Kathy Mills chat about their experiences and memories of the Northern Territory in 'Army times' and after. 'Army times' for the Territory's Aboriginal people was a time when many of them who had not previously been in close contact with white people were taken into Army 'control camps' – sometimes voluntarily, sometimes under compulsion. When the war ended many of the Aborigines could not or would not return to their home country. The Government solution was to establish 'welfare settlements' where these people could live new lives, preparatory to entering the general community.

Ted Egan, as a Native Affairs Branch officer, was closely involved with the development of these new settlements. Kathy Mills, a Kungarakan / Gurindji woman, is from a family that made a notable contribution, not only to the war effort but also to the Territory.

*Look forward to some poetry and songs – and robust discussion.*

2.30 PM – 3.30 PM

## ESCAPING WAR AND WRITING ABOUT IT

**Truth may be the first casualty; civilians are usually the second**

Host – Joan Beaumont

## WHITE BUTTERFLIES

**Ian McPhedran**

In 1942, eleven-year-old Colin McPhedran, with his mother and two siblings, fled Burma as the Japanese invaded. Only Colin survived the overland journey toward India. Sixty years later he published *White Butterflies*, a harrowing account of his life, told with stark simplicity. His son, former war correspondent and defence writer Ian McPhedran, recalls Colin and the creation of his book.

## REFUGEES IN THEIR OWN LAND

**Peter & Sheila Forrest**

At the beginning of the Pacific war, thousands of people were forced to flee the Darwin area. They were wartime casualties too; their lives were profoundly disturbed. They were forced to evacuate their homes and remain away for several years. Those who came back often found that everything they owned had been stolen or destroyed. It took years to put lives back together again. These people have had little acknowledgement in Australian history. Peter and Sheila will speak of telling their stories and putting a human face on the northern war in their book *Battling: Territorians and Their War*.



Eileen and Jean Mullen, killed at the Darwin Post Office, 19 February 1942. They were offered evacuation but volunteered to keep the telephone system operating.

SUNDAY  
7 April

# WAR IN THE REGION

9.30 AM – 10.30 PM

## ATTACK AND COUNTER-ATTACK

**The Second World War in our region**

Host – Lynette Silver

## THE EMPIRE STRIKES SOUTH

**Tom Lewis**

In the ten weeks after Pearl Harbor, Japan began a whirlwind advance that brought it to within striking distance of Darwin. In those ten weeks Japanese forces humbled the Western Empires in Asia and captured territory as far south as Darwin's doorstep. It was a breath-taking and terrifying achievement that has been carefully documented by Darwin historian Tom Lewis.

The Tiwi people possibly made a more significant contribution to the war effort than any other Australians.



## OFFENSIVE AIR OPERATIONS FROM DARWIN

**Martin James**

The war in our region hung in the balance through 1942 – the enemy was over-extended and its momentum was subsiding, but the Allied capacity to strike back was limited. Within a few weeks of the bombing of Darwin, a few Allied aircraft challenged the Japanese in the skies. By August 1942 they were beginning to win the air war. Then the balance swung back in favour of the Allies with offensive operations over enemy held areas to the north. A lot was owed to a few in this country too, as Martin James will explain.

11.00 AM – 12.00PM

## THE WAR CLOSE TO HOME

**Japanese strategy in the Pacific 1941 – 1942**

Host Tom Lewis

## JAPANESE STRATEGY IN THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

**Peter Williams**

In the anxious weeks after the Bombing of Darwin, it seemed to many Australians that a Japanese invasion, at least of the north, was inevitable. What was the Japanese strategic plan for the Pacific? What were their intentions towards Australia and how did the bombing of Darwin fit into their strategy? After years of research in Japan as well as Australia, Peter Williams is able to suggest the answers – answers that might provoke debate.

## TELLING THE STORY AT EAST POINT

**Norman Cramp**

Darwin's East Point Military Museum carries a large part of the burden of conveying the story of the Second World War in the Northern Territory, particularly the story of the bombing on 19 February 1942. Museum Director Norman Cramp tells of issues that can arise when differences between legend and truth are confronted by 70,000 or more visitors each year.

1.00 PM – 2.00 PM

## WARRIORS IN THE SKY

**Magnificent men – but magnificent flying machines?**

Host – Craig Stockings

**ARMAGEDDON TO OKRA – AUSTRALIA'S AIR FORCES, 1914 – 2014**

**Lewis Frederickson**

Australia's air forces have grown from humble beginnings, as Lewis Frederickson will demonstrate in this discussion of Australian military aviation in Palestine during the Great War, compared with the recent RAAF Air Task Group experience over Iraq and Syria.

## AUSTRALIA'S 'BATTLE OF BRITAIN'? ALLIED 'FIGHTER BOYS' OVER DARWIN

**Anthony Cooper**

The legendary Spitfire was the glamour aircraft of the Second World War, its reputation a product not only of success in the Battle of Britain, but also of assiduous myth creation by official media. Beyond the Spitfire, all fighter aircraft were heroized as wonder

weapons, the acme of speed, dexterity and national virility, worthy steeds of another carefully-crafted national icon – the fighter pilot. Here too the 'fighter boys' of the Battle of Britain provided the definitive archetype.

The Darwin raids, featuring both fighter planes and fighter pilots aplenty, were grist to the wartime propaganda mill, but also news copy in the hands of Allied commanders needing to associate themselves with the right narrative. The story of the Darwin raids is one of fighter pilots who flew and fought not only to defeat the enemy, but to establish a reputation and uphold a tradition.

2.30 PM – 3.30 PM

## HEROES AND VILLAINS

**War brings out the best and worst in people**

Host – Jared Archibald

## BRINGING REG HILLIER HOME

**Bob Shewring**

Reg Hillier was the only Territorian to die on active service in Vietnam. His family could not afford the cost

of bringing his body home. Eventually, public agitation resulted in his remains being brought back for interment at Adelaide River. The Hillier story is a parable for our commemoration of all Vietnam veterans. Bob Shewring, President of Veterans Australia NT, led the campaign to 'bring Reg Hillier home'.

## PEOPLE FROM THE PAST Various Festival authors

One of the richest rewards of research and writing is the discovery of people who might otherwise be lost to history. It is a process that brings personality to the pages of a book, personalities that might be noble or base, heroic or cowardly. It can also bring out all the drama of human adventure in extraordinary circumstances. Festival authors will speak about their favourite war-related personalities that they have discovered during their work.

*Perhaps audience members will want to nominate their heroes and villains?*

## THE LAST WORD

4.00 PM – 5.00 PM

## GETTING PUBLISHED

**Writing about things military is the easy part. Getting your words published is much more difficult.**

**Richard Walsh in conversation with one of his authors, host Ted Egan**

No better counsel could be had than that of Richard Walsh, Australia's most experienced publisher. From winning an appeal in the Oz trials to winning Walkley awards, Richard has learned things that you need to know about!

*Richard and Ted have lots of advice for the audience!*

# BIOGRAPHIES



## AMOS AIKMAN

Amos Aikman is *The Australian* newspaper's Northern Correspondent writing about Australia's vast northern and inland realms. He has travelled widely and earned a PhD before taking up journalism. He lives in Darwin with his wife and son.



## JARED ARCHIBALD

Jared Archibald has worked in the museum sector for 26 years. He spent 16 years as the taxidermist at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), and is now employed there as the Curator of Territory History. He has a keen interest in Northern Territory history, with special emphasis on its rich military history. He was part of the

team that developed the Defence of Darwin Experience at East Point, and was the Lead Curator for the recently opened *Unruly Days: Life in the Territory 1911-1921* exhibition at MAGNT. Researching and telling the stories of the people, places, events, and objects that have shaped the Northern Territory into what it is today is his primary research focus.



## MARIA AUGUSTUS-DUNN

When Maria was 29 years of age she married Brad, a soldier. She spent the next 21 years cycling through nine postings (including Darwin), two deployments, one diplomatic posting, countless job interviews and a brain tumour. Seven years ago she and Brad decided to become permanent 'Grey Nomads'. They have been travelling around Australia ever since. 'Writing my first book, *Married Quarter*, was an absolute joy. I loved every minute of it,' Maria says.



## PROFESSOR EMERITA JOAN BEAUMONT

Joan Beaumont is Emeritus Professor in the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at the Australian National University. She is internationally recognised for her work as an historian of Australia in both world wars, and of Australian defence and foreign policy, the history of prisoners of war and the memory and heritage of war. She came to special notice in Darwin in 1988 when Allen and Unwin published her second book – *Gull Force: Survival and Leadership in Captivity, 1941 – 1945*. The book analysed the experiences of Australians who were captured on Ambon in 1942. Many books have followed, none more highly praised than her prize-winning *Broken Nation: Australians in the Great War*. She is currently writing a "sequel" to *Broken Nation*, on Australians in the 1920s and the Great Depression.



## TIM BOWDEN AM

Tim has had an amazingly productive life as a journalist, broadcaster and writer. In 1965 he worked in Singapore as a correspondent covering the 'confrontation' between Malaysia and Indonesia and the Indo-China war. He worked with the ABC in both television and radio – he became a national institution between 1986 and 1994 when he presented the *Backchat* program. He undertook major oral history projects, including *Taim Bilong Masta* (Australia's colonial role in New Guinea), *Prisoners of War: Australians Under Nippon*, and *Survival*, about extraordinary survival experiences of some prisoners of war.



## DR ANTHONY COOPER

Anthony has had five books published. He has written four substantial campaign histories of RAAF units in World War II, covering both the European

and Pacific Theatres: *Darwin Spitfires: the real battle for Australia* (2011 & 2013); *Kokoda Air Strikes: Allied air forces in New Guinea, 1942* (2014), *RAAF bombers over Germany 1941-42* (2016), and *Paddy Finucane and the legend of the Kenley Wing: No. 452 (Australian) Squadron, 485 (New Zealand) Squadron and 602 (City of Glasgow) Squadron with the Kenley Wing, 1941* (2016). Anthony's second book, *Darwin Spitfires*, told the story of the RAAF Spitfire Wing's air defence of Darwin against the Japanese air raids of 1943, winning the Chief Minister's NT History Book Award in 2013. He also wrote a condensed campaign history of the American 49th Fighter Group's air defence of Darwin against the Japanese raids of 1942, entitled, 'Darwin 1942: the missing year', published online by The Territory Remembers in The Territory at war: a collection of stories (2017).



## SIR PETER COSGROVE AC MC

Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK MC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, was born in Sydney in 1947. He graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon

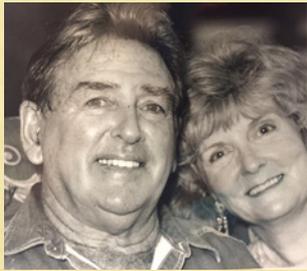
and then commanded a rifle platoon in action in Vietnam, where he was awarded the Military Cross for his performance and leadership during an assault on enemy positions.

In 1999 he was appointed Commander of the International Task Force East Timor (INTERFET). His outstanding leadership and service in East Timor won international recognition and resulted in him being appointed a Companion in the Military Division of the Order of Australia, as well as Australian of the Year. He was subsequently appointed Chief of the Army in 2000; then Chief of the Defence Force, 2002 – 2005. In 2014 he became Australia's 26th Governor-General.



## NORMAN CRAMP

Norman is the Director of the Darwin Military Museum. He has written extensively about aspects of military history relevant to the Northern Territory, including *Judgement in Darwin: Japanese War Criminal Trials in Darwin 1946*; and *Worth Fighting For – Territorian Indigenous Military Service from the Great War to Vietnam*.



### TED EGAN AM AND NERYS EVANS

Ted Egan was 16 when he first came to Darwin in 1949, intending a short stopover en route to South America where he thought he would find adventure as a gaucho. He went no further – the Territory offered more than enough adventure! He quickly demonstrated an empathy with Aboriginal people. He spent the next 25 years as a public servant, crocodile hunter, Native Affairs Branch officer, and school teacher, acquiring a Bachelor of Arts degree along the way. He listened carefully to everyone he met, soaking up remarkable stories and astonishing speech patterns. By the late 1960s he was in demand as a singer and story teller. In 1969 he wrote the song *Gurindji Blues*, a powerful commentary on the Gurindji struggle for land rights. A few years later he began writing and singing full time, with national popular success. In 2003 he was appointed Administrator of the Northern Territory, the pinnacle of the many honours and awards that have justly come his way; however, he considers that being involved

in 1952 with the establishment of St Mary’s Football Club in Darwin, to provide an opportunity for Tiwi players to participate, was the highpoint of his life. For the centenary of the Great War he created the multi-media kit – *The Anzacs 100 Years on, in Story and Song*. Recently, he shrugged off an aggressive cancer. Now, he is busily engaged planning his 90th birthday celebrations in 2022 – and he is still writing, still singing, still telling yarns, still delighting everyone he meets. Ted’s ‘Companion for Life’, Nerys Evans is a talented singer, with a voice beautifully suited to the presentation of many of Ted’s songs. Nerys, a teacher, scriptwriter and singer, came to Australia from Wales in 1964.



### PETER FITZSIMONS AM

Columnist, international rugby player, broadcaster, writer, after-dinner speaker and much else – is there no end to the accomplishments of this remarkable man? Peter has written 27 best selling books – not all of them endorsed by critics but all of them welcomed by the market. Peter says ‘I am not a military historian. I am a storyteller.’ He might have

added ‘spellbinder’ – his books have his readers queuing at the bookshops to buy his latest title. That can’t be bad for history.



### PETER AND SHEILA FORREST

Peter and Sheila have been researching, writing and publishing about the history of the people and places of northern and inland Australia since the 1970s. In that time they have written and published 34 books as well as innumerable articles, radio broadcasts, films, talks and lectures. They have a special interest in the Second World War in the Territory, particularly the impacts of the war on civilians. Their book *Battling: Territorians and Their War* (2012) was about the Territory civilian experience and was a stark reminder that ‘war isn’t only about soldiers.’ Their more recent publications include *Their Promised Land: A History of the Barcoo Shire, Queensland* (2014); *The World Flies in ... and Darwin Takes Off* (2016); *Together: A history of the CWA in the Northern Territory* (2018); and *Mandatory Reading: Lawyers and Life in the Northern Territory* (2018).



### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR KEVIN FOSTER

Kevin is Associate Professor and Head of the School of Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics at Monash University. His current research focusses on social media and the military; photographers of Australia’s military history section in the *Second World War*, and Australian photo magazines 1939 – 1945. He has written extensively about the construction of national identity in literature, the media and in film, with a particular focus on conflict. His most recent book *Don’t Mention the War: The Australian Defence Force, the Media and the Afghan Conflict* offered a comprehensive analysis of how the Australian media covered the war in Afghanistan and the pressures that prevented them from reporting on the nation’s armed forces at war.



### DR LEWIS FREDERICKSON

Lewis Frederickson is an RAAF officer currently serving as the Chief of Air Force Fellow at UNSW Australian Defence Forces Academy. He has enjoyed 28 years of service as an Air Combat Officer and has relished roles as an educator and qualified aviation instructor. Lewis has an undergraduate degree in history and literature, and a Master’s degree in history. He was fortunate enough to complete his doctoral thesis on an aspect of Australia’s involvement in the Great War at UNSW in 2015. Lewis is scheduled to qualify with a bachelor’s degree in teaching in 2019. He deployed to East Timor in 1999, and to the Multi-National Force – Iraq (2007). He was the lead RAAF Officer in the Australian War Memorial Historical Mission to the Middle East Region (twice in 2016).



### DR MARGARET HUTCHISON

Margaret (Meggie) Hutchison is a lecturer in history at the Australian Catholic University, Brisbane. Her research focuses on the history of war, culture and memory. She is the author of *Painting War: A history of Australia’s First World War Art Scheme* which was published with Cambridge University Press in 2018. She is also co-editor of a forthcoming collection of essays on painting, memory and war which will be published with the University of Alabama Press in 2019.

### MARTIN JAMES

Martin is Director of History – Air Force and RAAF Historian. He is responsible for providing authoritative advice on history matters, including unit history records, customs, traditions and honours and awards.



### STEPH LADY

Steph Lady is a Californian screenwriter and producer. He holds a BA from San Francisco State University and an MA in Screenwriting from California State University, Northridge. He has an impressive list of screen credits. Steph is interested in the filmic possibilities of several aspects of the Second World War in the Territory, including the evacuation of children from Croker Island and the bombing of Darwin. He recently relocated to Darwin to live.



### ROQUE LEE

Larrakia man Roque Lee (Gullawun) is a member of one of Darwin's most ancient, highly respected and large families. Roque is an artist and teacher who, for many years, has worked to promote mutual understanding and respect between all of Darwin's people.

He was named in honour of his grandfather, Juan (John) Rocque Cubillo, who was killed by one of the first bombs that fell on Darwin on 19 February 1942.



### DR TOM LEWIS OAM

Tom Lewis has written 14 books, many of them focused on the events of the bombing of Darwin. He has been a school teacher; a naval officer from 1993 to 2012, with service in Baghdad and Timor; then he led the development and operation of the Darwin Military Museum. A new book, *Lethality in Combat: A Study of the True Nature of Battle* exposed the battlefield myths of several wars and is now recognised as essential reading for those concerned with the realities of armed conflict.



### KATHY MILLS

(Aunty) Kathy Mills is a community leader, poet, singer, Aboriginal elder and activist. She is a living representation of almost all the main themes of Northern Territory history; she is from a family of people acknowledged since the 1920s as being outstanding community leaders and exemplars. In 1986 Kathy was recognised by NAIDOC as the national and NT Aboriginal of the Year. She has been a member of the Northern Land Council and a member of the Stolen Generations inquiry panel. She is a strong advocate on matters relating to alcohol and alcoholism in the Territory. She is a Kungarakung / Gurindji woman



### IAN MCPHEDRAN

Walkley Award winner Ian McPhedran is an Australian author and retired journalist. From 1998 until his retirement in 2016 he worked as defence writer for the News Corp group. In 2003 Ian reported on the Iraq war from Baghdad. In 2009 he took part in an Australian Defence Force 'embedding trial' – which Ian described as a frustrating and time wasting process. Ian has written seven books, the latest being *The Mighty Krait*.



### LINDSAY MURDOCH

Lindsay Murdoch is a journalist; a former correspondent based in Singapore, Jakarta and Darwin. In 1999 he reported on the tumultuous events in East Timor and in 2003 he covered the Iraq war while embedded with the US Marines. He now works in

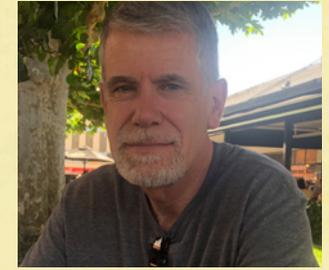
the office of the Northern Territory's Chief Minister, Michael Gunner. Lindsay has won three Walkley Awards.



### ALLISON PATERSON

Allison Paterson is the author of the 2016 ABIA and CBCA longlisted title *Anzac Sons: Five Brothers on the Western Front*, the children's version of her adult title *Anzac Sons: the Story of Five Brothers in the War to End All Wars*. Both are based on a collection of over 500 letters sent from the Western Front by her grandfather and his four brothers. Allison's picture books *Granny's Place* and *Shearing Time* are inspired by childhood memories of life on the farm. *Australia Remembers: Anzac Day, Remembrance Day and War Memorials* was published in 2018 and is the first in a series for children regarding Australia's military history. Allison was a recipient of the 2017 May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust Creative Time Fellowship. The resulting young adult title *Follow After Me* was released in March. Allison lives on the Sunshine Coast and, since resigning from a

30-year teaching career, now enjoys working full-time as a publishing consultant, writer and presenter.



### JOHN PERRYMAN CSM

John Perryman joined the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) in 1980. During a career in communications spanning almost 25 years he attained the rank of warrant officer before commissioning in 2001. Throughout his service he saw much of the world, participating in numerous deployments that included operational service in Somalia, Bougainville and East Timor. In November 2004, John left the permanent navy to take up a position in the Naval History Section at the Sea Power Centre – Australia. John is the co-author of Australia's Navy in Vietnam and author of *Kit Muster* – a study of the RAN's uniforms, badges and categories from colonial times to 1953. John is also a regular editor/contributor to a wide range of other historical books, publications, podcasts and newsletters.

*'We should remember what war really means. We should never forget that it happened right here in Darwin. We must help people to know and understand the truth.'* ROQUE LEE



**EMERITUS PROFESSOR ALAN POWELL**

Alan has been the doyen of Northern Territory historians for many years. His contributions to Territory history, through his books, his teaching at Charles Darwin University and its predecessors, and his support of other historians, have been immense. In 1988 his book *The Shadow's Edge: Australia's Northern War* redefined much of the thinking about the war in the north and revealed a depth of sources previously undreamed of.



**BOB SHEWRING**

Bob is a third generation Territorian and the son of one of the soldiers who arrived in Darwin in 1934 with the first regular Army detachment posted to the town. Bob has devoted most of his life to making the Territory a

better place and he has held a multitude of voluntary positions in community and sporting organisations. He served in the regular Army for six years and saw active service in Vietnam. As President of the N.T. Veteran's Association he initiated Operation Bring Them Home, which was committed to bringing home the bodies of 25 Australians who were killed on active service in Vietnam. 40,000 signatures were gathered in an eventually successful community movement that lobbied State and Federal governments on the issue. 'It rights a terrible wrong of the Vietnam war' Bob said when the body of former Territorian Reg Hillier was repatriated for burial at Adelaide River. Bob continues to work vigorously for the welfare of veterans and their families. His current priority is the reduction of the rate of suicides among veterans and serving military personnel.



**LYNETTE SILVER OAM**

Lynette Silver is one of Australia's most prolific and influential military and general historians; influential because much of her work has stood conventional history on its head or has unearthed dark and long hidden secrets. Perhaps her most significant book in this genre has been *Sandakan - Conspiracy of Silence*, first published in 1998, which brought the Sandakan tragedy right into the open. Similarly, *The Bridge at Parit Sulong* told the little known story of heroic Australian fighting at Muar in Malaya and the massacre of 110 Australian wounded at the bridge at Parit Sulong. Her books *The Heroes of Rimau* (1990) and *Deadly Secrets* (2010), revealed for the first time what happened on Operation Rimau, a covert mission that ended in disaster, and the fate of the 23 men who died. Lynette has been the recipient of many honours for her charitable and historical work.



**PROFESSOR CRAIG STOCKINGS**

Craig Stockings is the Official Historian of Australian Operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and East Timor. He is a graduate of both the Australian Defence Force Academy, and the Royal Military College, Duntroon. As an Infantry Officer he served in a range of regimental appointments within the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. As a junior officer he served during the INTERFET deployment to East Timor in 1999-2000, followed by an appointment as the Aide-de-Camp to the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia. Craig holds a First Class Honours Degree in History, Masters qualifications in International Relations and Education, and a PhD in History. Prior to his appointment as Official Historian, Craig was a Professor of History at the University of New South Wales (Canberra). His areas of academic interest concern general and Australian military history and operational analysis.



**SANDRA THIBODEAUX**

Sandra is a Darwin based poet and playwright. She has written more than a dozen plays that have been staged as part of festivals across Indonesia and Australia and have been broadcast on Radio National. She has twice won NT Literary awards; she has published four books of poetry and she has been Australian Poetry's Poet in Residence.



**PROFESSOR CHRISTINA TWOMEY**

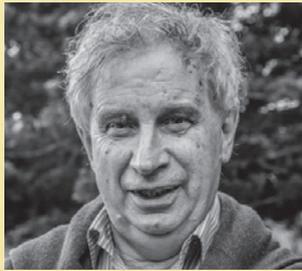
Christina is a Professor of History and Head of the School of Philosophical, Historical and International Studies at Monash University. She is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences Australia and the Australian Academy of Humanities. The author of four books, including *Australia's Forgotten Prisoners: Civilians interned by the Japanese in World War Two* (2008), her most recent is *The Battle Within: POWs in postwar Australia*, winner of the 2018 NSW Premier's Prize for Australian History.

*'There will be lots of good words, ideas and inspiration. Such an array of interesting speakers guarantees lively debate and a wonderful sharing of experience.'*  
PETER & SHEILA FORREST,  
FESTIVAL PROGRAM CURATORS



**DR MICHAEL TYQUIN**

Michael Tyquin is a consulting historian based in Tasmania. He has published extensively in the areas of Australian social, medical and military history. He is the official historian of the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps; a recently retired Army officer and a former Adjunct Professor at the University of Queensland's Centre for Military and Veterans' Health. Michael was born in Melbourne and raised on a farm near Werribee in Victoria. He enjoys researching military, medical and Byzantine history; and is an avid reader and inveterate traveller. Widely published, Michael is currently researching the role of the Governor-General in Australia during World War One. He has also just completed his first work of fiction – set against the backdrop of the Boer War.



**RICHARD WALSH**

He is witty, irrepressible, energetic, iconoclastic, a startlingly original thinker, generous and encouraging – what more could an author want in a publisher? Richard Walsh asks only of his authors that they be outstandingly original – and compatible with him. Richard has been publishing since 1963, when he co-founded and edited the satirical magazine, OZ. The magazine offended the establishment in Australia; Richard was sentenced to prison for obscenity but he won on appeal. Nowadays, his books win Walkley Awards. He says of his early days 'Like lots of young people, we wanted to take the place by the scruff of the neck and change it.' He did. That didn't derail an astonishing future in publishing – POL, Nation Review, Angus and Robertson, Australian Consolidated Press and its more than 60 magazines. As head of Angus & Robertson in the 70s and 80s, he was the publisher of Bean's Official History of World War One and a host of popular military histories. Among the popular military histories he has more recently

published at Allen & Unwin have been Peter Barton's *The Lost Legions of Fromelles*, Craig Collie's *The Code Breakers*, Peter Grose's *An Awkward Truth* and Marianne van Velzen's *Bomber Boys*. Now, he lectures, writes and advises and is Consultant Publisher at Allen and Unwin. And, when he speaks, he entertains and he informs.



**DR PETER WILLIAMS**

Peter Williams was born in Hobart. He has written a dozen books and websites on military history, among which are *The Battle of Anzac Ridge*, *The Kokoda Campaign: Myth and Reality* and *The Korean War*. At the Festival he will talk about the 50 interviews he did with Japanese Second World War veterans while he was working in Japan. Peter lives in Canberra where he has worked as a historian for the Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs. He frequently visits Darwin to undertake research for the Darwin Military Museum. He is currently completing a book on the Battle of Buna-Gona.



**THE TERRITORY TRIBUTE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS**

