



August Friends

The 2007 Kenneth Myer Lecture Is Politics Still a Vocation?

Michelle Grattan AO

Date: Thursday 9 August

Time: 6 pm

Venue: Theatre (followed by a reception in the Foyer)

Bookings essential: (02) 6262 1698

Friends Monthly Book Club

Date: Tuesday 28 August

Time: 7 – 8.30 pm

Venue: Friends Lounge

For Friends of the National Library only. This month's book is *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards.

Bookings: (02) 6262 1551 or friends@nla.gov.au

For bookings, details of membership and subscriptions, contact:

Friends of the NLA

National Library of Australia
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6262 1698

Fax: (02) 6273 4493

Email: friends@nla.gov.au

Website: www.nla.gov.au/friends

This month sees the presentation of one of the Friends' major annual events—the Kenneth Myer Lecture. This series was established in 1990 and named after Kenneth Baillieu Myer AC, Chairman of the National Library Council (1972–1982) and a long-time friend of the Library. The prescription for the lecture is simple and based on the views of Kenneth Myer. As a businessman and philanthropist with a wide range of cultural and social commitments, he saw the lecture as an opportunity for an eminent Australian to make a significant statement on a broad subject which was of particular interest to them.

Distinguished Australians who have delivered the Kenneth Myer Lecture in previous years include the Hon. E.G. Whitlam, Dr H.C. Coombs, Professor Fiona Stanley, Emeritus Professor John Mulvaney, Jillian Broadbent, Sir Gustav Nossal, the late Harry Seidler, Tim Costello, and Geoffrey Robertson QC.

This year's speaker is Michelle Grattan, one of Australia's most respected political journalists. Commencing her career at the *Age* in 1970, Ms Grattan joined the Canberra Press Gallery the following year. She became the first female editor of a metropolitan daily newspaper when she was appointed editor of the *Canberra Times* in 1993, before returning to the *Age* in 1995 as political editor and then moving on to the *Australian Financial Review* and then the

Sydney Morning Herald. In 2002, Ms Grattan returned to the *Age*, and was appointed political editor and bureau chief in 2004.

Michelle Grattan's career has been based on a reputation for accuracy. Treasurer Peter Costello, in his speech launching her book *Australian Prime Ministers* in 2000, said that Michelle Grattan 'is one of those journalists in Canberra who is a demon for a fact ... she's high maintenance, but she's always accurate. And if Michelle states a fact, it's correct'.

The 2007 Kenneth Myer lecture will be held at 6 pm on Thursday, 9 August. With a federal election fast approaching, Ms Grattan will be speaking on the very topical subject, *Is Politics Still a Vocation?* In this lecture she will explore whether good people are being discouraged from political life, and will ask if we are being too cynical about our politicians. Have politicians forfeited the trust of their constituents, or are our demands simply unrealistic and unachievable?

I do hope you'll be able to join us for what promises to be a fascinating evening. By the time this magazine goes to print the lecture may well be booked out, but if you would like to add your name to our cancellation list, please contact the Friends office on 02 6262 1698 or via friends@nla.gov.au

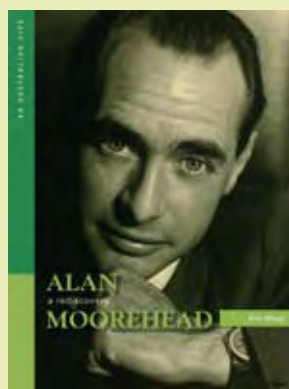
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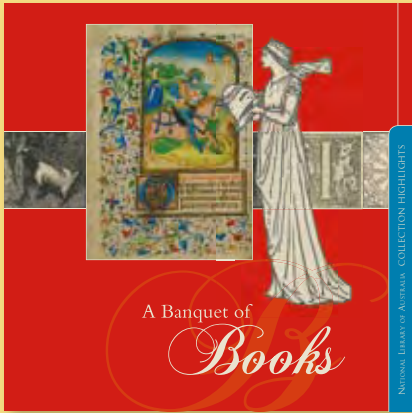
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(detail)

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