



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE



J.M. Coetzee Centre for Creative Practice

A Public Conversation Featuring Steve Vizard with Stuart Ward

**Join acclaimed
historian Stuart Ward
and polymath Steve
Vizard for a public
conversation on the
topic 'Nation, Memory
and Myth', on Tuesday
25 March at 5pm,
followed by drinks and
book signing.**

**School of Humanities and
the J. M. Coetzee Centre
for Creative Practice**

University of Adelaide

Ingkarni Wardli

Conference Room 715, Level 7

Admission is free. Registration is essential.

To register, please RSVP by emailing
jmcoetzeecentre@adelaide.edu.au

Professor Steve Vizard is a prize-winning author, television writer and producer, actor, librettist, lawyer and arts entrepreneur. His new book, *Nation, Memory and Myth: Gallipoli and the Australian Imaginary* will be published in April 2025 by Melbourne University Press.

In 2018 Steve wrote the libretto for an opera *The Space Between* with longtime friend and award-winning composer Paul Grabowsky, performed at the Arts Centre Melbourne. *Vigil*, 2017, is a one-woman musical with book and lyrics by Vizard and music by Joe Chindamo, also premiering at the Arts Centre, Melbourne. Vizard's 2016 Opera, *Banquet of Secrets*, written with Paul Grabowsky, tells the story of four old University friends who catch up for dinner and share a secret they have never revealed, with dire consequences. For the Centenary of Gallipoli in 2015, Steve was commissioned by the Melbourne Theatre Company to create a new theatrical work, *The Last Man Standing*.

Steve is celebrated for creating, writing and producing several iconic Australian television shows in association with Andrew Knight, including *The Micallef Program* (1998), *Big Girls Blouse* (1994) and *Fast Forward* (1989, and subsequently *Full Frontal*). Steve also hosted his own award-winning television show *Tonight Live with Steve Vizard* (1990).

His books include *The Best Australian Humorous Writing* (2008), *Graham Kennedy Treasures* (2008), *Australian Population Challenge* (edited with Hugh J. Martin and Tim Watts, 2003) and *Two Weeks in Lilliput: Bear-baiting and backbiting at the Constitutional Convention* (1998).

Steve served as President of the Screen Producers Association for five years and is a long-term advocate for promoting original Australian writing. He was instrumental in

the establishment of the Australian Commercial Television Production Fund to produce high quality Australian drama. He has also served as President of the National Gallery of Victoria and the Victorian Major Events Corporation.

Currently, Steve is Research Professor at Monash University and a Chief Investigator on the Australian Research Council Project Comedy Country: Australian Performance Comedy as an Agent of Change. He has also enjoyed a long association with the J. M. Coetzee Centre for Creative Practice.

Professor Stuart Ward has recently been appointed to the School of Humanities, Department of Historical and Classical Studies at the University of Adelaide. Before joining the staff here at Adelaide, he was Professor of Imperial and Global History at the Saxo Institute at the University of Copenhagen.

Stuart will take up the visiting Gough Whitlam and Malcolm Fraser Chair of Australian Studies at Harvard University for 2025-2026. His books include *Untied Kingdom: A Global History of the End of Britain*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2023, *Australia's Empire* (edited with Deryck M. Schreuder, 2008), *The Unknown Nation: Australia after Empire* (co-authored with James Curran 2010), *Australia and the British Embrace* (2001) and *British Culture and the end of Empire* (2001).

This event is co-hosted by the School of Humanities and the J. M. Coetzee Centre for Creative Practice.