

JM Coetzee Centre for Creative Practice Annual Report 2023-2024

The lists below show our key activities and events for 2023-2024.

As part of the Adelaide Festival, the Centre co-presented 'Is this the gate?', an opera by Nicholas Lens with libretto by John Coetzee. The opera, performed at Elder Hall, is a preview of the full opera *Costello in Limbo*.

Members of the Centre participated in 11 events at Adelaide Writers Week in 2024 as interviewers and interviewees on the mainstages: Shannon Burns, JM Coetzee, Patrick Flanery, Jill Jones, Nicholas Jose, Peter Goldsworthy, Anne Pender, Lisa Temple.

The Centre hosted award-winning author, Dr Christina Thompson (Harvard), who presented a non-fiction writing class that was attended by a large number of participants.

Dr Hossein Asgari, a former PhD student at the Centre, and author of *Only Sound Remains* presented a fiction writing masterclass.

Dr Jill Jones presented a masterclass on poetry writing.

Dr Shannon Burns presented a masterclass on autobiography.

Professor Anne Pender presented the JC Bannon Oration on 19 November at St Mark's College, on 'The Costs of Comedy and the Future of the Performing Arts in Australia'.

Professor Anne Pender presented an invited keynote address at the Graduate Institute of the Performing Arts, National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei International Conference entitled 'The Show Must Go On: The Arts in Australia and the Global Pandemic'

The Centre co-hosted a public screening of *The Fugitive Eye* and a talk about the film as adaptation, by MPhil student member Ms Jane Costessi at the State Library of South Australia.

The Centre and the School of Humanities co-hosted the *Dusklands at 50* Conference in May 2024 and welcomed 26 delegates from Australia and a range of overseas countries. John Coetzee read from unpublished work at a special public event at this conference.

The Centre participated in a suite of activities under the Speaking from the South banner to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the University, including a public conversation with John Coetzee and Fabian Martinez Siccardi, an exhibition by Kai Easton at the South Australian Maritime Museum and a public lecture by Nobel Laureate Abdulrazak Gurnah.

The Centre hosted book launches for Peter Goldsworthy's book *The Cancer Finishing School* and a launch of Brian Castro's *Chinese Postman*.

J M Coetzee Centre for Creative Practice Key Events and Activities in 2023

Members of the Centre participated in seven Adelaide Writers' Week events. The members who conducted extended conversations were: JM Coetzee, Shannon Burns, Anne Pender, Patrick Flanery, Peter Goldsworthy and Maggie Tonkin. Student members Gemma Parker and Jane Turner-Goldsmith also participated in an official event.

In 2023 we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Nobel Prize in Literature awarded to JM Coetzee, our patron, and the 50th anniversary of the Prize awarded to Patrick White. We hosted and co-hosted six celebratory events.

We partnered with the following organisations:

The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre, University of South Australia

The Adelaide Film Festival

The Australasian Drama Studies Association

Association for the Study of Australian Literature

The History Trust of South Australia

Members of the Centre presented three different workshops for a large number of high school English teachers, in association with the School of Education at the University of Adelaide.

We received generous new funding from The Vizard Foundation and other donors and

sponsorships from the Association for the Study of Australian Literature.

We were awarded two new ARC Linkage grants for projects in the performing arts.

We partnered with the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre, University of South Australia on 26 October to co-host a panel discussion on 'Reading and Writing Dangerously', with Peter Greste, Geraldine Brooks, Behrouz Boochani and Kylie-Moore Gilbert. Some 700 participants attended.

We hosted visits and talks by Professor Nicholas Mathew, University of California, Berkeley, and Professor Oscar Hemer of Malmo University.

On 8-9 November we hosted readings and musical recitals in the Barr Smith Library Reading Room. Esteemed Australian authors presented readings from their own work to celebrate the anniversaries. Some 150 participants attended.

JM Coetzee, Christos Tsiolkas, Helen Garner, Brian Castro, Kim Scott, Nicholas Jose and Patrick Flanery read from their work.

Anna Goldsworthy and the Euralia Trio gave recitals.

We presented a book launch and book discussion of a newly published book of essays on the work of JM Coetzee entitled *The Bloomsbury Handbook to JM Coetzee*, co-edited by Coetzee Centre member Andrew van der Vlies and Lucy Graham. Former director of the Centre, Jennifer Rutherford discussed the book with Andrew van der Vlies.

Eminent film producer Anna Maria Monticelli presented a talk about her film adaptation of JM Coetzee's novel *Disgrace*, followed by a special screening of the film of the same name at the Palace Nova Cinema, East End.

Multi-award-winning film director, Fred Schepisi presented a talk about his film

adaptation of Patrick White's novel *The Eye of the Storm* followed by a special film screening of the film at the Palace Nova Cinema, East End.

On 30 November we hosted and presented a public lecture delivered by eminent author David Marr on 'The Afterlife of Patrick White: Great Novelists and Public Memory'. Neil Armfield gave a response to the lecture.

In early December the Centre presented a public conversation featuring two distinguished historians discussing 'The End of Britain: Writing a Global History'. Frank Bongiorno (ANU) and Stuart Ward (University of Copenhagen) offered their knowledge and insights to some 150 participants.

The Centre hosted a public symposium on 'Writing Political Lives: Political Biography and Democracy', featuring eminent biographers Jenny Hocking, Judith Brett and Jacqueline Kent discussing their new work with some 35 participants.

Financial Details

The Centre currently has an available operating balance of \$42,433. This does not include the various ARC research grant funds that are listed separately in the University Orbit Project Reporting system and other tied accounts for prizes, equipment grant and Oratunga Winter School accounts.