

# Melbourne Conversations

## The culture of the book: Celebrating our city of Literature

To celebrate our City of Literature during the National Year of Reading, the City of Melbourne and the Australian & New Zealand Association of Antiquarian Booksellers are pleased to invite you to an engaging conversation about the culture of the book, the first event for the inaugural Melbourne Rare Book Week 19-29 July.

*Rare or ubiquitous, printed or digital, the book is central to our literary status in this the National Year of Reading. Join our literary luminaries and bibliophiles as they tell their stories and celebrate books and reading and reflect on the future of the book and book sellers in Melbourne.*

Date: Thursday 19 July 2012

Time: 6.00 – 7.30pm (entry from 5.30pm)

Venue: BMW Edge Federation Square, Melbourne

### Panelists

**Cheryl Akle**, is Project Director at Get Reading!, Australia's largest annual celebration of books. Cheryl has been a book lover since she first read "Where the Wild Things" which has led to work in books for almost 30 years. Cheryl is the book reviewer for The Circle Book Club (Ch10) and Melbourne's 3AW.

**Des Cowley** is the Rare Printed Collections Manager at the State Library, has a particular interest in artists' books and has over 20 years' experience working with the Library's Rare Books Collection. He is the co-curator of the State Library's permanent exhibition *Mirror of the World: Books and Ideas* and co-author of *The World of the Book* (published by Melbourne University Publishing in association with the State Library of Victoria). Additionally Des is the co-curator (with Robert Heather) of *Fine Impressions: Printmaking and Artists' Books in Melbourne 1999-2010*, an exhibition at the State Library of Victoria (26 August 2011-10 February 2012).

**Mary Dalmau** is the Director and General Manager, Reader's Feast Bookstore and has been working as a vocational bookseller in Melbourne since 1977. A librarian by training, she has been President of the Australian Booksellers Association, a judge on national book awards, a volunteer to the library community and the General Manager of Reader's Feast Bookstore since its opening in 1991. As well, Mary Dalmau has been the instigator behind many of the literary events in Melbourne.

**Douglas Stewart** of Douglas Stewart Fine Books has been dealing in rare books and antiquarian items since 1995, when he trained with some of Australia's leading dealers at a young age. Douglas Stewart Fine Books is a Melbourne based company which buys and sells historical Australian and international works with a fresh and youthful perspective. Douglas is also an and New Zealand Association of Antiquarian Booksellers (ANZAAB) member and deals in very fine material, exhibits at overseas book fairs, and is known as a 'rising star' of the book trade.

Moderator **Louise Adler AM** is one of the most significant figures in contemporary Australian publishing. Louise is CEO and Publisher-in-Chief of Melbourne University Publishing, a member of the Monash University Council and serves on the board of the Monash University Museum of Art, the Melbourne International Arts Festival and the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art. In 1988 she became editor of Australian Book Review and from 1989 to 1994 was Publishing Director of Reed Books Australia. She then became the Arts and Entertainment Editor for The Melbourne Age and in 1996 joined the ABC's Radio National as the presenter of Arts Today.

Melbourne Conversations is a City of Melbourne initiative.

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