International Military Writers' Festival

War & Words

5–7 April 2019
Darwin, Northern Territory
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 February, 1942, the largest single attack ever mounted by a foreign power on Australian soil.

In The Writer’s Festival, 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!

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

MESSAGE FROM THE FESTIVAL CURATORS

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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
or 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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Enquires
For any general enquires (excluding bookings) contact Territory Tribute at darwin@inspiress.com.au

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

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!

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.
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.

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!

3.30 PM – 4.30 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’.

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

TICKETS
EACH SATURDAY AND SUNDAY SESSION
$15 ADULTS
$12 CONCESSION
PLUS BOOKING FEES
BOOK 5 OR MORE SESSIONS FOR A 10% DISCOUNT

CROKER ISLAND evacuees in Otford, near Sydney, during the war. For six weeks they had travelled overland to escape the 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.

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!
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 Aboriginals 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.

5.00 PM – 6.00 PM
RENEWING TERRITORY LEGENDS
Host – Peter Forrest

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any other Australians. The Tiwi people possibly made a more significant contribution to the war effort than Darwin historian Tom Lewis. Carefully documented by breath-taking and terrifying Darwin’s doorstep. It was a territory as far south as Empires in Asia and captured humbled the Western ten weeks Japanese forces brought it to within striking a whirlwind advance that Pearl Harbor, Japan began 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 Second World War in our region
Host – Lynette Silver

THE EMPIRE STRIKES SOUTH
Tom Lewis
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9.30 AM – 10.30 AM
ATTACK AND COUNTER-ATTACK
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**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.

**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.

**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.

**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 a 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 AC MC**
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.
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.

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 portraits 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.

TD 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

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.
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.

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