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From: Progressive PR and Communications on behalf of *Australian Book Review*

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## ABR January–February issue out now



### Further information

More information about *Australian Book Review*, including a full contents list for the January–February issue, can be found on the [ABR website](http://www.abr.com.au) from December 29.

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### Highlights

- **Publisher Picks** - ten leading Australian publishers reveal their favourite books of 2017 (published by other companies).
- **Review of the Month** - 2016 Calibre Prize winner [Michael Winkler](#) reviews a major new book on [Tracker Tilmouth](#) by acclaimed author [Alexis Wright](#)  
*'In Alexis Wright's novel Carpentaria (2006), Girlie claims, 'If you ever want to find out about anything in your vicinity, you have to talk to the mad people.' There are a lot of mad people in Wright's biography of Aboriginal activist, thinker, and provocateur "Tracker" Tilmouth. He is probably the maddest of all, in the Kerouacian sense of 'mad to live, mad to talk', but, according to his mate Doug Turner, his "madness gave him sanity".'*
- **South Australian writer [Peter Goldsworthy](#) reviews a new biography of the legendary Nobel Prize-winning modernist poet [Czesław Miłosz](#)**  
*'Like another larger-than-life East European poet, Joseph Brodsky, Miłosz was never short of an opinion, which got him into trouble on all sides, even more so when those opinions changed. During the war years, he was too left-wing cosmopolitan for the Polish nationalists (and also perhaps too pro-Semitic) and either too Catholic or too humanist for the communists. Which is not a bad place to be: it's important to pick deserving enemies.'*
- **[Barbara Keys](#) reviews [Odd Arne Westad's](#) new history of the Cold War**  
*'Westad amply proves his point that, although the Cold War did not determine every development between 1945 and 1991, it acted like a black hole in international affairs, its gravitational force distorting the orbits of even the most distant objects.'*
- **[Kevin Foster](#) reviews our Open Page guest [Chris Masters's](#) new book on the Australian Defence Force in Afghanistan**  
*'The ADF's conviction that it is under assault, particularly from the national media, has deep and dubious roots that stretch far back into the nation's military history. In almost every conflict involving Australian forces, from the Boer War to the present day, the national media's presence on the battlefield has been sporadic, contentious, and generally unhappy.'*
- We review memoirs by biographer **Claire Tomalin**, journalist **Mike Willesee**, and *Vanity Fair* editor **Tina Brown**
- **[Bruce Moore](#) reviews a new book on the Americanisation of English**
- Fiction reviews include [Rachel Robertson](#) on *The Best Australian Stories 2017*, [Brenda Niall](#) on *John Banville's* sequel to Henry James's *Portrait of a Lady*, and [Lisa Gorton](#) on *Edward St Aubyn's* interpretation of *King Lear*.
- **ABR Arts** – we review music, theatre, art, and film including:  
[Waiting for Godot](#) (Wits' End)  
[Robert Mapplethorpe: The Perfect Medium](#) (AGNSW)  
[Muriel's Wedding: The Musical](#) (Sydney Theatre Company/Global Creatures)  
[The Disaster Artist](#) (Roadshow Films)