

## May 2023 issue highlights



Welcome to the May issue of *ABR*. This month's powerful cover feature is David N. Myers on the troubled state of democracy in Israel in the light of the recent protests. Meanwhile Gordon Pentland explores the impact of nostalgia on British politics and Marilyn Lake examines a new book on Gough Whitlam and women. Barney Zwartz reviews Chrissie Foster's new memoir and Michael Easson looks at the history of the Macquarie Bank. Anthony Lynch reflects on poet Jordie Albiston's posthumous work, *Frank*, and we review new fiction from Margaret Atwood, Max Porter, Pip Williams, and J.R. Burgmann. Also in the issue, we reveal the 2023 Calibre Essay prize winner (embargoed until April 28).

- ♦ **David N. Myers on Israel.** Author, academic and former president of the New Israel Fund, David N. Myers examines the erosion of democracy in Israel. 'Since the November election, Israel's democratic implosion has accelerated at such a rate that one might forget that it is the result of longer-term trends,' observes Myers in his incisive and compelling commentary on the impact of Benjamin Netanyahu's new coalition government on Israeli democracy.
- ♦ **Gordon Pentland on British politics.** Author and academic Gordon Pentland reflects on the theatrical qualities of recent British politics (ranging from vaudeville to morality play) and interrogates the anaesthesia of nostalgia. As Pentland notes 'The universal presence of nostalgia as political appeal and, at least in part, as public mood does much to explain recent British politics and its obsession with historical re-enactment.'
- ♦ **Barney Zwartz on Chrissie Foster.** Zwartz reviews Chrissie Foster's new memoir, *Still Standing*, and finds a 'scorching but justified excoriation of the Catholic hierarchy in Rome and Australia with a couple of honourable exceptions'. As Zwartz observes, this is a book that is 'motivated and driven by rage, and if it is not an oxymoron, it is a panegyric to rage'.
- ♦ **Marilyn Lake on Gough Whitlam's reformist vision.** Historian Marilyn Lake reviews *Women and Whitlam*, edited by Michelle Arrow, and reflects on the Whitlam government's noted relationship with feminism and women's liberation despite coming to power with no 'formal women's policy' and without any women in the House of Representatives or the Whitlam government.

### Interview requests and further information

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