

## June highlights

The June issue goes subterranean with James Curran on AUKUS and the stark differences between US and Australian rhetoric about the submarine program. Miranda Johnson reports on the erosion of a bicultural consensus in Aotearoa New Zealand. Peter Rose reviews the letters of Shirley Hazzard and Elizabeth Harrower. Matthew Lamb tells of the covert actions involving Frank Moorhouse and a photocopier that strengthened Australia's copyright laws. James Ley considers Salman Rushdie's *Knife*, and Anna Krien a pioneering environmentalist in John Bússt. We review memoirs by Bruce Pascoe and Werner Herzog, and fiction from Shankari Chandran, Louise Milligan, Ceridwen Dovey, and more. And in *ABR Arts*, Neil Armfield is our guest on Backstage.



Clockwise from top left: James Curran, Miranda Johnson, Salman Rushdie (Rachel Eliza Griffiths/Penguin Random House), and Bruce Pascoe (Thames and Hudson)

**AUKUS in the dock** James Curran argues that the United States is plotting a path out of AUKUS, and that this might be the best outcome for Australia. If something doesn't change, and soon, 'the Albanese government will have a policy albatross around its neck, not only for the remainder of its time in office, but in the eyes of history.'

**Biculturalism across the ditch** Miranda Johnson examines the state of 'tribal capitalism', co-governance, and a bicultural binary between Māori and Pākehā in Aotearoa New Zealand – notions that emerged from the *Treaty of Waitangi Act of 1975* and are now coming under increasing strain.

**Salman Rushdie, marked man** James Ley reviews Salman Rushdie's *Knife*, which opens with an account of the twenty-seven-second attempt on Rushdie's life in 2022. Rushdie's defence of freedom of expression 'has been worn smooth by repetition' while 'cultural attitudes have shifted in a more censorious direction over the past decade or so', writes Ley.

**Bruce Pascoe and the essence of the matter** Seumas Spark reviews Bruce Pascoe and Lyn Harwood's *Black Duck: A year at Yumburra* and argues that to 'see only the oversights and missteps in Pascoe's writing ... is to miss the spirit and purpose of his work'.

**Copyright and its discontents** Frank Moorhouse biographer Matthew Lamb tells of his subject's battle to defend Australian authors and the 1974 founding of Copyright Agency. Lamb explains that these activities took time and energy from Moorhouse's writing projects but made 'something bigger and more important: a legacy'.

### Interview requests and further information

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