

## May highlights

The new issue includes the winning essay in the Calibre Essay Prize. Scott Stephens considers clerical narcissism and brutality, and Patrick Mullins reviews a new profile of Peter Dutton, that former copper with a ‘suspicious instinct’. In her review of James Bradley’s *Deep Water*, Felicity Plunkett asks why we turn away from disaster’s proximity, Tony Hughes-d’Aeth explores an ‘inflexion point in Indigenous letters’, ex-ambassador Geoff Raby ponders ‘Chairman of everything’ Xi Jinping, and Alice Whitmore reviews the new-old Gabriel García Márquez. Essays from Heather Neilson and Maggie Nolan look at Gore Vidal’s posthumous life and the expansion of Australia’s storytelling database, AustLit. We review novels by Charmian Clift, Melanie Joosten, Liam Pieper, Siang Lu; poetry by David Brooks and Omar Sakr; film, music, memoir and more.



Clockwise from top left: Peter Dutton (Department of Home Affairs via Wikimedia Commons), Anne Manne (Black Inc.), Kim Scott (Freemantle Press), and Gore Vidal (Hachette Australia)

**Clerical narcissism and unfathomable cruelty** In his review of Anne Manne’s *Crimes of the Cross*, an account of Newcastle’s Anglican paedophile network, Radio National’s Scott Stephens describes a work of ‘conscience-searing precision’ which takes on the ‘fat, restless ego’.

**It does stay with you** Biographer Patrick Mullins examines Lech Blaine’s *Quarterly Essay* about Opposition leader Peter Dutton, who lives with a ‘sort of PTSD’, and compares Dutton to another ex-cop-turned-politician: Bill Hayden.

**An inflexion point in Indigenous writing** Tony Hughes-d’Aeth reviews Tony Birch’s *On Kim Scott*, an elaboration of Scott’s ‘archival poetics’, and notices the way the book ‘models an Indigenous critique that ... offers guidance to other Indigenous writers’.

**We need to listen to our oceans** In her review of James Bradley’s *Deep Water: The world in the ocean*, Felicity Plunkett applauds Bradley’s poetic attempt to ‘refashion the relationship between the human and the planetary’.

**Some sort of afterlife** Heather Neilson’s essay on posthumous representations of Gore Vidal recalls Vidal’s proclamations on ghosts and the possibility of living on past death – on the screen, within the page, in our imaginations.

### Interview requests and further information

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