

## April highlights

Next month, in the April issue of *ABR*, we look at power, with a major commentary from James Curran on Southeast Asian perceptions of Australian foreign policy, reviews of books about Australian prime ministers, Tanya Plibersek, American myths and hyperpower, and – at the other end of power – life on welfare. We review new fiction from Eleanor Catton, Margaret Atwood, Stephanie Bishop, and others. And in a provocative commentary, Debi Hamilton describes noise as the ‘new smoking’ and Peter Rose sketches a New York portrait of writers Darryl Pinckney and Elizabeth Hardwick. Here is a preview of *ABR*’s April highlights.



Clockwise from top left: Penny Wong, Darryl Pinckney, Tanya Plibersek and Eleanor Catton (photograph by Robert Catto).

**James Curran on Southeast Asian perceptions of Australian foreign policy** Professor of History James Curran examines Penny Wong’s claim that Australia is being positioned as ‘the Other’ in Asia.

**Debi Hamilton on the tyranny of sound** Debi Hamilton, a writer and psychologist, flexes her decibel meter, concluding that the world has become addicted to background noise.

**James Walter on biography as political intervention** Professor of Politics James Walter reviews a ‘provocative’ book by Chris Wallace on Australian political biography, asking whether it’s true that biography can make or break a politician.

**Patrick Mullins reviews *Tanya Plibersek: On her own terms* by Margaret Simons** Biographer and writer Patrick Mullins considers the biography that Plibersek was told she had to have.

**Peter Rose conjures Darryl Pinckney in New York, circa 1975** *ABR* Editor and memoirist Peter Rose reviews Pinckney’s account of his unlikely friendship with the literary critic Elizabeth Hardwick, *Come Back in September*.

**Michael Winkler reviews *Birnam Wood* by Eleanor Catton** Award-winning writer Michael Winkler explains why he sees Catton’s thriller as one that privileges reflection over action.

### Interview requests and further information

For interview requests, please contact *ABR*.

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