

Senator pays tribute to ‘prince of Australian literature’

Australian Book Review celebrated in the Australian Parliament



On Tuesday, Western Australia Senator Varun Ghosh paid homage to former *ABR* Editor Peter Rose, who retired last year after a transformative twenty-four-year tenure at the helm of Australia’s oldest literary review magazine. Borrowing from Professor Frank Bongiorno, Senator Ghosh said:

‘If we think of Australia in imaginative, cultural, and creative terms ... Peter’s stewardship of ABR must be considered a formidable national contribution.’

Across more than 250 issues and in collaboration with more than 1,500 writers, Rose built what the Senator described as an ‘edifice’ of Australian literature. As an *ABR* contributor himself, Senator Ghosh said of Rose:

‘His style of editing gave me the confidence to take risks with my writing at times, and always made my copy better, editing with that generous and minimalist spirit.’

In his adjournment speech, Senator Ghosh noted *ABR*’s expansive vision for Australian literature. He highlighted the magazine’s use of private and public funding to increase payments to writers. In offering three annual prizes, fellowships, mentoring, and coverage of the arts, *ABR* gives ‘young creatives more space to flourish’.

ABR welcomes Senator Ghosh’s generous recognition of Peter Rose’s legacy and his strong affirmation that Australian cultural commentary holds a significant place, not just in Parliament, but in our vibrant cultural landscape.

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