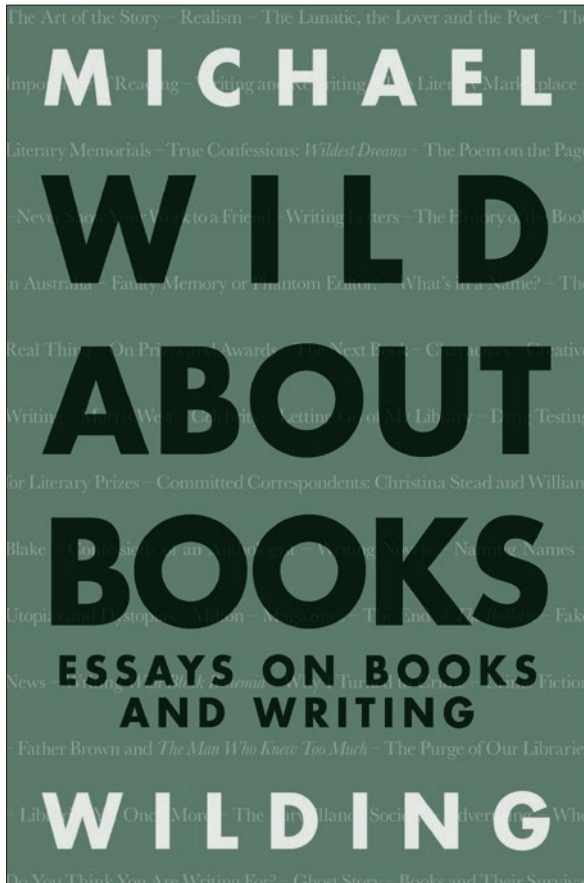




# NEWSLETTER

September 2019

NEW TITLES FROM AUSTRALIAN SCHOLARLY & ARCADIA



## WILD ABOUT BOOKS ESSAYS ON BOOKS AND WRITING

Michael Wilding

*Wild About Books* – essays on books and writing, about reading them and writing them, and publishing them and collecting them and preserving them in libraries. Essays about the shared experience of literature, the art and craft of writing, the pleasures of reading, the survival of five hundred years of print culture, together with reflections and suggestions on creative writing, on what to do, and how to do it, and on what I’ve done, and why I wrote this book and how I wrote that one, together with anecdotes from other writers’ experiences, from writers in person, and from the books they have written.

‘A career that is remarkable for how prolific and innovative it has been in so many areas, whether Wilding was working as a short story writer, novelist, critic, editor, commentator, anthologist, or publisher. Few Australian writers have successfully ventured so much and for so long. Moreover, a surprising coherence exists among this variety. Wilding’s work is driven by his political radicalism, which seems as much to do with a probing, sometimes acrid, intelligence, as sentiment.’

– Peter Pierce,  
*Dictionary of Literary Biography*

‘What strikes one first ... is Wilding’s keen sense of literary integrity ... an ironic, witty, highly educated, and in its indirect way, passionate authorial persona who has believed in literature as a life of principle, has seen many of the bases of that belief assaulted by abstruse theory, trendy anti-realism, and sinecure-seeking cynicism, and yet still in the face of everything, is able to make the affirming act through the agency of fiction ... No one in English writes better fiction about the process of writing than Wilding.’

– Don Graham, *Antipodes*

**Format: Paperback Released: 12 September**  
**ISBN: 978-1-925801-98-9 Price: \$39.95**



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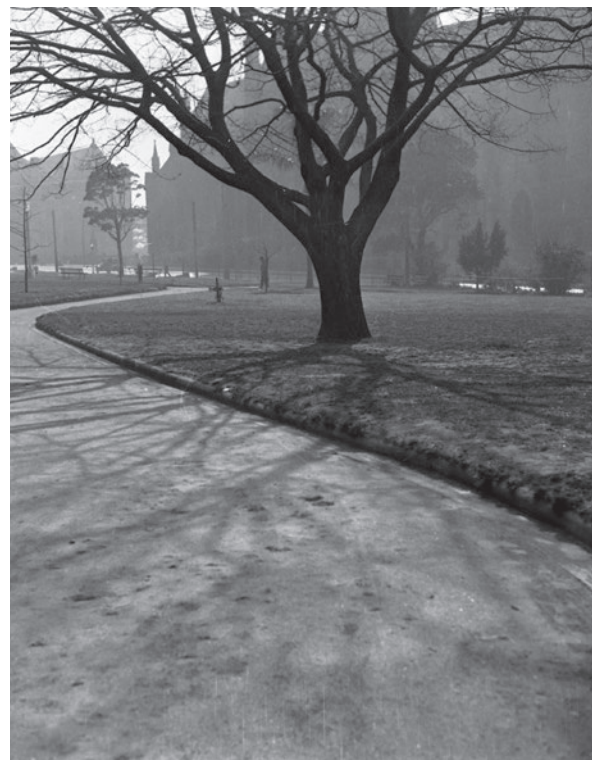
# COSMOPOLITAN CONSERVATIONISTS

GREENING MODERN SYDNEY

Peggy James

*Cosmopolitan Conservationists* tells the stories of the intertwined lives and writings of conservationists in early 20th-century Sydney. Their network included David Stead, Walter Burley Griffin, Charles Bean, Thistle Harris, Norman Weekes, Marie Byles, Myles Dunphy and Annie Wyatt, and each individual created some meaning in their life through their relationship with the environment. As conservationists they helped to shape the urban landscape they shared and many places of beauty in Sydney.

**Format: Paperback AVAILABLE NOW**  
**ISBN: 978-1-925003-08-6 Price: \$39.95**



*Above*

View of Hyde Park, 1930s

*Top Left*

Sydney Opera House built while adjacent Harbour needs attention

*Bottom Left*

'Merry parties' in Lane Cove National Park

## Idling in Green Places

A LIFE OF ALEC CHISHOLM



RUSSELL MCGREGOR

# IDLING IN GREEN PLACES

A LIFE OF ALEC CHISHOLM

Russell McGregor

Alec Chisholm inspired Australians to see nature anew. *His Mateship with Birds*, published in 1922, is a classic of nature writing, and until his death in 1977 he urged his compatriots to cherish the natural world as their national heritage. Chisholm was a pioneer conservationist, a leading ornithologist, and much else besides. He earned renown – and some controversy – as a journalist, biographer, historian and encyclopaedia editor. *Idling in Green Places* is the first full biography of this intriguing and influential Australian.

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‘This is a perceptive portrait of a celebrated Australian journalist and nature writer. Russell McGregor expertly analyses Alec Chisholm’s life and work and traces the influence of his popular advocacy for nature and nation. Chisholm was, for a time, a household name, and his biography reminds us of an earlier era of nature appreciation and conservation politics. McGregor’s book is sympathetic and critical, scholarly and compelling, witty and judicious. To be read anywhere, but especially sitting on a log in the bush, with your field glasses and a bird book beside you.’

– Tom Griffiths, Emeritus Professor of History,  
Australian National University

‘Alec Chisholm might not always have been likeable but this is a very likeable book. Passionate conservationist, naturalist, historian, encyclopaedist, Chisholm helped forge a relationship between the natural world and ordinary Australians’ sense of themselves. But he also could be pedantic, vain and curmudgeonly. Russell McGregor has captured the whole man in a biography that is itself charming, astute, generous and illuminating – and a good read.’

– Richard White, Adjunct Professor of History,  
University of Sydney



Mateship with Birds: Alec with a White-eared Honeyeater on his hat, probably in Kuring-gai Chase National Park, July 1966

**Format: Paperback Released: 26 September**  
**ISBN: 978-1-925801-99-6 Price: \$49.95**

# SUBURBANISM

POETICS

Robert Wood

*Suburbanism* is a book of twelve essays on contemporary poetry. Robert Wood looks at New York, consumerism, lifestyle, birds, the Western Pilbara, diaspora, theorising, India, republics, malls, and supermarkets. He offers a fresh take on poetry as it relates to the suburbs, encouraging the reader to reflect on meaning in our own time, and to think about the field of New World Literature.

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'Wood's *Suburbanism* is a book of poetics, but not in the traditional sense of a discussion of the way words can be used in poetic forms; rather it offers an exploration of poetic ways of being in the world. It provides a Blakean combination of philosophy, allegory, and analysis; like poetry itself, its meanings come through its rhythms and imagery as much as through the words' literal meanings. The title might suggest a cosy locatedness, but his book sails into an archipelago of ideas about language and the myriad nature of human experience.'

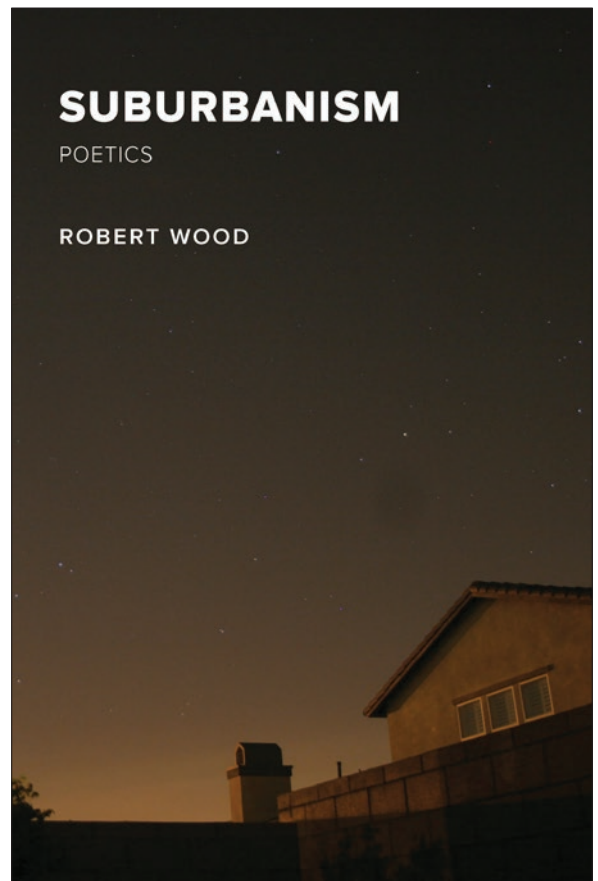
– Dennis Haskell AM

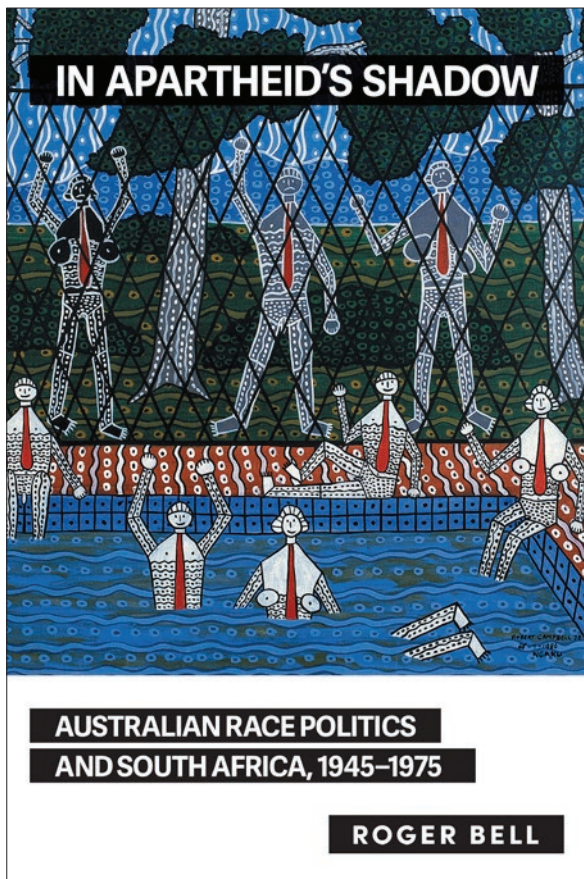
Author of *Attuned to Alien Moonlight*

Emeritus Professor, University of Western Australia

Robert Wood is a frequent contributor to the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. He teaches at the University of Western Australia, is Chair of PEN Perth, and works at the Centre for Stories.

**Format: Paperback Released: 12 September**  
**ISBN: 978-1-925801-96-5 Price: \$29.95**





## IN APARTHEID'S SHADOW

### AUSTRALIAN RACE POLITICS AND SOUTH AFRICA, 1945-1975

Roger Bell

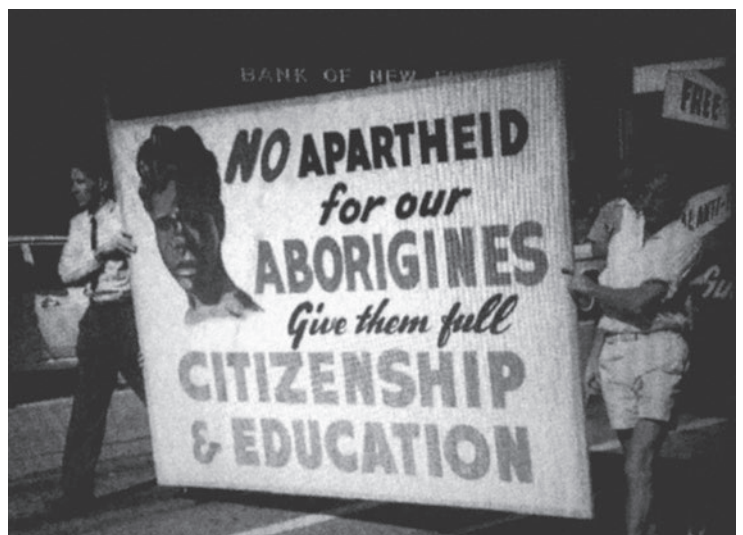
In 1952 an Australian journalist cabled from Johannesburg 'Apartheid is the trigger that has fired racial explosions in South Africa and sent echoes rumbling around the world'. In the outposts of Europe's unstable empires, entrenched racism came under unprecedented assault. 'White Australia', especially, was challenged as opposition to racial oppression under a white minority regime in South Africa hardened. In both countries the politics of anti-racism were unleashed, albeit in different ways and with very different consequences.

In South Africa entrenched systems of white supremacy were brutally enforced under apartheid. In Australia, ideologies of race and white privilege were disrupted and, slowly, walls of discrimination cracked. Race politics in post-war Australia was deeply affected by the fractious international struggle over apartheid.

The movement against apartheid obliged white Australia to grapple with moral and political issues embedded in its own racialised history and sense of nation. Contests provoked by apartheid were played out on the world stage and, as Indigenous activists emphasised, in Australia's own backyard.

This pioneering book explores these struggles as white Australia negotiated its place in a post-colonial world.

Format: Paperback Released: 12 September  
ISBN: 978-1-925801-67-5 Price: \$39.95



In the 60s anti-racism protests were influenced by the struggles against segregation in America and Apartheid in South Africa



## SOVIET FAIRYTALES

Gražina Pranauskas

In the 'Workers Paradise' of the Soviet Union what was life like for those on the periphery of the Russian empire? In these short stories, Gražina Pranauskas offers the reader piercing vignettes of everyday existence in Lithuania under a totalitarian regime ...

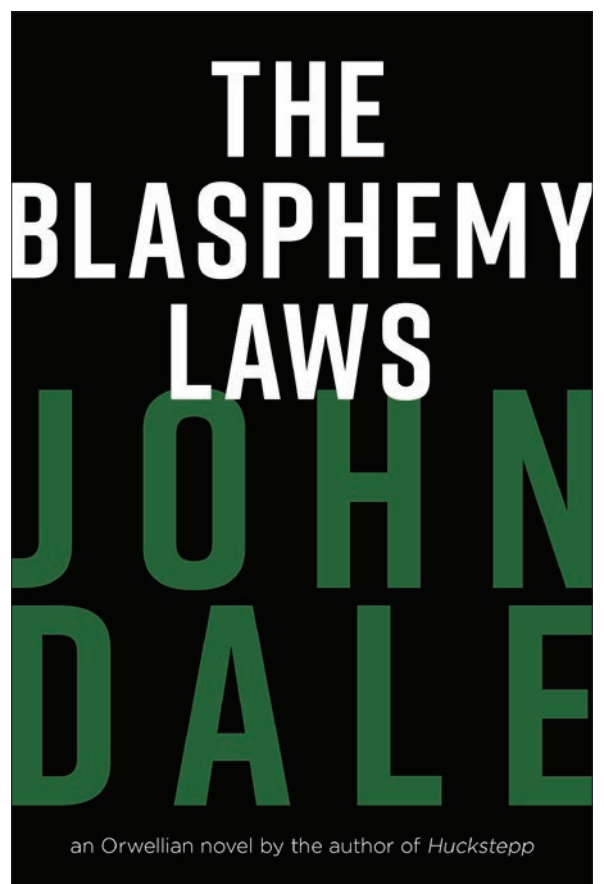
**Format: Paperback Released: 12 September**  
**ISBN: 978-1-925801-97-2 Price: \$29.95**

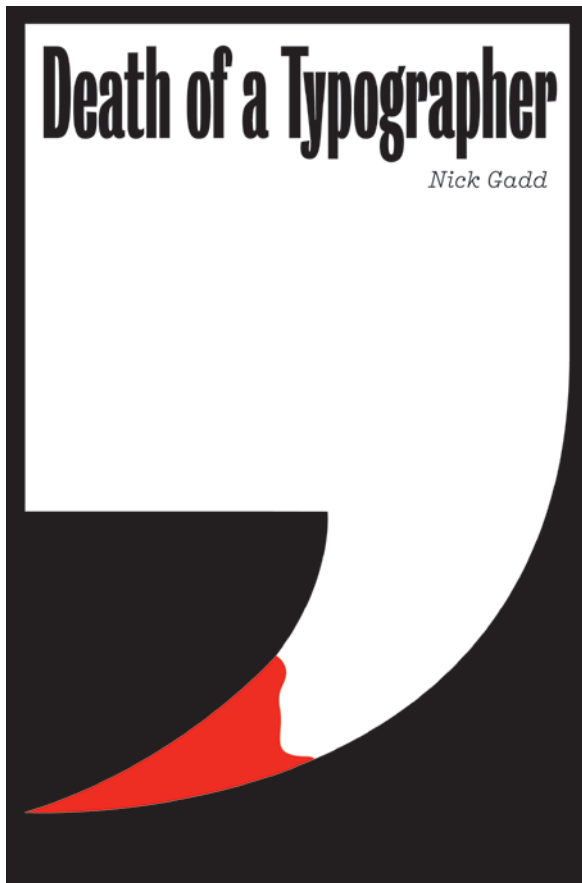
## THE BLASPHEMY LAWS

John Dale

It's October 2048 and an Islamist political Party has swept to power in Britain's general elections. Overnight the country is transformed by the introduction of the blasphemy laws. An Australian history teacher who lost his wife and daughter in a terror attack arrives in London to make contact with the leader of the Resistance. When he becomes involved with a homeless young woman, he discovers the possibility of a new life for both of them far from the dangers of the new London.

**Format: Paperback Released: 19 September**  
**ISBN: 978-1-925801-72-9 Price: \$29.95**





**'You might start thinking Jasper Fforde has hit a new high, but Nick Gadd's brilliant blend of humour, mystery and, yes, typography is all his own. A compelling read, whether or not you know your Comic Sans from your Zapf Dingbats.'**

– Nick Earls

## DEATH OF A TYPOGRAPHER

Nick Gadd

Martin Kern has a special sensitivity to fonts, a skill that he uses to solve typographical crimes. When a local printer is found dead in his workshop, his body in the shape of an X, Martin and his co-investigator, journalist Lucy Tan, are drawn into a mystery that is stranger than anything they have encountered before. Someone is leaving typographical clues at the scenes of a series of murders.

All the trails lead back to Pieter van Flogstraten, a Dutch design genius who disappeared without trace in the 1970s, and who has since been engaged in a mystical scheme to create the world's most perfect font, which is concealed in locations around the globe. But is he really the killer, and how are the crimes connected to his secret font?

The main plot of the novel unfolds in Melbourne, while interleaved chapters set variously in a Tibetan monastery, on the plains of Peru, in London, Naples and Amsterdam, gradually reveal the story of Flogstraten in flashback. Other characters include a noir-style private font investigator, a typographical monk from the Renaissance, a Dutch prog rock group named I Am A Dolphin, and a collective of Italian typo-terrorists.

This novel takes the reader into the arcane world of typographers and their typefaces, of symbols, swashes and glyphs, where the difference between a serif and sans serif could mean life or death.

**Format: Hardback Released: 12 September**  
**ISBN: 978-1-925801-93-4 Price: \$34.95**

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