



## Media Release

Embassy of Australia  
Office of Public Affairs  
Washington DC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
6 October 2009

Contact: Megan Doughty  
(202) 797-3237

### **American Launch of Landmark Australian Literature Anthology**

The Embassy of Australia is proud to host the launch of *The Literature of Australia: An Anthology*, by The Hon Julia Gillard MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Employment, Workplace Relations, and Social Inclusion.

*The Literature of Australia*, with a foreword by renowned Australian writer Thomas Keneally and edited by Professor Nicholas Jose (Norton, 2009), introduces a remarkable body of literature to the world – an historical collection of some of the most culturally significant writing to come out of Australia over a period of more than two centuries. The writers draw from a broad spectrum of Australian experiences and perspectives, grappling with issues of identity and history, from Aborigines to wayward convicts, from émigrés to explorers. As Mr Keneally notes in the foreword, the anthology is “unprecedented in the breadth of what it offers from both the ancient and recent literature of the country”, offering everything from the first Aboriginal writing in English to satire, poetry and memoir.

The unique collection of works was meticulously developed by Professor Nicholas Jose, Chair of Australian Studies at Harvard University, along with a team of other Australian literature experts. These editors include not only distinguished academics, but also renowned poets, novelists and independent scholars. They helped select the 513 works from 307 authors and also provide their authoritative insights through six introductory essays outlining each distinct period in Australian literature.

Professor Jose and his team shatter the long-held notion that Australian literature is looking backward toward European and American history, instead presenting the view that Australian literature is distinct, groundbreaking, multicultural and multifaceted.

*The Literature of Australia: An Anthology* was originally published through Macquarie University by Allen & Unwin in 2009, under the title *Macquarie PEN Anthology of Australian Literature*.

**WHAT:** Launch of the First American Edition of *The Literature of Australia: An Anthology*  
**WHO:** The Honourable Julia Gillard, MP, Deputy Prime Minister  
**WHERE:** The Embassy of Australia, 1601 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington DC  
**WHEN:** Wednesday 7 October, 3:30 pm