



ELTHAMbookshop
970 Main Road Eltham
ph. 9439 8700
elthambookshop@bigpond.com

Yarra Plenty
REGIONAL LIBRARY



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 14 August 2009

Booker-Prize Winning Author Tom Keneally Brings Books Alive in Eltham

Popular authors Tom Keneally and Toni Jordan will appear at what promises to be a lively event at Eltham Library on **Wednesday 2 September** as part of the Books Alive 2009 celebration of books and reading.

Books Alive ambassadors Keneally and Jordan are appearing at the library thanks to a partnership with ELTHAMbookshop. The authors will reveal insights into their books, writing and lives in conversation with local literary personality Morag Fraser, AO.

Tom Keneally is one of Australia's most well-known and loved authors; his book *Schindler's Ark* won the Booker Prize and was made into the Academy Award-winning film *Schindler's List*. This master storyteller's latest book *The People's Train* adventures between the pre-WWI Russian enclave in Brisbane, and Tsarist Russia.

Toni Jordan's debut novel of a young woman with obsessive compulsive disorder, *Addition*, has struck a chord across the world. It was longlisted for the 2009 Miles Franklin literary award and was chosen as a coveted Richard and Judy Summer Read in the UK.

ELTHAMbookshop proprietor Meera Govil expects a large crowd. "We're thrilled to be able to bring Tom Keneally and Toni Jordan to Eltham for this event and offer the community the opportunity to be inspired by writers who are true ambassadors for Australian Literature," she said.

YPRL Reading and Literacy Coordinator Kerri Pleydell-Sander is excited about welcoming such lauded authors too. "We are looking forward to some sparkling and interesting discussion," she said.

Books Alive is a Federal Government promotion of books and reading that aims to encourage all Australians to turn off their screens, put up their feet and get reading. Readers who purchase any of the *50 Books You Can't Put Down* from participating bookstores will receive FREE an anthology of short stories by Australia's leading authors or a new children's book from the Grug series.



**BOOKS
ALIVE**

Research shows that last year's Books Alive campaign was a huge success, with 25 per cent of respondents reporting they now purchase books more often, while around one in five say they'll borrow books, visit a library or attend book-related events more frequently. Since 2001 the campaign has directly resulted in the sale of an extra 1.4 million books in Australia, valued at over \$12 million. In 2009 the campaign will be launched on 26 August, ending on 30 September 2009.

The free event begins at 7.00pm at Eltham Library, Panther Place Eltham and includes wine and supper, and the opportunity to buy books and have them signed by the authors. Bookings are essential. Phone 9439 8700 or email elthambookshop@bigpond.com

##

Author profiles and photographs attached

Authors are not available for pre-event photography.

For further information:

Suzanne Male

Marketing & Media Coordinator

Yarra Plenty Regional Library

P 9401 0755

smale@yprl.vic.gov.au



**BOOKS
ALIVE**



ELTHAMbookshop
970 Main Road Eltham
ph. 9439 8700
elthambookshop@bigpond.com

Yarra Plenty
REGIONAL LIBRARY



PROFILES

Thomas Keneally won the Booker Prize for *Schindler's Ark*, later made into the Academy Award-winning film *Schindler's List* by Steven Spielberg. He has written ten works of nonfiction, including his recent memoir *Searching for Schindler*, and the histories *The Commonwealth of Thieves*, *The Great Shame* and *American Scoundrel*, and 27 works of fiction, including *The Widow And Her Hero* (shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Award), *An Angel In Australia* and *Bettany's Book*. His novels *The Chant Of Jimmy Blacksmith*, *Gossip From The Forest*, and *Confederates* were all shortlisted for the Booker Prize, while *Bring Larks And Heroes* and *Three Cheers For The Paraclete* won the Miles Franklin Award. His recently completed *Australians: Origins to Eureka* is a history centred on the humanity of our national tale which does justice to the rich and colourful nature of our unique character.

Award-winning novelist **Toni Jordan's** delightful debut novel *Addition* featured in ELTHAMbookshop's New Voices 2008 festival. The novel is being published in 15 countries worldwide, was a *Women's Weekly* Great Read, and was longlisted for the 2009 Miles Franklin literary award. In the UK, *Addition* was a Richard and Judy Summer Read and was named Best Fiction by the UK Medical Journalists Association. Toni is currently working on her second novel, and is an active member of Melbourne PEN.

Morag Fraser's journalism spans 35 years and includes editing Melbourne University's *Farrago*, and contributing features, opinion pieces and literary reviews to the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Australian*, the *Age*, *Sunday Age* and the *Herald Sun*. From 1991 until 2003 she was the editor of *Eureka Street* magazine. She is one of the judges of the Miles Franklin Literary Award, and is currently chair of the boards of *Montsalvat* and *Australian Book Review*. Her many books and articles cover a wide range of topics—from biography and politics to theology and gardening. In 2004 she was made a Member of the Order of Australia for services to journalism.



BOOKS
ALIVE