

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Prominent writer Kate Grenville in Launceston

One of Australia's finest writers will discuss her award-winning novels and Australian history with eminent historian Professor Henry Reynolds in Launceston on Monday (20 October) at the Earl Arts Centre.

Organiser Anne Fitzgerald said the second of the UTAS Conversations Series, presented by the Community, Place and Heritage Unit, promises to be an intriguing exploration of people and history.

"Kate Grenville once said: 'I write because I need to explore ideas,' and Monday's conversation promises to be a stunning meeting of two of Australia's most creative minds" she said.

"This is Kate's first visit to Tasmania and we're hoping for some discussion of Tasmanian history and input from the audience, who are welcome to ask questions in the latter part of the discussion."

Kate Grenville has written six novels and four books on the writing process. Her bestselling novel, *The Secret River*, has been published in 20 countries and won the Commonwealth Writers prize. Her most recent novel, *The Lieutenant*, was published this month.

Much of her work has an historical basis.

On Australian history she wrote: "My feeling is there's a sense of unfinished business in our history – it's probably why the 'history wars' go on making headlines, why family research is booming, and perhaps why 17,000 people went to Gallipoli recently to think about something that happened a lifetime ago. There's no going back and replaying the hand history dealt us but we can tease the story out so we can feel what it was like to live through it."

Henry Reynolds, director of the UTAS Community, Place and Heritage Unit, has written many ground-breaking books on the impact of indigenous peoples on Australian colonial history, including *Fate of a Free People*. His most recent book, *Drawing the Global Colour Line*, was written with Marilyn Lake.

Event: Kate Grenville and Henry Reynolds in the UTAS Conversations Series

When: Monday 20 October, 7pm

Where: Earl Arts Centre, Launceston

Please note: This is a free event. Drinks will be available at the bar.

*For more information contact Anne Fitzgerald, University of Tasmania,
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