

The Australian Embassy in Beijing presents
2010 Australian Writers Week

8-14 March



Alice Pung Alexis Wright Linda Jaivin Les Murray



Participating Authors



Alice Pung was born in Melbourne to Chinese Cambodian parents. Her memoir, *Unpolished Gem* is a national bestseller and won the Australian Book Industry Newcomer Award 2007 and was shortlisted for numerous other prizes including the Victorian and NSW premiers' awards.

A lawyer by trade, she contributes regularly to publications such as *Meanjin*, *the Age* and *the Monthly* and is the editor of the popular anthology, *Growing Up Asian in Australia*. Pung has recently completed the International Writers Program at the University of Iowa and will publish her next book in 2010, which was conceived while on a writer's residency at the University of Peking in 2008.

Unpolished Gem was voted one of Victoria's top 5 summer reads in the State Library of Victoria's Summer Read program.



Alexis Wright is a member of the Waanyi nation of the southern highlands of the Gulf of Carpentaria. Her books include *Grog War*, a study of alcohol abuse in the outback town of Tennant Creek, and the novel *Plains of Promise*, which was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Prize, the *Age* Book of the Year Award and the NSW Premier's Award for Fiction, and translated into French as *Les Plaines de l'espoir*. Her most recent novel, *Carpentaria*, won the prestigious Miles Franklin award in 2007, and is a surreal and bombastic epic, a blend of myth and scripture, farce and politics, teeming with larger than life characters. *Carpentaria* is set in the Gulf country of north-western Queensland, from where her people come.

Carpentaria won the Miles Franklin Literary Award 2007; Australian Literature Society Gold Medal, Victorian Premier's Award for Fiction; Queensland Premier's Award for Fiction; ABIA Literary Fiction Book of the Year Award.



Linda Jaivin is the internationally bestselling author of eight books. These include the comic-erotic cult classic *Eat Me* and *The Infernal Optimist*, shortlisted for the Australian Literature Society Gold Medal in 2007. Her latest novel, *A Most Immoral Woman*, is based on an incident in the life of the Australian China correspondent George Morrison and set against the backdrop of the Russo-Japanese War of 1904.

Linda's non-fiction writing on China includes the acclaimed *The Monkey and the Dragon*, an intimate portrait of the 80s in China and Taiwan-China relations as reflected in the life of the singer-songwriter Hou Dejian. She is also a literary translator (from Chinese) whose work includes numerous oral histories by Sang Ye as well as the subtitles for *Farewell My Concubine* and *Hero* among other films.

Jaivin is currently working on the libretto for an original opera in Chinese and English, a hybrid of Peking and Western opera forms called *Passion* to be performed as a co-production with the China National Peking Opera Company, to premiere in 2010 as part of the Year of Australia China cultural program.



Les Murray lives in Bunyah, New South Wales. He has published some thirty books and is widely considered a leading poet of his generation and one of Australia's best. His work is studied in schools and universities throughout Australia and has been translated into several foreign languages. In 1996 he was awarded the TS Eliot Prize for poetry, in 1998 the Queen's Gold Medal for poetry – on the recommendation of Ted Hughes – and in 2004 the Italian Premio Mondello. His most recent collections of work include *The Biplane Houses*, *Fredy Neptune*, *Selected Poems*, *Collected Poems* and *Killing the Black Dog*.

Described as Australia's 'bush-bard', Murray's work is often humorous, yet grapples with politics, dispossession, war and peace, and depression. He has also worked as a translator, literary critic and poetry editor and has edited several poetry anthologies.

'He is, quite simply, the one by whom language lives.' — Joseph Brodsky

*Events will be held from 8-14 March 2010 in Beijing and Chengdu

For more information on event venues and session times, go to:
www.china.embassy.gov.au or contact: Hannah.skrzynski@dfat.gov.au

For media inquiries, please contact: Naihong.zhang@dfat.gov.au