

MEDIA RELEASE

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CAL/MEANJIN LECTURE SERIES

Meanjin is pleased to announce the first of the CAL/*Meanjin* lectures, to be held at the Perth Writers' Festival (February 28 – March 2). The CAL/*Meanjin* lecture series, will be held at major writers' festivals throughout 2009 and 2010. As Australia's foremost literary journal, *Meanjin* takes seriously its responsibility to engage, provoke, confront, reflect and inspire. The series, funded by the Copyright Agency Limited (CAL), is intended to draw the spotlight to issues facing the creative industries today.

In Perth, on Sunday 1 March at 2pm, Jane Gleeson-White will talk about the power of different storytelling traditions and the capacity of literature to influence our lives. The lecture will tie in with Gleeson-White's essay 'To Prevent Contact', published in the 2008 December edition of *Meanjin*. Gleeson-White has worked as a writer and editor since 1990, and is the author of *Australian Classics: 50 great writers and their celebrated works*. Editor Sophie Cunningham will also appear on a panel with the editors of *Westerly* and *indigo* to discuss the role of literary journals in discovering new talent and their function as alternatives to mainstream publishing.

At the Sydney Writers' Festival (May 18 – 24), the CAL/*Meanjin* lecture will feature Lynne Spender on the question of whether intellectual property can or should be owned, a discussion which builds on the issues brought to light by her essay in the forthcoming June edition. Sophie Cunningham will take part in a panel on literary journals, as well as co-hosting a social event with *Overland* aimed at giving writers, publishers, editors and readers a chance to meet and connect.

The final talk for 2009 will take place at the Byron Bay Writers' Festival (August 7 – 9), with Sian Prior, Colin Friels and Sophie Cunningham. The discussion will spring from an essay by Sian Prior in the forthcoming June edition on the effects of shyness and introversion. Here, panellists will focus on the tension between public faces versus private selves, and how perception and the media can influence our professional lives.