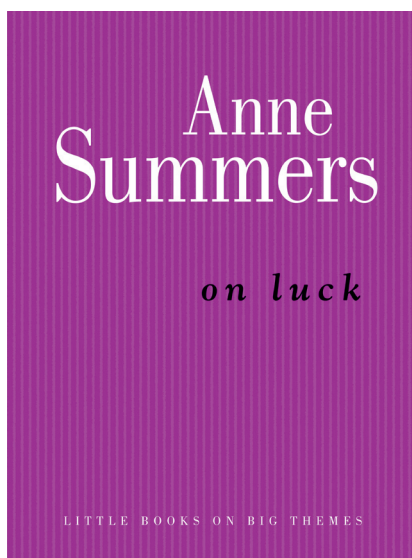


MEDIA RELEASE

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY PUBLISHING

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ON LUCK

by Anne Summers

LITTLE BOOKS ON BIG THEMES

“Australians’ fervent belief in luck is deeply etched in our consciousness. More than with the citizens of other countries, it affects the way we see most things. When someone escapes serious injury or death in an accident, we remark on how lucky they were. We don’t say they were unlucky to have had the accident in the first place.”

Anne Summers, *On Luck*

Following the highly successful launch of the *Little Books on Big Themes* series in August, MUP continues to pair leading Australian thinkers and cultural figures with some of the big themes in life to create a new instalment of the series for October.

MUP RRP \$19.95

PUBLICATION/EMBARGO DATE

6 OCTOBER 2008

Anne Summers is available for interview in October.

For more information please contact Terri King at MUP on 03 9342 0319 or 0406 998 020, or email taking@unimelb.edu.au

In her challenging, provocative essay *On Luck*, Anne Summers picks apart Australians’ cherished belief in luck and being lucky, and suggests that maybe we can do better.

She explores the gambling culture that is so intrinsic to being Australian, corruption in business, the economy, our obsession with being ‘The Lucky Country’, and which Australian city is the best example of a place that has relied on its luck and lost.

On Luck is one of four titles in the latest instalment to the series. Others include: Gay Bilson *On Digestion*, Malcolm Knox *On Obsession*, and Don Watson *On Indignation*.

Anne Summers has had a long career in politics, the media and the nongovernment sector in Australia, Europe and the United States. She ran the Office of the Status of Women for Prime Minister Bob Hawke from 1983 to 1986 and was a political adviser to Prime Minister Paul Keating prior to the 1993 federal election. From 2000 to 2006 she was chair of the board of Amsterdam-based Greenpeace International. She is a former editor of *Ms.* magazine (New York) and *Good Weekend* and is author of several books, including the now classic *Damned Whores and God’s Police* (1975), *Gamble for Power* (1984), her autobiography *Ducks on the Pond* (1999) and *The End of Equality* (2003).