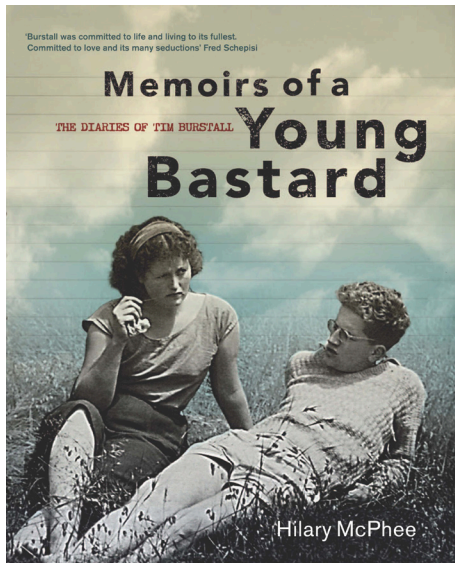


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MEMOIRS OF A YOUNG BASTARD The Diaries of Tim Burstall

Edited by Hilary McPhee

*“Burstall was committed to life and living to its fullest.
Committed to love and its many seductions”*

Fred Schepisi

Tim Burstall, the celebrated director of *Stork*, *Alvin Purple* and numerous other definitive ‘ocker’ comedies, is credited with shaking the moribund Australian film industry out of its torpor. But long before that, in the early 1950s, he began keeping a diary to record the world of the group of ‘arties’ and ‘intellectuals’ he was living among in Eltham, then a rural area outside Melbourne, where cheap land was available for mudbrick houses and studios, and where suburban rigidities could be mercilessly flouted.

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Hilary McPhee will be available for interview during February.

For more information please contact **Georgina Leslie** at MUP on 03 9342 0319 or 0406 998 020, or email georgina.bain@unimelb.edu.au

Burstall was in his mid-twenties, with two young sons and an open marriage with his wife, Betty. Eager to become a writer, to go against the grain, he kept a record almost daily—of the parties and the talk in pubs and studios, about art and politics and sex, of Communist Party branch meetings and film societies, of political rallies and the first Herald Outdoor Art Show. Somehow, while holding down a public relations job in the Antarctic Division and juggling his love affairs and obsession with the beautiful, brainy Fay, he wrote 500 words almost every day. Betty, according to the diaries, kept the show on the road, feeding friends after the pub, milking goats and working in her pottery making bowls and mugs, which Tim sometimes decorated at weekends.

These *Memoirs of a Young Bastard*, as Burstall dubbed himself and them, are among the most evocative Australian diaries of modern times. Burstall can write. He has an eye for the telling detail, an unerring ear for cant and pomposity and, most endearingly, an ability to mock himself—always from the perspective of a bloke of his generation.

Hilary McPhee is a writer and publisher. *Wordlines*, her selection of recent Australian writing, was published in 2010 after a long stint in the Middle East and Italy. She is now working on a sequel to *Other People’s Words*, an account of her life in books.

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