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ARTS TUESDAY

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Ray's game for it

LITERARY lovers are in for a treat with two of Australia's top authors and one of the best known names in current affairs journalism heading to Geelong.

Elliot Perlman, Alex Miller and Ray Martin are set to appear at separate hosted events where each will discuss his work. It's worthwhile getting out your diary and making a note of these events and booking well ahead of time.

If not for his inability to sing, Martin could be the perfect interviewee. He's honest and open, has warmth and a gentle humour, and plays the interview game well.

As he describes it, the "interview game" is the unspoken understanding between the interviewer and interviewee.

"They usually want to be there if they're entertainers or have a book

to flog," he said.

"Paul Hogan once told me, 'Look, no disrespect, but I wouldn't have anything to do with you if I didn't have anything to flog'."

Martin has something to flog so we are talking.

The award-winning journalist, who's been a household name for a good part of his 45-year career, will be here next month to promote his book, *Ray Martin's Favourites*, a collection of his favourite interviews.

Qualities that make a good interview, he said, were humour, honesty and warmth.

Being able to sing, as Michael Crawford did, after he had the audience rolling in their seats and clutching their bellies with mirth, is the icing on the cake.

"It's someone who plays the game, they want to be there . . . they don't just parrot the answer . . . and they don't qualify the things they tell you," he said.

"Michael Crawford can sing and that's the whole package."

Favourites is a fascinating read with a number of the interviewees no longer with us. Reading Heath Ledger describe acting as a game, that he is able to "laugh at myself" makes his later story so much sadder.

Ray Martin's Favourites, published by Victory Books, RRP \$49.99.

Ray Martin will be at the Captains Room, Skilled Stadium, on Thursday, November 10, at 6pm. Cost \$10. Book at thebookshopatqueenscliff@gmail.com or on 5258 4496.



MAKE A DATE: Much-loved current affairs veteran Ray Martin is one of three high-profile authors coming this way next month