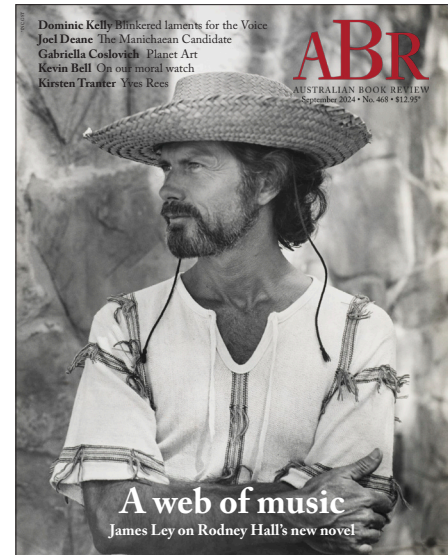


September highlights

In *ABR*'s September issue, writers pick over the bones, stare into the cracks, weigh, measure, and search for the words. There's Joel Deane on Peter Dutton, Ian Hall on Narendra Modi, and Kevil Bell on homelessness. Gabriella Coslovich sums up the case against Planet Art, the world's wealthiest museums, and Dominic Kelly ponders two conservative lamentations for the Voice. Patrick Mullins asks if we need yet another Hawkie bio, and we review exhumations of extraordinary lives by Yves Rees, Penny Olsen and Aarti Betigeri as well as memoirs by Leslie Jamison, Kári Gíslason, Olivia Laing and Theodore Ell. There's James Ley on Rodney Hall's thirteenth novel, *Vortex*, and Geordie Williamson on Fiona McFarlane's *Highway 13*, plus reviews of poetry, theatre, art, essays and technology.



The Manichaean Candidate In his portrait of Peter Dutton, political speechwriter and poet Joel Deane says the opposition leader represents an electoral problem for the ALP as the prime minister is 'an old-fashioned problem solver who likes to explain, facing a Manichaean candidate who likes to blame'.

The twilight of Narendra Modi In June, Narendra Modi was re-elected as India's prime minister. Yet his campaign slogan – 'this time surpassing 400' – proved fantastically ambitious, with Modi's BJP receiving just 240 parliamentary seats. Is this the twilight of Modi's political life, asks Ian Hall.

Picking over the bones Reviewing *Young Hawke: The making of a larrikin* by David Day, Patrick Mullins questions the need for another Hawkie biography, another claim for his status as 'top bloke', while conceding Day's laudable habit of 'picking over bones discarded or ignored by other biographers'.

Our ghoulish fascination Geordie Williamson reviews *Highway 13*, Fiona McFarlane's short-story collection that uses 'our ghoulish fascination with true crime as a come hither'. Its exploration of violence 'goes everywhere, sees everything, feels everything' in pondering the existence of evil in ordinary lives.

Falling through the cracks of history Reviewing Yves Rees's *Travelling to Tomorrow: The modern women who sparked Australia's romance with America*, Kirsten Tranter commends this tale of early-twentieth-century women who 'followed their passion' and have since fallen through history's cracks.

Rodney Hall's Joycean sprawl *Vortex*, two-time Miles Franklin award-winner Rodney Hall's thirteenth novel, 'sets out to cover an extraordinary amount of historical ground', writes James Ley, yet is 'content to luxuriate in its Joycean sprawl, taking pleasure in the sound and shape of its inventive sentences'.

Interview requests and further information

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