



2007 BYRON BAY WRITERS FESTIVAL

Festival Writer: Brenda Niall

Brenda Niall is one of Australia's foremost biographers, the author of four award-winning studies including *The Boyds: a Family Biography*. Born in Melbourne, where she now lives, she has travelled widely as a biographer in the steps of her biographical subjects. After an academic career she now writes full time and is a frequent reviewer for the Melbourne Age and other newspapers and journals.



Niall's new book, *Life Class: the Education of a Biographer* (MUP 2007) describes her own life-journey, her academic career at Monash University and her late-developing vocation as a writer. She also retraces her literary footsteps to discuss the pleasures of biographical discovery and the pitfalls – technical, personal and moral – of entering other people's lives. Her biographical adventures include travels in England, Scotland and Italy, Austria and Hungary as well as scenes closer to home, in Melbourne, the Mornington Peninsula, Sydney and the Shoalhaven region of NSW.

Life Class will appeal to the growing number of readers interested in life writing. It is a valuable addition to the well-established tradition of eminent literary biographers writing about their craft.

the festival for thinkers