

A better Australia?



THE IDEAS & SOCIETY PROGRAM LA TROBE UNIVERSITY | 2018

Many Australians believe that their country could behave more generously and justly, both at home and abroad. Some have lost confidence in our politicians and even our political system.

This year La Trobe University's Ideas & Society Program, convened by **Professor Robert Manne**, will investigate in depth the reasons for this public disquiet and, more importantly, will try to answer the question: how can a better Australia be built?

We have invited those people we believe have earned the respect of their fellow Australians to speak to us.

March 19

Tim Costello and **Conny Lenneberg** considered why in recent years Australia has failed to fulfil its regional and global responsibilities.

May 3

Gillian Triggs, the former president of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission, and **Julian Burnside**, one of our most eloquent asylum seeker advocates, examined the failures of our current human rights regime.

June 14

Noel Pearson, who some regard as our nation's most original thinker, and **Professor Megan Davis**, a distinguished younger Indigenous leader, will outline prospects for long-delayed Indigenous constitutional recognition.

July 16

Kevin Rudd will draw on his very considerable experience, as a popular and then deposed Prime Minister, to suggest, in conversation with the Secretary of the Prime Minister's Department Rudd selected, **Terry Moran**, how our political system could work more efficiently and how trust in our politicians might be restored.

September 27

Tim Flannery, the Chair of the Climate Commission and author of the seminal *Weather Makers*, will speak about how far Australia and other nations have risen to the most daunting challenge of our era, climate change.

October 11

Two widely published writers and social critics, **Jane Caro** and **Anne Manne**, will turn their attention on the unfinished revolution of gender justice and equality.

November 14

To complete the series, **Cassandra Goldie** and **Father Frank Brennan** will speak on the theme of social justice and consider what still needs to be done for Australia to become what many like to believe we already are: the land of the fair-go.

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