

# Professor Clare Wright OAM

## Address

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Professor Clare Wright OAM is an award-winning historian, author and broadcaster who has worked in politics, academia and the media. Clare is currently a Professor of History and the inaugural Professor of Public Engagement at La Trobe University. Clare's professional skills and services include historical consultancy, public speaking, television and radio presenting, podcasting, screenwriting, opinion writing, social commentary, museum exhibition, mentoring and networking, community activism, and balancing work and family. She is the author of four highly acclaimed books, including the Stella-Prize winning *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka*, with a fifth forthcoming in 2023. In 2020, Clare was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in the Australia Day Honours list for her "services to literature and to historical research".

## Education

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1991 BA (HONS)  
University of Melbourne

1993 MA (PUBLIC HISTORY)  
Monash University  
Thesis title: 'The Television Open Learning Project: The Making of Public Culture'

2002 PHD (AUSTRALIAN STUDIES)  
University of Melbourne  
Thesis title: 'Beyond the Ladies Lounge: A History of Female Publicans, Victoria 1876-1945'; with First Class Honours

## Professional Appointments

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2022 - Present  
Professor of History  
Professor of Public Engagement  
La Trobe University

2014 - 2022  
Professor of History  
ARC Future Fellow  
Principal Research Fellow  
La Trobe University

2012 - 2013

HUSS Bridging Research Fellowship, La Trobe University

2004 - 2009

ARC Postdoctoral Research Fellow, La Trobe University

2002- 2004

Executive Officer, History Council of Victoria

## Honours and Awards

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A Monument of One's Own with Victorian Trades Hall Council awarded a Victorian Women's Public Art Program grant to construct a statue of Zelda D'Aprano in Melbourne (March 2022)

"How the Dark Get in" selected for Grattan Institute's Annual Summer Recommended Reading List for the Prime Minister (December 2020)

Shortlisted for the Australian History Associations Magarey Medal for Biography for *You Daughters of Freedom* (2020)

Award of a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for 'services to literature and to historical research' (January 2020)

Winner of the 2014 Stella Prize for Women's Writing for *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka*

Winner of the 2014 The Nib Award for Non-Fiction for *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka* (and People's Choice Award)

Shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Awards, the NSW Premier's History Awards, the WA Premier's Literary Awards, the Victorian Community History Awards, and long-listed for a Walkley Award *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka* (2014)

Notable Book, Children's Book Council Award for *We Are the Rebels* (2015)

Shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Award and the Queensland Literary Award for *You Daughters of Freedom* (2019)

Winner, Alice Literary Award, Australian Society of Women Writers, for '*distinguished and long-term contribution to literature by an Australian woman*' (2016)

Winner, Best Television Docudrama, Australian Teachers of Media (ATOM) Awards, *The War That Changed Us* (2015)

Max Kelly Medal, History Council of NSW, for best journal article by an early career historian (2001) "Of public houses and private lives female hotelkeepers as domestic entrepreneurs" *Australian Historical Studies* **32**(116):57-75  
01 Dec 2001

Serle Award, Australian Historical Association, for best postdoctoral thesis in Australian History (2002) "Beyond the Ladies Lounge: A History of Female Publicans, Victoria 1875-1945".

## Publications

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### Books

(2018). *You Daughters of Freedom: The Australians Who Won the Vote and Inspired the World*, Melbourne: Text Publishing.

(2015). *We Are the Rebels: The Women and Men Who Made Eureka*. Melbourne: Text Publishing.

(2014). *Beyond the Ladies Lounge Australia's Female Publicans*. Melbourne: Text Publishing. (new edition, first published 2003)

(2013). *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka*. Melbourne: Text Publishing.

## Book Chapters

(2021). "Dear Mum..." in Samuel Johnson (ed), *Dear Mum*, Sydney: Hachette Australia, 184-185.

(2019). "Dear Dad..." in Samuel Johnson (ed), *Dear Dad*, Sydney: Hachette Australia.

(2017). "Prime Minister Edith Cowan" in Peter Stanley (ed), *Victory on Gallipoli and Other What-ifs of Australian History*, Canberra: National Library of Australia, 105-117. (INVITED)

(2017). "A University Life in Four Seasons", in Chris Feik (ed) *From the Paddock to the Agora: Fifty Years of La Trobe University*, Melbourne: Black Inc. 111-139. (INVITED)

(2017). "The Woman Who Startled the World". In *Madame Midas* (Text Classic ed., pp. vii-xv). Australia: Text Publishing. (INVITED)

(2016). "Making the War That Changed Us". In P. Ashton, A. Clark, & R. Crawford (Eds.), *Once Upon a Time: Australian Writers on Using the Past* (pp. 206-217). Melbourne, Vic: Australian Scholarly Publishing. (INVITED)

(2015). "'The Next Throb of Outraged Humanity': Australia in a Revolutionary Age". In D. Headon, & J. Uhr (Eds.), *Eureka: Australia's Greatest Story* (pp. 44-56). Leichhardt, NSW: The Federation Press. (INVITED)

(2013). "Sex, Lies and History on TV". In A. Clark, & P. Ashton (Eds.), *Australian History Now* (pp. 215- 232). Sydney: NewSouth. (INVITED)

(2008). "The Eureka Stockade: An Alternative Portrait", in Deborah Gare and David Ritter (eds) *Making Australian History: Perspectives on the Past Since 1788*. Melbourne: Thomson Learning, 213-220. (INVITED)

(2007). "Labour Pains: Towards a Female Perspective on the Birth of Australian Democracy" in Alan Mayne (ed), *Eureka 1854-2004: Reappraising an Australian Legend* Perth: Curtin University Books, 123-141 (INVITED)

## Peer Reviewed Publications

(2021). Wish you weren't here: on being a tourist in the criminal justice system, *Griffith Review*, 74.

(2021). Masters of the future or heirs of the past? Mining, history and the right to know, *Griffith Review*, 71.

(2019). The Goldfields' Sabbath: A postsecular analysis of social cohesion and social control on the Ballarat Goldfields, 1854, *Journal of Religious History* 43(4):447-459.

(2016). Birth of a nation? Empowering women, teaching the world a lesson. *Griffith Review*, 51, 204-217.

(2015). Making The war that changed us: Notes from the frontline of history, television and military remembrance. *TEXT: Journal of Writing and Writing Programs*, (Special Issue 28), 1-12.

(2015). "Forgetting to remember: Time to be brave". *Griffith Review*, 48, 149-157.

(2014). "A Splendid Object Lesson": A Transnational Perspective on the Birth of the Australian Nation. *Journal of Women's History*, 26(4), 12-36.

(2012). "Desperately Seeking Samuel: A Diary Lost and Found". *The La Trobe Journal*, 90, 6-22.

(2010). 'Ned's Women: A Fractured Love Story', *Meanjin*, Vol 69, No 2 (with Alex McDermott), 133- 121.

(2009). 'A Lover and a Fighter: The Trouble with Lola Montez', *Overland*, Issue 195, 20-29. (2009). 'An Indelible Stain: Gifts of the Samuel Lazarus Diary', *History Australia*, Vol 6, No 2, 45.1-45.5.

(2008). 'Golden Opportunities: The Early Origins of Women's Suffrage in Victoria', *Victorian Historical Journal*, Women's Suffrage Centenary Issue, Volume 79, No 2, 210-224.

(2008). "'New Brooms They Say Sweep Clean": Women's Political Activism on the Ballarat Goldfields', *Australian Historical Studies*, Vol 39, 305-321.

Earlier publications on request

## Conference Papers

Conference papers on request

## Journalism

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(2022). History tells us women can turn elections: the Liberals should have listened, *The Guardian*.

(2022). "Riot Girls", *Marie Claire*, March 2022.

(2021). A Wave of Female Candidates Powered by Historic Swell, *Meanjin*.

(2021). Invisible women: Melbourne's monumental problem - and how to fix it, *The Age*.

(2021). From Global Leaders to Fossil Fools, *Meanjin*.

(2021) Female Activists Have Changed History – And We can Do It Again, *Tonic*.

(2021) Friday essay: masters of the future or heirs of the past? Mining, history and Indigenous ownership, *The Conversation*.

(2020) We have enough electorates named after dead white men. It's time we chose a woman instead, *The Conversation*.

(2020) Australia doesn't have much to show for celebrating women's achievements, *The Guardian* (reprinted *Guardian Weekly*).

(2020) How the Dark Gets In, *Meanjin Quarterly*.

(2020). Lest we forget: a pandemic isn't a war but our healthcare workers are heroes, *The Guardian*.

(2019). Crafting the Nation: The Story of a Banner, a Bicentennial and a Berth in the Big House of Australian Democracy, *The Sydney Papers Online*.

(2019). Where Are the Memorials to Our Female Freedom Fighters, *The Guardian*.

(2019). How Isabel Letham became a legend, and gave rise to women's surfing in Australia, ABC Online.

(2018). I'll Have What She's Having: How Australia Inspired the World on Votes for Women, *The Age/Sydney Morning Herald*.

(2018) More than a century on, the battle fought by Australia's suffragists is yet to be won, *The Conversation*. (Reprinted in *Marie-Claire*)

(2017) Alice Cornwell: Fergus Hume on our Mysterious Madame Midas, *The Australian*.

(2017). How Australia Became a Nation and Women Won the Vote, *The Conversation*.

(2017). 'Bones' McGhie, a cigarette and nostalgia for a greater game, *The Conversation*.

(2016). Emancipated Wenches in Gaudy Jewellery: the liberating bling of the goldfields, *The Conversation*.

(2016). Who Will Australia's Folk Heroes Be in 130 Years' Time?, *The Conversation*.

(2016). Birth of a Nation: How Empowering Women Taught the World a Lesson, *The Conversation*.

(2015). Why I'm a climate optimist heading into 2016, *The Drum*.

(2015). Lest we forget our other heroes of war, fighting for freedom at home, *The Conversation*.

(2015). Friday Essay: A response to the Cronulla riots, ten years on, *The Conversation*.

(2014). Eureka flag heralds winds of change, *Sydney Morning Herald*.

(2013). Women are central to Australia's history. Why have we forgotten them?, *The Guardian*.

(2013). The other Australia Day: November 11 throughout history, *The Conversation*.

(2013). Flashers, femmes and other forgotten figures of the Eureka Stockade, *The Conversation*.

## Major Creative Outputs

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### Radio/podcast series

(2022) *Archive Fever* Season 4 (creator, co-writer and co-host), La Trobe University. [Forthcoming]

(2021) *Archive Fever* Season 3 (creator, co-writer and co-host), La Trobe University, 9 x 30 min episodes featuring long-form interviews with writers, journalists, curators, archivists and academics.

(2020) *Archive Fever* Season 2 (creator, co-writer and co-host), La Trobe University, 8 x 30 min episodes featuring long-form interviews with writers, journalists, curators, archivists and academics.

[www.archivefeverpod.com](http://www.archivefeverpod.com)

(2019) *Archive Fever* Season 1 (creator, co-writer and co-host), La Trobe University, 8 x 30 min episodes featuring long-form interviews with writers, journalists, curators, archivists and academics.

[www.archivefeverpod.com](http://www.archivefeverpod.com)

(2019) *Shooting the Past* Season 2 (creator, writer and host), ABC Radio National, 6 x 30 min. episodes aired weekly from 23 January 2019; also available on ABC Listen app and via podcast.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/shootingthepast/>

(2017) *Shooting the Past* Season 1 (creator, writer and host), ABC Radio National, 8 x 30 min. episodes aired weekly from 20 August 2017; also available on ABC Listen app and via podcast.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/shootingthepast/>

## Television documentary script

(2014) *The War That Changed Us*, Australian Broadcasting Corporation/Electric Pictures, 240 minutes. (creator and co-writer with Don Featherstone)

(2011). *Utopia Girls: How Women Won the Vote*, Australian Broadcasting Corporation/Renegade Films, 60 minutes. (creator, writer and presenter)

## Art Exhibition

(2017) Co-Curator (with Beverly Knight, Director, Alcaston Gallery), *The Extractive Frontier: Mining for Art*, Castlemaine State Festival 18-25 March. (Extended season at Castlemaine Art Museum, 18 March – 9 May 2017). I also wrote the catalogue essay for the exhibition.

## Consultancy

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The following is a representative list (not exhaustive) of the organisations and sectors that have called on my expertise and services as an historian in the fields of Australian history, gender history and political history.

## Government

Office for Women, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, Government of Victoria (2021) – consulting on commemorative justice, statue equality and representation of women in public art.

Office of Senator Penny Wong (2019) – requested to write historical background briefing paper for potential re-positioning of Women's Suffrage Banner in Parliament House, Canberra.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2019) – sole Australian representative at inaugural Bangkok Literary Festival.

Governor of Victoria (2018) – contracted to consult for and appear as expert interviewee in in-house documentary series explaining the role of the Governor and history of Government House.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2016) – member of 4-person cultural diplomacy tour of China as part of Australian Writers Week in China, sponsored by the Australian Embassy, Beijing. 10 days, 4 cities, 17 public events, including four Chinese universities, 5 – 16 March.

Victorian Public Sector Commission and Australian and New Zealand School of Government Seminar Series (2016), *Fixing the System*, guest speaker, Treasury Theatre, 29 April.

Victorian Department of Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (2016), White Ribbon Day speaker, discussing how an appreciation of women's history can lead to greater respect for women today, Melbourne, 25 November.

Major Projects Victoria (2016) – member of expert advisory panel (in role as expert historian) to advise Minister on naming of new bridge over Batman Avenue in Melbourne.

Major Projects Victoria (2016) – consultant on and writer of new historical interpretive signage for Speakers Corner on Yarra River, Melbourne.

## Industry Consultancies

Australasian Journal of Mining History (2020 - ) - Editorial board member

National Gallery of Victoria (2019) – historical advisor for forthcoming exhibition of Suffragette Collection at NGV International, July 2019.

Electric Pictures (2017) – historical consultant to WA-based television production company for 4-part social history television series in development with SBS.

Gordonian Films (2017) – historical consultant to Sydney-based television production company for 15- part children's television history series in development with ABC.

Human Rights Commission of Australia (2016) – contracted to consult and record voice over for HRC video celebrating 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Magna Carta.

Sovereign Hill Museums Association (2015) – commissioned to write 20,000-word research background paper to form basis of new Visitor Information Centre at Sovereign Hill. The Centre opened in 2018.

Guest curator (2015) for City of Melbourne's Melbourne Conversations series of public events held at BMW Edge, Federation Square.

Guest speaker (2015) State Library of Victoria Staff Development Conference, discussing end-user historical researcher experience of library resources and facilities.

Historical consultant and expert advisory panel (2010-2013), Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka (MADE), working in conjunction with Lateral Projects to design and curate new museum.

## Media

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Appearances as panelist and chair at various Australian literary and writers' festivals including Sydney Writers' Festival, Adelaide Festival, Melbourne Writers' Festival, Feminist Writers' Festival.

Appearances in the UK, US and Australian versions of *Who Do You Think You Are?*, genealogy-based television series.

Appearances as expert interviewee for current affairs journalism and political coverage in *The Guardian*, *ABC News*, *The Age*.

Foreign Correspondent on Australian history and public affairs on BBC Radio, Sky News (UK), Times Radio (UK), NPR (US).

Commentator and panelist on current affairs television programs including *Q&A*, *The Drum*, *The Project* and *Behind the News*.

Appearances as expert interviewee in over ten television historical documentaries for Australian public broadcasting networks, including *Further Back In Time for Dinner* (ABC), *Come Fly With Me* (SBS), *Dirty Business* (ABC).

Appearances as expert interviewee for educational and institutional documentaries and promotional videos for organisations including State Library of Victoria, Maurice Blackburn Lawyers, Governor of Victoria, TEDX and Open

Channel.

Over 100 radio interviews in the past five years for community, local and national radio stations, including regular co-hosting roles for ABC Radio Melbourne and ABC Radio Sydney and multiple interviews about historical topics on *Late Night Live*, *RN Breakfast* and *RN Saturday Extra*.

Three public lectures recorded and broadcast on ABC Radio National's *Big Ideas* program. One public lecture broadcast on *Sky News*.

Interviewed for article in *The New York Times* about Australian gender relations. "Do Australians Have a Case of Jacinda Envy", by Sisonke Msimang, *The New York Times*, 23 April 2019

Interviewed about writing women's history for podcasts including *A Pod of One's Own with Julia Gillard*, *Short Black with Sandra Sully*, *The Guilty Feminist*, *The Final Draft*, *There Will Be a Test*, *Glam City*, *The Bookpod*, *Better Words*, *Girls Invent*, *Unladylike*.

All recent media appearances can be found at [clarewright.com.au](http://clarewright.com.au)

## Service

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Ambassador (2021 - ) – Australia Reads, Australian Government, Office for the Arts

Museum of Australian Democracy, Canberra (2020-21) — Expert Advisory Panel, Democracy DNA permanent exhibitions.

Co-Founder, Co-Convenor and Board Director (2020 - ) – A Monument of One's Own, NFP campaign for statue equality.

Australian Republican Movement (2016- ) — National Advisory Committee.

Board Director (2014-2019) – The Wheeler Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas

International Advisor (2018) – Campbell Windham Prize (Yale University)

Literary Awards Judge (2010 – 21) – Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, Furphy Awards, The Age Book of the Year Awards