

WRITERS AND THEIR WORLD 2007
English Section, School of English, Communications and Performance Studies

DR IAN BRITAIN

EDITOR, *MEANJIN*

ON

‘WHY THE EDITOR IS GOD’

Date: Friday 8 June

Time: 1-2pm

Venue: W710, School of English Communications and Performance Studies

All welcome

Ian Britain was born in India in 1948, and migrated with his family to Australia in the 1950s. He was educated at ANU, Monash and Oxford Universities and awarded prestigious fellowships at each university.

Ian was appointed to the editorship of Australia's leading literary magazine, *Meanjin*, in 2001. Between 2001 and 2007, he has produced more than twenty issues of *Meanjin* on a wide range of themes, including biography, drugs, psychology, religion and love. The next issue of *Meanjin*, 'Globalisation and Culture' is part-dedicated to the Monash/Calcutta conference held in Kolkata in 2006. He was a founding editor of *Webbers* magazine in Melbourne in the early 1990s, a guest editor of *Island* (Hobart, 1994/5). He regularly writes book reviews and cultural commentary for newspapers and for *Australian Book Review*, has appeared frequently on ABC radio, and has been a guest speaker at various local and international writers' festivals. He was a judge of the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards (non-fiction category) since 2004, serving as convenor of the judging panel in 2006. He is a judge of the Melbourne *Age* Book of the Year in 2007.

Ian's books include *Fabianism and Culture: A Study in British Socialism and the Arts, 1884-1918* (Cambridge University Press, 1982; republished in paperback 2005) and *Once An Australian: Journeys with Barry Humphries, Clive James, Germaine Greer and Robert Hughes* (Oxford, 1997; paperback edition 1998). He also co-edited (with Brenda Niall) *The Oxford Book of Australian Schooldays* (1997; paperback edition, 1998), which was named Herald-Sun Book of the Year in 1997. His scholarly articles on various topics in English and Australian cultural history have appeared in a number of Australian and overseas journals, including *History Today* and *Victorian Studies*. He is currently continuing his research for a book on the mythology of the English public school from the Middle Ages to now and for a biography of painter and diarist Donald Friend.

Inquiries: Dr Chandani Lokuge; 52136