



THE PEN KENEALLY AWARD

27 MARCH 2007

**ADDRESS BY ANGELA BOWNE SC
PRESIDENT, SYDNEY PEN**

THERE ARE MANY THANKS TO BE GIVEN THIS EVENING

FIRST FOR THE PEN KENEALLY AWARD ITSELF, WHICH HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE ONLY THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF TOM KENEALLY AND RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA, WITH A SMALL CONTRIBUTION FROM SYDNEY PEN AND MELBOURNE PEN. RANDOM HOUSE HAS ASSISTED SYDNEY PEN OTHER WAYS TOO AND WE THANK IT FOR THIS CONTINUED ASSISTANCE.

TOM KENEALLY IS VERY SPECIAL TO PEN. ALONG WITH FRANK MOORHOUSE, HE IS A LIFE MEMBER OF PEN, AND ALSO A MEMBER OF THE DISTINGUISHED WRITERS PANEL THAT SUPPORTS SYDNEY PEN.

WE ARE HONOURED TO HAVE ANOTHER THREE OF OUR WRITERS PANEL HERE THIS EVENING: DAVID MALOUF AND JOHN TRANTER. THE SUPPORT OF THE WRITERS PANEL IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO SYDNEY PEN.

I SHOULD ALSO SAY THAT WE ALSO ENJOY THE SUPPORT OF A MOST ENERGETIC YOUNG WRITERS PANEL, YOUNG EMERGING WRITERS WHO ARE HERE TONIGHT, AND WHO ASSIST IN EVERY ASPECT OF SYDNEY PEN'S WORK.

TOM KENEALLY'S SUPPORT TO SYDNEY PEN HAS BEEN INVALUABLE. AMONGST OTHER THINGS, HE HAS SERVED ON THE PEN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE + WITH ROSIE SCOTT PLAYED A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR WRITERS IN DETENTION WORK, WHICH RESULTED IN PEN WINNING A HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD.

FOR THE VERY GENEROUS EVENT THIS EVENING, WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR CO-HOSTS, BANKI HADDOCK FIORA, ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S LEADING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRMS, AND COPYRIGHT AGENCY LTD. CAL WORKS IN NUMEROUS WAYS TO SUPPORT WRITERS AND IS ONE OF SYDNEY PEN'S PRINCIPAL SPONSORS. THANK YOU TO BOTH OF THEM.

FINALLY, THANK YOU TO THE AMAZING RODNEY FISHER AND OUR WONDERFUL ACTORS FOR THEIR MARVELLOUS RENDITION OF A SELECTION OF FRANK'S WORKS.

THE PEN KENEALLY AWARD IS A BIENNIAL AWARD WHICH ACKNOWLEDGES THE CONTRIBUTION OF INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANISATIONS TO THE AIMS OF INTERNATIONAL PEN - THE PROMOTION OF FRIENDSHIP AND INTELLECTUAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN WRITERS EVERYWHERE REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL OR OTHER VIEWS, THE PROMOTION OF LITERATURE AND LITERACY, AND THE FIGHT FOR THE FREEDOM TO READ AND WRITE.

THE PEN KENEALLY AWARD WAS FIRST GIVEN IN 2005 TO THE COURAGEOUS INDONESIAN PUBLISHER AND TRANSLATOR JOESOEF ISAK WHO PUBLISHED PRAMOEDYA ANANTA TOER AND WHO WAS IMPRISONED FOR 10 YEARS.

FRANK MOORHOUSE TOLD THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD THAT HE IS NOT WORTHY OF SUCH COMPANY. BUT FRANK HAS CONTINUALLY FOUGHT WARS ON BEHALF OF WRITERS FOR 40 YEARS. HIS CONTRIBUTION TO WRITERS AND WRITING IS UNSURPASSED. HE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN MANY CHALLENGES TO CENSORSHIP OF FILM AND BOOKS AND TEST CASES IN RELATION TO COPYRIGHT, AND HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE BATTLE FOR FREEDOM OF SPEECH. THERE COULD BE NO MORE WORTHY RECIPIENT OF THIS AWARD.