



MORRISSEY GOES BACK TO THE '60s

ABC TV's *Talking Heads* aired an interview with the author **Sue Woolfe** a couple of weeks ago in which she talked about her coming book, set partly in the 1960s, "when women's appearance seemed to be a defining thing". The ABC used archive footage of a sexy young woman walking down a street, men gazing at her. Unbeknown to the ABC, that woman was the best-selling novelist **Di Morrissey**, who provided this photo (above) from the footage. "The shot was taken in the late 1960s in Darlinghurst for a documentary on Italian immigrants by filmmaker Gian-Carlo Manara," Morrissey told *Undercover*. "I was just out of school and doing some acting work." The men in the photo appear uninterested, Morrissey explained with a laugh, because the director had already shot half a dozen takes.

POETRY FROM THE LAB

It seems the poetry-science thing is catching on. Last month *Undercover* mentioned the inaugural national Sci-ku competition, which called on poets to record their insights about science in a haiku. Now a panel of scientists and writers will discuss the interactions between science and poetry as part of a science-poetry project called *Science Made Marvellous*, to be launched during National Science Week at the State Library of NSW on August 17. The organiser, **Carol Jenkins**, says "there has been a terrific response to the call-out for science poems from scientists who write poems and writers who love science", resulting in three anthologies: *Law & Impulse – Maths and Chemistry Poems*; *Holding Patterns – Physics, Astronomy and Engineering Poems*; and *Earthly Matters – Biology and Geology Poems*.

LITERARY LOSSES

Australia lost two outstanding authors last week. Ther critically acclaimed novelist and Miles Franklin Award winner **Jessica Anderson** died in a nursing home in Elizabeth Bay at 93. The Australian Society of Authors said she was "an author of signal talent and importance". Anderson came to literary prominence in 1978 when she won the Miles Franklin Award for *Tirra Lirra by the River*, a feat she repeated in 1980 with *The Impersonators*. She served as a model and inspiration for many younger women writers, the society said. Also, the Melbourne writer and academic **Laurie Clancy** died at 67. Clancy, who taught creative writing at RMIT, had a broad range as an author, writing essays, short stories and novels as well as nonfiction works.



THE CHEQUE IS IN THE EMAIL

The Australian Society of Authors has recommended to authors that they should receive the same amount from an e-book sale as they do from the sale of the print book in a bookshop. Australia's e-book market grew to almost 2 million titles in May, when the international chain Borders launched its digital bookstore here. Its nearest rival is the US-based Amazon. The society says Australian publishers now offer authors new contracts – or ask them to sign addendums to existing contracts – that pay from 7 to 25 per cent royalties on e-books. That might sound like a lot, but the way online selling works means that it's a lot less than the standard 10 per cent royalty on a print book, it says. **Angelo Loukakis**, the society's executive director, advises local authors of print books that sell as e-books with a list price of between \$US10 (\$13) and \$US20 to aim for a minimum e-book royalty of 35 per cent of what the publisher receives from the online reseller.



A NOVEL HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Faber is reissuing nine novels by **P.D. James** (pictured) to celebrate the English crime author's 90th birthday on August 3. They include six novels featuring her iconic character, the Scotland Yard policeman and poet Adam Dalgliesh, and two featuring the private detective Cordelia Gray. James, a Conservative life peer in the House of Lords, published her first novel, *Cover Her Face*, featuring Dalgliesh, in 1962. Her latest book, *Talking About Detective Fiction*, was published last year.

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Susan Wyndham is on leave