



Brain teaser ... Director of the Centre for the Mind, Professor Allan Snyder, at the University of Sydney.

## sydney's brightest minds

Words Susan Wyndham

**Bob Carr**, NSW Premier. Australia's most intellectual politician since Gough Whitlam; enthuses about ancient Rome and US presidential history; book reviewer and author of *Thoughtlines* and other titles.

**David Coe**, chairman and managing director Allco Finance. A self-made millionaire with brains and soul; lawyer turned entrepreneur in international leasing, sports and entertainment; dedicated MCA chairman and board member of the National Gallery and Sydney Children's Hospital; collects art, reads German poetry and plays piano.

**David Malouf**, writer. Author of novels (for example *Johnno*, *An Imaginary Life*, *Remembering Babylon*), poetry, libretti and theatre; winner of Australian and world prizes such as the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and the Neustadt International Prize for Literature; wise and broad-minded commentator on matters from culture to politics.

**Mary Gaudron**, lawyer. First and only female High Court judge from 1987 until her early retirement last year, she has since been visiting professor of law at the University of NSW and on the International Labour Organisation in Geneva. First female QC in NSW, first female Solicitor-General in Australia, a supporter of the Mabo judgement and other progressive decisions.

**Owen Harries**, international security scholar. Player on the world stage and "formidable guru of the right", a fellow at the Centre for Independent Studies and Lowy Institute for International Policy; former adviser to Liberal leaders, ambassador to UNESCO, founding editor of US journal *The National Interest*.

**Geraldine Brooks**, writer. Tough, articulate and compassionate, award-winning journalist in Australia and the US, war correspondent and author of bestselling books such as *Nine Parts of Desire* on Muslim women and a historical novel, *Year of Wonders*.

**Allan Snyder**, director of the Centre for the Mind at Sydney University and ANU. Wacky and world-renowned science professor who has done groundbreaking work on insect vision, fibre optics and human creativity.

**Adam Spencer**, media host. IQ and humour in an appealing package, he studied and taught pure mathematics before becoming a comedian and presenter of Triple J radio's breakfast show and ABC TV science programs. Takes science to the masses as "the sleek geeks" with his brainy colleague Dr Karl Kruszelnicki.

**Gene Sherman**, art gallery owner. French literature academic before she started Paddington's Sherman Galleries, she is art educator as much as dealer and patron, holding seminars and opening shows with wide-ranging – and often demanding – speeches.

**Peter Sculthorpe**, composer. He has written most musical forms, from orchestral to film scores. A life member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, an OBE and has a personal chair in musical composition at Sydney University. For his 75th birthday this year his *Requiem* has its European premiere at the UK's Lichfield Festival.

Want to nominate another smart Sydneysider? Email us at [editor@thesydney.com.au](mailto:editor@thesydney.com.au)

# the (sydney) magazine

**Kiss me, Cate ... Sydney's 10 sexiest people**

Frank Moorhouse:  
My reflections  
on Father's Day

They want you:  
Inside our most  
exclusive clubs

Smart set:  
The city's  
brightest minds

**Plus:** Cast your  
vote in our annual  
Readers' Poll