

MEDIA RELEASE

the ballad of **MOONDYNE JOE**

JOHN KINSELLA AND NIALL LUCY

ABOUT THE BOOK

Moondyne Joe was colonial Australia's ultimate escape artist. His daring and repeated breakouts drove the Governor to build him a special cell. And when Moondyne Joe escaped again, he drove the Governor mad.

Moondyne Joe himself died a pauper in Fremantle Lunatic Asylum but not before he gained notoriety as a lawbreaker, the husband of a brothel madam, a bushman who befriended local Indigenous people, and as a folk hero who championed the underdog.

Written by John Kinsella, one of Australia's best known poets, and Niall Lucy, a caustic and irreverent social commentator, this book is an anarchic and playful examination of an elusive man and the harsh convict system he resisted.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

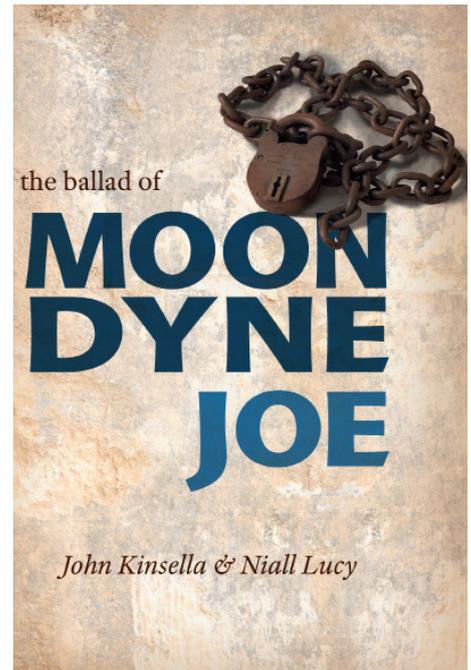
John Kinsella is an award winning poet and the author of volumes of short stories, novels, plays, and criticism. Born in Western Australia, he lives in the wheatbelt, though he has spent many years living and teaching in England and the USA. He is a Professorial Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia and an Extraordinary Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge University, where he is also the Judith E. Wilson Fellow in Poetry for 2011-12. He is the editor of *The Penguin Anthology of Australian Poetry*.



Niall Lucy is Professor of Critical Theory at Curtin University and founding co-editor of international journal *Ctrl-Z: new media philosophy*. His books include *A Derrida Dictionary*, *Pomo Oz: Fear and Loathing Downunder*, *The War on Democracy: Conservative Opinion in the Australian Press* (with Steve Mickler), and *Vagabond Holes: David McComb and The Triffids* (co-edited with Chris Coughran).

KEY POINTS

- Features new poetry by multi-award-winning poet John Kinsella.
- Using poetry, scripts, source materials, essays and timelines this book gradually accumulates information about Moondyne Joe, his life as a convict and the meanings we attach to convict mythology today.



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