

Stephen Downes, BSc (Melb), PhD (Monash)

Stephen is a writer and journalist best-known as the uncompromising restaurant critic who published weekly assessments over several decades for *The Australian Financial Review*, *The Sunday Age* and the *Herald Sun*.

He was a section editor and feature writer at *The Age*, and once covered a war for *Agence France-Presse*.

A few of his food-themed books won international and Australian awards, and he won the 2020 UK Fiction Factory's short-story competition for a tale called *Last Meal*. His debut novel *The Hands of Pianists* came out in March 2021 to a rave review from critic Peter Craven, who considers it the equal of W. G. Sebald's prose fictions.

Crabtree Oration 2003: *How Crabtree Created Camembert*

Stephen Downes is the Australian Chapter's foundation Living Burden