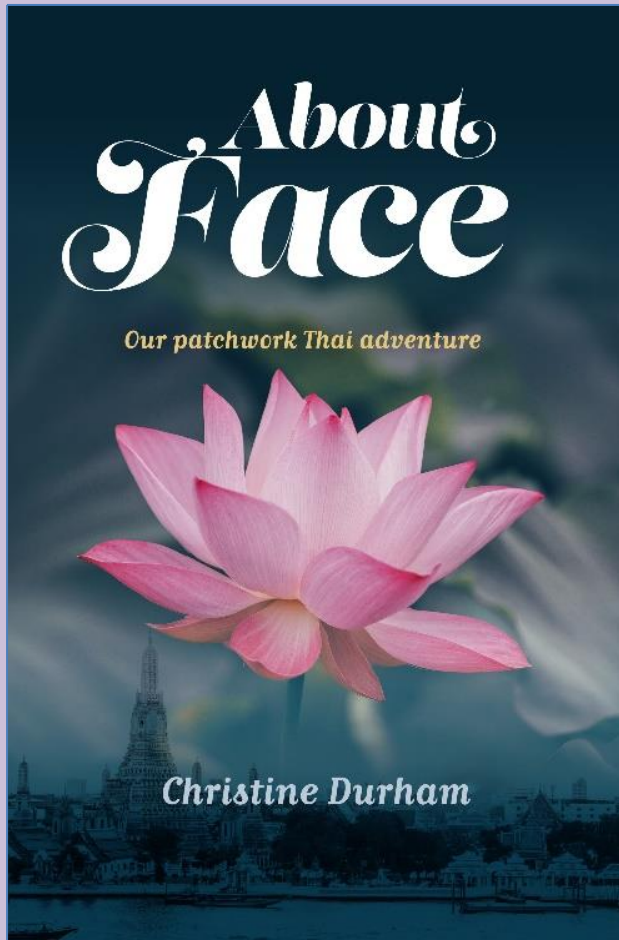


Eltham Bookshop, Streamline Publishing and Sontaya Thai Restaurant

present a Sunset Book Launch of

About Face: Our Thai Odyssey by Dr. Christine Durham, OAM.



Christine Durham OAM is well-known for her work on change, and helping people deal with it. Yet in the 1970s, as a young mother of four under ten and a 'good' company wife suddenly relocated to Thailand, Christine struggles to comprehend the wild and terrible changes happening to and around her in the instability following the Vietnam War.

Promised and enjoying the dream-life as a pampered expat on the one hand in the astonishing beauty of the 'The Land of Smiles', Christine also experiences treachery, dangers to her children and ultimately death threats that will force her to flee with her husband, terrified for their family.

Interspersed with the fast-paced narrative, extracts from her reflective journal written at the time and hidden

for forty years since are witness to Christine's attempts to fathom her thoughts and her sense of guilt as a mother. Are these dangerous predicaments that keep occurring her fault? She explores the layered concepts that lie beneath the froth of adventures and everyday *farang* life as loss of 'face'/pride/honour and luck manipulate the family's life and demonstrate what can go horribly wrong when control is lost in a foreign country.

This true account will strike chords with the 'mother-knot' of many readers, those who imagine they know the expat experience and those who remember well the social upheaval of the 1970s.

About Face: Our Thai Odyssey is a fast-paced, accessible read, excellent for group discussions and book clubs. Its authentic voice of lived experience presents situations that have currency and relevancy for today.

About the author



Christine Durham, educator, is the author of *Doing up Buttons* (Penguin Australia, 1997), *Unlocking My Brain* (Ventura Press, 2014), *Chasing Ideas* (Finch Publishing, 2001, 2014) and *Insight into Acquired Brain Injury* (Springer Nature). She has talked about coping with change, and helping students be better, brighter thinkers, both in Australia and around the globe.

Christine was Victorian Senior Australian the Year in 2014. She has an OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia) for her services to Education, a PhD and a Doctor of Social Science *honoris causa* (RMIT). Chris is the mother of four, grandmother of seven and lives with her husband, Ted, on a hilltop among the gumtrees in Eltham.

The Launch

Christine's book will be launched by her daughters, Andrea and Helen.

Ms Andrea Durham is Head of Arts and Technology at Catholic Ladies' College, Eltham - a passionate creative educator, she credits the beginning of her passion for art, textiles and culture to her time spent in Thailand.

Dr Helen Durham AO has recently returned from Geneva after 8 years as the Director of Law and Policy for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). As the first female and non-Swiss in the role during the 150-year history of ICRC, she travelled widely and ran a large department of lawyers, diplomats and former military officers. Much of her passion for justice and international engagement stemmed from her childhood and subsequent experiences in Bangkok.

Date: Tuesday 21 February 2023.

Time: 6.30 – 8.30pm.

Venue: Sontaya Thai Restaurant, Eltham Terrace, Shop 4, 9 Dudley St, Eltham.

Entry: Single: \$60; Couple: \$95; includes a welcome drink, a most tasty Thai dinner and one copy of the book or one \$20 Eltham bookshop gift voucher.

Early pre-paid bookings are essential as places are limited.

Please call 9439 8700 or book via www.elthambookshop.com.au/ Our Author Events. Bookclubs are especially welcome.

Please mention dietary requirements at time of booking.