



Miles Franklin Literary Award 2009 Longlist

The Devil's Eye
Ian Townsend

Fourth Estate (HarperCollinsPublishers Australia)

It is 1899, and one of the fiercest storms in history is brewing — a hurricane named Mahina.

To a remote part of the Queensland coast come the hundreds of sails of the northern pearling fleets, and a native policeman trying to solve a murder. Nearly two thousand men, women and children are gathering around Cape Melville, right in the path of the storm that is about to cause Australia's deadliest natural disaster.

Based on real events, this is the story of an unstoppable force of nature and the birth and death of an Australian dream.

About Ian Townsend

Ian Townsend is a journalist with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

He is the winner of two national Eureka Prizes for science and medical journalism. His first novel, *Affection*, was longlisted for the 2007 Dublin IMPAC Literary Award, and shortlisted for the 2006 Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book, South-East Asia and South Pacific region, the Foundation of Australian Literary Studies' Colin Roderick Award for the best Australian book of 2005, and the 2005 Vance Palmer Prize for Fiction at the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards.

He lives in Brisbane with his wife, Kirsten MacGregor, and their three daughters: Charlotte, Josephine and Gabrielle.