We are all at home in places constructed as narratives, and in selves who act like characters in those narratives. We know we’re at home when we feel ourselves to be most in character. - Ian Wedde

Ian Wedde ONZM is one of New Zealand’s most influential cultural commentators and public intellectuals. As a poet, novelist and essayist he has been awarded some of the country’s most significant literary awards, and as head of art and visual culture at Te Papa Tongarewa/The Museum of New Zealand (1994-2004) he curated many important exhibitions. Ian’s versatile talents have established him as a leader among the generation of writers born in the immediate post-war period.

Born in Blenheim in 1946, Ian spent the early part of his life in East Pakistan and England. Returning to New Zealand he attended King’s College and the University of Auckland, and from 1966 his poems began appearing regularly in journals, including Landfall and Freed. To date, he has published fourteen collections of poems, six novels and a collection of short stories, while his essays in art criticism and cultural studies have been collected in How To Be Nowhere: Essays and Texts, 1971-1994 and Making Ends Meet: Essays and Talks 1992-2004. His latest novel, The Catastrophe, appears in August 2011.

Ian is completing a book about the meaning of home. His talk draws on that material.

Date: Thursday 15th September 2011
Venue: Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts, Dance Studio
Gate 2, Knighton Road, Hamilton
Time: 5.30 pm: Lecture begins
6.30 pm: Launch of Speaking Frankly: The Frank Sargeson Memorial Lectures 2003-2010
Light refreshments provided.

Please RSVP by Thursday 1 September to Katie Johnson, School of Arts, on 07 838 4922, or katiej@waikato.ac.nz