

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends

Since our last newsletter, the Committee has been looking at ways to refresh the way we provide you with information and identify events for members of the Friends of the National Library. Following suggestions from some members, we will include a Friends logo on event images to more easily identify upcoming Friends events in the weekly enews. Contributors to the quarterly newsletter will also provide more information about their connection to the Friends to help you get to know the Friends Committee, Friends members and Library volunteers.

We are also finalising a new and more striking image for the membership card, which should be available soon.

We are privileged to have a spacious and attractive Friends Lounge provided to us by the Library, and we are looking at ways to encourage increased use by members. We have a children's reading corner to provide a special space for children, parents and grandparents to relax and read. We have also recently included favourite titles from the new major exhibition *Story Time: Australian Children's Literature*. I encourage everyone to visit the lounge and enjoy the views of Lake Burley Griffin, browse a magazine, chat and have a free tea or coffee.

Lyn Adams | Chair



The new Friends event banner.

STORY TIME: AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE



Charlotte Waring Atkinson (Charlotte Barton), *A Mother's Offering to Her Children: By a Lady Long Resident in New South Wales* (Sydney: George Evans, Bookseller, 1841), nla.cat-vn777812.

Do you remember reading *Seven Little Australians*, *The Magic Pudding*, *The Rainbow Serpent*, *The Deltora Quest* series or *Where Is the Green Sheep?* Do you still read them? *Story Time: Australian Children's Literature* is an exhibition of children's literature from the colonial period through to the present day, and promises to inspire nostalgia in those who have read and shared these stories over decades. It will reacquaint you with old friends and introduce you to new ones.

Australia has a rich history of writing for children and *Story Time* takes you on a journey across time and place, displaying work by authors and illustrators such as Bronwyn Bancroft, Mem Fox, May Gibbs, Bob Graham, Emily Rodda, Ivan Southall, Shaun Tan and Ethel Turner. The exhibition is presented in association with the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature. It features books, manuscripts, illustrations and ephemera from the Library's extensive collections alongside significant loans.

Included in the exhibition is the first children's book published in Australia, *A Mother's Offering to Her Children* from 1841. The author, Charlotte Waring Atkinson (also known as Charlotte Barton), covers a wide variety of topics, interpreted through tales of heroism and adventure. You can read the digitised copy of the book through the National Library catalogue.

Visitors to the Friends Lounge will also find several of the titles displayed in the exhibition available to browse in the Children's Reading Corner.

Story Time is open from 22 August 2019 to 9 February 2020.



2019 Friends Annual General Meeting

The 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the National Library of Australia Inc. will be held on Thursday 21 November at 5.30pm. Nomination forms for the 2020 Friends Committee are included with this Friends Newsletter and are also available from the Friends office.

In addition to the AGM business, the meeting will include the announcement of the recipients of the 2020 Friends Travelling Fellowship, 2020 Friends Creative Arts Fellowship and the 2019 Friends Medal.

Bookings are requested for catering purposes on 02 6262 1698 or stickytickets.com.au/90261

Have You Ever Thought about Joining the Friends Committee?

If you would like to contribute to the running of the Friends of the National Library, consider joining the Committee! Meetings are held at 5.15pm on the third Tuesday of every second month, starting December 2019, and run for around an hour.

We welcome nominations from members of all ages and backgrounds; previous committee experience is not a prerequisite. Simply complete and return the enclosed nomination form by 22 October. If you would like further information, please contact Melanie Olde, Friends Executive Officer, on 02 6262 1551 or email friends@nla.gov.au. We look forward to hearing from you!

Volunteer Project: Tivoli Theatre Programs

The Library has some 570 Tivoli Theatre programs in its ephemera PROMPT Collection, dating from 1898 to 1966 when the Tivoli wound down. A team of volunteers at the Library has been entering details of performances at the Tivoli Theatre into a database located at Flinders University called AusStage, which is an online resource for collecting and sharing information about live theatre and other performance in Australia. The volunteers have been working on this project for some four years, and more than once thought they had finished. But the miraculous Trove forced them to stay on the job. Trove now searches the AusStage database and so, instead of entering just the main players into the database, the trusty volunteers are now entering every name they can find for those working both on the stage (for example, as a soubrette or a prestidigitator) and behind the scenes as lighting designers, stage managers, wardrobe mistresses and the like. Why? These characters may be someone's forebear, and this new search capacity via Trove may help them find some trace of their ancestor and the often fascinating working life in the Tivoli.

It is clear that the use of the AusStage database has increased since Trove has been searching it. In addition, other institutions with theatre-related collections have become aware of the 570 theatre events the Library volunteers have put in to the database and are now adding their Tivoli material, such as costumes, costume designs or set designs. This is the Trove multiplier effect!

The volunteer team suggests you test its work on Trove. Enter 'Cornelio Balangue' and under the 'Journals, articles and data sets' tab, follow the 'Oriental Cavalcade' entry to get to the relevant AusStage entry. From there you can look at Contributors and find out what Mr Balangue did.

Margaret Goode | Volunteer of the National Library

Sidney Nolan in the Treasures Gallery

Drought ravages the Australian landscape. Few have captured as graphically as Sidney Nolan in his 'Drought series' the devastation and death drought can bring. Four of his images are now on display in the Treasures Gallery.

Nolan, an avid photographer, was commissioned in 1952 by Brisbane's *Courier Mail* to journey through outback northern Australia to document the effects of the prolonged drought. However, so harrowing were his photographs of the bleak landscape and contorted and emaciated livestock carcasses that the newspaper refused to publish them.

Nolan had been deeply moved by his experiences of the drought. His haunting images of desiccated animal carcasses were inspired, he said, by the petrified human remains he had seen at Pompeii. He wrote in 1952: 'Death takes on a curiously abstract patten under these arid conditions. Carcasses of animals are preserved in strange shapes which have often a kind of beauty, or even grim elegance'.

Later, in 1955, he created a number of stark, uncompromising drawings and paintings out of his experiences.

Nolan's photographs remained unseen for more than 40 years until the negatives were discovered in Wales in 1996 in an old cigarette tin. A young Australian archivist was helping Nolan's widow Mary sort through 50 years of Nolan's works and possessions.

The drawings were rediscovered earlier, in 1982, on the Isle of Arran, Scotland, when the possessor, who had been gifted them by Nolan's second wife Cynthia, showed them to a curator.

We are fortunate that the negatives and drawings have returned to Australia. Nolan's drought images are visionary, and show a very different interpretation of the Australian outback to the pastoral imagery so dominant since the nineteenth century.

The Library has been trusted with the care of Sidney Nolan's papers, which offer a remarkable insight into his life. The images on display are a very small part of this collection. Join a daily tour of the Treasures Gallery at 11.30am or view Nolan's drought images online on the Library's website.

Kerry Blackburn | Friends Committee Member and Volunteer



Miriam Covell viewing the Sidney Nolan images in the Treasures Gallery.



Library Director-General Marie-Louise Ayres with *Fish Trap* by Jenni Kemarre Martiniello.

The Friends Gift to the National Library for its 50th Birthday

After much searching, the Friends Committee have chosen and purchased a stunning artwork to give to the National Library to celebrate 50 years since the building opened. The piece chosen is a 75 centimetre glass sculpture entitled *Fish Trap* made by artist Jenni Kemarre Martiniello. Jenni is an internationally renowned contemporary Indigenous Australian artist, writer and advocate. To quote Jenni: 'In my current artistic practice I have concentrated on the incredibly beautiful forms of traditional woven eel traps, fish traps, fish scoops, dillibags and coiled and open weave baskets seeking to evoke the interplay of light and form found in those objects, and in so doing, create contemporary glass works which are also objects of cultural as well as artistic significance'.

Melanie Olde | Friends Executive Officer

Friends History Day Trip: Journey to Joadja 21 September 2019

Half an hour's drive from Mittagong, in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales, you can find the ruins of the historic town of Joadja.

Added to the New South Wales State Heritage Register in 1999, the settlement of Joadja began its story in the late 1870s to service the opening of a shale mine. At its peak, approximately 1,200 people, mostly Scottish immigrants, lived at the settlement, requiring and developing many of the facilities that make a community operate.

The mine, which invited the workers to the site, was eventually to become the Australian Kerosene Oil and Mineral Company, mining shale to refine into a plethora of products.

You can find the circa 1885 catalogue of the company in the Library's collection as well as online, as it has been digitised (nla.gov.au/nla.obj-904937113). It makes for a fascinating read.

Workers at the mine were offered cottages at a nominal rent, which were built from bricks made on the site. These workers brought their families, and the town rapidly developed a general store, post office and bakery.

A lifeline and feature of the village was the steep rail line, constructed to replace the bullock teams, for transport and haulage. The incline was powered by a 40-horsepower steam engine, and the rail line allowed for easier connection to Mittagong.

By 1903, the mine and works closed and, by 1911, the inhabitants had relocated, leaving the town deserted.

Since the town was added to the Heritage Register, the landowners are continuing with the conservation of the site.

Join the Friends History Day Trip: Journey to Joadja on 21 September 2019. See the events listing on the back page for booking details or visit nla.gov.au/events.

RECENT FRIENDS EVENTS

Shared Dreams and Destinies: Botanic Gardens of Melbourne and Sydney In association with the Australian Garden History Society

On 4 July 2019, Lyn Adams, Chair of the Friends of the National Library, welcomed around 160 guests to the Library to enjoy a presentation on the key features and history of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney and the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne.

Sue Byrne, Chair of the Canberra Branch of the AGHS, introduced Professor Tim Entwisle, the Director of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens and a former director of the Sydney Botanic Gardens.

Professor Entwisle led off with reference to the Sydney Botanic Gardens, pointing out that they were the third botanic gardens in the Southern Hemisphere when established in 1816. The Sydney Botanic Gardens were the first scientific facility in the fledgling colony of New South Wales and considerably developed under the directorship of Charles Moore, a Scottish horticulturist who led the gardens from 1848 until 1896.

The early managers in Sydney came from the Kew Gardens in London but adapted to the local climate in their plantings and research. For instance, William Guilfoyle, an early director, was influential in the planting and development of sub-tropical plants, well-suited to the Sydney climate. As a result, about 60 per cent of the trees in the Sydney Botanic Gardens today are native.

Turning to his current role in Melbourne, Professor Entwisle talked of the Red Gums existing on the site of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens when the gardens were established in 1846.

Frederick Von Mueller, a botanist and chemist and later a medical doctor, was appointed Director of the Botanical Gardens in 1857 and served until 1873. One of his approaches to developing the gardens was to introduce a focus on edible plants, including the blackberry, not a move that would be appreciated today given its noxious weed status. Von Mueller established the National Herbarium in Melbourne, which today holds around 400,000 plant specimens.

In drawing a very lively and most interesting presentation to a close, Professor Entwisle envisaged the future of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens as being a collection of 'exciting, quirky, innovative landscapes' subject to the effects of evolving climate change.

Howard Murray | Friends Committee Member

NLA PUBLISHING SPOTLIGHT

World Heritage Sites of Australia

by Peter Valentine

Most well-read Australians will be aware of our World Heritage sites and for many sites, such as the Great Barrier Reef, Kakadu National Park and the Sydney Opera House, their fame is universal. In *World Heritage Sites of Australia*, the exceptional attributes of each site are described to help the reader appreciate what makes each worthy of the World Heritage label. The book is heavily illustrated by a variety of images that capture these attributes and, thanks to the richness of the National Library's collections, these include paintings; historical photographs; images sourced from the various experts associated with the sites; and masterpieces of landscape photography, such as Peter Dombrovskis' image of the Southwest National Park in the Tasmanian Wilderness, which adorns the front cover.

Australia was one of the earliest supporters of the World Heritage Convention and was only the seventh nation to join when it did so in 1974. Since then, we have served on the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on several occasions, as we do at the moment. At present, there are 193 countries who have joined the convention and between them they have 1,092 sites across 167 nations. Not surprisingly, as the only nation that occupies an entire continent, Australia has a great many potential sites, reflecting the diversity of our environment, and at the present time we have 19 sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. Providing a comprehensive account of our existing World Heritage sites, with a chapter devoted to each, *World Heritage Sites of Australia* is a celebration of this remarkable heritage, which includes the astonishing Indigenous cultural heritage across the continent, 12 sites categorised as natural heritage and three cultural heritage sites that represent our colonial history.

Peter Valentine | Author, *World Heritage Sites of Australia*

FRIENDS EVENTS

Bookings: nla.gov.au/events or 02 6262 1698

Friends History Day Trip: Journey to Joadja

Leave the steps of the National Library and arrive in the Southern Highlands for a day exploring history. After morning tea, enjoy a tour of Joadja town followed by a barbecue lunch and whisky tasting at the Joadja Distillery, then travel on to historic Berrima courthouse.

Saturday 21 September | 8am–6pm

\$110 Friends, \$130 non-members

(includes bus tour, refreshments and all entry fees)



Historic photograph of Joadja Stacks. Image provided by Joadja Creek Heritage Tours.

Collecting Biographies: Australian Colonial Women

Join us for an event showcasing the recent initiative by the Australian Dictionary of Biography to commission articles for over 1,500 Australian women of the colonial period. Hear from Professor Melanie Nolan, Director of the National Centre of Biography, to learn more about the project, the people and how you can nominate women for inclusion.

Wednesday 6 November | 12.30pm (refreshments from 12pm)

Conference Room

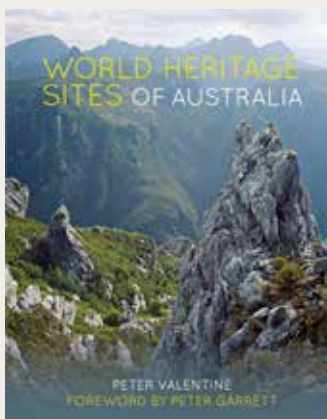
\$25 members, \$30 non-members

NATIONAL LIBRARY BOOKSHOP SPECIAL OFFER FOR FRIENDS

Friends will receive a **20% discount off *World Heritage Sites of Australia*** when purchased between **1 September 2019** and **30 November 2019**, online and instore.

To claim your 20% discount for *World Heritage Sites of Australia* in the online shop, use the promotional code **FRING19** at the checkout.

You can use this code to also apply the usual Friends 15% discount* to other eligible online purchases.



* Discount does not apply to limited edition prints, discounted and remaindered stock, newspapers, stamps, copy cards, magazines and vouchers.

DISCOUNT CODE FOR LIBRARY EVENTS

To claim your 15% discount on ticketed Library events, bookings must be made online at nla.gov.au/bookings and the discount code **FRING19** entered when booking. This code is valid from **1 September 2019** to **30 November 2019** and does not apply to Friends events (select the member's ticket option) or events that are free of charge.