

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends

In this winter newsletter we are delighted to have news from our 2016 Creative Arts Fellow, playwright Micharne Cloughly, who is now working in New York pursuing production opportunities. Please read the article by curator Ros Clarke on the Frank Hurley exhibition *Pilgrimage: Hurley in the Middle East*. The National Library volunteers' account of the project on the Rex Nan Kivell provenance sales records will fascinate you. They found a few interesting surprises in the collection!

I would like to make special mention of our visit to the Embassy of Sweden in March. Friends of the Library, with members of the Garden History Society, enjoyed wandering around the beautiful residence gardens, where speakers provided information about the purpose of the gardens and information on the plants. As an extra highlight we had the privilege of viewing early photographs of the Gilbert Islands (now Kiribati) in the residence, which were taken by Sixten Bock between 1916 and 1917. The event finished with a special treat of ginger biscuits with blue cheese and a glass of champagne. Our thanks to Ambassador and Mrs Ahlberger for an informative and enjoyable afternoon.

Shortly, the Friends of the National Library will announce our beautiful 50th anniversary gift to the Library and you will receive an invitation to a special event at which it will be presented.

We welcome four new Friends Committee members: Kerry Blackburn, Margot Geering, Barbara Rohan and Malcolm Thurston.

Have you seen our Friends webpage on the National Library of Australia's website, nla.gov.au? Select 'Support us' in the header bar and then 'Friends of the Library'. Find upcoming events, read the Friends Newsletter online and renew your Friends membership!

Lyn Adams
Chair

UPDATE FROM MICHARNE CLOUGHLY, 2016 FRIENDS CREATIVE ARTS FELLOW



Micharne Cloughly

When I presented *My Strong Female Ego* in 2016 at the Library, the play was in the form of a series of conversations between two women. These conversations were two separate interviews that were on the same subject or idea, spliced together to create a conversation. The play was not unsuccessful, but I felt like it was not the strongest choice to tell the stories of the women in the Hazel de Berg oral histories.

I rewrote the play entirely over 2017 and early 2018, to take the form of a panel of women, as in a conference, with an interviewer voice guiding the narrative. The play has a new title: *A Dream Panel of Real Women from the Oral Histories of Hazel de Berg*. I workshopped the play with the teenagers at the Spark Theatre Company in Ashfield, New South Wales, in May 2018, as I believe the play has a future in education. I received useful feedback from this workshop and the play was well received by the young people in the company. It was very encouraging that this new form was the right structure for the play.

This pursuit of the strongest choice is something I have learnt during my time working in New York City. For the past three years, I have worked for playwright and showrunner Warren Leight, on projects with Paul Haggis, Walter Bernstein, Baz Luhrmann, Alan Menken and Howard Gordon, among others. Seeing the rough, early drafts of writers I admire, and seeing them throw everything out and start again, I quickly realised that excellent writing is not only about raw talent, but about the volume of work that goes into one project. Also, the skill is in knowing what a stronger choice might be, and not just for a project overall, but for each act, each scene, and each line of dialogue.

I am currently pursuing production opportunities for *Dream Panel* and will update you when I have news. Thank you again, so much, for your support.

Micharne Cloughly

PILGRIMAGE: HURLEY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Pilgrimage: Hurley in the Middle East is on display until Sunday 25 August.

Photographer Frank Hurley had one of the most remarkable lives of any Australian in the twentieth century, full of expeditions to far off places and swashbuckling adventures. This was the man who journeyed to Antarctica six times, travelled all over the globe, flew with heroes of early aviation such as Sir Ross Smith, survived two world wars and photographed kings, queens and presidents. While Hurley is particularly well known for his photographs from Antarctica and the First World War, his later work from his travels in the Middle East in the 1940s is equally breathtaking.

Set against the backdrop of the Second World War, *Pilgrimage: Hurley in the Middle East* shows Hurley's fascination with the peoples, landscape and architecture of the area. Interspersed with filming the battles, campaigns and armies that he, as Official Photographer to the Second AIF, was meant to be recording, Hurley frequently shot scenic photos of traditional farming practices, beautiful vistas and significant religious sites.

In one instance, Hurley even nicked off for the afternoon between shooting the visiting Prime Minister Robert Menzies to take photos of historic Italian architecture in Benghazi.

The National Library is fortunate to hold over 11,000 Hurley images, including a rare collection of original Hurley prints that display his mastery of the technical process of print production. They also show the signature Hurley technique of combining multiple negatives to create one composite print, a practice that got him in trouble with his superiors throughout his life. These images are unique, probably one of a kind, and are on display for the first time since they were acquired from Hurley's family.

Also on display in the exhibition are items from Hurley's own papers (held at MS 883). These objects include his personal map of Palestine, his passport and military identification cards, and a collection of guidebooks that informed his travels throughout the region, particularly in his later role with the British Ministry of Information. Hurley ended up travelling over 200,000 miles through the Middle East—exploring from Tripoli to Baghdad, from the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea.

Ros Clarke



Frank Hurley's photograph of cameleers in front of the Pyramids of Giza.

VOLUNTEER PROJECT: REX NAN KIVELL PROVENANCE RECORDS



Rex Nan Kivell correspondence files, MS 4000.

When you visit the Treasures Gallery, you may notice that many of the items displayed are attributed to the Sir Rex Nan Kivell Collection.

Nan Kivell, one of the Library's major benefactors, was a passionate collector of manuscripts, pictures, books, maps and other material relating to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific region. His collection comprises over 11,000 items.

Nan Kivell's personal correspondence came with the collection and provides a veritable goldmine of information on the provenance of many items in the collection. However, it is difficult for researchers to wade through the hundreds of documents searching for a single hidden jewel of information.

Our team of six volunteers is working through the ten boxes of files to copy the sales records onto a database and search the Library catalogue records to find a match. It is a mammoth task!

Along the way, we have found some fascinating material. For instance, the first item in File 3 is a manila envelope containing original documents relating to the remarkable story surrounding the portrait of Betsy Broughton that Nan Kivell had purchased on a whim from a secondhand dealer. He later discovered a letter in the back of the portrait that revealed an amazing story about Betsy, a girl of about seven years old, and her early life in Australia.

The correspondence has also yielded some fascinating, and even quirky, material. It seems Nan Kivell purchased the green painted front door from Sir Joseph Banks' London residence and had it installed in his own house.

One of the amusing anecdotes we gleaned concerns Nan Kivell's remarks to a friend on the condition of a painting he'd purchased. He writes saying it's been 'overzealously cleaned by some ignoramus or a series of them'.

Another aspect of the collector comes through strongly in his letters to owners of pictures he is keen to acquire. He is always friendly and polite, inquiring after the person's health but always ends saying 'if ever you feel you want to part with item x please remember to call me first'.

Jenny Oates

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kerry Blackburn

Kerry has been a Library volunteer for five years. Since her first involvement as a guide for the *Mapping Our World* exhibition, she has guided for every subsequent special exhibition (now more than ten), each iteration of the Treasures Gallery, Behind the Scenes and Discover Your National Library. She has been part of the working groups that develop the guides' guides and assisted the publications team with research for authors and proofreading for publications. These activities have been great learning experiences and made her aware of the wonderful resource that is the Library—and how more people should be made aware of its amazing collections.

Margo Geering

Many of you may remember Margo's contribution to the Friends Committee several years ago, along with her husband. We're sure you'll get to see her again at Friends events as an active member of the Events Sub-Committee. Margo is a former biochemist, turned teacher, and has been retired for many years. She fills her time with travelling, art, reading and book clubs and as a volunteer in Australian art at the National Gallery of Australia.

Barbara Rohan

Barbara has been a Friend for quite a while, attending many of the events, buying at the bookshop as well! She has a background in education as a former adult and secondary school teacher with a degree in English, history and drama, and has developed programs in many spheres including Indigenous history, drama, debating and creative writing. She is currently busy convening a history club, 'Odyssey', in 2019 for the University of the Third Age.

Malcolm Thurston

Malcolm has been an Adeladian for most of his life but has been in Canberra for 20 interesting years. He has been consulting in education management and is a lifelong learner, enjoying postgraduate studies in law and history. Some of you may be familiar with Malcolm, as he conducted the Dickens' Reading Group in the Friends Lounge for five years. He loves reading, history (especially political history), gardening and generally enjoying life.

Melanie Olde



Friends enjoying the Japanese sample books at the White Gloves: Asian Textiles event.

TEXTILES FROM ASIAN COLLECTIONS

Systematic collecting of publications from and about Asia by the National Library began in the 1950s. While the Library holds some old and rare items, the real strength is the collecting of materials focusing on contemporary Asia, from the nineteenth century onwards. Arguably, the Library now holds the largest and most actively developing research resource on Asia in Australia.

Collections can evolve in unexpected ways and we would like to highlight some of these hidden gems—some exquisite examples of Japanese textile sample books as well as Chinese jacquard posters. These items have been acquired for the collection because they provide an insight into the social and cultural landscape of the countries they originate from and because they enrich the research experience and understanding.

The major strengths of the Japanese collection are in the subject fields of the social sciences, especially popular culture and contemporary social issues; Japanese modern history (after the 1868 Meiji Restoration); and the history of Australia–Japan relations.

Take, for example, Japanese textile sample books dating from the nineteenth century through to the 1970s. You can research the history of the Silk Road and how weaving techniques arrived in Japan. You can also examine the different structures, designs, dyes, materials and purpose of the cloths, while considering the influence of society, dynastic change, technological development and economics. You can study the anthropology of weaving communities, how they interact in cities and rural areas, and the influences of seasonal changes.

One noteworthy item is *Ancient Gift Cloth, No. 2*. This work was compiled in the late Meiji period, sometime between 1880 and 1900. The book is a silk sample cloth catalogue of decorative and brocade silks for formal kimonos, showing crests of some of the most important families of the period.

During the Meiji period, Japan was industrialising but at the same time the Arts and Crafts Movement was developing as an international trend in decorative and fine arts. As many of you will know, it stood for a return to traditional craftsmanship using simple forms, often with medieval, romantic or folk styles of decoration—quite the opposite of industrial. Some of the items on display exemplify the Mingei art movement that tried to rediscover and introduce the beauty of Japanese folk art to a larger audience.

Also of significance is a series of Chinese jacquard posters from the Chinese collection. Throughout Chinese history, textiles were used to demonstrate dissent towards political regimes. In the twentieth century, they were used as a medium for propagandist art, communicating social and political principles.

The woven posters on display were acquired to complement the Chinese political poster collection. Some of you may remember the recent Collections-in-Focus exhibition *Waving the Red Flag: Chinese Posters 1949–1976*, which featured many posters from the collection. The works illustrate the propagandist messages that were distributed.

The Library's collection is full of treasures such as these—sometimes unexpected, rare or the only ones of their kind in Australia. Together they provide an invaluable source of knowledge for researchers from Australia and the region.

Elizabeth Baillie

RECENT FRIENDS EVENTS

Cultural Connections: Papua New Guinea

A large group gathered in the theatre for this special evening, the first in a short series celebrating the 2019 UNESCO Year of Indigenous Languages. This year provides a perfect opportunity to explore and learn more about some of the languages of Australia and the region. Through language, people preserve their community's history, customs and traditions, memory, unique modes of thinking, meaning and expression. They also use it to construct their future.



Peroveta Singers of Canberra

Papua New Guinea has more than 800 living languages. Since independence, the three official languages of Papua New Guinea are Tok Pisin, Hiri Motu and English.

The first of our speakers at this event was Libby Cass, Director of Australian Collections at the National Library. For many years, Libby has been involved with the Australian Library and Information Association as well as several projects and initiatives in the Pacific region. Libby discussed the Papua New Guinea material in the Library, as well as engagement and support of Pacific libraries, including those in Papua New Guinea.

Our second speaker, Jenny Homerang, is a PhD candidate at the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific's School of Culture, History

and Language. Jenny started teaching Tok Pisin in 2002 with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and has since developed a pioneering online language course through ANU. She spoke about the evolution of Tok Pisin.

Anne-Sophie Hermann from Buk bilong Pikinini told us about setting up 18 children's libraries in Papua New Guinea. She highlighted the importance of their program that teaches five-year-old children to read and write before they enter school.

Our final speaker, Deveni Temu, the former Pacific Librarian of ANU, and Pacific Community-Noumea and University Librarian of the PNG University of Technology, spoke about reviving the Hiri Motu folk songs and dances of his village. He then introduced the Peroveta Singers of Canberra, who performed traditional songs and dances, much to the delight of those present.

The Library and Friends donated a generous number of books to Buk bilong Pikinini.

Lyn Adams

Exhibition Preview

Inked: Australian Cartoons

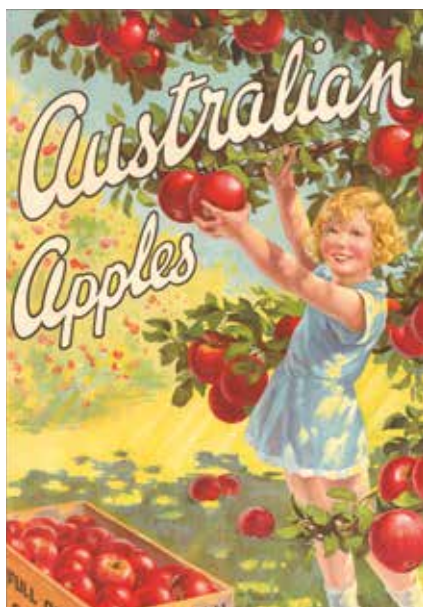
On Tuesday 5 March, around 50 Friends gathered to enjoy a preview of the latest Library exhibition, titled *Inked: Australian Cartoons*.

The exhibition's curator, Dr Guy Hansen, provided an informative and entertaining overview of the exhibition several days before it opened to the public.

Dr Hansen commented that the Library has a collection of some 14,000 cartoons and stressed that in selecting the 135 cartoons for the exhibition he did examine all of the collection!

The cartoons chosen cover the period from the 1780s through to the present day. The earliest examples reflect the Georgian interest in cartoons featuring elements of satire. One on display in the exhibition depicts Sir Joseph Banks as a butterfly. For the full story, check out the exhibition. In the context of the settlement at Sydney, Dr Hansen pointed out that while the settlement at Port Jackson was evolving into Sydney, in Britain the settlement was still referred to as Botany Bay.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF



HELP OUR PAST TO INSPIRE OUR FUTURE

Our collections are vivid and inspiring. Online access makes them truly powerful.

This year, the Library's appeal is raising funds to preserve and digitise a century of advertising posters so that they can be shared with researchers everywhere.

The National Library of Australia holds over 7,000 Australian advertising posters produced before 1950. While a small number are freely available online, most of the collection is only available to be viewed onsite in Canberra. The papers on which they were printed are increasingly brittle with age and many more are too delicate to handle.

Your donation will enable us to make available online these fragile records of our past. Your gift will help us bring to light the stories of Australia for all Australians.

Friends will receive the appeal letter and brochure in June or you can find out more and donate online at nla.gov.au/support-us/posters. Donations over \$2 are tax-deductible.

F. Kenwood Giles, *Australian Apples: Full of Sunshine. British to the Core* (detail), 1925, nla.cat-vn6931141

Dr Hansen referred to the display of cartoons from journals such as the *Sydney Punch* and *The Bulletin* in the late nineteenth century. The range of attitudes expressed in the cartoons, especially in the depiction of the Chinese and the Irish, would not be acceptable in twenty-first-century Australia.

The exhibition features the earliest surviving cartoon completed in Australia, a watercolour sketch depicting the Castle Hill rebellion of 1804, in which some 200 predominantly Irish convicts rebelled against their British masters. The British soldiers quickly brought the insurrection to an end, with 15 rebels killed and their leaders hanged.

The exhibition does not dwell solely on the events of days gone by. The change of prime minister in 2018 attracted the interest of cartoonists, with one cartoon on display depicting Scott Morrison as one half of the Blues Brothers. Keep an eye out for it.

After a number of thoughtful questions were answered by Dr Hansen, guests were able to tour the exhibition then enjoy wine and cheese.

Howard Murray

Solander Garden at the Swedish Embassy

On Saturday 23 March, under threatening skies, the affable Swedish Ambassador—the first Swedish Ambassador appointed to the entire South Pacific—His Excellency Mr Pär Ahlberger and Mrs Héléne Ahlberger welcomed about 100 guests (members of Friends of the National Library, Friends of the National Botanic Gardens and the Australian Garden History Society) to an afternoon talk in the Solander Garden, followed by the opening of the Sixten Bock photo exhibition.

In his opening speech, the Ambassador mentioned that the Swedish Embassy is not only the second biggest but also the second oldest in Canberra, behind that of the USA. He then went on to discuss briefly the strong connection between the Swedish naturalist Daniel Solander and Joseph Banks, which led to Solander joining Banks and James Cook on HMB *Endeavour* on that vessel's voyage to explore the Pacific between 1768 and 1771.

The Ambassador then went on to explain that on this voyage, Banks and Solander collected around 17,000 plant specimens. The specimens from Australia included around 900 species. The plants in the Solander Garden represent some of the species collected during the *Endeavour's* visit to Australia in 1770.

Some of the species are of the cultivated varieties derived from selective breeding. It was also noted that Solander became the first Swede to circle the globe and was also the author of the first scientific description of a kangaroo.

Ambassador Ahlberger then introduced Dr Aoife O'Brien, Curator, Oceania National Museums of World Culture. Dr O'Brien gave a polished and comprehensive lecture at the National Library of Australia on Thursday 21 March. She indicated in her brief report at the embassy that there are three museums in Sweden, two in Stockholm and one in Gothenburg that collectively hold extensive collections from Oceania resulting from various encounters between Swedes, Pacific Islanders and fellow Europeans from the late eighteenth century onwards.

The gathering was then introduced to two representatives from the horticulture team at the Australian National Botanic Gardens. The Ambassador described the close working relationship, contributions and support that were freely given by the staff of the Botanic Gardens to the embassy in establishing the Solander Garden. These two representatives gave brief details concerning the native plants in the gardens and encouraged those present to walk throughout the gardens and absorb the tranquillity.

Guests were then invited into the embassy to view the opening of an exhibition of Sixten Bock's photos, which date back more than 100 years. Bock's work can be found at the Ethnographic Museum in Stockholm. Finally, guests were invited to partake in light refreshments that concluded a very enjoyable afternoon.

Malcolm Thurston



Solander Gardens at the Embassy of Sweden.

DO YOU USE THE FRIENDS LOUNGE?

The Friends Lounge is a shared social space where people can enjoy a chat, a read and refreshments. It is a special place just for Friends of the National Library and their guests.

Your guests are always welcome. While visiting the Lounge, they are your responsibility and they must comply with the Code of Conduct.

The Code has recently been reviewed by the Friends Committee in consultation with the National Library.

The revised Code of Conduct requires that you carry your membership cards when visiting the Lounge. You can also bring up to two guests with you but please sign everyone

in using the visitors' book. We hope your guests will want to become members too!

Members and guests must also comply with the National Library Regulations 2018. A copy of the regulations is available at legislation.gov.au/Details/F2018L01295.

The revised Members Code of Conduct is available online and in the Friends Lounge. A copy will be included with your Friends membership card when you renew. Please email friends@nla.gov.au or contact the Friends Executive Officer on 02 6262 1551 to receive an electronic version of the Code of Conduct today.

NLA PUBLISHING SPOTLIGHT

Four NLA Publishing titles have been named notable books and one has been short-listed in the highly regarded Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Book of the Year Awards. Winners will be announced in August. These books are sure to delight the young person in your life.

Short-listed (Eve Pownall Award for Information Books)

Sorry Day

by Coral Vass, illustrated by Dub Leffler

Maggie and her mother await the long anticipated apology to the Stolen Generations. Two stories entwine in this captivating retelling of the momentous day when Australia acknowledged the sorrows of the past.



Notable (Eve Pownall Award for Information Books)

Marvellous Miss May: Queen of the Circus

by Stephanie Owen Reeder

In 1901, aged just seven, May Zinga was given away to a circus by her desperate mother. Discover the inspirational true story of the talented and determined Miss May, who fought to fulfil her dream of becoming the best bareback rider in the world.



The Flying Optometrist

by Joanne Anderton, illustrated by Karen Erasmus

The Flying Optometrist travels in his little red aeroplane from his practice in the city to a remote outback town. Lots of people are waiting for him, especially young Stephanie, who has broken her glasses. But where is he? Is he lost?

Digby & Claude

by Emma Allen, illustrated by Hannah Sommerville

Digby isn't sure he wants Main Street to change. But with the help of his new friend, Claude, the boys begin to realise that the best places of all are places where you belong.

Notable (Picture Book of the Year)

Midnight at the Library

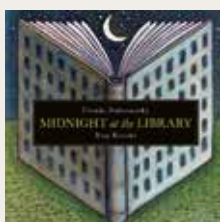
by Ursula Dubosarsky, illustrated by Ron Brooks

Evocative and engaging, there is something undeniably magical about Dubosarsky and Brooks' timeless story about a book's journey throughout history.

NATIONAL LIBRARY BOOKSHOP SPECIAL OFFER FOR FRIENDS

Friends will receive a 20% discount on the CBCA-selected titles listed above when any of them are purchased between 1 June 2019 and 31 August 2019, online and instore.

To claim your 20% discount on these CBCA-selected titles in the online shop, use the promotional code **FRINTER19** 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.

FRIENDS EVENTS

Friends Discount Code for National 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 **FRWIN19** entered when booking. This code is valid from 1 June 2019 to 31 August 2019 and does not apply to Friends events (select the member's ticket option) or events that are free of charge.



George Cruikshank's *Passing Events, or, The Tail of the Comet of 1853*.

Coffee with the Curator:

Inked with Dr Guy Hansen

Join exhibition curator Dr Guy Hansen for an exclusive talk and collection viewing just for Friends and their guests. Learn about the intriguing background to the cartoons displayed in our *Inked: Australian Cartoons* exhibition with a guided tour, tea and scones.

Wednesday 12 June | 10.30am

Exhibition Gallery and Friends Lounge

\$17.50, Friends only (includes refreshments)

Shared Dreams and Destinies:

Botanic Gardens of Melbourne and Sydney

Sydney's Royal Botanic Garden turned 200 in 2016 and Melbourne celebrates its 175th birthday in 2021. Scientist and Director and Chief Executive of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Professor Timothy J. Entwisle discusses two of the oldest botanic gardens outside of Europe and how they demonstrate how beautiful heritage landscapes can display and interpret stunning plant collections.

In association with the Australian Garden History Society

Thursday 4 July | 6pm

Theatre

\$20 Friends & AGHS members; \$25 non-members

(includes refreshments)

High Tea with the Curator:

Story Time: Australian Children's Literature with Dr Grace Blakeley-Carroll

Join us for a nostalgic talk about the Library's *Story Time: Australian Children's Literature* exhibition with Curator Dr Grace Blakeley-Carroll. Learn about the history and development of Australian children's books and the authors and illustrators who created them. After the talk, enjoy a special tour of the exhibition followed by high tea refreshments.

Tuesday 27 August | 10am

\$25 Friends; \$30 Non-members

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