

## TRIP OF A LIFETIME

**Catriona Anderson reports on a successful journey enabled by the Friends 2013 Travelling Fellowship Award**

In June this year, I visited the new Sir Duncan Rice Library at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, the National Library of the Czech Republic in Prague, and the Bibliothèque nationale de France in Paris, courtesy of the Friends Travelling Fellowship. The trip has been the highlight of my professional career.

The purpose of my travel was to visit libraries that are undergoing, or had recently completed, refurbishments, and to investigate implications for change management and service delivery to users. My research was in preparation for our Library's envisioned integration of special collections reading rooms. The breadth of the operational areas within the organisations I visited greatly exceeded my expectations, as did the generosity of my hosts.

I visited multiple sites in each of the cities, and spent time with people in all areas of collection management, preservation, digitisation, storage and delivery, public programs, education, and reference and reader services across each of the organisations.



Klementinum  
Photo: Catriona Anderson

My first port of call was Aberdeen. On my first morning I woke at 3.30 am to the sunrise and the rousing calls of seagulls: a bright and cheery welcome to the northern hemisphere indeed. As Aberdeen is so far north, summer daylight there

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In this Christmas issue you will find much of interest, including articles describing the important Oral History and Folklore Collection, the fabulous *Mapping Our World* exhibition, and some of the interesting events held recently for Friends, such as the annual Kenneth Myer Lecture. More enjoyable activities for the future are listed in the Upcoming Events section. I hope you enjoy this last 2013 issue of your newsletter. We look forward to seeing many of you at future events.

*Sylvia Marchant*

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extends from 3 am to 11 pm, and for me that was a novel experience.

My fellowship began with one rewarding day at an information and knowledge management conference at Robert Gordon University. This is a modern university which complements, but is separate from, the University of Aberdeen, which is an ancient university founded in 1495. Then it was on to the new Sir Duncan Rice Library at Aberdeen University, which was my main reason for visiting Aberdeen. Valuable time was spent with people from the Special Collections Centre and museums collections, but I also visited the conservation lab, and exhibitions and public programs teams.

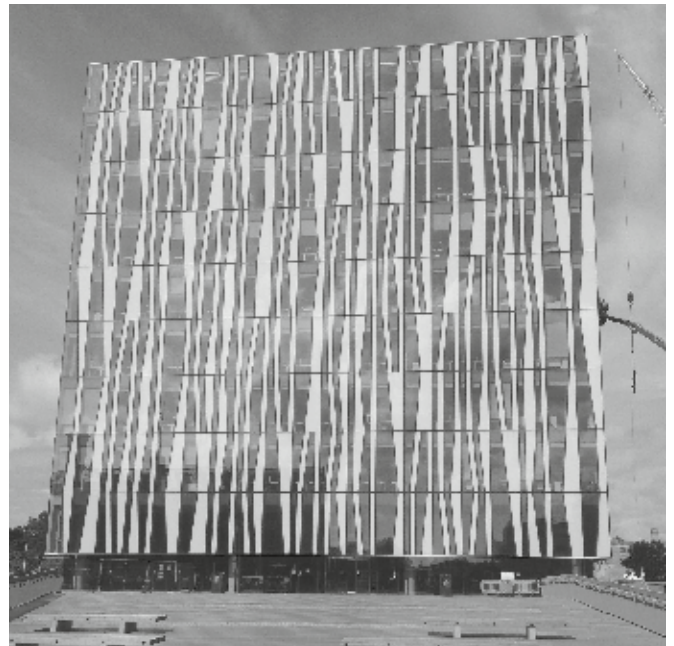
The new library was a major modernisation and redevelopment project, which now provides services reaching far beyond the bounds of the university, into the local community, across the United Kingdom and internationally. Construction work began in 2009. The building was opened and fully functioning in September 2011, and was officially opened by the Queen in September last year.

The library is a great success, not only in terms of physical design and function, but also because it supports and inspires activity and engagement with university students, faculty staff, scholars, industry representatives, all levels of the education sector, the general public and local community groups. The success is testament to the preparatory consultative work and change management, planning and communications processes that led to its fruition. The ongoing commitment to openness of communication and stakeholder engagement and inclusion was also fundamental. This was the impression I gained from my time in the organisation, and it was inspiring.

A moving personal dimension to my visit to the University of Aberdeen was that my great-grandfather had been a student there in the late 1880s. Serendipitously, while at the Special Collections Centre I was able to view his student record in the archival collections. Addresses in the records led me to the two places he and other family members had lived. It was an unforgettable and poignant experience to find myself walking the streets of Aberdeen and visiting ancestral homes as a consequence of my work at the National Library.

Next stop was Prague and the National Library of the Czech Republic, where I spent two days visiting the historic Klementinum site in the centre of town, and the Hostivar repository, an hour's drive from the Klementinum. The Klementinum is one of the largest and most historically important buildings in the Old Town, with foundations dating back to the eleventh century. The parts of the building dedicated to the National Library accommodate some collection storage areas, staff office space and reading rooms.

The organisation had had aspirations to significantly modernise facilities with a new state-of-the-art building in the centre of town. However, changes in the political and economic climate resulted in a major shift in focus. Instead,



The Sir Duncan Rice Library  
Photo: Catriona Anderson

the Hostivar repository, built in 1997, has been extended to include repository areas, staff office space and a public reading room. There is also a staged plan for the revitalisation of the Klementinum building, which will involve the relocation of all functional areas at different points in time, not only within the building, but across to the Hostivar site.

At this time of significant organisational change and upheaval, I got a real sense of the great pride people took in their work, their commitment to the organisation, their acceptance of limitations, and their hopes to make the best of what they were able to improve. My time in Prague gave me a strong sense of people's commitment and flexibility in adversity.

My final destination was Paris, where I visited the François-Mitterrand and Richelieu sites of the Bibliothèque nationale de France, both of which have schedules for ongoing long-term refurbishment works.

Although impressive, I found the scale of the François-Mitterrand site quite daunting. Overall reading room capacity is in the multiple thousands of people, who are accommodated across functionally familiar, but physically separated, subject-based reading rooms. To me, the site seemed like our Library's Main Reading Room—dispersed and upsized tenfold.

In contrast, the Richelieu site, which dates back to the fifteenth century, was charming and ancient. The building is in need of restoration work, and redevelopments forecast in the years ahead are to open up the facility to encourage and invite greater public engagement. Economic uncertainties have resulted in delays to scheduling, however, and the project is due to continue for a number of years beyond initial projections.

Even though organisations such as ours and the three I visited are situated in different cultural, economic and geographic contexts, we face many common issues.

People internationally are very interested in what the National Library of Australia is planning to achieve with the integration of access to special collections in a new reading room. As we are a comparatively young organisation, many of the people I met felt that the context in which we are operating offers a degree of freedom.

The National Library has a great opportunity ahead: to implement a unique facility for access to special collections which accommodates the needs of many different styles and approaches to research, while continuing to respect the needs of traditional scholarly readers.

For me, the fellowship affirmed a strong sense of purpose and connectedness to my work at the Library and also offered a new perspective, situating my work in an international context. I was honoured and very proud to be representing the National Library of Australia in all of my conversations and mutually engaging encounters. I will cherish the experience always.

*Catriona Anderson*

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Friends,

The three months which have passed since my last message have witnessed many successful Friends activities, some of which are described elsewhere in this newsletter. On 20 October, many of us enjoyed the conversation with Robert Ingpen about his new

book, *Looking for Clancy*. Genevieve Jacobs, 666 ABC presenter, did a tremendous job in eliciting some marvellous observations from Robert on his assessment of Clancy's role in the national psyche. It truly was a special afternoon.

On 24 September, the Friends celebrated the launch of Michael McKernan's new book, *Underground Australia*. Friends were treated to a witty and informative double act from Michael and historian Peter Stanley, as they respectively discussed and reviewed this intriguing book. The National Library's publishing arm, ably headed by Susan Hall, continues to release interesting and provocative works, and *Looking for Clancy* and *Underground Australia* are first-class examples.

In our last newsletter I made reference to the successful Kenneth Myer Lecture presented by Professor Julian Disney in Canberra on 15 August. Along with Professor Dennis Pearce, I was pleased to represent the Friends at a second presentation of the address in Melbourne, at the old Myer family home in Toorak, on 11 September. Dennis' report of this enjoyable event will be found within this edition of the newsletter.

For many years the White Gloves event has been a staple on the Friends calendar, and the 2013 offering, Recent Acquisitions in the Pictures Collection, held on 12 September, lived up to the standard and popularity of its predecessors. Thank you to the Library's Pictures Curator, Nicki Mackay-Sim, and her talented staff, for selecting such interesting and diverse items for display.

Another traditional event in the Friends calendar is the spring tour, and the organising committee, headed by Anne Davis, did a tremendous job in arranging this year's excursion, Discover Boorowa. Feedback from Friends who went on this trip has been most gratifying and this augurs well for future tours.

This is my final message as Chair of the Friends, as my constitutionally mandated retirement from the committee commenced from the Annual General Meeting held on 26 November 2013. I would like to offer my congratulations to the newly elected members of the committee, all of whom I know will serve the Friends well.

I would also like to thank the members of the Friends Committee with whom I have served over the last three years. I know we have all considered it a very great privilege to assist, even if only in a small way, the continued development and success of the National Library, which all of us cherish. In particular, a big thank you to the current Director General of the Library, Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, and her immediate predecessor, Jan Fullerton, for their wise counsel and support. A very special thanks also to Friends executive officers Sarah Jaensch and Sharyn O'Brien, and their assistants, for the wonderful job they have done in supporting the work of the Friends Committee. Without them, the Friends would not enjoy the success that it does.

On behalf of the committee I would like to wish all of you a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2014. It promises to be a bumper year for the Friends and I look forward to seeing you at some of the many activities.

Best wishes,

*Gary Kent*

## SPECIAL FEATURE

### The Oral History and Folklore Collection

There are over 45,000 hours of recordings in the Library's Oral History and Folklore Collection, dating back to the early 1950s, when the tape recorder first became available. Each year, more than 1,000 hours of material are added to the collection and, increasingly, more are becoming available online and can be readily accessed through the catalogue at <http://catalogue.nla.gov.au/>. To date, 6,500 hours have been made available online, including a rare recording by the famous scientist Sir Howard Florey, who developed penicillin. Florey was interviewed on 5 April 1967, and his interview is full of interesting sidelights on his profession. Other notable interviewees include author Mem Fox; Dymphna Clark, wife of historian Manning Clark; and Sir Hubert Opperman, former sportsman and Australian High Commissioner.



*John Clark and Elizabeth Butcher in Interview with Bill Stephens in the NLA Oral History Studio*  
Photo: Damian McDonald

The vast collection includes many interviews with distinguished Australians such as scientists, writers, politicians, artists and sportspeople. The Library also undertakes social history projects which record interviews with people who have lived through significant social trends and conditions such as unemployment and the Depression. Important social history collections include the *Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants Project*, the *Bringing Them Home Project* and the *Drovers Oral History Collection*. Some current projects being undertaken include the *Centenary Stories—Centenary of Canberra Project*, *Trailblazing Women and the Law*, and *Women in Leadership*, which includes an interview with Rosemary Follett, the first Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory and the first woman to become head of government in an Australian state or territory. Among other things, Rosemary mentions her admiration for Julia Gillard's leadership and her handling of the challenges of minority government.



*Robyn Holmes Interviewing Richard Magoffin in the NLA Oral History Studio 17/02/2004*  
Photo: Greg Power

You can visit the Library to listen to interviews, order personal copies via Copies Direct, or access the collections through the catalogue and Trove (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/>). A simple keyword catalogue search, limited to 'Audio', will return results held in the Oral History and Folklore Collection. Access conditions listed in the catalogue record will outline whether the interview is available online or whether permission needs to be sought in order to gain access to it. A blue 'Listen online' button in the catalogue record indicates that the audio may be listened to via the internet. Many online interviews are also available with a transcript and/or a timed summary, which enables the researcher to pinpoint exactly the area of interest in the interview, making the research task much easier and quicker. Increasingly, more summaries and transcripts are being made available. Some interviews are conducted in the Library itself, but many are conducted in the field, normally in the interviewee's home. Interviews are, on average, between five to seven hours in length and are based on a 'whole of life' approach. They cover memories of early life and background, appraisal of main achievements and experiences, and consideration of the ideas, values and beliefs which have been influential in the life of the interviewee. Interviews are recorded by specialist oral history interviewers with expertise and knowledge in a range of areas including history, academia, sport, health, science, music and the arts. The most prolific interviewer represented in the collection is Hazel de Berg, who made 1,290 recordings over a 27-year period, from 1957 to 1984. A complete set of her recordings is held in the Library. Regarded as one of the most substantial and important oral history collections in Australia, it adds lustre to the rich resource of the nation's history that is the Oral History and Folklore Collection.

*Sylvia Marchant*

## RECENT EVENTS

### Professor Julian Disney and the Australian Press Council

The Kenneth Myer Lecture is the most prestigious of the Friends annual events. It honours the major contribution made to the Library by the late Kenneth Myer, who served on the Library Council for 21 years, from 1960. Kenneth Myer was Chairman of the Library Council from 1972–1982 and a long-time friend of the Library. He was a businessman and philanthropist with a wide range of cultural and social commitments.

In welcoming Friends and members of the public to the 2013 Myer Lecture at the Library on 15 August, Gary Kent, the Chair of the Friends Committee, thanked the Myer family for its generosity in supporting the lecture over the last 21 years. He noted that Kate Baillieu was present, representing the Myer family.

The Myer Lecture is delivered annually by a distinguished Australian who has made a significant contribution to Australian society, just as Kenneth Myer did. This year's Myer Lecture was delivered by Professor Julian Disney AO, who is the Chair of the Australian Press Council as well as a Professor of Law and Director of the Social Justice Project at the University of New South Wales. While Professor Disney is widely known for his work relating to social welfare and the care of the disadvantaged, it was in his capacity as Chair of the Press Council that he delivered a lecture entitled 'Media Standards in an Internet World'.

The professor began by speaking about the Australian Press Council, conceding that it was often described as 'toothless'. However, he suggested that the Council had more effect than was often perceived. He pointed out that it comprises a mix of public, industry and media members, and that complaints against media articles are heard by a majority of non-industry members. Media publishers do not like being called to account, and may comply very reluctantly with their obligation to publish the Council's adjudications as prominently as it specifies.

The issue of accountability is fundamental to the acceptance of the press being free from external constraints. Good media standards are essential to justify and preserve freedom of the press and journalistic privileges. The Press Council faces the challenge of setting and ensuring compliance with such standards. Professor Disney identified accuracy, fairness and balance, privacy and civility, and independence and transparency as the bases of good journalism. They also, he said, provide the foundation for the standards that the Council endeavours to enforce.

Professor Disney then addressed the impact of the internet on media standards. He noted that among its benefits are



Julian Disney  
Photo: Newspix

faster and more affordable access and a broader range of sources of information and opinion. It also enables more people to publish their work. He pointed out, however, that there are also a number of problems.

One significant issue is that the internet impinges on the financial viability of the mainstream press, with a consequent loss of professional journalists and peer review of content. The rush to be the first to publish can lead to the publication of dubious or unchecked material, and in particular there can be limited, if any, opportunity for a person named in an article to comment. One might think that an error could be corrected by a simple keystroke, but this is not always the case; as material is instantaneously distributed to many other sources, it is virtually impossible to retrieve all publications containing an error. While more information is available to more people, much of that information is likely to be hasty and ill informed.

Such problems are a major challenge for the media and for the Press Council. Professor Disney canvassed a number of possibilities, including the establishment of a readers' editor or some other form of auditor. He saw a role for a strengthened Press Council, but noted that it would need to develop specific standards for online publishing and establish monitoring mechanisms.

Professor Disney repeated his lecture on 11 September at Cranlana, the Myer family home in Melbourne. This is the first time that the Myer Lecture has been given at this venue. Seventy people filled the concert room in this beautiful house to capacity, and were as appreciative as the audience in Canberra had been. In both venues, the question session which followed the lecture could clearly have continued for an extended period.

The Friends thank Professor Disney for his outstanding contribution to the long tradition of the Myer Lecture series. It also thanks the Myer family for their continuing support of this important event in the Friends calendar.

*Dennis Pearce*

## White Gloves Evening: Recent Acquisitions in the Pictures Collection

Nicki Mackay-Sim, Pictures Curator, presented the White Gloves Evening on 12 September. She described recent acquisitions in the Pictures Collection over the last year. The current Pictures Collection Policy focuses on acquiring more 'artworks, prints and photography either by Indigenous people or of Indigenous culture'.

Highlights from the latter category include studio portraits of 12 Indigenous men from Queensland and New South Wales. These have significant historical value. They were taken by Charles Kerry, who was one of Australia's earliest social documentary photographers who specialised in ethnographic photography.



Charles H. Kerry (1858–1928), *Group of Myall Aborigines, Queensland*. nla.pic-vn6195897

Nicki also showed two items depicting a group of nine Indigenous people kidnapped from North Queensland in 1883 by the American showman R.A. Cunningham for Barnum & Bailey's Circus in the United States and Europe. The first picture shows seven of the original group of nine.



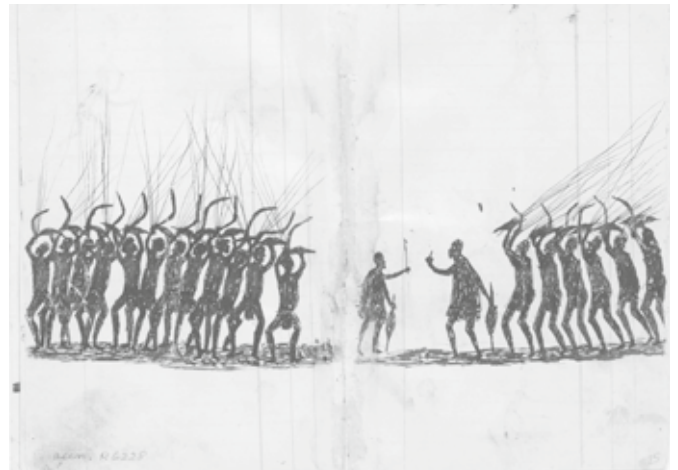
Emillie Zambra, *Remaining Seven of the First Group of Aboriginal People Removed from Queensland, Crystal Palace, London* 1884. nla.pic-vn6155924

The second, below, taken a year later, shows only four remaining. There are no further records of the group after 1887. These photographs are all that remain for the group's descendants to trace their final years



Julius Schaar, *Aboriginal Australians in R.A. Cunningham's Touring Company, Dusseldorf, Germany* c. 1885. nla.pic-vn5742204

Seven newly acquired items by Indigenous artists were also displayed, including a self-portrait by Tracey Moffatt; Gordon Bennett's *Australian Icon*, 1989; and a rare album of sketches by nineteenth-century artist Tommy McRae, along with several other pieces.



Tommy McRae (c. 1836–1901), *Two Groups of Aboriginal Men at a Corroboree, Wahgunyah Region, Victoria* 1880. nla.pic-an6431252-6

The focus of the second part of the presentation was on new acquisitions documenting Australian culture and history. They include the rare painting *Rainbow Lorikeet* (1772) by Moses Griffith, considered to be the first artwork depicting a bird from Australia, and relating closely to the works produced by Sydney Parkinson on the *Endeavour* voyage. Another item we saw documenting life in early Australian society was *Fowler Pottery, Camperdown* (1865) by John Rider Roberts, a landscape painter who headed the art department for the first series of the *The Illustrated Sydney*

*News*, an important visual record of the establishment of industry during the colonial period. We also viewed two quirky albums of photographs of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Victorian Railways advertising, and photographic prints of works by Sidney Nolan, as well as his diptych *Nightmare* (1982), acquired from Lady Nolan.

In addition, the Library has acquired a portrait of Fred Williams painted by John Brack; a photograph of Ben Quilty, artist, by his brother Andrew Quilty, photographer; and a self-portrait from the *Minutes to Midnight* series by Trent Parke.

It was an overwhelmingly rich evening. Many thanks to Nicki for a delightful presentation, and for telling us about the circumstances behind some of the acquisitions.

Jenny Oates

## Spring Tour: A Visit to Boorowa

The bus departed from the Library on a perfect sunny spring day with 42 passengers on board. The trip to Boorowa took us through picture-postcard scenery with yellow canola and lush green wheatfields. In Boorowa we were joined by four guests from Gundagai.

As part of an introduction to the town, the tour leader, Anne Davis, pointed out that one of its famous identities was Moscow-born, Paris-raised, Anna Volkova of Ballets Russes fame, who married local farmer Jim Barnes and lived in the district.



Merrignee Merino Stud  
Photo: Anne Davis

The visit to the Merrignee stud farm was immensely successful. We were hosted by Charles Merriman (the grandson of Sir Walter Merriman, noted sheep breeder), Pip Merriman (a descendent of the Faithful family of Springfield), and owners of Merrignee. The display on the history of the stud and its success at the Royal Agricultural Society's show in Sydney was absorbing. The display on woollen garments and discussion on the Australian merino wool

apparel brand Toorallie was also of great interest. Charles Merriman showed us several prize merino rams (worth as much as a new car) and he demonstrated the technical aspects of merino wool and talked about the industry. Friends were invited to inspect the prize rams, duly tethered, and discovered the depth of the wool fleece. The Merrimans were presented with the Library publication *Looking for Clancy* and Charles Merriman expressed his appreciation for the interest shown in the wool industry by the Friends.



Merino at Merrignee Merino Stud  
Photo: Anne Davis

Arriving back in Boorowa, there was an opportunity to browse the arts, crafts and antique shops. Many of us scooped up beautifully crafted knitted garments and other homemade goods.

The lunch at the Magistrates Tea Room was a real surprise. Tables with white tablecloths were set up in the courtroom, which is in original condition and quite beautiful. The Friends enjoyed a luncheon of freshly made sandwiches, scones, cream and homemade jam, followed by fruit platters. The Court House was built in 1886.



Witness Box at Boorowa Court House  
Photo: Anne Davis

A tour of the local museum and the 'old' town with local guide Marilyn Miller followed. Marilyn gave an insightful commentary on the history and society of Boorowa since early settlement, and delighted guests with many humorous anecdotes on small-town politics and the independent bush spirit when dealing with the bureaucracy and with authority in general. In earlier days, Boorowa had a Catholic side and a Protestant side. Marilyn spoke of its Irish heritage which is still celebrated today with the annual 'running of the sheep' festival.



Boorowa Hotel  
Photo: Anne Davis

A visit to the Catholic St Patrick's Church followed. Marilyn highlighted the main features, including a leadlight window featuring Daniel O'Connell—an Irish political leader often referred to as 'The Liberator' or 'The Emancipator' of Ireland—and the beautiful marble from Carrara in Italy.

Charles Massy then gave a presentation on the history of the Merino. He manages a 2,000 hectare sheep and cattle property on the Monaro grasslands in southern New South Wales. He recently submitted a PhD at the Fenner School, Australian National University, on innovation in regenerative agriculture, and has published a number of books on the politics of the wool industry and the history of the Merino. The time with him was all too short. Guests would have appreciated the opportunity to ask questions on the presentation and have more time looking around the Crisp Galleries and wonderful gardens there, but it was time to leave after a very active and absorbing visit.

Rosaline Welch

## Mapping Our World

The highly anticipated *Mapping Our World: Terra Incognita to Australia* was opened with style at the Library on Wednesday 6 November.

It was a great opening to a great exhibition. The Foyer was packed, and for the VIP-spotters there were more than a few to be seen. Ryan Stokes, Chair of the National Library Council, welcomed guests, noting that the exhibition was timely as it spanned the centenary of Canberra in 2013 and the 2014 bicentenary of the publication of Matthew Flinders' chart of Australia. Paul House gracefully gave the welcome to country. Shane Rattenbury, the ACT Government Minister for Territory and Municipal Services; Russell Crowe, famous actor; and Andrew Smith, CEO of Shell, all spoke on the success of the collaboration and partnership that enabled this amazing exhibition. In formally opening what is possibly the most significant collection of maps ever exhibited in the southern hemisphere, Russell Crowe confessed to eager listeners in the crowded Foyer: 'I am a map geek'. He went on to express his delight at being involved. Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, Director General of the Library, thanked all those who supported the mapping mania that has been sparked by the exhibition and compared the quest to build the collection to the voyages of mariners over the centuries.

The legendary Fra Mauro *Map of the World*, which dates from the fifteenth century, is the first of many items that cause one's jaw to drop and invite closer scrutiny. This circular map is about 1.5 metres in diameter, has been in Venice for centuries, and has never before left Italy, so we are a privileged audience. With the crowds there on the opening night it was only possible to scan it and the rest of the exhibition. I intend to go back, and give myself a couple of hours to lose myself in the history and the magnificence of this collection of the world's greatest maps.



Opening of *Mapping Our World*, 7 November 2013  
Left to right: Ryan Stokes, Russell Crowe, Martin Woods  
Photo: Lannon Hanley



Make sure you go along. It is exceptional, and it's free—but you need to book a ticket ([nla.gov.au/exhibitions](http://nla.gov.au/exhibitions)). From the moment you walk in, you are conscious that you are looking at an amazing collection, viewing items that you never realised existed, maps that show the history and evolution of human understanding of our world.

You have until March next year. Just do it!

*Phillip Deane*

## Underground Australia Book Launch

In his new book, *Underground Australia*, author Michael McKernan takes the reader on a journey to an amazing hidden world. In his lively address at the launch on 24 September, Michael admitted that, when approached by the Library, he didn't know how he would set about writing about the topic—thinking that perhaps it was to be a book about crime! But what he found was an extraordinary collection of images of underground workplaces and homes. Mines, of course, spring to mind, and sewers, but there are also images of caves and cave dwellers, inhumane underground cells for convict boys at Port Puer, and even bank clerks working in an underground office.

Professor Peter Stanley, who enthusiastically launched the work, described it as a book written with verve and scope, which shows us how 'underground' has been, and is, a part of the lives of many Australians over many years, and which evokes those lives deftly and imaginatively. It is, he said, a very perceptive work, supported by a wonderful range of images by some of the country's best-known photographers, including Jeff Carter, Wolfgang Sievers and Frank Hurley.

The appreciative audience of about 40 Friends enjoyed a stimulating evening with talented speakers and many bought a copy of the book and had it signed by the author.

*Sylvia Marchant*

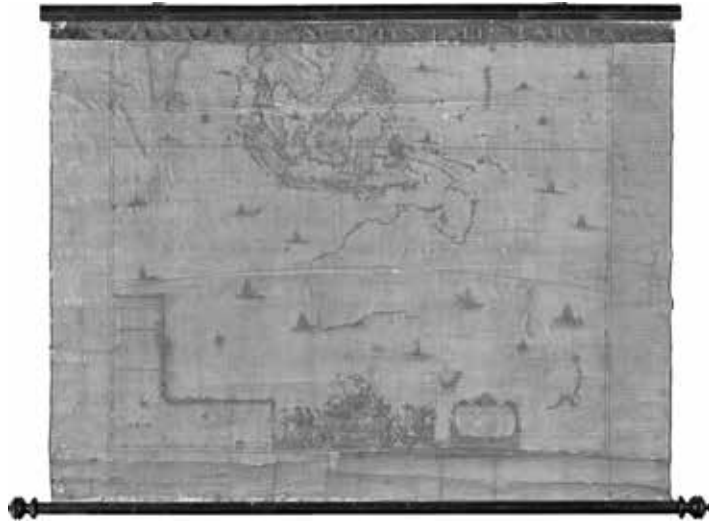
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## LIBRARY NEWS

### Help us preserve *Archipelagus Orientalis, sive Asiaticus*

The National Library's exhibition *Mapping Our World: Terra Incognita to Australia* features one of the Library's recent major map acquisitions: *Archipelagus Orientalis, sive Asiaticus (Eastern and Asian Archipelago)* 1663, created by master cartographer Joan Blaeu (1596–1673).

This remarkable wall chart—one of only four surviving copies in the world—is in an exceedingly fragile state, but conservators from the Library's Preservation Branch have embarked on a meticulous and time-consuming preservation treatment to stabilise it for display.



Joan Blaeu (1596–1673), *Archipelagus Orientalis, sive Asiaticus (Eastern or Asian Archipelago)* 1663. [nla.gov.au/nla:map-rm4701](http://nla.gov.au/nla:map-rm4701)

Fortunately, the areas of greatest interest, illuminating the story of the Dutch discovery of Australia—the mention of the first sighting of Tasmania and the text naming the continent—are intact and clearly visible. We need your help to preserve this extraordinary map and ensure its future survival. Your support will provide further preservation treatment and assist us in developing a long-term storage and display system.

You can donate online at [nla.gov.au/blaeu-map](http://nla.gov.au/blaeu-map), or return the enclosed donation form. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

The Blaeu map is on display in the Treasures Gallery during *Mapping Our World* (until 10 March 2014).

## Petherick Redevelopment

In response to suggestions by Petherick readers, there has been a revision of the designs for the Petherick Redevelopment Project. The changes were presented by Aileen Weir, Director of Reader Services, to Petherick readers on 9 September. Work on the first floor will begin in late March 2014, with the new reading room scheduled to open about September/October, and will be followed by changes on the ground floor to move the Newspapers and Microforms Reading Room upstairs.

The proposed new integrated reading room will offer a spectrum of supervision, with rare books and original materials used at tables near the service desk. There will be no structural barrier between the Special Collections Reading Room and the Petherick Reading Room, but a 'technology zone'—including photocopiers, which will be screened behind a glass wall to isolate noise—will provide a transition between the two areas.

The Petherick Reading Room will be located farthest from the service desk in an environment conducive to writing, thinking and research. Only Petherick readers will use this area.

There are 28 individual desks in the revised design, compared to 32 in the previous version. Desks are clustered together to facilitate power and network cabling. Each desk is segregated by a divider with individual task lighting to create a sense of privacy. Below the desktop, dividers provide space for storing personal belongings.

The revised plans are available for viewing in the Petherick Reading Room and further information can be obtained from Aileen Weir on 02 6262 1448.

*Sylvia Marchant*

## Friends Travelling Fellowship 2014

Kate Ross has been awarded the 2014 Friends of the National Library Travelling Fellowship. Kate will visit international collecting institutions at the forefront of providing access to, and exposing, historical indigenous photographic collections onsite and online. The museums are: Te Papa Tongarewa; Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford; and Musée du Quai Branly. All hold notable photographic collections depicting indigenous communities, including important collections of Australian Indigenous people.

The primary goal of her fellowship is to share information about cultural rights and risk with photographic collection management teams and public programs staff at these institutions.

We wish her well on her trip and look forward to her report on her return.

## Mapping Our World Online

Are you unable to visit *Mapping Our World* over the summer? Would you like to explore Fra Mauro's *Map of the World*? Do you want to learn how the map of Australia has changed over the centuries?

Exhibition partner, Esri Australia, has created a series of exclusive, high-tech applications to enable onsite and online visitors to explore some of *Mapping Our World's* treasures in fine detail.

The apps provide access to behind-the-scenes information and give historical context to the extraordinary pieces on display. They include interactive story maps, digital visualisations and a real-time aircraft tracker.

Esri Australia is the nation's leading Geographic Information System (GIS) specialist. It has been an enthusiastic supporter of *Mapping Our World*, not least through the development of the mapping apps. Esri Australia's support has enabled the Library to showcase ancient maps using cutting-edge geospatial technology, providing a rare look at the evolving role of geography in society.

You can explore the apps when you visit *Mapping Our World* or online at [nla.gov.au/exhibitions/mapping-our-world](http://nla.gov.au/exhibitions/mapping-our-world).

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## NOTICEBOARD

### Friends of the National Library Annual General Meeting

The Friends AGM was held on Tuesday 26 November. The election of the 2014 Friends Committee was held and the following members have been elected: **Amanda Pratt, Dianne Parrey, James Sandry, Robyn Oates, Lynette Adams, Joan Kennedy, Ros Welch, Dennis Pearce and Bill Geering**. The positions of Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer, Chair of the Events Subcommittee and Chair of the Communications Subcommittee will be determined at the committee meeting on 10 December. Members will be advised of who was elected to these positions in the March edition of the newsletter.

The Friends announced the recipient of the 2013 Friends Medal, Elizabeth Kennedy. The Friends Medal has been awarded to Elizabeth for her significant contribution to the Library over many years. Elizabeth has generously given her time as a volunteer at the Library since 2006, working variously as an exhibition guide and as a behind-the-scenes guide. She has also given building-art tours and has worked at the Information Desk. Elizabeth was a valuable member of the Friends Committee in 2008 (Deputy Chair), 2009 (Deputy Chair), 2010 (Chair), 2012 and 2013.

Members also received an update from Hugh Lennon, Project Manager, Building and Security Services, on upcoming building renovations.

### Would You Like to Write for the Friends Newsletter?

The Friends newsletter is put together by the Communications Subcommittee, consisting of members from the Friends Committee. The Communications Subcommittee is always open to suggestions for articles. If you have attended a Friends event we would love to hear from you. This is *your* newsletter, so let us know if you would like to contribute. Contact the Executive Officer on 02 6262 1551 or [friends@nla.gov.au](mailto:friends@nla.gov.au).

### Are You New to the Friends in 2013?

The Friends hold an annual New Members Evening, which is a wonderful opportunity for all new members to meet our Friends Committee and other Friends. In February 2014, we are holding a combined New Members and White Gloves Evening, which is free for anyone who became a new member in 2013. The evening will include an exclusive viewing of *Mapping Our World*. We look forward to seeing you on Friday 7 February. For details, see Upcoming Events on page 11.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Bookings** for all Friends events may be made through the Friends Office on 02 6262 1698 or by emailing [friends@nla.gov.au](mailto:friends@nla.gov.au), or at [nla.gov.au/bookings/friends](http://nla.gov.au/bookings/friends).

**Ticket payments** may be made over the phone at the same number.

**Cheque payments**, made payable to The Friends of the National Library of Australia, should be posted to: Friends of the National Library, National Library of Australia, Canberra ACT 2600.

**Cash payments** may be dropped off at the National Library Bookshop during opening hours, and must be delivered in a sealed envelope, with details of your name, the event and the dollar amount written on the envelope. These will then be passed on to the Friends Office.

### New Members and White Gloves Evening

New members who joined the Friends in 2013, and current Friends, are invited to this special viewing of the Library's recently acquired pocket globes. The evening includes a viewing of *Mapping Our World: Terra Incognita to Australia* and a talk by the Library's Curator of Maps, Dr Martin Woods.

Friday 7 February, 6.30 pm

Foyer and Exhibition Gallery

Cost: Free for members who joined the Friends in 2013/\$15 for all other members/\$20 non-members (includes light refreshments)

Bookings essential: [nla.gov.au/bookings/friends](http://nla.gov.au/bookings/friends) or 02 6262 1698

### Griffyn Fairy Tales: The Lost Mapmaker

In conjunction with the National Library's *Mapping Our World* exhibition. A mapmaker, trapped outside reality, is trying to draw her way back into the world, and ultimately into Australia. A concert by The Griffyn Ensemble, performing music across the ages, with live illustrations from visual artist Annika Romeyn, tracing the evolution of the concept of the southern hemisphere in European maps, and the development of the Australian map.

Friday 21 February and Saturday 22 February, 7.30 pm

Foyer, \$15-\$40

Bookings: <http://griffyn.iwannaticket.com.au> or 0466 480 104



### Book Club

A monthly literary discussion for members only.

**December**

No meeting

**Tuesday 28 January**

*Burial Rites* by Hannah Kent

**Tuesday 25 February**

*House of Exile: The Life and Times of Heinrich Mann and Nelly Kroeger-Mann* by Evelyn Juers

7 pm

Friends Lounge, free

### Free Film Screenings

In association with the Reel McCoy Film Society, the Friends present fortnightly film screenings exclusively for members of both organisations.

Commencing 5 February 2014

Every second Wednesday, 6 pm

Theatre, free

Bookings not required

Program: [nla.gov.au/events](http://nla.gov.au/events) or 02 6262 1698.

The program is included in your Friends December mail package.



For further details about these and other Friends and National Library events in Summer 2013-2014, refer to the *What's On* guide or visit [nla.gov.au/events](http://nla.gov.au/events).

#### SPECIAL OFFER

### ONLINE BOOKSHOP

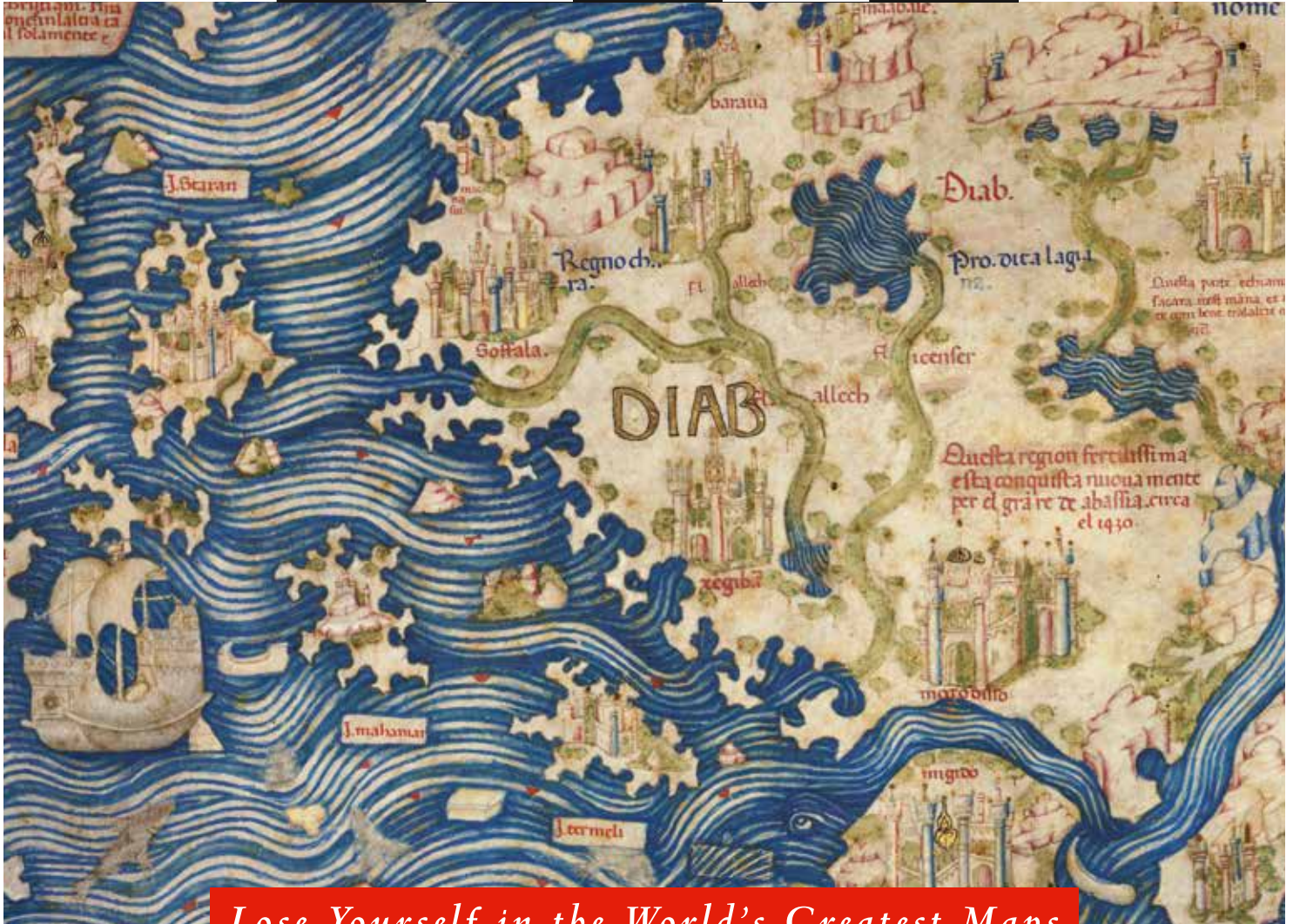
In conjunction with the Library's Bookshop, the Friends are pleased to announce a special offer for members who make a purchase using the Library's online bookshop (<http://bookshop.nla.gov.au/>).

Friends who make a purchase between 1 December 2013 and 28 February 2014 will receive a free *World Map Card Pack*, showcasing the Library's collection of cartographic materials, including printed and manuscript maps dating from the early sixteenth century. This offer is in addition to the usual Friends discount and any other offers advertised on the Library Bookshop website.

To claim your free **World Map Card Pack and your 15 per cent discount with all online purchases**, use the promotional code **FR15DEC13** at checkout. This code is valid from 1 December 2013-28 February 2014.

# MAPPING OUR WORLD

*Terra Incognita To Australia*



*Lose Yourself in the World's Greatest Maps*

7 NOVEMBER 2013–10 MARCH 2014

*Only at the National Library of Australia*

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EXHIBITION GALLERY FREE DAILY FROM 10 AM [nla.gov.au/exhibitions](http://nla.gov.au/exhibitions)

BOOKINGS  
ESSENTIAL

Fra Mauro (c. 1390–1459), *Map of the World* (detail) 1448–1453, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Venice. The loan of the Fra Mauro *Map of the World* has been generously supported by Kerry Stokes AC, Noel Dan AM and Adrienne Dan, Nigel Peck AM and Patricia Peck, Douglas and Belinda Snedden and the Embassy of Italy in Canberra.

