

Message from the Chair



Dear Friends,
On Thursday 15 August, Professor Julian Disney presented the 2013 Kenneth Myer Lecture. His very topical address, 'Media Standards in an Internet World', was well received by a capacity audience. Professor Disney's talk maintained the high

standard of lectures in the series.

I recently spent several weeks in England and had the opportunity to visit the British Library and meet several volunteers belonging to the library's Friends; more about that later in this newsletter. Being away meant I unfortunately had to miss the highly successful 'Landscaping the Lake' lecture presented by Dr Dianne Firth on 5 June. One hundred and ninety people attended the event, reflecting the Friends' continuing interest in the development of our national capital.

In the last edition of this newsletter, I noted that the Australian Government had announced that pay parking would be introduced in the parliamentary zone. In response to our earlier representations on your behalf, on 17 June we were advised by the Minister for Territories, the Hon. Catherine King MP, that the National Capital Authority will be consulting on the implementation of the new arrangements, which will commence on 1 July 2014. The minister noted that, in general, short-stay car parks would be located near national institutions, and that long-stay parking would be provided adjacent to office buildings. Central National Area rangers will patrol the area to ensure proper use.

We hope you like the new colour front cover of the newsletter. This will be the first of a number of changes we hope to make to enhance its design and general attractiveness. Thanks must go to the newsletter committee, chaired by Sylvia Marchant, which continues to do a superb job of producing a high-quality journal for your reading pleasure each quarter.

The Friends Committee is already looking ahead to next year and a number of very interesting and exciting events are planned. You should consider becoming a member of the committee so you can play a part in leading the Friends to future continued success in support of the Library. The Annual General Meeting is scheduled to be held on 26 November and I would encourage you to nominate for a committee position. You will find further information about the nomination process in this newsletter.

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At the July meeting of the Friends Committee we said goodbye to Elizabeth Kennedy, member of the committee for the past seven years, and a past Chair of the Friends, who is returning home to Britain. Elizabeth has been a tireless worker on behalf of the Friends over a number of years and a dedicated National Library volunteer. We will miss her and her husband Alistair, who has also been a regular attendee at Friends events.

Finally, on behalf of all of you I would like to extend the thanks of the Friends to Jasmine Cameron, who has recently retired as the National Library's Assistant Director General (Executive and Public Programs). In this position Jasmine was a member of the Friends Committee and an important link between the Friends and the Library. She has been an incredible source of support and advice. We thank her for her very substantial contribution to both the Library and the Friends and wish her well. I understand Jasmine intends to remain an active member of the Friends and we are delighted about that.

Best wishes to you all,

Gary Kent



Seven Mile Beach
Photo: Nat Williams

SPECIAL FEATURE

A Fruitful Fellowship

Nat Williams recently spent a National Library of Australia Fellowship at the environmentally focused Linnaeus Estate in New South Wales preparing his work plan as the inaugural James and Bettison Treasures Curator. Here he shares some of his memorable experiences.

To escape mid-winter Canberra and head to northern New South Wales is one thing, but to have two weeks to stop, look and think in glorious seclusion is another completely. To slow down and have time to enjoy the beauty of one's surroundings, both natural and man made, is a very special privilege indeed. My primary aim for the two weeks of my fellowship was to draft a work plan for the next three years for the role of James and Bettison Treasures Curator. I achieved this and more at Linnaeus, exploring ideas for future investigation in the Treasures and Exhibition galleries, thought about possible collection-related publications and lectures and also developed a blog.

The Linnaeus Estate is just south of Byron Bay on Seven Mile Beach, and, at first approach, seems almost unbelievable. As I drove along nearly 2 kilometres of beautifully landscaped and winding road (designed to be travelled at 30 kilometres an hour to ensure that you take your time and don't hit the wandering Swamp Wallabies), I began to appreciate how special Linnaeus Estate is.

Fronting over a kilometre of coastline, and surrounded by a remarkable environment including wetlands, forests and coastal dunes, the 23 beach houses take inspiration from the sea, sailing, the site, and, of course, the wonderful views. Being able to live, even temporarily, in an environment which is not only beautiful, but created with a great eye for detail, using natural materials and real imagination, is also a treat. I am interested in architecture and design, and the house I stayed in—one of four known as the 'Beach Beacons'—was superbly designed and finished. The recycled timbers, quirky carving, copper and shingled roofs, stainless-steel fittings and clapboard walls all reinforced the impression of residing somewhere between a great yacht and a timeless, but definitely modern, beach house. Coastal living in the United States must have been an inspiration for the very talented and inspired architect and landscape designer Phil McMaster, one of the founders of Linnaeus Estate.

The estate has been developed to embrace solidly the notion of sustainability and intergenerational equity: that is, the principle that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is

maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future citizens. Linnaeus Estate is an intentional community, created by a group of like-minded individuals who chose to invest in property and share common goals, and is covered by a 150-year multigenerational property trust. The residents also contribute annually to the Linnaeus Education Fund, which supported my residency through its relationship with the National Library.

Waking to the early easterly light each morning in a brilliantly lit house to the sound of the crashing winter surf was memorable and energising. The inventiveness of the interior lighting of the house—each light individually designed and handmade—was inspired; it enabled the interiors to be appreciated just as well by night as during the day. Michael, the carpenter and craftsman who has worked at Linnaeus since its start, has created lovely details everywhere, which you discover while walking the estate. Each house, for example, has a different carved door design and colour scheme. The whitewashed picket fence near the Linnaeus Club features palings with different carved fish heads and other decorative flourishes. A sculpture outside my house consisted of a huge iron pot filled with recycled masts from sailing boats. It looked, especially after dark, like some form of large-scale still life which cast interesting shadows, particularly on the nights around the giant June full moon.

Walking on the beach at sunset on the first afternoon I saw a pair of pelicans, who were to return over the next two weeks. They were majestic, and foreshadowed the amazing birdlife I was to experience. A friendly kookaburra, numerous scrub turkeys, Noisy Friarbirds, Rainbow Lorikeets, ducks, ibis, plovers, a Pheasant Coucal, Pied Oystercatchers, kites, sea eagles and many more made appearances. One night a large fruit bat very nearly flew into my face in the dark. The sunbaking Diamond Python and water dragon were surprising, and the juvenile Short-Beaked Echidna, which I regularly sighted, was captivating. The beach was wonderful, though recently under siege from a huge storm surge which eroded some metres of its frontage—hopefully not a foretaste of things to come. Apparently the beach can come and go depending on weather, currents, and what's happening much further afield.

Walking gave great scope for thinking, and I rarely saw anyone. The occasional fisherman, a cyclist, or a keen walker would nod hello as they passed. Although it was winter, the sea was warmer than it is on the New South Wales South Coast in summer, which made a brief swim an almost daily delight. I saw whales migrating northwards, and enjoyed the great Constable-like cloud-and-light effects, with showers, storm fronts and double rainbows. A sadness—or more an anger—was the ubiquitous flotsam and jetsam of plastic which I saw with every step I took up the long beach. It made me think of the great Pacific gyre, now containing a



The four Beach Beacons
Photo: Nat Williams

sea of rubbish (estimated to be the size of Texas) floating north of Hawaii and choking sea life. Plastic, great drifts of pumice (acres of it), and millions of coloured pebbles rattling in the ebb of the surf all blended on the broad and beautiful beach to make a memorable sight.

Linnaeus Estate had no other residents while I was there. The many owners, who live all over the world, including in Australia, don't live at the idyllic spot, only holiday there when they can find the time. So, while I felt slightly alone (rather than lonely), I could enjoy the organic vegetables and herbs fresh from the communal garden without feeling like I was an interloper. The well-stocked Linnaeus Library provided internet access and books to read—and read some more; it was such a pleasure to read for hours without interruption. Books on Cook's voyages, on the life of collector Rex Nan Kivell, on mapping, on George Raper's watercolours, on John Hunter's sketchbook, on Australian birds, on Ferdinand Bauer's illustrations, on Augustus Earle's watercolours ... the list goes on. The timing of the fellowship could not have been better, nor the location more perfect. I miss Linnaeus Estate and I will treasure those weeks, but I will reflect happily on the experience over the next three years and for many more to come.

Website: linnaeus.com.au/

Nat Williams

James and Bettison Treasures Curator

RECENT EVENTS

The City in the Landscape

On Saturday 11 May, over 60 Friends and guests attended a lecture by Emeritus Professor Ken Taylor AM, who talked about Canberra's city landscape and the Griffin plan.

Professor Taylor, Adjunct Professor at the Australian National University, is recognised as a leading thinker on Canberra's planning and its background. Professor Taylor noted that, at the beginning of the twentieth century, a small group of countries, including India, Brazil, Canada and Australia, were designing their national capital cities. Across the world, many also sought to identify ways to avoid duplicating the overcrowded industrial cities that had emerged after the Industrial Revolution. There was a growing intellectual and professional interest in the new art and science of town planning.

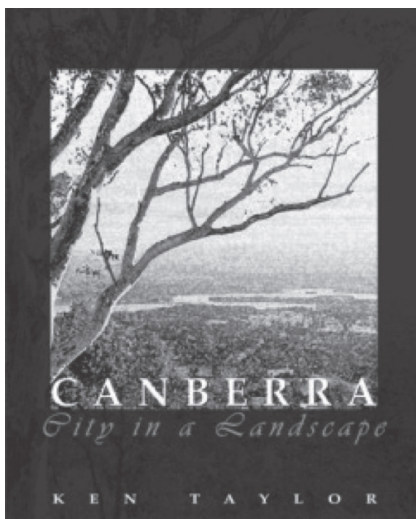
This emerging discipline aimed to create cities that combined carefully zoned residential areas with more open spaces and separate planned areas for government buildings and business facilities, and so avoid the mistakes of the past. Griffin's plan for Canberra to be sited within its surrounding landscape was an exemplar of the innovative idea of bringing gardens into the city, as was happening in Paris at the time.

Following the lecture, members of the audience enjoyed refreshments in the Friends Lounge and took the opportunity to talk further with Professor Taylor.

Jenny Oates



Ken Taylor



Diane Firth
Photo: Sam Cooper

Landscaping the Lake

A large audience attended an interesting talk by Dr Dianne Firth on 5 June. Before the lecture, we were enthralled by a rolling slide show of photos from the collection of former National Capital Development Commission landscape architect Professor Richard Clough, which evoked memories for those who remember Canberra 'before the lake'.

Dr Firth was introduced by Dr Louise Moran, Chair of the ACT/Monaro/Riverina Branch of the Australian Garden History Society. Dr Firth is the Deputy Chair of the ACT Heritage Council and an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Canberra.

Dr Firth described the development of the lake from the early days of Federation, explaining that the Griffins were following a tradition of incorporating ornamental water into a civilised city. The Griffins' plan for the shape of the lake evolved over 60 years, from 1913 until the Scrivener Dam was finally closed in October 1963 and the lake began to fill.

The design of the lake, together with its surrounding plantings, which give us so much joy today, was largely due to Professor Clough. He was the NCDC's chief landscape architect from 1959 to 1963, overseeing the construction of the lake and Anzac Parade. Dr Firth commented that the lake unified and gave purpose to the city at a cost of only £3 million, surely a great investment in the future.

Professor Clough generously donated his collection of maps, photos and other materials relevant to the development of Lake Burley Griffin to the Library. Many of these were included in the display on view after the event.

Elizabeth Kennedy

City of Trees Exhibition Opening

An innovative and arresting new exhibition was opened with great fanfare at the Library on Thursday 4 July. Celebrating 100 years since the founders of Canberra staked out the new capital by planting a million trees, the exhibition is based on the simple premise that every tree in Canberra has a human story to tell. Called *City of Trees*, it encourages visitors to really look at, hear and explore the magnificent natural landscape in which we live.

City of Trees is a project by UK artist Jyll Bradley, who travelled from her home country for the opening of the exhibition. Jyll's is an amazing work which combines sound, photography and drawings. Taking the form of an immersive installation, it has light—essential for the growth of trees, and to reveal hidden stories—as a constant agent throughout. Three specially designed 'portals', which are a simple sort of shelter standing like tree trunks, form the centrepiece of the exhibition. Visitors can step inside these portals, designed to emulate spaces in the forest, and listen to the stories and thoughts of the many people of Canberra and surrounds who love trees.

Director General Anne-Marie Schwirtlich began the proceedings by welcoming Jyll and introducing the ubiquitous Robyn Archer AO, Creative Director for the Centenary of Canberra and Deputy Chair of the Australia Council for the Arts. Robyn launched the exhibition, which was commissioned by the Centenary of Canberra, and supported by the ACT Government, the Australian Government and ActewAGL, and hosted by the National Library.

Robyn spoke about the broad scope of the exhibition underpinned by Jyll's creative vision and commended it to the audience. She was followed by Jyll, who described the philosophy that inspired her work. She explained how she saw Canberra as a 'city of trees', and had tried to emulate



City of Trees
Photo: Lannon Harley

the atmosphere of a forest or woodland in her installation. Shane Rattenbury MLA, the ACT Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, followed Jyll, and commended all concerned with the exhibition, which was, he said, a fantastic and original work, adding a multifaceted story to the chronicle of Canberra.

The evening was enriched by music from the Cashews, splendid blooms decorating the foyer, fine wine from the Library's new wine partner, Eden Road Wines, and refreshments from *bookplate*. Guests also took the opportunity to visit the exhibition to round off a very enjoyable evening.

Sylvia Marchant



Marion Halligan
Photo: Loui Seselja

Marian Halligan on the Novels of John Banville

Some 80 people gathered in the Library's Conference Room on 23 July to hear Canberra author Marion Halligan deliver the Winter Book Club Lecture. Marion spoke about the work of novelist and Booker Prize-winner John Banville, and, in particular, his novels *The Sea* and *Ancient Light*.

She began by talking about the way fiction illuminates our lives, and read to us the opening lines of *The Sea*:

*They departed, the gods, on the day of the strange tide.
All morning under a milky sky the waters in the bay had swelled and swelled, rising to unheard-of heights, the small waves creeping over the parched sand that for years had known no wetting save for rain and lapping at the very base of the dunes.*

It's the rhythm that is so striking, Marion commented; although it's very 'high' writing, the rhythm entices us, leads us in, and makes us want to read on. She went on to tell us that plain language, in the style of Hemingway, is more popular these days, but that the multisyllabic, Latinate language used by Banville sits well with his rather fusty old characters.

Banville's use of the first person is also an interesting way to write a story. In contrast to works with an all-knowing, omniscient narrator, a reader is presented with a limited perspective on events, and consequently it is not always easy to tell what is 'really' going on.

Banville's innocence is carefully crafted; some of the memories and perceptions that he presents are those of a child. The language is portentous, in the sense that it prefigures, and so we are compelled to keep reading to discover the scandals and the disasters as we move from the past to the present, and back again.

The Sea and *Ancient Light* are both melancholy: books about memory and desire. Each is full of puzzles; the memories bring about a sense of loss. They are about people who have lived long enough to be acquainted with grief. As a counterpoint is Banville's black humour. In *The Sea*, for example, the name of the consultant who brings bad news is Mr Todd—a joke in bad taste, but funny, too.

This is immensely civilized writing, Marion told us, placed squarely within the myths and legends of the past. Above all, she said, it's the sound of the words and the images they conjure up that grips us and makes us want to read Banville's books slowly, savouring them. We don't want to finish the book; we want it to last. And, she believes, the books only improve on a second reading, when you see the author's slow deliberate 'reveal'—that what the narrator thinks is happening, isn't, and what he thought had turned out, in fact, had not. Or, as Marion read to us from the end of *The Sea*, 'And indeed nothing had happened, a momentous nothing, just another of the great world's shrugs of indifference'.

She left us wanting more.

Margaret Pender

Volunteers Visit the Hume Repository

Most readers probably do not know that the National Library has offsite storage facilities in the Canberra suburb of Hume, where it keeps back issues of its vast newspapers and overseas serials collections.

On Wednesday 15 May a group of National Library volunteers visited the repository, Australia's largest library storage facility. Kylie Hawkins, Manager of Stack Services, gave the group a guided tour of this amazing building. The state-of-the-art, purpose-designed repository was built in 2006 at a cost of around \$10 million. The building sits on 12,500 square metres of land and has around 56 kilometres of shelf capacity, extending to 6.6 metres high. A special vehicle called a 'stock picker' is used to retrieve materials from the high shelves and staff members who work at the repository need a licence to drive it.



Volunteers at the Hume repository
Photo: Kelli Turner

The facility also has a separate preservation vault that is used to store fragile material, especially important newspapers, very large items and even early panoramic photos. These materials are housed at a lower temperature and humidity than others to ensure their preservation. Volunteers were amazed at the size of the facility and the vast collections it houses.

The Library's staff provide an impressive delivery service from the repository and 90 per cent of readers' requests are delivered from there to the Library's Main Reading Room within 30 minutes. Now that's service!

Jenny Oates

Friends at the British Library

I have recently returned from several weeks overseas, during which I enjoyed a visit to the British Library in St Pancras. Whenever I am lucky enough to be in London I make a pilgrimage to this marvellous institution. There is always something to see, with a constantly changing series of exhibitions and displays.

The bookshop is full of interesting publications, including, of course, a wide selection of works on British history and culture. For me, no trip to the library is complete without a visit to the Sir John Ritblat Gallery, which is the equivalent of our Treasures Gallery. Over the years I have seen some of Britain's greatest treasures on display there, including Magna Carta and the original manuscript of *Alice's Adventures Under Ground*.

I planned to visit the Members' Room at the library, but, as luck would have it, it was a bank holiday and the room was closed. I did, however, visit the Friends desk in the foyer, where I learnt a little about the organisation and what it offers its members. The two helpful women at the desk were passionate about the library and the Friends organisation.

Friends of the British Library has nearly 3,000 members, with which our 2,000 or so members, drawn from a considerably smaller population, compares more than favourably. The standard annual membership fee is £50, somewhat higher than the \$45 yearly fee for National Library Friends.

The British Friends make a considerable effort to raise funds to contribute to the acquisition of items for the library's collection, which it may not otherwise be able to afford. These include the archive of modernist writer and artist Mervyn Peake, which includes 39 Gormenghast notebooks. Through their fundraising, the Friends have also made a contribution towards the cost of purchasing *The Dering Roll*—the oldest extant English roll of arms, dating from around 1270 AD—and the archive of Ted Hughes, the former poet laureate. Since the establishment of the Friends in 1989, donations have totalled nearly half a million pounds. Unlike the Friends of the National Library, the British Friends do not focus on organising functions within the library for members. Instead they offer visits to cultural institutions and other places of interest. They have recently visited The Guards Museum and the Royal College of Music Museum, both in London. The Friends of the British Library also produce an attractive colour newsletter, which, like its Australian counterpart, is published quarterly.

Remember that, as a Friend of the National Library, you can use the Friends Room at the British Library, but make sure you take your Friends of the National Library of Australia membership card with you. You will be in good company if you visit the British Friends. The current president of the organisation is the Marquess of Salisbury, and one of the vice presidents is William Hague, the British Foreign Secretary.

To learn more about the Friends of the British Library, visit their website at <http://support.bl.uk/Page/Become-a-friend>.

Gary Kent



The British Library

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, or at 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.

Mapping Our World: Terra Incognita to Australia

Maps—fascinating and spellbinding, they tap into our childhood memories of treasure and exotic lands. But far more than that, they are the sat nav of forgotten ages, the means by which the globe was navigated, the arbiter of territorial rights, and the documenter of war and conquest.

Maps are the subject of the next exciting exhibition at the Library, *Mapping Our World: Terra Incognita to Australia*. The exhibition coincides with the 2013 centenary of Canberra and the 2014 bicentenary of the publication of Flinders' chart of Australia. It includes over 100 maps, atlases, globes and scientific instruments, including those from some of the greats of cartography: Ptolemy, Mercator, Louis de Freycinet, James Cook and Matthew Flinders.

Mapping Our World features ancient world depictions—Babylonian, Greek, Roman—Indigenous Australian maps, and exquisite examples of Christian and Islamic medieval maps. Progressing through the exhibition you will be able to see the evolving understanding and depiction of the Australian coastline; it concludes with original hand-drawn maps by Cook, Flinders and Freycinet—all aspects of the great race between France and Britain to map and lay claim to our part of the world.

Bring the kids, turn off your smart phone, and travel backwards in time to see the world as those before us saw it—hundreds, and even thousands, of years ago. And you have four months to see it, from 7 November 2013 to 10 March 2014.

Phillip Deane

Mapping Our World is open daily from 10 am (last entry 5 pm). Entry is free, but bookings are essential: nla.gov.au/exhibitions

Friends Exclusive White Gloves Event: Recent Acquisitions in the Pictures Collection

The Friends will host a one-night-only viewing of items which have recently been acquired for the Library's extensive Pictures Collection. This is your chance to get up close and personal with significant items from Australia's history. Pictures Curator Nicki Mackay-Sim will provide a brief talk and will be on hand to provide guests with additional information as they move about the viewing. Includes refreshments served in the Friends Lounge.

Thursday 12 September, 6 pm

Conference Room, \$15 Friends/\$20 non-members

**Bookings: nla.gov.au/bookings/friends or
02 6262 1698**

Launch of *Underground Australia*

Join author Michael McKernan as he discusses his new book. In the bowels of a Sydney pub, the publican poses with his hand in chains: a reminder of the time when the underground store was a convict cell. A family, thrown out of home during the Great Depression, sets up house in a cave. Women sort mushrooms in a disused railway tunnel in the 1950s; a jazz band rehearses beneath the Royal George Hotel. With images by some of the country's best known photographers, including Jeff Carter, Wolfgang Sievers and Frank Hurley, *Underground Australia* will take you on a journey to an amazing hidden world.

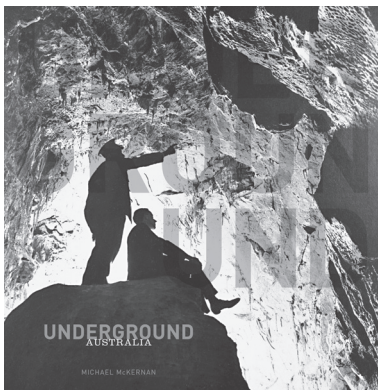
Tuesday 24 September, 6 pm

Theatre

\$20 Friends/\$25 non-members

(includes refreshments and book signing)

**Bookings: nla.gov.au/bookings/friends or
02 6262 1698**



St Patrick's Church, Boorowa

Photo: Loui Seselja

Spring Day Tour: Discover Boorowa

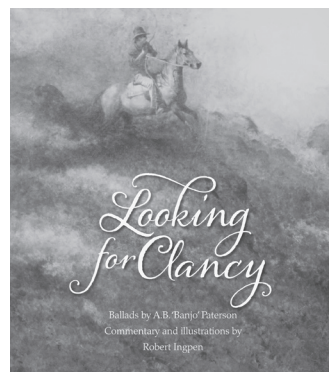
Join the Friends for a daytrip to Boorowa. Highlights of the trip include: travelling through wheat and golden canola fields; exploring the Shamrock Trails; a heritage tour with a local guide; a visit to the Boorowa Historical Museum; a light lunch in the original Boorowa Court House (c. 1886); a talk by special guest Charles Massy, author of *The Australian Merino: The Story of a Nation*; a visit to a local merino sheep property; morning and afternoon tea; and a visit to Crisp Galleries, Bowning.

Saturday 12 October, 8 am–5.30 pm

\$66.00 Friends/\$81.00 non-members

Contact the Friends Office for further information

Celebration of *Looking for Clancy* by Robert Ingpen



In 1889, the revered Australian folk poet A.B. 'Banjo' Paterson first published his ballad *Clancy of the Overflow*. The verse achieved immediate popularity and, with the creation of his legendary character Clancy—a free-spirited stockman—Paterson had summed up the essence

of the Australian outback. To mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Banjo Paterson, award-winning illustrator Robert Ingpen explores the myth of Clancy through words and illustrations to find out what it is that has made him such an enduring figure in Australian folklore. Robert Ingpen is an Australian graphic designer, illustrator, and author.

He received the biennial international Hans Christian Andersen Award for Illustration in 1986.

Sunday 20 October, 2 pm

Theatre

\$20 Friends/\$25 non-members

(includes refreshments and book signing)

Bookings essential: nla.gov.au/bookings/friends or 02 6262 1698

Friends Annual General Meeting

Members are invited to attend the 2013 Annual General Meeting. The registration form is enclosed.

Tuesday 26 November, 5.30 pm

Conference Room

Members only

Friends Viewing of *Mapping Our World*

Join the Friends for some Christmas cheer at an exclusive viewing of *Mapping Our World* and a talk by the National Library's Curator of Maps, Dr Martin Woods. Includes canapés, music and refreshments.

Friday 6 December, 6.30 pm

Foyer and Exhibition Gallery

Cost: \$30

Bookings essential: nla.gov.au/bookings/friends or 02 6262 1698



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.

Friends Book Club

A monthly literary discussion for members only.

Tuesday 24 September

Half of a Yellow Sun

by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Tuesday 29 October

Five Star Billionaire

by T. Aw

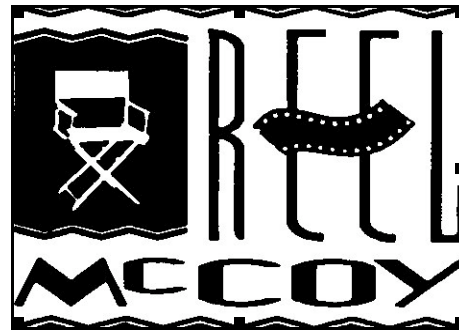
Tuesday 26 November

The Great Gatsby

by F. Scott Fitzgerald

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.

Every second Wednesday, 6 pm

Theatre, free

No bookings required

A copy of the program is included in this newsletter.

For further details of these events, as well as other Friends and National Library events in spring, refer to the *What's On* guide or visit www.nla.gov.au/events

LIBRARY NEWS

Great Plans for the Next Stage of the Library's Renovations

More renovations are in the pipeline for the Library, focusing initially on the reorganisation of the reading rooms. The work will produce a new Special Collections Reading Room on Level 1, which will include the Petherick Reading Room in a clearly designated zone at one end. Visitors will be able to access all unique and rare materials—manuscripts, pictures, maps, oral histories, rare books, ephemera, and sheet music—through this room. It will be located on the first floor, accessible from the marble stairs in the foyer, and will overlook the Main Reading Room.

As well as creating a new Special Collections Reading Room, the 2008 Building Master Plan recommended merging the Newspapers and Microforms Reading Room with the Main Reading Room, and making the entire ground floor publicly accessible, with a designated family-history zone as well as a quiet study area. The new configuration will be more accommodating at peak times when seating in the Main Reading Room is at a premium.

Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2014 and will begin with the new Special Collections Reading Room. You are welcome to contact Aileen Weir, Director, Reader Services on aweir@nla.gov.au for more information.

Sylvia Marchant



Opening of the Friends Lounge
Photo: Sam Cooper

NOTICEBOARD

The Friends Lounge

Friends of the National Library are fortunate to have the use of a pleasant lounge to which they can repair when in need of a break from study or research. A large and spacious room on Level 4, it is easily accessible by lift and boasts panoramic views over Lake Burley Griffin. Opened in April 1990 by Jan Fullerton, then Director General of the Library, it replaced one on the Ground Floor which had done sterling service for members for many years and which was moved to make room for the Treasures exhibition.

Many memorable events have taken place in the lounge, including a special morning tea on 11 April 2010 to celebrate the twenty-first birthday of the Friends and to welcome Anne-Marie Schwirtlich as the Library's new Director General.

Furnished with comfortable armchairs and settees, as well as tables and chairs, the decor is quietly elegant, combining some of the original furniture, including the much-loved antique bookcase, with the beautiful Florence Broadhurst fabrics and wallpaper, and Australian flower prints by Ellis Rowan. A kitchenette and a designated eating space completes the picture.

It is good to see so many Friends making happy use of the lounge to enjoy a coffee or tea at the modest cost of 50 cents a cup. Money should be placed in the cash box provided and is used to cover the costs of providing the tea, coffee, milk, dishwasher powder and so on. Please ensure you pay for your tea or coffee. Without this money we cannot cover costs; any loss has to be made up by the Friends, and this is unfair for those who do not use the lounge.

While our Friends are mostly quiet and courteous and go about their business without disturbing others, we would like to remind members that the primary function of the Friends Lounge is to provide a space where members may meet other Friends and talk freely. This does not preclude the use of the lounge by those wishing to use their laptops or to read in a more relaxed environment, but it does mean that a quiet working environment is not something that they should expect. Members wishing to study in a quiet space should do so in one of the Library's reading rooms.

Indeed, in all circumstances, members should—and generally do—recognise the needs and wishes of other members and behave accordingly. Unsociable behaviour, such as harassing other members, cannot, and should not, be tolerated.

If problems arise please contact Sarah Jaensch, Friends Executive Officer on 02 6262 1551, or, in her absence, Kathryn Favelle, Events and Education Manager on 02 6262 1141. You can also contact the cloak room guard on 02 6262 1433.

Please continue to enjoy the peace and comfort of this wonderful facility.

USE OF THE FRIENDS LOUNGE

The Friends Lounge is designated as a relaxation space where members may talk freely. It is not a study area. However, we ask that members be considerate of other users, refrain from excessive noise and keep mobile phone calls brief.

GENERAL CONDUCT

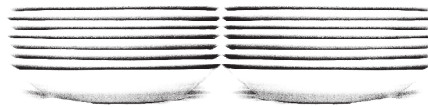
Members of the Friends of the National Library must comply with visitor behaviour rules under the National Library Regulations 1994.

A copy of the Regulations is available at nla.gov.au/code-of-conduct-for-readers-and-visitors/. The following points are in keeping with personal conduct of all visitors while on Library premises:

- Respect and courtesy should be accorded to fellow Friends, Library and security staff and other Library users. Unsociable behaviour, including harassing other Friends or Library and security staff is not acceptable.
- In the interests of health and safety, reasonable dress levels must be met by Friends using the Friends Lounge and other facilities.
- Disruptive behaviour and excessive noise that disturbs a person properly using the premises, anywhere within the Library, including the Friends Lounge, is unacceptable.
- National Library material must not be removed from the Reading Rooms for use anywhere else in the building, including in the Friends Lounge.
- Friends are expected to follow reasonable advice and direction from the Executive Officer of the Friends of the National Library, or other Library and security staff.
- Friends are requested to inform the Executive Officer of the Friends of the National Library (extension 1551) promptly of any concerns relating to the behaviour of other Friends. If the Executive Officer is unavailable or it is outside office hours, please contact the cloakroom guard on extension 1433.

Members Discounts at *bookplate* and the Library Bookshop

Remember to show your membership card when asking for the Friends discount at both the Library Bookshop and *bookplate*. We are coming into the holiday period and there may be new staff in these service points who do not know all the Friends by sight. All these staff have been instructed to request that patrons show their Friends membership card when asking for the discount. If your card has disappeared, please contact the Friends Office to arrange a replacement.

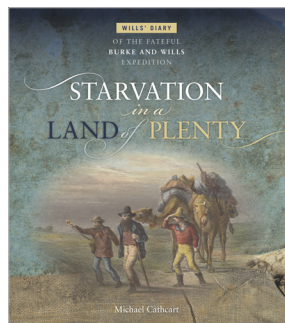


bookplate



New Library Publications

Starvation in a Land of Plenty: Wills' Diary of the Fateful Burke and Wills Expedition by Michael Cathcart



When Robert O'Hara Burke and William John Wills set out on their fateful journey with the Victorian Exploring Expedition, Wills brought with him a diary in which to record his experiences. His entries would go on to help historians understand the circumstances that led to the tragic end of the expedition.

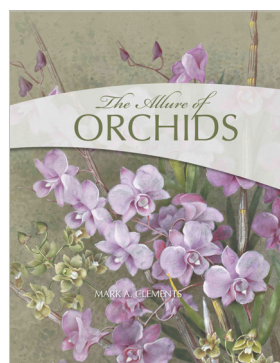
Today, the diary is held by the National Library of Australia and forms the foundation of *Starvation in a Land of Plenty*. Between 23 April and 28 June 1861, Wills documented the torments and disappointments that led to his and Burke's destruction. Surprising to many, Wills was not the second-in-command but, rather, the party's 'surveyor, astronomical and meteorological observer'. His resulting misfortune and the words he left behind have transformed the young English surveyor into both an Australian martyr and hero. Combined with images from the Library's collection, this poignant and telling publication draws on Wills' at times matter-of-fact account of his fatal weeks, revealing him to have been a man of great dignity and bravery.

ISBN 978-0-642-27790-9

2013, pb, 250 x 220 mm, 224 pp

RRP \$39.99

The Allure of Orchids by Mark Clements



For many lovers of flowers, orchids have a particular allure. Popular among gardeners, florists and nature lovers, orchids come in a huge array of shapes, sizes and colours, and have some of the most intriguing names of any flower species—Flying Duck, Beard, Fire and Boat-lip Orchids, Doubletails, Fairy Bells, Parson's

Bands and Greenhoods. Some spend their whole lives underground while others grow high in trees. And they are the tricksters of the flower world, many mimicking the forms and smells of female insects and spiders to sexually deceive their male counterparts into pollinating the flower.

The Allure of Orchids features an essay by orchid expert Mark Clements, accompanied by a portfolio of illustrations, both historical and modern, of this alluring species. In it you will find works by around 25 artists, including the extraordinarily detailed lithographs of early botanical illustrator Ferdinand Bower, Ellis Rowan's beautiful paintings, the delicate watercolours of Margaret Cochrane Scott, and many more.

ISBN 978-0-642-27807-4

2013, pb, 284 x 233 mm, 164 pp

RRP \$34.99

SPECIAL OFFER

ONLINE BOOKSHOP

The Friends are pleased to announce a special offer for members who make a purchase using the National Library's Online Bookshop.

With any purchase made between 1 September and 30 November 2013, Friends will receive a free Domestic Bliss Card Pack, showcasing the National Library's Ephemera Collection. This offer is in addition to the usual Friends discount and any other offers advertised on the Online Bookshop website.

To claim your **free Domestic Bliss Card Pack and your 15 per cent discount with all online purchases**, visit the Online Bookshop at bookshop.nla.gov.au and use the promotional code **FR15SEP13** at checkout. This code is valid from 1 September–30 November 2013.