

2014 WORLD LIBRARY INFORMATION CONGRESS IN LYON

French librarians and the City of Lyon welcomed 4,000 delegates from around the world to the Congress which ran from 16 to 22 August. Arriving delegates were welcomed at airports and stations and many streets flew the Congress banner or boasted billboards.

The theme of the Congress was Libraries, Citizens, Societies: Confluence for Knowledge. The Mayor of Lyon, Gerard Collomb, said: 'The theme has a very deep meaning to us. Confluence is the name given to Lyon's borough where Rhône and Saône, the two rivers that cross the city, meet. Confluence has also been a constant feature in Lyon's history as it has received flows of migrants from neighbouring countries throughout the ages'.

We met in the Congress centre which, together with the surrounding residential and business area, was designed by Renzo Piano (the Pritzker Prize-winning Italian architect) to host the G7 summit in 1996.

Lyon is France's second largest urban area (of well over two million people). Five hundred hectares of its city centre, which has been built over the last 2,000 years, became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1998. The city traces its beginnings to 43 BC when the Roman military colony of Lugdunum was founded.

It is a most appropriate setting for a library conference for at least two reasons. Firstly, because within thirty years of Gutenberg's invention, moveable type arrived in Lyon and it became one of Europe's foremost publishing centres. Secondly, in 1870 the Lumière family moved to Lyon. Antoine Lumière with his sons, Louis and Auguste, shot the first reels of the world's first motion picture, *La Sortie des Usines Lumière*—of workers exiting their photographic factory—in 1895. The birth of cinema dates to this work and delegates were delighted that this film, together with many other early Lumière works, was shown at the opening ceremony.

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Welcome to Lyon. All photographs by Anne-Marie Schwirtlich.



Lyon Congress Centre.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



It has been a very active year for the Friends. All our activities and events are managed by the Friends Executive Officer and this month we say farewell to Sarah Jaensch, who moves to the role of Events Coordinator, and welcome back to Sharyn O'Brien, who returns from leave. Sarah and Sharyn are indispensable to us and we thank them both for everything they do.

Recently we had the presentation of the Friends Medal and the awarding of the Friends Travelling Fellowship for Library staff. Applications also opened for the first Friends of the National Library Creative Arts Fellowship. The latter attracted a great deal of interest, which was very pleasing. It is clear there is plenty of scope for some very worthwhile projects in years to come. The first recipient of the Creative Arts Fellowship will also be announced early next year so keep an eye out for the details.

This type of support for the Library and for the individual recipients is, I think, one of the most important and useful things we can contribute as Friends. It is a tangible means of promoting the value of the Library to the wider community. It endorses the role the Library plays in our cultural life at a time when austerity seems inevitable for some years to come. Even those who have modest means (I include myself!) can demonstrate their commitment to the splendid work of the Library and its significance to our nation.

I wish all Friends a happy and safe festive season and stay tuned next year for some exciting events to mark the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Friends.

Joan Kennedy

EDITOR'S NOTE: The final Newsletter for 2014 brings you Season's Greetings and good wishes for the New Year. In this issue we have focused on some of the splendid public lectures and book launches that occur here at the NLA. You will share the Director-General's impressions of the World Library Information Congress in Lyon and discover all about NLA opportunities for further study and research. There's no doubt about it: our Library offers something for every one of us.

Robyn Oates

LIBRARY NEWS

Change Lives, Support Trove

Many Friends will be familiar with the Library's free national discovery service, Trove, through their research of our collection. Trove is used by millions of people every year and provides Australians—in every corner of the country—with easy access to their history and culture.

Trove is a collection of collections, bringing together resources held by libraries, archives, museums, research organisations, government agencies and more.

Trove is also a community. Trove users, Friends among them, contribute their time and expertise to enrich and improve the service. Millions of lines of computer-transcribed text in the Trove newspapers zone have been corrected by eager volunteers.

Trove changes lives. Australians in rural and regional areas have greatly enhanced access to their culture. Communities and families are uncovering previously unknown stories. Innovative research projects are using new technologies to mine Trove's data for insights.

As Trove enters its fifth year, we are seeking your support to maintain and develop this much-loved service.

We want to keep Trove free, keep it fast, enrich its unique Australian content, and extend Trove's reach into all sectors of the Australian community.

In 2015, Trove will offer:

- Chinese language newspapers from the Victorian goldfields;
- More digitised content from the National Library's own collection;
- An updated, mobile-friendly interface to the newspapers collection.

If you love Trove, and are passionate about history, information and preserving our intellectual heritage, we invite you to join our community of supporters by donating to the Library's Trove appeal. Your support will enable a worldwide audience to continue to uncover resources relating to Australia and Australians ... for free.

For more information about the Trove appeal and to donate online, visit nla.gov.au/support-us/trove-appeal, or visit Trove at trove.nla.gov.au.

RECENT EVENTS

2014 Seymour Biography Lecture with Professor Ray Monk

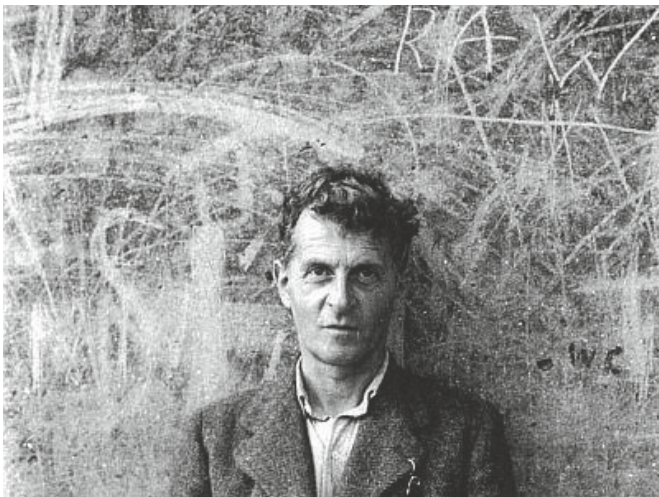
How Can I Be a Logician Before I'm a Human Being? The Role of Biography in the Understanding of Intellectuals.

'Whereof one cannot speak,
thereof one must be silent.'

WITTGENSTEIN

Rarely do I attend a lecture where the audience hangs on the speaker's every word. Ray Monk's outstanding and assured 2014 Seymour Biography Lecture, in which he analysed his inspiration to create rich biographical works articulating complex lives, was such a lecture. As a philosopher of mathematics and as the biographer of Ludwig Wittgenstein, Bertrand Russell and, most recently, nuclear physicist Robert Oppenheimer, his incisive observations brought the business of creating a life on paper squarely into view.

I found Monk's statements on how he thought his way through the process of biographical invention inspiring. Over the past months, I have been contemplating how to imaginatively create an engaging biographical work around the life of the enigmatic collector, Sir Rex Nan Kivell, whose dense and now priceless collection formed a cornerstone of the National Library's rich holdings on its momentous acquisition in 1959. While Nan Kivell was no Wittgenstein or Russell, he was a complex, purposeful and remarkable enough figure within his milieu. His entrepreneurial spirit and his social and business sense successfully engineered the pre-eminence of London's Redfern Gallery over four decades; selling modern art to the famous and wealthy gave Nan Kivell the resources to create his encyclopedic 'Australasian' collection, as he referred to it.



Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889–1951), photographed by Ben Richards in 1947.



Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, Heather Seymour, Ray Monk and John Seymour at the 2014 Seymour Biography Lecture.

But to return to Ray Monk, whose central argument regarding the nature of biography was that readers will appreciate the multifaceted nature of the subject if they feel they know the person through the process of discovering them. One cannot truly understand someone else if one does not appreciate how they feel about the world and have some understanding of their inner life. Biography is much more than just a sequential listing of the facts.

As a graduate researcher at Oxford, Monk found that a systematic misunderstanding of Wittgenstein's work, in particular his philosophy of mathematics, shared common misconceptions about the philosopher and the spirit in which he wrote. In seriously misunderstanding the philosopher, his philosophy was also misunderstood.

While searching for models of biographical invention in order to grapple with that most perplexing of philosophers, Monk was led back to the ancient world. He considered Plutarch's *Lives of the Roman Emperors*. He thought, however, that Diogenes Laertius in the 3rd century AD was the first true biographer of thinkers when he wrote on the *Lives and Opinions of Eminent Philosophers*.

Monk commented on the surprising absence of biographical writing for subsequent centuries. James Boswell's biographical invention of Samuel Johnson was a key work for him in seeking to understand the process of transformation that occurs when an author writes a life. Monk invoked Virginia Woolf in capturing the essence of Boswell's success: he captures personality. A new form of biography is created by Boswell, crafted through the intimacy, proximity and understanding of one person listening to and observing, then recreating, the other on the page.

Monk considered how Samuel Johnson thought about biography and asked five central questions.

How did biography relate to other genres? Johnson believed that biography held a unique place between history and fiction; the former focuses on facts and the truth and the latter on a compelling narrative. Monk then speculated on the possible evolution of biography and fiction in the 18th century within the lively London coffee house. People talked about one another and literature—‘the higher form of gossip’.

Who deserves a biography? Only those with great ideas and minds, not just those who executed valorised deeds.

What details should be included? Provide details which give the reader some idea of the personality, not just the facts—how they walked, for example.

What are the moral responsibilities of the biographer to the subject, the public and to the truth? Johnson believed in the writer's ultimate moral responsibility to the truth. In this regard, Monk discussed his biography of Bertrand Russell (which necessitated him reading 40,000 of the philosopher's letters) and described how beginning to know those associated closely with the philosopher was, ‘to pick one's way through a history of emotional wreckage’. The philosopher's callous behaviour in withdrawing from those closest to him had calamitous outcomes for his family. Despite the fact that these stories were damaging to the reputation of Russell, in the service of the truth they had to emerge.

And the final question: **Can one know the inner life of another person?** Johnson believed that ‘By conjecture only can one man judge of another's motives or sentiments’, and in this respect autobiography was at an advantage—though of course objectivity can become an issue. Monk emphatically disagreed with Johnson on this point. We do not need ‘privileged access’ to somebody's thinking to describe what

they are feeling; a writer can simply describe a look—ecstatic, sad, triumphant.

Wittgenstein's duck-rabbit problem rounded out this memorable evening. Looking at this image what changes when you see the figure first as a duck, then a rabbit? The drawing doesn't change; it is simply the way you look at it. Wittgenstein used it to make the distinction between ‘seeing that’ and ‘seeing as’. As Monk said, the philosopher and the biographer are trying to present things differently through seeing connections in a fundamental sense; they must provide readers with the facts and observations which enable them to see connections.

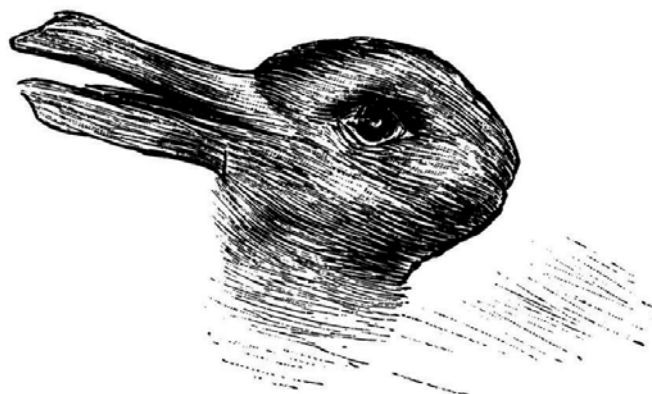
Monk finished by explaining that Wittgenstein was influenced by a truly eccentric book, *Sex and Character*, by the Austrian misogynist and anti-Semite, Otto Weininger. The writer's theories were quite aberrant but Weininger stated that ‘logic and ethics are fundamentally the same; they are no more than duty to oneself’. In this statement, Monk found the ‘point of view’—to quote Strachey—which he needed to recreate Wittgenstein's life: *The Duty of Genius*. He stated that this duty is to oneself. Dominated by the desires ‘to be a decent person and to think honestly and deeply’, Wittgenstein attempted to express this and so did Monk.

Great thanks are due to Friends members John and Heather Seymour for their foresight in supporting this enlightening series of lectures and in bringing such a thinker and biographer to us. This lecture, as well as previous Seymour Biography Lectures, is available online at nla.gov.au/seymour-lecture.

Nat Williams

(Nat Williams is the James and Bettison Treasures Curator at the National Library of Australia. The full version of this article is available online at nla.gov.au/blogs/treasures.)

Welche Thiere gleichen ein-
ander am meisten?



Kaninchen und Ente.

Wittgenstein's duck-rabbit problem.

Melbourne Patron Celebration

Friends who were able to attend the 2014 Kenneth Myer Lecture heard a stirring call to arms for science in Australia. The speaker, Professor Brian Schmidt AC, later delivered the lecture at *Cranlana*, the home of the Myer family in Toorak, Melbourne. Mr Martyn Myer welcomed the guests and gave an introduction to the family home.

In addition to being the family residence, *Cranlana* has hosted the Cranlana Programme since 1993. This Programme is an independent, non-partisan, not-for-profit organisation which aims to promote informed discussion on matters to do with responsible leadership and ethical practice.

Mr Ryan Stokes, Chair of the National Library Council, introduced Professor Schmidt whose lecture was every bit as rousing the second time around. It was warmly received by a sympathetic and engaged audience.

The Kenneth Myer Lecture invites an eminent Australian to speak about something of vital importance. This double presentation, in different cities and to different audiences, not only endorses something of great consequence to Australians, but also spreads the ideas further, promoting discussion and action.

The podcast of this lecture is available at nla.gov.au/podcasts/talks.html.

Robyn Oates

Friends Spring Book Club Lecture with Karen Viggers

The Friends Book Club meets once a month in the Friends Lounge in the Library to discuss a book of general interest to members. All Friends are welcome to attend.

In Spring, the Book Club invites a well-known Australian author to talk about the books that have influenced them in their writing. This year the Club's guest was Karen Viggers.

Karen is the author of three books: *The Stranding* (2008); *The Lightkeeper's Wife* (2011) and *The Grass Castle* (2014). The books that Karen described as influential and which she urged the gathering to read or re-read were: *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway; *Dirt Music* by Tim Winton; *The Moth Hunters* by Josephine Flood; and *Stories of the Ngunnawal* by Carl Brown and Others.

Karen described Hemingway's writing as deceptively simple. She said that when she first came to read him she was not sufficiently mature to appreciate the subtlety of the human interactions he was describing or the elegance of his writing. She came later to *The Old Man and the Sea* and was able to appreciate its superb crafting. Its art lies as much in what is not said. She learnt from it the importance of knowing what to leave out.



Karen Viggers.

Tim Winton gives voice to Karen's love of the Australian landscape. She described his writing as taking one to the place where he wants the reader to be. Karen aspires to achieve the same effect. She does not think that she does it as well yet—but I am not so sure. She has a remarkable ability to capture the atmosphere of the country where her works are set. And it has to be said that her books have an ending, which is more than can be said for all of Tim's novels—as Karen acknowledged.

The two other books that Karen referred to as being influential, *The Moth Hunters* and *Stories of the Ngunnawal*, provided her with the background for her latest novel, *The Grass Castle*, which is set in the Brindabella Mountains. The association of these mountains with the Indigenous people of the region, particularly the Bogong Moth as a food source, is described in these books and is drawn on by Karen in her novel. Karen came to Canberra from Healesville in Victoria where she had practised in her profession as a veterinarian. She found it hard to settle in the larger community here and drew solace from the Brindabellas, where she hiked and mountain biked. She described the mountains as 'a hovering presence' for all Canberrans. Her love of the mountains provided the place to set *The Grass Castle*—place has always been important to Karen and it's where she starts and centres her novels.

It was fascinating to have Karen share with us some of the literary background to her writing and to be exposed to the influences that have made her books so interesting and readable. Her presentation was warm and open. It was clear that the Friends present on the night found it a delight to be in Karen Viggers' company.

Dennis Pearce



Hugh Mackay.

Hugh Mackay on *Infidelity*

On a cold Canberra evening, 110 people attended a conversation between Hugh Mackay and Alex Sloan discussing Hugh's most recent novel, *Infidelity*.

In his novel, Hugh's protagonist Tom, who is a counsellor, has indeed been guilty of infidelity and, more problematically, with a client. This has caused him to leave his practice in Sydney and seek respite in London. There he finds liberation: 'Nothing was expected of me, even by me'. However, he also finds Sarah and instantly falls in love with her. This leads on to further sexual infidelity as Sarah is married to Perry who is dying of motor neurone disease.

While these episodes of sexual infidelity form the factual core of the book, they are part of a wider exploration of the general concept of infidelity. As Hugh pointed out in the course of the conversation, infidelity can take any number of forms but, at heart, it is the failure to remain true to oneself. Once that has occurred, other infidelities become easier to carry out and justify to oneself.

He takes this theme into the book. Sarah appears to be (and probably once was) a good person but has been corrupted by a lifestyle dependent on her husband's money. Infidelity, sexual and otherwise, thereafter becomes part of her way of life.

The book cover says that 'it is a beautifully written tale of love and the desire for control which explores one of life's most troubling questions: *do our circumstances justify or merely explain our behaviour?*' While the reader will discover this to be an accurate description of the book, he or she will also find that there is much more to be gleaned from it. Hugh is an acute and compassionate observer and the book is suffused with penetrating observations of the human condition.

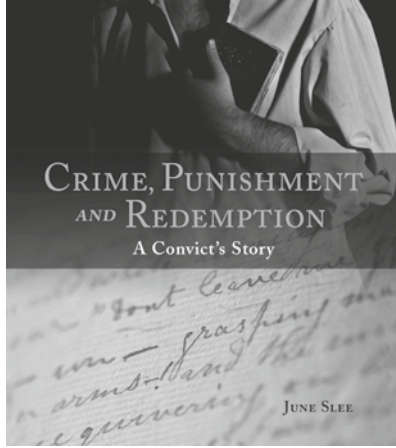
This emerged further in the course of the conversation, which was expertly managed by Alex. In the many questions that followed the dialogue, Hugh described his creative process and revealed that he had commenced with considerable fondness for Sarah but this decreased as she developed in the course of writing. Tom, on the other hand, clearly remains a favourite of his, although this was not an opinion shared by all members of the audience.

The members of the Friends and others who attended were given a rare treat in being able to listen to one of Australia's best thinkers and commentators on the human condition and to share in an author's insights into his own creative process. It was another great Friends function.

Dennis Pearce

Launch of *Crime, Punishment and Redemption: A Convict's Story* by Dr June Slee

One of the Library's collection highlights is the diary of Australian convict John Ward. This diary forms the basis of Dr June Slee's most recent book, *Crime, Punishment and Redemption: A Convict's Story*. On 23 October the Friends hosted the book's launch.



Speaking at the launch, Dr Slee emphasised how rare the diary is: there is no other known surviving English convict diary written while the author was serving a sentence. The diary covers the period 1829 to 1844 and is far more than a convict's reminiscences. It provides an unauthorised history of the penal system of the time and, in addition, offers a unique window on the prevailing class system. Its author seems to have been quite well educated; his writing is vivid and he speaks directly to the reader.

John Ward was born in Hull in 1814 to working-class parents. After a number of brushes with the law, he was, in 1838, sentenced to 10 years' transportation for theft. Initially he was held in the hulk, *York*, at Portsmouth and the diary tells of the brutality and corruption that characterised the regime. He also gives a frank account of the homosexual conduct on board; such frankness on the topic was unusual.

He arrived in Sydney in 1840. By this time, transportation to New South Wales had ceased and he was sent to Norfolk Island where he was held until 1844. He was fortunate to arrive on the island soon after Captain Alexander Maconochie began his brief term as superintendent.

Maconochie is still remembered for his contribution to penal reform (the Australian Capital Territory's prison is known as the Alexander Maconochie Centre). John Ward describes the reforms introduced by Maconochie and gives a detailed picture of life as a convict. In spite of the changes, conditions were harsh.

It is clear that he was a disturbed and unhappy man. Dr Slee described him as 'a mad angry bloke'. When he was writing the diary, he was ill with consumption and possibly with syphilis. Towards the end of his time on Norfolk Island, he sought redemption and found comfort in religion: 'the only consolation is to prepare for another, and a better world'.

The last entry in the diary was on 28 January 1844, just before he was shipped off to Van Diemen's Land, where he served out the remaining four years of his sentence. Little is known of his story after this time and he disappears from view.

Launching the book, Alan Kerr quoted Ward's words to give the flavour of the 'strange and haunting tale' of the 'Rake's Progress' that it records:

My fate was hard indeed; and then ... I soon became dishonest; and my breast was filled with every notion that degrades the man and unfits him for a social life ... for since that day a reckless course I ran. Till I was doom'd - and sent across the seas.

Dr Slee particularly thanked Alan (a member of the Friends Committee) for agreeing to launch the book. He worked closely with her as a volunteer researcher and sought out background information. He is also a former administrator of Norfolk Island and so has a unique understanding of the setting in which the diary was written.

John Seymour

The Friends Gourmet Spring Tour

Thirty keen Friends set off on a brilliant late October morning for this year's Spring Tour to the Hall and Murrumbateman area. After a drive through Hall to learn about the history of the township, the rest of the morning was pure indulgence.



Cooma Cottage.



Eden Road Winery.



Robyn Rowe.

We visited the Eden Road Winery in Murrumbateman, where a tour of the winery was followed by a tasting of their quality wines. Riesling and Shiraz grapes are grown at their vineyard, but they source grapes from other areas, including Tumbarumba and Gundagai, to make other varieties such as Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Pinot Gris. Eden Road provides the wines for our functions at the Library.

This was topped off by a visit to Robyn Rowe Chocolates. We enjoyed a special demonstration by Robyn of her meticulous and rather time-consuming method of making her range of delicious chocolates from imported Belgian chocolate. Then we enjoyed our second tasting for the morning.

A leisurely lunch was had at the Brindabella Hills Winery on an open verandah overlooking the Murrumbidgee River and, of course, the Brindabellas.

The afternoon was mainly taken up with a guided tour of Cooma Cottage near Yass. This was the home of Hamilton Hume and is well worth a visit. On the way back to Canberra we made a detour along the Dog Trap Road through tranquil sheep and cattle farming country. This area has an important place in the development of the Merino fine wool industry through the famous Merrivale stud there.

We had a wonderful day of splendid scenery and delicious treats.

Bill Geering

**Eden Road Winery is located at
3182 Barton Highway, Murrumbateman NSW.**

**Their Cellar Door is open for tastings
Wednesday–Sunday, 11 am–4 pm.**

**Robyn Rowe Chocolates is located at
1153 Nanima Road, Murrumbateman,
and is open Thursday–Monday,
10 am–5 pm.**



FRIENDS NEWS

Friends Annual General Meeting

The Friends Annual General Meeting was held on 20 November 2014. The 2015 Friends Committee was elected at the meeting. Members of the 2015 Friends Committee are:

Joan Kennedy
Alan Kerr
Alan Ives
Robyn Oates
Dianne Parrey
Dennis Pearce
James Sandry
John Seymour

Office holders for 2015 will be elected at the December Committee meeting with further details available in the March Friends Newsletter.

Friends Medal and Friends Travelling Fellowship Recipients

The 2014 Friends Medal was presented to Rachel Romney-Brown and Peter Brown for the excellent provision of refreshments, both in *bookplate* and *paperplate*, and at the many events held at the Library. This medal also recognises the ongoing and high quality support to the Friends organisation and to the membership through the provision of one of our most popular benefits—the *bookplate* and *paperplate* discount. The Friends Medal acknowledges that, over the past 14 years, Rachel and Peter have raised the standard of dining at the National Library and have established the National Library as a sought-after venue for weddings and other special events.

The recipient of the Friends Travelling Fellowship for 2015 is Susan Thomas. This Fellowship will enable Susan to travel to the United Kingdom to research important primary and secondary resource material relating to the history and provenance of the National Library's Clifford Collection. Susan's work will enhance understanding, description and future access to the Library's medieval collections.

Wondering what to get your family and friends for Christmas?

We all have someone who we struggle to buy gifts for so why not consider a Friends of the National Library membership? At \$45 for a one-year local membership (concessional and interstate memberships are cheaper), it is the gift that gives all year long with discounts at the National Library bookshop and *bookplate* and *paperplate* cafes. And you will be supporting one of Australia's most significant cultural institutions. You can't go wrong with a Friends of the National Library gift membership!

Friends of the National Library Creative Arts Fellowship

In October, applications opened for the first Friends of the National Library Creative Arts Fellowship. The Fellowship is open to all types of professional practising artists, including authors, poets and dramatists, visual artists, musicians, performance artists, dancers and new media artists.

The Fellowship provides a residency for an established or emerging artist to work in depth with the Library's collections to create a work of art or body of work, or to develop an artistic concept for future elaboration. The Library offers creative artists a unique environment in which to respond creatively to our collections in any form they choose, to immerse themselves and to be inspired by our national heritage.

Creative artists will develop artistic work in their own style and medium, with short or long term goals, with a view to completing a finished artwork.

Keep an eye out for the announcement of the inaugural Friends of the National Library Creative Arts Fellow in early 2015.

Treasurer Wanted

The Friends Committee is seeking a member with experience in the finance sector to take on the role of Treasurer in 2015. If you would like to become more involved in the Friends of the National Library and have the necessary skills, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Friends Executive Officer, Sharyn O'Brien, on 02 6262 1551 or sobrien@nla.gov.au for further information.

FRIENDS EVENTS

Bookings for all Friends events may be made through the Friends Office on 02 6262 1698 or by emailing friends@nla.gov.au.

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 an unsealed 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.

For further details of these events, as well as other Friends and National Library events in Winter 2014, please refer to the What's On guide and the Friends Newsletter, or visit nla.gov.au/events.

Keepsakes: Australians and the Great War with Professor Bill Gammage

Join Professor Bill Gammage for a lecture on Australians in the First World War and enjoy an exclusive viewing of the Library's latest exhibition, *Keepsakes: Australians and the Great War*.

Friday 5 December, 6 pm

Theatre and Foyer

\$15 Friends / \$20 non-members (includes refreshments)

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

Storytime

Bring your children or grandchildren to the Friends new monthly *Storytime*. They will delight in hearing some of their favourite books.

Thursday 5 February, 11.30 am

Ferguson Room

Free for Friends / \$5 non-members (pay at the door)

25th Anniversary Event—White Gloves Evening for New Members

Join the Friends for a special event welcoming new members and kicking off celebrations for the Friends 25th anniversary year. The event features an exclusive 'White Gloves' viewing from the Asian Collections.

Friday 13 February, 6 pm

Foyer

Free for New Friends (joined in 2014) / \$15 all other Friends / \$20 non-members (includes refreshments)

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

Friends Book Club

A monthly literary discussion for members only.

December

No meeting

Tuesday 27 January

The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion

Tuesday 24 February

Eyrie by Tim Winton

7 pm

Friends Lounge, free

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

Free Film Screenings



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

Wednesday 18 February

The Bad and the Beautiful (USA, 1952, 118 mins)

Wednesday 18 March

Night of the Demon (UK, 1957, 95 mins)

Theatre, free

No bookings required

Program: nla.gov.au/events or call 02 6262 1698

The Program is included in your Friends December mail package.

Become a Friend of the Library

As a Friend you can enjoy exclusive behind-the-scenes visits, discover collections that reveal our unique heritage and experience one of the world's great libraries.

Friends of the Library enjoy exclusive access to the Friends Lounge, located on level 4. This lounge features seating areas, a dedicated eating space and panoramic views of Lake Burley Griffin.

Other benefits include:

- discounts at the National Library Bookshop and at selected booksellers;
- discounts at the Library's cafés, *bookplate* and *paperplate*;
- invitations to Friends-only events;
- quarterly mailing of the Friends Newsletter, The National Library Magazine, and What's On.

Join by calling 02 6262 1698 or visit our website at nla.gov.au/friends.

Friends
OF THE
NATIONAL LIBRARY
OF AUSTRALIA INC.

25 YEARS 1990–2015

Library Bookshop—Special Offer for Friends

In conjunction with the Library's Bookshop, the Friends are pleased to announce a special offer for members who make a purchase using the National Library's online bookshop.

For any purchase made between 1 December 2014 and 28 February 2015, Friends will receive a free Richard Woldendorp Card Pack. This offer is in addition to the usual Friends discount and any other offers advertised on the Library Bookshop website.

To claim your free Richard Woldendorp Card Pack and your 15 per cent discount with all online purchases, use the promotional code FR15DEC14 at checkout. This code is valid from 1 December 2014–28 February 2015.

Tea and Sugar Christmas

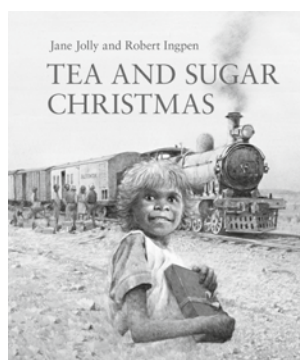
By Jane Jolly, illustrated by Robert Ingpen

Join Kathleen in the outback as she eagerly awaits the Christmas Tea and Sugar Train. Will she meet Father Christmas? Will she receive a Christmas gift from him?

A delightful, heart-warming story that will intrigue, captivate and introduce readers to a slice of the past.

Tea and Sugar Christmas features wonderful, sensitive illustrations, including a beautiful double fold-out image showing the shops inside all the carriages.

ISBN 978-0-642-27863-0
2014, hb, 270 x 225 mm, 36 pp
RRP \$24.99

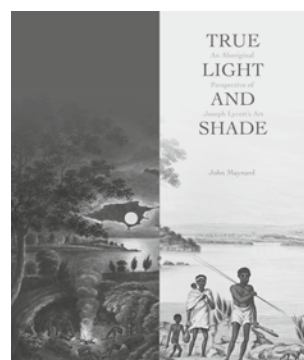


True Light and Shade: An Aboriginal Perspective of Joseph Lycett's Art

By Professor John Maynard

True Light and Shade is filled with beautiful images by convict artist Joseph Lycett that powerfully capture in intimate detail Aboriginal life and represent a rare record of Aboriginal people in the Newcastle area. They also serve to document how Aboriginal people adapted to European settlement before cultural destruction took its toll.

Professor John Maynard writes an engaging short biography of Lycett and his life in Australia and follows this with a detailed commentary on each of the 20 images in Lycett's album. Each image is reproduced in full on a double page



spread and details have also been enlarged to accompany John's text as he takes us through exactly what is happening in every picture: ceremony, hunting and fishing, carrying food, land management and burning, interactions with Europeans, family life, dances, funeral rituals, and punishment.

John also includes written records from the time that corroborate Lycett's views, and dreamtime stories connected with the areas Lycett depicted, with accompanying Indigenous art.

The title quote, 'true light and shade', comes from Lycett's words: 'I consider a complete drawing to be an accurate delineation of anything with its true light and shade'.

As a Worimi man from the Newcastle/Port Stephens region, John Maynard brings his own knowledge and insight to his exploration of the drawings, and to the fascinating character of Joseph Lycett.

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2014, pb, 284 x 233 mm, 172 pp
RRP \$49.99

John Gould's Extinct and Endangered Mammals of Australia

By Dr Fred Ford

In this book, author Fred Ford compares Gould's world and its fauna with the world today. He highlights 46 Australian mammal species that, today, are threatened or extinct, but which thrive in the lavish colour plates reproduced from John Gould's 1863 publication, *The Mammals of Australia*.



Fred provides the reader with fascinating, and often poignant, stories of European attitudes and behaviour towards Australia's native fauna and connects these to the animals' fates today. Much of this behaviour, from bounty hunting of the Thylacine in Tasmania to Koala fur-trading and the 'wallaby drives' in the late 1800s, would today be considered shameful. Other threats to our native fauna, such as the introduction into Australia's ecosystem of rabbits, foxes and cats and intensive pastoralism, persist today.

A book for readers interested in Australian natural history, the environment and conservation.

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2014, hb, 260 x 233 mm, 280 pp
RRP \$49.99



National librarians in the Justin Godart Salon at Lyon's City Hall.

Bernard Stiegler, one of the leading French philosophers, gave the keynote address at the opening session, drawing on his extended interest in philosophy, technology and digitisation. He contends that the stupefying dynamism of 'linguistic capitalism' which rapidly took over the digitisation of all sorts of collections, and in particular book collections, may have then given the impression that the glorious era of libraries was over. However, the time of libraries might start again—and as a new age of reading and writing, for example, through hybrid reading. Hybrid reading is based upon the accumulation and sharing of their reading notes by the readers of a library collection. By collecting and editing those notes on the base of a graphic annotation language, the library becomes a place for collective interpretative activities through which hermeneutics communities can form, and which constitute what he called a process of transindividuation. In the process of the digital duplication of the world, the activity of shared annotation constitutes the future of knowledge.

As a complete counterpoint to this cerebral keynote, Professor Stiegler was followed by the hip-hop dance troupe, Pockemon Crew, which gave us a sublime performance of the physical.

With 227 sessions over the six days of the Congress, the choice was overwhelming with sessions catering to librarians working in all manner of institutional contexts (for example, school, public, art, academic, parliamentary, health, metropolitan, agricultural, national); with themes focusing on the functions or work of libraries (for example, preservation, access, technology, reference and interlibrary lending services); on issues (such as, censorship and assessing the impact of libraries); on services (such as, for children and young adults); on regions (such as, Africa, the Spanish-speaking world) and many more.

It is the custom for national librarians to meet on one day of the Congress. Our meeting was hosted in the magnificent City Hall. Completed in 1672, the building sustained a serious fire in 1674 and then, in 1793, the building, which had been restored, was further damaged when bombarded by the troops of the Convention.



The Ayers Rock pub.

City Hall wears its history and travails well and is magnificent. National librarians (from over 50 countries) met in the Justin Godart Salon, which was used for receptions and balls. At one end of the room there is a white marble fireplace over which there is a bas-relief representing the founding of Lyon. Facing the fireplace is a late 19th-century Aubusson tapestry called *The Amazon's Garden*. And, in between, there are over a dozen sparkling chandeliers. It felt as though our discussions—about copyright and orphan works, destruction of documentary heritage in the course of conflict or natural disaster, digital preservation and collaborative digitisation—were very prosaic by comparison!

I had two ambitions as a tourist to Lyon. One was to see some of the Roman ruins and the second was to visit the Textile Museum of Lyon. Happily, both these ambitions were realised.

Textiles have been a significant creative and commercial industry for Lyon. By the mid-18th century, the city's influential silk weavers—40 per cent of Lyon's total workforce—transformed what had already been a textiles centre since the 15th century into the silk-weaving capital of Europe. The Textile Museum preserves the most important collection of textiles in the world, with about two and a half million items which span textile production from Pharaonic Egypt to today with pieces from around the world. Of course, the museum can display the barest fraction of its collection but what was on display—furnishing fabric, ecclesiastical robes, opera costumes and clothes—was beautiful.

Given the warm welcome from our French colleagues, the friendliness of delegates, the attractions of the program and the sights of Lyon, it was impossible to be idle or worry about home. Australians could, I suppose, have had recourse to my most improbable find—the Ayers Rock pub. The walk along the Rhône to the Congress centre took me past many river boats or barges—some restaurants and bars and some residential. None was as arresting as the Ayers Rock!

Anne-Marie Schwirtlich