

THE FRIENDS ANNIVERSARY GIFT TO THE LIBRARY

At the function celebrating the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Friends of the National Library on 17 April, the Chair of the Friends Committee, Robyn Oates, announced a gift to the Library of three Indigenous Australian artworks. These will be hung in the refurbished Main Reading Room. They were specifically chosen with a reading room in mind: to bring light, warmth and energy and also to promote stillness and quiet reflection.

The first painting is natural ochre on canvas by Mabel Juli and is called *Garnkini on the Hill* (2013). Juli is an East Kimberley Warmun artist. She is one of Australia's most revered painters. She is also an important figurehead in law, culture and ceremonial practices and she has received numerous awards and accolades. In the painting, she has used precious natural earth pigments, which she digs from secret places. This painting depicts a hill in Mabel Juli's country, with the moon lightly resting on its peak. It is dramatically set against a deep charcoal black sky. The painting tells a story about the moon and a star and forbidden love. A young man loved his mother-in-law. This was forbidden and he was banished to the night sky where he became the moon. He appears every three days when he is reunited with his love, the young woman with long black hair who appears as the star.

The second painting is *Yab-yab-gnerni-gnim (Sugarbag Dreaming)* (2009) by Minnie Lumai. In her late 70s, Lumai lives and works in Kununurra in the East Kimberley. Her country, within the Keep River National Park, is abundant with sugarbag, a wild bush honey and wax, gathered from the hives of native bees. There are three levels of meaning in the picture. It not only shows the sugarbag (which is a refreshing and nourishing supplement to bush tucker), but is also a simple landscape painting. The circular shapes depict the rocky country and the Bullo River, which eventually ends as a spring, shown as the smaller red and yellow shapes at

continued on back page



Mabel Juli, *Garnkini on the Hill* (detail) 2013, ochre on canvas, 150 x 180 cm

INSIDE

Message from the Chair 2

Feature Articles 3

Recent Events 5

Friends News 6

Other News 8

Friends Events 8

New Library Publications 11

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Friends,

We have just celebrated our 25th anniversary and it has been a productive quarter century. Over the years, the Friends have given generously to the Library. We are a Treasures Gallery Silver Partner and we have enabled the Friends Travelling Fellowship, the Creative Arts Fellowship, the Oral History Wall and digitisation projects. To celebrate 25 years, the Friends have given the Library some splendid Aboriginal artworks and you can read more about them in this issue.

The Friends have come a long way since our first member, Gough Whitlam, launched the inaugural Ken Myer Memorial Lecture on 5 April 1990. He was honoured by ALIA, the Australian Library Information Association, for his outstanding service to the library and information profession. The citation identifies '... his philosophical commitment to the 'right to know' and therefore the importance of providing equality of access to information for all members of the community'. No matter what our political persuasion, I think we would all agree with the 'right to know'.

But there is even more to the National Library than information. Everyone who visits can enjoy the beauty of the building: the Leonard French stained-glass windows; the Mategot tapestries with iconic Australian references; and the Pantainos Stone, which symbolises the link between our modern Australian library and the Ancients, who also valued the collection and sharing of knowledge. Jumping forward about 2,000 years, we have a National Library that is a world leader in digital preservation techniques, and maintains an internet-accessible archive of selected Australian websites called the Pandora Archive. Pandora and Trove circumvent library opening hours and allow us to visit and browse from almost anywhere in the world, at any time.

Now, with winter upon us, it is a good time to settle in a warm spot and read. When we do visit the Library we may enjoy a spot in the café, the Friends Room or one of the reading rooms. Recently, I came across an article by New Yorker Joe Queenan in which he wrote: 'people congregate in libraries in a way that they do not congregate elsewhere ... The public library is the only fully democratic institution I know of. The library is the only place where people of all colors, creeds, ages, and political beliefs freely, easily, and inadvertently intermingle', and I like to think that the Friends are much the same.

We are an eclectic bunch but we have one thing in common. We are library users and library advocates. The Friends of the National Library of Australia was envisaged as an organisation that would advocate for this Library. When we visit regularly, the things that we see and hear and read become part of our personal patter. We are accepted among our friends and family as 'library people' and, when we speak about our library hours, we become advocates for this institution, which is the largest repository in the world for material to do with Australia and Australians. So, here's to the next 25 years!

Robyn Oates

FEATURE ARTICLES

A 25th Anniversary Celebration— Inspiration & Information: Why Libraries Matter

On the evening of Friday 17 April, a large number of Friends gathered to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the group. Professor Dennis Pearce, Chair of the Events Sub-Committee, introduced the three guest speakers, who had been asked to explain why libraries matter to them.

The first of these was Don Watson, author of *Recollections of a Bleeding Heart*, *Death Sentence: The Decay of Public Language* and *The Bush: Travels in the Heart of Australia*. He reminisced about libraries he had known, recalling in particular one that used a system of call slips (administered by men in grey dustcoats). They gathered up the slips and located the books, returning some time later intoning the book titles. This could occasionally be embarrassing if a book had a suspect title (for example, *Why I Am A Communist*).

Don had fond memories of the National Library, the State Library of Victoria, the Mitchell Library in Glasgow, the Scottish National Library in Edinburgh and the Library of Congress.

Libraries, he said, now seem to have lost their respect for silence. He still favours browsing and reading books in hard copy: this allows readers to find what they most need in something they were not looking for. Libraries are unique. On a good day you can go in and come out a different person. That cannot be said of any other institution.

The second speaker, Marion Halligan, was well known to the audience as a prolific author, having now published more than 20 books. Her most recent novel is *Goodbye Sweetheart*. From 1991 to 1994, Marion was a member of the first elected Committee of the Friends. She has served as Chair of the Literature Board of the Australia Council and the Australian National Word Festival. She was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2006 for her services to literature. She remembered the benefits she gained as a child from using the Newcastle Library (to which she went by tram). This was a different world in which young children were allowed the freedom to travel alone. She recalled 'fierce librarians' and a prohibition on borrowing adult books. When she came to Canberra, she regularly used the Petherick Reading Room at the National Library. On one occasion, she undertook research on sharks for a novel she was writing. The Library remains very close to her heart: 'nothing can beat it'.



Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, Director-General of the National Library, congratulates the Friends on their 25th anniversary



Don Watson



Marion Halligan

Omar Musa, the third speaker, is a Malaysian-Australian. He has released three hip hop albums and two books of poetry. His first novel, *Here Come the Dogs*, was published in 2014 and he is writing a play.

He too spoke warmly of the delights of library use. He quoted Germaine Greer, who remarked that a library is a place where you can lose your innocence without losing your virginity. In Omar's words, 'a library is a safe space for thought that is unruly, resistant and dangerous, or as serene, soothing and contemplative as one wants it to be'. Here he was echoing Flaubert's description of a library as a type of orderly, regular space that allows art and thinking to be violent and original. In a library, 'we can grow wings and travel the world'. Omar said that he had learned more about literature and history by having a library card and a hunger for knowledge than he ever did at school or university.

He stressed the role of libraries in providing resources for non-English speakers. Recently he had spoken to a librarian who had worked at the Queanbeyan City Library for 30 years. When she began there, most of the materials were for Macedonian migrants, but she had seen the collection grow to accommodate wave after wave of migrants. The library offered them both insight into their new home and a means of connecting with their cultural and linguistic heritage.

Omar concluded by reminding the audience that libraries should not be seen as places of religious solemnity. Spending time in a library can be 'fun'. More importantly, libraries are 'free' in several senses. Public libraries are free but they also offer a setting in which readers are free to explore ideas. They are egalitarian and open to all. They are 'a treasure chest, a centre of community, a playground for creators and a repository of dreams'.

The speakers were thanked by Robyn Oates, who then presented a cheque to Anne-Marie Schwirtlich as a gift from the Friends to finance the purchase of two paintings for the new Family History and Newspapers zone of the Main Reading Room.

For members who were unable to attend this celebratory evening, a recording was made of our magnificent speakers. This podcast can be accessed online at www.nla.gov.au/news/podcasts.

John Seymour



Omar Musa



Friends Chair Robyn Oates presents Anne-Marie Schwirtlich with a cheque for the artwork gift to the National Library



Bruce Bacon, Vanessa Fanning (Chair of the inaugural Friends Committee, 1991–1993) and David Vincent

RECENT EVENTS



David Hill signing books at the launch

Book Launch: *First Fleet Surgeon* by David Hill

The Friends hosted a most successful and enjoyable launch of a National Library publication, *First Fleet Surgeon: The Voyage of Arthur Bowes Smyth*, authored by David Hill, on Tuesday 28 April.

First Fleet Surgeon presents a detailed exposition of a Library treasure, the journal of Arthur Bowes Smyth. Bowes Smyth was a surgeon aboard the *Lady Penrhyn*, a First Fleet vessel commissioned to bring convict women to Australia.

He had an extraordinary eye for detail and his journal paints an intimate picture of life aboard the *Lady Penrhyn*, with descriptions of landfalls, ports and oceans, the people he met and the flora and fauna he saw.

David, a well-known and respected author, congratulated the Library on the standard of the book saying that it was one of the grandest he had been associated with. He said that he had earlier read a copy of Bowes Smyth's journal held by the Mitchell Library and he was most pleased to be asked by the Library to write *First Fleet Surgeon*. David gave an illuminating talk illustrated with text and drawings from Bowes Smyth's manuscript.

David stressed the astonishing feat of the First Fleet journey: 11 tiny, leaking boats, crammed full of some 1,500 people, animals and provisions, making an eight-month journey from Portsmouth through virtually uncharted waters, and arriving at Port Jackson within a day or so of each other with the loss of only very few lives on the way.

In launching *First Fleet Surgeon*, Alan Kerr, a member of the Friends Committee, noted that the Library holds other material about Bowes Smyth, and that this supported the suggestion, noted also by David, that the Library's journal is the original of at least three versions—the other two known copies being held by the Mitchell Library and the British Library.

Coffee with a Curator: Secrets of the Treasures Gallery

On Friday 27 March, a lucky group of a dozen Friends met Nat Williams, the James and Bettison Treasures Curator, for a guided tour of the latest exhibition in the Treasures Gallery. Major changeovers occur every six months, with page-turns of vulnerable items like the *Endeavour* journal more frequent. Nat was the driving force behind the Treasures Gallery and, before I retired from the Exhibitions area of the Library, I was lucky enough to work on the preliminary lists for its planned early displays. So, it was a particular pleasure to see how the gallery has developed since it was launched in 2011 and to see some of its most recent additions.

Nat gave us a fascinating tour of an amazing variety of material, starting with some objects, or 'realia', at the Gallery entrance: a nephrite *mere pounamu* (a Maori weapon) from the Nan Kivell Collection and Martin Boyd's carnelian seal.

Inside, we saw a wonderful display of old and rare celestial atlases and wall maps, then we moved on to Joseph Banks' letter to Lord Morton (in which Banks complained about the Viceroy of Brazil: 'illiterate and impolite gentry') and Wedgwood cameos of James Cook and Joseph Banks, as well as the silver salver engraved after Cook's death with his coat of arms—the only one issued that includes a globe. Then to the first known European painting of an Australian bird—a rainbow lorikeet—and the first publication of an image of one in a book, and, nearby, John Webber's menacing drawing of a polar bear (nothing cuddly about it at all ...) made during Cook's third voyage.

The Library has recently published David Hill's *First Fleet Surgeon*, based on Arthur Bowes Smyth's journal of the voyage of the *Lady Penrhyn*, and we saw the original journal, with sketches and doodles, before continuing on to a painting of the 'Providence Petrel', thousands of which sustained the crew of the *Sirius* after it was wrecked at Norfolk Island. Early colonial period paintings by Thomas Baines and Eugene von Guerard came next, and then a sad Henry Lawson item: a copy of *In the Days When the World Was Wide*, with Lawson's manuscript poem *Letting the Sliprails Down*, inscribed to 'Girlie' (his wife, Bertha) and written in the first year of their marriage when they were apparently still happy.

Finally, and very topically in this centenary year of the Gallipoli landing, Nat showed us the *Gallipoli Letter* written by Keith Murdoch to his friend Andrew Fisher, then prime minister of Australia, in which he described the campaign as a catastrophe and Gallipoli as a place of national sacrifice. Amen to that.

After the tour, we gathered in the Friends Lounge for a truly delicious Devonshire-style morning tea.

Margaret Dent

From Mao to Manga: White Gloves Evening for New Members

On 13 February, a number of Friends attended a White Gloves evening to view a collection display intriguingly titled 'From Mao to Manga'.

The display was introduced by Alex Philp, Director of Overseas Collections Management at the Library. He explained that the Library has been collecting from Asia since the 1950s. The collection is mainly focused on the broad areas of history, culture and society. It concentrates on the modern age although it does include some rare and antique items. The aim is to allow Australians to expand their understanding of countries in our region.

The display included some works by Australian authors. Translated into Chinese, these were instantly recognisable and it was fascinating to see the way some of our children's literature looks in Mandarin.

Also included were items of political ephemera from Thailand and Indonesia. These throw light on social movements in those countries. There were T-shirts and badges bearing political slogans.

The Library has been active in collecting items from South and North Korea. In the collection viewing, there were three contemporary propaganda posters from North Korea. Their titles were: 'Yankee, Go Home Now', 'Let's Boost the Sunflower Harvest' and 'Let's Study Harder to Increase the Dignity of the Motherland'. Alex commented, 'The titles, intent and style of the artwork of these posters could be straight out of the USSR in the 1920s'.

From the Japanese collection, there were samples of Manga, both early and contemporary. Manga is immensely popular in Japan and is an important area of study for scholars of Japanese culture.

The diversity of the White Gloves display impressed all who attended. Many would have had no idea that the Library's holdings of Asian materials are so extensive.

FRIENDS NEWS

2015 Friends Committee

Thank you to all those who responded to our recent call for volunteers to fill the remaining three positions on the Friends Committee. James Ferguson (who has taken on the role of Treasurer), Jennifer Gleeson and Geraldine Mackey have now been officially coopted onto the 2015 Committee.



Nathan Woolley, Manager, China Exhibition Project, explains several Chinese books to Friends



Japanese Manga comics on display



Political ephemera from Thailand and Indonesia

LIBRARY NEWS

New Newspapers and Family History Zone

As a part of the National Library's ongoing Reading Room Integration Project, a new Newspapers and Family History zone opened in the Main Reading Room on Monday 4 May 2015. All newspapers, microform collections, scanning equipment and family history resources are now located within the expanded Main Reading Room on the Ground Floor. The new service will have the same opening hours as the Main Reading Room.

The new area within the Main Reading Room includes seating to read current newspapers and a children's book corner.

In June, the construction focus will shift to Lower Ground 1 to create an expanded café and informal seating area with improved internet access. Later in 2015, the entire Ground Floor will become publicly accessible with the opening of a quiet study area in the expanded Main Reading Room.

Help Us Share the Story of Australia's Currency



Commonwealth of Australia Banknote Number P000001 1913, MS10145

The National Library is full of surprises. We hold a small but significant collection of rare colonial currency, including convict-era promissory notes (which took the role of a circulating currency when coins were unavailable) and the first Commonwealth banknotes created following Federation.

This year, the Library's annual appeal is raising funds to research, preserve and digitise the Library's rare collection of currency. Brought together for the first time, the funds raised will bring new knowledge about these historically significant items to light, through appraisal and description by a numismatic expert. Once this work is completed, these treasures will be available online to inspire, delight and educate all Australians for generations to come.

Among the highlights are nineteenth- and twentieth-century promissory notes and IOUs issued by merchants, and the first Commonwealth banknote associated with Andrew Fisher (Australia's fifth prime

minister). The one pound banknote is currently on display in our Treasures Gallery.

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

Medieval Manuscripts Project Update



Latin Book of Hours (detail) 1400s, England, MS1097/2

You may recall that the National Library's 2014 annual appeal raised funds to preserve and digitise the Library's rare collection of medieval manuscripts. Some 6,000 individual pages in 250 items are dispersed among the Clifford, Rex Nan Kivell and several smaller collections, with one missal fragment dating to the 10th century. The Library's generous Patrons, Friends and donors contributed \$125,662 to this project.

Since the commencement of the project in October 2014, Manuscripts staff have worked closely with colleagues in Preservation, Digitisation and Photography, Public Programs and Special Materials Cataloguing to progress work.

We are delighted that, as of this month, 78 per cent of the images will have been captured. All these images will be accessible online and it is expected that this improved access will lead to further discoveries about our holdings.

The Library's preservation staff have enjoyed working on such ancient and significant materials. The project has provided a unique opportunity to utilise a full range of conservation skills, from investigating new materials and techniques to assessing the stability of parchment leaves, enabling the items to be exhibited.

A number of these extraordinary manuscripts will be shown alongside the *Rothschild Prayer Book* in *Revealing the Rothschild Prayer Book c. 1505–1510 from the Kerry Stokes Collection*. The exhibition, held in our Treasures Gallery, will be on display until 9 August.

For more information about this preservation project, visit the Library's Behind the Scenes Blog at nla.gov.au/blogs/behind-the-scenes.

OTHER NEWS



Why Not Join FAIR (Freedom of Access to Information and Resources)?

FAIR is a new initiative of ALIA.

FAIR monitors topics such as literacy and reading, copyright law reform and cyber safety, and provides a mechanism through which supporters can get engaged. Help ALIA secure the future for libraries by joining FAIR to ensure Australia remains a fair, open, democratic society where information can be accessed by everyone.

For more information, please visit fair.alia.org.au (FAIR) or alia.org.au (ALIA).

Volunteers Required for the Lifeline Canberra Bookfair

The Lifeline Canberra Bookfair has contacted the Friends with a call for volunteers. The Bookfair has a continuous need for knowledgeable volunteers to assist in the sorting, pricing and packing of a large volume of donated material covering a wide range of categories. People with Library backgrounds make ideal volunteers, particularly those retired with time to spare and some specialist knowledge. Volunteers are required to work at each Bookfair in a variety of roles.

To find out more and get involved, contact the Lifeline Canberra Book Warehouse on 02 6241 2901, email bookfairvol@act.lifeline.org.au or visit the Warehouse at 40 Heffernan Street, Mitchell ACT 2911.

FRIENDS EVENTS

Bookings for all Friends events may be made online at nla.gov.au/bookings/friends, through the Friends Office on 02 6262 1698 or by emailing friends@nla.gov.au. 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 your name, event name and the dollar amount written on the envelope. These will then be passed on to the Friends Office.

For details of other National Library events, please refer to the Library's *What's On* guide or visit nla.gov.au/events.

Fearful Symmetry: The Medici Legacy and Renaissance Gardens



Symmetry Perfected. I Tatti, Berenson's garden, photo: Sue Ebury

Gardens both set and follow fashion, and exploring garden history reveals surprising insights. Sue Ebury's desire to understand three ground-breaking Renaissance Tuscan gardens made by the Medici around six centuries ago, and to understand their creators' impulses, has taken her on a decade-long journey from Ovid and English diarist John Evelyn to today's Professor John Dixon Hunt. In this lecture, she will visit, study and 'read' their importance through paintings, literature and her stunning photographs.

Sue Ebury is the national patron of the Australian Garden History Society and a founding committee member. She is also the biographer of Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop and Kenneth Myer and an honorary research associate in the History Department, University of Hong Kong. She is currently writing the biography of Australian Brigadier Sir Lindsay Ride, academic, and spymaster in China during the Second World War.

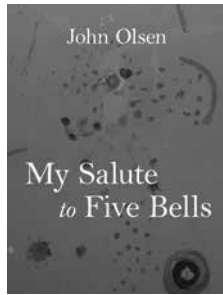
Thursday 18 June, 6 pm

Conference Room, \$15 Friends and AGHS members / \$20 non-members (includes light refreshments)

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

My Salute to Five Bells by John Olsen

Join the Friends for the launch of the new National Library publication, *My Salute to Five Bells*, by artist John Olsen AO, OBE.



John Olsen's striking mural for the Sydney Opera House was his response to the poem, *Five Bells*, by Kenneth Slessor. In *My Salute to Five Bells*, Olsen writes about his inspiration for the mural, his process of creation, and the aftermath. The book includes a previously unseen self-portrait and paintings that reveal the creative path he took, ending with a moving self-penned poem, *Farewell to Five Bells*. The centrepiece is Olsen's *Opera House Journal*, in which the artist combined images, sketches and notes, a treasure of the National Library's collection.

Sunday 26 July, 1 pm

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

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

Celebrating 150 Years of W.B. Yeats



WB Yeats 1903, photo: Alice Boughton

Join us for an afternoon of poetry and song to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Irish poet William Butler Yeats. MC for the afternoon will be Professor Ronan McDonald, Director of the Global Irish Studies Centre UNSW and the Australian Ireland Fund Chair in Modern Irish Studies, who will contextualise the works performed.

Sunday 2 August, 2 pm

Theatre, \$25 Friends of NLA & Friends of Ireland / \$35 non-members (includes afternoon tea)

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

In association with the Friends of Ireland and the Embassy of Ireland

2015 Friends Creative Arts Fellowship Lecture: The Desolate Kingdom



Chris Williams, photo: Hayden Shepherd

2015 Friends Creative Arts Fellow, composer Chris Williams, discusses the work undertaken during his Fellowship. Featuring recent recordings of his new compositions, as performed by the Sydney Chamber Opera.

Tuesday 18 August, 6 pm

Theatre, \$10 Friends & students / \$15 non-members

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

Friends Storytime



Bring your children, grandchildren and young friends to the monthly Friends of the National Library Storytime sessions. Enjoy hearing new tales and rediscovering old favourites, as told by members of the ACT Storytellers Guild.

Thursdays 18 June, 16 July and 20 August, 11.30 am
Ferguson Room, free for Friends and their accompanying children / \$5 per child for non-members
Bookings not required, pay at the door

Friends Book Club

A monthly literary discussion for members only.

Tuesday 30 June—*The Climb* by Geraldine Doogue

Tuesday 28 July—*The Golden Age* by Joan London

Tuesday 25 August—*The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain

6.15 pm

Friends Lounge, free

Bookings not required

Free Film Screenings

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



Wednesday 17 June, 6 pm—*Psycho* (1960, 109 mins, R)

Wednesday 15 July, 5.30 pm—*Man with a Movie Camera* (1929, 68 mins, NR)

Wednesday 19 August, 5.30 pm—*A Lesson on Love* (1954, 96 mins, NR)

Theatre, free

Bookings not required

GIVE THE GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP

Give someone special a gift that will last the whole year with a gift membership to the Friends of the National Library. Not only will you be supporting the Friends and the Library, but your gift recipient will be able to 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*.

To arrange a gift membership, contact the Friends office on 02 6262 1698 or visit our website: nla.gov.au/friends



25 YEARS 1990-2015

LIBRARY EVENTS



St Helena and Suffrage to St Helena, fols. 233v–234r in the *Rothschild Prayer Book* c. 1505–1510, Kerry Stokes Collection, Perth

Revealing the Rothschild Prayer Book c. 1505–1510 from the Kerry Stokes Collection

The *Rothschild Prayer Book*, an early sixteenth-century Book of Hours, was produced during the last great flourishing of manuscript illumination. This Renaissance masterpiece includes paintings of unsurpassed beauty and refined execution by some of the most sought-after Flemish illuminators of the early sixteenth century, including Gerard Horenbout and Simon Bening.

Acquired for the Kerry Stokes Collection in January 2014, this superb example of Flemish book illumination will be on public display, for the first time in Australia, in the Treasures Gallery at the National Library. A selection of the Library's own medieval and Renaissance treasures will complement the *Rothschild Prayer Book*.

The display takes visitors on a journey from illuminated manuscripts to a printed leaf from Gutenberg's Bible, via a tenth-century music fragment and the important fourteenth-century *Chertsey Cartulary* from the Library's Clifford Collection. It is a not-to-be-missed experience for lovers of illuminated manuscripts and rare books.

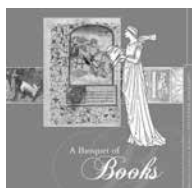
Friday 22 May–Sunday 9 August, 10 am–5 pm
Treasures Gallery, free (bookings not required)

Evening Exhibition Viewing of the *Rothschild Prayer Book*

Did you miss the Friends private viewing of the *Rothschild Prayer Book*? Then come along to one of the Library's after hours exhibition viewings. Enjoy light refreshments and listen to a curator speak about the items on display before an exclusive viewing of the *Revealing the Rothschild Prayer Book* exhibition.

Fridays 3 July and 7 August, 5.30 pm
Treasures Gallery, \$40 (includes refreshments)
Bookings: nla.gov.au/bookings or 02 6262 1271

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 June 2015 and 31 August 2015, Friends will receive a free copy of *A Banquet of Books*. This offer is in addition to the usual Friends discount and any other offers advertised on the Library Bookshop website.

To claim your free copy of *A Banquet of Books* and your 15 per cent discount with all online purchases, use the promotional code FR15JUN15 at checkout. This code is valid from 1 June 2015 to 31 August 2015.

Emporium: Selling the Dream in Colonial Australia

by Edwin Barnard

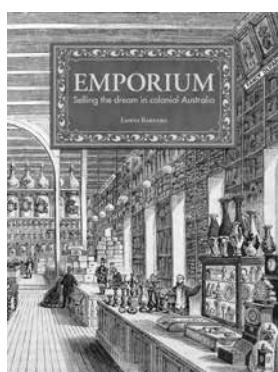
Advertisements can reveal a great deal about an age. Gleaned from the pages of long-forgotten publications, such as *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* and *Australian Town and Country Journal*, together with dozens of regional newspapers, they paint an intriguing picture of our great-great-grandparents' world. With over 450 images, this book is one to pore over: perhaps that electric hairbrush really did cure baldness and wouldn't it be wonderful if those strange cannabis cigarettes did relieve asthma? Advertisements for condoms? It was just a matter of knowing what to look for.

In *Emporium*, collections of advertisements give a series of 'snapshots' of colonial times. Each themed section, with its eyewitness accounts and contemporary descriptions, paints a lively and entertaining picture of everyday life in the Australian colonies.

ISBN 978-0-642-27868-5

2015, pb, 300 x 225 mm, 192 pp

RRP \$49.99



First Fleet Surgeon: The Voyage of Arthur Bowes Smyth

By David Hill

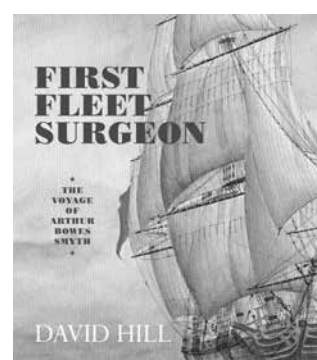
Author David Hill brings to life the voyage of the *Lady Penrhyn* and the early months of settlement at Port Jackson (modern-day Sydney). Hill draws on First Fleet surgeon Arthur Bowes Smyth's journal which describes his two-and-a-half year journey from Portsmouth in England to the new colony in Australia and back. As surgeon to more than 100 convict women on the *Lady Penrhyn*, Bowes Smyth gives an insight into the plight of these women and their children. Their voyage was marked by seasickness, miscarriage, infant deaths, a diet of salted meat and dry hardtack biscuits, and cruel punishment and, when they finally set foot on Australian soil, their travails did not end. There are descriptions of medical incidents that would make a modern reader squirm, and moments of high drama when mountainous seas threatened to overturn the ship or when passengers fell overboard. Once in the new colony, Bowes Smyth details early encounters with Aboriginal people and how the new colony struggled with food shortages, outbreaks of disease and crop failures. He also describes the promiscuity and lax morals of the convicts with typical flair, declaring their audacity 'not to be equalled amongst a set of villains in any other part of the globe'.

Each chapter is richly illustrated and includes a page of Bowes Smyth's handwritten diary entries, accompanied by a full transcript.

ISBN 978-0-642-27862-3

2015, pb, 250 x 220 mm, 224 pp

RRP \$44.99





Minnie Lumai, *Yab-yab-gnerni-gnim (Sugarbag Dreaming)* 2009
ochre on canvas, 130 x 125 cm

the end of the river. The third interpretation is the Dreamtime story of how the plains and hills of this country were created by two kangaroos. Arguing over the prized bush honey and wax, the kangaroos eventually decided to divide the country into two parts, creating the stony hills and flat open plains. Minnie Lumai's paintings are vibrant and serene, perfectly balanced by a palette which is velvety and elegant. She is highly skilled at blending natural ochres to produce a range of soft shades—pale pinks, olive greens, mustard yellows, blue greys, purple mauves and crimson red browns.

A third work, *Kunawarritji* (2012) by Nora Wompi, is being purchased with funds provided by Wesfarmers. The artist was born in 1935. She is recognised for her beautiful pale washes of clotted creams and soft milky whites, pinks and blues. On occasion, she adds bold strokes of primary colour. She depicts her traditional country near the Kunawarritji Community (Well 33) along the Canning Stock route, south-west of Balgo, a small mission settlement in far-north Western Australia. The painting displays lineal patterns representing the tali (sand hills) that dominate this country. The circular shapes represent the scarce rock holes and waterholes dotted throughout the desert. According to the artist, this is good country for collecting bush foods, and Wompi celebrates its ability to give and sustain life.



Nora Wompi, *Kunawarritji* 2012, acrylic on canvas, 150 x 180 cm

Robyn commented that the three works will 'look stunning' when they are hung. They will be important additions to the Library's cultural collection and should give pleasure to readers. She thanked Helen Carroll, Manager, Wesfarmers Arts, and Curator of the Wesfarmers Collection of Australia Art, who assisted the Friends with the acquisition of these extraordinary works.

Each artist and the gallery generously provided the works at a discount in order to support the Library.

Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, the Director-General of the National Library of Australia, thanked Robyn and the Friends for the gift of the paintings. She said that the Library was fortunate to have such a 'magnificent group' of supporters. In addition to acknowledging the most recent gift, she emphasised the extent of the Friends' financial support over the years. She mentioned the contributions to the Treasures Gallery, the funding of the digitisation of *The Canberra Times* and Federation documents, and the provision of an annual Travelling Fellowship for a staff member and a Creative Arts Fellowship. She noted that since the Friends were founded, they had given the Library almost a quarter of a million dollars.

John Seymour