

December 2005

Treasures now open

Curated by Margaret Dent, *National Treasures from Australia's Great Libraries* runs at the National Library from 3 December 2005 until

12 February 2006. From there the exhibition will travel to all capital cities. Items included in the exhibition are from the collections of the National Library, the State Libraries of NSW, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, Queensland and Western Australia, the ACT Heritage Library and the Northern Territory Library Service.

Great Offer from the Canberra Theatre – ACT Friends

Enclosed here as part of the December mail-out for ACT Friends is the wonderful new Canberra Theatre Subscription Season booklet for 2006. The Canberra Theatre has kindly extended to the Friends of the National Library **concession** tickets to all shows. Tickets go on sale on 23 January 2006 (offer not available on subscription packages). Ring 02 6275 2700 for more details.

Batting with Bradman

What does an Australian Summer bring apart from hot days, the sound of cicadas, long balmy evenings and barbecues? Well, if cricket comes to mind, come along to *Batting with Bradman* at the National Library at 3pm on Sunday, 29 January. Alan Davidson, Bill Brown, Bob Simpson and friends will talk about the legend of Bradman and how cricket has changed over the years. Tickets \$20 Friends, \$25 non-members. Bookings are essential; please call 02 6262 1271 or email rsvp@nla.gov.au. There are other events planned in association with the *National Treasures* exhibition. See our quarterly guide for details or go to www.nla.gov.au and click on 'News and Events'.

Flying High Update

The irrepresible Nancy Bird Walton will relive her experiences as one of Australia's first female pilots, including being taught her craft by Charles Kingsford Smith. She will be joined by Air Force chief, Air Marshal Geoff Shepherd; a child of the jet age, with experience in Mirages and F-111s. Hear stories of fliers, flying and high adventure in an evening of reminiscences. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, Dick Smith is unable to join us for *Flying High*. *Flying High* will take place in the Library Theatre on Wednesday, 14 December at 6pm. The event is free, but bookings are essential: 02 6262 1271.

In the Steps of Banjo Patterson

On Saturday, 12th November, 44 Friends visited countryside which Andrew Barton ("Banjo") Paterson knew as a boy. His memories provided themes and material for many of the ballads thirty to fifty years later. Highlights of the day tour included: morning tea at Banjo Paterson Park, Yass; a visit to "Illalong" Station hosted by Rebecca and Michael Grogan (the Grogan family have lived in this district since the 1850s) and

the site of Banjo's home as a boy; lunch at Binalong, the two-pub town where Banjo once rode to school and a visit to the grave of "Flash" Johnny Gilbert, the bushranger attracted as a teenager to the Ben Hall gang. Our warmest thanks go to Rebecca and Michael Grogan, Julie Paterson and others at the Binalong Hotel, "Bubbles" Garry and the trip organiser, Terry Birtles. Their generosity, time and knowledge made the day truly memorable.

Committee member, Terry Birtles is an enthusiastic and creative tour organizer so watch out for more tours around the district in 2006!

Coming Events December 2005

The full programme for December can be consulted in the What's On section of the National Library's Web site at <http://www.nla.gov.au/apps/events/>.

Friends' Events: Bookings essential. Call 02) 6262 1698 or email
hpearson@nla.gov.au

Monday 13 December, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Exhibition Gallery, Foyer, Theatre Free AGM 5.30pm, Theatre Party 6.30pm, Foyer	Friends of the National Library Annual General Meeting Followed by the Friends and Volunteers Christmas Party The exhibition area will be open for members to have a viewing of the Treasures exhibition.
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NLA Lunchtime talks and events, free (unless otherwise stated)

Wednesday 7 December, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm. Foyer Free.	Christmas Carols in the Foyer Hark! Is that a herald angel I hear? Tune up your chords with the Llewellyn Choir at the Library.
Sunday 11 December, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Theatre Bookings: (02) 6262 1289	Family Fun with Children's Author John Marsden John Marsden is Australia's best-selling writer for teenagers. John will speak about his new book <i>Incurable</i> , the eagerly awaited second book in <i>The Ellie Chronicles</i> - the sequel to the <i>Tomorrow Series</i> which, with over 1.3 million copies sold, is the highest-selling series for young adults in Australian publishing history. Ask John your questions about writing and get your book personally signed.
Wednesday 14 December, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Theatre Free Bookings essential: (02) 6262 1271	Flying High A conversation between two of Australia's best-known aviators. The irrepressible Nancy Bird Walton will relive her experiences as one of Australia's first female fliers, including being taught by Charles Kingsford-Smith. Airforce Chief Air Marshal Geoff Shepherd will recount stories of his life-long fascination with flight. An evening of high adventure and reminiscing.

