

February 2006

Who is she?

1st clue: Allen and Unwin have just released her new novel *The Apricot Colonel*

2nd clue: She has received numerous industry awards including the Age Book of the Year, the ACT Book of the Year, the Nita B. Kibble Award, the Steele Rudd Award and the Braille Book of the Year.

3rd clue: She lives in Canberra.

Worked it out? It's Marion Halligan, and Marion will be here at the Library at 6pm on Thursday, 23 March to talk about her new novel, *The Apricot Colonel*. I know March seems a long way off, but maybe you'd like to read *The Apricot Colonel* before you come to hear Marion talk? The Library Bookshop has copies for sale now and don't forget all Friends receive a 15% discount.

Marion will talk about her work, delight us with a reading, answer your questions and will be signing copies of her novel after the event. Friends \$5, non-members \$10. Bookings essential ph: (02) 6262 1968.

To whet your appetite, this is how *The Apricot Colonel* begins.....

The puncture happened on one of those long straight stretches of highway where the land seems to fold back from the road. It is the rind of the earth and you are a small creature clinging to it; what you mainly see is sky. Except that today it wasn't sky. The sky was an invisible lid and what I saw were sinister layers of smoke trapped thick against it. Bushfire smoke, from hectares of burning national park. The sun was a quivering disc; sun and smoke coated the countryside in sulphurous yellow light.

I don't know how to change a tyre. Maybe the service manual would tell me, but it wasn't in the car.

Nobody stops for people broken down by the side of the road.

I bent over and looked at the tyre. I thought if I touched the ground the dirty yellow light would wipe off on my fingers like grease. At least the tyre hadn't blown and sent me spinning into the culvert. The speed of cars seems normal when you're there doing it with them. But when you stop and stand just out of their passage they are going so fast the noise and the rush buffets you. In a minute you'll be an empty plastic bag tossed and flapping in the dust. I was wearing a skirt and sandals, comfortable for driving. But when I bent over the skirt whirled around me and my hair blew out from my head as though I was already tumbling through the empty landscape.....



Friends Autumn Trip to Braidwood



Have you been awaiting the first Friends day trip of 2006? Well, set aside Tuesday, 28 March as the day you immerse yourself in the history of Braidwood. The trip includes a visit to 'Bedervale', a National Trust homestead, and a talk by Dr Christine Wright, member of the Friends and the Chair of the Braidwood Historical Society. The full day's itinerary will be finalised shortly and published in the March newsletter, but we wanted to give you plenty of notice and a bit of an idea of what we have planned.

Lunch, morning and afternoon tea are included in the price of \$75 for Friends and \$85 for non-members. The bus will depart from the steps of the National Library at 8am Tuesday, 28 March and will return at 5pm the same day. Don't forget, **the full itinerary will be published with the March newsletter**. But, if you would like to book early to avoid disappointment, call Hayley at the Friends office on 02 6262 1698. Payment is required by cob Monday, 20 March to secure your seat. Numbers strictly limited.

Know anyone thinking of joining the Friends... Do they like photography?

Do let them know that for the month of February only, all **new** members go into a draw to win a suite of the National Library's photographic publications and products. Titles include: *Intersections* by Helen Ennis (RRP \$59.95), *Man With a Camera: Frank Hurley Overseas* by Helen Ennis (RRP \$34.95), and *Olive Cotton: Photographer* by Helen Ennis (RRP \$34.95). We will also throw in two beautiful photographic card packs worth more than \$35.

All you have to do to go in the draw is become a new Friend of the National Library during the month of February 2006 (members can join online, www.nla.gov.au or contact the Friends office to be sent an application form: ph: 02 6262 1698, email friends@nla.gov.au). The winner will be notified by telephone and post, and will be announced in the March newsletter.

Catalogue for *National Treasures* – 20% for Friends

The last day that you can see the *National Treasures from Australia's Great Libraries* here in Canberra, is 12 February 2006. From there the exhibition moves to Victoria, and will open at the State Library of Victoria on 10 March 2006.

However, the beautiful catalogue, that has on its own been impressing visitors since the exhibition opened, will continue to be available from the Library shop here in Canberra. As a special deal, Friends will all receive 20% off the catalogue until the end of February (instead of the regular 15%).



Tell us about YOUR Favourite Second Hand / Antiquarian Bookshop

Do you have in your list of favourite spots a second hand bookshop? Perhaps you've picked up a gem there you thought you would never put your hands on? Maybe it's just a cosy place to browse for gifts, run by an eccentric character? I know of one where you can also have coffee and fabulous cakes late at night and you need to be careful not to trip on the narrow, timber staircase.....

But why don't **you** write in and tell us about **your** favourite second hand bookshop, what they specialise in, and how to find them. I'm sure there are other Friends out there who would love to read about these wonderful oases scattered throughout Australia.

Send your little second hand bookshop secret to:

The Editor
Friends of the National Library of Australia
National Library of Australia
Parkes Place
Parkes ACT 2600.



Coming Events February 2006

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

NLA exhibitions

<p><i>Fragments of the Everyday: Ephemera in the National Library</i> Til Sunday 9 April, 2006 Visitor Centre</p>	<p>A collection of material which throws a fascinating light on Australian life and social customs, popular culture, events, and issues of national concern. It includes pamphlets, leaflets, handbills, invitations, cards, menus and, perhaps surprisingly, junk mail.</p>
<p><i>Sir Isaac Isaacs (1855-1948)</i> Til Friday 11 August, 2006 Manuscript Foyer</p>	<p>To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sir Isaac Isaacs, the showcases outside the Manuscript Reading Room on the 2nd floor are displaying items associated with Sir Isaac Isaacs' illustrious career.</p> <p>The display is accessible from 9.00 till 5.00, Monday to Friday</p>
<p><i>National Treasures from Australia's Great Libraries</i> Til Sunday, 12 February 2006 Exhibition Gallery</p>	<p>A travelling exhibition from Australia's National, State and Territory Libraries</p>
<p><i>Trainspotting: The Buckland Collection on Display Part II</i> Til Sunday, 16 July 2006</p>	<p>To commemorate the sesquicentenary of the running of the first trains in New South Wales and similar anniversaries in other states, the National Library of Australia is presenting <i>Trainspotting</i>, a display of photographs from its Buckland collection, chosen by Mr Bob Parker.</p> <p>Part II of <i>Trainspotting</i> features Victoria, South Australia and the former Commonwealth Railways and will be on display until 16 July 2006. Part I, which was on display until 22 January covered New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia.</p>

NLA talks and events

<p>Trainspotting Talk Thursday 16 February 12:30 – 1:30pm Conference Room, free</p>	<p>Join curator Bob Parker and Jim Stokes from the Canberra Railway Museum as they again draw on their encyclopaedic knowledge to present fascinating insight into the history of the railways in Australia's other states.</p>
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