

December 2008

Message from the Editor

Dear Friends

2008 has been a rewarding and productive year for the Friends, with 2009 promising to be just as interesting. At its November meeting, the Friends Committee finalised its program of activities for next year. You will find information about some of these events in this edition of the Newsletter, including an Autumn day tour to historic Gundagai and the first Canberra Series lecture of the year.

As advised in our August newsletter, the National Library's *National Library of Australia News*, will be replaced by a quarterly publication. December 2008 will be the last issue of the current monthly magazine and the first issue of the new publication will be released in March 2009. To streamline the mailing process and reduce costs, the Friends newsletter will also become a quarterly publication, with the next edition also appearing in March.

At last year's Friend's Christmas party, we announced that Basil Dewhurst had been awarded the Friends Travelling Fellowship for 2008. Basil's report on the outcome of the activities sponsored by the Friends through the Fellowship appears later in this newsletter. Also, as promised, you will also find John Graham's report on the recent Spring Day Tour to Yass.

As this is the final newsletter for 2008, it is appropriate to record the Friends thanks to Jan Fullerton and her staff for their tremendous support for the Friends during the year. Our Executive Officer, Sharyn O'Brien, continues to run the Friends office professionally and to provide an exceptional level of support to the Committee and members of the Friends generally.

On behalf of Greg Cornwell and the other members of the Friends Committee, I wish you all the best for a very merry Christmas and a rewarding and prosperous 2009.

We look forward to seeing you at the Friends Christmas Party on 8 December.

Best wishes
Gary Kent

Christmas Shutdown for the Friends Office

The Friends office will close for the Christmas holidays on 19 December and will reopen again on Monday 5 January. Memberships, emails and phone messages will not be processed during this time so please keep this in mind when contacting us over the holidays. If you are renewing your membership during this time, please be prepared for a small delay in the processing of your membership.

Friends Audit Report for 2007-2008

For those of you interested in reading the audit report of the Friends finances for 2007-2008, a copy is now available online at www.nla.gov.au/friends/newsletter.html. A limited number of printed copies will also be available at the Annual General Meeting on Monday 8 December.

New Members Evening

Did you join the Friends of the National Library for the first time in 2008? Would you like to come along to meet some other new Friends and take a behind-the-scenes tour with the Library's Events and Education Manager, Heidi Pritchard? Then join us for our New Members Evening on Tuesday, 3 February, 5:30-7:00pm in the Library foyer. Light refreshments will be served and there will be some great live music too.

Bookings essential by Tuesday 27 January to (02) 6262 1698 or friends@nla.gov.au

Canberra Series Lecture: *Tea, Tennis and Mrs Tillyard*

Please join us for our first Canberra Series lecture of the year as Susan Mary Withycombe reveals the efforts local women made to welcome lonely newcomers to Canberra in the 1920s and to bring them into the newly developing community.

Many women arrived in Canberra in the 1920s and 1930s as wives and daughters of men who came to work in a capital city under construction. Having left homes and family elsewhere, some were enthusiastic pioneers, seizing the opportunity to make a new life in a modern house in a Garden City that offered "the health of the country with the comforts of town". Others were reluctant conscripts, regretting what they had left behind, dismayed at what they found. Whether they would change their minds about Canberra and become prepared to make it "home" depended very much on how they were received by the community being formed there. The Federal Capital Commission had done a good deal to establish community services and recreational facilities in preparation for their arrival, but the work of individual women personally welcoming and befriending newcomers was invaluable. To a lonely woman, stuck in a beautiful house in an unfamiliar landscape and a scattered suburb of strangers, an invitation to a tennis party or afternoon tea might make all the difference between a sense of exile or belonging.

Susan Mary Withycombe is a research scholar History Program of the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University, where she is formalising her History credentials. She has completed a doctoral thesis entitled *Building Communities: Women in the Making of Canberra, 1911-1958*. She is at present a Visitor in the Program, writing a history of Canberra, *A City Like no Other*, to be published before the centenary in 2013. She has written several books on the ACT and Queanbeyan and has developed close working relationships with various people involved in recording the history of this district. She is also a member of the Centenary of Canberra interim working group on history and heritage.

The lecture will be held in the National Library's Conference room on Wednesday 25 February, 12:30-1:30pm. Entry fee is \$5, payable at the door. Bookings are recommended on (02) 6262 1698 or friends@nla.gov.au



Friends Autumn Day Tour: *History of Gundagai – The Two Rivers.*

The 2009 Friends Autumn Day Tour will take place on Saturday 4 April and features a visit to Gundagai. Friends Committee member, Dr Bill Geering, and Gundagai resident, Peter Luders, have created a fascinating itinerary for this tour.

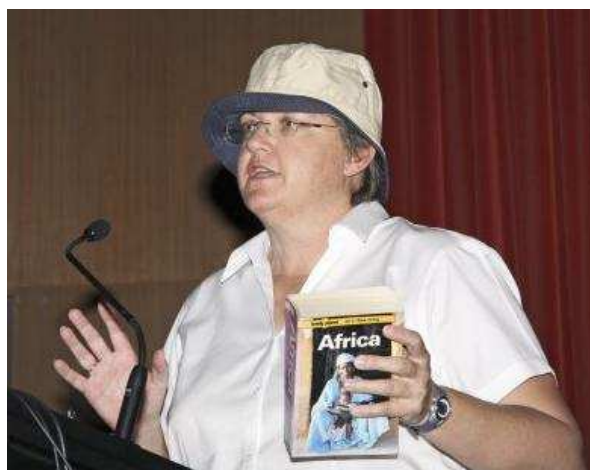
The focus of the day will be on the history of the Gundagai region and will include visits to the Gunnong-Jugrawah property, the Darbalara homestead, and lunch at Nargoon Winery – an old shearing shed on an historic property which has been converted into a winery.

For further details about the tour, including a booking form, please see the back pages of this newsletter.

Tony and Maureen Wheeler: A Celebration

Nearly 300 Friends and other guests gave up part of their Saturday afternoon on 8 November to celebrate the publishing phenomenon that is Tony and Maureen Wheeler. The Lonely Planet series of guidebooks founded by the Wheelers has grown to become the world's largest independent guidebook publisher, with more than 500 titles in print. Although they have sold most of the business to BBC Worldwide, Tony and Maureen still remain actively involved in the business.

The Wheelers were introduced by Dr Tracey Dickson of the University of Canberra's Centre for Tourism Research, who placed the wildly successful Lonely Planet publishing venture within the broader context of national and global tourism. Tracey initially adopted the garb and persona of an intrepid international tourist, loaded down with scores of Lonely Planet guidebooks (see the photograph of Tracey at the right). It appeared at first that the good Dr Dickson was really a comedienne brought along to soften us up for the academic stuff to come.



Dr Tracey Dickson

But after a bit of hilarious humour, she doffed the hat, dumped the guides and got down to business.

In a departure from previous years, rather than a formal address by the subject of the Celebration, the main part of the event took the form of a relaxed lounge-chair chat between Tony and Maureen and well-known Canberra radio identity, David Kilby. But it was no less informative for that and the discussion, often verging into humorous banter, enthralled the audience well beyond the allotted time.

There is unfortunately not space here to report the conversation in full but several vignettes do come readily to mind. One of those was a chance meeting of two strangers (the Wheelers) on a London park bench in the early 1970s, which led to an eventual marriage and then the Lonely Planet publishing venture.



Tony and Maureen Wheeler with David Kilby

Another delightful anecdote was the mistaken inclusion in the Irish Lonely Planet Guide of a telephone number of a Irishwoman, through the unfortunate transposition of just one digit, rather than the local youth hostel. The Wheelers did what they could to remedy matters but drew the line at the request for an all expenses paid holiday to Disneyland for the victim's family as compensation for the unwelcomed telephone calls at all hours of the night.

Much of the discussion centred upon just how difficult it is to produce a series of comprehensive, accurate guidebooks and the difficulties of keeping them current in a rapidly changing world. Tony Wheeler related how, just before their new, beautiful travel guide for the old Soviet Union went to press, the USSR collapsed and was no more. But the Wheelers managed to retrieve the situation and Tony noted that the birth in recent years of so many new independent countries actually created the opportunity for new guide books.

It is the attention to detail that has made the Lonely Planet books such a success, down to such matters as the binding. Determined that their guides would not fall apart like some of those produced by their competitors, the Wheelers insisted from the beginning on production methods that ensured their books stayed in one piece.



The Wheelers signing books for their fans

In response to a question, Tony acknowledged the impact of the electronic age and that much work was being done to enhance Lonely Planet's access through the Internet. One important initiative is providing travellers with the ability to download for a fee only those parts of a guide they require for a particular journey.

The origin of the name 'Lonely Planet' has intrigued many over the years and Maureen very helpfully explained its origins. Tony was listening to 'Space Captain', a song from the Joe Cocker album *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*. The song actually says 'lovely planet' but he heard 'lonely planet'. He liked it, and rest is history!

Following the formal part of the Celebration, the Wheelers signed copies of their Lonely Planet guides for the many dedicated travellers who brought their battered books along or purchased new ones from the Library Shop.

Report on the Friends Spring Day tour

Terry Birtles, former Friends' Chairman, has provided us with yet another insight into the areas surrounding the ACT with his tour to Yass on 25 October. Attracting 109 participants in two buses, it revealed the early history of a beautiful area close to the national capital.

Our first stop was the Nanima homestead on Murrumbateman Creek, squatted by ex-convict John Jobbins in the 1830s, and with the original structure of bricks rendered with a mixture of horse hair and plaster still evident.

Following an introductory tour of Yass, half of the group visited Cooma Cottage, the former home of Hamilton Hume, pioneer grazier and explorer and one of the first magistrates in Yass. The rest of us went on an historical tour of the town, led by the President of the Yass and District Historical Society, Gloria Carlos. In the early afternoon, we reversed this arrangement.



Rubblestone Barn at Nanima



Stables at Cooma Cottage

Before we walked on to the Soldiers' Club for a delicious (and applauded) lunch, a walk down the historic main street of Yass gave us the opportunity to see the development of the town which was ranked in 1858 as the fourth largest in New South Wales.

We took afternoon tea with Ivy Wade, a pioneer descendant, in the gardens of Cliftonwood, the impressive former residence of Mrs Hamilton Hume, and visited the grave of Hamilton Hume.

Terry's historic description of Yass provided an insight into its development. To the middle of the 19th century, the

majority of travellers through the area came from Sydney, he told us. Most did not journey by mail coach. "The better equipped owned a horse, sometimes two, occasionally hauling a dray with goods or possessions. The majority of travellers from Sydney relied upon their own feet to take them and their swag to Yass or beyond, usually in search of elusive employment, or land, or the lure of gold diggings. Some walked with livestock and a dog. Most did not avail themselves of inn accommodation, with many setting up a temporary camp on the town common alongside the Yass River. Poverty proved to be a feature of many itinerant travellers."



Tour participants at 'Cliftonwood'

Today's Yass shows the extent of change in 150 years. No longer a major pass through

point, it has become an attractive country town in its own right, serving as an important centre of rural activity. It is well worth a visit.

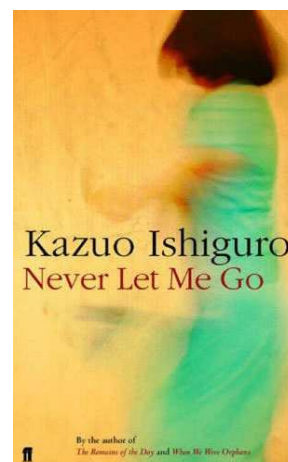
John Graham

Friends of the National Library Book Club

The Friends Book Club is held on the last Tuesday of each month, from 7 to 8.30pm in the Friends Lounge at the National Library. Following are the details of the meetings for the next four months:

December 2008 - No meeting
27 January 2009 – *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro
24 February 2009 - *Breath* by Tim Winton
31 March 2009 - *Lieutenant* by Kate Grenville

If you would like to participate in the Friends Book Club, please RSVP to the Friends Office on (02) 6262 1551 or friends@nla.gov.au. Don't forget that as a Friend of the NLA you receive a 15% discount on all purchases at the bookshop.



Friends of the National Library Travelling Fellowship 2008

In May 2008 using the Friends of the National Library Travelling Fellowship I travelled to Europe to carry out work that has benefitted People Australia, a new online service that the National Library is developing.

People Australia is using a standard called Encoded Archival Context (EAC) to represent and share data about people and organisations. The first aim of my travel was to attend the EAC Working Group meeting to resolve a number of issues with the existing EAC standard.



The EAC Working Group, Archivio di Stato di Bologna

The EAC Working Group, which oversees the development and maintenance of EAC, has representatives from the library and archive sectors of Germany, France, Italy, UK, Canada, Australia and the United States. The Working Group met for three days at the Archivio di Stato in Bologna to deal with a range of issues with EAC that have arisen with its use and to create a blueprint for the new version of EAC that addresses existing and emerging needs.

The second aim of my travel was to research a range of issues relating to the sharing of people and organisation data by visiting institutions conducting internationally significant name authority projects.

I visited the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (DNB) and the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) to discuss the processes and procedures they have developed to participate in the Virtual International Authority File (VIAF) project.

The National Library of Australia is keen to participate in this project also as it would enable us to provide Australian users with access to bibliographic resources across the globe.

The DNB and the BnF also demonstrated a number of interesting projects that focus on using names and subjects to increase access to bibliographic records. Of particular interest is the German Personendaten project. Through this project the DNB populates Wikipedia with



Deutsche Nationalbibliothek gardens, Frankfurt am Main



Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris

names held in the German name authority file and creating links back to records in the DNB catalogue, which makes their catalogue records more accessible on the World Wide Web. As a result of this meeting, People Australia is looking at developing ways of exposing data in online spaces such as Wikipedia, thereby providing users with new pathways to our authoritative resources.

At the University of Manchester I visited the Mimas team who are developing the UK Names service. This service aims to provide information about researchers in the UK Higher education sector. In many ways UK Names is similar to People Australia and being able to meet and discuss it in detail with the Mimas team has prompted us to work with three Australian universities to pilot the use of People Australia for a similar purpose. The end result will be that People Australia users will be able to access information about Australian researchers and current research from our universities.

I'd like to thank the Friends of the National Library for your generous support of this travel. It has significantly contributed to the bedrock on which the People Australia service is built by aiding the development of an important international standard and increasing knowledge at the National Library of models for interchanging people data.

*Basil Dewhurst
(Manager, Resource Discovery Services at the National Library)*

COMING EVENTS

A copy of the National Library's *What's On* guide for December to February, detailing all events at the National Library, has been included with this newsletter. The full programme of events can also be viewed in the *What's On* section of the National Library's website at <http://www.nla.gov.au/apps/events/>



Friends of the National Library of Australia Inc. Canberra ACT 2600
Telephone: 02 6262 1698 Fax: 02 6273 4493 Email: friends@nla.gov.au



Friends Autumn Day Tour

“History of Gundagai – The Two Rivers”

Saturday 4 April 2009

Join the Friends of the National Library for an Autumn Day Tour to Gundagai, led by Friends committee member, Dr. Bill Geering, and Gundagai local, Dr. Peter Luders. This tour will explore the rich history of Gundagai and the surrounding Murrumbidgee and Tumut river valleys since European settlement, including the early squatting runs and the selectors who took up small choice farms along the rivers.

LIKELY ITINERARY:

7:30 am: Bus departs Canberra travelling via Yass to Jugiong. Discussions on the bus on the early explorers - Hume and Hovell, and Sturt.

9:00 am: Arrive Jugiong. View the Murrumbidgee from Shephards Hill as described in Sturt's Diary. Cross to the left bank of the river and pause at a spectacular scenic view where we will discuss the pioneering Osbourne family who in the 1890s owned most of the land stretching from Harden, along both banks of the Murrumbidgee to Coolac.

9:45 am: Morning tea at the historic property “Gunnong-Jugrawah” where Sandy Tait, an Osbourne descendent will address us, particularly about his family's famous racehorses.

10:30 am: Continue our trip along the Murrumbidgee to its junction with the Tumut. Peter will relate stories of interesting and idiosyncratic river dwellers along the way.

We will pause where Peter will identify sites where the explorers have camped. Particularly he will point out the site of Ben Warby's homestead situated on his family's extensive squatter property near the junction of the rivers, where Sturt stayed overnight prior to Warby leading him in to Gundagai to show him a ford site over the river and advised him how to proceed on his trip.

We will now be travelling along the right bank of the Tumut. We will stop at “Darbalara” homestead which has a fascinating and variable history right from the 1800's through to the present.

11:45am: Arrive in Gundagai. We will pack in as much history as possible before lunch, particularly a viewing of the famous Gabriel photographic plates from the early 1900s. If time, there will be a visit to the Gundagai Goal which would presage a description of bushranging in the region.



1:00 pm: Lunch at Nargoon Winery. This is in an old shearing shed on a historic property converted into a winery selling home produced wines and displaying historical newspaper articles on its walls and wool table.

2:30pm: If on schedule and participants still keen, we will make another short trip along the two rivers with further history and anecdotes culminating with afternoon tea at Peter's house overlooking the magnificent Tumut Valley.

3:30pm: Commence trip back to Canberra

5:00pm: Arrive Canberra.

COST:

Members of the Friends of the National Library \$85
Non-Members \$100

(All entry fees, lunch, and morning and afternoon teas are included in the tour cost unless specified otherwise in the itinerary)

BOOKINGS:

To book your seat, please complete the attached booking form and return it with payment to the Friends office. **Bookings will not be accepted without payment and a completed form.**

As we can only take one bus on this tour, there will be only 57 seats available and it is recommended you book early to avoid disappointment. **Bookings open on Monday 12 January** and will be processed on a 'first in' basis. Bookings received earlier than 12 January will not be registered until those received on 12 January have been processed. (This system has been put in place to ensure that no Friends miss out on the opportunity to book a seat simply because their copy of the newsletter arrives later than others due to local mailing arrangements.)

Completed booking forms and payment can be left at the National Library Bookshop (open 7 days a week) for collection by Friends Office staff, faxed to (02) 6273 4493 or posted to:

Spring Day Tour
Friends of the National Library
National Library of Australia
Canberra ACT 2600

Refunds less a \$20 booking fee will be available for cancellations up until Friday, 20 March. No refund will be given for cancellations after this date unless we can fill your seat. For enquiries, contact the Friends Office on (02) 6262 1698 or friends@nla.gov.au.

WHAT TO BRING

- Comfortable walking shoes.
- Hats, sunscreen and other sun protection as desired.
- Funds for extras or souvenirs.





Friends Spring Day Tour – 4 April 2009

BOOKING FORM

Full name(s):

Preferred name(s) for name tag:

Friends membership number (if applicable):.....

Address:

..... **Postcode:**

Home telephone: **Mobile:**.....

Email:.....

Dietary requirements (please circle):

None Vegetarian Diabetic Other (please specify):

Do you have any special medication or medical conditions that we should know about? (this information will remain confidential)

.....
.....
.....

Contact person in case of injury or illness:

Name:

Contact numbers (for Saturday):



PAYMENT DETAILS

Cost: Members of the Friends of the National Library \$85
Non-Members \$100

I enclose cheque payment of \$.....

Cheques should be made payable to 'Friends of the National Library of Australia'

OR

I wish to pay \$..... by Visa/ Mastercard

Card number: / / / Expiry date:

Full name on card:

Signature:

Bookings open Monday 12 January 2009.

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