

June 2008

Message from the Chair

Dear Friends

This edition of the Friends newsletter is jam-packed full of National Library related activities for Friends to enjoy.

May I make special mention of the 2008 Kenneth Myer lecture, to be held on 15 July 2008, where we will be privileged to have as our special guest the world-renowned environmentalist Tim Flannery, the 2007 Australian of the Year.

We also feature another in our series of useful National Library election databases, this time, the House of Commons Parliamentary Papers 1688-1900, which opens the door to a treasure-trove of information about Britain and its possessions over more than two centuries.

I regret to advise that I am stepping down as Chairman of the Friends for personal reasons. At its last meeting the Friends Committee elected as Chair Greg Cornwell, who had previously served as Deputy Chair. Greg will steer the Friends through until the Annual General Meeting in December.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time as Chair and wish Greg well in his new role. I will remain on the Committee and continue to edit the Friends Newsletter.

Best wishes,
Gary Kent

2008 Kenneth Myer Lecture with Professor Tim Flannery

We are pleased to announce that this year's Kenneth Myer Lecture will be delivered by well-known environmentalist and the 2007 Australian of the Year, Professor Tim Flannery

Tim Flannery is one of Australia's leading thinkers and writers. He is an internationally acclaimed scientist, explorer and conservationist, and has published a number of books including the landmark works *The Future Eaters* and *The Weather Makers*. Professor Flannery is the former director of the South Australian Museum, and is currently a Professor at Sydney's Macquarie University, taking up the Chair in July 2007. He is a founding member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists, a director of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, and the National Geographic Society's representative in Australasia. In 2007 Tim Flannery co-founded and was appointed Chair of The



Prof Tim Flannery

Copenhagen Climate Council, a coalition of community, business, and political leaders who have come together to confront climate change.

For the 2008 Kenneth Myer Lecture, Professor Flannery will speak on the topic "Climate Change: an update to July 2008". In discussing climate change, the lecture will focus on what we know now, how we know it, and what we might expect to happen in our world in the next few decades and beyond.

The Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, will introduce Professor Flannery's lecture.

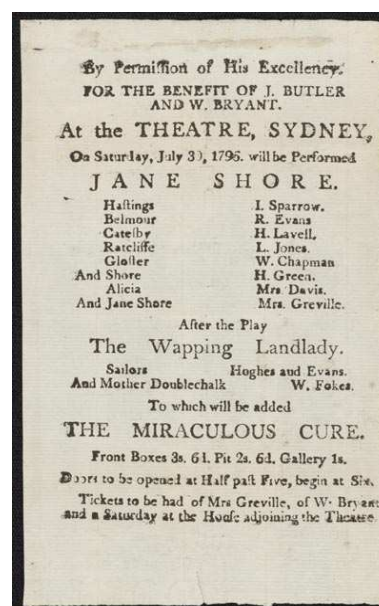
Please join us at 6pm on Tuesday 15 July for this lecture which promises to be both thought provoking and topical. The lecture will be held in the Theatre at the National Library. Although we will not be hosting a reception this year there will be an opportunity immediately following the lecture to speak with Professor Flannery. Bookings are essential and can be made through the Friends office at (02) 6262 1698 or by email to friends@nla.gov.au.

Celebrate the Arrival of a New Treasure

1796: The Officer, the Convicts and the Theatre Playbill Presented in association with the High Commission of Canada

In 2007, the National Library acquired a playbill dated 30 July 1796, the earliest surviving document printed in Australia. Join David Malouf, Amanda Muggleton and Dr Gillian Russell to celebrate the survival of this small but highly significant item and discover what it tells us about life and theatre in early Sydney. The playbill will be on display at this event.

The playbill, advertising a performance at the Theatre, Sydney, was printed in Sydney by convict George Hughes, operator of Australia's first printing press, which came out on the First Fleet. It was probable that First Fleet Marine Officer, and later third Governor of the colony of NSW, Philip Gidley King, took the playbill with him when he visited England in October 1796. The theatre playbill was discovered by the staff of Library and Archives Canada and was returned to Australia as a gift to the nation from the Canadian Government.



This event will be held on Wednesday, 25 June from 2.30 - 4.30 pm in the Theatre. This is a free event but bookings are essential on 02) 6262 1271.

Libraries at Lunchtime - National Gallery of Australia

In the first of a series of lunchtime tours of specialist libraries in Canberra, the Friends of the National Library will be visiting the Research Library of the National Gallery of Australia.

Chief Librarian Joye Volker will provide us with an overview of the various collections in the Research Library, while Jennifer Coombes (Special Collections Archivist) will talk about the Gallery's fascinating ephemera, and Helen Hyland (Bibliographic Services Librarian) will talk about some of the more interesting monographic series and rare serials.

Please join us for this fascinating tour on Thursday 19 June, 12:30 - 1:30pm. We will meet in the Small Theatre at the National Gallery of Australia. Bookings are essential as this tour is limited to a small group of 25 participants only. Please call (02) 6262 1698 or email friends@nla.gov.au to book your place.

Nellie Melba: Queen of Song

Next month the Friends of the National Library are delighted to present a performance of *Nellie Melba: Queen of Song*. Canberra soprano Louise Page, accompanied by Phillippa Candy on piano, will recreate the epitome of glamour, fame and notoriety as Dame Nellie Melba in this beguiling tribute to Australia's first international diva. This costumed show leads the audience through Melba's life, including reminiscences of her early life in Australia, her decision to become an opera singer in Europe, the influence of her teacher Mathilde Marchesi, her introduction to society, thoughts on life in general, her debut in Brussels and success in Paris leading to her triumph at Covent Garden where she reigned for 3 decades as the "Queen of Song", and finally her return to Australia. Highlights of the evening are sure to be the performances of the songs and arias which made Melba an icon.

Melba's life is not just a musical story but one of determination and a particular genius in harnessing her singing gift, through which she became Australia's first international celebrity. This performance will be enhanced with a viewing of special items from the Melba collections held by the National Library that document in a variety of ways her significance, her performance and her connections.

You will be the first to view selected treasures from the Library's most recent Melba collection, acquired in 2007 from the Melba Conservatorium. These include bound editions of Melba's own operatic scores, set with leather and gold leaf, some signed or annotated, others with handwritten notes from composers; an autographed manuscript of cadenzas written for Melba by the most celebrated violinist of his day



Louise Page as Nellie Melba (photograph courtesy of The Canberra Times)



*Portrait of Nellie Melba by
Henry Walter Barnett*

Joseph Joachim; and Melba's silk fan with 25 signatures by famous artists that were associated with her written on the ribs. There are tickets and programs, sheet music dedicated to Melba, letters to her sister, signed photographs and personal items including her silk bag. These all testify not only to Melba's international career and fame but also to her place in Australian history, the place she used to sing about as "Home, Sweet Home".

Louise Page and Phillipa Candy are one of Australia's most experienced recital pairs, and have delighted audiences around the country with compelling and innovative Lieder recitals. They pair have received many awards and accolades for their work and enjoy the intimacy and rapport with the audience that comes from presenting song recitals. In December

2007 Louise Page was awarded a Canberra Critics Circle Award for Music and was named the 2007 Canberra Times Artist of the Year.

Please join us for what promises to be an exciting night of song on Friday 25 July. Tickets are available through the Friends office on (02) 6262 1698 for just \$35 Friends and \$45 non-members.

Cultural Landscapes of Asia: Hidden Gems

On Wednesday 11 June, the Friends of the National Library, in conjunction with the Australian Garden History Society, will present a lecture by Emeritus Professor Ken Taylor on cultural landscapes of Asia.

Taking iconographic examples such as Angkor Wat (Kampuchea), Borobudur (Indonesia) and Bagan (Myanmar), as well as examples of ordinary everyday places, this illustrated lecture looks at the concept of enduring heritage significance and considers these places, in wider terms, as cultural landscapes. Why are such places outstanding examples of a continuous living/nourishing tradition and history? The lecture considers how celebrated architectural monuments are a component of the wider cultural landscape pattern to which they are inextricably tied—the intriguing histories of their settings, and the day-to-day lives of ordinary people shaping that landscape. It argues that seeing the monuments without seeing this wider setting is akin to seeing the leaves but not the tree. Similarly, in considering more ordinary, everyday places, we need to understand the link between people, setting and sense of place.

This lecture will be given by Emeritus Professor Ken Taylor, Adjunct Professor in the Research School of Humanities at the Australian National University, and Visiting Professor at Silpakorn University, Bangkok. Professor Taylor is a former Director of the Cultural Heritage Research Centre, University of Canberra. He has published nationally and internationally on cultural sites, their meanings, values and landscape



Prof. Ken Taylor

conservation. He is a member of the of the International Council on Monuments and Sites Scientific Committee, and has acted as a consultant to UNESCO, including presenting a paper at the 2003 UNESCO Fourth International Experts' Meeting in Borobudur, Indonesia, on Historical Landscape Planning. He is currently co-writing a book on cultural mapping for ASEAN countries.

This lecture will be held at 6pm, Wednesday 11 June in the Library's 4th floor Conference Room. The entry fee is \$10 for Friends and Australian Garden History Society members, and \$15 for non-members, which includes drinks after the lecture. To book, please contact the Friends office on (02) 6262 1698 or email friends@nla.gov.au.

Race, Nation, History: A Conference in Honour of Henry Reynolds

Race, Nation, History seeks to honour the work of Henry Reynolds, one of Australia's finest historians and one of its leading public intellectuals, on the occasion of his seventieth year. A prodigious author, a renowned commentator and a controversial advocate, Reynolds' work has profoundly influenced two or more generations of scholarship in history and other fields, and has had a considerable impact in legal and political spheres.

This conference will be comprised of papers that explore the nature and significance of Reynolds' legacy as well as those which are informed by the latest research and address anew historical questions and historiographical problems regarding the consideration of subjects which Reynolds helped to pioneer.



Prof. Henry Reynolds

Conference speakers will include Warwick Anderson (University of Sydney), Alan Atkinson (University of New England), Larissa Behrendt (University of Technology Sydney), James Boyce (University of Tasmania), Dipesh Chakrabarty (University of Chicago), Ann Curthoys (Australian National University), Elizabeth Elbourne (McGill University), Lisa Ford (Macquarie University), Miranda Johnson (University of Chicago), Rani Kerin (University of Otago), Marilyn Lake (La Trobe University), Russell McGregor (James Cook University), Mark McKenna (University of Sydney), Henry Reynolds (University of Tasmania), Daniel Richter (University of Pennsylvania), and Tim Rowse (Australian National University).

The conference is sponsored by the Research School of the Humanities and the Research School of the Social Sciences at The Australian National University, the National Library of Australia and the University of Tasmania, and will take place at the National Library of Australia over the two days of 29-30 August 2008.

Conference organisers are offering Friends of the National Library registration at a reduced rate. Registration fees paid before 1 August 2008 will be \$115 for Friends (normally \$135 with no concession) and late registration will be available at \$130. Day rates are also available. For conference program and registration form visit <http://rsh.anu.edu.au/events/2008/racenationhistory/index.php> or contact Leena



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British Parliamentary Papers on-line

Continuing our series on useful electronic resources available through the National Library, this month we focus on the House of Commons Parliamentary Papers, published by Chadwyck-Healey. This collection covers the period 1688-1900 and appears in two series, one essentially covering the eighteenth century (1688-1834), the other covering the nineteenth (1801-1900).

This marvellous resource features a range of parliamentary documents, including bills, reports of parliamentary committees, some parliamentary debates, government papers and much government correspondence and statistical information. Despite the title, much House of Lords material is included too.

The collection has an excellent search engine and provides the ability to download and save information in a range of formats. It can be accessed through the Electronic Resources portal in the National Library's home page.

Like the newspaper databases we discussed in previous editions of this newsletter, the Parliamentary Papers collection is a genealogist's delight. I hope readers will not mind indulging me as I use as examples of some wonderful finds relating to my own family.

My ancestor Joshua Vines emigrated to Australia in 1855 after falling on hard times in England. I knew little more than that his large portfolio of leased properties had failed to rent properly. I was indeed lucky to find in this collection the Report of the Select Committee on Rating of Tenements which reproduced verbatim the evidence given by Joshua Vines on 6 March 1838 discussing his 40-odd London rental properties and his complete inability to extract rent from most of his poor tenants. He told the Committee that landlords, whose properties were barely renting, could simply not afford to assume responsibility for paying the poor-rate, as was then proposed.

Another surprise to emerge from the Papers was that one of my ancestors, Richard Rishworth, who I had previously assumed to be a down and out struggling artist, was in fact a member of the Grand Committee of the Orange Lodge, and that his fellow committee members included the Marquis of Thomond and Viscount Cole. There was obviously more to Richard than I had originally thought. This information was revealed in the Report (1835) of the Select Committee of on the Orange Institutions in Great Britain and the Colonies.

Erskine Cooper, brother of another ancestor, was appointed to various civil service posts and I found three references to his positions in "Correspondence between late Board of Woods and Forests and Treasury, August-October 1851, on Division of Duties and Separate Establishments of respective Coms."

There is of course much Australian content in this series. A search for the term "Port Phillip", by which name the State of Victoria was known before separation from New South Wales in 1851 yielded 334 entries. There are seven entries for John Pascoe



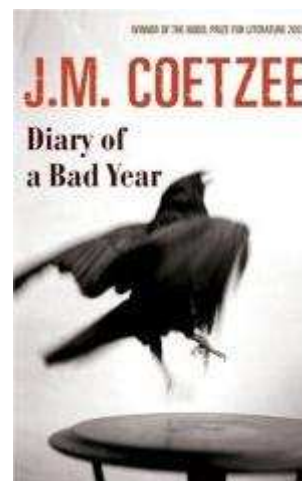
Fawkner, 55 entries for Bendigo (many of these about the gold discoveries) and 22 references to "Governor Macquarie".

You will not find all of your ancestors in House of Commons Parliamentary Papers but you would be unlucky to find none at all. In any case, you will have a lot of fun searching!

Friends of the NLA 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. The June meeting will be held on Tuesday, 24 June and the book for discussion will be *Diary of a Bad Year* by JM Coetzee.

If you would like to participate in the Friends Book Club, please RSVP to Sharyn O'Brien in the Friends Office on (02) 6262 1551 or friends@nla.gov.au. Copies of *Diary of a Bad Year* are available from the National Library bookshop, and don't forget that as a Friend of the NLA you receive a 15% discount on all purchases at the bookshop.



NLA Book Club - Advance Notice:

29 July - *Suite Francaise* by Irene Nemirovsky

26 August- *On Chesil Beach* by Ian McEwan

30 September - *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks

SPECIAL OFFERS

'Mathinna' & 'The Year of Magical Thinking' at the Canberra Theatre

The Canberra Theatre is offering Friends of the National Library discounts on tickets to the two upcoming productions.

Mathinna

19-21 June 2008

Bangarra Dance Theatre, choreographed by Stephen Page

The story of a young girl's journey between two cultures.

Ticket prices: Full \$50; Concession price applicable to NLA Friends \$43.

The Year of Magical Thinking

2-5 July 2008

Sydney Theatre Company, directed by Cate Blanchett

Over the course of one brutal year a woman loses her soul-mate suddenly and their only child slowly. Starring Robyn Nevin.

Ticket prices: Full \$60; Concession price applicable to NLA Friends \$53

Please note that this offer is limited to Friends of the National Library and that members may not purchase tickets on behalf of non-members. Tickets can be purchased in person at Canberra Ticketing or over the phone on 02 6275 2700. Proof



of eligibility by showing a membership card is required at the time of ticket collection. This discount is not available for tickets purchased online.

Mother and Child - Art Song Canberra

Art Song Canberra presents *Mother and Child*, featuring Louise Page (soprano) and Phillipa Candy (piano) on Sunday 22 June at 3pm at the Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest.

The joy and pain of motherhood will be expressed in song, along with the exuberance of childhood. There will be songs and lullabies by Strauss, Brahms, Bax and others, as well as Mahler's *Kindertotenlieder* (Songs on the death of children) and *The Mystery* by Carlisle Floyd.

Friends of the National Library of Australia are entitled to admission at the discounted price of \$22. This includes program and refreshments. Tickets at the door ONLY. Enquiries: Oliver Raymond, 02 6295 9613. www.artsongcanberra.org

COMING EVENTS

The full programme of events can be consulted in the 'What's On' section of the National Library's website at <http://www.nla.gov.au/news/newsevents.html>

Friends Events

<p>Cultural Landscapes of Asia: Hidden Gems Wednesday 11 June 6:00pm Conference Room</p>	<p>Emeritus Professor Ken Taylor presents an illustrated talk on Asian cultural sites, focusing on their enduring heritage significance and interpretation as cultural landscapes. In association with the Australian Garden History Society.</p> <p>Cost: \$10 Friends and AGHS members, \$15 non-members Bookings: (02) 6262 1698 or friends@nla.gov.au</p>
<p>Libraries at Lunchtime: National Gallery of Australia Thursday 19 June 12.30 - 1:30 pm</p>	<p>Join the Friends of the National Library for a behind-the-scenes tour of the National Gallery's research library. This is a free event. Bookings: (02) 6262 1698 or friends@nla.gov.au</p>
<p>Friends Book Club Tuesday, 24 June 7:00-8:30 pm Friends Lounge</p>	<p>The book for discussion at this month's meeting will be <i>Diary of a Bad Year</i> by JM Coetzee. Bookings required on (02) 6262 1551 or friends@nla.gov.au</p>



NLA Talks and Events

<p><i>They're a Weird Mob</i> (1966) Thursday 12 June 6:00 pm Theatre,</p>	<p>Film, 107 mins, G In 1965, Italian immigrant Nino Culotta arrives in Sydney and gets an education in how to be a fair dinkum Aussie. Entry by gold coin donation. Bookings not required.</p>
<p>Marion Halligan in <i>bookplate</i> Sunday 15 June 9:00-10:30 am bookplate</p>	<p>Join Marion Halligan, in <i>bookplate</i> for a leisurely breakfast and hear her discuss her latest novel, <i>Murder on the Apricot Coast</i>. Cost: \$25 Friends/Conc, \$30 full price; includes set-menu breakfast. Bookings: (02) 6262 1271</p>
<p>Hidden Treasures - Inside the National Library of Australia: Augustus Earle Thursday 19 June Session 1 - 2:00 - 3:00 pm Or Session 2 - 3:30 - 4:30 pm Conference room</p>	<p>In a new series of <i>Hidden Treasures</i>, Betty Churcher presents an insider's guide to some of the Library's art treasures. This premieres on Tuesday 3 June, at 6.50 pm on ABC1. Join us for the first in a series of special viewings of selected collection items and curator talks at the Library. This month's viewing will focus on Augustus Earle. Free entry. Places limited. Bookings essential: (02) 6262 1271. <i>Hidden Treasures is a Film Australia National Interest Program in association with Early Works. Produced in association with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.</i></p>
<p>Celebrate the Arrival of a New Treasure - 1796: The Officer, the Convicts and the Theatre Playbill Wednesday 25 June 2:30 - 4:30 pm Theatre</p>	<p><i>Presented in association with the High Commission of Canada</i> In 2007, the Library acquired a playbill dated 30 July 1796, the earliest surviving document printed in Australia. Join David Malouf, Amanda Muggleton and Dr Gillian Russell to celebrate the survival of this small but highly significant item and discover what it tells us about life and theatre in early Sydney. The playbill will be on display at this event. The theatre playbill was discovered by the staff of Library and Archives Canada and was returned to Australia as a gift to the nation from the Canadian Government. Free event. Bookings essential: (02) 6262 1271</p>
<p>Exploration 2: Talking Drums Friday 27 June 7:00pm Foyer</p>	<p>Discover the fascinating relationships between music and language, speech and song, words and notes with the Griffyn Ensemble accompanied by double-bass player Max McBride, and mezzo-soprano Christina Wilson. Tickets \$22/\$18/\$5 Bookings through The Street Theatre: (02) 6247 1223</p>
<p>Canberra - A Great Place for a Detective Story Sunday 29 June, 2:00 - 4:00 pm Conference Room</p>	<p><i>Winter Tales - Australian Women's Archives Project.</i> Dorothy Johnston, novelist and winner of the ACT Book of the Year Cost: \$15, includes afternoon tea. Bookings: (02) 6262 1271</p>

NLA Exhibitions

Bridging the Distance Closes 15 June Exhibition Gallery	Don't miss this opportunity to see how Australians take distance in their stride. Through more than 150 pictures, photographs, maps, manuscripts, objects and books, this exhibition explores what distance means for us and our lives.
<i>The Opening Chapter: National Library of Australia</i> Until 16 November 2008 Visitor Centre	This year marks the 40 th anniversary of the opening of the National Library building. With its elegant classical lines, it is a landmark in the Parliamentary Triangle and the principal storehouse of Australia's documentary heritage. <i>The Opening Chapter</i> looks at the physical attributes of the building, including the vision of architects Bunning and Madden, photographs of the interior by Max Dupain and the important contribution of renowned artists Tom Bass and Leonard French.

