

May 2008

Message from the Chair

Dear Friends

This edition of the newsletter features a report on the recent Friends Day Tour, 'The Road to Cooma', on 19 April. By all accounts, those of you who participated thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Once again we are grateful to Terry Birtles for arranging and hosting the visit.

Also featuring this month is an introduction to the National Library's Newspapers and Microforms Reading Room and a review of another two of the Library's digital collections of British newspapers.

I commend to all of you the new National Library Exhibition "The Opening Chapter: Building the National Library", which is running at the Library's Visitor Centre until 16 November 2008. The exhibition commemorates the opening of the Library on 15 August 1968 and includes original watercolours of the proposed interior spaces, digital prints of this marvellous building we have all come to love and nostalgic images of areas of the Library that no longer exist.

Best wishes
Gary Kent

Friends Autumn Day Tour

The sky was gloomy and grey, but that did not dampen the enthusiasm of the 57 Friends who gathered on the Library steps early on the morning of 19 April. With raincoats and jumpers at the ready, we were off on a much-anticipated day out on 'The Road To Cooma' - the latest in a series of cultural day tours organised by the Friends former Chairman, Terry Birtles.

As we travelled along the Monaro Highway, Terry briefed us on the features of the village of Michelago and of the early settlement of the Monaro Region. By 9.30am we were enjoying morning tea and the welcome warmth of the Bredbo Community Hall, where a display of local historic photographs gave us a deeper insight into the men, women and children who pioneered this part of the Monaro.



Lambie Street, Cooma

Lauren van Dyke, manager of the nearby 'Scotsdale' station, then explained the 'Kosciuszko 2 Coast' project, of which she is project manager. Sponsored by a consortium of environmental and agricultural groups, this innovative project aims to inspire and inform landowners about the appropriate restoration and management of the riverbanks, grasslands and forests stretching from the foothills of the mountains to the coast.

At nearby Bunyan we boarded a restored rail motor to travel to Cooma across the Monaro plains. In Cooma we spent time exploring Lambie Street, the town's most interesting and historic area, with many charming buildings dating from the 1850s. Lunch at the Royal Hotel followed, before we again clambered onto our bus for the trip back down the Monaro Highway to the historic 'Michelago' station, where we enjoyed afternoon tea in the evocative surroundings of this lovely old property.

The station owner, David Ryrie, spoke of the history of the area and of the difficulties of maintaining a large property in recurrent times of drought. The preservation of the historic homestead, which is a key element in the district's built cultural heritage, is also a major preoccupation for the family, which receives no heritage grants to assist with the substantial costs of maintaining the building.



Michelago station

Inside the building we enjoyed fascinating glimpses of the Ryries' family history, notably a series of photographs and portraits of General Sir Granville Ryrie - the subject of the NLA's publication '*My Darling Mick*', published several years ago.

As the day cooled and drizzle began to fall we again boarded our bus for the trip back home, richer for our experiences and grateful to Terry Birtles for yet another fascinating insight into the cultural heritage of our surrounding districts.

Yvonne Cramer

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 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.

Examining *Gulliver's Travels*

On Tuesday 27 May the Friends will be hosting a special lecture by Dr Ian Higgins on the satirical classic, *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift. This takes the place of the usual meeting of the Friends Book Club.



Jonathan Swift

Dr Higgins is a Reader in English and Head of the English Program at the Australian National University. He has written two books and several articles on Jonathan Swift, is an editor of the Oxford World's Classics *Gulliver's Travels* and general editor of *The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Jonathan Swift* currently in progress.

The lecture will consider several aspects of Swift's satiric and parodic masterpiece, including the composition, publication, and reception of the *Travels* and examine some of the satire's targets.

At the conclusion of the lecture, participants will break into small groups to discuss the book further over a glass of wine.

The lecture will be held 6-7.30pm on Tuesday 27 May in the Friends Lounge. Bookings and payment can be made by calling the Friends office on (02) 6262 1698 or email friends@nla.gov.au. The entry fee for the evening is \$10 for Friends and \$15 for non-members.

Changes to the Friends Membership Database

As advised in the last Friends newsletter, the Library is currently introducing new software to manage its mailing list database. All details relating to Friends membership reside in this database and will be transferred across to the new program. The introduction of this software has been delayed slightly and we ask that you please be patient with us in coming months if your membership payments and renewals take longer than usual to be processed.

Where can you find over 8,000 newspaper titles?

The Newspapers and Microforms Reading Room on the lower ground floor of the National Library provides access to newspaper and microform collections and to resources for researching family history.



The Library's collection of some 8,000 newspaper titles includes all Australian capital city daily papers, as well as papers from regional cities and country towns, and papers published by ethnic groups, political organisations, and those representing special interest groups. There is also a large collection of overseas newspapers in English and other languages. Although many of the 8,000 titles are no longer being published, there are over 400 Australian current titles and more than 250 overseas current titles available. There are also specialist subject collections relating to particular time periods, including Early American newspapers, Early English newspapers, Irish political and radical newspapers and Ireland: Politics and Society through the Press 1760-1922, held on microfilm.

As well as collecting newspapers in hard copy and microform, the Library currently subscribes to a number of major online resources, including *Factiva*, which provides access to over 9,000 titles, many of them full-text, and *The Times Digital Archive*, the complete online edition of the London *Times* from 1785-1985. These online resources are available from all the reading rooms in the Library.

The microform collection includes a large range of microform items other than newspapers, mainly reproductions of archival materials. Major collections include records of the Public Record Office (PRO) in London produced by the Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP) and microfilm generated by the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau.

The Library's collections offer a wealth of resources to assist readers with family history research. Resources include Australian and overseas birth, marriage and

death indexes; ship and passenger records; records relating to convict transportation; cemetery records; Australian parish records and many other resources. Incomplete runs of the Commonwealth electoral rolls from 1901 to date are also available. The Library subscribes to many online resources relating to family history, including the library edition of *ancestry.com*.

Much of the collection is available on open access in the reading room, including all major Australian newspapers on microfilm and many family history resources. Daily Australian newspapers and most recent copies of selected overseas newspapers are also available on open access, as well as a display of family history magazines. Other items in the collection must be requested through the online catalogue using your reader card. Most of these items are delivered to the reading room within 30 minutes from the time of the request.

The Newspapers and Microforms Reading Room provides many services for readers including 24 Digital Microform Scanners, 34 personal computers (PCs) with internet and email access, Microsoft office applications on all PCs and self-service photocopying and printing.



This reading room is usually very busy, so you may sometimes have to wait for a short period to use the equipment or to obtain assistance from a staff member. Staff can assist you in locating resources and in using the microform equipment, but cannot undertake extensive or ongoing genealogical, historical or other research.

The Newspapers and Microforms Reading Room staff run regular training sessions on the use of the equipment in the reading room, for example, using the microform readers, scanning and obtaining copies. There are also training sessions on various topics which may be of interest to family historians and other researchers.

The Reading Room is open Monday to Saturday from 9.00am to 5.00pm. Newspapers and microform material can be used after 5.00pm and on Sundays in the Main Reading Room, by prior arrangement with Newspaper staff. There is much more detailed information about the collection and services on the National Library web page at <http://www.nla.gov.au/infoserv/nmrr.html>.

More British newspapers!

In the last edition of this newsletter, we examined the British nineteenth century newspapers collection, produced by the Gale Group, to which the Library has recently subscribed. Those of you who have found this collection useful will be interested to know that, through the Library's E-Resources, it is also possible to access the Burney Collection of 17th and 18th century British newspapers, also published by Gale.

This marvellous resource is a mouthwatering collection of one million pages and nearly 1,300 titles, comprising newspapers, newsbooks, Acts of Parliament, addresses, broadsides, pamphlets and proclamations. There are too many titles to mention here but the newspaper collection includes *Bell's Weekly Messenger*, *London Daily Advertiser*, *Sussex Weekly Advertiser*, and the *Newcastle Courant*. There are also a number of foreign and overseas publications, including the *Barbados Mercury*, *Pennsylvania Gazette*, *Madras Courier* and the *Journal de Paris*. For some newspapers only a very small number of issues are held but they are nevertheless useful.

For genealogists, the collection is a goldmine, providing access to scores of local newspapers previously difficult to access from Australia. Advertisements, notices of births, deaths and marriages, reports of crimes, and so on provide an unparalleled window into the world of our ancestors two and three centuries past.

In my own case, I had long suspected that my ancestor Daniel Bushnell was the governor of Reading gaol in the late eighteenth century. But it was only when I found his daughter's marriage notice in the *Bath Chronicle* in 1784 that I was able to confirm this, thereby opening up avenues for further research. I also found, for example, references in the 1780s to the Norwich firm of Foster and Cooper, of which my ancestor Charles Cooper was a partner.

The search facility is similar to that of the nineteenth century newspaper collection and, very helpfully, both collections may be searched simultaneously through the same inquiry page. The capacity to search this collection is limited of course by the clarity of the old type faces and the condition of the newspapers but the keen researcher will find much of interest should they take the time to experiment with their search technique.

In passing I should also mention another database, also available through E-Resources, which provides access to another wonderful collection of eighteenth century periodicals - *The Eighteenth Century Journals*. The titles in this collection, published by Adam Matthew Digital, cover the period from approximately 1685 to 1815 and include, for example, the *Covent Garden Journal*, the *Ladies Journal*, the *Northampton Mercury* and the *York Chronicle*.

Happy hunting!
Gary Kent

Accessing British newspapers through E-Resources

At present, access to the British newspapers mentioned in this and the April newsletter is available only to onsite users at the National Library. The Library in the process of making a number of the subscription databases available offsite to Australian residents who are registered library users. Some subscription databases however will still need to be viewed at the Library, due to license requirements prohibiting the Library from allowing offsite access. It is expected that the offsite access service will be available within the next two months. Details of how to register as a library user will be available on the National Library website at www.nla.gov.au as soon as this service is available.



SPECIAL OFFERS

Discounted tickets at the Canberra Theatre

The Canberra Theatre offers Friends of the National Library discounts on tickets to selected subscription season productions each year. In 2008, Friends can purchase tickets to following shows at concession prices:

- Shorter + Sweeter
3-7 June 2008
Newtown Theatre Company
Shorter + Sweeter is a tasting box of some of the best new 10 minute plays.
Ticket prices: Full \$40; Concession price applicable to NLA Friends \$35.
- 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.
- The Red Shoes
3-6 December 2008
West Australian Ballet, choreographed by Simon Dow
The passionate story of a ballerina torn between her two great love - ballet and the man she loves.
Ticket prices: Full \$50; Concession price applicable to NLA Friends \$43.

Please note that this offer is limited to Friends of the National Library of Australia 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, however proof of eligibility by showing a membership card is required at the time of collection.

Vive la France - Art Song Canberra

Art Song Canberra presents *Vive la France*, featuring Rosalind Martin (soprano) and Roy Howat (piano) on Sunday 25 May at 3pm at the Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest.

These renowned artists, last heard in Canberra in 2002, return with a program including a variety of French art song, a field in which both are specialists. While offering the delights of Debussy and Duparc, this is also a chance to discover the tenderness, humour and musical richness of Chabrier's songs, a major influence on Ravel and Poulenc

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>Examining <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> Tuesday, 27 May 6:00-8:00 pm Friends Lounge</p>	<p>Read <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> by Jonathan Swift and join the ANU's Dr Ian Higgins for a lecture on the themes and history of the book. Following the lecture participants will break into small groups to discuss issues further over a glass of wine. Cost: \$10 Friends, \$15 non-members Bookings essential: (02) 6262 1698 or friends@nla.gov.au</p>
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NLA Talks and Events

<p><i>Living Treasures at the National Library of Australia: Peter Sculthorpe - In the First Person</i> Friday 9 May 7:00 - 9:00 pm Foyer</p>	<p><i>Part of the Canberra International Chamber Music Festival.</i> The Sculthorpe Quartet with internationally acclaimed didgeridoo player William Barton. Peter Sculthorpe reflects on the nature of the 'personal voice' in his music and his use of the didgeridoo as a significant musical voice. Tickets from The Street Theatre: (02) 6247 1223 Cost: \$40 per ticket, concessions available</p>
<p><i>Querying Musical Autobiography</i> Friday 9 May 12:30 - 1:30 pm</p>	<p>Graeme Skinner, a 2007 Harold White Fellow and author of <i>Peter Sculthorpe: The Making of an Australian Composer</i>, speaks about the perils of writing a biography of a living artist. Bookings essential: (02) 6262 1271</p>
<p><i>National Library Conference - In the First Person: Memoir, Autobiography and the Personal Voice</i> Saturday and Sunday, 10-11 May Theatre</p>	<p>A Major National Library of Australia Conference incorporating the Kenneth Binns Lecture. Join some of Australia's finest writers to discover the joys, pitfalls and challenges of writing about oneself. Can we ever represent ourselves, and our society, as we really are? Cost: \$110 or \$90 Friends 7 concessions for both days of the conference. Single-day tickets available. Conference fee includes morning and afternoon tea. Lunch is not provided. Conference Dinner: \$90, will be held at The Ottoman Restaurant in Barton with guest speaker Lincoln Hall. Bookings: (02) 6262 1271 or bookings@nla.gov.au</p>
<p><i>Living Treasures at the National Library of Australia: String Quartets from the Library's Composers' Archives</i> Friday 16 May 7:00 - 9:00 pm Foyer</p>	<p><i>Part of the Canberra International Chamber Music Festival.</i> Featuring The Grainger Quartet. Andrew Ford, host of ABC Radio National's <i>The Music Show</i> reflects on the value of composers' archives. Tickets from the Street Theatre: (02) 6247 1223 Cost: \$40 per ticket, concessions available</p>



<p>Manning Clark House Lecture Series: Research Ethics Thursday 22 May 6:00 - 7:30 pm Conference Room Free event</p>	<p>With Dr Roger Kalla, Korn Technologies Pty Ltd, Melbourne</p> <p>Manning Clark House, in partnership with the German and Swedish Embassies, is hosting a series of six talks about German and Swedish exploration in science for students and others interested in pushing the boundaries of the known. In addition to the featured guest speakers, local postgraduate students working in related areas will speak briefly about their research.</p> <p>Bookings: (02) 6262 1271 or bookings@nla.gov.au</p>
<p>Film - The Illustrated Family Doctor (2005) Thursday 22 May 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Theatre</p>	<p>DVD, 90mins, Rated M</p> <p>A black comedy about a man who becomes a hypochondriac after being asked to condense <i>The Illustrated Family Doctor</i>. With Samuel Johnson, Colin Friels and Sacha Horler.</p> <p>Entry by gold coin donation. Bookings not required.</p>

NLA Exhibitions

<p>Bridging the Distance Opens 6 March 2008 Exhibition Gallery, free</p>	<p>Australians have always taken distance in their stride—be it a wild journey by biplane or a trip down the wallaby track. <i>Bridging the Distance</i> explores this spirit of adventure and tells the story of how Australians have learned to cope with the tyranny of distance, establishing vital routes across the country, for both work and play.</p> <p>Through more than 150 pictures, photographs, maps, manuscripts, objects and books, all from the National Library's collection, <i>Bridging the Distance</i> highlights the growth of transport by rail, boat and car and the development of the aviation industry, and explores what distance means for us and our lives.</p>
<p>The Opening Chapter: National Library of Australia Opens 18 April 2008 Visitor Centre</p>	<p>This year marks the 40th 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.</p>

