

January 2007

Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year. I can report that Gary Kent has joined the Friends Committee and has offered to serve as newsletter editor from our next issue.

An events sub-committee will meet on 15 January with Dr. Geoff Burckhardt as chair to work up a program of activities, although planning is already in place for invitations to guest speakers to the Kenneth Myer lecture and our annual Celebrations event. Also, later this month I will reconnoitre the route for our Henry Lawson excursion during the first week of May as an alternative to an autumnal one-day tour.

May I emphasise that feedback from you is vital to our programming. If you have an idea of an event or speaker of excellent value please share it with us. Maybe you have read a particularly good book during the festive season and would recommend it for wider review. Maybe you have a bright thought for fund-raising to boost the Friends income. I welcome your responses.

The 2006 Christmas Party proved to be a happy and friendly occasion. Several folk asked me whether we could expand our social calendar as an opportunity to mingle more. Do you have any suggestions?

Remember that the Friends Lounge is a valuable and under-used meeting place, with coffee/tea making facilities available. Your Committee is investigating the range of reading material available in the Lounge and you will shortly see the addition of back issues of *Time* (donated by a Friend) as well as new subscriptions.

I conclude by wishing each of you a rewarding year ahead.

Terry Birtles
Chair - 2007

2007 Committee

The 2007 Committee was elected at the Annual General Meeting on 11 December 2006. The new committee is comprised of: Thomas Abhayaratna, Terence Birtles, Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt, Greg Cornwell, Yvonne Cramer, John Graham, Alan Ives, Joan Kennedy, Gary Kent, John Thompson, and Gabrielle Tramby.

At the subsequent Committee meeting the following positions were filled:

Chair	Terence Birtles
Deputy Chair	Joan Kennedy
Treasurer	Thomas Abhayaratna
Newsletter Editor	Gary Kent

New Members Evening

Did you join the Friends of the NLA in 2006? Would you like to come along to meet some other new Friends and take a behind-the-scenes tour with our irreplaceable Events and Education Manager, Heidi Pritchard? Then come along to our New Members Evening on Tuesday, 6 February, 5:30-7:30pm in the Library foyer. Light refreshments will be served and there will be some great live music too.

Bookings essential by Tuesday 30 January to (02) 6262 1698 or friends@nla.gov.au

White Gloves Evening

Take advantage of an exclusive opportunity to view selected items from the Library's magnificent diary collection, and enjoy light refreshments with fellow Friends and staff. Items on display will include Gordon Burt's POW diary, Frank Hurley's Antarctic expedition diaries and the 1839 overland tour diary of Lady Jane Franklin, plus many more fascinating items. Further details will be provided in the February newsletter.

Friday, 23 February from 6-8pm. Cost: \$20 Friends, \$25 non-members.
Bookings essential: (02) 6262 1698 or friends@nla.gov.au

Friends of the National Library Medal

The inaugural Friends Medal was awarded at the Christmas Party on 11 December.

The medal is an initiative of the 2006 Friends committee, and is awarded for significant contribution to the work of the National Library of Australia.

The recipient of the 2006 Friends Medal was **Nat Williams** (Director, Exhibitions) for his significant contribution to increasing community access to the National Library of Australia's collections through his management of the Library's exhibitions and travelling exhibitions program. In particular, the Friends recognise his contribution to Australian cultural life and to the understanding and enjoyment of national and international library collections through the exhibitions *Treasures from the World's Great Libraries* and *National Treasures from Australia's Great Libraries*.



Friends Travelling Fellowship

The inaugural Friends of the National Library Travelling Fellowship was also formally presented at the Christmas Party. In early 2006, the Friends committee agreed to fund an annual travelling fellowship, designed to provide a National Library staff member in the early stages of his or her career with a significant professional development opportunity.



Somaya Langley (centre) with Gordon Mohn, Igor Ranitovic and Kristine Hanna of the Internet Archive

The 2006 recipient of this fellowship was Somaya Langley, who used the fellowship to travel to the United States to visit three institutions – the California Digital Library, the Berkley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) and the Internet Archive – with the aim of gaining a greater understanding of the range of models and strategies available for considering complex content. This fellowship was awarded in March, and Somaya undertook her study trip in September 2006.

Friends of the NLA Book Club

The Friends Book Club is held on the last Tuesday of each month, from 7-8.30pm in the Friends Lounge at the National Library. The January meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 30 January** and the book for discussion will be *The Ballad of Desmond Kale* by Roger McDonald, winner of the 2006 Miles Franklin Literary Award.

If you would like to participate in the January Friends Book Club, please RSVP to Sharyn in the Friends Office on (02) 6262 1551 or sobrien@nla.gov.au. Numbers are limited to a maximum of 30 participants. The National Library bookshop has copies of *The Ballad of Desmond Kale* available for sale, 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:

27 February - *Arthur and George* by Julian Barnes

27 March - *Every Move You Make* by David Malouf

Coming Events January 2007

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/apps/events/>

Friends Events

<p><i>New Members Evening.</i> Tuesday 6 February, 5:30-7:30pm Foyer</p>	<p>A welcome event for all those who became Friends of the NLA in 2006. Bookings essential: 02 6262 1698</p>
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NLA talks and events

<p><i>Donald Friends: The Prodigal Australian (1990)</i> Thursday, 18 January 6:00-7:30pm Theatre Entry by gold coin donation</p>	<p>This film looks at the life, work and character of enigmatic Australian artist Donald Friend (1915–1989), as told to John Olsen. Friend ran away from home during the Depression and later shared a flat with Peter Finch in Sydney's bohemian quarter. He lived overseas in London, Nigeria (where he became advisor to the King of Ikerre), Italy and Ceylon. He also spent 15 years in Bali, where he was known as Tuan Raksasa (Lord Devil).</p>
<p><i>Tamu: The Story of Donald Friend (1972)</i> Tuesday, 23 January 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Theatre Entry by gold coin donation</p>	<p>Filmed in 1971, 'Tamu' explores the life and work of Donald Friend in Bali. Highlights include a visit to Balinese painter Ida Bagus Rai, daily life in his Balinese household, cockfighting and the performance of a Topeng mask drama. Friend comments on these influences on his painting and shares his knowledge of Bali and his involvement with life on the island with wit and understanding. Introduced by Producer Jane Oehr, this promises to be a fascinating evening. Jane will remain to answer questions after the screening.</p>
<p><i>The Ballets Russes in Australia: An Avalanche of Dancing (1999)</i> Wednesday, 31 January 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Theatre Entry by gold coin donation</p>	<p>A documentary telling the story of the Ballets Russes tours to Australia in the 1930s. Includes interviews with Irina Baronova, Kira Abricossova Bousloff and Max Dupain.</p>
<p><i>Nobility, Revolutions and One Night Stands</i> Sunday, 4 February 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm Theatre Entry fee: \$5 at the door</p>	<p>Raconteuse extraordinaire and a dazzling star of the Ballets Russes de Monte Carlo, Irina Baronova talks about art and life with the Library's new Curator of Dance, Lee Christofis. Bookings: (02) 6262 127</p>
<p><i>Ballet Russes (2006)</i> Thursday, 8 February 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Theatre Entry by gold coin donation</p>	<p>This film gives a warts-and-all look at the still dazzling but ageing ballet stars in all their glory, dancing like gods in rare archival footage and talking frankly, and with gutsy humour, about their love of dance and life.</p>



NLA exhibitions

<p>Patrick White Until Sunday, 28 January 2007 Visitor Centre Free</p>	<p>The National Library of Australia recently acquired a great treasure—the papers of Patrick White (1912–1990), Australia's only Nobel laureate for literature. The collection consists of 33 archive boxes containing original manuscripts, correspondence, photographs and memorabilia. Selected items from the new collection are now on display in the Visitor Centre.</p>
<p>Melbourne '56 Until Sunday, 28 January 2007 Visitor Centre Free</p>	<p>1956 was the year nuclear tests, motels, drive-in cinemas and legalised poker machines came to Australia. If television, which was transmitted for the first time on 16 September, is the most enduring legacy of 1956, the XVI Olympics that were held in Melbourne from 22 November, was the most exciting.</p>
<p>Donald Friend: A Charmed Life Until Sunday, 4 February 2007 Exhibition Gallery Free</p>	<p>Painter, draughtsman, printmaker, sculptor, illustrator, writer, genius, rascal—Donald Friend's life attracted as much comment as his work. This fascinating exhibition, curated by Lou Klepac, explores Donald Friend's artistic and personal life through his art and his writings, particularly those in his substantial diaries, of which 44 are held by the National Library of Australia.</p>

