

## March 2007

### Canberra Series Lecture

The first of the 2007 Canberra Series Lectures will be presented by Marion Le on Wednesday 21 March.

Marion is human rights lawyer, a registered migration agent, and has been a consultant with the Departments of Education and Ethnic Affairs, specialising in the areas of refugee and migration law, and Chinese and Indo-Chinese relations. Marion has consulted widely on cultural issues both within Australia and in Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia and with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. She was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1990, the Austcare Paul Cullen Award for Outstanding Contribution to Refugees in 1994, and the Human Rights Medal in 2003.

Marion will speak on her experiences as a human rights and refugee advocate, with particular emphasis on the situation in Afghanistan and Iraq, and her talk will reflect information gathered from her overseas visit earlier this year.

**Wednesday 21 March, 12:30 – 1:30pm**

Friends Lounge

Entry fee: \$5 (payable at the door)

Bookings essential: (02) 6262 1698.



### Henry Lawson Tour

Henry Lawson (1867-1922) was one of Australia's greatest literary figures. Many of the important events in the relatively short life of this remarkable man occurred in rural New South Wales, not too distant from Canberra.

The next Friends Tour is an excursion to some of these places of interest, featuring an itinerary meticulously prepared by Friends Chairman, Terry Birtles. This bus tour will run from Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> to Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007. Highlights include visits to Lawson's birthplace of Grenfell, the Henry Lawson Centre at Gulgong, and the Eurundee Public School attended by Lawson. Tour participants will travel a route which encompasses much of the landscape and scenery immortalised in Lawson's poems and stories.

The cost of the tour is \$425 for Friends and \$450 for non-members. A detailed itinerary and booking form is included as a separate insert to this newsletter. With only 57 seats available on the bus, this tour is sure to book out quickly. To make your booking, please complete the enclosed booking form and return this with payment to the Friends office.  
Enquiries: (02) 6262 1698 or friends@nla.gov.au.

## Undying Undead: Dracula in the Modern World

You are invited to spend an evening with the famous Count—or at least, less chillingly, spend an evening hearing about him. Dracula, created by Bram Stoker in 1897, is probably the best-known—and yes, well-loved—mythic creation of modern times. Come and hear about Stoker's Dracula, his ancestors in folklore and Romantic literature, and his innumerable cinematic incarnations. The talk will also touch upon several factors that lie behind Dracula's enormous popularity—dangerous sexuality, class privilege, and people's repressed desire for mystical experience.

Dr Rich Pascal, senior lecturer in English Literature at the Australian National University, will lead the discussion, helping participants to think a little more deeply about this classic tale.

**Tuesday 24 April, 6:00 – 8:00pm**

Friends Lounge

Cost: \$10 Friends, \$15 non-members (includes light refreshments)

Bookings essential: (02) 6262 1698 or [friends@nla.gov.au](mailto:friends@nla.gov.au)

## White Gloves Evening - 23 February 2007

The Friends' White Gloves Evening held on Friday 23 February was a great success. A capacity crowd thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to examine at close hand a very interesting and diverse range of manuscripts. The collection included letters, diaries and journals associated with Australians from all walks of life, including Prime Ministers, aviators, writers, travellers and artists.

The popularity of the event was such that viewing time was extended by half an hour to allow visitors a chance to explore all the items on display. The Friends are very grateful to the staff of the Library's manuscripts section who voluntarily gave up their Friday evening to explain and discuss the manuscripts they had very carefully selected for our viewing pleasure.

## Friends Monthly 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 March meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 27 March** and the book for discussion will be *Every Move You Make* by David Malouf.

If you would like to participate in the February Friends Book Club, please RSVP to Sharyn in the Friends Office on (02) 6262 1551 or [sobrien@nla.gov.au](mailto:sobrien@nla.gov.au). Numbers are limited. Don't forget that as a Friend of the NLA you receive a 15% discount on all purchases at the National Library bookshop.

*NLA Book Club – Advance Notice:*

24 April – instead of the regular book club, this month we will host a talk by Rich Pascal on *Dracula* by Bram Stoker, followed by group discussion of the book.

29 May – *The Well* by Elizabeth Jolly

26 June – *The Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali

## Friends of Libraries Australia

Many Friends will be aware of Friends of Libraries Australia (FOLA). FOLA was launched in 1994 to establish, promote and support friends of library groups throughout Australia, to provide a representative voice for FOL groups and library users and to encourage the use and improvement of library and information services.



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

FOLA represents 160 *Friends of Library* Groups representing some 8,000 members who are supporters of libraries in Australia. The Friends of the National Library of Australia is a member of FOLA.

Friends with a particular interest in the role of public libraries and discussion about their future and vital contribution to the community might be interested in learning more about FOLA and subscribing to its regular newsletter.

Should you be interested in learning more about FOLA please visit its website [www.foia.org.au/](http://www.foia.org.au/) or contact it on:

FOLA Inc  
Locked Bag 1315,  
Tullamarine, Vic. 3043  
Phone: (03) 9338 0666

The Friends Committee is exploring arrangements to make the Friends Lounge available to friends of other libraries. The Lounge has established a well-deserved reputation as a quiet haven for Library users away from the busy reading rooms and this is a facility the Friends look forward to sharing with library friends from interstate.

## Recollections of the National Library

In the last edition of Friends Newsletter we sought input from members on their favourite memories and experiences of the National Library. We received these delightful reminiscences from Friends member Patricia Stone.

*My links with the Library go back to 1964 when my husband came home and said we were moving to Canberra. He had obtained a job at the National Library in the old Film Division, which was housed on London Circuit. I did not know much about Canberra, how beautiful it is or anything else, except it was the capital of Australia and I pictured the streets being lined with politicians. After 42 years I have only seen one in the street and that was Fred Daly at the poodle parlour washing his dog. My husband, Graham, went before us and I followed a month later. I got off the train with a black and white television, a budgie and a four year old boy. We built up from there. We had many wonderful times with the Library including bus trips to Surf Beach where there was a little pink pig at the kiosk who enchanted everyone. We had another trip to Gundaroo pub with a huge full moon overhead. We were invited to Embassy parties and met people from other countries. That was because they used to borrow the projection room and my husband sat up with the Censor and watched Russian movies. We were both excited when a new discovery was found, like the bonanza of films which was found in a toilet.*

*The wonderful collection of books blew my mind away and I often went to the Library to look at them. In 1974 Mr Whitlam opened the doors of the night schools and I did my Adult Matriculation and sat for many hours studying at the Library. This got me into the University of New England and then I was back in the Reading Room studying for an Arts degree. I preferred the Library to ANU because the service was quicker and there seemed to me to be more choice. As I was working full time in the Public Service I went to the Library on Saturdays for the whole day and Sunday for half the day. My husband minded the kids. The neighbourhood kids would knock on the door and say, "Is Mr Stone making pikelets today?" I studied in blissful contentment and before long the units had mounted up and I wore a cap and gown. When I retired I thought, "What will I do with all this English?" I went to the University of Canberra and did a Post Grad in Prof. Communication (Professional Writing). I wanted to win the Booker. I was back in the reading room once again because the Library definitely had more choice of books than the university. I am now an online editor and feel very fulfilled. I am also a Guide in the Exhibition Gallery and love the fellowship with the guides and meeting so many interesting people. I love going on trips with the Friends because they are so well managed and most of us have bookish interests in common.*



*I am blown away by the graciousness and expertise of the staff and all the imaginative programs. I bring my grandchildren to the children's programs because I want the Library to be a way of life for them all their lives. I believe our Library is as good as the one in Ancient Greece which was so tragically lost by fire."*

## **Members' Payments**

In January this year, a processing error made by our bank resulted in many of our members' credit cards being charged twice for membership payments. The Friends Office was alerted to this problem at the beginning of February and staff immediately contacted the bank to arrange refunds of the overcharged amounts. The Friends staff also called or emailed all Friends affected by this bank error to advise them of the problem. For those overcharged, a refund was made to your credit card on 7 February. It would be much appreciated if you could please check your bank statements and ensure that this money has been received. If you have any queries or concerns about this issue, please contact Sharyn O'Brien, the Friends Executive Officer, on 02 6262 1551.

We apologise for any inconvenience this bank error has caused to our members, and have taken steps to ensure that this is not repeated.

## **Two Fires Festival: Braidwood**

Members of the Friends may be interested in the the Two Fires Festival of Arts and Activism, which is being held in Braidwood from Friday 30th March to Sunday 1st April, 2007. Highlights will include sessions on practical environmental methods for farmers, discussions on the role of women in Australian literature, an academic forum on Identity and Environment; and community singing and song writing workshops. This year's theme is *Identity and Environment: Taking Up the Challenge*.

Participants in the Festival will include Yuin Elder, Uncle Max Harrison, Roger McDonald, Kim Mahood, Peter Hay, Ted Trainer, Bronwyn Lea, Sam Wagan Watson, Mohsen Soltani, Fadeel Kayat, Elizabeth Webby, Diane Bell, Johnny Huckle, Dave Steel, Nonie Sharp and Martin Royds.

For further information contact Christine Watson, Facilitator, [twofiresfestival@gmail.com](mailto:twofiresfestival@gmail.com) or telephone 0420 806 301. The festival web site is [www.twofiresfestival.com](http://www.twofiresfestival.com).

## **Benefits of Membership**

There have been several changes and additions to the list of businesses offering discounts to Friends since the new Benefits of Membership list was sent out last month.

**Alexander Fax Booksellers** (Mawson, ACT) - Please note that the correct phone number for Alexander Fax Booksellers is (02) 6290 0140.

**Burnet's Books** (Uralla, NSW) – Burnet's Books is offering all Friends a 10% discount on purchases. The shop is located at 46 Bridge St, Uralla NSW. Ph: 02 6778 4682. Fax: 02 6778 4516. Email: [burnet@burnetsbooks.com.au](mailto:burnet@burnetsbooks.com.au). Website: [www.burnetsbooks.com.au](http://www.burnetsbooks.com.au).

**Art Song Canberra** - Friends of the NLA are now able to attend Art Song Canberra concerts at the discounted price of \$22. In 2007 Art Song Canberra will present seven recitals of fine art song by an outstanding array of award-winning, highly-accomplished artists, many of them widely experienced on the world stage. For a copy of the Season of Song 2007 brochure, please contact Oliver Raymond on 02 6295 9613 or [artsong@cyberone.com.au](mailto:artsong@cyberone.com.au) (See special offers for more information)



**Musica Viva** – Friends of the NLA are once again able to access a 10% discount on single tickets to all Musica Viva concerts scheduled in 2007. The 2007 concert program booklet is included with this newsletter. For further information visit [www.musicaviva.com.au](http://www.musicaviva.com.au) or call 1800 688 482.

---

## **SPECIAL OFFERS**

### **Cirque du Soleil Dinners at Bookplate**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Cirque du Soleil<br/>pre-show dinner<br/>At bookplate</b>         | <b><i>Have you got tickets for the amazing Varekai – Cirque du Soleil ?</i></b>   |
| <b>Tuesday to<br/>Saturday nights<br/>15 March- 8 April<br/>2007</b> | Park early and enjoy bookplate's great food and wine before the show. Afterwards stroll across to the tent for a dazzling night of entertainment. |
| <b>From 6pm</b>  | <b>Special Offer:</b> a complimentary glass of sparkling wine on presentation of your Friends card  |
|  | Bookings essential: (02) 6262 1154 or <a href="mailto:bookplate@nla.gov.au">bookplate@nla.gov.au</a>  |

\*\*\*\*\*

### **ART SONG CANBERRA – SEASON OF SONG 2007**

The first concert in Art Song Canberra's Season of Song 2007, 'Location, Location, Location', will take place on **Sunday 25th March** in the John Lingard Hall, Canberra Grammar Junior School, Alexander Street, Red Hill, at 3pm.

#### **LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION**

Where do we fall in love? Under a tree, by the sea or in a garden on a summer's evening? Over the ages poets and composers have been inspired by the settings of love and the poignant images they evoke. Whether a past infatuation or present desire or future hope, love happens somewhere ...

Come and discover, in songs and arias by Elgar, Berlioz, Brahms, Wolf, Fauré, Handel and Rossini. **Christina Wilson** is a graduate of the Canberra School of Music, the Royal Northern College of Music and the National Opera Studio, London. She has been broadcast and appeared in concert and recital in Australia, the USA, Europe and throughout the UK. Recordings include Elgar's *The Music Makers*, reviewed by the Elgar Society: "...a voice to drool over: powerful, majestic... a perfect 'line', impeccable diction..."

**Alan Hicks** studied and worked in the UK for fifteen years as pianist, teacher and vocal coach, appearing at major concert venues including the Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room and St John's, Smith Square.

**Friends of the National Library of Australia are entitled to admission to concerts at the discounted price of \$22. Brochures for the full 2007 season can be obtained from Oliver Raymond on 02 6295 9613 or [artsong@cyberone.com.au](mailto:artsong@cyberone.com.au)**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **'The Lives of Others - 2-for-1 ticket offer**

Thanks to Hopscotch Films, this month all Friends of the NLA receive a 2-for-1 pass to the new German film 'The Lives of Others'. These tickets are valid at Dendy Cinemas around the country, plus other selected cinemas, from 29 March to 25 April 2007.



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

*About the movie:* Winner of the 2007 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, this film goes to the very heart of recent German history, tackling the East German secret police, the dreaded Stasi. Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck's movie debut focuses on the horrifying system of observation in the former East Germany. In the early 1980s, the successful dramatist Georg Dreyman and his longtime companion Christa-Maria Sieland, a popular actress, are faithful stars in the socialist state, although they secretly don't always think loyal to the party line. One day, the Minister of Culture becomes interested in Christa, so secret service agent Wiesler is instructed to observe and sound out the couple, but their life fascinates him more and more. Tense, taut and brilliantly written, 'The Lives of Others' will keep you on the edge of your seat and the ending will leave you breathless.

## Coming Events March 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><b>Canberra Series Lecture:</b><br/><b>Marion Le</b><br/>Wednesday 21 March<br/>12:30-1:30pm<br/>Friends Lounge<br/>Cost: \$5</p>     | <p>Marion Le will speak about her experiences as a human rights and refugee advocate at home and abroad with particular emphasis on the current situations of Afghanistan and Iraq,<br/><br/>Bookings essential: (02) 6262 1698</p> |
| <p><b>Friends Book Club</b><br/><b>Tuesday</b><br/>Tuesday 27 March<br/>7:00-8:30pm<br/>Friends Lounge<br/>Free event – members only</p> | <p>This month the Friends Book Club will be discussing <i>Every Move You Make</i> by David Malouf.<br/><br/>Bookings essential on (02) 6262 1551 or <a href="mailto:friends@nla.gov.au">friends@nla.gov.au</a>.</p>                 |

### NLA talks and events

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Women's History Month:</b><br/><b>Dr Lenore Coltheart</b><br/>Tuesday 13 March<br/>12:30pm - 2:00pm<br/>Ferguson Room<br/>Free<br/>Bookings not required</p>      | <p>You are warmly invited to an imaginary lunch with the women who wove the international and nationwide relationships that forty years ago changed Australia's Constitution. Join us for a fascinating fantasy conversation with the past, a celebration of International Women's Day and Women's History Month presented by Dr Lenore Coltheart.</p> |
| <p><b>Floor Talk</b><br/><b>Joseph Lycett: Convict Artist</b><br/>Wednesday March 14<br/>12:30pm - 1:30pm<br/>Exhibition Gallery<br/>Free<br/>Bookings not required</p> | <p>Join contributing curator Martin Terry for an exploration of the exhibition, <i>Joseph Lycett: Convict Artist</i></p>   |



|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>The Journalist, The Dealer, The Scholar and Patrick White</b><br/> Friday, 30 March<br/> 10:00am - 4:00pm<br/> Theatre &amp; LG1 Grey Area<br/> Free</p>          | <p>Come and hear David Marr 'The Journalist', Nicholas Pounder 'The Dealer' and Professor Elizabeth Webby 'The Scholar', give their personal recollections and responses to this incredible literary find. Chaired by Marie-Louise Ayres 'The Curator', this promises to be a stimulating and exciting intimate view of a complex literary character.</p> <p>Preceded and followed by an opportunity to view selected items from the collection. Book early to avoid disappointment.</p> <p>Viewing: 10am to 4pm, LG1 Grey Area<br/> Seminar: 3:30pm – 5:00pm, Theatre<br/> Bookings: (02) 6262 1271</p> |
| <p><b>Harold White Fellow Presentation - Dr Rowena Ward</b><br/> Tuesday 3 April<br/> 5:30 - 7:00pm<br/> Conference Room<br/> Free entry<br/> Bookings not required</p> | <p>Japanese Civilians in Manchuria - Dr Rowena Ward explores the experiences of the Japanese civilian population in Manchuria after the Russian invasion on 9 August 1945.</p>   |
| <p><b>National Folk Festival Concert</b><br/> Thursday 5 April<br/> 12:30 - 1:30pm<br/> Foyer<br/> Free entry<br/> Bookings not required</p>                            | <p>Living Traditions from Western Australia<br/> Traditional fiddler Sean Doherty and Irish <i>sean-nos</i> singer Tom Kearns along with other guest performers join folklore collector Rob Willis for an hour of music and song. Sean and Tom are an important part of The National Library's ongoing Western Australian Folklife project.</p>  |
| <p><b>National Library Live @ the 2007 National Folk Festival</b><br/> 9:00am Thursday 5 April – 5pm<br/> Monday 9 April<br/> Exhibition Park</p>                       | <p>Join the National Library at the Budawang Pavilion for the ever popular Information Lounge and Internet Kiosk.</p> <p>Enjoy <b>Live @ the Lounge</b> interviews with featured performers and other fascinating folk. Come to concerts, workshops, and forums highlighting our rich folklore and music collections and telling the nation's stories.</p>   |

### NLA exhibitions

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Joseph Lycett: Convict Artist</b><br/> Until Sunday 27 May 2007<br/> Exhibition Gallery<br/> Free</p> | <p>English born Joseph Lycett was transported to New South Wales in 1811 after being convicted of forgery. After receiving a pardon and returning to England he produced the most extravagantly illustrated account of the colony, published in London in 1824-25. Lycett's works in watercolour and oil are among the most important visual records of early New South Wales and Tasmania, documenting the life of the Aboriginal people, the landscape and its flora, and the towns, houses and properties of colonial Australia when there were few such competent artists in the colony. 53 of Lycett's works in the National Library's pictorial collection will be featured in the exhibition.</p> |
| <p><b>How's That!</b><br/> Until Sunday, 17 June 2007<br/> Visitor Centre<br/> Free</p>                     | <p>The National Library holds a significant collection of cricket memorabilia, particularly from the pre-World War II period, and it continues to acquire the memoirs of past and present players. This exhibition features some of the key pieces from this collection.</p>   |

