

November 2006

Electric Lives: the Australian Dictionary of Biography Online

The Friends of the National Library, in association with the ACT branch of the Harvard Club of Australia, are pleased to announce that Nicholas Brown will present a lecture at 6pm Thursday, 16 November, entitled *Electric Lives: the Australian Dictionary of Biography Online*.

On 6 July 2006 the Australian Dictionary of Biography went online as a free, fully searchable database, incorporating all 17 published volumes of the *ADB* and making a pioneering contribution to the development of electronic research into Australian history in particular, and the humanities and social sciences in general. The achievement of this project to date, and an outline of its potential both as a resource and an agent in such research, will be canvassed in this talk. At a time in which biography is an increasingly popular, innovative form of inquiry, and digitisation is transforming all aspects of education, research and writing, the *ADB Online* provides a landmark at which to take stock of the journey so far, and to consider new directions.

Nicholas Brown is a senior research fellow in the *ADB* and the History Program, Research School of Social Sciences, ANU. In 2002-4 he was Keith Cameron Professor of Australian History, University College Dublin, and has worked in the Departments of Defence and Foreign Affairs and Trade. His publications include *Governing Prosperity* (1995) and *Richard Downing: economics, advocacy and social reform in Australia* (2001).

The lecture will be held in the 4th Floor Conference Room at the National Library and entry will be by gold coin donation at the door. Bookings are recommended on (02) 6262 1698 or friends@nla.gov.au

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 November meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 28 November** and the book for discussion will be the winner of the 2006 Man Booker Prize for Fiction, *The Inheritance of Loss* by Kiran Desai.

The duty of coordinating each month's meeting is shared amongst the group, with a new coordinator each month. The coordinators for the November meeting will be Audrey and Ken Shepherd. Tea/Coffee will be available in the Friends Lounge as usual, but you might also like to bring some snacks to share with the group.

If you would like to participate in the November 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 Inheritance of Loss* 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.

Please note that there will be no book club held in December.

Advance notice – 2007 Book Club:

30 January 2007 – *The Ballad of Desmond Kale* by Roger McDonald

27 February 2007 - *Arthur and George* by Julian Barnes

Staffing Changes in the Friends Office

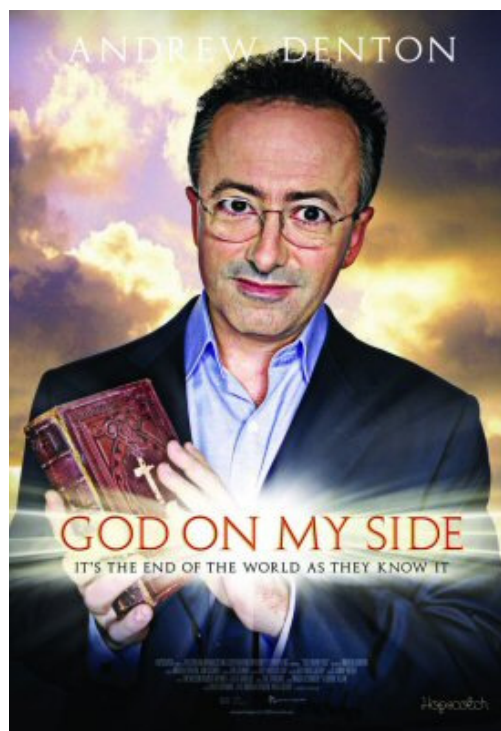
As of last month you may have noticed a new voice on the phone when you called the Friends office. Jessica Goldstein, our Executive Assistant, has (sadly for us!) moved to on to bigger and better things with a new job in Sydney. Fortunately we have found a very able replacement in Sarah Ireland, who started with us last month and will be assisting you with memberships, enquiries and bookings for events. Sarah only works 15 hours per week at the Friends office, can generally be contacted between 9am-2pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

Special Offer for Friends

'God on My Side' - 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 Andrew Denton film 'God on My Side'. These tickets are valid at Electric Shadows Cinema in Canberra, plus selected cinemas in other capital cities, from 2-29 November 2006.

About the movie: 'God on My Side' is the result of Andrew Denton's visit to Texas for the National Religious Broadcasters' Convention, the annual shindig for every televangelist powerbroker and wannabe in America. By turns serious and comic and sometimes a little disturbing, it examines the cutting edge of evangelical technology, the business of God, the America of the religious right, and what the inescapable truths of the Bible mean for US foreign policy and the Middle East. Avoiding cheap potshots by asking a range of Christians about their beliefs and experiences, the film is complex, layered and surprising.



Coming Events November 2006

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>Electric Lives: ADB Online</i></p> <p>Thursday, 16 November 6.00 - 7.30pm Conference Room Entry by gold coin donation at the door.</p>	<p>Nicholas Brown will speak about the Australian Dictionary of Biography going online as a free, fully searchable database.</p>
<p><i>Friends of the National Library Book Club</i></p> <p>Tuesday, 28 November 7:00 - 8:30 pm Friends Lounge</p>	<p>The Friends of the National Library Book Club meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the Friends Lounge. The November meeting will discuss the book <i>The Inheritance of Loss</i> by Kiran Desai. Bookings required on (02) 6262 1551 as places are limited.</p>

NLA exhibitions

<p>Donald Friend: A Charmed Life</p> <p>Thursday, 9 November 2006 to 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. These captivating diaries form the intellectual core of this exhibition.</p>
<p>Melbourne '56</p> <p>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>Australia on the Map 1606-2006</p> <p>Until Sunday, 14 January 2007 Visitor Centre Free</p>	<p>Throughout 2006, the National Library of Australia is featuring a series of maps to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the mapping of Australia, starting with the reproduction of a map drawn on board the Dutch vessel <i>Duyfken</i> during her voyage of discovery along the west coast of Cape York Peninsula in 1606.</p>



NLA talks and events

<p><i>Donald Friend: A Charmed Life - Walk and Talk</i></p> <p>Thursday, 16 November 12:30 - 1:15 pm Exhibition Gallery Free</p>	<p>Join exhibition curator Lou Klepac for a 'walk and talk' through this special exhibition.</p>
<p><i>Harold White Fellow Presentation</i></p> <p>Tuesday, 21 November 5:30 - 7:30 pm Conference Room Free</p>	<p>Griffith Taylor (1880-1963): Visions of 'Man' and Nature Dr Carolyn Strange, Harold White Fellow 2006, explores the life of geographer Griffith Taylor.</p> <p>Dr Carolyn Strange is a Canadian Australian historian and Graduate Director at the Centre for Cross Cultural Research, Australian National University.</p>
<p><i>Barry Jones Author Talk</i></p> <p>Thursday, 30 November 6:00 - 7:00 pm Free</p>	<p>Hear this passionate advocate for the arts, philosophy, science, education, and the making of a better Australia as he discusses his autobiography, <i>A Thinking Read</i></p>
<p><i>An Evening with Donald Friend.</i></p> <p>Thursday, 7 December 6pm, Theatre Free but bookings essential: (02) 6262 1271</p>	<p>Devised by Lou Klepac, with Terence Clarke as Donald Friend.</p> <p>In association with the <i>Donald Friend: A Charmed Life</i> exhibition This special event captures the essence of the man and the artist, and reveals incidents of Friend's exotic and colourful life.</p>

