

October 2005

Celebration

The Friends *Celebration* is an annual event to honour the work of a person who has significantly contributed to the creation of books and book culture in Australia. Their contribution could be through writing, publishing, printing, designing, illustrating and editing.

This year we are celebrating the work of Inga Clendinnen with an event and the release of a publication about her and her work; *Inga Clendinnen: A Celebration*. Inga is a writer, academic and historian whose work on Aztec and Mayan cultures has been praised around the world. In 1998, Inga turned her attention to the twentieth century with *Reading the Holocaust*, which won the NSW Premier's History Award, and was also listed as one of the ten best books of 1999 by *The New York Times*. In 2000 she published a very personal account of living with acute liver disease in *Tiger's Eye*; an award winning book full of imagination and courage. Her focus then turned to the historical relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in *Dancing with Strangers* (2003), for which she received the prestigious Kiriama Prize for non-fiction. Despite the diverse issues she has addressed, there is a common thread throughout her work; and that is a deep interest in people, in the human condition, and in 'what makes us tick'. I could go on, but why don't you come along and hear for yourself what a remarkable thinker and writer we are celebrating this year.



Inga Clendinnen by T Haynes, courtesy of Test Publishing

The Celebration of Inga Clendinnen and book launch will take place in the National Library's theatre at 2pm, Sunday 30 October. The event is free, and all Friends will receive a complementary copy of the book (those Friends who do not attend the event, will receive their copy later by mail). Inga will be available to sign copies of the book following the event at which time refreshments will also be available.

If you would like to come to the Celebration of Inga Clendinnen, please call the Friends office to make your reservation: 02 6262 1698.

John Birmingham – the final *Author! Author!*

Have you enjoyed listening to Louis Nowra, Peter Goldsworthy and Kate Grenville in our *Author! Author!* series? Well, John Birmingham is the last writer in this series to speak about his work. Most famous for *He Died With a Falafel In His Hand* (1994), an expose of squalid group house living that was later turned into a Richard Lowenstein film starring Noah Taylor, John Birmingham regards writing as a business and writes essays, articles and historical pieces as well as fiction.

Since '*Falafel*' and it's sequel *The Tasmanian Babes Fiasco* (1997) John has received critical acclaim for *Leviathan* (1999), an 'unauthorised history of Sydney'. He has also gone on to write *Dopeland* (2003), a tour of Australia's marijuana history, culture and politics and the first two novels of a new airport fiction series (which he initially had no intention to publish); *Weapons of Choice: World War 2.1* and *Designated Targets: World War 2.2*.

Set in 2021, *Weapons of Choice* plots an alternate history. A US led taskforce from the year 2021 are about to fight Islamic jihadists who have overthrown the Indonesian Government. Suddenly they find themselves thrown back in time to 1942, as the US is left reeling from the attack on Pearl Harbour. Birmingham has been compared to Tom Clancy since this series was released, but while it reads as a thriller, it can also read as a satire on the genre. The third book in the series is due for release in 2006, but you don't have to wait that long to find out more about John Birmingham's ideas. John will speak in the theatre at the National Library at **2pm on Sunday 13 November**. He will also be available for a book signing in the foyer following the talk, where afternoon tea will be served. Friends \$12, non-members \$17. Bookings essential. Call Hayley on 02 6262 1698.

PSSSSSSST..... J.M. Coetzee is coming!

This is not a Friends event, but I thought you might like to be among the first to know. The National Library and Australian Book Review present *An Afternoon with J.M. Coetzee* on Sunday 23 October at 2pm.

A novelist of international acclaim, Coetzee was the winner of the Nobel prize for literature in 2003 and has twice won the Booker prize, in 1983 for *The Life and Times of Michael K*, and in 1989 for *Disgrace*. In recent years Coetzee has written two fictionalised memoirs, *Boyhood* (1997) and *Youth* (2002). Coetzee now lives in Adelaide, where he holds an honorary position at the University of Adelaide. His most recent novel, *Slow Man*, was published this year. Come along to hear Coetzee in conversation with Peter Rose. Tickets to the event are \$15 (ABR Subscribers: free). Bookings essential ph: 02 6262 1271.



The Great Cultural Clearance Sale

Friends are invited to a special preview of the Great Cultural Clearance Sale on **Thursday 13 October from 5:30 to 8:00 pm** at the Albert Hall in Canberra (Commonwealth Avenue, Yarralumla). Take advantage of the products on sale before the official public opening. Choose from a wide range of fantastic products offered by six major cultural institutions, discounted by up to 50% off the normal retail price. Products will include books, catalogues, posters, greeting cards, bookplates, wrapping paper, toys, games and many other great gift ideas. The sale continues from October 14 through October 16 from 9am – 5pm.

Friends Day Trip - In the Steps of Banjo Patterson

Join other Friends on a bus tour of Illalong, Binalong and Bogolong on **Saturday 12 November 2005**. The day tour (8:45am to 4:45pm) will explore the district where Banjo lived as a boy. Lunch will be at the Binalong Hotel and highlights include the Binalong Christmas Fair and "Bubbles" Garry who will speak about the history of the town. There will be time to wander, see demonstrations of glass blowing, browse in bookshops and delight in Devonshire teas. The cost will be \$65 for Friends and \$75 for non-members. Travel will be by coach, departing from the National Library. Numbers strictly limited to 48. For further information, call Terry Birtles, the organizer (not available until October 18) on 02 6230 2037 or the Friends Executive Officer, on 02 6262 1551. To book please call the Friends Office on 02 6262 1698.

Treasures Opening Soon

Are you ready to discover the treasures of Australian libraries? Curated by Margaret Dent, the exhibition entitled *National Treasures from Australia's Great Libraries* will open at the National Library and run from 3 December 2005 until 12 February 2006. From there the exhibition will travel to all capital cities. Items included in the exhibition are from the collections of the National Library, the State Libraries of NSW, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, Queensland and Western Australia, the ACT Heritage Library and the Northern Territory Library Service.

There will be a wonderful series of events accompanying this exhibition, so keep your eye out for the November newsletter for more details. Meanwhile, make sure you don't miss our current exhibition *GOOD LOOKING: Narrative Photographs Past and Present*, which closes on 30 October.



Calling for Nominations for the Friends Committee

The AGM and Christmas Party

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the National Library will be held at **5:30pm on Monday 12 December**, in the Theatre, and will be followed by the Volunteers and Friends Christmas Party in the foyer. Please make a note of the date in your diaries.

All Committee positions will be declared vacant and a new Committee for 2006 will be elected at the AGM. Have you considered standing for election? Being a Committee member is a positive way of contributing your time and expertise to the Friends organization and in this way you support the Library. **A nomination form is enclosed (see pink attachment). Nominations must be received by 5pm, Tuesday 25 October 2005.** If you would like to know more about what being on the Friends Committee entails, contact the Friends Office on 02 6262 1551.

Several changes to the Friends' Rules will be put before the membership at the AGM. Full details will be provided in the November newsletter. Please make a note of the date in your diaries.

As for the Christmas party which follows the AGM, there will be live music, food, wine, merriment and 20% discount to all Friends in the bookshop! Come along, catch up with old Friends and meet some new ones. We look forward to seeing you there.



Coming Events October 2005

The full programme for October can be consulted in the What's On section of the National Library's Web site at <http://www.nla.gov.au/apps/events/>.

Friends' Events: Bookings essential. Call 02) 6262 1698 or email hpearson@nla.gov.au

BOOKED OUT	<p>Thursday 6 October, 6:00 - 7:30 pm. Foyer and Theatre Refreshments provided. Entry by Donation</p> <p>Kenneth Myer Lecture The Seeds of Change: serendipity and social movements. Tim Costello is a greatly loved and well respected advocate of Human Rights, having led debates on domestic issues such as gambling. With qualifications in Law and Theology, Tim's career path has been a powerful expression of his commitment to social justice. After ordination as a Baptist Minister in 1986, Tim established a vibrant and socially active ministry at St Kilda Baptist Church in Melbourne. In 1993 he became the Mayor of St Kilda, and from 1995 to 2004 he was Minister at Collins Street Baptist Church and Executive Director of Urban Seed, a Christian not-for-profit outreach service for the urban poor. In February 2004, Tim accepted the role of Chief Executive of World Vision, Australia's largest overseas aid organization. In July 2004 Tim Costello was named 2004 Victorian of the Year and in June 2005 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO).</p>
<p>Wednesday 19 October, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Ferguson Room Entry by donation</p>	<p>Friends Event - The Canberra Series <i>The Cultured Country</i> Lunchtime talk by Don Aitken. How did Australia get from its blinkered, conservative colonial defensive state in 1950 to being a well-educated, curious, artistically creative, musical society fifty years later - and how can we keep it that way?</p>
<p>Sunday 30 October, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm Foyer, Theatre Entry by donation.</p>	<p>The Celebration This year the Friends are celebrating the work of Inga Clendinnen, writer, academic and historian highly regarded for her work on Aztec and Mayan cultures. Awards include the NSW Premier's History Award for <i>Reading the Holocaust</i> and the prestigious Kiriyaama Prize for non-fiction for <i>Dancing with Strangers</i>.</p>



NLA Lunchtime talks and events, free (unless otherwise stated)

Wednesday 12 October, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Ferguson Room Free	Rockin' Robyn! As part of Floriade's Rock and Roll Trail, Robyn Holmes, Curator of Music at the National Library, will take you on a musical mystery tour of the Library's rock music collections.
Sunday 23 October, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Theatre \$15 (ABR Subscribers free) Bookings essential: (02) 6262 1271	The National Library and Australian Book Review An Afternoon with J.M. Coetzee

Reader Education, free: BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL, on (02) 6262 1316 or tutorials@nla.gov.au

Thursday 13 October, 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Main Reading Room	Catalogue Training: Are you looking to get the best from your research at the National Library? Why not join one of our free group training sessions. Effective searching methods, linking to online resources, e-mailing, saving records, and requesting will be addressed..
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E-Resource Tutorials, free: BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL. To register by phone: 6262 1316 or by e-mail tutorials@nla.gov.au.

Tuesday 25 October, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Main Reading Room Thursday 27 October, 10:00 am - 11:00 am Main Reading Room	e-Resource Tutorial – Newspapers in the National Library This session will cover online full-text Australian and overseas newspaper databases such as Factiva and the London Times Digital Archive (1785-1985). Also included will be information about indexes such as the new online Argus Index. Come and join a FREE, hands-on session and learn how to use these.
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