

# Festive Friends



Rosemary Dobson (centre) at the Celebration of her life and work in the National Library foyer on 30 September. Seated are her daughter, Dr Lissant Bolton (Assistant Keeper, Oceania at the British Museum) and son, Robert Bolton, a journalist. Robert Hefner, Literary Editor of the *Canberra Times* is behind. Photographer: Kate Callas

To my amazement, the year is almost over and it is time to extend Season's Greetings to Friends all over Australia. For those resident in Canberra or visiting from Sydney and regional New South Wales, the Friends Committee warmly invites you to attend the Annual General Meeting and Christmas Party—a combined event. This will be held on Wednesday 6 December, beginning at 5.30 pm in the Theatre.

Once again the year has produced a smorgasbord of events. We've had talks about the Library's collections and exhibitions, a wonderful Easter break at the Four Winds Music Festival in Bermagui, a seminar by the noted Sydney music critic Fred Blanks, a candlelit Mid-Winter Dinner after a lecture by 'practical' scientist Ben Selinger, and a joyous Celebration of the much-admired poet, Rosemary Dobson.

This year the Kenneth Myer Lecture moved to Melbourne where it was held in conjunction with the State Library of Victoria. Yvonne Cramer, Chair of the Friends Committee, graciously introduced the speaker, Sir Gustav Nossal, to a

capacity audience of 360. In his lecture Sir Gustav spoke about his current work in Australia and overseas and met guests informally during the reception that followed.

Next year, the lecture will return to Canberra as one of the key events on the Library's busy centenary calendar.

There will be a number of new faces on next year's Friends Committee. Extensive professional commitments prevent our chair, Yvonne Cramer, from standing for re-election as an office bearer. Her charm and eloquence will be missed, as will the calm wisdom of the Deputy Chair Patricia Reid and the expertise and diligence of our Treasurer, Joy Eadie. Both Patricia and Joy have served maximum terms on the Committee, along with Mary Newport and John Chapman who together brought Friends their new (and very popular) newsletter. My thanks to all these fine people for their help during the year.

Next year's Committee will meet on 12 December to elect office bearers and start brainstorming a program of interesting new events. We have one fixture already—an

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2000

**Annual General Meeting and Christmas Party**

**Date:** 6 December  
**Time:** 5.30 pm  
**Venue:** Theatre, Lower Ground Floor 1 and afterwards in the adjacent pink area  
**Entry:** Free  
**Bookings essential by 1 December**

**First meeting of 2001 Friends Committee (to elect office bearers)**

**Date:** Tuesday 12 December  
**Time:** 5 pm  
**Venue:** Council Room, 1st Floor

**For bookings, details of membership and subscriptions, contact:**

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exciting all-day seminar with the working title 'The Australian Army: Researching 100 Years of Service'. Watch out for informed speakers, a military band and a special viewing of interesting items from the collections!

Some of you will have noticed that work is commencing on a refurbishment of the exhibition gallery and its surrounds on the Ground Floor. This is an exciting development but unfortunately it means that the Friends Lounge will be closed to members for about six weeks. We hope that the inconvenience isn't too great and thank you in advance for your forbearance.

Until next year—happy holidays!

Lee Kirwan  
Executive Officer