

Outback Friends



Mortimer Luddington Menpes
(1855–1938)

La Gioconda (The Mona Lisa)

oil on paper on card; 51.3 x 35.2 cm
Pictorial Collection S4552

after Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519)

La Gioconda (The Mona Lisa) 1503–1506

oil on wood panel; 77.0 x 53.0 cm
Original in the Musée du Louvre, Paris

The news of the month is, of course, the journey 'In the Footsteps of Burke & Wills' which is fully booked and eager to depart from the National Library's car park at 7 am on Friday 14 June. A scribe has volunteered to chronicle the two-week event and we plan to run a report in the *Friends Newsletter* later in the year.

So that those going on the excursion can better prepare, tour leader Warwick Bradney will hold a familiarisation session in the Friends Lounge from 5.30–7 pm on Tuesday 11 June, with a glass of wine and a sandwich. All 32 intrepid travellers are invited to attend.

For those with an interest in Australian military history, Lt General John Coates will participate in our 'Meet the Author' series on Tuesday 4 June at 5.30 pm in the Friends Lounge. General Coates has a string of publications to his name but will speak on this occasion about Volume 7 in the series *The Australian*

Centenary History of Defence. He is the author of the volume entitled *An Atlas of Australia's Wars*. In line with the current policy of the Friends to support the construction of a Treasures Gallery, entry to the talk will be by a gold coin donation.



The *Friends Newsletter* compiler, John Graham, and committee member Peter Kloppenberg have been busy investigating the possibility of scheduling some Internet training for members of the Friends in Canberra. The first session, at which the level of existing expertise and special interest will be gauged, will take place on 20 June. Refer to the *Newsletter* for details.



Looking further ahead, the next speaker in the 'Meet the Author' series will be Colin McPhedran who will speak about and read from his recently published book *White Butterflies* on Thursday 25 July. The book tells the very extraordinary and moving story of the author's flight as a young boy from Burma to India, with his mother and siblings. Colin is an accomplished speaker and will stay on for refreshments with guests after the talk.



In August, exhibition curator Tim Fisher will reveal a few secrets about the interests of the eccentric 'reproductionist', Mortimer Menpes, whose copies of famous masterpieces, such as *The Laughing Cavalier*, line the National Library's corridors.



I've saved the best until last. Mem Fox, children's author and educator, will be our guest of honour at this year's Friends Celebration to be held on Sunday 1 December. We expect to welcome everyone from eight to 80 to what I am sure will be a very happy event.

LEE KIRWAN
Executive Officer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June–August 2002

Meet the Author

Lt General John Coates: 'Making *An Atlas of Australia's Wars*'

Hear General Coates describe the writing and researching of Volume 7 in the series *The Australian Centenary History of Defence*.

Date: Tuesday 4 June

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: Friends Lounge

Cost: Gold coin donation

Pre-departure Evening

'In the Footsteps of Burke & Wills'
An information evening for all those going on the excursion.

Date: Tuesday 11 June

Time: 5.30–7 pm

Venue: Friends Lounge

Cost: None

'In the Footsteps of Burke & Wills'

Thirteen days of adventure!

Date: 14–26 June

Time: 7 am

Venue: Departs National Library
car park

Meet the Author

Writing *White Butterflies*:

Colin McPhedran

Hear the moving personal story behind the book and enjoy refreshments afterwards with the author.

Date: Thursday 25 July

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: Friends Lounge

Cost: \$10 Friends; \$12 Public

Bookings essential (02) 6262 1698

'Remaking Masterpieces: The Art of Mortimer Menpes'

Join curator Tim Fisher to hear about the interests of the wealthy eccentric, Mortimer Menpes.

Date: Sunday 11 August

Time: 2.30 pm

Venue: Friends Lounge

Cost: \$10 Friends; \$12 Public

(includes afternoon tea)

Bookings essential (02) 6262 1698

For bookings, details of membership and subscriptions, contact:

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