

EXPLORING WITH FRIENDS



Sidney Nolan
(1917–1992)
*Burke and Wills
Expedition 1948*
synthetic polymer
paint on
composition board;
91.3 x 122.2 cm
Courtesy of Collection
Nolan Gallery,
Cultural Facilities
Corporation, Canberra

After the overwhelming success of *Treasures from the World's Great Libraries*, which attracted thousands of tourists and locals to the Library's Ground Floor Gallery, the Friends are looking forward to a different type of exhibition—one devoted to exploration and adventure.

Burke & Wills: From Melbourne to Myth will be a travelling exhibition presented in conjunction with the State Library of Victoria and the Art Gallery of South Australia. It will open on the 27th of this month but, because that date is so close to Easter, our usual 'early bird' talk by the curator, in this case the noted environmental lawyer and art historian Professor Tim Bonyhady, will take place on Sunday 7 April. We invite you to hear Tim speak before you enjoy afternoon tea and a tour through the Gallery.

Few colonial events, and certainly no other Australian explorations, have elicited so much art. Visitors to the exhibition will learn a great deal about the courage, vision and possible foolhardiness of the explorers through the rich array of art, manuscripts and objects brought together from private and institutional collections. Significantly, this exhibition will be the first to take this extraordinary story and explore its impact on Australian culture from the 1860s to the present.

A journey to Innamincka in South Australia, close to the site of the famous 'Dig' tree, is one proposal for this year's cultural trip away for the Friends of the NLA. Please contact Committee member Warwick Bradney (02 6232 4372) if you would be interested in joining a more comfortable and less tragic, twenty-first-century expedition.

Conflicting dates mean that 'Encounters with Indigenous Australia', the seminar we hoped to bring you in April, has been rescheduled for later in the year. It will coincide with the launch of the *Bringing Them Home* book, co-edited by Doreen Mellor, an Indigenous writer and curator currently managing the Library's *Bringing Them Home* Oral History Project, and Anna Haebich, award winning author of *Broken Circles: Fragmenting Indigenous Families 1800–2000*.

It is anticipated that the seminar program, with cooperative input from organisations such as AIATSIS, ATSIC, the National Gallery and the National Museum, will follow three main themes: Before European Settlement; Encounters with Kultja and Walking the Path of Reconciliation.

Exploration is an endlessly fascinating topic and one to which several members of the Friends have contributed recently in the form of publications.

In November last year, Melbourne University Press published *The Search for the Inland Sea: John Oxley, Explorer, 1783–1828* by Richard Johnson. Oxley was Surveyor-General for New South Wales and explored eastern Australian from Queensland to Tasmania at various times. Among his discoveries were the Brisbane River and the site of the city of Brisbane.

Richard Johnson has kindly agreed to speak to the Friends about researching his book over a ten-year period. Leave your theodolites at

home but come along to the Friends lounge on Wednesday 20 March 12.30 pm. Admission is free.

LEE KIRWAN
Executive Officer
Tel. (02) 6262 1551

CALENDAR

March–April 2002

March With the Explorers

'John Oxley's search for the inland sea' Friend of the NLA, Richard Johnson, will talk about researching and writing his recent book.

Venue: Friends Lounge
Date: Thursday, 14 March
Time: 12.30 pm
Admission free

Meet the Curator

Burke & Wills: From Melbourne to Myth

Hear Professor Tim Bonyhady's description of the NLA's next exhibition, devoted to the courageous south to north expedition by two of Australia's most significant explorers. Join us for afternoon tea after the talk before moving into the gallery to view the exhibition.

Date: Sunday, 7 April
Time: 2.30 pm
Venue: Friends Lounge,
Ground Floor
Cost: \$10 Friends; \$12 members
of the public (includes afternoon tea)
Bookings essential 6262 1698

For bookings, details of membership and subscriptions, contact:

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