



August Friends

FRIENDS EVENT

The 2006 Kenneth Myer Lecture
Crimes Against Humanity
Geoffrey Robertson QC

Date: Wednesday 16 August

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Theatre

Cost: Free admission

BOOKED OUT

Cancellations: (02) 6262 1698

For bookings, details of membership and subscriptions, contact:

Friends of the NLA
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Hello dear Friends. Our program of events here at the Library seems to be getting more popular and it is not uncommon for events to book out quickly. If discounts at our events, in bookshops, cafes and motels, subscription to *NLA News* and access to the Friends Lounge weren't enough to get you to join the Friends, have a think about what it may have meant to be one of the first to know that Geoffrey Robertson was giving this year's Kenneth Myer Lecture. The Kenneth Myer Lecture is now booked out. Did you know that Friends of the National Library get advance notice about all Friends events? To see a full list of member benefits and to apply for membership, go to our website (www.nla.gov.au) and click on 'for', then 'friends'.

Our recent event *Gothic Passion in Wuthering Heights*, presented by Rich Pascal, and repeated by popular demand, revealed just how many Friends are hungry for book clubs. While we can assist in the development of one here in Canberra, there are no doubt many of you who live a long way from the National Library but would like to find a book club, or even start one of your own.

A great place to search for an existing book club is on the Internet, although it is also worth asking around as many clubs are founded by bookshops and local libraries. Most seem to have a membership of around 12 and meet in a member's home. There are

specialised clubs for lovers of crime writing, romance, literature, sci-fi, and the list goes on. But if you can't find one that tickles your fancy, perhaps you should think about starting your own.

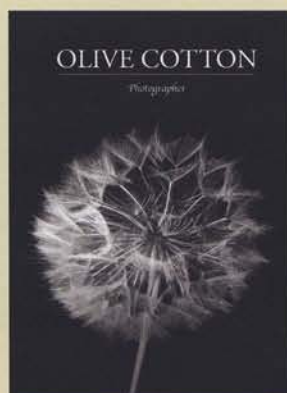
The Brisbane Writers Festival website has some great tips about starting a book club. Ideally, it says, 'there is enough cohesion to make you want to return next month yet enough dissension for some lively discussions'. But what if you don't know 12 people who want to join? Just start anyway says the Brisbane Writers Festival. Ask each member to bring someone new to the next meeting. Alternatively, post your profile on BookMatch and see what happens. BookMatch is a service provided by the Brisbane Writers Festival to help you find a club or, if you already have a club, it can help you find more members. It is like an online matchmaking agency for book lovers. Go to www.brisbanewritersfestival.com.au and click on 'book club' for more details.

I think I must have matchmaking on the brain. With the onset of Spring, we will be running an interactive session about speed dating, science and love; what's more it is on the eve of our literary conference, *Love and Desire*. But more about that next month. Happy clubbing!

JILLIAN EDWARDS
Executive Officer
Friends of the National Library of Australia

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