



November Friends

Electric Lives: the Australian Dictionary of Biography Online

Nicholas Brown, senior research fellow, will speak about the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* going online as a free, fully searchable database.

Date: Thursday 16 November 2006

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: 4th Floor Conference Room

Cost: Gold coin donation at the door

Bookings recommended:

(02) 6262 1698

For bookings, details of membership and subscriptions, contact:

Friends of the NLA

National Library of Australia

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6262 1698

Fax: (02) 6273 4493

Email: friends@nla.gov.au

Website: www.nla.gov.au/friends

In recent years, biography has become one of the most popular literary genres.

New celebrity memoirs appear on the bookshelves with increasing frequency and media hype, and have become one of the most lucrative areas of publishing.

The *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (ADB) recognised the importance of biography many years ago. Established in 1957, the ADB has to date produced 16 volumes of biographical articles on important and representative figures in Australian history. Volumes one to 16 encompass the lives of subjects who lived and died during the period 1788–1980. Work is progressing on articles covering subjects who died in 1981–1990. These articles will be published in two print volumes (volumes 17 and 18).

On 6 July 2006, this information became even easier to access, with the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* going online as a free, fully searchable database. The database incorporates all published volumes of the ADB and makes a pioneering contribution to the development of electronic research into Australian history in particular, and the humanities and social sciences in general. At a time when digitisation is transforming all aspects of education, research and writing, the *ADB Online* is a landmark venture. You can visit *ADB Online* at <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/about.htm>

The Friends of the National Library are pleased to announce that Nicholas Brown (senior research fellow in the ADB and the History Program, Research School of Social Sciences, The Australian National University) will present a lecture entitled 'Electric Lives: *The Australian Dictionary of Biography Online*'. Nicholas will speak about the achievements of this project to date, and outline its potential as both a resource and an agent in research. The lecture will be held on Thursday 16 November at the National Library and entry will be by gold coin donation at the door. Bookings are recommended on 02 6262 1698.

Finally, I would also like to remind you of our Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Monday 11 December at 5.30 pm, in the Theatre at the National Library of Australia. All Friends are welcome and the meeting will be followed by our Christmas Party in the Foyer, during which you may eat, drink and be merry AND receive a whopping 20 per cent off all items in the Bookshop. To assist us with catering for this event, please RSVP to the Friends Office on 02 6262 1698.

SHARYN O'BRIEN

Acting Executive Officer

Friends of the National Library of Australia

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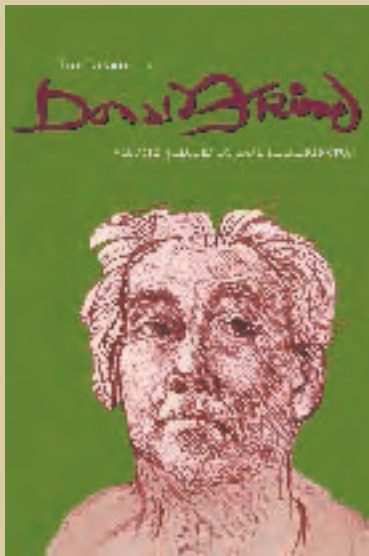
Only available to members of Friends of the National Library of Australia. Please quote your membership number when ordering.

Donald Friend (1915–1989)
Shoppers at Night, Bondi Junction Mall
(detail)

From 'Ayam–Ayam Kesayangan'

Manuscript Collection MS 5959, Item 2

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA



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The Diaries of Donald Friend, Volume 4

EDITED BY PAUL HETHERINGTON

Donald Friend's legendary years in Bali in the 1960s and 1970s and his subsequent final decade in Australia, are revealed in detail in this fourth and final volume of *The Diaries of Donald Friend*. In Bali he lives luxuriously, like a lord—even keeping his own gamelan orchestra—and becomes an international celebrity artist. And despite increasing ill-health, Friend continues to revel in his life's drama and creativity, remaining an eloquent, often charming and sometimes irascible companion. Including over 70 images from the diaries, many of them in colour, this volume confirms Friend's quicksilver creative brilliance and extraordinary insight. He is perhaps Australia's most important twentieth-century diarist.

Available from the National Library Bookshop or by mail order:

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Publishing Australia's Stories



top: Tom Bass (b.1916), Library lintel sculpture (detail)

AUSTRALIA ON THE MAP



Louis de Freycinet (1779–1842)
Carte générale de la Nouvelle Hollande
Paris: 1811
hand-coloured engraving; 46.4 x 71.5 cm
MAP RaA 1, plate 1 (detail)

2006 marks the 400th anniversary of Dutch landfall in Australia. Throughout the year, notable charts from the Library's Map Collection will be featured individually in the Visitor Centre.

Freycinet was a French navigator who sailed under the command of Nicolas Baudin (1754–1803) on a lavish scientific expedition that was sent to Australia at the direction of the then first consul, Napoléon Bonaparte. In Australian waters between 1801 and 1803, the expedition's most important task was charting the coast, particularly stretches of present-day South Australia and Victoria. Baudin optimistically named the region Terre Napoléon. Matthew Flinders (1774–1814) was also charting the Australian coast at this time and the two rivals met at what was later named Encounter Bay (South Australia) in April 1802.

Freycinet returned to Paris in 1804 and from 1806 was charged by the government with preparing the charts and atlas of the expedition. François Péron (1775–1810), who had been engaged by Baudin as trainee zoologist on the expedition, was given the task of producing the narrative of the voyage for publication but, following his death from tuberculosis in 1810, that task also fell to Freycinet. What resulted was a two-volume official account of the voyage and an atlas that contained his magnificent chart.

This map will be on display in the Visitor Centre until 3 December, and there will be a continuous display of related maps in the Map Reading Room throughout the year.

