



Weston—a Life of Horticulture

A lecture by Dr John Gray, OAM

Date: Thursday 19 July

Time: 6 – 7 pm, followed by light refreshments

Venue: Conference Room, National Library of Australia

Cost: \$10 Friends and members of the Australian Garden History Society \$15 non-members (payable at the door)

Bookings: (02) 6262 1698 or friends@nla.gov.au

Friends Monthly Book Club

Date: Tuesday 31 July

Time: 7 – 8.30 pm, Friends Lounge For Friends of the NLA only.

This month's book is *Mr Pip* by Lloyd Jones.

Bookings: (02) 6262 1551 or friends @nla.gov.au

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

July Friends

Despite the current drought conditions, Canberra has an international reputation for its unique landscape.

Much of the credit for the greening of our city can be given to Charles Weston, an English horticulturalist who eventually became the Superintendent of Parks and Gardens in Canberra.

From 1911 to 1926, Charles Weston was given the task of establishing trees in the area that was to become the national capital, an area that at the time was an open, windswept, and largely treeless site. Weston faced many challenges in this task—the climate was harsh, the soils relatively poor and eroded, rabbits were in plague proportions, and conflict emerged between Weston and Walter Burley Griffin over the choice of suitable species for the project. Despite these difficulties, between 1913 and 1926, Weston was responsible for the planting of two million trees and shrubs in Canberra, achieving strong seasonal colour effects and providing residents with protection from the bitter cold and hot dusty winds. Some of the best examples of Weston's work can be seen in the plantings around Old Parliament House and Government House, and in the inner suburbs of Braddon and Reid.

This month, the Friends of the National Library, in conjunction with the Australian

Garden History Society, will present the lecture *Weston—a Life of Horticulture*. This lecture will be given by Dr John Gray OAM, a retired landscape architect who spent much of his professional career in Canberra. His last appointment was as the Director of Landscape Architecture for the National Capital Development Commission. Dr Gray has been researching Canberra's landscape history for many years and has lectured and published books and articles on the subject, as well as completing a doctoral thesis on Charles Weston.

To hear more about the fascinating career of Charles Weston and the history of the greening of Canberra, don't miss this lecture by an expert on the subject. The event will be held at 6 pm on Thursday 19 July in the Conference Room at the National Library. Entry fee is \$10 for Friends and Garden History Society members and \$15 for non-members, payable at the door. This includes light refreshments after the lecture. To book, please contact the Friends office on (02) 6262 1698 or email friends@nla.gov.au. I hope to see you there.

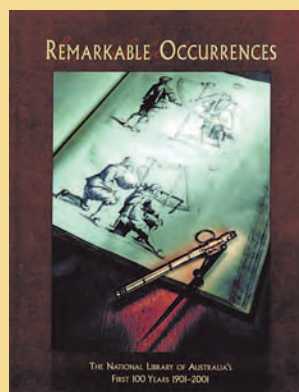
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(detail)

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By Penny Olsen

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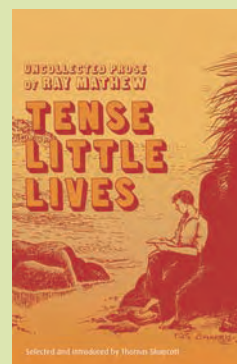
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