



# June Friends

## **The Canberra Series:**

### **The Giant Magellan Telescope**

**Date:** Wednesday 6 June

**Time:** 12:30 – 1:30 pm

**Venue:** Conference Room

**Cost:** \$5 at the door

**Bookings recommended:**

(02) 6262 1698 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

**D**uring January 2003, Mt Stromlo Observatory on the western edge of Canberra is far from extinction. Home to a team of scientists and engineers working on projects beyond what most of us dream about, the observatory is, indeed, rising like a phoenix.

In the centuries-old quest to refine human understanding of the universe, the tools we use to throw light at the dim frontiers of knowledge are rapidly evolving. Australian astronomers, engineers and technologists have just embarked on an international partnership to design and build the most powerful extension to the human eye yet known: the Giant Magellan Telescope (GMT). Scheduled for completion in 2016, this telescope will be able to detect cosmic objects 75 times fainter than those seen with the Hubble Space Telescope, and produce images up to 10 times crisper. Using techniques currently being prototyped, this giant eye on the sky will become the platform for unprecedented discovery and insight into the formation and evolution of planetary systems other than our own, and the dark forces that shape the very fabric of the cosmos.

Serving on the Board of Directors for the GMT is Professor Penny Sackett, Director of the Research School of Astronomy

and Astrophysics at Mt Stromlo and Siding Springs Observatories—part of the Australian National University. Prof. Sackett took her PhD in theoretical physics from the University of Pittsburgh, and has held numerous positions with international institutions. Her personal research interests include dark matter, galactic structure, and extra-solar planets.

The Friends of the National Library are proud to have Prof. Sackett speak about the Giant Magellan Telescope in the next *Canberra Series* talk. Come along to broaden your perspective of our little place in the universe: at the National Library on 6 June. Bookings recommended as seating is limited.

By the way, if you're anything like me, and have an interest in astronomy but little in the way of knowledge, a recent National Library publication might fill in some black holes! *Australian Backyard Astronomy*, by Dr Ragbir Bhathal and Jenny Bhathal, covers such topics as what makes a star shine and explode, and what there is beyond our solar system. Pick up a copy from the National Library Shop (RRP \$24.95). Don't forget, Friends get a 15% discount!

JILLIAN EDWARDS

Executive Officer

Friends of the National Library of Australia

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Donald Friend (1915–1989)

*Shoppers at Night, Bondi Junction Mall*  
(detail)

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## FOREVER FOREIGN

### EXPATRIATE LIVES IN HISTORICAL KOBE

By Dr Keiko Tamura

When a 21-year-old medical student from Melbourne, Harold S. Williams, arrived in Japan in 1919 to practise the language over his summer holidays, he never imagined his stay would eventually extend over 60 years. He took up a job with a Scottish trading firm in the cosmopolitan port city of Kobe, but his lifelong passion became collecting records documenting the lives of the city's foreign residents. These documents are now held at the National Library of Australia as a highly sought-after collection. Keiko Tamura constructs a vivid account of the experience of Williams and three other Westerners, presenting a compelling picture of expatriate experiences and life in Japan in the first half of the twentieth century.

Against the backdrop of dramatic social and cultural change, *Forever Foreign: Expatriate Lives in Historical Kobe* provides a valuable insight into the varying influence of Western residents in Japan. Foreshadowing the irrevocable changes to a unique way of life that was brought by World War II, Tamura pays moving tribute to individuals who, either through a sense of adventure or by the forces of circumstance, lived their lives in a foreign culture.

*Publishing Australia's Stories*



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