



October Friends

Friends Event

Canberra Series Lecture:

'Women with a Mission'

Ruth Pearce and Denise Fisher speak on running diplomatic missions overseas.

Date: Wednesday 24 October

Time: 12.30 – 1.30 pm

Venue: Conference Room

Cost: \$5 (payable at door)

Bookings recommended:

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

Friends Event

The Characters and Politics of *The Kite Runner*

Read *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini and join the ANU's Dr Kim Huynh in a discussion of the book.

Date: Tuesday 30 October

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Friends Lounge

Cost: \$10 Friends, \$15 non-members

Bookings essential: (02) 6262 1551

or friends@nla.gov.au

Friends Event

Friends Spring Day Tour—Villages of the Gunning—Queanbeyan Road

Join the Friends for a day-tour of the area surrounding Gunning and Gundaroo. Highlights include Dick Smith's property 'Bowlyie', and 'Lyndfield Park'.

Date: Saturday 3 November

Time: 8.00 am – 5.00 pm

Cost: \$85 Friends, \$95 non-members

Bookings essential: (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

Donald Friend (1915–1989)
Shoppers at Night, Bondi Junction Mall
(detail)
From 'Ayam-Ayam Kesayangan'
Manuscript Collection MS 5959, Item 2

Over the course of the next month we have three fascinating and varied events on offer for our Friends.

'Women with a Mission' is the next of our Canberra Series lectures, and will be held on Wednesday 24 October. Ruth Pearce and Denise Fisher will speak about their experiences in running diplomatic missions overseas, bringing with them a wealth of experience—Denise Fisher was High Commissioner to Zimbabwe and Consul-General to Noumea, while Ruth Pearce was High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands and Ambassador to both Russia and the Philippines. Hear them share their stories of life as a woman on these postings, and how their careers have shaped them personally.

October also sees our second Friends Book Club lecture for the year. *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini was the first novel published in English by an author from Afghanistan. It tells the story of a young boy haunted by the guilt of betraying a childhood friend, and is set against a background of tumultuous events including the Soviet invasion, the mass exodus of refugees and the Taliban regime. Since its publication in 2003, word of mouth has resulted in *The Kite Runner* becoming a favourite with book clubs around the world, and it was voted the reading group book of the year by entrants of the 2006 Penguin/Orange Reading Group Prize. Dr Kim Huynh, lecturer in political science and international relations at the Australian National University,

will lead the discussion on this book, speaking about the politics and characters of *The Kite Runner* before participants break into small groups to discuss issues further over a glass of wine. Seating is limited, so be sure to book early for 30 October at 6 pm. There is an entry fee of \$10 for Friends, and \$15 for non-members, which includes light refreshments.

The final Friends daytrip for the year, to be held on Saturday 3 November, promises to be a tour you will not want to miss. The focus of the day is the nineteenth-century heritage of the villages between Gunning and Queanbeyan, including two outstanding pastoral properties. Dick Smith has kindly agreed to let our group visit his property 'Bowlyie' at Gundaroo, where the manager and gardener, Tom Morrison, will lead a walk and talk of the gardens. Following lunch at Gundaroo, the group will tour historic Gunning before visiting 'Lyndfield Park' as guests of Jan and John Weatherstone. 'Lyndfield Park' is a showpiece for sustainable farming, and John Weatherstone will explain the drought-proofing features he established on the property in response to the extreme conditions of the early 1980s. For further information on this tour, and a complete itinerary, or to book your seat, please contact the Friends office on (02) 6262 1698.

SHARYN O'BRIEN

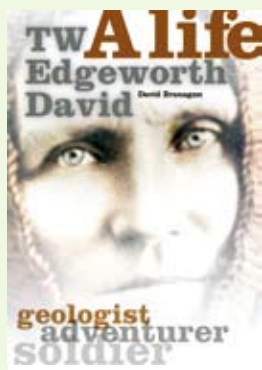
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