



# September Friends

## Behind the Scenes at the Hume Repository

Join the Friends for a behind the scenes tour of the National Library's new Hume Repository, an area not usually open to the public.

**Date:** Wednesday 12 September

**Time:** 12.30 – 1.30 pm

**Venue:** Hume Repository,

Tralee Street, Hume

**Cost:** free

**Bookings essential:** (02) 6262 1698 or [friends@nla.gov.au](mailto:friends@nla.gov.au)

## Friends Monthly Book Club

**Date:** Tuesday 25 September

**Time:** 7.00 – 8.30 pm

**Venue:** Friends Lounge

For Friends of the NLA only.

This month's book is *Be Near Me* by Andrew O'Hagan.

**Bookings:** (02) 6262 1551 or [friends@nla.gov.au](mailto:friends@nla.gov.au)

## Canberra Series Lecture

### Jean Pierre Favre

Jean Pierre Favre speaks about the conception and construction of the Cowra Japanese Gardens.

**Date:** Wednesday 26 September

**Time:** 12.30 – 1.30 pm

**Venue:** Conference Room

**Cost:** \$5 (payable at the door)

**Bookings recommended:**

(02) 6262 1698 or [friends@nla.gov.au](mailto:friends@nla.gov.au)

## For bookings, details of membership and subscriptions, contact:

Friends of the NLA

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Donald Friend (1915–1989)

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

From 'Ayam-Ayam Kesayangan'

Manuscript Collection MS 5959, Item 2

As Spring commences, the Friends events program swings into overdrive for the year. There are so many events planned between now and Christmas that you are sure to find something to suit your tastes.

September begins with a special behind-the-scenes lunchtime tour on Wednesday 12 September of the new National Library Repository at Hume. This facility was opened in August 2006 by Senator Kemp, Minister for the Arts and Sport, and is now the largest offsite storage facility owned by an Australian library. You have probably noticed the building while driving down Monaro Highway and this is now your chance to have a look inside. The repository has been specially designed with strict environmental controls throughout the storage areas for preservation purposes and a separate preservation vault where fragile material can be housed at a lower temperature and humidity. The building contains about 56 kilometres of shelving, which should be sufficient for National Library requirements until 2013.

This month the book club will be reading *Be Near Me* by Andrew O'Hagan. So if you are looking for a regular book group to join, or just have a particular interest in this book, come along and join the discussion on 25 September. The book club is held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the Friends Lounge.

The Canberra Series Lecture continues on Wednesday 26 September with Jean-Pierre Favre speaking about the conception and construction of the Cowra Japanese Gardens. He will give an account of his experience as the Australian architect for the building, working together with the Japanese consultant Mr Tatsui Aono. The lecture will explore how a small and conservative country town in New South Wales managed to build a genuine Japanese garden that has become a national tourist attraction. Jean-Pierre will also look at what a Japanese garden is, what makes it different from other gardens and how it was possible to build a typical Japanese tea house, residence and cultural centre in a town where the building expertise was limited to the typical Australian brick veneer.

Jean-Pierre Favre was born in Switzerland and migrated to Australia in 1963. He acquired an Honours degree in Architecture at the University of Newcastle and lectured in Architecture at the University of Canberra for 25 years. During that time, he also became involved with many public projects including the Japanese Gardens. Jean-Pierre also worked on ABC radio for about 15 years with a segment on home maintenance. He retired from public life and lecturing in 1998 to indulge in his favourite pastime of building solar energy houses.

SHARYN O'BRIEN

Acting Executive Officer

Friends of the National Library of Australia

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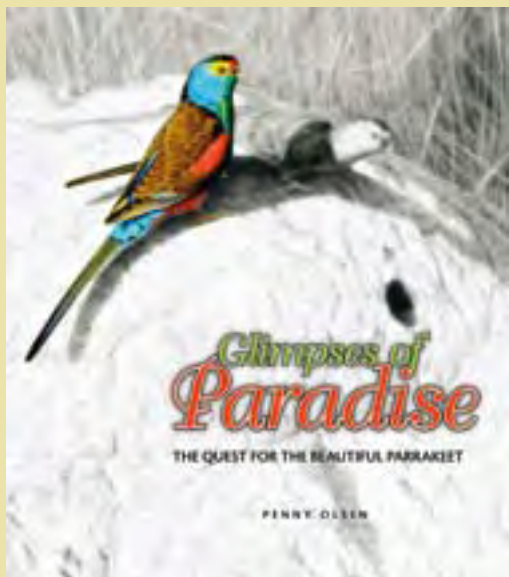
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## *Glimpses of Paradise*

THE QUEST FOR THE BEAUTIFUL PARRAKEET

By Penny Olsen

*Glimpses of Paradise: The Quest for the Beautiful Parrakeet* follows the story of the Paradise Parrot, beginning in 1844, when John Gilbert spotted it on the Condamine River in Queensland. Gilbert wrote to his employer John Gould, in London, describing his find as 'without exception the most beautiful of the whole tribe I have ever seen in Australia'. Gould named it the Beautiful Parrakeet. But squatters had already begun to claim the parrot's country and, by the 1890s, the parrakeet had disappeared from the record.

Ornithologist and journalist Alec Chisholm believed that the bird, then known as the Paradise Parrot, still survived. In 1918, he launched a search. In 1922, the first and last photographs of the parrot were taken and the last confirmed observation was in 1928—yet claims of sightings continue.

In this highly illustrated and informative book, author Penny Olsen takes us on a journey of discovery. The story of the Beautiful Parrakeet—the jewel of the parrot family—is one that combines elements of natural history, human curiosity for the rare and unobtainable, and the true facts of the mystery surrounding the bird's fate.

*Publishing Australia's Stories*



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