

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends

Another year has galloped by and I hope it has treated you kindly. There have been some splendid moments for the Friends. Almost every month there has been an event where Friends have enjoyed an exclusive viewing of exhibitions or Library collections.

These evenings have transported us to the Celestial Empire and life in China, 1644–1911; the Qing Imperial Mountain Estate gardens in Chengde; life in colonial Australia as seen through the eyes of S.T. Gill; and the moving and challenging conversations of Australian women as presented by the 2016 Friends Creative Fellow Micharne Cloughley. We have also delighted in exclusive tours and discussions with curators and a privileged close-up look at the PROMPT Collection.

Thank you for remaining loyal members following the cessation of the much loved *National Library Magazine* in June. The first issue of *Unbound*, the magazine's brand new online incarnation, is available now at [nla.gov.au/unbound](http://nla.gov.au/unbound).

You have some terrific things to look forward to in 2017. These include French Revolution material from the Library's collections, Athol Shmith's glamorous fashion photographs, the *Melodrama in Meiji Japan* exhibition and a proposed lecture on Capability Brown's revolutionary garden design by Sue Ebury.

It has been my great pleasure to chair your Friends Committee. I wish to thank each member of the Committee for the skills and generosity of heart that they bring to this role. On behalf of the Committee, I extend our thanks to the Director-General and her staff for their guidance and assistance with special thanks to Kelli Turner and Belinda Jessup in the Friends Office. Kelli has done a sterling job as Executive Officer during Sharyn O'Brien's secondment and we welcome Sharyn back in 2017.

My very best wishes to you for the Christmas season and the New Year.

*Robyn Oates, Outgoing Chair*

## FRIENDS NEWS



Di Morrissey and Robyn Oates

### Di Morrissey Reflects

The 2016 Harold White Lecture, sponsored by the Friends, was as reflective, passionate, attuned to the Zeitgeist and direct in its message as all other writing by bestselling author Di Morrissey. She has been publishing a novel every year for 25 years bar one, the year when her daughter needed her.

Morrissey is loved and treasured by over 2.5 million fans and her lecture on 30 October would have added a fair few new ones. Hers is an authentic Australian voice firmly grounded in locations that have triggered her imagination and subsequently ours: Broome, the Kimberley, the Gold Coast, country New South Wales but also Vietnam and Burma. In each case, the location prompted the book, triggered by an association, an encounter, an invitation or a 'summons'.

Her books equally deal with cultural and social issues. Environmental degradation, reconciliation and refugees are contemporary concerns that she has woven into her writing with empathy.

She spoke eloquently about the importance of children dreaming, reading and stretching their imagination through books. She values not only books but also libraries and art, and she decried the cuts to arts funding and the impact this will have on Australian writers.

She is an activist on environmental issues, fearless and direct. She successfully stopped an energy project in the Manning Valley that was not supported by the community and subsequently established the *Manning Community News*, which is distributed to 6,000 households and businesses.

Starting as a cadet with *The Australian Women's Weekly*, Morrissey achieved success as a journalist, before moving into TV presenting and acting, both in Hawaii and Australia. She then became a fulltime writer, living a spartan life for nine years in Byron Bay, sustained by the fresh produce given to her by her generous landlord. She would go on to co-found the Byron Bay Writers Festival, which gives a voice to Australian authors.

Yet her erstwhile journalist colleagues and the Australian literary establishment have belittled her, criticising her for her prolific output and dismissing her as a writer of romantic fiction—without actually reading her novels.

She deserves far better, and the audience at the Library appreciated her candour, grace and aplomb. They bought her new book, *A Distant Journey*, set in the Riverina, and queued up to get Morrissey to sign it.

*Ingrid Moses*

A recording of this lecture can be accessed on the National Library's website at [nla.gov.au/news/audio](http://nla.gov.au/news/audio).



Library cataloguer Badra Karunarathna processes a new edeposit book

## Legal Deposit for the Digital Age

Changes to the legal deposit provisions of the Copyright Act, introduced earlier this year, have significantly enhanced the National Library's ability to collect and preserve Australia's digital publishing. For the first time in its history, the Library has the right to request the deposit of digital publications, whether published offline or online.

The federal legal deposit scheme, which was introduced in 1912, is the chief mechanism by which the Library can build its Australian collections. For nearly a century, it served the country well in ensuring that Australia's print publications were collected, preserved and made accessible for future generations of Australians. However, with the advent of electronic-format publishing in the 1980s and online publishing in the 1990s, an increasing proportion of Australia's publishing record was not subject to the legal deposit scheme. Instead, the Library relied on voluntary deposit schemes to collect physical-format electronic publications, such as CDs, DVDs and online material. These schemes were generally resource-intensive and resulted in patchy holdings.

This changed on 17 February 2016 when the new legal deposit provisions came into force. These provisions require publishers of offline publications, such as books in print or

on CD, to deposit their publications within one month of publication, and publishers of online publications, such as websites, to deposit their publications within one month of receiving a request from the Library.

On the same day that the new provisions came into force, the Library released its new edeposit service ([nla.gov.au/edeposit](http://nla.gov.au/edeposit)). This service allows Australian publishers and creators wherever they are to deposit Australian digital publications (books, serials, maps and music scores) in a simple online transaction. The web application captures basic metadata submitted by the publisher, as well as the access conditions under which the publication is to be made available. As part of the uploading process, the file is also automatically checked to ensure that it is free of viruses and any digital rights technology that would prevent the Library from preserving the file into the future. Once a publication is uploaded to the Library's digital systems, staff receive a notification and complete the cataloguing record so that the publications are easily discoverable in the catalogue and Trove. Feedback from publishers about the edeposit service has been very favourable with a number of publishers commending the simplicity and speed of the process.

The Library has also worked with publishers Penguin Random House and Wiley to develop a batch deposit process that enables major publishing houses to transfer multiple files and metadata directly or via a third party distributor, CoreSource. The batch process was released in late September and we hope to expand the number of publishers using this process over coming months.

Since mid-February, the Library has collected over 2,400 digital publications via the edeposit service, including over 1,400 ebooks, 360 ejournal titles, several electronic maps and more than 120 electronic music scores. It has also completed a harvest of the whole .au domain and selectively archived more than 1,600 Australian titles via web archiving.

Public access to these publications will be provided from late 2016 or early 2017. Commercial publications will only be available onsite in the Library's reading rooms, but many other publications will be available to Australians from their home or office computers or mobile devices via the Library's catalogue and Trove.

*Meredith Batten, Australian Collections Management, NLA*

For more information about legal deposit, please see the Library's website at [nla.gov.au/legal-deposit](http://nla.gov.au/legal-deposit).

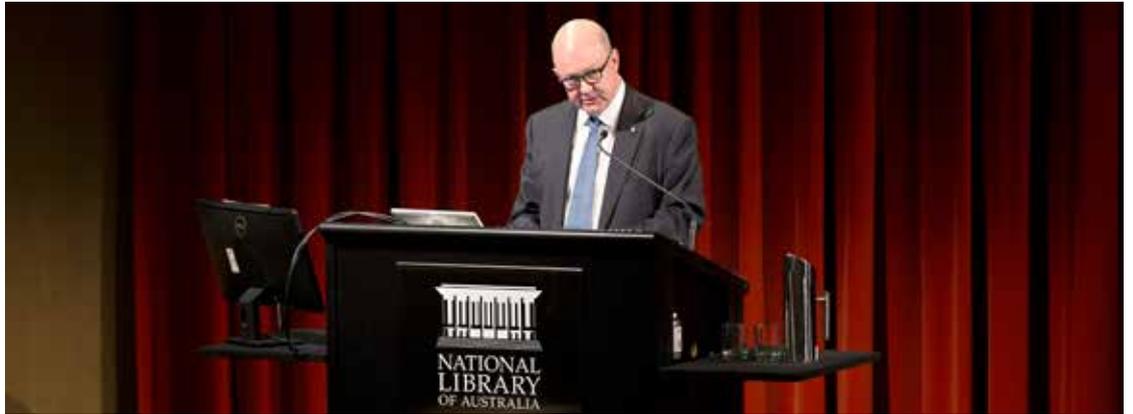
## *My Strong Female Ego:* A Play by Micharne Cloughley

As the 2016 Friends of the National Library Creative Arts Fellow, I wrote a play, *My Strong Female Ego*, using interviews in the Hazel de Berg collection. Hazel de Berg was a pioneer of oral history, interviewing a wide spectrum of Australians. I constructed my play from her interviews with women who had achieved great things in their different fields. Most of these women also actively worked towards establishing equality for women.

One of the driving forces behind my play was a search for why we have not yet achieved equality. Institutional barriers



Micharne Cloughley



Kim Williams delivers the 2016 Kenneth Myer Lecture

to discrimination were largely removed decades ago, so why are we still so far from equality on many levels? Hazel de Berg's interviewees imparted excellent wisdom on this question. However, as the interviewees I featured in the play were deceased, further questions that arose during the writing process remained unanswered.

Through an extraordinary set of circumstances, after the reading of my play at the Library, I had the privilege of meeting Elizabeth Reid. Ms Reid featured in the play when interviewee Ruby Rich described her reaction to the address of the then Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, at the inauguration of International Women's Year in 1975. Ms Reid was the first adviser to a head of state on women's affairs anywhere in the world. Ms Rich described her thus: 'She was very convincing, very quiet, very real, very emphatic and very, very impressive'.

One powerful idea Ms Reid shared with me was the importance of striving for 'simple but radical' solutions to gain equality. For example, the creation of the title of Ms is a simple but radical solution. Finding further simple but radical solutions for equality in 2016 feels achievable; directly striving to achieve equality on one linear path does not.

At moments while writing the play, I did ask, 'how is this play going to change anything?' Although the action of the play is largely simple, it is, in a sense, also radical. Two women have a conversation on stage, but this conversation contains the radical stories of real women, which have not been widely featured in the public spotlight.

Ms Reid pointed out that at the moment it is not recent enough to be contemporary history, and not sufficiently in the past to be studied as history. I believe the lack of understanding of this history has significantly contributed to the negativity sometimes associated with feminism.

Even I, writing a feminist play, at one point in the creative process wondered if my play was 'too feminist'. This says a lot about how feminism is still viewed in 2016. Something cannot be 'too equal', that is indeed mathematically impossible. I hope that through the stories of the women in *My Strong Female Ego*, the play will become a simple but radical solution to weaving Australian feminist history into our collective consciousness, which will be one more step in achieving equality for women.

*Micharne Cloughley*

*2016 Friends of the NLA Creative Arts Fellow*

## 2016 Kenneth Myer Lecture

### ***Holding to True North: The Promotion of Positive Change in Australia***

On 7 September, Anne-Marie Schwirtlich AM, Director-General of the Library, opened the 2016 Kenneth Myer Lecture, by welcoming our guest speaker Kim Williams AM, Martyn and Louise Myer, Friends of the Library and supporters.

Kim Williams has had a distinguished career as an Australian media executive and composer. He has headed prominent organisations such as Musica Viva Australia, Foxtel, the Australian Film Commission, the Sydney Opera House Trust and News Corp Australia.

In his lecture, Williams outlined his blueprint for Australia.

We must recognise the value of the collections of our great public institutions, and the many intellectuals and artists active in Australia.

Indigenous Australia is also key: 'At the centre of 'my true north' for promoting positive change in Australia is constitutional recognition and reconciliation with the First Australians'.

For Australia to stand as a confident independent nation, we must recast ourselves as a republic in order to be free of our colonial past and all the repercussions this has. Other areas for close attention include the building of a much stronger sense of community along with renewed approaches to developing social leadership.

Williams emphasised that the whole spectrum of education, from early childhood development through to tertiary education, requires a reinvigorated focus on creating equality of opportunity and policies of real substance to improve performance.

Essential to achieving this is a concentrated and primary focus on the quality of teaching.

Australia must pay more attention to performance and outcomes and less to process, a modern Australian obsession, damaging to positive change. Kim Williams left us with this thought, one that found great resonance with the audience: 'Do not be bland! Make a difference! Banish the bland! It has been too prominent in our past and should have no place in our future'.

*Anne Davis*

A recording of this event can be accessed on the National Library's website at [nla.gov.au/audio/holding-to-true-north](http://nla.gov.au/audio/holding-to-true-north).



## GIVE THE GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP

Share your love for the National Library with your family and friends this Christmas. Alongside member benefits, a Friends Gift Membership includes a welcome gift of National Library merchandise, a book of poetry, pack of gift cards and a bookmark.

Gift memberships range from \$30 concession to \$60 for a household membership for one year. Contact the Friends Office for details on 02 6262 1698 or [friends@nla.gov.au](mailto:friends@nla.gov.au).

Offer available until 16 December 2016.

## Lake View Book Club

The Lake View Book Club meets in the Friends Lounge at the National Library on the last Tuesday of each month from 6.15–7.45pm. It is open to all Friends of the National Library, so feel free to come and join in. If you have any questions, please contact [kathryncole@grapevine.net.au](mailto:kathryncole@grapevine.net.au).

There is no meeting in December, but forthcoming titles for discussion are:

- Tuesday 31 January – *The Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George
- Tuesday 28 February – *Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day* by Winifred Watson
- Tuesday 28 March – *A God in Ruins* by Kate Atkinson

## Christmas Closure

The Friends office will be closed from 12 noon on Friday 23 December to 9am on Monday 9 January. Friends staff and Committee members wish all our members a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you again in the new year.

## FRIENDS EVENTS



Selected items from the French Revolutionary Pamphlet Collection

### White Gloves Evening: Révolution Française!

Over 50 years, the Library has acquired one of the most substantial collections of original French Revolutionary pamphlets in the southern hemisphere, including proclamations, bills, speeches, reports, ordinances, tracts, satires and songs. Join the Friends for a unique viewing of a selection of these pamphlets and other related items from the Library's collection.

Thursday 9 February, 6pm

Conference Room, \$15 Friends, \$20 non-members (includes light refreshments)

Bookings: [nla.gov.au/bookings/friends](http://nla.gov.au/bookings/friends) or 02 6262 1698

### FRIENDS DISCOUNT CODE FOR NATIONAL LIBRARY EVENTS

To claim your 15 per cent discount on ticketed National Library events, bookings must be made online at [nla.gov.au/bookings](http://nla.gov.au/bookings) and the discount code **FRSUM16** entered when booking. This code is valid from 1 December to 28 February 2016 and does not need to be entered for Friends events or events that are free of charge.

### NATIONAL LIBRARY BOOKSHOP SPECIAL OFFER FOR FRIENDS

In conjunction with the Library's Bookshop, the Friends are pleased to announce a special offer for members who make a purchase using the National Library's online bookshop.

For any purchase made between 1 December 2016 and 28 February 2017, Friends will receive a free copy of the *Waratah Jigsaw Puzzle*. This offer is in addition to the usual Friends discount and any other offers advertised on the Library Bookshop website.

To claim your free copy of the *Waratah Jigsaw Puzzle* and your 15 per cent discount with all online purchases, use the promotional code **FRSUMM1617** at checkout. This code is valid from 1 December 2016–28 February 2017.

