

welcome to the National Library

# Visitors Guide



# Welcome

The National Library of Australia rests on the lands of the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples and holds the world's largest collection of material relating to Australia and Australians.

Our renowned collection contains books, artworks, manuscripts, maps, newspapers and oral histories, as well as websites and digital publications. The Library is home to diverse stories, holding rich interpretations of our past and present, including records of First Australians cultures and migrant stories, alongside some of the earliest examples of European works about the Great Southern Land.

Here at the Library you can find the latest in Australian fiction, explore personal responses to climate change and delve into the largest Asian-language collection outside Asia.

### The National Library Building

Designed in the contemporary classical style, the building was opened on 15 August 1968 by Prime Minister John Gorton.



### Exhibitions

Our Treasures Gallery and Exhibition Gallery have permanent and temporary displays. Ask our friendly foyer information desk staff for information about tours.

#### Ground Floor

### Bookshop

Treat yourself to the best of Australian writing and a carefully curated range of gifts, homewares and jewellery.

#### Ground Floor

### Main Reading Room

Browse a selection of new books, as well as reference and collection material, use a computer, collect items you requested for study while enjoying the quiet spaces in the reading room.

#### Ground Floor

### Special Collections Reading Room

The Special Collections Reading Room is for visitors using the Library's rare and unique collection items. Speak with staff on entry.

#### Level 1

Request material online for weekday delivery to one of our reading rooms: [catalogue.nla.gov.au](https://catalogue.nla.gov.au)

### Cafes

Take a break in our cafes, Bookplate and Paperplate.

#### Ground Floor, Lower Ground 1

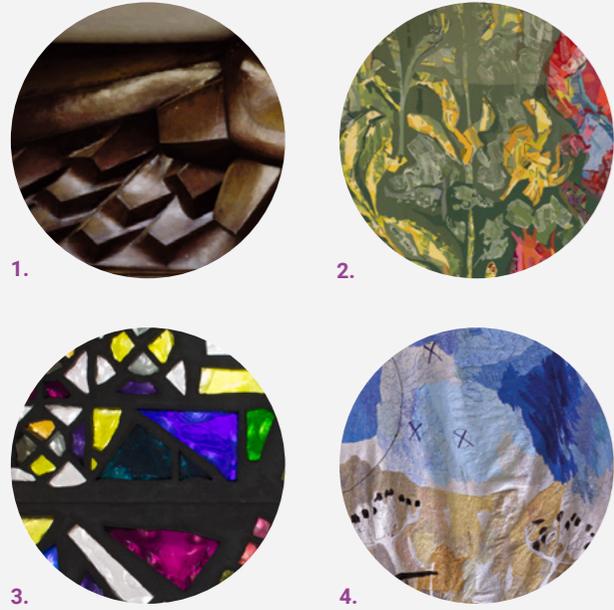
### Events

Check our online guide for current offerings, to book tickets and to catch up on past events:

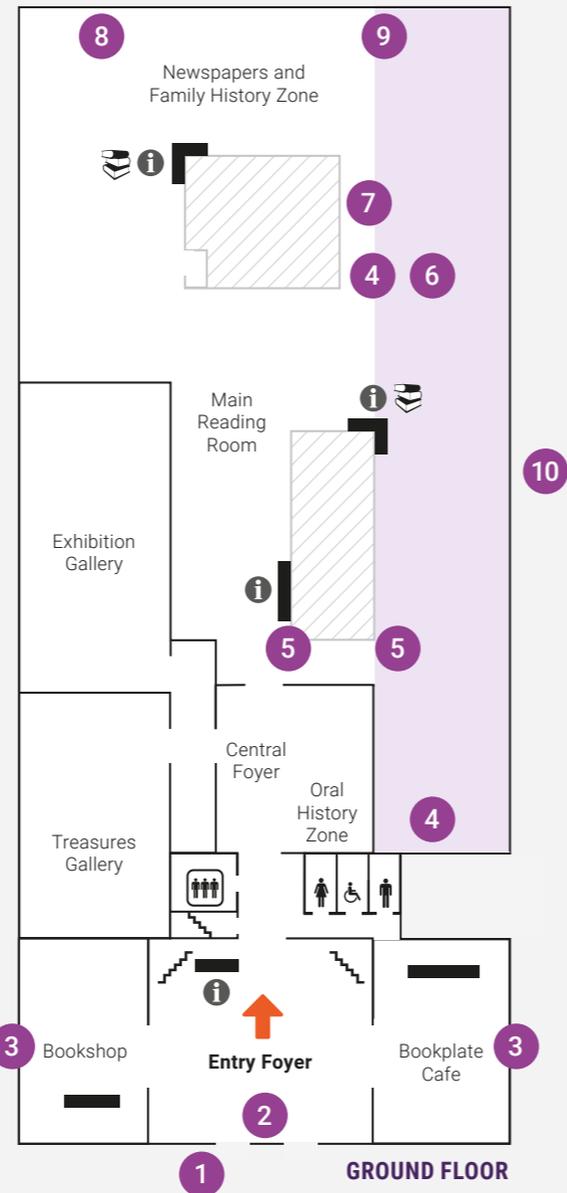
[nla.gov.au/whats-on](https://nla.gov.au/whats-on)

# Artworks on Display

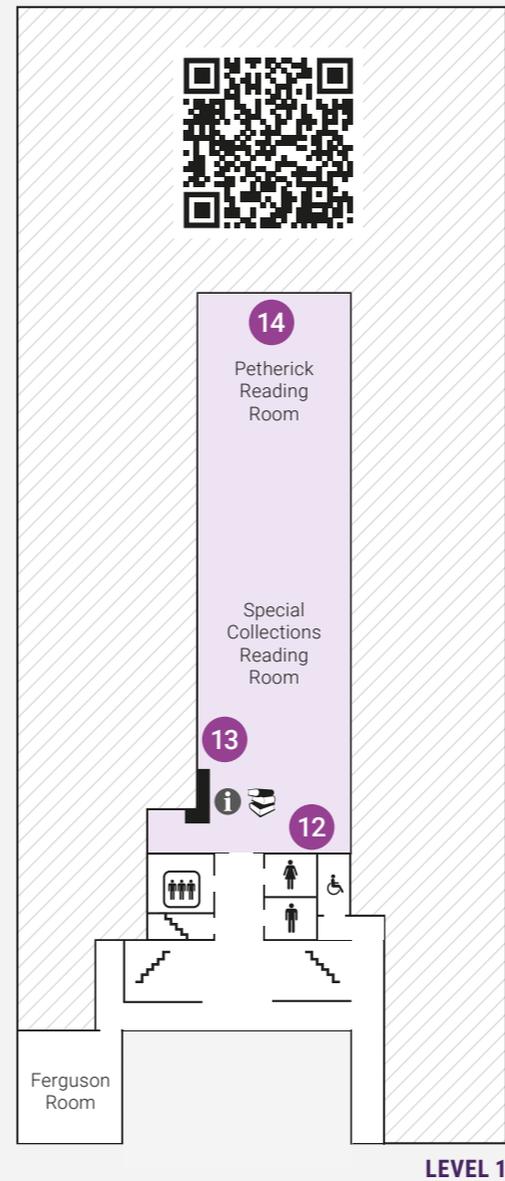
When Library architect Walter Bunning designed the building in the 1960s, he suggested six initial artworks to reflect the classical style of the building. Over time, more artworks have been installed around the building to highlight some of the unique works in the Library's collection. For more detailed information, scan the QR code on our map or visit [nla.gov.au/about-us/our-building/art](http://nla.gov.au/about-us/our-building/art).



1. Tom Bass, *Lintel Sculpture* (detail)
2. Mathieu Matégot, *Three Tapestries* (detail)
3. Leonard French, *Stained-glass Windows* (detail)
4. Alice Kettle, *Australian Landscapes I-IV* (detail)
5. Vincenzo Coronelli, *Terrestrial and Celestial globes* (detail)
6. A Wesfarmers and Waringarri creative partnership, *Boab One Hundred* (detail)
7. Nora Wompi, *Kunawarritji* (detail)
8. Mabel Juli, *Garnkini on the Hill* (detail)



5. Vincenzo Coronelli, *Terrestrial and Celestial globes* (detail)  
6. A Wesfarmers and Waringarri creative partnership, *Boab One Hundred* (detail)



7. Nora Wompi, *Kunawarritji* (detail)  
8. Mabel Juli, *Garnkini on the Hill* (detail)



9. Minnie Lumai, *Yab-yab-gnemi-gnim (Sugarbag Dreaming)* (detail)
10. Arthur Robb, *Knowledge* (detail)
11. Henry Moore, *Two Piece Reclining Figure No. 9* (detail)
12. John Young (designer), John Dicks (weaver), Milena Paplinska (weaver) and Cheryl Thornton (weaver), *Finding Kenneth Myer* (detail)
13. Wiea Duintjer, *Open Book Sculpture* (detail)
14. Jeff Martin, *Tetsuya's* (detail)

## Books

Share the joy of reading with children. We have a small selection of children's books in the Main Reading Room—our friendly reading room staff can point you in the right direction.

If you're looking for books to take home, our bookshop has a range of books for everyone.

## Discover

Our exhibitions often include family labels to help children enjoy their visit. Here are some tips:

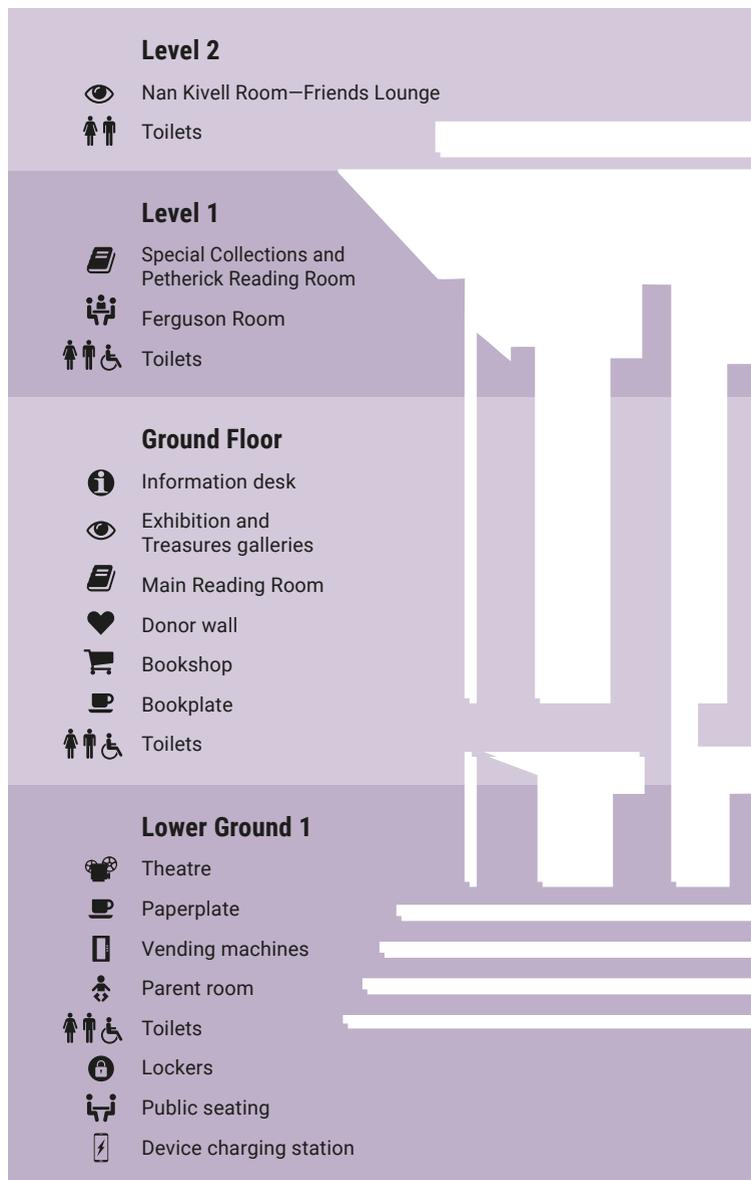
- let children take the lead
- if they're interested in something, ask questions!  
How does it make them feel?  
How do they think it was created?  
What can we learn from it?
- if children are still struggling, try playing I Spy.

## Learn

Our onsite and online programs offer lifelong learning opportunities, from Library tours to using specific resources and discovering our collection.

Our Australian curriculum-based school programs use exhibitions, collections and reading rooms as a springboard for students to find out more about Australian history and culture. Delve into our online Digital Classroom to find resources by year level.

[nla.gov.au/using-the-library/learning](http://nla.gov.au/using-the-library/learning)



## Wi-fi and Powerpoints

Free wi-fi and powerpoints are available throughout the building.

# What to Do

## Get a Library Card

Visit one of the desks in the Main Reading Room to get a free Library card—your key to our collections.

[nla.gov.au/getalibrarycard](http://nla.gov.au/getalibrarycard)

## Research Help

Our librarians can give you research tips and help you find information when you're stuck.

[nla.gov.au/askalibrarian](http://nla.gov.au/askalibrarian) | 02 6262 1266

## Get Your Book into the National Library

If you've published your book in Australia, in a print or digital format, we need a copy.

[nla.gov.au/legal-deposit](http://nla.gov.au/legal-deposit)

## Support the Library

We are deeply grateful for the support of donors, who enable us to share our remarkable collections. Please visit our website or contact our philanthropy team for more information.

[nla.gov.au/support-us](http://nla.gov.au/support-us)

[philanthropy@nla.gov.au](mailto:philanthropy@nla.gov.au) | 02 6262 1098

## Join the Friends of the National Library

A valued source of support for the Library, Friends enjoy a range of exclusive benefits, including a range of events, discounts in our cafes and the bookshop, and access to the Friends Lounge.

[nla.gov.au/friends](http://nla.gov.au/friends)

## Trove

Wherever you are, discover the collections of the Library and hundreds of partner organisations.

[trove.nla.gov.au](http://trove.nla.gov.au)

# Amenities and Accessibility

## Accessible Parking

There is accessible parking in the carpark off Parkes Place on the south side of the building. There is a ramp on that side of the building for accessing the Library.

## Wheelchairs

Wheelchairs can be borrowed at the foyer information desk.

Ground Floor

## Accessible Bathrooms

Lower Ground 1, Ground Floor, Level 1

## BindiMaps

BindiMaps is an app designed to assist visitors with low vision or blindness to navigate the building. Download the app to take advantage of this amenity.

## Visual and Hearing Aids

Visual aids are available in the Main Reading Room—talk to a librarian for assistance. Our theatre has a hearing induction loop.

## Lockers

You're welcome to store your belongings in our free lockers. Bags larger than 30cm on any side, food and drinks, large coats and umbrellas must be stored before entering the galleries or reading rooms. A mobile phone charging station is located near the lockers.

Lower Ground 1

## Parent Room

Lower Ground 1

# Stay in Touch

Sign up for our newsletter, follow our social media channels and check our website to keep up to date with what's happening at the Library.

## Opening Hours

### Building Opening Hours

Monday to Thursday 8.30am–8pm

Friday 8.30am–5pm

Saturday and Sunday 9am–5pm

**Reading room hours vary so please check our full list of hours when planning your visit.**

The National Library Bookshop and galleries are open from 9am to 5pm every day.

The building is closed on Christmas Day and Good Friday and opening hours are different on public holidays.

[nla.gov.au/visit-us/opening-hours](https://nla.gov.au/visit-us/opening-hours)

## Need more information?

General enquiries 02 6262 1111

Ask a Librarian 02 6262 1266

National Relay Service TTY 133 677

Speak and Listen 1300 555 727

[nla.gov.au/feedback](https://nla.gov.au/feedback)

[nla.gov.au](https://nla.gov.au)



The National Library of Australia acknowledges Australia's First Nations Peoples—the First Australians—as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and gives respect to the Elders—past and present—and through them to all Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



NATIONAL  
LIBRARY  
OF AUSTRALIA

National Library of Australia

Parkes Place

Canberra ACT 2600

[nla.gov.au](https://nla.gov.au)