

VOTES WOMEN
FOR

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NATIONAL
LIBRARY
OF AUSTRALIA

Thank You
2022 Report to Donors

Thank You

Dear Friends

It is my great pleasure to present to you this report, detailing the extraordinary and diverse array of donor-funded projects underway at the Library this year. In the pages that follow, you will read of the digitisation of the papers of women at the vanguard of the fight for equal rights in Australia, of handwritten manuscripts from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and of ground-breaking literature from remote First Nations communities in the Northern Territory. This range of material speaks to the endless possibilities that our collection contains—its many stories and voices.

None of these projects would be possible without your support.

Transformative gifts from our Principal Patrons Jane Hemstritch and the Susan and Isaac Wakil Foundation continue to enable us to share stories of rural and regional Australia and the performing arts. Thanks to anonymous Patrons, our new curator of rare books and music has started work in these precious collections. We thank them all for their enduring support of the Library.

We were overwhelmed by your support for our 2022 appeal, which also focused on performing arts. Visitors to the Enlighten Festival earlier this year will recall seeing some of this material projected across the Library's facade, while others will have visited our dazzling exhibition *On Stage: Spotlight on Our Performing Arts*. Thanks to your generosity, our spectacular on-stage history can be shared on Trove to educate and inspire.

We were delighted to bring back our flagship lecture series this year with the Seymour Biography Lecture and the Kenneth Myer Lecture, supported respectively by Platinum

Patrons Dr John Seymour and Mrs Heather Seymour AO, and The Myer Foundation. Both events returned from a long COVID-19—mandated hiatus, with stirring presentations by biographer Jacqueline Kent and by The Uluru Dialogue co-chair Professor Megan Davis. It was a joy to see so many people from our community enjoying both evenings.

It was equally joyous to see the return of so many Fellows and Scholars to the Library, and my thanks to Principal Patrons Ryan and Claire Stokes, and our many other fellowship and scholarship donors, for the gift of time for these scholars engaging deeply with our collections.

This year saw the launch of the Hazel de Berg Circle, our new program to recognise and thank bequest donors. Named for the late Hazel de Berg MBE, a pioneering figure in Australian recorded oral history and creator of one the Library's foundation collections, the program was launched in wonderful fashion at our Patron dinner by Hazel's daughter, Bronze Patron Diana Ritch.

My husband, Russell, and I were proud to become members of the Hazel de Berg Circle and to support the Women Leaders Digitisation Project this year. Both causes are very near to my heart, and I have been heartened to see that so many of the initiatives that the Library has undertaken over the last 12 months have resonated so profoundly with so many of you. Your abiding respect and affection for the Library—whether it be through patronage, volunteer work or membership of the Friends of the Library—is deeply appreciated by all of us here.

Thank you again for your support.

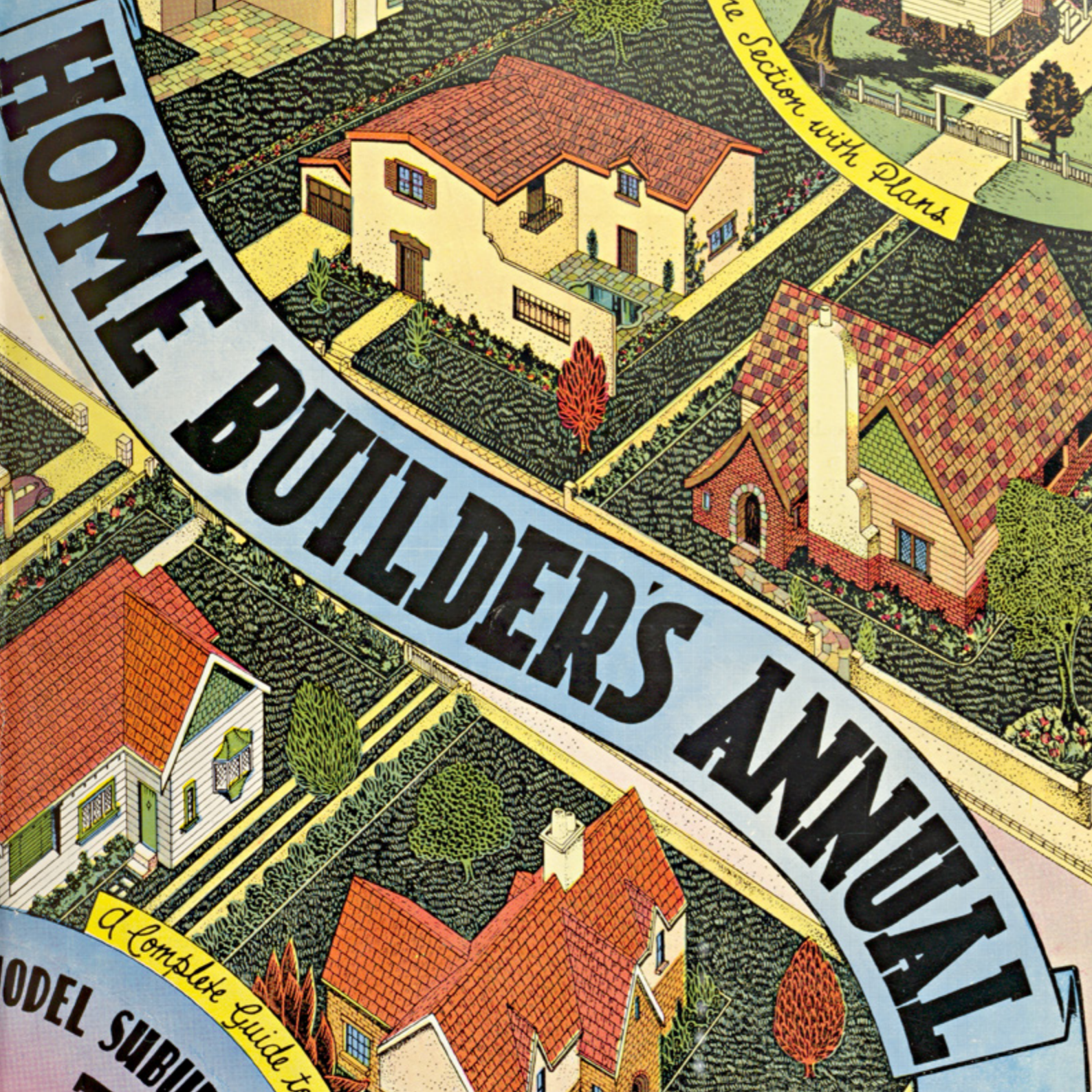
Marie-Louise

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.

The National Library's collections are rich in the documentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, collected and created by Indigenous and non-Indigenous people alike. As a Library community, we are committed to respectful engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and to meaningful reconciliation.

In keeping with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Library recognises that Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. In keeping with the Library's Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) Protocol, our approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander material within the Library's collections will reflect that recognition.

Digitisation of Indigenous material will be in accordance with the Library's ICIP Protocol and in consultation with relevant First Nations individuals and communities.



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COVER: *Badges of Women's Suffrage Groups Worn by Bessie Rischbieth (detail), c.1913, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-139607936;*
OPPOSITE: *The Home Builders Annual (detail), 1939, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3105013861;* **FOLLOWING PAGE:** Kristian Fredrikson, *Costume Design for the Character of the Duke for Melbourne Theatre Company's Production of The Revenger's Tragedy, 1975, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-509653896*



Your Support at a Glance



Philanthropic support for the Library since 1 July 2018 now totals **\$7,828,920**, including **\$1,067,000** raised since the last report.



46
ONSITE
VOLUNTEERS



201,089
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THE BUILDING



21.5 million
SESSIONS ONLINE

1,490
FRIENDS OF THE
NATIONAL LIBRARY
MEMBERSHIPS



715
DONORS

601,119
PAGES DIGITISED IN 2022



802
GIFTS



491 PATRONS

- 51%** supported our digitisation programs
- 20%** supported Fellowships, Scholarships and study grants
- 29%** supported a wide range of other priorities

Celebration of Patrons

2022 Patron Dinner

We hosted our second Patron dinner at Australian Parliament House in May, welcoming and celebrating nearly twice as many Patrons as last year. Guests were delighted to view Library collection material digitised through their support, including performing arts material, material from the papers of the Australian Federation of Women Voters and early Australian cookery books.

Our wonderful Bronze Patron and keynote speaker, Diana Ritch, regaled guests with stories of her mother, the late Hazel de Berg MBE. Hazel was a pioneer of Australian recorded oral history, and her recordings are one of the Library's foundation collections. Diana herself is also an oral historian whose interviews are held in our collections. She spoke generously, sharing treasured memories of her mother, drawing both laughter and a few tears, and expressed her enduring love and admiration for the woman and historian who did so much to preserve Australia's unique voices. We are incredibly grateful to Diana for speaking to our Patrons and making this year's dinner so memorable.

The Chair of the Council of the National Library of Australia, the Hon Dr Brett Mason, and Director-General Dr Marie-Louise Ayres FAHA offered heartfelt thanks for the enduring support Patrons and donors give to the Library. Director of Philanthropy Dr Conor McCarthy read a message from former Opera Australia director Moffatt Oxenbould AM, who thanked the Susan and Isaac Wakil Foundation for supporting the digitisation of his papers:

*They were 'with us' through the good and not so good times.
Their trust and support will forever be remembered by those of
us who shared these never to be forgotten operatic adventures*

Our thanks again to everyone who joined us, and we hope to see more of you in 2023.



ABOVE: Diana Ritch speaks at the 2022 Patron dinner; **OPPOSITE:** Hazel de Berg Holding Gramophone Recording of 'Poets Speaking Own Verse', a Joint Venture between the NLA and the ABC, 2 (detail), between 1961 and 1968, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-140522610



A Legacy Comes Full Circle

This year, we were proud to launch our new bequest program, named in honour of Hazel de Berg MBE. Every bequest to the National Library makes an enormous impact to continue the work of the Library in collecting, preserving and sharing our cultural heritage for the benefit of all Australians.

The Hazel de Berg Circle serves to recognise and formally thank those who include in their will a bequest to the National Library of Australia. Hazel herself has had an enduring relationship with the Library. Her collection, consisting of more than 54,000 hours of recorded material, along with papers and photographs, is regularly used by visitors and researchers, onsite and online alike.

The bequest circle serves to acknowledge and remember the legacy of Hazel and all those who leave a bequest to the Library. We thank all who have joined the Hazel de Berg Circle or left a bequest to the Library. In doing so, you are giving to the future of the Library, for generations to come.

Lectures

This year saw the return of our flagship lecture series, and we were delighted to see much of our community attend in person. These lectures would not be possible without the support of Platinum Patrons Dr John Seymour and Mrs Heather Seymour AO, the Estate of Dr Ann Moyal AM, and The Myer Foundation.

Seymour Biography Lecture

The Seymour Biography Lecture is named in honour of Platinum Patrons Dr John Seymour and Mrs Heather Seymour AO, and provides eminent life writers with an opportunity to explore the business and craft of biography, autobiography or memoir.

Journalist, biographer and author Jacqueline Kent delivered this year's Seymour lecture, speaking broadly about her process of shaping biographies. Her works in biography and memoir are numerous and significant, including two biographies on former prime minister Julia Gillard AC and, most recently, one on iconic Australian suffragist Vida Goldstein.

We thank Jacqueline for sharing her experience in biography writing, to all who made it to the Library to hear her words and, of course, to John and Heather Seymour for supporting this lecture.

Ann Moyal Lecture

The Ann Moyal Lecture, named after Gold Patron the late Dr Ann Moyal AM, will be delivered by distinguished speakers from such fields as environment, ecology, history, anthropology, art and technological change.

The first Ann Moyal Lecture will be delivered in early 2023 by Professor Genevieve Bell AO FTSE FAHA, Director of the School of Cybernetics and 3A Institute at the Australian National University.

Our thanks to Ann Moyal for envisioning and supporting this opportunity through a bequest in her will. We hope to see many of you at the lecture in 2023 and beyond.

OPPOSITE: Sally Scales, Pat Anderson AO, Professor Megan Davis, Dr Marie-Louise Ayres and Rebecca Bateman at the 2022 Kenneth Myer Lecture in Canberra (detail)

2022 Kenneth Myer Lecture

Professor Megan Davis

The National Library of Australia acknowledges Australia's First Nations Peoples – the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and present – and respects the Elders and the Ancestors of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Kenneth Myer Lecture

The annual Kenneth Myer Lecture invites an eminent Australian to make a significant statement on a broad subject of interest to them.

Professor Megan Davis delivered this year's lecture, held in Canberra and Melbourne, drawing on her experiences as a proud Cobble Cobble woman and leading constitutional lawyer to discuss her work on the Uluru Statement of the Heart, progress towards the recognition of First Australians in the Australian Constitution and the journey to treaty. All those who attended would agree that her words were powerful, insightful and sobering, and a fitting way to reintroduce the Library community to our flagship lecture series after its long absence from our calendar. Our thanks to Professor Megan Davis for speaking and to The Myer Foundation for funding this lecture series.

Digitisation

Women Leaders

The National Library holds material that provides extraordinary insight into the phases of feminism and the struggle for equal rights in all aspects of life in Australia and internationally. Following a successful 2021 tax appeal to digitise the papers of the Australian Federation of Women Voters, the Library has continued its focus on highlighting significant stories of Australian women leaders.

The Women Leaders collections reveal Australia's long and challenging path to equality for women. These are the treasured voices of those who fought for women's right to vote, rights over their own bodies, birth control, no-fault divorce, equal pay, equal opportunity, representation in all levels of government and so much more.

The material includes papers from 13 collections of individuals and organisations. This includes, but is not limited to, the papers of Bessie Rischbieth OBE, Ruby Rich MBE, Lady Jessie Mary Street, Dame Enid Lyons and Dame Dorothy Tangney, as well as those of the National Council of Women of Australia and the Women's Electoral Lobby. Digitising these rich archives will bring treasured voices back to life, enabling present and future generations to experience these extraordinary moments in time once again.

We thank our Patrons Carol Schwartz AO and the Trawalla Foundation, the WeirAnderson Foundation, the Calvert-Jones Foundation, the Hippocrates Foundation, M-POWER, Mrs Eve Mahlab AO and Mr Frank Mahlab, Margaret Jackson AC, Lyndsey Cattermole AM, and Drs Marie-Louise and Russell Ayres for their generous support of these collections. The stories of these extraordinary women will be available online for a new generation and will educate and inspire the current and future generations of women leaders.

The Library continues to raise funds for this project.



OPPOSITE: Bessie Rischbieth and Ruby Rich Attending the 12th Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance ... Istanbul (detail), 1935, [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-661796318](#); **ABOVE:** Portrait of Bessie Rischbieth, 1938, [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-135819982](#); Badges of Women's Suffrage Groups Worn by Bessie Rischbieth, c.1913, [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-139607936](#)

0. 9113. (Pencil on note, but not in ink) REECHWORTH, TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1910. Price—Single Copy 3d

[illegible]

GRAMMAR SCHOOL
First Term, 1934, begins
Wednesday, Feb. 28.
For Enrollments and Fees, See
Notice in 1934.

University of Chicago Press
Publishers of THE NEW ENGLISH
TRAINED STAFF OF TEACHERS
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See page 10.

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DURST - 20 K OF VICTORIA.

[illegible]

Old News Given New Life

Part of the Library's extensive holdings of Australian regional newspapers will be made available online, thanks to a generous gift from Principal Patron Jane Hemstritch.

Nearly 30 regional newspapers from major cities and country towns all over north-east Victoria, dating from the 1850s to the 1950s, will be added to the Library's online offerings on Trove. Nearly a quarter of a million pages will be available for those who wish to undertake any number of projects, from academic research to family history investigation, or simply seeking to find out what life was like for those who lived in regional Victoria in formative periods of the state's history. These offerings add to the tens of millions of newspaper pages already available, completely free of charge, to anybody in the world with an internet connection.

Jane Hemstritch's gift has also allowed the Library to share an incredible array of Australian almanacs, covering a staggering range of topics, with our Trove audience, with some dating back to the nineteenth century. Hundreds of volumes of material, comprised of hundreds and thousands of pages, have been added to Trove over the past two years. We thank Jane again for her singular, transformative support of the National Library of Australia.

A Look into a Legendary Designer’s Life

Susan Wakil AO and Isaac Wakil AO are among Australia’s greatest patrons of the arts. Their extraordinary gift of \$1 million to support the digitisation of performing arts collections at the Library continues to bring spectacular collections online.

Thanks to the support from Platinum Patron the Susan and Isaac Wakil Foundation, the papers of legendary designer Kristian Fredrikson (1940–2005) will now be digitised and made available online for all. Fredrikson worked on productions for many Australian and international ballet, opera and theatre companies, including the Melbourne Theatre Company, Australian Ballet, Opera Australia, Sydney Dance Company, New Zealand Ballet and Houston Ballet. For Kristian Fredrikson, theatre held the meaning of life; it meant more to him than anything else. The Library holds Fredrikson’s personal papers and almost 200 of his drawings.

His major projects are represented in sketches, models, personal notes and diaries. The papers also contain important designs relating to Fredrikson’s early works for the Melbourne Theatre Company and Opera Australia, and his film and television commissions—a little known area of his career. Drawings highlight the elegance and sensuality of this prolific designer’s work. They convey Fredrikson’s remarkable ability to visualise not only costumes, but the characters who inhabit them.

We are enormously grateful to the Susan and Isaac Wakil Foundation for making this project possible.



ABOVE: Kristian Fredrikson, *Costume Designs for the Characters of the Lord and Lady for the Australian Ballet’s Production of Coppelia*, 1979, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-509617480; **OPPOSITE:** Portrait of Winifred Atwell, between 1950 and 1970, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-144625849



2022 Tax Appeal

Thanks to the 594 donors who donated an astounding \$210,122 during the Library’s 2022 tax appeal, we will be able to share more of our vibrant and exciting performing arts collection online.

The Library holds an incredible collection of material that spans the history of Australia’s performing arts. Many of the figures in this collection, such as Dame Nellie Melba, Sir Robert Helpmann and Winifred Atwell, have received top billing in Australia’s performing arts history. Many others, however, are less heralded, such as circus pioneers Bobby and Gracie Le Brun, and Chinese-Australian writer and performer Rose Quong. Thanks to the support of our donors, these voices are no longer in danger of fading from the stage of history.

These collections will be available online via Trove in 2023.



Papunya Literature

Around 300 readers produced by the Papunya Literature Production Centre between 1970 and 1990 are to be made available online for the first time. The readers were written and illustrated by First Nations creators in their own languages, and for an audience of their own community. This project increases our ability to share First Australian stories in language. The Library will work in collaboration with, and with the generous permission of, the Papunya community, including many of the surviving authors and artists. We are grateful for the kind support of an anonymous Patron and for the assistance of National Library Fellow Professor Vivien Johnson.

Treasured Visionary Now on Trove

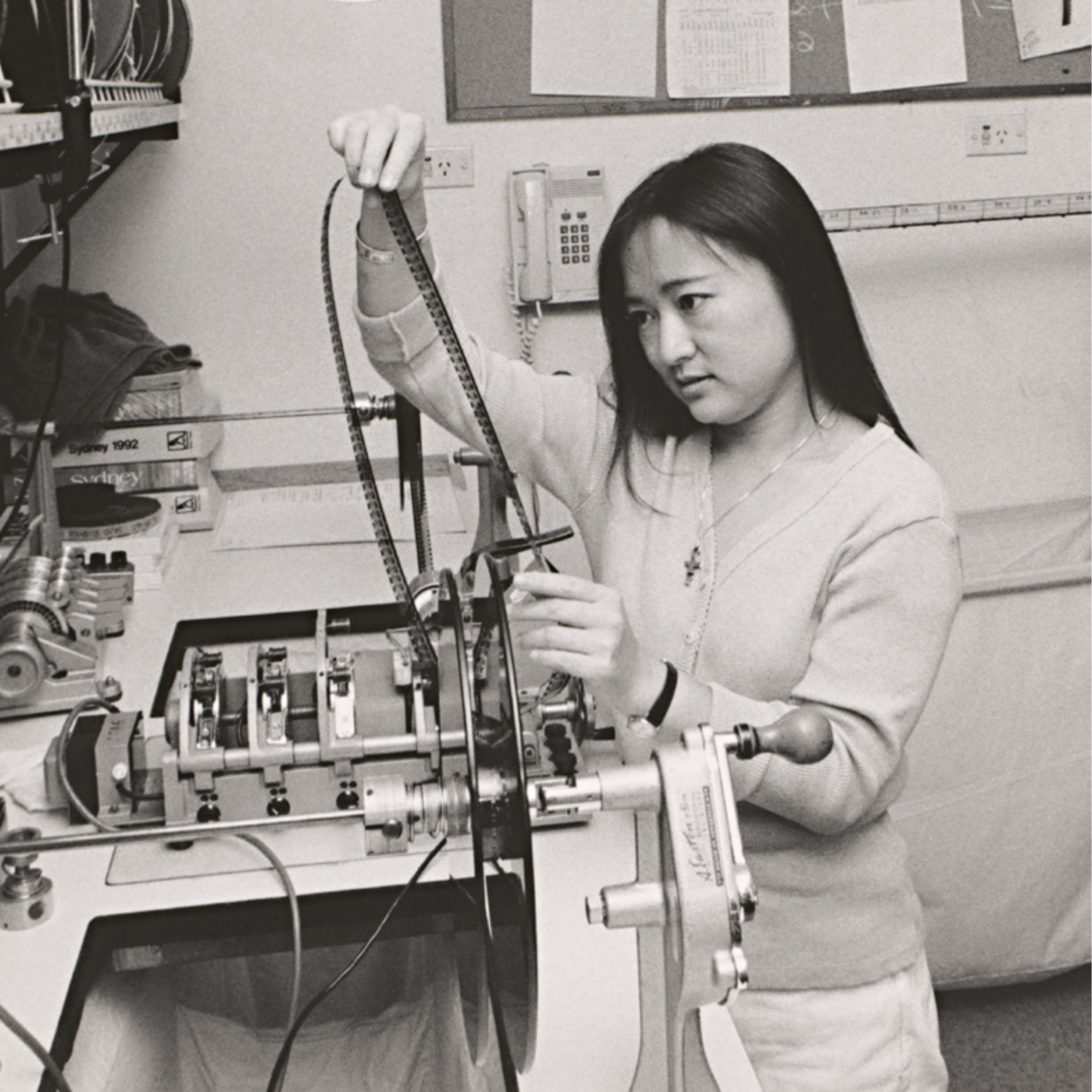
We offer thanks to Gold Patrons Prof Dimity Reed AM and Dr Garry Joslin for their generous support of a project to digitise collections relating to architectural visionary Marion Mahony Griffin, including the papers of Eric Nicholls relating to Marion Mahony Griffin and Walter Burley Griffin, and the Donald Leslie Johnson collection of Walter and Marion Griffin documents. Mahony Griffin was a pioneer of women's architectural practice in the United States of America. Her perspective drawings accompanied Walter Burley Griffin's winning entry for the 1912 design competition for the new Australian capital.

History of the Home

With the support of architectural firm and Silver Patron Lovell Chen Pty Ltd, we have now digitised a selection of architectural journals dating back to the 1930s, including *Home Builders Guide* and *Real Property Annual*. Our national fascination with real estate speaks to a rich history of architecture and design, which is well represented in our collection. Journals such as these provide inspiration for designers and enthusiasts alike, along with insight into an early architectural vision for Australia. They are now available online for all to enjoy.

OPPOSITE: Sabrina Ferguson, illustration in *Maluku yananyi* by Dennis Nelson Tjakamarra (Alice Springs, NT: Papunya Literature Production Centre, 1986), nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn1706090;

ABOVE: Marion Mahony Griffin, *Photograph of Marion's Drawing of Angophora Lanceolata, Castlecrag, Sydney*, c.1925, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-150276244



OPPOSITE: Liu Xiaoxian, *Wang Ziyin in the Editing Room at the Australian Film Institute, Sydney, March 1993* (detail), nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3028356399;
ABOVE: Department of Education and Science Australia, *Hemisphere*, May 1961, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3118912933

An Intimate Look at Sojourning Artists

Thanks to the kind support of an anonymous Patron, we can now digitise a set of photographs detailing the life and artistic practice of 12 Chinese artists who moved to Australia in the aftermath of the Tiananmen Square massacre. *Sojourning Artists* (early 1990s), by Liu Xiaoxian, features portraits of visual artists Guan Wei and Ah Xian, filmmaker Wang Ziyin, and performers Feng Zhihao, Xu Fengshan and Yu Zixing.

Connections in the Hemisphere

We offer thanks to a group of donors who supported digitisation of the journal *Hemisphere* (1957–1984), which aimed to connect Australian and Asian scholars through shared experiences and close geographical proximity. Its mixture of ideas, presented by both Asian and Australian scholars in popular formats, makes it a unique testament to the Australian ambition of the era to see and project itself as a cultural partner with its neighbours.

Migrant Diaries

With the support of an anonymous Patron, we can now digitise a collection of diaries written by migrants to Australia in the nineteenth century. The diaries include firsthand accounts from schoolmasters, clergymen, prospectors, children and convicts. They encompass a remarkable range of experiences of early colonial Australia, including accounts of journeys to Australia aboard ships such as the *Tasman*, the *Resolute* and the *Java*.

Handwritten

With the support of Silver Patron Chris Edye, the Library has undertaken a project to digitise a diverse selection of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century handwritten material from within the Library's manuscript collections. These works offer a fascinating insight into the lives of Australians prior to Federation, and we thank Chris Edye for the gift that enables this important work to occur.

Fellowships and Scholarships

The National Library of Australia's Fellowships and Scholarships program enables outstanding academic researchers, younger scholars and creative practitioners to visit the Library and immerse themselves in our unique collections. These invaluable opportunities depend entirely on philanthropic support.

Opening our collections to the best and brightest

Deakin University PhD candidate Deborah Lee-Talbot shared with us her experience as one of the 2022 Summer Scholars:



When I first arrived at the Library, I was focused on the records concerning the Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP).

At the end of my time, I learned about the AJCP and Australian history and gained valuable research skills as a historian. I was given the space to conduct independent research while also having access to the immense knowledge of the staff. I truly could not have undertaken my work without the access I enjoyed as a Summer Scholar.

The Summer Scholarship program is one of the various residencies the Library is proud to offer. The National Library of Australia Fellowship and Creative Arts Fellowship programs also offer unprecedented access and financial assistance for travel and accommodation to established researchers and creative practitioners. These programs are held in high regard by the academic and creative communities, and none of them could occur without support from donors.

ABOVE: Adam McGrath, Summer Scholars, National Library of Australia Fellows and Asia Study Grant recipients in residence at the National Library in February 2022;
OPPOSITE: Neville William Cayley, Red-capped Parrakeet (*Purpleicephalus Spurius*) (detail), c.1930s, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-135626117



The Greatest Gift Is Friendship

The Friends of the National Library is an association of people with a huge passion for our institution and the material that we collect. All users of the Library—be they visitors to our building or users of our online services—benefit from the support that the Friends are generous enough to offer us.

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Marion Mahony Griffin, *Pedestal for Flower Basket*, 1912,
nla.gov.au/nla.obj-150352970

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For further information on how to leave a bequest or to discuss supporting the Library, please contact:

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