

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2018. This year marks 50 years since the opening of the National Library's wonderful building, and the Friends will be playing our part in commemorating this auspicious anniversary. The first opportunity was on 27 February for the Friends Preview of the Library's new exhibition, *1968: Changing Times*.

The first meeting of the new Friends Committee, elected at last year's Annual General Meeting, was held on 5 December 2017. The following office-bearers were elected: Chair–Gary Kent; Deputy Chair–Janice Taylor; Treasurer–Jennefer Nicholson; and Newsletter Editor–Ingrid Moses. Other Committee members elected or re-elected at the AGM were Lyn Adams, Anne Davis, Susan Ford, Richard Reid and Ros Welch.

On behalf of the Friends, I would like to acknowledge our retiring Committee members: Kathryn Cole, James Ferguson, Geraldine Mackey and Jenny Oates. We will miss their very significant contribution to the work of the Committee.

We are delighted that our new Friends Executive Officer, Melanie Olde, has commenced in this important position, and we sincerely thank Katherine Crane for her excellent work in filling this role in the interim.

In my last message, I noted that in recognition of former Director-General Anne-Marie Schwirtlich's contribution to the Friends and the Library, the Friends Committee had granted \$10,000 to the Library for the digitisation of the papers of Jessie Street, the Australian feminist and human rights campaigner.

We are delighted that this important project will be marked with a special event on 26 March at which Lenore Coltheart, editor of a biography of Jessie Street, will speak about Street's contribution to Australia's public life and the significance of her papers.

Best wishes  
Gary Kent  
Chair

## LIBRARY NEWS



The Seekers on Westminster Bridge, London, c.1966. Their farewell concert was in July 1968.

### 1968: Changing Times

1968 was an amazing year in world history. In January, Communist forces launched coordinated attacks throughout South Vietnam. In March, there were wild confrontations in London between protesters and police in front of the Embassy of the United States in Grosvenor Square. In April, American cities erupted in violence at the news that American civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr had been assassinated. In May, students took to the streets in Paris demanding social and political change. The assassination of Robert Kennedy in June deepened the pervasive sense of crisis. In August, the Beatles released *Revolution* as the B-side on its hit single *Hey Jude*.

1968 was also a major milestone in the history of the National Library of Australia. On 15 August, Prime Minister John Gorton opened the Library's new building on the southern shore of Lake Burley Griffin. The opening of a new permanent home for the Library represented a counterpoint to the confusion and turmoil elsewhere in the world. It was an expression of optimism and a belief that cultural institutions have a significant role to play in building a nation.

The Library's exhibition *1968: Changing Times* explores 1968 through pictures, posters, manuscripts, music, books and ephemera. The Library's collections allow you to step back through time and review some of the tumultuous events of that year, concluding with the design and construction of the Library building.

Whether it was the wars in Vietnam, student demonstrations, the murders of Martin Luther King Jr and Robert Kennedy, or the blistering power of a Hendrix solo, in 1968 there was a strong sense that the world was rapidly changing. Australia was facing its own challenges with the swearing in of a new Prime Minister, John Gorton, and growing unrest about conscription for overseas military service. The opening of the Library's new building in Canberra in August 1968 was a moment of national pride and achievement in the midst of this turbulent time. *1968: Changing Times* is an opportunity to revisit the late 1960s and celebrate the completion of one of Canberra's great public institutions.

*Dr Guy Hansen and Dr Grace Blakeley-Carroll*

## Friends Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the National Library of Australia was held on Thursday 23 November 2017.

Gary Kent, Chair of the Friends Committee, welcomed those present and thanked Committee members and Friends office staff for their contributions during the year.

Gary also acknowledged the support of the National Library, describing Director-General Dr Marie-Louise Ayres as 'a tower of strength' aided by the Library's many staff. In particular, Gary thanked Sharyn O'Brien, who prior to the AGM received a well-earned promotion within the Library and moved on from the position of Friends Executive Officer after more than a decade.

Gary described 2017 as a year of great achievement for the Friends of the National Library. While acknowledging the challenges of maintaining membership, he was pleased to report that the year ended with a membership of just under 2,000. The Friends launched their Facebook page in 2017 as part of a new membership strategy, which continues to achieve a modest but sustained response.

Gary was pleased to note the many ways in which the Friends are able to support the Library, including funding two fellowships. This year, the Friends also donated \$10,000 to support the digitisation of the papers of Jessie Street in honour of former Director-General Anne-Marie Schwirtlich AM.

In 2017, the Friends hosted seven functions, all well attended and greatly enjoyed. These included previews of National Library exhibitions, such as the sold-out preview of *Dombrovskis: Journeys into the Wild*, which featured Dr Bob Brown as speaker; and joint lectures with the Australian Garden History Society, which also sold out.

## Presentation of the 2017 Friends Medal

The Friends Medal was established in 2006 to recognise a significant contribution to the work of the National Library of Australia by Friends members, Library staff or volunteers.

This year's medal was awarded to long-serving Friends Executive Officer Sharyn O'Brien. The Friends Committee acknowledged with gratitude Sharyn's strong advocacy of the Friends within the Library. She has worked cooperatively with internal stakeholders to advance the interests of the Friends, while assisting the Committee to ensure the Friends remains a strong, financially viable organisation. She has provided outstanding secretarial support and delivered a first-class program of Friends events.



Sharyn O'Brien receiving the Friends Medal with Gary Kent

She has produced over 100 events for the Friends, including exhibition previews, new members' evenings, cultural tours, lectures, celebrations and white gloves events.

Much of Sharyn's work has been invisible to the Friends: ensuring the Friends meets all its obligations under the *Association and Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT)* and associated regulations; coordinating the 2011 review of the Friends Rules of Association; maintaining relationships with Friends partners, including the Australian Garden Historical Society; and great service to the Committee, far beyond the call of duty, and, through it, to the National Library.

Sharyn was recently promoted to the role of Events and Venues Manager, and we will no doubt meet her in this role.

## 2018 Friends Creative Arts Fellowship

The Friends Creative Arts Fellowship 2018 was awarded to Dr Carolyn Young, a visual artist from Wamboin. Her biographical statement noted that she uses photography 'to re-think, re-imagine the human place in nature'. Her Fellowship proposal is to make new art based on Australian mammals of endangered grassy woodlands, linking colonial and contemporary experiences, including research ecology. The outcome will be primarily photography-based, with some mixed media, including drawings, watercolours and found objects.

The most important source Carolyn wishes to use at the Library is John Gould's book *The Mammals of Australia*. Her research will also be supported by other illustrations, books, journals, posters and newspapers and Gould's correspondence.

Carolyn's accompanying portfolio led panel members to describe her work as: 'enchanted, stunning, arresting, beautiful, which would engage audiences'. Carolyn will have a solo exhibition at the Goulburn Regional Gallery in October 2018 (we will let you know the details in due course), which will feature the work she creates as part of the Fellowship.

Committee President Gary Kent represented the Friends on the selection committee.

*Ingrid Moses*



Portrait of 2018 Friends Creative Arts Fellow Carolyn Young

## 2018 Friends Travelling Fellowship

Having spent a number of years representing the Library on the Friends Executive Committee, I have enjoyed listening to colleagues report and reflect on their experiences as Friends Travelling Fellows. I know this fellowship can change lives and offer great benefit to the Library. This year, I am very privileged to be joining their group as the recipient of the 2018 Friends Travelling Fellowship.

As Director, Community Outreach, my role has many facets. It's diverse and always interesting but increasingly focused on how to engage with our national community from our beautiful building in Canberra. Later this year, thanks to the Friends Travelling Fellowship, I will visit libraries, archives and museums in the US and Canada to explore recent developments in onsite and digital programming of events and services, fundraising and digital engagement strategies. I hope to discover, for example, how the Library of Congress engages with US citizens beyond Washington DC. If the timing works, I also hope to attend the Communicating the Museum Conference in Chicago.

I know this journey is going to expand and challenge my thinking. I hope the fellowship will enable me to contribute to the development of the Library's Digital Engagement Strategy and to bring an international perspective to the Library's fundraising activities.

Thank you for providing me with this wonderful opportunity. I'm looking forward to sharing the experience with you—and visiting a Friends Lounge or two.

*Kathryn Favelle*

## 2018 Summer Scholars

The Library's Summer Scholars program offers young people the opportunity to engage more deeply with the Library, to undertake research and fulfil their aspirations.

### **Carol Moya Mills Summer Scholar**

**Paul Taucher | Murdoch University**

**AUSTRALIAN COMMAND RESPONSIBILITY AT THE TRIALS OF JAPANESE OFFICERS IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR**

Paul examined the doctrine of command responsibility—an officer's liability for crimes committed by subordinates—at Australian trials of Japanese war criminals, including instances of political influence on prosecutions and judgements.

### **Seymour Scholar**

**Rosanna Stevens | Australian National University**

**THE CONFLICT OF COLONIALISM IN THE LIFE AND WORK OF PETER SCULTHORPE**

Approaching her project as a writer, rather than music specialist, Rosanna used Peter Sculthorpe's letters, interview transcripts, draft scores and essays on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture to understand his impulse for incorporating Indigenous songs and landscapes in his compositions.

### **Norman McCann Scholars**

**Cassandra Byrnes | University of Queensland**

**ABORTION LAW REFORM IN THE 1970S AND 1980S: THE NATIONAL CONTEXT**

Cassandra investigated the national abortion law reform movement of the 1970s and 1980s to contextualise the Queensland Pregnancy Termination Control Bill 1980 and its objective to restrict the termination of pregnancies.

### **Shastra Deo | University of Queensland**

**BODY AS BATTLEGROUND: THE FIRST WORLD WAR AND THE MEDICAL BODY**

Shastra studied the medical history of the First World War, with particular emphasis on field surgery and operating theatres located at or near the front.

### **Luke Forbes | Monash University**

**INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN CONTEMPORARY DANCESCAPES**

Luke reviewed the production and reception of Indigenous dance performance on stage from the 1970s through to the present day as part of a wider critical historiography of contemporary Indigenous dance.



2018 Summer Scholars: Shastra Deo, Rosanna Stevens, Cassandra Byrnes, Luke Forbes and Paul Taucher

## FRIENDS EVENTS



Portrait of Jessie Street from the Papers of Jessie Street

### The Papers of Jessie Street

Hear about the extraordinary life of suffragette and rights activist Jessie Street from historian Lenore Colheart, and see some of the intriguing items among her personal papers.

Monday 26 March, 6pm  
Conference Room  
\$20 Friends, \$25 non-members (includes refreshments)

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

### Coffee with the Curator: Bessie Rischbieth Suffrage Material

Curator Dr Béatrice Bijon leads a tour of *Deeds Not Words*, which showcases the Bessie Rischbieth collection of women's suffrage material in the Treasures Gallery. This will be followed by morning tea in the Friends Lounge.

Friday 20 April, 10.30am  
Treasures Gallery

\$15 Friends only (max 20 guests)

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

### White Gloves Evening: 50 Favourite Things of the NLA Volunteers

Mark the 50th anniversary of the Library building by getting up close and personal with 50 favourite items from the Library's collection, selected by the National Library's volunteers.

Thursday 24 May, 6pm

Brindabella Room

\$20 Friends, \$25 non-members (includes refreshments)

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



Sydney Parkinson (artist) and Charles White (engraver), *Banksia integrifolia* Linnaeus f., *Leucadendrum integrifolium*, Botany Bay, Australia, 28 April–6 May 1770, [nla.cat-vn6606356](http://nla.cat-vn6606356)

## FRIENDS DISCOUNT CODE FOR NATIONAL LIBRARY EVENTS

To claim your 15 per cent discount on ticketed Library events, bookings must be made online at [nla.gov.au/bookings](http://nla.gov.au/bookings) and the discount code **FRAUT18** entered when booking. This code is valid from 1 March to 31 May 2018 and does not apply to Friends events (select the members ticket option for these) or events that are free of charge.

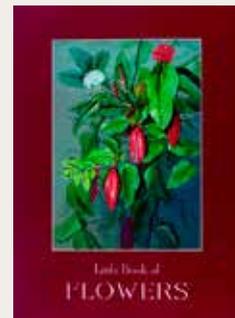
## NATIONAL LIBRARY BOOKSHOP SPECIAL OFFER FOR FRIENDS

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 by a Friend between 1 March 2018 and 31 May 2018, they will

receive a free copy of *Little Book of Flowers* plus a *Gostelow 4 Card Set*. 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 *Little Book of Flowers* plus a *Gostelow 4 Card Set*, and your 15 per cent discount with all online purchases, use the promotional code **AUT18FR** at checkout. This code is valid from 1 March to 31 May 2018.



## FRIENDS NEWS

### The 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 to 7.45pm. It is open to all Friends of the National Library, so feel free to join in. If you have any questions, please contact [kathryncole@grapevine.net.au](mailto:kathryncole@grapevine.net.au).

- Tuesday 27 March – *The Sixteen Trees of the Somme* by Lars Mytting
- Tuesday 24 April – *The Twentieth Man* by Tony Jones
- Tuesday 29 May – *The Shepherd's Life: A Tale of the Lake District* by James Rebanks