

# FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2012

Donald Friend (1915-1989) Shoppers at Night, Bondi Junction Mall From 'Ayam-Ayam Kesayangan' (Donald Friend Diaries: MS 5959) Manuscripts Collection







Gary Kent

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends

As usual, the Friends calendar for the next few months features a number of interesting and informative events and activities.

As I was pleased to advise in our last newsletter, distinguished Australian journalist Kerry O'Brien has agreed to deliver the 2012 Kenneth Myer Lecture. The date of the Lecture has now been set for Tuesday 31 July at 6m in the Library Theatre. Kerry will speak on the topic, *In an age awash with information*, how easily we forget the past.

The 2012 Friends White Gloves Event, scheduled for 28 June, will be a little different from those we have held previously. This year, rather than focusing on a particular aspect of the Library's collection, the topic will be Conserving Collections. The Library's conservators will provide advice and information on caring for paper based collections. This event is sure to be popular so book early.

Many of you will be familiar with the work of John Lewin (1770-1819). He played a formative and pivotal role in the development of Australian art. According to art critic Robert Hughes, Lewin was the first to record the distinct 'look' of Australia without being blinded by European art conventions. On Saturday 28 July Richard Neville, curator at the State Library of New South Wales, will provide Friends with an exclusive viewing of the forthcoming exhibition *Lewin: Wild Art*, surely one not to be missed.

You can find full details of these and other upcoming events elsewhere in this newsletter.

I am also delighted to announce on behalf of the Friends Committee that our 2012 Celebration will honour the work and career of Hilary McPhee who, with the late Di Gribble, founded the Australian publishing firm of McPhee Gribble in 1975. Together they first published the work of such Australian authors as Helen Garner, Tim Winton and Martin Flanagan. The Celebration will be held on Sunday 18 November 2012 and will provide us with the opportunity to express our appreciation for the work of a major contributor to the development of writing and publishing in Australia. Further details of this event will be included in the September issue of the Friends newsletter.

Many of you will be aware of and use on a regular basis the Library's wonderful digitised Australian newspapers collection, available through Trove. As part of its contribution to Canberra's centenary celebrations in 2013, the Library aims to digitize all remaining issues of *The Canberra Times*, from 1955 to 1995. This is an extension of the already completed project digitising this paper up to 1954. The Friends has sponsored the digitisation of one year of this new series and we hope to announce more details in the next edition of the newsletter.

Best regards to you all

Gary Kent

**Please note that National Library Collection material may not be taken out of the Reading Rooms, and is not permitted to be used in the Friends lounge.**



Pauline Fanning as a young woman (photographer/date unknown)



Pauline Fanning at her desk in the National Library of Australia in 1968. Picture by Max Dupain, National Library of Australia collection



Pauline Fanning speaking at the Back to the Library Reception, September 2001

## PAULINE FANNING (1915–2012): AN APPRECIATION

Pauline Fanning died in Canberra on 24 April 2012 at the age of 97 years, still living in her family home. During her lengthy library career of over forty years, she worked closely with the National Librarians, Kenneth Binns and Harold White. Pauline was looked upon by other female staff in the Library as both a trailblazer and a role model.

Pauline was one of the first five library cadets selected in 1936. She was recruited from Hobart where her parents, although in modest circumstances, had scraped enough together to give her a good education at Collegiate School. She then worked as a teacher at the school to put herself through an arts degree at the University of Tasmania.

In 1936 she commenced her long involvement with the Australiana collections as she was immediately trained in cataloguing for the Library's new title, the *Annual Catalogue of Australian Publications*.

She had a long-term working relationship with two of the major figures whose collections came to the Library. From early in her career, Pauline worked closely with Justice John Ferguson (1881–1969) on the transfer of his significant collection to the Library and the compilation of the seven volumes of his *Bibliography of Australia, 1784–1900*, published between 1941 and 1969.

Her association with Rex Nan Kivell (1898–1977), who was based in London where he was an art gallery proprietor, was through correspondence, in the age of snail mail, as he never visited Canberra. His collection is a major keystone of the Library's Australiana strengths. She wrote in 1962, 'in 1949 the first consignment reached Canberra ... it was with astonishment and delight that we viewed the contents as they were unpacked; oils, watercolours, pencil drawings, maps, sculpture, manuscripts, rare books, broadsides and historical relics relating to the history of Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific in the period before 1850. All were in superb condition, the oils magnificently framed, the books and manuscripts in fine bindings or handsomely boxed'.

Pauline's work was acknowledged by the award of an MBE and an Imperial Services Order. She particularly treasured an honorary Master of Arts degree from ANU, awarded in 1976 to acknowledge her great assistance to so many historians and researchers.

After her retirement in 1980 she spent six years working with Bill Ramson as a bibliographical advisor to the *Australian National Dictionary*. She also became a valuer under the Tax Incentives for the Arts scheme and involved in historical research projects in Canberra. She also traveled extensively, especially to France. Her husband, Bill, died some years ago and she is survived by her daughters and their families.

Marie Sexton  
National Library colleague  
Acknowledgement to her oral history interview by Alec Bolton  
recorded in 1988 at the National Library of Australia:  
TRC 2248 and to Pauline's writings.



Portrait of Andrew Sergeant



Andrew Sergeant receives 2006 Australia Day Achievement Medallion for outstanding contribution to the Library throughout his whole period of service, 24 January 2006



Cover of the 2009 National Library publication *First Fleet Artist: George Raper's Birds and Plants of Australia*



The 1796 Playbill

## PEOPLE TREASURES AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY: ANDREW SERGEANT, PETHERICK AND RESEARCH LIBRARIAN

*(This is the ninth of our series of pen portraits of some of the highly talented and professional staff of the National Library)*

Andrew Sergeant is a familiar figure in the Library, especially to Petherick readers where, as well as helping the readers during their research, he produces the Petherick Newsletter and organises the twice yearly meetings. He has been at the Library since 2000 and has worked in most areas of Information Services, including manuscripts, newspapers, the general reading room, as part of the issues team, and dealing with reference enquiries, plus helping readers with their work or studies by answering questions and explaining Library procedures. As a reference librarian he also carries out research on a variety of Library collection materials including rare books, all of which gives him a rare insight into the work and achievements of the Library.

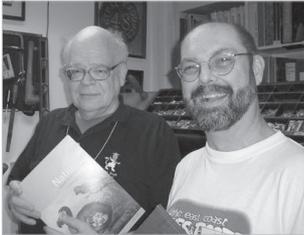
Andrew came to librarianship through a love of history, books and libraries, but it was a rather slow journey. He was born in Sydney and grew up in Greenacre. His father was a post-war immigrant from a village near Glasgow in Scotland and worked as a psychiatric nurse at what is now Rozelle Hospital, while his mother held various office jobs to help the family get by. He has one younger brother and a younger sister. Although born in Sydney Andrew told me his family have strong connections to the Canberra district, including ancestors on his mother's side who were employed by the Campbell family at Duntroon. Many members of the MacInnes family are still living in the Canberra/Queanbeyan district. Another ancestor, an Irish convict named Crinigan, was assigned in 1836 to G.T. Palmer at what is now Giralang and stayed on in the district after he was pardoned. The remains of his old stone hut at Amaroo are now on the ACT Heritage Register, and Crinigan's final home was on a farm where the National Library now stands! This gives Andrew strong family connections with the locality.

Andrew went to Chullora Public School and Punchbowl Boys' High, where he completed the Higher School Certificate in 1976. He then began University studies for a Bachelor of Arts degree including history and English at Macquarie University, and later began Library and Information studies at Ku-Ring-Gai C.A.E., but as a restless young man found he was unable to settle down to study and after a couple of years took a permanent administrative job with the State Emergency Service in Sydney and later Wollongong. There he stayed for twelve years, but he never gave up on his library studies, continuing by distance education with Charles Sturt University. When he married Heather he moved to Brisbane, her home town, but they didn't settle down there, finding it too hot and humid, and when Andrew was successful in applying for a position at the National Library they were happy to move to Canberra. Andrew continued his library studies by distance and graduated as Bachelor of Arts, Library Information Studies, in 2002.

Andrew says he loves all aspects of his job, especially researching the Library's historical collections such as the Ferguson and Petherick Collections, and rare books. His favourite collections include the George Raper watercolours, one of the last collections of important First Fleet material that was remaining in private hands until acquired by the National Library of Australia in 2005. He has other favourites too, most of all the 1796 Playbill which advertises a theatrical performance in Sydney in July of that year and is believed to be the earliest surviving printed document in Australia. Andrew values it for what it reveals about very early Sydney, early printing methods and theatrical enterprises.



Andrew Sergeant speaking at 1796: The Officer, the Convicts and the Theatre Playbill, 25 June 2008



Andrew Sergeant with Professor Terry Belanger of the Rare Book School of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, 2007



Andrew Sergeant with Susanne Bruhn and Bet Dracoulis at the AskNow end of service celebration, 17 December 2010



Andrew Sergeant speaking at the event Cook's Treasures seminar, 24 February 2012

The awarding of the 2007 Kenneth Binns Fellowship was a highlight of Andrew's career. The scholarship is provided by Ms Alison Sanchez in memory of her late father, Kenneth Binns, the Parliamentary and National Librarian from 1928 to 1947. The annual fellowship allows staff members in the early years of their career to participate in a significant professional development opportunity. Andrew chose to attend a one week Summer School course, 'Introduction to Special Collections Librarianship', at the Rare Book School of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, and following the course he visited Washington DC and some of its iconic institutions. Andrew says he learned a lot from this experience which he finds useful in his day to day work and it was a great opportunity to observe and learn. He gained not only knowledge but enduring contacts important both in his professional development and to the Library in enhancing interagency relations and possible future collaborations.

In his private life Andrew's activities also embrace history and bibliographic paths. An active member of the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand, which focuses on scholarly interest in physical bibliography and the history of the written word, he keeps in close touch with developments in the field through its activities and is currently the organisation's Treasurer. He has also researched the Braidwood Literary Institute, a fascinating but defunct organisation whose objective was 'To Elevate the Tone of Moral and Intellectual Attainment' of its members: hmmm! The Institute opened in 1857 and survived until 1958 and its collection of rare and historic books was sold off in the 1970s. The records, however, survived and are a great source of pleasure and research curiosity by local historians, genealogists and library history researchers, including Andrew who has given papers at conferences and meetings of the recently reformed organisation explaining its history and discussing the extensive remaining records, including borrowing registers that show us what members were reading.

Though Andrew prefers research to writing, he has contributed articles and papers for conferences and library publications and, as recently as last February, presented a paper for the Cook's Treasures Seminar at the Library. He is also the author of an article on E. A. Petherick, (after whom the Petherick Room is named) published in the National Library Magazine in September 2011. These, plus his account of his activities during his scholarship in the US, show that he is quite at ease with the written word.

It is not all books and literary activities. On the sporting side Andrew has been a keen squash player at A grade level in the past, but a knee problem has kept him off the court for the last few years and he is also, for those who know Rugby League, a South Sydney tragic.

In closing Andrew paid tribute to his supervisor Mary Gosling, for her encouragement over the years, and to the support of his colleagues whose co-operation and friendship help make his work all the more satisfying and enjoyable.

Sylvia Marchant

## CANBERRA AND ATHENS: THE OLD AND THE NEW

Many readers will be familiar with the small stone set into the floor of the foyer of the National Library. It is from the Library of Pantainos in Athens, and it was given to Australia by the Greek government to honour our new National Library building in 1973. Also you may recall an article in the February 2008 National Library News ([www.nla.gov.au/pub/nlanews/2008/feb08/story-2.pdf](http://www.nla.gov.au/pub/nlanews/2008/feb08/story-2.pdf)) about the Pantainos Library and how the stone came to be in the floor of the foyer.



3D representation of the Library of Pantainos



The Library of Pantainos in 2011

While in Athens in September last year, I made a pilgrimage to the ancient Agora to see what I could find of the remains of the Pantainos Library.

The Library of Pantainos was next to the Panathenaic Way, the road which lead, and still leads, through the Agora (market place) to the Acropolis. From an archaeological excavation in 1933, the layout of the building was established. G A Mawer describes it in the National Library News February 2008:

*... a hall 9.8 x 9.0 metres and perhaps one and a half stories high. Beyond this repository was a peristyle where the visitor could stroll, talk or read. This in turn was separated from the street by colonnades lined with tradesmen's workshops.*

You can take a virtual walk around the Ancient Agora, from Mycenaean to Ottoman times, at <http://www.ancientathens3d.com> and you will find, in the Roman period, this 3D representation of how the Library is thought to have looked.

Very little remains of the Library today. That the Greek government should send a surviving piece of the marble across the world to be part of our National Library simply but eloquently asserts the importance attached to the free public library as an essential part of civilisation.

In Australia governments provide free public libraries, but in Athens the tradition continues of private donors, such as Titus Flavius Pantainos, building libraries for the people. In Greece, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation is funding the design and building of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre which will contain a new building for the National Library of Greece and the first Greek National Opera House. It is designed by the famous Italian architect Renzo Piano. There is an excellent video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=yO0UQNI4JbM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yO0UQNI4JbM) in which Piano explains his concept for the cultural centre, the Library and the role of libraries in civilisation. He gives that concept architectural form. Watching it, I wondered what Australia might give to Greece to honour its new National Library building. Watch the video and see what you think.

Margaret Goode



Guests enjoy catering by *bookplate* at the New Members Evening

## RECENT EVENTS

### New Members Evening 2012

It was a dark and stormy night in Canberra on the evening of Friday 17 February, well perhaps not so dark but definitely stormy. In spite of the weather 60 guests braved the wind and the rain to attend the annual New Members evening. The event was held in the Central Foyer to facilitate entrance to the *Handwritten* exhibition which guests were invited to view after the reception.

Gary Kent, Chair of the Friends Committee, opened the proceedings with a short speech in which he welcomed new members and introduced himself, other Committee members present, and Sharyn O'Brien the Friends Executive Officer. He then ran through the program of events planned for 2012 which included the splendid news that distinguished journalist Kerry O'Brien will deliver the 2012 Myer lecture. Other events we looked forward to include a lecture in April on the Patrick White exhibition by curator Matthew Jones, the annual joint lecture with the Australian Garden History Society in late May at which Keith Thorogood, of Australian War Graves, will speak, and the biennial book club lecture in April by Dr Rich Pascall who will enlighten the audience on the biting satire in the book *Catch-22*, by Joseph Heller, all capped off with the weekend tour to the Blue Mountains scheduled for September. Quite a program. Gary then presented lucky door prizes to six happy winners who each received a double pass to the film *Coriolanus*, based on the Shakespeare play and starring Ralph Fiennes.

Dr Susannah Helman, the Library's exhibition curator, then shared with us some of the highlights of the fantastic *Handwritten* exhibition and her enthusiasm was infectious as she described some of the amazing exhibits and the inspirational experience of working with the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. Dr Helmann has also written about the exhibition in the December 2011 edition of *The National Library Magazine*.

The guests were then invited to mix and mingle and enjoy the conversation and *bookplate's* tempting refreshments, which everyone did with enthusiasm. Many guests then took the opportunity to enjoy a tour of the *Handwritten* exhibition which brought the evening to a successful and satisfying conclusion.

Sylvia Marchant

### Friends Around the Lake—Handwritten Viewing

On the evening of 24 February the inaugural Friends Around the Lake event was held at the National Library. Friends Around the Lake is an initiative of the Australian Federation of Friends of Museums. This was a very successful evening, enjoyed by about 130 people. The guests enjoyed light refreshments and drinks and some lovely piano playing.

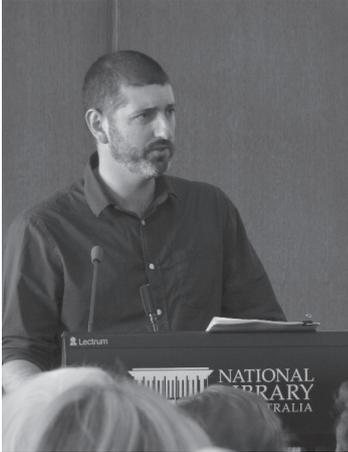
Gary Kent, Chairman of the Friends of the National Library, welcomed guests and spoke briefly about the Friends Around the Lake initiative. Nat Williams, Director of the Exhibitions Branch, gave an informative presentation on the genesis and the nature of the exhibition. The guests were then privileged to have a private viewing of the highly acclaimed *Handwritten* exhibition.

It is hoped this will be the start of regular Friends Around the Lake functions in Canberra.

Margo Geering



Nat Williams, Director of Exhibitions, speaks about *Handwritten*



Matthew Jones provides an insight into the new Patrick White exhibition



Paddy at 'Lulworth', Rushcutters Bay (detail) c. 1918  
gelatin silver print; 13 x 8.3 cm  
MS 9982, Series 19



Rich Pascal lectures on *Catch-22*

### Patrick White: an overview

*The Life of Patrick White* exhibition is currently running at the National Library until 8 July. In his lecture on 13 April the exhibition curator, Matthew Jones, highlighted intriguing items that demonstrate that White, a man often perceived as curmudgeonly and cantankerous, could also be a caring and generous philanthropist.

The exhibition has a biographical theme and follows a chronological structure. It focuses on White's childhood, his travels, his life in at Dogwoods and then at Martin Road.

Patrick White was born in Knightsbridge, London in 1912 and he enjoyed a privileged upbringing. A private income allowed him to devote his time to writing, a form of expression first encouraged by his mother Ruth. She loved the theatre and was a great correspondent. Even in White's boyhood letters we see a strong social awareness. A letter in the exhibition, written when White was six years old, expresses concern for those suffering from the Spanish influenza. Some of the family photos are quite small. Looking at these private family snapshots gives a great sense of intimacy that cannot be achieved from a blown up version in a book or on a poster.

Asthma, a very expensive and exclusive English education, and his homosexuality all contributed to White's feelings of social isolation. This, in turn, intensified his appreciation of the Australian landscape and it is this landscape that is so important in White's narratives.

The exhibition gives insight into White's volatile friendships. Ninette Dutton's letter in defense of her husband Geoffrey, Salman Rushdie's fan letter, and correspondence between White and his life partner Manoly Lascaris show this Australian writer in all his complexities.

He had a painstaking method of writing wherein he would write the novel by hand two or three times, then type it, then correct it and only then would he type a final copy. Visitors to the exhibition will see extracts from unpublished works, notebooks and, of course, the Nobel Prize for Literature medal awarded to White in 1973. Objects from the writing process also bring to life White's time in and identity as a late modernist in the twentieth century. His writing desk, his desk lamp and chair and his Olivetti typewriter are as if from a bygone age, and yet an age that many of us remember very well. This is an excellent showcase on the life of a famous Australian and it goes far beyond the already extensive collection that belongs to the National Library.

Robyn Oates

### *Catch-22* Déjà Vu: Joseph Heller's Masterpiece turns 50

An enthusiastic audience met on a cold Canberra evening to hear our old friend, Dr Rich Pascal, give a most interesting lecture on Heller's enduring novel of war and inhumanity. He explained that the book is written in the tradition of Don Quixote and Huckleberry Finn. The protagonist, Yossarian, is an ordinary man, apparently unheroic, whose aim in life is to avoid death. Laugh-out-loud funny at times, the humour bites and never more so than with *Catch-22*, the circular logic used by authority to justify illogical actions.

Based on Heller's own experiences during World War II, the novel was not published until 1961 and since then over 10 million copies have been sold. With relevance to the Korean, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, Yossarian's verbal wit and the cast of absurdly comic characters influenced a



Participants discuss *Catch-22* further over wine and cheese



John William Lewin 1770–1819.  
Crested pigeons (*Ocyphaps lophotes*)  
1817. Rex Nan Kivell Collection.  
National Library of Australia

generation of American writers, inspired the TV series *M\*A\*S\*H*, and gave a new phrase to the English language to express the exasperation of ordinary people with the obfuscations of authority.

Heller wrote few other novels but produced a well-received sequel to *Catch-22*, *Closing Time* in 1994 and a memoir, *Now and Then* in 1998. When told by an impertinent interviewer that he had never written anything else as good as *Catch-22*, he retorted, 'Who has?' Heller died in 1999.

The discussion with Rich Pascal continued over a glass of wine in the Friends Lounge. I think we would all agree with Yossarian and Doc Daneeka: 'That's some catch, that *Catch-22*. It's the best there is'.

Elizabeth Kennedy

## NEW NATIONAL LIBRARY EXHIBITION

### Lewin: Wild Art

28 July–28 October 2012

*Lewin: Wild Art* extensively surveys the life and art of John William Lewin (1770–1819), the first non-convict professional artist in Australia. Arriving in Sydney, aged 30, from London in 1800, Lewin's ambitious mission was to collect, draw and to publish Australia's natural history for European audiences. Working first as a conventional natural history artist, steeped in European traditions, Lewin quickly developed a unique and lively style. The challenge of confronting the new environment—where he found everything 'contrary to our knowledge in England'—inspired his beautifully observed illustrations, which are undoubtedly Australian. Lewin also produced Australia's first illustrated book in 1813: his *Birds of New South Wales*.

*This exhibition is supported by the National Collecting Institutions Touring and Outreach Program, an Australian Government program aiming to improve access to the national collections for all Australians.*

## NEW EVENTS BOOKING SYSTEM

The Committee of the Friends of the National Library has decided to implement a new online booking system for all events. It is hoped that this system will be more convenient for our many members who currently pay by credit card, and will allow a booking to be made, paid for and confirmed in real time, 24 hours a day. To make a booking for any Friends event, please visit <http://friends.nla.gov.au>.

For those who prefer not to pay by credit card online, event bookings may still be made through the Friends Office on 02 6262 1698.

John William Lewin 1770-1819.  
*White-naped honeyeater (Melithreptus lunatus) and Spear grass-tree (Xanthorrhoea resinosa).*  
 In John Hunter, *Birds & flowers of New South Wales drawn on the spot in 1788, 1788-1790.* Rex Nan Kivell Collection, National Library of Australia



Kerry O'Brien

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Conserving Collections

Join Library conservators for an evening of advice and information on caring for paper-based collections.

The Preservation Services Section at the National Library of Australia repairs and cares for the Library's collections so that they continue to be useable in the future. Come to this evening session to learn more about what the Preservation Services Section does and how you might apply the same preservation principles to your own collections. You will learn about the preservation program at the National Library and learn about how to care for paper-based collections. An optional pre-event tour of the Library's conservation lab is also available (limited to 20 participants).

**Thursday 28 June, 5.30pm (4.45pm for tour)**

**Conference Room, Brindabella Room & Friends Lounge**

**\$25 Friends, \$35 non-members (includes light refreshments)**

**\$10 additional for tour of conservation lab**

**Bookings: <http://friends.nla.gov.au> or 02 6262 1698**

### Exhibition Lecture and Tour—Lewin: Wild Art

Join fellow Friends for an afternoon lecture by Richard Neville, Mitchell Librarian at the State Library of New South Wales, on the new National Library exhibition *Lewin: Wild Art*. The lecture will be followed by afternoon tea and a tour of the exhibition by Library guides.

**Saturday 28 July, 2pm**

**Theatre and Gallery**

**\$20 Friends and invited guests (includes afternoon tea)**

**Bookings: <http://friends.nla.gov.au> or 02 6262 1698**

### 2012 Kenneth Myer Lecture with Kerry O'Brien

#### ***In an age awash with information, how easily we forget the past***

The longer a person lives, the more they are able to draw on the past to understand the present and have some inkling about the future.

In nearly 50 years of journalism covering politics, the Australian social story and significant international events, Kerry O'Brien has been an eye witness to a period of momentous change. He now finds himself in a digital age awash with information, and yet he says we seem to be so excited by or anxious about the now and the future, that we seem to find it too easy to forget the past.

Whatever happened to the axiom that we ignore the lessons of history at our peril? How can we learn from the past if we ignore it or simply forget it? Are we breeding generations for whom the past beyond a few years or a few events has no relevance?

These are questions O'Brien will address in the 2012 Kenneth Myer Lecture at the National Library.

**Tuesday 31 July, 6pm**

**Theatre and Foyer**

**\$30 Friends, \$40 non-members (includes refreshments)**

**Bookings: <http://friends.nla.gov.au> or 02 6262 1698**



Matthew Higgins in the high country

### **Elyne Mitchell: Mountain Author**

Join us for a lunchtime lecture as historian Matthew Higgins explores the life and work of Elyne Mitchell.

Elyne Mitchell is remembered fondly for her wildly successful *Silver Brumby* books from the 1950s onward. But not only did she write children's fiction, Elyne also wrote a number of pioneering non-fiction works addressing Australians' relationship with their environment. Elyne's passionate connection with the upper Murray and the Snowy Mountains had a fundamental influence on her and her work. She was also a very keen skier and horserider and she helped run the family's Towong Hill property. Elyne received the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to literature in 1988 and Charles Sturt University awarded her an Honorary Doctorate of Letters in 1993. A year before her death in 2002 the Corryong Library was renamed in her honour. The National Library of Australia holds her papers, and the typewriter she used to write *The Silver Brumby* is held by the National Museum of Australia.

Matthew Higgins has been working in Canberra as a professional historian for 30 years and is the author of numerous articles and a number of books, the most recent of which is *Rugged beyond imagination: stories from an Australian mountain region*. Matthew will be happy to sign copies of *Rugged* (available for sale at the NLA Shop) after the talk.

**Friday 24 August, 12.30pm**

Conference Room

\$5 Friends, \$10 non-members

Bookings: <http://friends.nla.gov.au> or 02 6262 1698

### **FRIENDS BOOK CLUB**

All members of the Friends of the National Library are welcome to join this free monthly book club for literary discussion. The meetings are run by participants and each month a group member volunteers to facilitate the discussion.

26 June—*In Cold Light* by Frank Moorhouse

24 July—*Wanting* by Richard Flanagan (NB: this month's meeting has been brought forward a week due to the Kenneth Myer lecture)

28 August—*Smoke and Mirrors* by Kel Robertson

7-8.30pm, Friends Lounge

Free for members, bookings required.



### Fortnightly Film Screenings

The Friends of the National Library in association with the Reel McCoy Film Society present fortnightly film screenings on Wednesday nights, exclusively for members of both organisations. Membership cards must be shown at the door and membership to either organisation can be arranged on the night.

6 June—*The Chess Players* (India 1977) 120 min. 16 mm

20 June—*The Purple Rose of Cairo* (USA 1985) PLUS *Sherlock Jr.* (USA 1924) 45 min. 16 mm

4 July—*The Gunfighter* (USA 1950) 84min. 16mm

18 July—*Oliver Twist* (UK 2005) 130min DVD

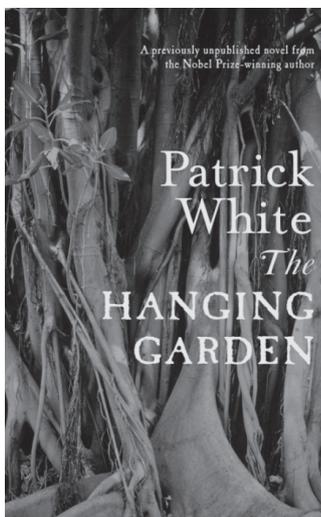
1 August—*Hallelujah, I'm a Bum* (USA 1933) 80min. 16mm

15 August—*Local Hero* (UK, 1983) 111min. DVD

29 August—*Black Orpheus* (Brazil 1959) 107min. DVD

Theatre, 6pm, free

Bookings not required. Enquiries: 02 6262 1698



### NATIONAL LIBRARY BOOKSHOP SPECIAL OFFER *THE HANGING GARDEN* BY PATRICK WHITE

Sale Price \$ 23.95 RRP \$29.95

Two children are brought to a wild garden on the shores of Sydney Harbour to shelter from the Second World War. The boy's mother has died in the Blitz. The girl is the daughter of a Sydney woman and a Communist executed in a Greek prison. In wartime Australia, these two children form an extraordinary bond as they negotiate the dangers of life as strangers abandoned on the far side of the world. With the tenderness and rigour of an old, wise novelist, Patrick White explores the world of these children, the city of his childhood and the experience of war. *The Hanging Garden* ends as the news reaches Sydney of victory in Europe, and the children face their inevitable separation. White put the novel aside at this point and how he planned to finish the work remains a mystery. But at his death in 1990 he left behind a masterpiece in the making, which is published here for the first time.

This offer is available only to members of Friends of the National Library of Australia. To order a copy, please phone 1800 800 100 or email [nlshop@nla.gov.au](mailto:nlshop@nla.gov.au), and quote your membership number. Mail orders within Australia incur a \$5 postage and handling fee.

**OFFER ENDS 31 AUGUST 2012. OFFER NOT EXTENDED TO ONLINE ORDERS AND NO FURTHER DISCOUNTS APPLY.**

### ONLINE BOOKSHOP OFFER

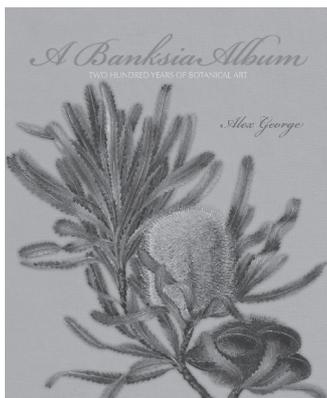
In conjunction with the Library's Sales and Promotion section, the Friends are pleased to announce a special offer for members who make a purchase using the National Library's online bookshop.

To celebrate the release of NLA Publishing's latest title, *A Banksia Album*, members will receive a free Ellis Rowan Banksia Journal with all online purchases. This is an excellent offer for members as this journal retails for \$19.95.

This offer is in addition to the usual Friends discount of 15% and any other offers advertised on the Library Shop website.

To claim your free Banksia Journal and a 15% discount with all online purchases use the promotional code FR15JUN12 at checkout. This code is valid from 1 June to 31 August 2012.





## NEW LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS

### **A Banksia Album by Alex George**

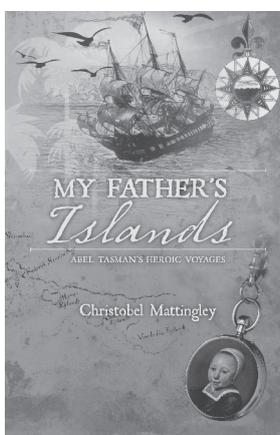
With their bold flowering and fruiting spikes, banksias remain a favourite among artists and gardeners alike. *A Banksia Album* features over 90 stunning full-colour reproductions of watercolours, pencil and sepia-wash drawings, colour prints and early hand-coloured engravings and lithographs of banksias from the National Library of Australia's collections.

*A Banksia Album* covers over two centuries of botanical illustration, from 1770 when the *Endeavour's* artist, Sydney Parkinson, was the first European to make drawings of banksias at Botany Bay, to 2007 with two prints of *Banksia rosserae* by Celia Rosser.

ISBN 978-0-642-27739-8

2012, pb, 290 x 236 mm, 132pp

RRP \$34.95



### **My Father's Islands by Christobel Mattingley**

It is the 1640s and Claesgen lives in Batavia with her stepmother, Jannetje, waiting weeks, and sometimes months, for her father, Abel Tasman, to come back from his sea voyages. When he returns, Tasman delights his young daughter with tales of treacherous oceans and relentless wild weather, hazards of unseen coral reefs and endless days of empty ocean, encounters—both friendly and hostile—with indigenous peoples, murder and theft, and the threat of smugglers and pirates.

Inspired by a 1637 painting of the Tasman family by Jacob Cuyt and meticulously researched, *My Father's Islands* is a fictional story told through the voice of Claesgen. Tasman's young daughter's curiosity about her father's life takes the reader on his voyage on the unchartered seas of the Pacific Ocean, in the search for unknown lands and new sources of riches for the powerful trading company, the Dutch East India Company.

Either a gift for young readers or an invaluable resource for the classroom, *My Father's Islands* opens up to children a significant, but little known, part of Australia's history—the European discovery of parts of the Unknown South Land by the heroic explorer and navigator, Abel Janszoon Tasman. Teachers' notes are available at [www.nla.gov.au/education/my-fathers-islands/](http://www.nla.gov.au/education/my-fathers-islands/).

Christobel Mattingley, one of Australia's most respected and admired writers, has written over 50 books. In 1990, she received an Advance Australia Medal for her contribution to literature in Australia and in 2011 she was nominated for the 2012 Hans Christian Andersen Awards by the International Board on Books for Young People.

ISBN 978-0-642-27736-7

2012, pb, 197 x 130 mm, 190 pp

RRP \$16.95

## WINNERS OF THE MARCH DVD GIVEAWAY

Congratulations to G. Abbott, B. Morton, F. Rothchilds and L. Young, who were the winners of our March Newsletter's DVD competition. Each lucky winner has received a copy of the movie *The Whistleblower*, as well as the seventh series of the BBC television series *The Hustle*, courtesy of Hopscotch Films.