Message from the Chairperson

Dear Friends


This promises to be an interesting and varied year, with a range of events and activities. These include a great new collection in focus exhibition *The Dunera Boys: Seventy Years On*, a Friends excursion to explore the history of a nearby region, Galong near Yass, in May, as well as news about new online developments at the Library, such as the new search engine, TROVE.

The Friends AGM and Christmas Party, held on 7 December 2009, was, as always, an extremely pleasant event. Highlights of the evening were the awarding of the 2009 Friends Medal to Victor Crittenden, and the announcement of the award of the 2010 Friends Travelling Scholarship to Emma Jolley, Senior Archivist in the Library’s Manuscripts Branch.

I’d like to record my thanks to those members of the Friends Committee who completed their terms of office at the end of last year. To Gary Kent, Yvonne Cramer, Dr Bill Geering, Bryan Handley, Alan Ives and the Rev Robert Willson, I express our collective appreciation for your hard work on behalf of the Friends. And I would like to give a special mention to Yvonne Cramer, who has served the Friends with distinction since its inception, and has now moved to live in Sydney’s warmer climes.

The 2010 Committee elected at the AGM comprises Lynne Adams, Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt, Barbara Coe, Greg Cornwell AM, Margo Geering, Elizabeth Kennedy, Joan Kennedy, Margaret Pender and Patrick Robertson. Robyn Oates was co-opted to the Committee in January 2010.

The following positions were subsequently filled at meetings of the Friends Committee:

Chair — Elizabeth Kennedy
Deputy Chair — Joan Kennedy
Treasurer — Lynne Adams
Newsletter Editor — Margaret Pender

The Director-General of the National Library, Jan Fullerton, and her senior staff are also members of the Friends Committee. They provide the Friends with enormous encouragement and wisdom and we look forward to their continuing support this year.

Best wishes
Elizabeth Kennedy
2010 Friends Travelling Fellowship

Another significant announcement at the Christmas Party was the award of the Friends Travelling Fellowship for 2010 to Emma Jolley. This $10,000 award is designed to provide a National Library staff member with an opportunity for significant professional development.

Emma, a Senior Archivist in the Manuscripts Branch, plans to use the fellowship to travel to London and Oxford. She will visit the futureArch team at the Bodleian Library to deepen her understanding of the management of digital archives and the new curatorial model developed to deal with hybrid collections, with associated visits to the British Library and the National Archives (UK).

2009 Friends Medal

As mentioned above, it was with a great deal of pleasure that the Friends Committee presented Victor Crittenden with the Friends 2009 Medal at the Christmas party. The medal is awarded each year to a Friend, Library volunteer or Library staff member in recognition of a significant contribution to the work of the National Library of Australia.

Victor has published, edited and compiled bibliographies, indexes, guides to reference sources, and facsimile editions in the fields of Australian history and Australian literature, particularly from the colonial period. He first started using the Library’s resources over fifty years ago which was the beginning of a long and fruitful association. The inaugural Librarian of the University of Canberra, Victor has been a Petherick Reader since the 1970s.

Victor Crittenden has received this award for his very significant contribution to the Friends of the National Library of Australia, his tireless work over many years to promote the interests of the Library and, in particular, his generosity and commitment to the success of the Treasures Gallery. He has been a loyal and generous friend to the National Library of Australia.

The text of Victor’s speech appears below.

Victor Crittenden’s speech — Fifty Years with the National Library

I am honoured to be awarded this medal by the Friends of the National Library of Australia. It is such a pleasure to be so singled out by my favourite Library.

I have been a librarian for a large part of my life from the time I did my Library degree at the University of Toronto in Canada. My life has been inextricably connected with the National Library of Australia since I returned to the land of my birth.

I like to think I have been a friend of the National Library for fifty years. Of course the Friends organisation has not been in existence for that time. So I had better correct my comment to say I have been a friendly user of the National Library for fifty years.

I first used the resources of the NLA fifty years ago. In 1961 I came to Canberra for a meeting as Acting Chief Librarian of the University of New England. After the meeting I went in search of the National Library.
I wanted to find what books it held in its collection on Australian literature. The University of New England was a new university and Frank Rogers, the Librarian, was attempting to develop and expand the book collection. Literature was one of my responsibilities. In spite of the limitations of the NLA building, I was able to find much useful material in my search. The members of the library staff were most helpful and I was treated so well that I became an immediate fan of the library.

Later in the 1960s I again came to Canberra, this time to use the resources of the NLA and also of the ANU. I was doing an MSc (Economics) degree from the London University (by examination) and my main subject was Australia's involvement in the Pacific after the Second World War. I stayed in University House at ANU. It was such a pleasant visit and I saw the new National Library nearing completion. I decided to apply for a position as Librarian at the newly formed College of Advanced Education.

My next trip was an interview visit and on the panel of selectors for the job as Librarian was the National Librarian, Sir Harold White. I always claimed that it was Sir Harold who got me the job.

So that is how I came to live in Canberra. My use of and connection with the NLA was now much more intensive. To create a library from scratch with nothing but a desk and a telephone book (which was the first book in my library), I had to use the other libraries heavily in creating the library for the CCAE. I can say that I was received kindly and helpfully both from the ANU and the NLA. Building the collection, employing staff and organising procedures was great fun. I enjoyed it all immensely.

I arrived at an opportune time. Sir Harold invited me to the opening of the new National Library building in its marble palace beside the lake. I was also invited to the special dinner for the celebrations. I really felt I belonged to the National Library.

The next excitement for me was to be given a desk in the Petherick Room. This was in the 1970s in this wonderful building. It was upstairs with the famous Petherick Collection of books in timber book-cases around the walls. I felt I was being accepted as a scholar. I remember I had a research assistant to the great Manning Clark in the desk beside me.

I was working on my Bibliography and History of Australian Gardening Books. Although I was making a collection of such books for myself, I was able to use the extensive National Library collections.

When that bibliography was completed and published, I turned to another interest, the First Fleet and the establishment of the first settlement at Sydney. I spent three months solid in the Petherick Room going through the microfilms of the Australian Joint Copying Project and other material in the library. Next, I went to Sydney to the Mitchell Library. Then I went to England, mainly in the Public Record Office in London. I made a brief visit to the United States where some of the Marines officers of the First Fleet fought in the American War of Independence. Finally, I came back to my desk in the Petherick Room to try and put my papers into order. My book The Bibliography of the First Fleet was published by the ANU Press in 1982.
Various other projects followed, often indexing Australian periodicals. I became involved in the Sources Volume in the Bicentennial History with Dietrich Borchardt. I joined the Working Party on Bibliography and worked with the National Library’s Marion Newman.

I joined the Friends organisation when it was first established. It gives an additional feeling of belonging to the Library. Of course, I have my complaints, mainly about the computer catalogue, but then I came late to be computer semi-literate.

By now I had friends on the staff such as Judy Baskin, Avril Edwards, Margaret Dent and many others. I still work at my desk in the Petherick Room on my latest great adventure, The John Lang Project on the first Australian born novelist and his 20+ novels, slowly being republished by 2016, the bi-centenary of his birth. Once more, I am indebted to the National Library because they purchased the newspaper The Mofussilite, the Indian newspaper John Lang owned and edited from 1845 until his death in India in 1864. It contains much of his writing.

I could go on with my happy experiences with the Library and I am touched at this award that will now be one of my personal treasures. I do not have to tell you about the new Treasures Gallery of the Library which is about to take shape.

So my romance with the National Library of Australia continues and I enjoy being a member of the Friends. I am grateful for the friendship and the cooperation from the Library and all its many staff members. It is without doubt Australia’s greatest and most important national institution.

A new exhibition — The Dunera Boys: Seventy Years On

The Library’s new Collection-in-Focus exhibition opened on 12 February. It’s now 70 years since HMT Dunera, overloaded with wartime detainees, arrived in Australia. It carried 2,500 German, Austrian and Italian enemy aliens. Many were of Jewish heritage and had escaped to Britain from the horrors of Nazi Germany, only to be confined to the Dunera for an appalling eight-week voyage. Following their arrival in Australia, they were interned in camps in rural New South Wales and Victoria.

The story of the so-called ‘Dunera Boys,’ who ranged in age from teenagers to men in their sixties, has entered into Australian immigration history. Many stayed on in Australia after they were freed in 1942, and went on to make significant contributions to Australia’s intellectual and economic life. Others returned to their homelands at the end of the war.

This National Library Collection-in-Focus exhibition draws on the Library’s growing collection of Dunera material — prints, drawings, manuscripts, camp newspapers, books and music. Visitors can also hear excerpts from unique oral histories recorded by some of the 850 internees who chose to remain in Australia.

The exhibition focuses on how the men came to be interned, and illustrates the rich cultural life of the camps, efforts made to help them, and how some Dunera Boys remember their internment.
Highlights of the exhibition include the ‘Lindau Box’, a box containing thousands of notes written on toilet paper. During his internment, Hans Lindau took notes from books in his camp’s library, including a work of botany published in 1884. One of Lindau’s friends later housed the notes in their current box. Other highlights are the woodcut prints made by internees, including Bauhaus-trained Ludwig Hirschfield-Mack, material kept by an oral surgeon, and candid diaries and letters.

National Library Bookshop
Special Offer
*The Pages* by Murray Bail

Sale price $19 RRP $23.95

Reclusive philosopher, Wesley Antill, spent much of his life toiling away in the shed on his family’s sheep station in western New South Wales. Now he has died and Erica, a philosopher, is sent from Sydney to appraise Antill’s life’s work. The pages lie untouched in the shed, just as he left them, a mystery as to what they will reveal and where this journey of discovery will take Erica and her travelling companion, Sophie.

*The Pages* is a beguiling meditation on friendship and love, on men and women, on landscape and the difficulties of thought itself.

This offer is available 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 and quote your membership number. Mail orders incur a $5 postage and handling fee. Offer ends 31 May 2010. Offer is not available for web orders and no further discounts apply.

Online Bookshop

In conjunction with the Bookshop, the Friends are pleased to announce a special offer for Friends who purchase books or other merchandise from the online bookshop. For any purchase made by Friends during the currency of this newsletter (that is, until the end of May 2010), they will receive a free First Fleet Artist Card Pack, beautifully illustrated with paintings by George Raper. This is an excellent offer for Friends as the card pack usually retails for $24.95.

This offer is in addition to the usual Friends’ discount and any other offers advertised on the Library Shop web site.
New Library Publications

*For the Love of Nature: E.E. Gostelow’s Birds and Flowers*
by Christobel Mattingley

Ebenezer Edward Gostelow (1866–1944) spent much of his 50-year-long teaching career in country schools across New South Wales. A keen naturalist, he would brighten his blackboards with captivating chalk drawings of birds and flowers. Although not a trained artist, he began to paint as many wildflowers as he could find in the different places where he was teaching. Many of his watercolours depict, in minute detail, buds, flowers, leaves and seeds, arranged in exquisite compositions. After retirement, Gostelow gave himself the new challenge of depicting all the recorded species of Australian birds. *For the Love of Nature*, a short biography of Gostelow by award-winning author Christobel Mattingley, is followed by beautiful full-colour plates of his bird and flower watercolours, drawn from the National Library of Australia’s collection of some 860 of Gostelow’s works.

**ISBN 978-0-642-27696-4**  
2010, hb, 198 x 154 mm, 180pp, colour illus.  
RRP $29.95

*Little Book of Horses* by National Library of Australia

Horses have an integral connection with the Australian character. From the earliest pioneering days to the spectacle of the Melbourne Cup, whether helping to muster cattle or part of the parade, these sometimes gentle, sometimes wild and always complex creatures are part of our national psyche. *Little Book of Horses* is a showcase of poetry and imagery from the National Library of Australia and the latest addition to the ‘Little Books’ series. Enjoy this celebration of horses through the works of some of Australia’s much-loved poets and artists, including Henry Lawson, Andrew ‘Banjo’ Paterson, Michael Leunig, Harold Cazneaux and Conrad Martens.

**ISBN 978-0-642-27695-7**  
2010, pb, 176 x 125 mm, 48pp, colour and b&w illus.  
RRP $15.95

*I’ve got a feeling!* by Stephanie Owen Reeder

For children 2+

*Lift the flaps,  
keep your eyes peeled.  
Can YOU guess how I feel?*

When we feel an emotion, it is written all over our faces, but some expressions are easier to read than others. *I’ve Got a Feeling!* helps children to recognise how others are feeling and to explore their own emotions.

**ISBN 978-0-642-27697-1**  
2010, pb, 210 x 190 mm, 32pp, colour illus.  
RRP $17.95
New Friends Benefit

Exclusive Offer to Friends of the National Library of Australia

Abels Music, Manuka, is offering all Friends of the National Library of Australia an exclusive ongoing 10% discount on all merchandise. Just show your card when making a purchase to receive this special discount.

Abels Music
6 Franklin Street, Manuka, ACT
Phone: 02 6295 1466
www.abels.com.au
Abels Music Best Specialist Music Store — 2009 Aria Awards

Coming Events

A copy of the National Library’s What’s On guide, March to May 2010, detailing all events at the National Library, has been included with this Newsletter. The full program of events can also be viewed in the What’s On section of the National Library’s website at www.nla.gov.au/apps/events/

MARCH

Lunchtime Library Tour

Australian War Memorial Research Centre

Join the Friends on an exclusive behind the scenes tour of the Australian War Memorial Research Centre. This private tour will also allow Friends to view books and diaries. The tour will be conducted by the Head of the Research Centre, Margaret Lewis.

Friends are to make their own way to Australian War Memorial and meet at the Orientation Gallery to be escorted on the tour.

Bookings are required as numbers are limited. Tel (02) 6262 1698 or email friends@nla.gov.au

Tuesday 23 March, 12.30 pm
Gold coin donation to the Australian War Memorial

MAY

Autumn Book Club Lecture

Join the Friends for a special Book Club Lecture to discuss Jane Austen.

Tuesday 25 May, 6.00pm
Friends Lounge, $10 Friends, $15 non-members, refreshments provided

Bookings: Tel. (02) 6262 1698 or email friends@nla.gov.au
WEEKEND VISIT
St Clement’s Retreat, Galong

Galong was established as a pastoral property in the 1830s by Irish convict Ned Ryan. In 1917, the property and its homestead, Galong Castle, built in the 1850s, were bequeathed to the Redemptorist order, which established a seminary and school on the site. After these closed in 1975, the Redemptorists redeveloped the site into a modern and popular retreat and conference centre, used by both secular and religious organisations.

Highlights of the weekend will include talks on the history of the Galong property; tours of Galong Castle, the monastery buildings and cemetery; visits to the Galong Castle museum and the monastery library, where you can view rare books from the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries; and a formal dinner and entertainment in the Galong Castle dining room.

Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 May
Single room with shared facilities:
Friends $125/non-members $135 per person
Twin room with shared facilities:
Friends $135/non-members $145 per person
Note: ensuite rooms are already fully booked
Cost includes all meals (BYO alcohol for dinner)

Bookings: Tel. (02) 6262 1698 or email friends@nla.gov.au

JUNE
Joint Lecture: Australian Garden History Society/ Friends of the NLA

Come and listen to a talk by Trisha Dixon entitled ‘Literary Landscapes’ as she discusses the connection between landscape and people and whether the landscape shapes people or vice versa.

Wednesday 2 June 2010
Conference Room, 6.00pm
$10 for Friends and Australian Garden History Society members, and $15 for non-members, includes refreshments.
Bookings: Tel. (02) 6262 1698 or email friends@nla.gov.au

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

30 March — The Pages by Murray Bail (7.00pm–8.30pm, Friends Lounge)
27 April — Human Traces by Sebastian Faulks (7.00pm–8.30pm, Friends Lounge)
25 May — Autumn Book Club Lecture to discuss Jane Austen (6.00pm–8.00pm, Friends Lounge)

Bookings: Tel. (02) 6262 1698 or email friends@nla.gov.au
FREE FILM SCREENINGS

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

Screenings are held from 6.00pm in the Library's Theatre on the following Wednesday evenings (with the exception of 1 April):

3 March — The Third Man (UK 1949)
17 March — Ugetsu Monogatari (Tales of Ugestu) (Japan 1953)
Thursday 1 April — Baby Doll (USA 1956), guest speaker Ian Warden, Canberra-based writer.
14 April — Le Notti di Cabiria (Nights of Cabiria) (Italy 1957)
28 April — Lost Weekend (USA 1945), joint screening with the Canberra Society of Editors
12 May — Logan's Run (USA 1976)
26 May — Water (Canada-India 2005)
9 June — Marlene (West Germany 1984), documentary.

Films courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive. Further information on these films can be found online at http://www.nla.gov.au/events/