

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends

The three months since my last message have seen many successful Friends activities, some of which are described elsewhere in this newsletter.

In 2018, the Friends Committee awarded the Friends Medal to Shirley Gollings, in recognition of her 20 years of service as a National Library volunteer. Shirley's award should also be seen as recognition for the scores of other unsung Library volunteers who have given of their time since the establishment of the volunteer program in 1989. The Committee considered that it was important, in this year of the Library's fiftieth anniversary celebrations, that we acknowledge the volunteers' ongoing commitment and contribution to various Library programs.

This is my final message as Chair of the Friends, as I've reached the end of my three year term. I would like to thank the members of the Friends Committee with whom I have served over the last three years. We have all considered it a great privilege to support the continued development and success of the National Library.

I would also like to offer my congratulations to the newly elected members of the Committee, all of whom I know will serve the Friends well.

A big thank you to the Director-General of the Library, Marie-Louise Ayres, for her wise counsel and support. Also, to the very many Library staff who have helped the Friends in so many different ways during the year. Without them, the Friends would not enjoy the success that it does.

A very special thanks to Friends executive officers Sharyn O'Brien and Melanie Olde who supported the Committee so well in 2018, as well as the Friends Assistant Belinda Jessup.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to wish all of you a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2019.

Best wishes
Gary Kent
Chair

2018 FRIENDS MEDAL: SHIRLEY GOLLINGS



Shirley Gollings

We are delighted to announce that Shirley Gollings has been awarded the 2018 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.

Shirley joined the National Library volunteer program in 1998 and has since engaged in 20 years of ongoing contribution, which is much appreciated by all at the Library.

Shirley's vast experience includes delivering the Treasures Gallery, temporary exhibitions, Behind-the-Scenes and Discovery tours, helping Australians to discover their great national library and introducing visitors from overseas to one of Australia's great cultural institutions. During her time at the Library, Shirley has had many opportunities to expand her knowledge on a large range of subjects, including photography, birds and flora.

Highlights of her volunteer work have been the memorable *Birds* exhibition opening, as well as *Paradise Possessed*, the first exhibition she guided, and many more. Through her guiding, Shirley was introduced to the fascinating world of Rex Nan Kivell and his vast collection housed in the National Library. She has also had significant input into programs for children, considering her 40 years' experience in early childhood education.

In 1996, Shirley was recognised as a Member of the Order of Australia for her contribution to early childhood education, particularly through voluntary work with Early Childhood Australia at state, territory and national levels.

Lyn Adams

Valuing Our Volunteers

National Library of Australia Volunteers

The Volunteer Program has been in existence since 1989, and the first official Volunteer Guide Program commenced in 1998.

As part of the 50th birthday celebrations, the Friends of the National Library would like to express our appreciation for the ongoing commitment and contribution the Volunteers make to various programs throughout the Library.

In the last year, the volunteers have contributed over 8,000 hours to programs throughout the National Library of Australia. In the 29 years the program has been running, volunteers have contributed over an estimated 130,000 hours of their time.

Volunteers have assisted in every area of the National Library of Australia—guiding, greeting visitors, and working behind the scenes in Digital Preservation, Overseas Collections, Preservation, Ephemera, Asian Collections, Pictures and Manuscripts, Newspapers, Trove, Publications, Exhibitions, Media and Corporate Services.

Three volunteers—Shirley Gollings, Jenny Hadlow and Judith Robertson—joined the inaugural Volunteer Guide Program and are still contributing.

Trove Text Correctors

The National Library of Australia had text correctors before the launch of Trove—text correction was an option in the Australian Newspapers Beta service, which was launched in mid-2008 as a precursor to Trove. We would like to acknowledge the enormous value of the work undertaken by text correcting volunteers to Trove and the National Library of Australia.

Trove's text correctors have corrected over 276 million lines of text in Trove's historical newspaper zone, with 27 million of those lines corrected by the top ten correctors in Trove's Hall of Fame.

As of May 2018, it was estimated that text correcting volunteers overall have contributed 695 years worth of work to the National Library of Australia, or 46.9 million dollars. In just one month (April 2017), the work of the text correctors was equivalent to 97 full-time Library staff members.

Many text correctors say they started correcting newspaper articles after finding an article that was important to their research or personal topic of interest in Trove. They start by fixing those articles, and then found the process quite addictive.

Lyn Adams

Impressions of an Eccentric Collector

In September, Nat Williams, the Library's Treasures Curator, undertook a self-funded trip to the United Kingdom to follow up on his earlier visit in 2017, when he interviewed numerous associates of the collector and Library benefactor Sir Rex Nan Kivell (1898–1977). The timing of this trip, like the first a year earlier, was to further record people's impressions and stories of the collector before they pass away. All of the interviewees could lucidly share remarkable stories of Nan Kivell's sense of humour, kindness, generosity (except in paying his artists on time) and his collecting and demeanour, as well as some of the more nefarious aspects of his life. This will feed into Nat's substantial biography, which is currently in development.

Nat visited Nan Kivell's 'alleged' home in Wiltshire and stood in the attic where his 'Australasian' collection was safely kept for decades and avoided the London Blitz. He met Richard, a farmer who, since his birth in 1944, had known Nan Kivell and grown up with the collector regularly staying with his great aunt 'Nin'—the collection was, in fact, in 'her' attic. Nan Kivell's grave in West Lavington and the collection of antiquities he donated to the Devizes Archaeological Museum in 1930 were also visited and recorded.

Leaving Wiltshire, Nat visited Bath and George Bayntun, the famous bindery and rare book sellers. Nan Kivell had virtually all of his bookbinding undertaken by Bayntun for decades, spending many thousands of pounds and also becoming a great friend of the family. The 100-year-old firm is one of England's best-known binderies and their 11 book binders have served 337 years between them. The company can also claim to have the largest collection of hand tools and blocks in the world—over 15,000. Bayntun's is worthwhile visiting if passing through Bath. See georgebayntun.com.



Outside George Bayntun Fine Bindings and Rare Books store

Nat travelled on to Bideford in Devon, where Dorothy English Paty was born and where her two boys returned with their father John after her tragic death from childbirth complications in Newcastle in 1836. Nan Kivell acquired two delightful watercolour sketchbooks of plants and flowers depicted by Dorothy as she lived through the vicissitudes of life in early colonial Newcastle (see nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn3044914).

Heading on to Cornwall, Nat visited the home of the Nankivells (or Nankevills, an alternate spelling), in St Columb Major, a lovely small town ten kilometres inland from Newquay. The name of Nankivell featured in the beautiful fifteenth-century church and a relative, Samuel, was warden of the church in the very early nineteenth century. Having first appeared in the area in the 1300s, no Nankivells live in the district today.

At the end of his tour, Nat presented a keynote lecture on the collector at the Exploration and Memory Conference staged by the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, to celebrate the opening of their new exploration galleries. The lecture, Sir Rex Nan Kivell: 'Collecting the Explorers' to Not Recall One's Past, dealt with Nan Kivell's complex processes of reinvention, which helped to secure his public reputation as a man with roots, heritage and a productive colonial past. At the end of

his life, Nan Kivell's knighthood was something that he felt must be able, finally, to overwrite in the public eye his illegitimacy and perhaps his homosexuality. His long voyage from late nineteenth-century Christchurch to fame and fortune and a prodigious collection in London is one of the great rags to riches stories, heavily invested with his passion for exploration and for reshaping facts, recreating memory and appearances. That Nan Kivell's collection has been avidly mined for exhibition and publication for over 60 years here, and around Australia, is a testament to its great and continuing value as a national treasure trove.

Nat Williams
Treasures Curator

2018 National Library Fellowship: Uncovering the Seeds of Protest

My 2018 National Library of Australia fellowship gave me access to the Library's collections that afforded a layered and holistic view of the Indigenous Australian rights movement and its relationship with various forms of media.

International awareness of Australia's First Nations people and the nexus for many Indigenous rights campaigns began with rights organisations from the 1920s through to the 1960s. While the contemporary Indigenous Australian rights movement is part of a transnational movement, the heart of its international awareness and connectedness began in 1923 in New South Wales with the formation of the first formal rights organisation, the Australian Aboriginal Progressive Association (AAPA).

Working on the Woolloomooloo Wharfs, AAPA founding members Charles Frederick (Fred) Maynard and Thomas Lacey encountered seamen from the USA, the West Indies, India and other parts of the world who educated them about the global civil rights movement and inspired them to form their own organisation. In 1903, these international seamen formed the Coloured Progressive Association (CPA) that fought to improve poor working conditions and lobbied against the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901* and gave Maynard and Lacey the first-hand experience and training they needed to establish their own protest organisation.

News content accessed through Trove and the Library's microfilm collection offered a skeletal view of Indigenous organisations' actions and mainstream responses to their protest activity.

Analysis of this news coverage shows the earliest Indigenous rights organisations sowed the seeds for many long-term campaigns, including the 1967 referendum, land rights and stolen wages campaigns. While it took until 1967 for a referendum to successfully bring constitutional change, the Aborigines Progressive Association had pushed for federal government control of Indigenous affairs from 1938. Similarly, the AAPA called for the abolition of the protection system and for Indigenous control of missions and reserves. The organisations that followed built on the AAPA's first steps towards Mabo and native title, and in 1968 the Federal Council for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (FCAATSI) made land rights its primary focus for future campaigns.

The Library's manuscript collections added depth and detail to my understanding through access to minutes, conference proceedings, reports and personal letters and provided flesh to the view offered through news content analysis.

Finally, while news content offered a skeletal view, and manuscript collections provided depth and background information, the Library's oral history collection added the emotion and human face to Indigenous rights campaigns.

Recordings of Dexter Daniels, Vincent Lingiari, Lupna Giari, trade unionist Brian Manning, author Frank Hardy and welfare worker Bill Jeffries explaining why they participated in the Wave Hill Walk-Off, what happened, and why it mattered to them, remind us of the real people behind these historical events. Real people who were striving for equality, justice and better lives for Indigenous people. The fight to achieve these goals began with early Indigenous rights organisations, has been long, hard-fought, and is ongoing.

Dr Elizabeth Burrows

National Library Website Refresh

From early December you will notice some changes to the way the Library's website looks. All the information remains the same, however you will have easier access to our catalogue, Trove, What's On program and other popular features, such as the Library's *Unbound* magazine, our podcasts and our videos. This update is the first stage in a three-year project aimed at improving our online presence to ensure we surpass your needs and expectations.

Bookshop Review: *Steam Australia*

The train was a sight to behold, with smoke and steam billowing as it clickety-clacked along this key regional standard-gauge link of the New South Wales Government Railways.

Steam Australia: Locomotives that Galvanised the Nation takes readers into the fascinating story of the great steam age in Australia. Tim Fischer's latest book is a highly illustrated account covering over ten decades of transformation in Australia's history. Fischer explores the locations traversed and the lives of the people who worked on these magnificent machines in splendid detail. With specific reference to the Library's Buckland Collection, Fischer draws on photographs, promotional posters, advertisements, timetables, maps, menus and diagrams to bring to life the triumphs and challenges of steam.

From the first sound of the whistle in Australia in 1854, coal-fired steam locomotives ignited a century of rail and economic expansion. *Steam Australia* looks at the steam trains and branch lines that made it into popular culture over the decades, including *Puffing Billy*, *Robert Gordon Menzies* and *The Ghan*. It also explores rail as the main way of transporting service personnel and equipment around the country. And it delves into the trains and railways of railway lore—the giant German railway gun captured by the AIF in 1918 and the great Zig Zag Railway.

Special features throughout the book provide fascinating facts and insights into this important history, interspersed with

the often-humorous observations made by passengers and others. The infamous 'break of gauge' saw passengers, often in the small hours of the night, having to cross the long Albury platform to change trains. No other key stations, says Fisher, not even 'between France and Spain or Poland and Russia', can match the list of famous names who crossed Albury's platform. The list of VIP who partook in this dubious honour includes Queen Victoria, Arthur Conan Doyle, Dame Nellie Melba, The Duke of York (later King George VI), Walter Burley Griffin, Mary MacKillop, Edmund Barton, Agatha Christie and H.G. Wells.



Locomotive 6029 hauling Australian Railway Historical Society Train on the Wagga Viaduct, 1980

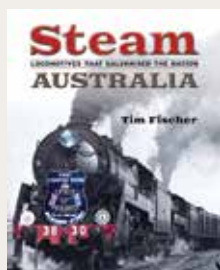
NATIONAL LIBRARY BOOKSHOP SPECIAL OFFER FOR FRIENDS

The Friends are pleased to announce a special offer for members on the new NLA Publishing title *Steam Australia: Locomotives that Galvanised the Nation* by Tim Fischer.

Friends will receive a 20% discount off *Steam Australia* when purchased between 1 December 2018 and 28 February 2019, online and in-store.

To claim your 20% discount for *Steam Australia* on the online shop, use the promotional code **18SUMEND19** at the checkout. You can use this code to also apply the usual Friends 15% discount* to other eligible online purchases.

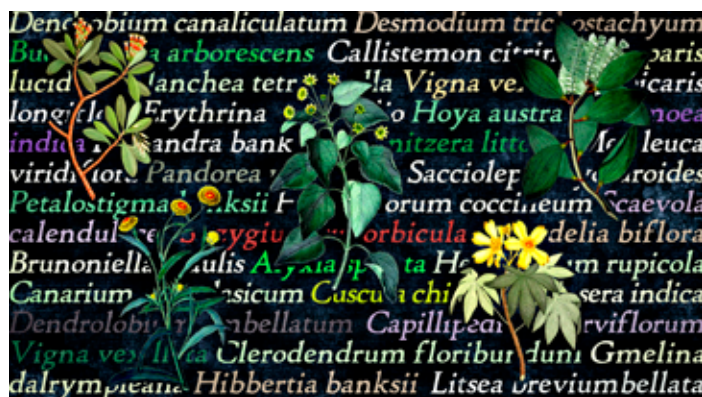
*Discount does not apply to already reduced stock or sale items.



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 and the discount code **FRSUM1819** entered when booking. This code is valid from 1 December 2018 to 28 February 2019 and does not apply to Friends events (select the member's ticket option) or events that are free of charge.

FRIENDS EVENTS



Beauty Rich and Rare, commissioned by the National Library of Australia, created and produced by AGB Events

Uncovering the Beauty

Discover the inspiration behind the animated installation *Beauty Rich and Rare*. Learn more about the botanical history displayed in the artwork, from indigenous plant uses to historical documents, which enabled the creators to produce this beautiful, immersive experience.

Thursday 6 December | 3.30pm

Conference Room

\$15 Friends and FANBG members | \$20 non-members

Bookings: nla.gov.au/events or 02 6262 1698

Cultural Connections: Papua New Guinea

Discover the connections between Papua New Guinea, the Library and Australia at this diverse event. Through the lens of various speakers, learn about the growth of Papua New Guinean literature, the National Library's collections and initiatives, and the cultural richness of Papua New Guinea.

Tuesday 26 February | 6pm

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

Bookings: nla.gov.au/events or 02 6262

OTHER EVENTS

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 6.15–7.45pm.

Please send an email to kathryncole@grapevine.net.au if you have any questions about joining the club.

January—*Ghost Empire* by Richard Fidler

February—*Rusted Off* by Gabrielle Chan

Feedback

To provide feedback on the Friends newsletter, email at friends@nla.gov.au

THE BEGINNING OF THE FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

PART 3

By 1995, after only five short years of existence, the Friends of the National Library had cemented itself as a vibrant and effective supporter of the Library. In those days the Library itself had not developed the large-scale program of events we enjoy today, and the Friends filled an untapped market by providing a range of interesting and quality events in support of and associated with the Library.

This short canter through the Friends' achievements over nearly 30 years must necessarily be selective, but what follows are a number of highlights that would be remembered fondly by the many Friends who participated.

A particularly enjoyable aspect of the Friends program over the years has been the many literary tours. Since the first of these, to Braidwood in 1992, these visits have included the Brindabellas, Norfolk Island, Galong, Southern Highlands, Blue Mountains, Goulburn, Yass, Crookwell and Cooma.

The annual celebration of a distinguished contributor to Australia's book culture remained an important fixture in the Friends calendar until 2012. In addition to those mentioned in part two of this history, honorees have included Katharine Brisbane, Michael Leunig, Tim Winton, Rosemary Dobson, David Malouf, Frank Moorhouse, Inga Clendinnen, Thomas Keneally, Ita Buttrose, Tony and Maureen Wheeler, Margaret Fulton, Peter Cundall and Maggie Beer.

Other Friends initiatives over the years have included the Friends Book Club (with occasional lectures), musical events (such as Nellie Melba, Queen of Song), joint annual lectures with the Australian Garden History Society and the Canberra Series of Lectures (including Ralph Elliott's *Searching for the Green Chapel* and Richard Reid's *The Irish in Australia*). Of course, the flagship event for many years was the annual Kenneth Myer Lecture, followed by the Sir Harold White Lecture.

Special reference must be made to the much-loved White Gloves events. Library staff have given their time and energy to prepare these utterly captivating annual displays showcasing Library treasures, commencing with *Garden History Treasures* in 2003. Subsequent collection topics have included *Revealing Ephemera*, *From Mao to Manga*, the *Prompt Collection* on Australian Performing Arts and *Révolution Française*.



Guests enjoying the 2003 White Gloves event

Early moves for the establishment of the Friends focused on the potential role of such an organisation in assisting the Library financially with purchases of acquisitions. In practice, this did not prove feasible but the Friends donated substantially to the Treasures Gallery and the Oral History wall. As its contribution to the Centenary of Canberra in 2013, the Friends donated \$15,000 for the cost of digitising a year of *The Canberra Times*.

In 2006, the Friends initiated a travelling fellowship for Library staff and in 2014 the Friends sponsored the first of a series of creative arts fellowships, providing residencies for established or emerging artists to work in depth with the Library's collections.

The Friends celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary in 2015, with a number of special events. The highlight was a cocktail event entitled *Inspiration and Information: Why Libraries Matter*, where some of Australia's best writers spoke of the importance of libraries in their lives. The Friends Committee also allocated \$25,000 for the purchase of three Indigenous artworks for the Library.

In 2018, the Friends played a key role in the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Library's lakeside building, including opening the lounge to visitors for the Open Day on 12 August and presenting a yet-to-be-decided gift to the Library valued at \$10,000.

The Friends support for the Library has always been reciprocated in what has been a very close and supportive partnership. The Library has for many years fully funded the Friends Executive Officer position and provided to the Friends the magnificent Friends Lounge.

The Friends have been blessed over the years with committed and professional executive officers who have provided tremendous support to the organisation. Since the departure of Michelle Hetherington in 1995, occupants of this position have included Melissa Nagel, Kylie McKinlay, Elizabeth Watt, Judy Heap, Lee Kirwan, James Halligan, Sharyn O'Brien, Sarah Jaensch, Kelli Turner and Melanie Olde.

Much has been achieved in the first 29 years of the Friends, and the organisation prepares to enter 2019 in excellent shape. Membership hovers around 2,000, our financial position is strong, and the organisation continues to benefit from hard-working and talented Committee members.

It is fitting to conclude by quoting from then chair Robyn Oates' message to Friends on the twenty-fifth anniversary:

'We are an eclectic bunch but we have one thing in common: we are Library users and Library advocates. The Friends of the National Library of Australia was envisaged as an organisation that would advocate for this Library. When we visit regularly, the things that we see and hear and read become part of our personal pattern. We are accepted among our friends and family as 'Library people' and, when we speak about our Library hours, we become advocates for this institution, which is the largest repository in the world for material to do with Australia and Australians. So, here's to the next 25 years!'

Gary Kent

50
opening our doors
creating the future

RECENT FRIENDS EVENT

Friends Exclusive Viewing of *Cook and the Pacific*

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the *Endeavour* setting sail from Plymouth, England, in August 1768 with the mission to observe the transit of Venus at Tahiti, which would help navigators with longitudinal calculations. London's Royal Society also instructed Cook to investigate the 'great south land' that was known to explorers such as Tasman.

On Tuesday 25 September, Friends Chair Gary Kent welcomed 136 Friends and guests to an exclusive evening of hearing curator insights and viewing the remarkable *Cook and the Pacific* exhibition and *Beauty Rich and Rare* experience.

After the Acknowledgement of Country, given by the Library's Indigenous Curator Rebecca Bateman, Gary introduced exhibition curators Dr Susannah Helman and Dr Martin Woods.

Susannah is a curator at the National Library and has spent the past two years devoted to the exhibition. From flights across the continent meeting First Nations consultants to choosing objects to borrow from international institutions, Susannah had many tales to tell about the exhibition.

Martin is the curator of the Maps Collection at the National Library. In many ways, Martin is the commander and navigator of the hundreds of thousands of maps in the collection and certainly of those in the exhibition.

Susannah and Martin described the history of many artefacts and gave insight into the development and cultural consultation involved in producing the exhibition.



Friends enjoying the *Cook and the Pacific* exhibition

Mr Giles Westley, from AGB Events, then discussed the artistic vision and production of the animated installation *Beauty Rich and Rare*, which is based on the work of Sir Joseph Banks. *Beauty Rich and Rare* takes the viewer into the art itself. It is an immersive experience in the context and collection of Joseph Banks, and the talented botanists, artists and researchers he worked with.

After the talks, Friends viewed the exhibitions and enjoyed refreshments and meeting other Friends in the Library foyer.

The exhibition is open until 10 February 2019. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to revisit this time in history and Cook's legacy.

Anne Davis