

# Friends

NEWS | WINTER 2023



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends

A sincere thank you to the 258 Friends members who responded to the recent survey inviting comments on the Friends activities. Your feedback is appreciated and be assured that we will act upon the suggestions to the best of our ability.

Key findings from the survey will be added to the Friends pages on the National Library of Australia website shortly. A notable response was that 234 respondents stated the reason for being a Friend was to support the work of the Library. The Friends is an independent Incorporated body but our main aim is to promote and support the Library and the contribution it makes to our society.

The most welcome news for the Library were the announcements outlining funds provided to the Library and other cultural institutions in the May budget. The Government will provide a \$535.3m package for nine National Cultural Institutions. The Library will receive \$146.1m over four years, including for the continuation of Trove; and \$31.2m per year ongoing, for high priority capital works, IT infrastructure and extension of storage facilities. Did you know that the Library's collection grows by two kilometres annually?

Thank you to all those members who signed petitions and wrote to their local Members and to Ministers in support of Trove and the Library.

The Committee is looking at measures to address rising prices and decreasing membership numbers to ensure that the Friends remain viable into the future. These include a drive to attract new members; a review of membership fees, which have not increased for eight years; and options for distributing the quarterly newsletter.

And do visit *Grit & Gold* and the refreshed Treasures Gallery for more insights into the Library's wonderful collections.

**Margaret Nichols** | Chair

## GRIT & GOLD: TALES OF A SPORTING NATION

Sport is a storytelling machine. And for Australians that machine is prolific. The Australian popular imagination is crowded with stories drawn from sporting contests. Whether it is Ash Barty winning the Australian Open in 2022, Cathy Freeman running for Gold at the Sydney Olympics in 2000 or the 'Bodyline series' of 1932–33, there are almost too many stories to tell. These stories, and many more, are explored in the National Library's exhibition *Grit & Gold: Tales of a Sporting Nation*.

The exhibition draws on a wide range of material from the Library's collections. There are photographs of famous sporting moments and personalities, posters and ephemera advertising sporting events, books, manuscript material and paintings. In addition to the Library's own collection material there are a small number of loans from the National Museum of Australia, National Sports Museum and National Rugby League. These include Ash Barty's Wimbledon dress, a Donald Bradman bat, and the first State of Origin Shield. While not all sports are represented in the exhibition, the curatorial team has done its best to select powerful and moving objects which have been chosen for their storytelling potential. ▶



Mike Brown & Australian Information Service, *Miss Evonne Goolagong (Australia) ... during the final singles against Miss Virginia Wade (Britain), 1970*, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-136843129

What is it about sport that makes it so good at generating stories? Sporting contests provide a space for compelling narratives to be created. The constraints and rules of each contest, and the passion of the participants, allow the audience to identify with the athlete and care about the outcome. The possibility of victory or defeat means that there is something at stake in each contest. And the physical danger inherent in many sports amplifies this sense of jeopardy. The emotions and pain expressed on players' faces provide a very raw and powerful experience for fans. As each sporting contest unfolds, there is the possibility for heroes to appear, to overcome obstacles and to return home victorious. Similarly, villains on the opposing side can thwart the hopes of a team and its fans. Following the contest is an immersive experience in which the rest of the world disappears. There is suspense and surprise, there is exaltation and despair. You are taken on a journey which has a definite end, even though you might not always like the result.

Some of these stories represented in the exhibition go beyond providing a memorable anecdote to capturing a moment which changed the way Australians see themselves. Cathy Freeman's victory in the 400-metre race at the Sydney Olympics is one such moment. Freeman was already famous for having carried both the Aboriginal and Australian flags after her victory in the 200-metre final of the 1994 Commonwealth Games. Carrying both flags reflected her pride in being Indigenous and in being Australian. For many Australians this celebration of her victory symbolised the possibility of reconciliation between First Australians and European Australians. At the Sydney 2000 Olympics Freeman was selected to light the Olympic Cauldron at the beginning of the games. The image of her standing with an Olympic torch surrounded by fire became a symbol of a new Australian identity

that recognised the centrality of Indigenous people to the Australian story. All that remained for this story to become part of the national imagination was for her to run a winning race. Commentator Bruce McAvaney exalted in Freeman's convincing victory, 'What a legend ... what a champion!' Co-commentator and Australian sprint legend Raelene Boyle said what many Australians felt: 'What a relief!'

As we enter the third decade of the twenty-first century, sport continues to generate new stories which bring Australians together. One of the most striking recent examples has been the professionalisation of women's elite sport. Professional women's national leagues have been established in soccer (2008), cricket (2015), netball (2016), Australian Rules football (2017) and rugby league (2018). These sports have also negotiated broadcast and sponsorship agreements that brought much needed cash into their codes. While the pay gap has not fully closed, elite women's sport has been transformed.

When looking at changes in sport over the last 200 years, you can see that it provides a window into Australian history. Whether it concerns the emergence of a distinct Australian national identity in the nineteenth century, the growth of professional sport in the twentieth century or the rise of elite women's competitions more recently, sport gives us an invaluable insight into major changes in our society and culture. The National Library is a place where these sporting stories can be found and retold for future generations. The books, magazines, paintings, drawings and photographs held by the Library provide a storehouse of memories for all Australians to cherish.

Dr Guy Hansen | Director, Exhibitions



Samuel Calvert, *First velocipede race on the Melbourne Cricket Ground, 1869*, [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-136137358](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-136137358)

SURREY COUNTY CRICKET CLUB, KENNINGTON OVAL.					
ENGLAND v. AUSTRALIA,					
On MONDAY, AUGUST 28th, 1882, and following days.					
AUSTRALIA.		First Innings.	Second Innings.		
A. C. BANNERMAN	c Grace, b Peate	9	c Studd, b Barnes	13	
H. H. MASSIE	b Ulyett	1	b Steel	55	
W. L. MURDOCH	b Peate	13	run out	29	
G. J. BONNOR	b Barlow	1	b Ulyett	2	
T. HORAN	b Barlow	3	c Grace, b Peate	2	
G. GIFFEN	b Peate	2	c Grace, b Peate	0	
J. MC. BLACKHAM	c Grace, b Barlow	17	c Lyttelton, b Peate	7	
T. W. GARRETT	c Read, b Peate	10	not out	2	
H. F. BOYLE	b Barlow	2	b Steel	0	
S. P. JONES	c Barnes, b Barlow	0	run out	6	
F. R. SPOFFORTH	not out	4	b Peate	0	
		B 1		B	6
		TOTAL		TOTAL	122

Surrey County Cricket Club. *England v. Australia ... [results which started The Ashes legend]*, 1882, [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1164066](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1164066)



## YOUR FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP HELPS THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

Through Friends membership, you are part of a community of passionate National Library supporters and advocates. Friends benefit from on-site and online events and presentations that promote scholarship and awareness of our cultural heritage. In turn, Friends support fellowship programs, digitisation projects and have gifted art to the Library.

When reminded, please renew at [nla.gov.au/friends/join-the-friends-online](http://nla.gov.au/friends/join-the-friends-online) and encourage others to join.





## THE UNEXPECTED: SIR ISAAC ISAACS' TROWELS

Manuscript collections held in the National Library often contain unexpected and unusual items. The papers of the Right Honourable Sir Isaac Isaacs GCB GCMB PC KC (1855–1948) are one such example. Among the anticipated items are insignia from his many awards, correspondence, notebooks, addresses, newspaper cuttings and photographs. However, there is also regalia from his time as a Privy councillor and Governor-General—including an ornate coatee, breeches and silk stockings uniform; a fur, ostrich trim and gold loop cocked hat (or bicorne); and court shoes with a spare pair of gold thistle patterned buckles.

Not expected are four functional items—engraved trowels presented to Sir Isaac when he laid the foundation stones of the Gippsland Base Hospital, Sale, on 10 September 1931; Wangaratta District Hospital on 25 November 1931; Eastern Suburbs Hospital, Centennial Park, Waverley, on 21 April 1934; and Commonwealth National Library, Kings Avenue, Canberra, on 23 November 1934. How were they acquired by the Library? The major tranches were deposited by Lady Isaacs in 1950, two years after Sir Isaac's death, and additional material by his grandson Thomas Cohen after the death of Sir Isaac's daughter Marjorie Cohen in 1968. They are held in MS 2755.

Barrister, Victorian and then Federal government minister, High Court judge and the first Australian-born Governor-General, Alfred Deakin wrote of Isaacs' 'extraordinary achievements' from school student in Yackandandah and Beechworth, Victoria, to his vice-regal appointment. He had a prodigious work ethic: maintaining a large, wide-ranging private law practice while Attorney-General and redrafting legislation overnight!

He was appointed to the High Court in 1906 and became Chief Justice in 1930. Often at odds with some fellow judges in his constitutional interpretations, he was an early recogniser of the social and economic implications of decision-making.

In December 1930, on the recommendation of Prime Minister James Scullin, Sir Isaac was appointed the first Australian-born Governor-General and held the position until 1936. His appointment was not without controversy. Opponents argued that a 'local man' would have political links and 'a distinguished British citizen would better secure the bonds of Empire'. Scullin prevailed and Sir Isaac's appointment was approved by King George V, albeit reluctantly.

Sir Isaac is generally regarded as having served during the Great Depression with energy and distinction; even voluntarily surrendering one-quarter of his salary and declining to take his retired judge's pension while he held office. His only excess, reportedly, was tea drinking!

**Kerry Blackburn** | Friends Committee member, Newsletter editor

*Four trowels presented to Sir Isaac Isaacs as Governor-General, 1931–1934, nla.obj-139319485*

## NLA TAX APPEAL 2023: HELP US PRESERVE LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

Since the beginning of 2023, we have been overwhelmed by the passion that so many in our community have shown for Trove. We are delighted that Australian Government funding has secured Trove's future. With your support, we will continue to make more and more of our collections available online through Trove.

Trove contains over 41 million pages of digitised material that is freely available to everyone. But that is still a small proportion—less than 10 per cent—of the National Library's physical collections.

The Library's purchase of Ian Francis McLaren's collection of local histories in 1965 was a landmark acquisition. McLaren collected thousands of pamphlets, booklets and brochures from every state and territory in Australia.

From Cairns to Canberra, Darwin to Deniliquin, Perth to Port Arthur, the McLaren collection spans the length and breadth of the nation. No matter what corner of the country you come from, you can find your story here. That's why we are seeking your support to bring this collection online.

We know from speaking to so many of you that Trove is a powerful resource for connecting people to their stories.

By helping us to raise \$200,000 to share the McLaren collection on Trove, you will be empowering countless others to find their stories, and yours.

Visit [www.nla.gov.au/support-us](http://www.nla.gov.au/support-us) for more information.



### LIBRARY TOURS

**Have you taken part in a tour of the Library recently? Do you want to know more about the Library's architecture and art, its history, collections and treasures on display in the galleries? Do you want to know how to access the fascinating range of information that is available?**

Join one of the tours with our trained volunteer guides. These take place at **11am each day** (except for Christmas Day and Good Friday). Tours are free but bookings are strongly recommended.

Go to [nla.gov.au/visit/tours](http://nla.gov.au/visit/tours) to book your place. Tours are subject to guide availability.

## OFF THE BACK OF A WAGON: THE FAWKNER BROADSIDE

A leading citizen of Melbourne printing and throwing broadsides off the back of a wagon during the procession to celebrate Victoria's separation from New South Wales in 1850!

Most Melburnians are familiar, if only vaguely, with the name John Pascoe Fawkner. He is today commemorated by local place names such as Fawkner Park, Fawkner Cemetery and Pascoe Vale. Along with John Batman, Fawkner is generally regarded as one the founders of the city.



Fawkner arrived in the Port Phillip District from Van Diemen's Land in 1835 and settled by the Yarra River at what is now Melbourne. The son of a convict, he had spent a few months as a boy in the short-lived Sorrento settlement on the Mornington Peninsula.

Fawkner was a difficult and argumentative fellow who nevertheless found much

success in business and politics in his newfound home. He started Melbourne's first newspaper in 1838.

Until 30 June 1851 the Port Phillip District (now the State of Victoria) was part of the colony of New South Wales. From the beginning the residents of the new settlement resented the fact that all major decisions about their lives were taken in Sydney by an absent governor and a Legislative Council dominated by Sydney interests. Agitation for 'separation' mounted as the 1840s progressed.

In those days, news from 'Home' took months to arrive by sea and it was not until 11 November 1850 that the citizens of Port Phillip learned that the Australian Colonies Bill, which provided for the creation of the self-governing colony of Victoria, had passed through the United Kingdom parliament on 1 August and was awaiting Royal Assent.

Fawkner played a prominent role in early Melbourne as a businessman and politician and was a vigorous and outspoken proponent of separation. It was fitting that he took centre stage in the grand procession through Melbourne streets on 15 November, arranged to commemorate the opening of the Prince's Bridge by the superintendent of Port Phillip, Charles La Trobe, but which naturally also celebrated the long-awaited news from London which had arrived a few days earlier.

Amongst the many dignitaries, community groups and vehicles which made up the procession was 'a huge wagon, drawn by eight large and gaily beribboned horses. The cart bore a vast banner in honour of Gutenberg and the Press of the Colony and carried one of the Melbourne *Herald's* printing presses on a platform, on which also stood John Fawkner, flanked by several newspapermen including William Clarke of the *Herald*. Fawkner 'was in his element'.

'As the cart moved slowly in the raucous procession, the printing press began to grind out leaflets', with the title, in capitals

William Strutt, *Portrait of John Pascoe Fawkner, founder of Melbourne*, 1856, [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-134284486](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-134284486)

'Commemoration of the Boon of the Separation of the Province of Victoria from the Colony of New South Wales' (C P Billot in *John Pascoe Fawkner*, 1985).

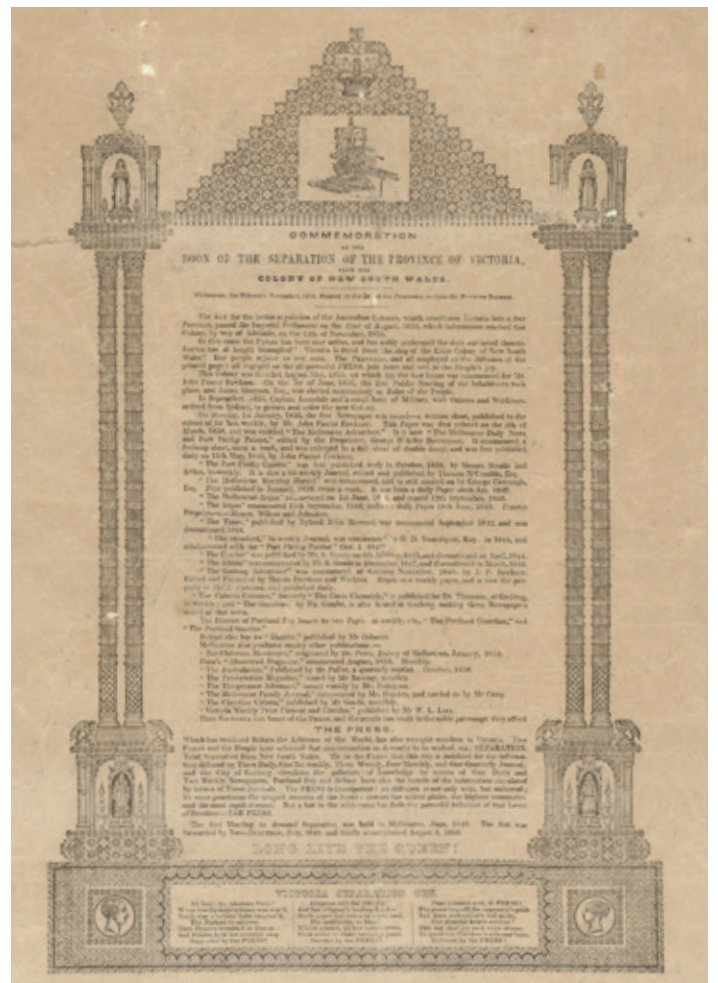
Fawkner's broadside [a large sheet of paper printed on one side only] outlined the history of the new colony and its newspapers. In typical Fawkner fashion, it dated its founding to 31 August 1835, 'on which day the first house was commenced' for Mr Fawkner. The document states that 'the first Meeting to demand Separation was held in Melbourne, June 1840', and concludes with a 'Victoria Separation Ode'.

It was set up and designed by Clarke and written by Fawkner. It is printed in gold on black paper, with a height of 370cm and width of 245cm.

In his *Chronicles of Early Melbourne*, journalist Edmund Finn, who wrote under the name 'Garryowen', described the wagon and its printing press as 'the greatest novelty' of the procession, during which 'the press was kept going, sheets worked off and sent flying'.

The Fawkner broadside is extremely rare, less than half a dozen appear to exist, and the National Library did not acquire its copy, at auction, until 2006. It formerly graced the collection of the well-known Melbourne book collector, Rodney Davidson, who received it as a gift in 1967 from his mother-in-law, Dame Mabel Brookes, herself a noted collector. The auctioneer described the broadside as 'a famous and rare piece, perhaps the ultimate Victorian ephemeron'.

Gary Kent | Friends Committee Deputy Chair



Broadside by John Pascoe Fawkner & Rodney Disney Davidson, printed during the procession through Melbourne on 15 November 1850, [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-342226734](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-342226734)





### A 'TRUCKLOAD' OF INSIGHTS AND GOSSIP: THE PAPERS OF ANGUS MCLACHLAN

In 1983 I suggested to the then Director of the Australian War Memorial, Air Vice-Marshal James Flemming, that it might be appropriate to draw Charles Bean's widow, Ethel Bean ('Effie') into the community of the Memorial. Bean, war correspondent, war historian and the man who conceived of the Memorial, had died in 1968. He and Effie had married in 1921.

Flemming agreed with this idea, suggesting that we take Mrs Bean to lunch in Sydney. She was nervous about this and asked if she might bring Bean's closest friend, newspaperman, Angus McLachlan to help her through. Subsequently I kept up a relationship with Mrs Bean and Mr McLachlan.

At the launch of a collection of essays on Bean in 2017 I noticed reference to the McLachlan Papers in the National Library of Australia. This surprised me as I knew Angus McLachlan had been a member of the Council of the State Library of New South Wales for many years and I had assumed any papers would have been deposited there. I asked the historian who had referenced the papers, Stephen Ellis, if the papers were extensive. 'By the truckload,' he replied.

The Library catalogue told me there were 26 boxes of papers. I decided to have a look. Angus, born in 1908, determined on a career in journalism when he left school. When Parliament moved to Canberra in 1927 Angus moved too so he was a member of the first Canberra federal parliamentary press gallery. From 1928 he worked for the Melbourne *Herald*.

But his career-defining move came in 1936 when he moved to the *Sydney Morning Herald*, first as senior sub-editor, then in 1937 as news editor, effectively editor. He enthusiastically inserted himself into Sydney life becoming a keen, informed and critical commentator on the political, social and journalistic leaders of Sydney. His diaries and letters contain gossip and commentary from the 1930s to the 1970s.

A few snippets here may give the flavour of the riches. Charles Bean and Angus McLachlan were close friends. That seems odd. Bean was born in 1879, McLachlan in 1908. They met first in the late 1930s when Bean offered McLachlan a letter he might want to

Angus McLachlan (front standing) in the Melbourne *Herald* newsroom, 1929, from the Angus McLachlan Archive MS 8005



publish in his paper: 'I felt here was a man of the most exceptional character,' McLachlan wrote, 'a model of a man.'

In June 1940, Keith Murdoch, Angus's boss in Melbourne at the Department of Information, asked Angus for the name of a man who might be trusted to keep Australian newspapers up-to-date on the new war. McLachlan immediately recommended Bean. Bean brought Effie down from Sydney with him, all three stayed at the Chevron Hotel and all became very close friends.

From a holiday spot at Coolangatta, Bean wrote to Angus in July 1946 that he and Effie were 'wondering whether to try some roller-skating in the open-air rink above the beach'. Whether the 67-year-old was serious or just being whimsical, it is a side of Charles Bean that those who have long studied his voluminous writings had never seen.

In 1944 Prime Minister John Curtin asked Angus to join the staff of the incoming Governor-General, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Gloucester. Their first meeting was not auspicious: '[the Duke] was obviously extremely shy, if not embarrassed . . . [he] picked out the pattern of the carpet with his shoe, occasionally asking a question.'

'How could a man who was so obviously intensely shy . . . satisfactorily perform the duties of Governor-General?' Angus asked High Commissioner Stanley Bruce. Bruce chuckled 'he's not as bad as he seems on first acquaintance'

Though Angus admired the way Bill McKell conducted himself as Governor-General when he replaced the Duke, his first impressions, when McKell was Premier of New South Wales, were not favourable: 'he is really a mutton-head, genial and pleasant, but nevertheless a mutton-head.'

Angus McLachlan tells so many stories, such as the inside story on the appointment of McKell as Governor-General, reveals so many insights into people like Cardinal Gilroy, John Curtin, Warwick Fairfax, Garfield Barwick, Rupert Murdoch, Robert Menzies, even Bob Hawke. McLachlan was a storyteller, a gossip, an insightful observer. His papers are a precious resource in a Library brimming with precious resources. You can explore further by entering MS 8005 in the catalogue.

**Dr Michael McKernan** | Historian, Author

Angus McLachlan's British War Correspondent's Licence, 1944, from the Angus McLachlan Archive MS 8005

## SEE THE LATEST IN THE TREASURES GALLERY

Lieutenant James Cook's *Endeavour* Journal is back on display. And you can still see a selection from the Library's Edward Koiki Mabo Collection. The Treasures Gallery has been refreshed with many new items from the collections on display—among them historic maps, colonial era artworks, and the 'Day of Mourning and Protest' poster from 1938. We feature three of the new items here.

### THE EAST INDIES AND NEW HOLLAND: AN EAST-WEST AXIS, 1681

One of the most notable works by prominent seventeenth century Dutch cartographer Theunis Jacobsz is his chart of the East Indies, New Holland and surrounding islands. Today, it remains a valuable historical artifact, providing a unique window into the world of Dutch exploration and cartography and from the time when the Dutch were rapidly expanding their trade networks.

Oriented on an east-west axis, the chart gives an interesting perspective of Australia (Hollandia Nova). The top left of the map shows Japan while the bottom left shows the southernmost part of India known as the Cormandel coast, and Ceylon. Hollandia Nova with the Tropicus Capricorni (Topic of Capricorn) running through it vertically is on the right. The islands of Indonesia and Borneo lie to its left. It was printed from a 1661 plate formerly owned by Johannes van Loon.

At the time of this chart, the Dutch East India Company (VOC) had established a strong presence in the East Indies and was actively trading in spices, textiles and other valuable commodities. The VOC was also exploring new territories in the region, including the western coast of Australia, which they named Nova Hollandia. Jacobsz's chart reflects this growing interest as it includes detailed depictions of coastlines, ports and other geographic features—and is notable for its accuracy that would have been of great use to VOC traders and explorers.

Theunis Jacobsz was the patriarch of a famous Dutch family of sea chart makers. After his death around 1650, his sons Iacob Lootsman and Casparus Lootsman took over the business and this map is credited to them, as can be seen in the top right corner decorative cartouche. Interestingly Theunis had added 'Lootsman' (meaning 'pilot') to the family name as there was another printer of the same name in his area.

This chart, together with others in the Library's extensive Maps Collection, is testament to the enduring importance of cartography as a tool for understanding and navigating the world around us. View this fascinating chart in the Treasures Gallery and online at [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-231682849](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-231682849).

**Susan Chessell** | Library volunteer



Theunis Jacobsz & Johannes van Loon & Casparus Lootsman, *Pascaerte van't Oostelyckste deel van Oost-Indien met alle de Eyelanden daer onder gelegen van Cabo Comorin tot aen Japan, 1681*, [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-231682849](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-231682849)



### 'OF ELIZA DARLING, ALAS, WE KNOW LITTLE'

Meet Eliza Darling (née Dumaresq, born in 1798) and her two eldest children, Cornelia (b. 1818) and Frederick (b. 1821). The portrait was painted by John Linnell in 1825 in England where Eliza and her husband (Sir) Ralph Darling rested between his posting to Mauritius as head of the military government from 1819 to 1823 and his posting as governor of New South Wales from 1825 to 1831.

In an article about 'an unpopular governor', Governor Ralph Darling, in the *West Australian* in May 1936, the writer claimed 'Of Eliza Darling, alas, we know little, in fact next to nothing'. He was wrong.

Numerous contemporary newspaper reports and letters map Eliza's life and describe her as a tireless worker for the underprivileged, a charming hostess, devoted wife and mother, artist and architect, devout Christian, and a woman of sense and intelligence.

The Darling family arrived in Sydney on 6 December 1825 and within three months Eliza used her position as First Lady to establish the Female School of Industry to assist the women convicts in the Female Factory and to improve the morality of the convicts in general. She was patron of the Benevolent Society and Sydney Dispensary and actively supported the Sunday School movement.

Throughout her years in Australia Eliza played the piano, taught her children, kept a journal, maintained two Government Houses in Sydney and Parramatta, carried on an extensive correspondence and had a child virtually every year—a state of near permanent pregnancy that frequently made her ill. She and Ralph had ten children, four girls and three boys living. ▶

John Linnell, *Portrait of Mrs Darling and two of her children, 1825*, [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-134113564](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-134113564)



The first surviving example of Eliza's artistic work is a picture of her daughter Cornelia, aged four, lying on the floor of the Governor's residence in Mauritius.

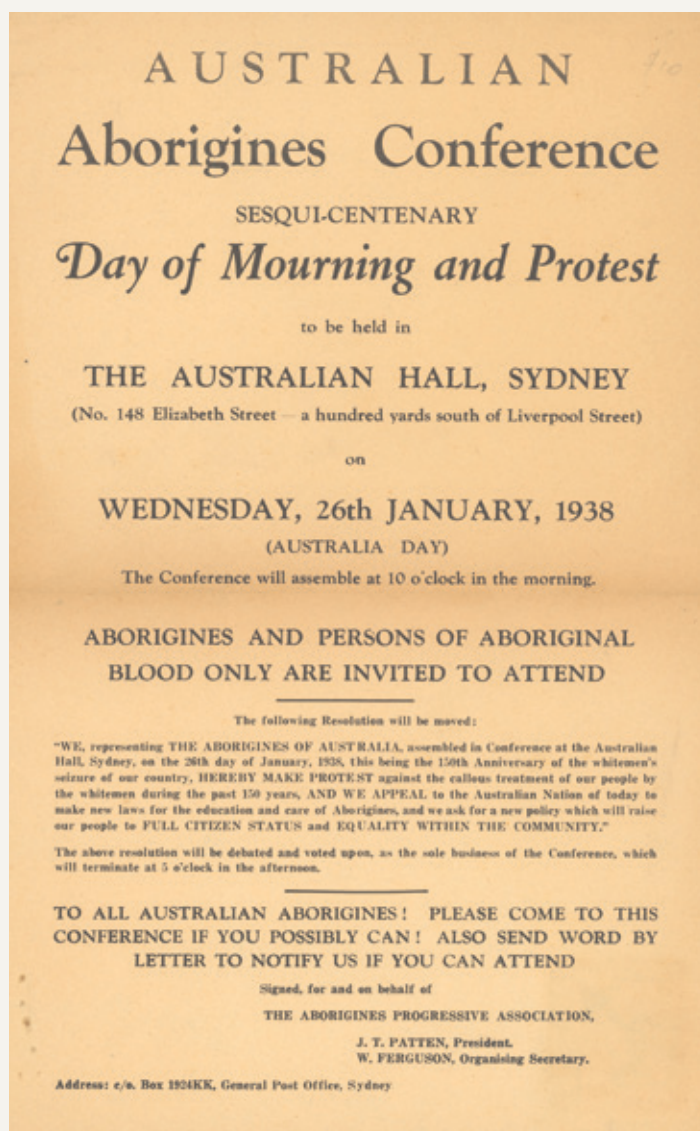
Two watercolour views attributed to her are extant—Sydney Harbour looking towards the Heads and a distant view of Fort Macquarie—and eight watercolours of native flowers. 'From nature by E. Darling' is written on the back of six.

Eliza's artistic talents led her into the field of architecture. She submitted a plan in a competition held by her husband in 1827 with a view to a design for a new Government House and was reported to have won. Unfortunately, no drawing or description is known.

While her husband's career was often controversial, it seems Eliza was able to share with him her thoughts and concerns. Travelling to England with the children from Mauritius in 1823, she wrote of her 'anxiety and fatigue' and described their suffering on board the ship: 'the cabin has been some inches deep in water', Cornelia 'croupy' and Frederick 'so ill'.

After returning to England, the family lived in retirement. However, Eliza's interest in the School of Industry in Sydney continued. Following her husband's death in 1858, Eliza lived with her eldest son, Rev. Frederick Darling, and two of her daughters. She died in 1868.

Margaret Nichols | Friends Committee Chair



## 'DAY OF MOURNING AND PROTEST', 1938

'We, as Aborigines, have no reason to rejoice on Australia's 150th birthday'—these words by Jack Patten, President of the Aborigines Progressive Association (APA), quoted in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 26 January 1938, marked a landmark event in the long struggle for Aboriginal recognition and rights.

There had been calls since the early 1900s to amend the Constitution to give the Commonwealth power in Aboriginal affairs, with church leaders, anthropologists and activists in women's movements among the earliest supporters—all to no avail.

Celebrations to mark the sesquicentenary of the landing of the First Fleet were to take place to great fanfare. The APA and Australian Aborigines' League (AAL) resolved to mark the occasion by drawing attention to the losses suffered by Aboriginal people and demanding 'a new policy which will raise our people to full citizen status and equality'. The 'Day of Mourning and Protest' was an event that would inspire Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activism in the campaign for Indigenous rights.

On 26 January 1938 in Sydney, a silent procession, permitted only after the celebratory parade had passed, made its way to the Australian Hall. Despite the heat, APA members wore symbolic formal black dress. Four non-Aboriginal people were allowed to attend. Among the speakers was Douglas Nichols who spoke on behalf of the Aboriginal people of Victoria. Several resolutions were endorsed concerning the freedom and equality of their peoples.

Five days later, Jack Patten and others met with Prime Minister Joseph Lyons who said under the Constitution Commonwealth control for Aboriginal matters was not possible and would be very difficult to obtain. With the outbreak of war in 1939 political activism slowed. It was not until 1967 that the referendum for the Australian Constitution to be amended in relation to Aboriginal matters succeeded. 90.77% of the nation voted 'Yes' to change the Constitution so that, like all other Australians, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples would be counted as part of the population and **the Commonwealth would be able to make laws for them.**

The referendum was an important step for the political and moral rights of Aboriginal people and provided some positive outcomes for Indigenous people; however the second part of the referendum has potentially contributed to harm, trauma and loss of self-determination through government policy and legislation being implemented without appropriate consultation and cultural understanding. The 1992 High Court decision in favour of Edward Koiki Mabo and his fellow litigants was another step along the way to the Uluru Statement from the Heart and this year's proposed referendum ... but the struggle continues. Visit the Treasures Gallery to see the 'Day of Mourning and Protest' poster, along with a display about Garigal man Bungaree and Murro-ore-dial woman Kaaroo; and the story of Edward Koiki Mabo.

Kerry Blackburn | Friends Committee member, Newsletter editor  
*With thanks to the National Library of Australia Indigenous Engagement Section*

Poster for *Australian Aborigines Conference: sesqui-centenary Day of Mourning and Protest ...*, 1938, [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-348899812](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-348899812)



## CELEBRATING OUR CANINE COMPANIONS: AUSTRALIA'S DOGS

Dogs play an important role in our lives—as beloved (and often indulged) companions, assistance animals, workers on farms and pastoral properties, and alongside service and security personnel. They have been part of exploration and with adventurers throughout remote areas of Australia, and travelled overseas in wartime and to the extreme conditions of Antarctica.

Dr Katherine Kovacic, former veterinarian, art historian and author of mystery and crime novels, has now drawn on her love of dogs to write *Australia's Dogs*. She tells of their history, the roles they have played in Australia going back some 5,000 years to the present day and especially the relationships between people and their dogs. More than 80 images from the National Library's collections illustrate the stories.

Read of the importance of dingoes in First Nations Dreaming, how dingoes were named and their importance to the ecosystem. How the British upper and middle classes influenced the choice of breeds in colonial Australia until it was realised that quintessential Australian breeds (border collies, kelpies, heelers and the like) were needed to work in conditions here. Katharine tells of the roles that huskies played in Antarctic exploration and research and the determination to rehome those remaining in 1993 when the Madrid Protocol that banned all non-native animals (besides humans) came into force.

And there are heart-warming stories of families with their beloved pets as well as early explorers and lone travellers traversing the continent with their trusty companions.

*Australia's Dogs* is published by NLA Publishing and is this quarter's Friends newsletter special offer from the National Library Bookshop. Perhaps relax with your own dog by your side to enjoy Katherine Kovacic's fascinating read on the human-canine bond.

**Kerry Blackburn** | Friends Committee member, Newsletter editor

Roy Fry, Adventurer Francis Birtles and Dinkum the cattle dog at Heavitree Gap, Alice Springs, during a north-south railway expedition, 1921, [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-153345326](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-153345326)

## FRIENDS EVENTS

For more details, dates and bookings for Friends-exclusive events, see the Friends Weekly News emailed to members or search 'What's on' on the Library's website.

**June 8:** *Preview of Grit & Gold: Tales of a Sporting Nation—Join curator Dr Guy Hansen for a lecture in the Theatre and preview in the Gallery of the Library's fascinating new exhibition.*

**July 21:** *Celebrate with Friends—hear from our curators about their favourite items in the Treasures Gallery while enjoying a glass of bubbles and canapes, plus musical entertainment. This is a wonderful chance to mingle and meet new Friends members.*

**September:** *An event continuing our long partnership with the Australian Garden History Society is planned—details to come.*

**October:** *Stay tuned for details of this year's White Gloves event, showcasing precious items from the Library's collections.*

**November:** *The 2023 Friends Creative Arts Fellow, visual artist Sam Wallman, will take us into the 1970s genesis of Green Bans and Pink Bans, what he has discovered in the Library's collections, and reveal his unique illustrations from his research.*

**November 30:** *Friends Annual General Meeting.*

Friends are also welcome at events conducted by the Library. Check the Library website for details.

You can also visit at any time *Grit & Gold: Tales of a Sporting Nation*, the refreshed Treasures Gallery and Collection-in-Focus, a selection of photographs from the Joyce Evans Archive.



### NATIONAL LIBRARY BOOKSHOP SPECIAL OFFER FOR FRIENDS

Friends will receive a 20% discount on copies of *Australia's Dogs* by Katherine Kovacic when purchased before 31 August 2023, online and in-store.

To claim your 20% discount on *Australia's Dogs*, use the promotional code **DOGS** at checkout. You can also use this code to apply the usual Friends 15% discount\* to other eligible online purchases.

\* Discount does not apply to limited edition prints, discounted and remaindered stock, newspapers, stamps, copy cards, magazines or vouchers.