

Friends

NEWS | SPRING 2024



A SCRAP OF PAPER TELLS A STORY

The collections of the National Library of Australia contain all sorts of unexpected treasures. I was reminded of this when I was researching my latest publication, *Artful Lives: The Cohen Sisters*, Melbourne: Melbourne Books, 2024. The book is about my artistic cousins, Valerie Cohen (1911-2008) and Yvonne Cohen (1914-2004), who led interesting lives split between Melbourne and Far North Queensland, in the years before the north became an accessible winter escape for southerners. Apart from Trove links and reference to the sisters in the occasional book in the general collection, I didn't expect to find much of relevance in the Library. Yet, in searching for Val's husband, Norman Albiston (1894-1979), I came across a **biographical note** dated 1980. The two flimsy sheaths of paper, covered with raggedy typing, were then unattributed. I recognised at once that they had been typed by Val on her ancient Adler, with its signature displaced letters.

Val's note is a mini biography, listing Norm's main life events and achievements. Yet the scrappy little gem also alludes to his many talents and her affection and esteem for him. Norm was one of the first psychiatrists in Australia and gained renown in 1940s and 1950s Melbourne for his testimonies at high profile trials. Could a man cut his wife's throat during a dream? Yes, apparently! Would a particular drawing injure or corrupt children or teenagers? In this case, no.

According to Val, Norm preferred his extracurricular pursuits to the company of fellow medicos. He excelled at chess (representing Australia in an international tournament) and piano, and was no mean hand at billiards and snooker, art and photography.

Wife number two was the well-known composer and pianist, Margaret Sutherland (1897-1984). As Val notes, *'Music was [a] strong element in [Norm's] life... his touch on the piano was sensitive.'* He was a classically trained musician and when he and Val entertained, the music he chose was reportedly sublime. As the party warmed up, his favourite party act was to don a monkey mask, light a fat cigar and take to the piano.

Together Val and Norm attended Saturday classes with George Bell (1878-1966), where they were taught modern art, then anathema to the traditionalists. Norm, Val writes, *'thereafter enjoyed experimenting. He had a keen eye for faces and could get remarkable likenesses without a sitter. As a draftsman he could portray the human body with ease.'* He not only experimented with his art but with new media, ordering unusual pigments.



I suspect it was Val who also donated two of Norm's pencil drawings to the Library. One is of **Bell**, the other of **Arthur Boyd** (1920-1999), both part of their creative circle of friends and colleagues. A regret of Val's was that after an evening spent at their home with Boyd and others trying out some Craypas — newly released, richly-hued oil pastels — they had tossed the sketches into the fire.

Val, independent and determined, was Norm's third wife. Their first encounter was in 1946, on Timana, the sisters' own tiny, archetypal, tropical island, and that was that. Norm had met his match. As his second wife Margaret Sutherland remarked bitterly: *'... at the age of 53 [Norm] found his Indian summer.'* Val, 16 years his junior, tolerated his wandering eye (apparently, he believed that a man needed a wife and a mistress) and may even have shared him with her sister. In turn, he was stimulating, charming company and, as Val concluded, *'a unique and much-admired man.'*

Penny Olsen | Petherick Reader

Portrait of Dr Norman Arthur Albiston, competing in a telegraphic chess competition, ca.1950, nla.obj-136583332

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

A major focus for the Committee over spring is the annual general meeting, which is on Wednesday, 20 November 2024 at 5.30pm in the National Library theatre. The Friends Committee includes up to 12 Friends members and I would encourage you to consider nominating. Nomination forms for the are to be distributed to you in September.

I joined the Committee following the AGM in 2022 after being a member for a relatively short period. While initially I felt a bit daunted, I found great support from other Committee members, who have a wealth of experience with the Friends, other community organisations, through their employment and other life experience. The Committee also receives outstanding support from our Executive Officer Lauren Conron, who provides a fabulous creative spark.

The Committee usually meets every second month, in the third week of the month. There are three sub-committees: Events, Communications and Memberships, and Finance. The Events sub-committee usually meets once every two months, with the other two sub-committees meeting as required.

The main requirement for Committee members is a desire to support the objectives of the Friends.

Following the AGM, there will be an opportunity for you to mingle with your fellow Friends with a drink and light snacks. Together, we can celebrate the end of another successful year with Friends' events attracting some excellent attendance and positive feedback. The relevance of the Friends to the Library community is reinforced with over 200 new members for the 2023-2024 year.

Catherine Anderson | Friends Committee Co-Chair

FROM THE EDITOR

I have recently taken on the voluntary role of assisting Friends of the National Library through editing this Newsletter. It is a real pleasure to work with committed staff like Lauren Conron and to be involved with an institution I love and have been involved with in various ways for many decades. Like many others I used the Library as a student, but then later in my career worked with its senior executives on Council. Even as a student I was closely involved with several of the staff when we were all part-time arts students at ANU. Later in my life I became involved as a patron to celebrate the life of one of the Library's wonderful staff, the late Ms Cathy Santamaria, and through that supporting the digitisation of the papers of Miriam Hyde (1913-2005). There are so many points of intersection.

I still love both the place and what it does, which is why I thought this edition's piece by my friend Rupert Myer AO was so good. I hope to see Friends at various events and look forward to YOUR contributions in future editions. Please send them to The Editor care of friends@nla.gov.au.

Max Bourke AM | Editor

FRIENDS EVENTS

For further details keep an eye on the weekly eNews or go to the Library's [What's On](#) page.

18 September

Clever Country: an Aboriginal Perspective on Landscape
Presentation by Adj. Professor Margo Ngawa Neale
In partnership with the Australian Garden History Society

25-27 October

The Library will host several events as part of the **Canberra Writer's Festival**. Friends receive a discounted price on all tickets.

[Sign up to their newsletter](#) to receive program announcements.

7 November

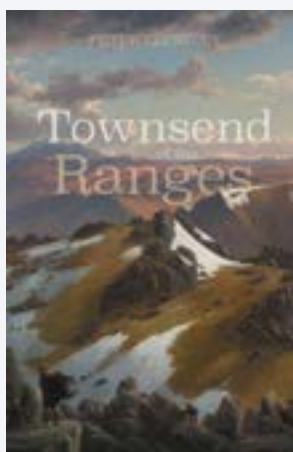
Strings & Things: Friends Collection Viewing

The annual event formerly known as *White Gloves*. The Friends collection viewing this year will explore all things musical in the Library's collections. Join us for a presentation by Dr Susannah Helman, view the collection display and enjoy refreshments in the foyer with musical entertainment from harpist Rowan Phemister. Tickets on sale 27 September.

20 November

Annual General Meeting

NATIONAL LIBRARY BOOKSHOP OFFER FOR FRIENDS



Friends will receive a 25% discount on copies of *Townsend of the Ranges* by Peter Crowley when purchased before 30 November 2024, online and in-store.

To claim your 25% discount online, use the promotional code **RANGES** at checkout.

To access your Friends 20% member discount on other online Bookshop purchases,

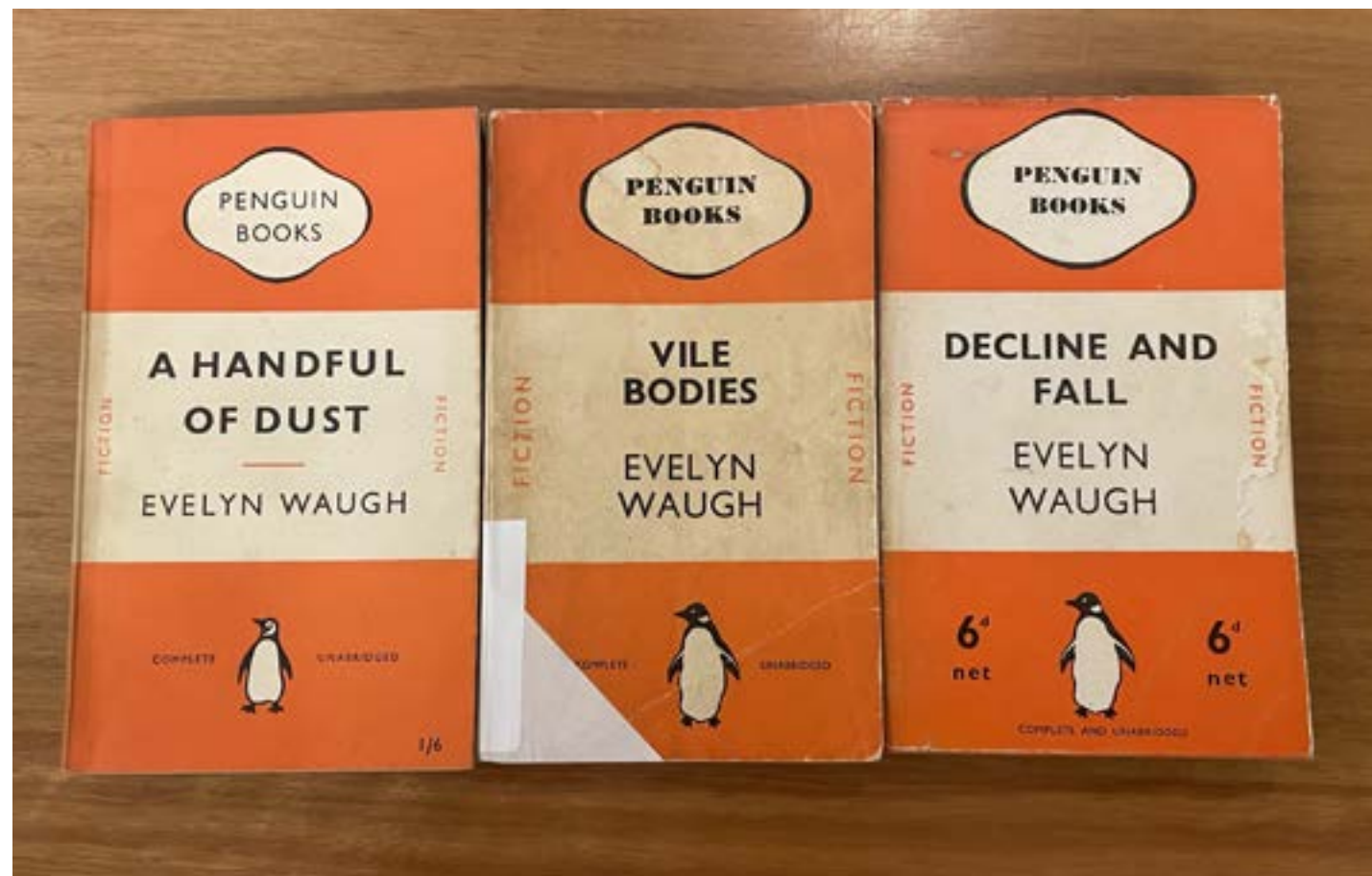
use the promotional code **TOWNSEND** at checkout.



YOUR FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP HELPS THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

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

When reminded, please [renew your membership online](#) and encourage others to join.



FINDING MY WAY AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

In 1971 I was a 4th Year Honours student in History at the ANU. We were a big contingent, the largest the department had ever known, fourteen of us. We would submit our theses in early July and then crash into intensive course work.

I chose to study Mr (Bill) Mandle's offering, 'Literature and Society in Britain between the Wars'. It was an utterly absorbing course, intensely hard work, but deeply rewarding. A part of the assessment was a 'research essay' of 4,000 words. Students had to find their own topics.

I chose 'Critical Responses to Evelyn Waugh's early novels'. This would take me, out of necessity, to the National Library of Australia to read journals, newspapers and memoirs. I had used the Library infrequently in my three years as an undergraduate so far. The new building, bright, shiny and daunting had opened the year I arrived in Canberra, 1968.

So off I went. Older readers of the *Friends Newsletter* may recall the acres of card catalogue drawers occupying the space before readers entered the Main Reading Room. I immersed myself in these drawers for hours, puzzling over them and eventually filling in my request slips. The vast size and variety of the Library's holdings slowly began to dawn on me. Then I nervously presented my slips to a staff member at the desk in the MRR who gave me a number. Above the desk was a large board which displayed numbers. When some of your material arrived, your number flashed up on the board.

I waited but, in truth, not very long as the number of readers in the MRR was not very large. When my number first came up, I felt very important as a staff member handed over my materials.

Conversation was not encouraged with staff, or between readers, but this suited me fine.

The Main Reading Room was comfortable, quiet, studious. There was a window high up in the wall nearest the front door where, from the mezzanine, Library visitors could gaze down on Library readers in awe. Visitors were at that time restricted to the entrance foyer.

From time to time, I took a break in the Library's canteen on the fourth floor. The two lift attendants to take me there were the friendliest people in the building, always ready for a chat and with a wry observation on life in the Library. They enjoyed a chuckle about the strange ways of librarians. The lift attendants also had a keen insight into my fellow researchers though I soon discovered that those in the Main Reading Room were the peripheral scholars. The leading scholars (or their research assistants) were in the Petherick Reading Room on the first floor. We lesser mortals rarely saw them.

The Waugh novels I concentrated on were *Decline and Fall*, *Vile Bodies* and *A Handful of Dust* but because the course was *Literature and Society* I needed to branch more widely into British life in the 1930s. I suppose I spent about two weeks in the bliss of the Library. I found a deep affection for the Library then which I have retained since. It is a national wonder.

Dr Michael McKernan | Friends Member

Image: Evelyn Waugh Penguin Classics (L-R)
<https://nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn1370525>;
<https://nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn86781>;
<https://nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn1491312>



AUSTRALIA'S LITERARY LIONESS: CONSERVATIONIST, ARCHIVIST AND ACTIVIST

In modern times it is hard to imagine someone wanting to commission a portrait of an eighty-eight-year-old woman who hadn't been a model, actress, celebrity or someone in the public eye.

Picture post-war Australia in 1949: there was a baby boom; the concept of Australian citizenship had just been established; and the recently formed Liberal party under Robert Menzies was about to commence their twenty-three-year run in power. Who would have thought much about women and the arts? Margaret Boyd (d.1978), journalist, author and broadcaster, decided to commission a portrait of her eighty-eight-year-old colleague and friend Kate Baker. With what purpose in mind, I can only imagine.

Catherine (Kate) Baker (1861-1953) arrived in Australia from Ireland in 1870 as a 9-year-old, with her widowed mother and one of her sisters. Having attended a small church school in Kilmeaden, Ireland, at a young age, it was no surprise that she was enrolled at school in Williamstown, Victoria when the *Education Act 1872* was introduced, and schooling became compulsory and free. Upon finishing school, she trained as a teacher and taught in schools around Victoria.

Having grown up with a great love of learning, reading and literature, she met and befriended many members of the Australian literati including Joseph Furphy (1843-1912), Miles Franklin (1879-1954), A.G. Stephens (1865-1933), John Shaw Neilson (1872-1942), Dame Mary Gilmore (1865-1962),

Pauline Ikin, *Portrait of Kate Baker*, 1949. Image courtesy Pennsylvania State University Library

J.K. Ewers (1904-1978) and others. In her own words she devoted her life to 'the cause of Australian literature', posthumously publishing (at her own expense) *The Poems of Joseph Furphy*, Melbourne: Lothian, 1916, and writing the biography of Furphy in co-operation with Miles Franklin (*Joseph Furphy: the legend of a man and his book*, Sydney: Angus & Robertson, 1944). Kate encouraged others to write and establish themselves as figures in the Australian literary world.

Author's friend, literary guardian, indefatigable champion, arts leader, zealous sponsor, Kate has been described as someone who never lost a friend except through death. In 1936 she was recognised by the Melbourne members of the Australian Literary Society with the presentation of a 'portrait relief in bronze', as a tribute to the work she had done in the 'cause of Australian literature.'

Some months later in April 1937 she was again recognised for her selfless work and awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) for 'Services to Australian Literature'. This was at a time when 'the arts' in Australia was barely recognised and certainly was dominated by men.

Kate was a single woman whose main goal was to inform the world that Australia had unique stories to tell and authors to write them. Much was being made of those who went overseas to achieve success. Kate believed 'success' could be found at home. She posted copies of Australian books all over the world to universities and libraries in London, Edinburgh, New York, Washington, Oslo; and, closer to home, in Japan, New Zealand and across Australia.

This began to generate interest in Australian literature worldwide. Inspired by Kate's work, a family from Western Australia donated a collection of 120 paintings by Australian artists, and a lesser number of books, to the Pennsylvania State University Library to become part of the 'Australiana Collection' in the Pattee Library. This facilitated more in-depth study and the teaching of Australian art and literature overseas. Interest in Australian literature was further enhanced with visits from American Fulbright Scholars to Australia in the 1950s.

Kate's story of selfless devotion to Australian literature rests in the archives of many libraries throughout Australia and the United States waiting to be unearthed and recounted along with the stories of her friends, both male and female, without whom she would not have become the person she was.

Kate Baker lived until she was ninety-two and, despite being confined in a nursing home, kept up her interests in what was happening in literary fields, and her reading and letter writing to friends was part of her daily ritual. She was eternally grateful for a life well lived until her death in October 1953. **The Papers of Kate Baker, 1893-1946**, are held at the National Library of Australia.

The 1949 portrait of Kate Baker by Melbourne artist Pauline Ikin remains in the vault of the Pennsylvania State University Library; inventoried, yet uncatalogued and unseen. I think it is time that my great-great aunt's portrait is repatriated to Australia so that she may be honoured and remembered along with many women of her time whose stories remain untold. My work on this continues.

Mary Nelson (née Baker) | Friends Member



THE JOYS OF VOLUNTEERING

Did you know millions of people across the country generously give their time and energy to make change in our communities, but that Australia needs even more helping hands?

Volunteering can take all shapes and sizes. Activities can be focused on local, regional, national or global issues, and the organisations lifted up through volunteers range from very small to very significant in size. Whatever else is said about the third sector, it is certainly one that can accommodate all people from all walks of life and no matter what their skill sets.

Volunteering Australia is the national peak body for volunteers in Australia and is supported by the Australian Government. Its vision is "for volunteering to be at the heart of Australian communities". Of course, libraries are very much at the heart of Australian communities – regional, rural and metropolitan alike. They bring people and community together. As the American Library Association President Emily Drabinski said earlier this year, "[a]cross party lines and across the political spectrum, the vast majority of people love their libraries for the ordinary and extraordinary work we do each day: connecting people to reading and resources, building businesses and communities, expanding literacy across the lifespan, and making great Saturday afternoons!"

Volunteering as a Friend of the National Library Australia on the Friends Committee is equally rich and rewarding, and the possibilities to contribute to its work are endless (they are also lots of fun). For example, you may be a volunteer helping with the set up or pack down of any one of our highly successful and increasingly popular Members' events, meeting with authors and curators. You can also serve on a sub-committee and assist with the planning of such events or the resourcing to support them. Some of us choose to be 'front of house', helping to ensure members are warmly welcomed to Friends events and don't miss out on the fun. Even if you are a complete novice, there is space for you and plenty of support too.

To date, we have been honoured to attract all sorts of knowledge, expertise and professional skills onto the Committee. We have

been joined by former librarians, teachers, archivists, historians, curators, writers, accountants, chief operating officers, former and current public servants, journalists, health and medical professionals, lawyers, published authors, editors and project managers. By serving on the Friends Committee, the extraordinary skills and talents of the Friends as a collective can be seen in action, and the ability to tap into this knowledge and use it to deliver on the broader mission of the Friends together, is very rewarding and unique.

When it comes to volunteering with the Friends, there really is no job 'too big or too small'. Whether it is helping with the planning of events, distributing brochures or bookmarks around your local area or contributing newsletter articles, the opportunities to expand and share your reach and skills are endless. And one of the best-selling points is that the Friends and their Committee are all incredibly well supported by dedicated staff of the Library.

There are currently in excess of 10,000 volunteer roles on offer across Australia, which you can be matched up to using Volunteering Australia's national database tool. However, we (the 2024 Friends Committee) hope that joining us is the obvious choice! We will be calling for nominations well ahead of our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 20 November 2024 and hope you will consider nominating for a position (terms will commence in 2025, following election of executive roles and formation of the sub-committees in early December). In the meantime, if you would like to learn more about the Friends Committee and the role you could play, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Friends office on 02 6262 1551 or via friends@nla.gov.au.

Larissa Karpish | Friends Committee Member

Greg Power, *Xingsu Shen*, volunteer working in the Asian Collections stacks examining collection material, 2006, <https://nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn3891860>



RUPERT MYER: LIBRARY AS SANCTUARY, LIBRARIAN AS SAVIOUR

A few months back Rupert Myer AO, philanthropist businessman, and nephew of the late Kenneth Myer AC, longtime supporter and Chairman of the National Library, spoke to a gathering of Library Patrons. His speech touched me in part because he used two great sources for inspiration. He said, “I cobbled together the title [of this speech] from a painting by Imants Tillers titled Sanctuary and a book written by Robert Skidelsky on Maynard Keynes titled Economist as Saviour”. Both of these are works I admire.

We don't have space for the full speech but here is a key extract, speaking of his Uncle Ken Myer AC:

“He loved the library, and he devoted a good part of his life in public service to imagining what it could be, to the construction of the building, to its governance and to its traits and attributes. He would have loved the powerful democracy in everything that Trove is, and that the library has a digital place in every home across the country. But the physical structure of the National Library would have continued to matter hugely to him. At heart, he was a Library as Sanctuary person recognising how libraries offer sanctuary both for people and for objects.”

Rupert Myer AO, Library Patrons Dinner 2024. Image: Irene Dowdy

The Smallest Dictionary English Dictionary in the World. Comprising: besides the ordinary and newest words in the language short explanations of a large number of scientific, philosophical, literary, and technical terms, Glasgow: David Bryce and Son, 1890s, Gerrit Stafford Collection, nla.cat-vn3662869



From his classical education, he would have known that, above the bookshelves of the fabled Great Library of Alexandria was an inscription that translated from ancient Greek read, this is the place that will cure your soul. In various places and at various times, libraries have been thought of not just as lodging houses or storerooms but as refuges, places of solitude where readers are alone but also in the company of generations of poets and philosophers, historians and astronomers, orators and theologians and mathematicians to name just a few of a library's living ghosts. Building a library has been likened to building an ark to save learning from deluge. They are places for gathering, for contemplation and joy, discovery, leisure and wonderment. They are places of authority, disquiet, curiosity and serenity, dissent, reform and battle. They are also amongst the few remaining truly public buildings, in a world where urban spaces feel highly privatised or secularised, and where most establishments only welcome you in if you're willing to buy something. The library is a space which doesn't impose any expectations on you or your wallet and, in that sense, it feels like the purest form of public benefit, which is almost revolutionary in the contemporary epoch.

Whenever a library is in the media today, its presence confers some deep gravitas to the issue at hand especially those that are complex or divisive. Through their collections of books and objects, they are capable of telling all sides of truth avoiding the pitfalls of disinformation and alternative facts. And those books and objects can project their relevance in the sanctuary provided by a library. Of course, a library is not a sanctuary in a religious sense, but it serves to remind us of, and empowers us to respect, the political and cultural values we consider vital to our survival. For the National

Library, it is quite startling to review the extent of the collections that it holds in trust for the nation, along with items that have only recently been gifted or acquired. Two recent examples of the latter that caught my eye were the thumbnail sized dictionary from 1890 and the first grammar book of old English written. Along with the entire collection, these whimsical objects are in a safe place to be enjoyed and valued in incalculable ways.”

Max Bourke | Editor

OUT OF SIGHT BUT MUCH IN MIND

Looking after the collections of the National Library is certainly the job of librarians, archivists and conservators. But at a 'deeper' layer the whole show must be looked after from the structure of the building to the environment within it.

As many Friends will know there have been, and still are, major works under way for some time to repair, refresh and renew many of these hidden aspects of the Library.

Lauren Conron, our Friends' Executive Officer, and your editor were lucky enough to be given a behind the scenes look recently at all the enormous bits of machinery that go to make 'our' fabulous building fulfil its job. We were shown around by the knowledgeable James Fitzpatrick, the Library's Facilities and Security Program Manager.

James is a very interesting bloke who has worked with some complex machinery in the military before joining the staff of the NLA. He told us how much he loved this job, and we agreed it must involve a lot of challenges.



For a start the collection storage stretches almost from Canberra to Sydney, around 276 kilometres of it! Some of this sits inside a box, albeit an elegant one, designed by Walter Bunning in 1961 for his firm called, at the time, Bunning and Madden. This was only one year after the National Library Bill was passed by Federal Parliament. But it was not until 1968 that the Library moved into its current building from its earlier home.

James tells us that the floor area is 47,000 square metres and the overall envelope is 100 metres long by 50 metres wide. But when you get behind the public spaces you really do get the 'wow factor'.

The scale of the machinery required to manage the various spaces, from storage of precious works to looking after the needs of people, both staff and the public, is staggering. It requires highly sophisticated sensors, controllers and huge machinery to deliver all these different climates 24 hours every day.

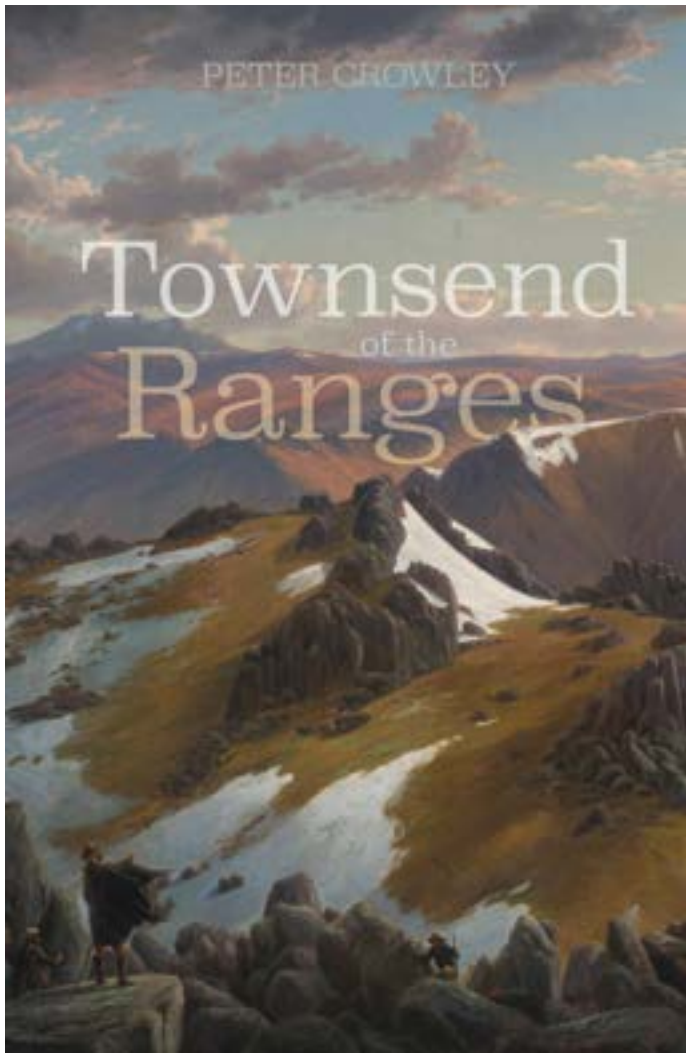
Among the more massive machinery contained in the 15 plantrooms on different floors are 54 air handling units pumping through 25 fans. These in turn respond to the 300 humidity and temperature sensors through the building that maintain the multiple climate zones, from public and office spaces to temperature and humidity-controlled cold storage rooms.

And out of sight behind walls and in the ceilings are approximately five kilometres of heating and chilled water pipe, as well as an immeasurable quantity of electrical cabling for both power and data. Indeed, as part of the recent fit out nine kilometres of new data cabling was installed on one level alone!

James finished off our behind-the-scenes tour with not only a wander through the maze of machinery but a climb up through it to where the building 'breathes' on the roof and, as you see in the image, it is probably one of the best views in Canberra. James calls it 'his office'.

Max Bourke | Editor

James Fitzpatrick on the Library roof. Image: Lauren Conron



REDISCOVERING TOWNSEND

Thomas Scott Townsend was a colonial surveyor forgotten by history, even though his name was given to Australia's second highest mountain. I spent almost seven years piecing his story together, and I hope that the result – *Townsend of the Ranges* – corrects this historical injustice.

Readers will discover early in the book that Townsend's life did not end well. This was one reason his story slipped quietly out of memory, creating a substantial gap in our national storytelling about one of our most iconic landscapes, the alpine rivers and ranges of south-eastern Australia. Townsend, it turns out, was no ordinary surveyor. Among many achievements, he is the first European known to have located the origin of the Murray River, the first to traverse the Main Range of the Snowy Mountains, and – quite possibly – the first European to have stood on the summit of Mt Kosciuszko.

For a man who coveted recognition, Townsend made it difficult for the public, and for historians, to give him the credit he deserved. Apart from having his name on a mountain – a label without a story – he was hard to find. He did not leave a portrait,

or a personal journal and he was so good at his job that his career was barely noticed during his lifetime. Those who knew him, one can imagine, were more likely to turn their heads away in sorrow than to promote his cause with a book. He did not earn an entry in the Australian Dictionary of Biography.

At first, then, Townsend seemed a daunting subject for a biography. But once I was able to obtain a fix on who his family was, the story began to grow. The research was exciting and underpinned a compelling yarn, fit for a campfire legend from the old days – as well as being true. As a child I was fed (overfed is probably more accurate) a rich diet of Australian bush ballads. Fascinated by our folklore – the everyday history of the people – Townsend gave me a chance to satisfy a life-long desire: to contribute an original story to the tradition of romantic bush literature, with all its pathos and lamentation, while sensitive to the context of First Nations dispossession that such literature usually ignored.

My method was twofold. While taking a deep dive into the world of colonial surveying, and building up a picture of the momentous and troubled times in which Townsend lived (the age of the squatters, our 'land rush'), I immersed myself in the task of locating primary sources about his life – his professional letters, scant personal correspondence, and extraordinary maps. These documents were dispersed across various archives in Australia and the United Kingdom. The narrative needed to be assembled painstakingly from so many fragments, but slowly a picture of a deeply sympathetic figure took form, a man for whom I came to hold considerable affection, admiration and compassion. Over the years Townsend almost became an additional member of my family, always standing there in the background, his weather-beaten ghost looking over my shoulder and casting a critical eye at what I was writing (or so I imagined), urging me to do better in the service of his memory.

Dr Peter Crowley | Author, *Townsend of the Ranges*

Peter Crowley will appear at the Library in conversation with ABC National Affairs Correspondent Melissa Clarke on Tuesday 8 October. Bookings and further details [here](#).

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

As this is the Friends' Newsletter we are hoping that some of you will have some thoughts you would like to share.

We are asking for contributions of up to 400 words on any topic that you think might be worth sharing especially about the Library, matters biblio or any of the topics thrown up by the Newsletter.

We will only edit for clarity where necessary.

Please address your thoughts to: **The editor** via friends@nla.gov.au. We are very keen to hear from you!