



Thank You 2024 Report to Donors



NATIONAL
LIBRARY
OF AUSTRALIA

Thank you

Dear Friends

2024 has been a year of transformation and renewal for the National Library.

Visitors to our beloved heritage building over the course of the year will have noticed that the façade is covered in scaffolding, and that some of our public spaces and reading areas have been temporarily affected by construction. This much-needed repair and renewal of our building will ensure that we continue to preserve our national collection and serve the reading public in the years ahead: that we remain, in the words of our National Cultural Policy, Revive, 'a place for every story.'

Through all this change, the Library remains a place for Australian stories, and your philanthropic support allows us to bring more of these stories to life. Since 2018, your support has contributed almost \$11 million to fund digitisation of collections, Fellowships and Scholarships, public lectures, curatorial research, and education programs here at the Library. Every dollar you entrust us with allows us to make Australia's stories available to the world through Trove, to share those stories through education programs and public lectures, and to host researchers and creative practitioners as they delve deep into our collections.

As 2024 draws to a close, we say farewell to our outgoing Chair, the Hon Dr Brett Mason, who has chaired the Library's Council since 2018 with a passion for our institution that is deeply felt. I know you will join me in thanking him for his leadership over recent years. We are delighted to welcome Distinguished Professor Larissa Behrendt AO FASSA FAHA FAAL as our new Chair, and I look forward to introducing you to Professor Behrendt at future Library events.

In the pages to come, you will read about new and transformative projects that could not happen without your backing. These include a lifelong learning project, supported by a magnanimous gift by Platinum Patrons the Opalgate Foundation. This is a brand-new initiative that will leverage our extraordinary collections to create online learning experiences focused on Australia's rich and diverse history and culture.

You will also read in the following pages about how our Papunya Readers digitisation project has now become something larger – with an exhibition and a book to follow the digitisation project. In line with the National Cultural Policy's emphasis on recognising and respecting the crucial place of First Nations stories at the centre of Australia's arts and culture, we will have more to say in the future about new projects, including digitisation of mid-20th century First Nations periodicals and journals.

In the words of Andrew Carnegie, 'there is not such a cradle of democracy upon the earth as the free public library,' and I am delighted that we will also be able to share part of the story of Australian democracy by digitising the Library's collection of federal election ephemera thanks to our tax appeal donors.

These are just some of the diverse stories you will encounter in the following pages; if the National Library is a place for every story, your support continues to help us to share those stories across the nation.

For all that you have done and continue to do for the National Library, we offer our heartfelt thanks.

Marie-Louise

The National Library of Australia acknowledges Australia's First Nations Peoples – the First Australians - as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and gives respect to the Elders – past and present – and through them to all Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The National Library's collections are rich in the documentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, collected and created by Indigenous and non-Indigenous people alike. As a Library community, we are committed to respectful engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and to meaningful reconciliation.

In keeping with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the National Library recognises that Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. In keeping with the National Library's Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) Protocol, our approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander material within the National Library's collections will reflect that recognition.

Digitisation of Indigenous material will be in accordance with the National Library's ICIP Protocol and in consultation with relevant First Nations individuals and communities.

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COVER: National Library repository in Hume, ACT; OPPOSITE: Corflutes donated from the 2013 federal election, with National Library staff members; FOLLOWING PAGE: Staff members work in the National Library repository in Hume, ACT.



Your Support at a Glance



Philanthropic support for the Library since 1 July 2018 totals **\$10.998 million**, with **\$1.957 million** raised since our last Donor Report.



1,065
DONORS



1,125
GIFTS



912 PATRONS

46% supported our digitisation programs

18% supported Fellowships, Scholarships and study grants

36% supported a wide range of other priorities



389,389
VISITORS TO
THE BUILDING



27
ONSITE
VOLUNTEERS

14.3 million
VISITORS ON TROVE

1,515
FRIENDS OF THE
NATIONAL LIBRARY
MEMBERSHIPS

25.5 million
TEXT LINES CORRECTED
BY VOLUNTROVES



1.2 million
PAGES DIGITISED IN 2024



Lifelong Learning

A new initiative in lifelong learning

The National Library of Australia has long been a leader in sharing digital collections, in partnership with hundreds of other organisations, through our digital platform, Trove.

With millions of pages of content, and millions of visitors annually, Trove is one of the largest online cultural platforms in the world.

Now, thanks to Opalgate Foundation, we will draw on these digital collections to offer new online programs for lifelong learning.

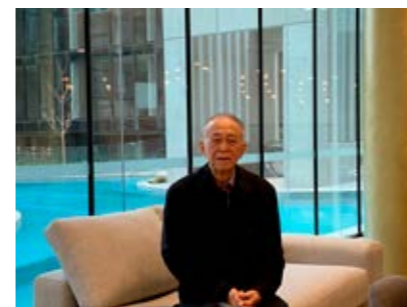
Lifelong learning both complements and expands beyond the boundaries of formal education. With the Foundation's support, we will create a new lifelong learning space on the National Library website.

Drawing on our rich collections – including physical, digital, and oral history collections – we will create a range of online educational content, focused on Australian culture and history in all its diversity and richness. These resources will support learners of all ages with the skills and confidence they need to engage with the Library's collection and meet their learning needs.

This online education content will begin to appear on the National Library website in early 2025.

Opalgate Foundation are already generously supporting a range of Fellowships and Scholarships at the Library, in memory of Cheng King Law.

This project brings the Foundation's overall commitment to the Library to over \$1 million, and we are enormously grateful to Opalgate Foundation for their generous support.



OPPOSITE: Catherine Law, Director of Opalgate Foundation, and Council Member Alice Wong. Photograph by Irene Dowdy; **ABOVE:** The late Mr Cheng King Law. Photograph courtesy of Catherine Law.

Digitisation

2024 Appeal: Federal Election Ephemera

In May of 2024, we asked the National Library community to help us make our election ephemera collection available to the world on Trove.

We are so grateful to our donors, who generously gave over \$320,000 in support of the appeal to help us share the vivid story of Australian democracy.

The National Library's election ephemera collection is Australia's largest collection of political memorabilia. It includes material from each Australian Federal election since Federation. From how-to-vote cards, posters, corflutes, brochures, flyers and stickers, to balloons, flags, t-shirts, buttons, badges, hats, masks, and even vinyl records, our collection of federal election ephemera is both rich and varied.

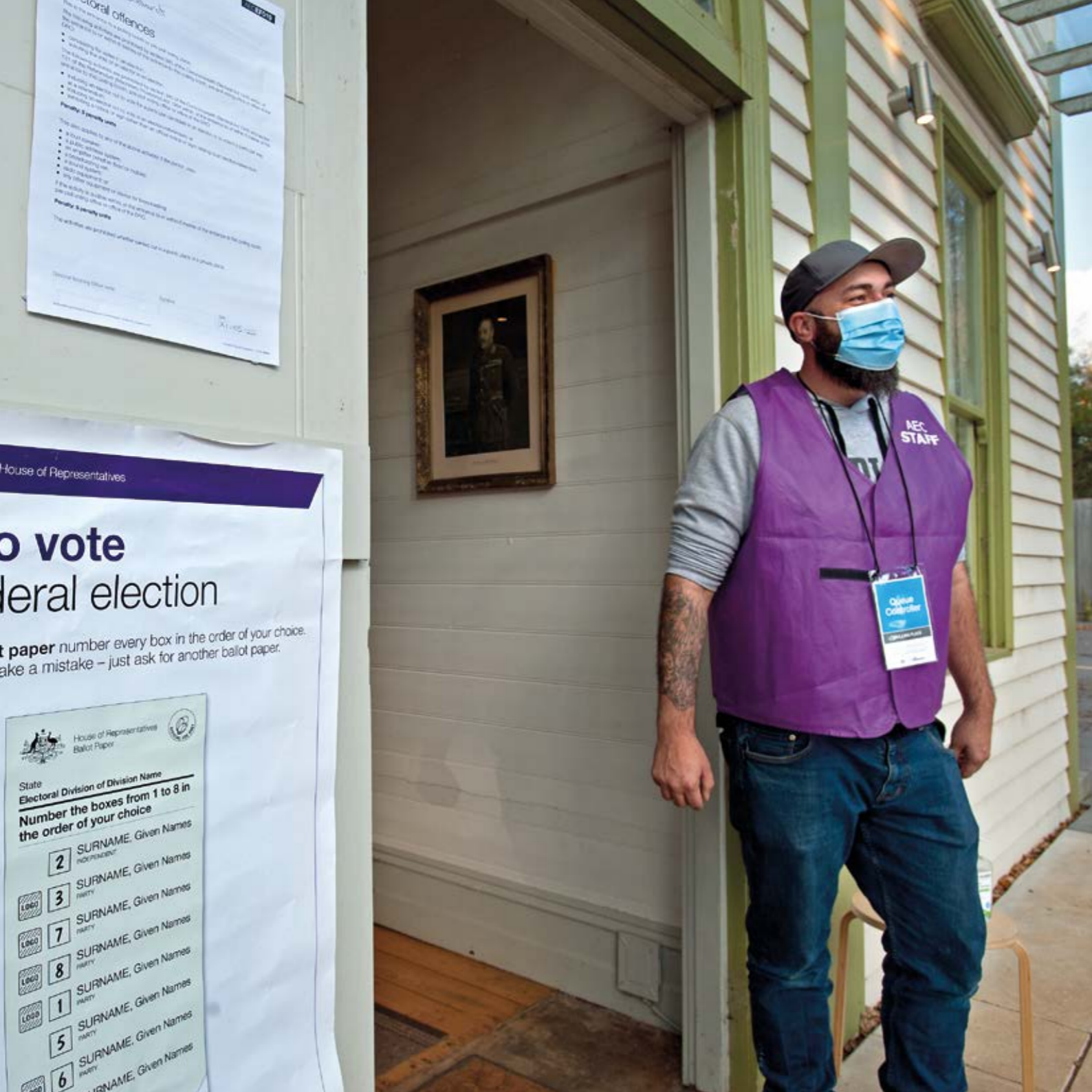
Many of these objects make their way to us from political parties themselves, but thousands of others are donated by the public. The zeal with which you respond to our calls to collect these objects during every election cycle is inspiring, and after every call for material our collection processing areas become full of every kind of political object imaginable.

This is a collection built by citizen collectors like you, and with your support, we will make it available to the world. Once digitised, visitors to Trove will be able to revisit the contest of ideas for each federal election as it was fought, seat by seat, and ballot box by ballot box.

This collection will be available to view on Trove in 2025.



OPPOSITE: Detail from Sandy Scheltema, *AEC Officer Standing Next to a 'How to Vote in a Federal Election' Poster Outside the Polling Place in Glenlyon Hall, During the Australian Federal Election, Glenlyon, Victoria, 21 May*, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3108785070; ABOVE: Various photos of Election Ephemera from *Ephemera Formed 13*, *Ephemera Relating to the Australian Federal Election Campaigns*, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-38919594.



Newspapers from rural NSW coming to Trove

The National Library's online platform, Trove, hosts over 25 million pages from newspaper content. Over the past decade and a half, Trove has transformed the way that Australian history is understood, and the real wonder of Trove has been the way that ordinary Australians have made use of it to research their family and community histories.

Local newspapers can offer a deep insight into community history, and we are grateful for the opportunity to bring new community newspapers online in 2025. With the support of an anonymous Patron, we will digitise the *Moree News* (1899–1907), adding to our existing online material from the *Moree Examiner and General Advertiser* and the *Moree Gwydir Examiner and General Advertiser*.

And with thanks to Gold Patron Geoffrey White OAM, we will be bringing over 30,000 newspaper pages from various publications in Gundagai, Tumut and surrounds – including *The Wynyard Times, Tumut and Gundagai Advertiser* and the *Junee Southern Cross* – to Trove for the first time.



Voices and stories of the Korean diaspora

The National Library's collection holds Australia's largest research resource on Asia, comprising books, journals, government publications and newspapers from all over the region.

Within these holdings are the most significant collection of Korean language material in the country, including monographs, journals, newspapers and ephemera pertaining to all manner of subjects, from Korean history and biography to language, literature and law.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Korean Cultural Centre, a vital cultural resource from the Korean diaspora in Australia will soon be made available on Trove.

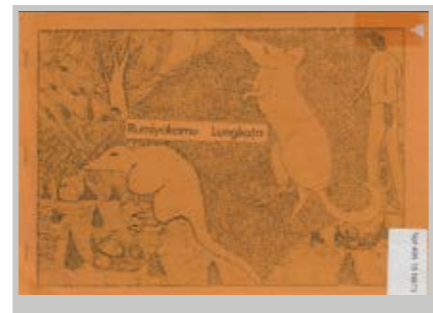
The Hanho Times was a Korean-language newspaper produced in Sydney between 1985 and 1995, a period when Sydney's Korean community established itself as a key part of the cultural landscape of Australia's largest city.

From local and national news produced in-house by reporters to stories about events in Sydney's Korean Community, *The Hanho Times* provided crucial information to immigrants and established community members alike.

The National Library is proud to be able to present this material on Trove in 2025.



OPPOSITE: Page from *Junee Southern Cross*, Friday March 13 1942, nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn1440021; Masthead from *Wynyard Times*, Friday December 14, 1860, nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn4497572; ABOVE: Page from *Hanho Times*, Friday 29 July, 1988, nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn8811867.



OPPOSITE: Detail from *Naanytja ma kurrpa* [*The story of the three horses*], 1986, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3285834703, p.7; **ABOVE:** Cover of *Rumiyakamu lungkata* [*The goanna man and the sleepy lizard man*], 1987, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3285463123; detail from *Wati niinyi* [*The snake man and the zebra finch man*], 1985, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3284827940, p.14.

Stories from the Papunya community come to life

Over the past two years, with the kind support of a generous Patron, the National Library has undertaken a project to digitise our holdings of Papunya readers, produced between 1970 and 1990 by the Papunya Literature Production Centre.

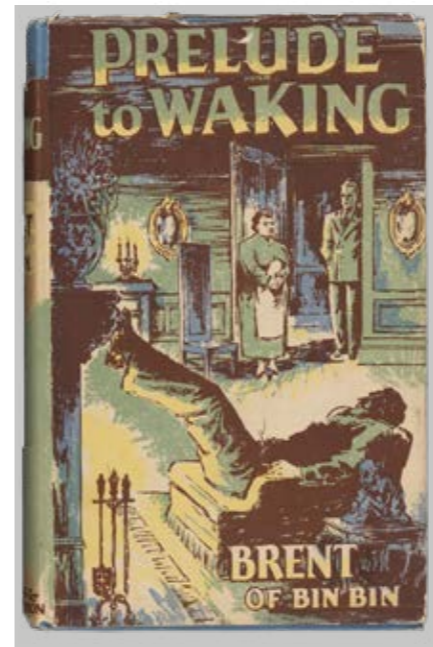
Produced on country in Papunya, some 240km from Alice Springs, the Papunya readers were produced as instructional material for the bilingual program that operated at Papunya School and the Pintupi outstation of Yayayi. Children in these communities were able to hear stories from and about their own community in their own language, accompanied by beautiful illustrations by artists from the community.

Thanks to generous philanthropic support, the National Library has been able to digitise 350 of these publications, and recently returned digital copies of the material back to the Papunya community. We are now working on returning physical reproductions of the material and producing “talking e-book” versions of sixteen of the stories in the readers, narrated by community members in Pintupi-Luritja language.

The Papunya readers will form the basis of a forthcoming exhibition, *Wangka Walytja*, in Darwin, which will tell the story of three generations of artistic production in Papunya – from the founding artists in the Papunya art movement, through the first authors and illustrators of the Papunya readers, to the children who read these books in Papunya classrooms and are now transforming them into new, digital media.

This exhibition will tour to the National Library of Australia in 2026 alongside the launch of a publication from National Library of Australia Publishing about the project.

This project forms an important part of the Library’s commitment to the UN Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022–2032).



Treasures from Miles Franklin's brilliant career

With the support of two Platinum Patrons, the selected papers of a towering figure in Australian literature will be made available to the world through Trove for the very first time.

The Library is honoured to hold selected papers of the iconic Australian novelist Miles Franklin.

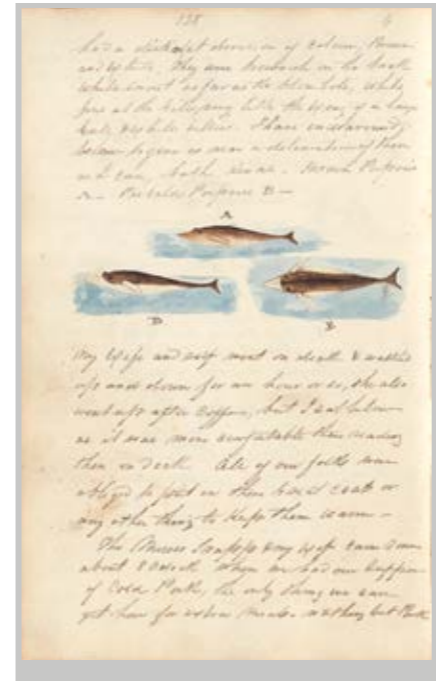
Best known for her 1901 novel *My Brilliant Career*, Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin (1879–1954) was both a pioneer of Australian literary fiction and deeply committed to supporting the development of a uniquely Australian literature. To this end, she endowed a major annual prize for literature about Australian life which remains one of the nation's most prestigious literary awards – the Miles Franklin Award. A second major award, for Australian women's writing, is also named in her honour – the Stella Prize.

The treasures at the centre of this collection of Miles Franklin's papers are centred around Franklin's less-heralded work from later in her career; chiefly the earliest incarnations of *Old Blastus of Bandicoot*, whose earliest handwritten drafts and even a typewritten draft as a play are included here.

Also included is a typeset manuscript of *Ten Creeks Run*, published under Franklin's pseudonym Brent of Bin Bin, and a litany of personal correspondence, photographs and much more. Whether you are a literary historian or a keen reader of Australian literature, Miles Franklin's papers will surprise and inform you when they appear on Trove in 2025.

OPPOSITE: Detail from *Unknown*, Stella Miles Franklin, 1900s, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-229628581;

ABOVE: Cover of *Prelude to Waking*, 1950, nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn2854686.



The storied journeys of early European migrants

Some fascinating accounts of early European migration are now available on Trove, thanks to the support of Patrons Diana Exon, Philip Flood, and an anonymous Patron.

Some describe the natural beauty of the voyage, as in this description from Theo West's diary of his voyage aboard the *Palmyra* in 1853:

*Jupiter just above young moon making whole circle distinctly visible.
Sea very bright blue & sparkling like strewn with diamonds.*

Others describe the travails of the long journey. Emily Braine's journal of her voyage on the *Eagle* (1854–55) records her own health and that of her family, and encounters with other ships, sea life, and rough weather. She describes occasions (Christmas an odd one I assure you) and both births and deaths on board:

A ship in sight, another man died today. We witnessed for the first time a corpse buried in the great deep. The body is sewn up in a piece of canvass with a stone at the feet and it is slid along a plank into the water, what a sound beside the dashing of the water, the burial service is read. 2 deaths in a week, it almost frightens us.

Emily turned eleven years old a few days before her ship arrived in Melbourne.

Many more migrant stories appear in our exhibition *Hopes and Fears: Australian Migration Stories*, in the Library's Exhibition gallery until February 2025.

OPPOSITE: Detail from *Diaries of Felton and Sarah Mathew, Volume 1*, 3 August 1829–3 December 1835, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3379665381;

ABOVE: Page from *Logbook and Diary of John Sceales, 1838–1842*, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3183887005.



OPPOSITE: Detail of *N.S.W. Cycling Gazette: Official Organ of the N.S.W. Cyclists' Touring Union, Sat 30 January 1897*, nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn959779, p.141;
ABOVE: Cover of *Nation Review, Vol 3 No 25, April 6–12 1973*, nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn574000.

Australia's history on two wheels

Australia's rich history as a pedal-powered nation will be brought to life on Trove in 2025, thanks to the support of Gold Patron Tony Wheeler AO.

French velocipedes arrived in Australia in the 1860s, with the Melbourne Cricket Ground hosting what is claimed to have been Australia's first bicycle race in 1869. High-wheelers, later called penny-farthings, arrived in Melbourne in 1875. By the 1920s, an Australian cyclist, Hubert 'Oppy' Opperman would compete in the Tour de France.

The National Library's collection of cycling-related serials tells the story of a nation falling in love with riding for pleasure, for sport and for the purposes of traversing the long, dusty roads which criss-cross our enormous country. Originating from nearly every corner of the country, these journals will shed light on the two-wheeled adventures of Australians from the late nineteenth century to the present day.

The *Nation Review* goes online

The *Nation Review* was an Australian Sunday newspaper that ran through the 1970s, seeking to create a 'more stimulating, more sophisticated and more passionate Australia' through its alternative approach to mainstream journalism. Published by Richard Walsh (previously the co-founder of OZ), and featuring iconoclastic contributors who would become giants in Australian arts and letters, including Michael Leunig, Bob Ellis, Mungo McCallum, Patrick Cook and Philip Adams, the *Nation Review* documents a pivotal time in Australia's political and cultural history.

Thanks to the support of Gold Patron and Library Council member Doug Snedden AO, the entire run of the *Nation Review* will be available on Trove in 2025.



Australian women take to the skies

Australia's aviation history was written in part by daring, brilliant women.

Early in 2024 we were privileged to be able to bring the records of the Australian Women Pilots' Association online thanks to a generous gift from the Dick and Pip Smith Foundation. With their continued support, we are delighted to announce that the manuscript collections of many of Australia's trailblazing aviatrixes will also soar onto Trove in 2025.

Containing photos, diaries and personal effects of intrepid pilots like Nancy Bird Walton AO OBE (founder of the Australian Women Pilots Association), Millicent Bryant (the first woman in the Commonwealth to earn a pilot's licence) and Freda Thompson OBE (the first Australian woman to fly solo from England to Australia), this material highlights the role of women in early Australian aviation.

Australians in Asia during World War II

We are enormously grateful to Principal Patron and former Deputy Chair Jane Hemstrich AO for her generous support of the Library over many years.

In 2019, Jane made an extraordinary philanthropic commitment of \$1 million to support digitisation of selected National Library collections. This funding has allowed us to digitise our entire collection of Australian almanacs, an information resource akin to 'the internet of the 19th century'; followed by an extraordinary collection of Victorian regional newspapers; and subsequently, in 2024, the papers of Cold War foreign correspondent Wilfred Burchett, a distinctively radical voice in twentieth-century Australian writing.

In 2025 we will bring a final selection of material online with this remarkable donation – a selection of manuscript materials documenting the experiences of Australians in Asia during the Second World War.

OPPOSITE: Detail of Air Pilot's Cap and Goggles Owned by Freda Thompson, 1930s, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-139636320; ABOVE: Page from Freda Thompson's Private Pilot's Licence, nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn1025622.



Fellowships and Scholarships



With the support of our Patrons, the National Library is proud to offer researchers and creators from a diverse range of backgrounds the opportunity to immerse themselves in our collections through our Fellowships and Scholarships program.

This year, researchers and artists have delved into topics as diverse as the biographies of Australian writers Drusilla Modjeska, Christobel Mattingley, and Elizabeth Harrower; Catholic politicians and issues of identity in 19th century Australia; the Aboriginal narrative of the Shoalhaven's colonisation; and the perception of the Asian diaspora in the Transpacific, among many others.

These opportunities simply would not exist without the support of our donors. In 2024, we were able to offer six research fellowships, six scholarships for early-career researchers, two creative arts fellowships and five Asian studies grants, all fully funded by philanthropic support.

This year we will offer a new fellowship for research in Australian rural, regional or environmental history in memory of Professor Ivor Jones, with thanks to Silver Patrons Dr Rebecca Jones and Sue Whyte, and the Morag Fraser scholarship for research in any topic.

Our thanks, as always, to the many generous supporters who make this program possible, and we look forward to hearing about discoveries made deep within the Library's collections by our new Fellows and Scholars in 2025.

OPPOSITE: 2024 NLA Fellow in Australian Literature Dr Bernadette Brennan;
ABOVE: 2024 NLA Scholar Mr Tandee Wang.



Flagship Lectures

Ann Moyal Lecture

The second annual Ann Moyal Lecture was delivered by Scientia Professor Veena Sahajwalla, Founding Director of the Sustainable Materials Research and Technology (SMaRT) Centre at UNSW, in August 2024.

In her remarks, Professor Sahajwalla entreated the audience to consider the waste we produce in our daily lives, and what else we could do with it.

The Ann Moyal Lecture was established with a generous bequest by Gold Patron Dr Ann Moyal. It is delivered by a distinguished speaker on the subject of 'Science in Society'.

Kenneth Myer Lecture

For the past twenty-four years, the Kenneth Myer Lecture has provided an opportunity for eminent Australians to make significant statements on a subject of interest.

The Kenneth Myer Lecture commemorates the National Library's former Chair of the Council of the National Library, Kenneth Bailleu Myer AC DSC, and is made possible through the generous support of Platinum Patrons the Myer Foundation.

Ray Mathew Lecture

We are delighted to announce that acclaimed author Christos Tsiolkas will deliver the Ray Mathew Lecture in the second half of 2025.

The Lecture is delivered by an Australian author, playwright or poet, and is funded through a generous bequest made by Eva Kollsman in recognition of her friend, Australian poet and playwright Ray Mathew.

OPPOSITE: NLA Director-General
Dr Marie-Louise Ayres and 2024
Ann Moyal Lecturer Scientia Professor
Veena Sahajwalla.

Our Patron Dinner



The National Library was delighted to once again hold our annual Patron Dinner in April, at the storied Hyatt Hotel Canberra, where the Chair and Director-General thanked our Patrons for their support.

Our keynote speaker for the evening was the President of the Myer Foundation, Rupert Myer AO. His topic was *Library as Sanctuary, Librarian as Saviour*.

In his speech, he reflected on the role of libraries:

I love that library is a word that is scalable. A library of books can be on a single shelf or consume a room of a house or be spread over several. It can occasionally be an entire wing. A library can be subsumed into rooms with other names like study, office or den. A personal library is both defining of a person and, sometimes, defining of what a person aspires to be. Institutionally, they exist in just about every educational, religious and cultural context and throughout a myriad of specialist fields, across geographies and communities.

And:

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 ... 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.

Mr Myer's speech is available in full on our website.

We thank all who joined us at the 2024 dinner and look forward to seeing our Patrons again in 2025.

OPPOSITE: 2024 Patron Dinner keynote speaker Rupert Myer AO. Photograph by Irene Dowdy; **ABOVE:** Former Council Chair Dr Brett Mason speaking at 2024 Patron Dinner. Photograph by Irene Dowdy.

A legacy and a landmark collection

The National Library is proud to receive posthumous gifts from many Australians who entrust us with their legacy.

Ralf Iannuzzi, a long-time member of the Friends of the National Library and regular event attendee, included a gift to the Library in his will before he passed away in 2013. With the Greater Good Foundation's generous assistance, the Ralf Iannuzzi Memorial Trust was created, distributing funds to the Library over the next decade.

Ralf Iannuzzi was a lover of books, and a member of the Canberra Bookbinders Guild, and to honour his legacy, we are using his bequest to digitise a landmark collection from Sir John Alexander Ferguson, one of Australia's most prolific book collectors.

Ferguson's pre-1850 "octavos" are among the rarest items ever acquired by the Library, including thousands of small pamphlets detailing early colonial settlement and documentation of Indigenous languages. These fragile and unique items will be digitized thanks to Ralf Iannuzzi's generosity.

The Library is pleased to honour donors who include the Library in their will through membership of the Hazel de Berg Circle. The Circle is named for Hazel de Berg, the pioneer of oral history in Australia, whose collection forms one of the Library's Foundation Collections. For information on the Hazel de Berg Circle, please contact the Philanthropy team at 02 6262 1336 or visit our website library.gov.au/give.



ABOVE: Page from *Barrington's History of New South Wales, Including Botany Bay and its Dependencies*, 1802, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-138469846; The Ferguson Collection situated in the National Library stacks.



Detail from Neville W. Cayley, *Adelaide rosella* (*Platycercus elegans adelaidae*), *Yellow rosella* (*Platycercus flaveolus*), *Green rosella* (*Platycercus caledonicus*), c.1930s, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-135614940.

Friendship is the greatest gift of all

The Friends of the National Library is an association of people with a huge passion for our institution and the material that we collect. All users of the Library—be they visitors to our building or users of our online services—benefit from the support that the Friends are generous enough to offer us.

Among the many contributions to Library life, the Friends present lectures and events promoting scholarship and debate on topical issues. The Friends have supported digitisation of various treasures from the Library's collection and sponsored a Creative Arts Fellowship allowing a creative practitioner to undertake a residency in Canberra. The Friends' Platinum Patron status at the Library speaks to their incredible generosity and dedication.

Membership of the Friends confers many benefits, including discounts at the Library's cafes and Bookshop, discounted tickets to Library events, exclusive content via a quarterly newsletter, and reciprocal benefits with State Libraries and other cultural institutions.

If you are interested in becoming a Friend of the National Library, you can sign up online at library.gov.au/give/become-friend or email friends@nla.gov.au. Our Friends Executive Officer is available to answer questions and can be contacted on 02 6262 1551.

How to Support

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For further information, how to leave a bequest or to discuss supporting the National Library, please contact:

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