



Treasured Voices

Priority projects

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 Library recognises that Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, and our approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander material within the Library's collections will reflect that recognition.

**“ We believe passionately in
our vision of a new, digital
National Library for the
twenty-first century. ”**

“Bringing these rich and diverse collections online will fulfil our vision to make the treasures of the National Library freely available to everyone.”

Priority projects

In seeking to build a new, digital National Library for the twenty-first century, we have curated a series of key collections, from our physical holdings of ten million items, across eight themes.

These themes are:

- **voices of Australian life**
- **voices of migration and movement**
- **voices of democracy**
- **voices for equality**
- **creative voices**
- **science, nature and the environment**
- **war and peace**
- **foundation collections.**

The pages that follow contain further detail about these themes, and we invite you to look through this document for an overview of what *Treasured Voices* will deliver.

The projects outlined here range in size, scope and cost, from the digitisation of valuable but compact individual collections to ambitious multi-year projects encompassing several large-scale collections.

We have chosen these projects and these collections because we believe that these are the stories that make Australians who we are today—the stories that define us as a nation.

Bringing these rich and diverse collections online will fulfil our vision to make the treasures of the National Library freely available to everyone, to transform access to Australian culture and history, to create a trusted online source of information that will

educate and inspire new generations, and to build a digital showcase for Australian culture that is available globally.

As well as digitisation of collections, our priorities also include a new approach to consultation, engagement and collaboration with First Nations communities.

For collections containing documentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, our priority is the development of a new partnership model with First Nations communities, rather than public access.

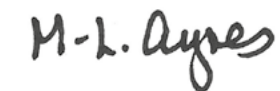
We hope that you, too, are inspired by the potential within the pages that follow and the rich collections that they describe.

We believe passionately in our vision of a new, digital National Library for the twenty-first century.

With your help, we can make this a reality.

If there is a potential project in the pages that follow that inspires you, we would be delighted to discuss with you further.

Sincerely,



Dr Marie-Louise Ayres FAHA, Director-General



Voices of Australian Life

Our collections

People often use our collections when they see their own lives reflected within them.

That is why so many Australians visit the National Library—on site and online—not to read about great achievements in art and culture, or dramatic moments in politics, but rather to research their family history, or the history of their community.

Many of our most important and most-used collections relate to the rich history of everyday life.

This history has been the cornerstone of the Library's Trove website for over a decade, via the digitisation of newspapers. Making historic metropolitan and regional newspapers available for everyone online has connected the internet generation with resources for in-depth research of political, social and family history.

But our collections go far beyond newspapers, and we have a wide range of collections that have the potential to unlock the daily lives of everyday Australians in times past: not just the newspapers they read, but the houses they lived in, the food they ate, the sporting heroes they cherished, the languages they spoke and the beliefs they nurtured.



Many of our most important and most-used collections relate to the rich history of everyday life.

OPPOSITE: William Yang, *Break Up, Saturday School, Darwin* (detail), 1990, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-146598525; **ABOVE:** George W. Bell, *Three Women and Two Men Playing Cricket in a Back Alley* (detail), c.1965, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-151777590; **FOLLOWING PAGE:** Mural of Shane Warne in the Back Streets of St Kilda, Victoria, 29 March 2022, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3052420212



Voices of Australian Life

Our priorities

Subject to the appropriate permissions from rights holders and, where relevant, First Nations communities, our priorities for digitisation are to create new online resources for family and community history through:

- 1. the digitisation of regional newspapers.**
The Library has digitised two-thirds of all pre-1955 Australian newspapers—around 25 million pages of content. Digitising further regional newspapers will allow us to make historical content available to local communities across regional Australia
- 2. the digitisation of newspapers relating to Australian multicultural communities.**
Having previously worked with the Australian Jewish community to digitise community newspapers from the nineteenth century to the twenty-first, we would like to build on this project by working with other communities to digitise Greek, Italian and Arabic newspapers, among others
- 3. the digitisation of Australian magazines and journals from 1800 to 1950.** From gentlemen's magazines to the first mass-market titles appealing to women readers, early magazines and journals can give us unique insight into times past
- 4. the digitisation of local history collections,** including the McLaren local history collection and local history material collected by John Alexander Ferguson
- 5. the completion of the digitisation of the Wolfgang Sievers collection**—an enormous photographic archive focused on architecture and industry

- 6. the digitisation of the papers of pastoral families** (such as the Mackay and Wills families), which document life on the land across multiple generations
- 7. the digitisation of collections documenting Australia's love of sport,** from collections relating to Olympic and Paralympic Games to historic periodicals on cycling and soccer and the archives of individual sporting heroes
- 8. the digitisation of the Darryl Thompson collection of Australian menus,** reflecting changing tastes over generations
- 9. the digitisation of photographic collections of some of Australia's best-known photographers and photojournalists,** including those of Robert MacFarlane and David Moore
- 10. the documentation of religion and belief.** By digitising materials from institutional archives to the spiritual reflections of individuals, we can offer a view of the varied beliefs held across Australian society
- 11. the digitisation of collections specific to particular cities, towns, communities and places.** Ranging from runs of local histories, pamphlets and maps to travel brochures and photography, the national scope of the collection allows people to connect with their own sense of 'place'.

Digitising these collections can give new life to the everyday experiences of people in times past, enabling everyone to delve deeply into the vivid details of day-to-day life, as it really was, in their town or district for their community or for their family.



Voices of Migration & Movement

Our collections

Stories of migration and movement are an important part of the story of Australia.

Today, almost one third of Australians were born overseas, and another quarter have an overseas-born parent. The Library's collections record the voices of generation after generation of migrants and explorers, from the eighteenth century to the twenty-first.

Our collections include nineteenth-century migrant diaries that give firsthand accounts of the voyage to Australia, extensive collections of letters home and immigrant guidebooks in various languages.

Our collections tell the story of generations of migrants, travellers and explorers—in their own words.

Our extensive holdings of materials relating to exploration range from early printed accounts by explorers such as Oxley, Leichhardt, Sturt and Mitchell to the 1948 American-Australian Scientific Expedition to Arnhem Land.

We hold an extraordinary collection of Australian maps.

This story does not end at Australia's borders. We hold extensive documentation of the story of Australia's exploration of Antarctica, and a rich, diverse range of materials on the Pacific region.

Digitising these collections of maps, migrant stories and narratives of exploration will open up these diverse stories for new generations.

Our collections tell the story of generations of migrants, travellers and explorers—in their own words.

OPPOSITE: *Jewish Migrants Arriving in Australia (detail), 1939*, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-137251339; **FOLLOWING PAGES:** *Locomotive S300 'Matthew Flinders' Leads Southbound 'Spirit of Progress' out of Albury in 1939 (detail)*, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-155002453; *Our Neighbour the Aimo Pietilas of Devoncourt Street from Mount Isa Mines Limited & M.I.M. Holdings Limited, 1996*, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-304766576



Voices of Migration & Movement

Our priorities

Subject to the appropriate permissions from rights holders and, where relevant, First Nations communities, our priorities include:

- 1. the creation of a new online resource for understanding the nineteenth century migrant experience, created through the digitisation of nineteenth-century migrant diaries
- 2. the digitisation of 25,000 out-of-copyright Australian maps that have community or research value
- 3. the completion of digitisation of the EA Crome aviation collection—approximately two-thirds of this collection has not yet been digitised
- 4. the completion of digitisation of the Buckland collection of railway transport photographs—over 80 per cent of this collection has not yet been digitised

- 5. the creation of a new online resource for the history of Australian exploration, including print and manuscript materials
- 6. the digitisation of extensive selections from our Pacific collections, making key voices from Pacific history available globally
- 7. the creation of a new online resource for the history of Antarctic exploration, created by digitising the extensive papers and photographic records of Antarctic explorers
- 8. the digitisation of Chinese-Australian material, including rare and unique items in language that document Chinese settlers' and migrants' views of Australia.





Voices of Democracy

Our collections

The National Library had its origins within the Commonwealth Parliamentary Library, which served both federal parliament and the nation from 1901 until 1960, relocating with the parliament from Melbourne to Canberra in 1927. It is no surprise, then, that the Library's collections contain an extraordinary wealth of material telling the story of Australian democracy from Federation to the present day—from the papers of early prime ministers to records of the major political parties.

Our collections trace the origins and evolution of our democratic system.

In a contemporary era where democracy faces a range of challenges, not least in the area of online misinformation, bringing the story of Australian democracy online will help current and future generations understand that our democratic rights and political systems were often hard won.

Digitising these collections will enable Australians today, and for generations to come, to understand the story of Australian democracy as it evolved during the twentieth century through the voices of its protagonists, from protesters to prime ministers.

Our collections trace the origins and evolution of our democratic system.

Signed Photograph of Alfred Deakin Ministry, Canberra (detail), c.1906, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-2551717122. Signatures: William John Lyne, Thomas Thomson Ewing, Alfred Deakin (prime minister), Austin Chapman, Henry Stafford Northcote (governor-general), Thomas Playford, Isaac Alfred Isaacs, John Henry Keating, Littleton Ernest Groom and John Forrest

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

The Commonwealth Electoral Act.

CORRECT ELECTORAL ENROLMENT IS COMPULSORY

PENALTY FOR FAILURE—not exceeding £2

Are YOU
correctly enrolled?

Claim Cards, and envelopes bearing full information,
are obtainable at Post Offices.

Melbourne, 8th October, 1924.

J. D. FARRAR,
Chief Electoral Officer for the Commonwealth.

Voices of Democracy

Our priorities

Subject to the appropriate permissions from rights holders and, where relevant, First Nations communities, our priorities include:

1. **the creation of a new online resource telling the story of Australian Federation in the voices of its participants**, including print and manuscript materials relating to the Australian Constitution and the papers of Alfred Deakin (partly digitised), Edmund Barton (already online), Christopher Crisp, Sir Robert Garran, Patrick McMahon Glynn, HB Higgins, BR Wise, Sir Isaac Isaacs, Sir Walter James, Sir John Kirwan, Sir William Lyne, Sir Josiah Symon, Lord (Hallam) Tennyson and Sir George Turner
2. **the creation of a new online resource to tell the story of Australian democracy in the twentieth century**, by digitising collections relating to Australian political history including an extensive collection of election ephemera from every federal election since 1901
3. **the digitisation of the records of Australian political parties**. We hold the post-1945 records of the Secretariat of the Liberal Party of Australia, equivalent records of the Australian Labor Party since 1917 and the records of other parties, extant or otherwise, including the records of the Communist Party from 1920 to 1967
4. **the digitisation of collections relating to radicals, protesters and idealists in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Australia**, including the attempt to establish a utopian 'New Australia' in Paraguay in the late nineteenth century.



OPPOSITE: *Correct Electoral Enrolment is Compulsory*, 1924;
RIGHT: *Australian Democratea Tea Bags*, 2013



Voices for Equality

Our collections

The Library's manuscript holdings include the archives of individuals and organisations who were prominent voices for equality in the twentieth century.

They contain the papers of leading women's rights organisations and the papers of a number of inspirational twentieth-century post-suffrage women leaders from all parties and none, including Bessie Rischbieth, Ruby Rich, Lady (Jessie) Street, Julia Rapke, Alice Henry, Marjorie McDonald, Ivy Brookes, Dame Enid Lyons, Dame Dorothy Tangney and Dame Ivy Wedgwood.

These materials are authoritative, inspirational and, in many cases, unique. They span an extraordinary range of materials: oral histories, posters, programs, photographs, badges, banners, petitions, testimonials, personal items, protest memorabilia,

newspaper clippings, ephemera and the correspondence of trailblazing Australian women leaders who broke records, broke stereotypes and broke every glass ceiling that tried to constrain them. Selections of this material are already online; work to make more available is underway now.

Our LGBTQIA+ collections are no less compelling. They include papers from the Campaign Against Moral Persecution (CAMP), one of the very first LGBTQIA+ rights organisations in Australia, as well as the papers of advocates and activists such as John Trigg, Dennis Altman and Timothy Conigrave.

The Library also holds oral histories capturing memories of LGBTQIA+ life dating back to the 1940s, as well as powerful accounts of the HIV and AIDS epidemics and the Marriage Equality Campaign.

Support for digitisation of these collections will make the stories of these extraordinary campaigners available for a new generation.

Sean Davey, Marriage Equality Ambassadors Holding up 'Yes' Signs in Front of Parliament House, Canberra, 7 December 2017 (detail), nla.gov.au/nla.obj-735351644



Voices for Equality

Our priorities

Subject to the appropriate permissions from rights holders and, where relevant, First Nations communities, our priorities include:

1. the creation of a new online resource to tell the story of Australian women leaders in the twentieth century, through digitisation of the papers of post-suffrage women leaders.

2. the creation of a new online resource to document the LGBTQIA+ experience in Australia by digitising our LGBTQIA+ collections.

Support for digitisation of these collections will make the stories of these extraordinary campaigners available for a new generation, educating and inspiring current and future generations of voices for equality.



OPPOSITE: Leigh Henningham, *Women Wearing Face Masks at the Women's March4Justice Rally, Treasury Gardens, Melbourne, 15 March 2021*(detail), nla.gov.au/nla.obj-2943601217;
ABOVE: *Badges of Women's Suffrage Groups Worn by Bessie Rischbieth, c.1913*, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-139607936

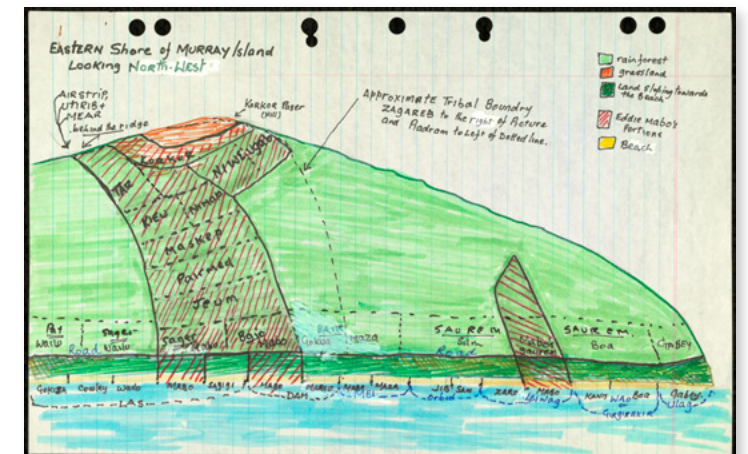
A black and white photograph of a man in a light-colored polo shirt sitting in a train car. He is looking thoughtfully out the window with his hand resting on his chin. The train is moving, as evidenced by the blurred background and the motion blur of the tracks and other train cars.

Australia's First Nations peoples are custodians of the world's oldest continuing cultures, and the National Library is privileged to care for a diverse range of materials representing Indigenous voices.

**The National Lib
care for a divers
representing Inc**

While we are privileged to hold these collections, we need to build genuine partnerships with First Nations communities to ensure these collections are appropriately cared for, used and enhanced.

The National Library is privileged to care for a diverse range of materials representing Indigenous voices.





First Nations Voices

Our priorities

Our priorities for the care of collections relating to First Nations peoples include:

1. the creation of a model for consultation and engagement

Our first priority is to establish a best-practice model for the management and two-way caring of collections containing First Australians' cultural material.

The collection of Robert Hamilton Mathews (1841–1918) holds material of significance to a large number of communities, and has been identified as a collection upon which a consultative model could be based.

Unlike our other *Treasured Voices* projects, the success of this project will not only be measured on collections shared with the wider public.

Instead, it will also create a best-practice model for national cultural institutions to use when consulting with Australian First Nations communities, and digitised materials will only be publicly shared with permission.

2. the creation of a First Nations cultural development residency

Our second priority is to increase access for First Nations people to their cultural heritage held within our collections, via the creation of a First Nations cultural development residency.

This residency will complement the Library's existing Fellowships and Scholarships program.

These projects will begin to nurture deep and rich partnerships between the National Library and First Nations communities to begin the work of creating a two-way approach to caring for First Nations collections in the twenty-first century.

We need to build genuine partnerships with First Nations communities to ensure these collections are appropriately cared for, used and enhanced.

PREVIOUS PAGES: Robert McFarlane, *Charles Perkins Travelling to University* (detail), 1963, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-136494589; Edward Koiki Mabo, *Hand-drawn Map Showing Land Portions*, 1989; **OPPOSITE:** Tim Webster, *Djakapurra Munyarryun in the Bangarra Dance Theatre Production 'Ochres'* (detail), 1995, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-136834625



Creative Voices

Our collections

Australia's legacy in the arts is an extraordinary one, and our collections reflect that legacy.

The Library's unparalleled holdings include not only a vast range of printed material, but also extensive holdings of pictures, music, oral history and manuscript collections.

These collections include the papers of iconic performing artists, such as designers Kristian Fredrikson and Kenneth Rowell, and a range of Australian writers and thinkers, including Nobel nominee Judith Wright, Nobel laureate Patrick White, Peter Sculthorpe, Kenneth Slessor, Christina Stead, Helen Garner, Dame Mary Gilmore, Manning Clark and Henry Reynolds.

They also include formed collections of printed works such as our holdings of early Australian children's literature, celebrated in

our 2019 exhibition *Story Time*. These include the 7,000-volume collection of Marcie Muir, including some 500 works published before 1900 and the works of a large number of hitherto-neglected female writers.

Our photography collections encompass the Keast Burke collection on the history of photography, the Dwyer collection of Canberra photographs, the Tregellas collection of some 10,000 nineteenth-century photographs and stereoscopic images, and the WF Stringer collection documenting ballet performances in Australia between 1940 and 1992.

The Library's holdings include pictures, music, oral history and manuscript collections.



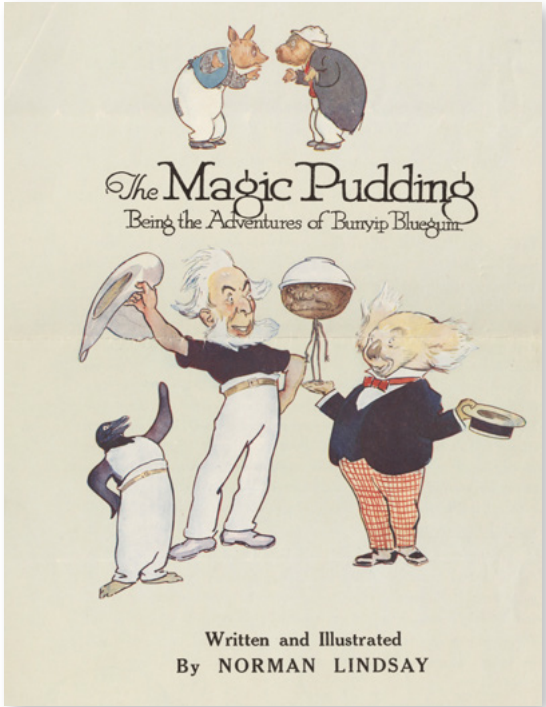
Creative Voices

Our priorities

Subject to the appropriate permissions from rights holders and, where relevant, First Nations communities, our priorities include:

1. **the creation of a new online resource for Australian children's literature through digitisation of extensive selections from our holdings**, including early, rare and neglected works as well as collections of children's authors and illustrators
2. **the digitisation of selected performing arts collections**, including the visually stunning collections of Kristian Fredrikson, Kenneth Rowell and Desmond Digby

3. **the creation of a new online archive for the history of Australian photography**, including selected photography collections such as the Keast Burke collection, the Dwyer collection, the Tregellas collection and the WF Stringer collection
4. **the digitisation of the papers of some of Australia's greatest individual artists, writers and thinkers**—Patrick White, Judith Wright, Kenneth Slessor, Christina Stead, Dame Mary Gilmore, Manning Clark, Henry Reynolds, Sally Morgan and many more (subject to permission).



OPPOSITE: Walter Stringer, *Peter Condon as Madam Bonbonniere in the Nutcracker, The Australian Ballet* (detail), 1963, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-146858577 **ABOVE:** Norman Lindsay, publisher's brochure for *The Magic Pudding: Being the Adventures of Bunyip Bluegum*, Angus & Robertson, 1918, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-37156612



Kangaroo.

Science, Nature, & the Environment

Our collections

Australia has always been a continent of extensive and unique natural wonders, a source of curiosity and astonishment for Australians and visitors alike. Its teeming diversity is reflected across the Library's rich holdings.

Early accounts by naturalists in the collection include Strzelecki's *Physical Description of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land*, John Sowerby's illustrations of Australian botany and zoology, and William Richardson's *A Catalogue of 7385 Stars*—the first major star catalogue of the southern skies.

In particular, we hold the collection of Gregory Macalister Mathews, who compiled the 12-volume *Birds of Australia* (1910–1927). The Mathews collection contains some 5,000 books, pamphlets, reprints and journals published between 1760 and 1940 on all aspects of ornithology, with a special focus on Australian birds.

We have already digitised extensive collections of scientific records relating to Australia. Our remaining undigitised manuscript collections include the records of the Australian National Research Council, the papers of cochlear implant inventor Graeme Clark and the papers of astronomer Ben Gascoigne, who played a leading role in the design and commissioning of the Anglo-Australian Telescope, Australia's largest optical telescope.

Collections such as the records of the Australian Conservation Foundation tell the story of efforts to preserve and protect our unique environment.

Australia's teeming diversity is reflected across the Library's rich holdings.



Science, Nature, & the Environment

Our priorities

Subject to the appropriate permissions from rights holders and, where relevant, First Nations communities, our priorities include:

1. **digitisation of the Mathews collection**, with its focus on Australian bird life
2. **digitisation of the papers of leading Australian scientists** such as Graeme Clark, Isobel Bennett and Ben Gascoigne
3. **digitisation of the records of the Australian Conservation Foundation and Greenpeace Australia**
4. **digitisation of documented responses to natural disasters and climate change**, including unique and significant material from government agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceans Office, National Water Initiative and the Australian Greenhouse Office.



Collections such as the records of the Australian Conservation Foundation tell the story of efforts to preserve and protect our unique environment.

OPPOSITE: Sean Davey, *Aftermath of a Large Bushfire that Swept through Forest Area along Yowrie Road, Yowrie, New South Wales, 31 December 2019* (detail), nla.gov.au/nla.obj-2428728997;
ABOVE: Lilian M Medland, *Watercolours for Plates for an Unpublished Book on Australian Birds by Gregory M Mathews*, 1930s, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-139505925

High Commissioner's Office,
London.

September 23, 1915.

Personal.

Dear Mr. Fisher,

The Cabinet will, ere this reaches you, have dealt with my report on A.I.F. mails and wounded, so it is no good my saying more on these subjects, other than this, that if you allow the inert mass of congealed incompetency in the Postal Department to keep you from instituting alphabetical sorting by units, 75 per cent. of our unfortunate homesick men in hospitals and at base depots will continue to receive no home letters. (1/

It is of bigger things I write you now. I shall talk as if you were by my side, as in the good days. In my last hurried note I could deal only with a few urgent matters affecting Australian administration, especially those concerning appointments of senior officers and treatment of wounded. (2/

I now write of the unfortunate Dardanelles expedition, in the light of what knowledge I could gain on the spot, on the lines of communication, and in Egypt.

It is undoubtedly one of the most terrible chapters in our history. Your fears have been justified. I have not military knowledge to be able to say whether the enterprise ever had a chance of succeeding. Certainly there has been a series of disastrous underestimations, and I think our Australian generals are right when they say, that had any one of these been luckily so unEnglish a thing as an overestimation, we should have been through to Constantinople

War & Peace

Our collections

Warfare and conflict have had a substantial impact upon the history of Australia, and our collections tell the stories of those conflicts from a variety of perspectives.

Stories of frontier conflict appear in a variety of collections, as, for example, in the papers of Terry Wills Cooke, which document the activities of Queensland's Wills family of pastoralists. The papers include a register of deaths at the Cullin-la-ringo massacre in 1861, an event which provoked significant subsequent conflict.

Perspectives on the First World War come from the papers of figures such as Sir Brudenell White, who served at Gallipoli, and also from war correspondent Sir Keith Murdoch, whose 'Gallipoli letter' was both scathing and influential. We gain perspectives on the war's end, and the Australian role at the Paris Peace Conference and the Treaty of Versailles, from the papers of Sir Percy Deane and then prime minister Billy Hughes. We have already digitised the papers of Sir John Monash.

We hold the papers of significant war correspondents including the papers of Chester Wilmot, an ABC and BBC broadcaster and war correspondent who reported on campaigns in North Africa, New Guinea, the Western Front and the Nuremberg war crime trials.

We also hold the papers of Wilfred Burchett, the first Western journalist to report from Hiroshima after the dropping of the atomic bomb, and a prominent reporter on Cold War conflicts, including Korea and Vietnam.

Beyond these manuscript collections documenting the lives of significant individuals and families, we also hold the records of organisations as diverse as the Returned Services League (RSL) and the Save Our Sons anti-conscription movement.

Our collections tell the stories of conflict from a variety of perspectives.



War & Peace

Our priorities

Subject to the appropriate permissions from rights holders and, where relevant, First Nations communities, our priorities include:

- 1. digitisation of military periodicals**, including the RSL magazine *Reveille* and *Aussie: The Australian Soldiers' Magazine*
- 2. digitisation of the records of the Returned Services League of Australia**
- 3. digitisation of the records of the Save our Sons movement protesting against conscription**
- 4. digitisation of the papers of military and political figures** such as Sir Brudenell White, Sir Percy Deane and former prime minister Billy Hughes (already partly digitised)

- 5. digitisation of the papers of war correspondents**, including those of Keith Murdoch (already partly digitised), Chester Wilmott and Wilfred Burchett
- 6. digitisation of collections that illustrate the role of women in theatres of war from the front line to the home front**, including the papers of Mary Booth, founder in 1921 of the ANZAC Fellowship of Women, and the records of the Save Our Sons movement, founded in 1965 to seek the repeal of the *National Service Act 1964*.



OPPOSITE: Women Using an Automatic Lathe to Turn the Heads of 9mm Cartridge Cases for Austen and Owen Sub-machine Guns at a Munitions Factory, Australia (detail), 1944, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-141476227; **ABOVE:** Billy Hughes with Daughter Helen Hughes at Sydney Cricket Ground, 1920s, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-229723061



Foundation Collections

Our collections

At the heart of the National Library's holdings of early and rare books are the rich collections assembled by just three people: Sir John Alexander Ferguson, Edward Augustus Petherick and Sir Rex Nan Kivell.

These foundation collections, of over 50,000 items, include an extensive collection of early published works on European exploration of the Pacific, the First Fleet and its successors, the convict era and colonial Australia.

Many early Australian works are very rare.

Produced in small editions to begin with, not all have survived the passage of time.

Our knowledge of Australia in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries rests on a relatively small number of surviving, sometimes quite fragile, works.

This makes the Library's foundation collections particularly valuable.

Of the 1,500 or so books on Australia known to have been published in the years between 1784 and 1830, Ferguson collected one third.

In the case of some particularly rare works, the only known copy is in the Ferguson collection—a collection now housed in its entirety at the National Library.

Despite their importance, the majority of materials from these foundation collections are not available online.

Now, through digitisation, these rare and fragile works, and the important story they tell, can be made accessible.

‘The disappearance of so many publications, particularly pamphlets, broadsides, newspapers and magazines, may be attributed to the rough conditions of life in the early days of settlement in Australia ... in many cases where a work has survived, it is represented by only one copy.’

Sir John Ferguson

Clockwise: Anna Seward, *Elegy on Captain Cook* (London: J. Dodsley, 1780) and *Elegy on Captain Cook: Conclusion*, 1782; Andrew Kippis, *A Narrative of the Voyages Round the World Performed by Captain James Cook* (New York: Dodd & Manter, 1824)



Foundation Collections

Our priorities

Subject to the appropriate permissions from rights holders and, where relevant, First Nations communities, **our priority is the creation of a new digital collection of pre-1900 Australian and Pacific history and culture.**

Our priority is to digitise extensive selections from the Ferguson, Petherick and Nan Kivell collections.

This will create a new online collection of Australian and Pacific history in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, delivered via our online Library, Trove.

Such a resource will give us a new understanding of the foundations of contemporary Australia through digitised versions of the texts, images, objects and maps produced by the people who lived through those times.

It will transform public understanding by making the voices from these collections widely heard for the first time in generations.



OPPOSITE: Attributed to Sydney Parkinson, *Bread Fruit*, c.1769, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-135498865; **ABOVE:** Antoine Phelippeaux, *Tableau des Decouvertes du Capne. Cook & de la Perouse*, c.1830, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-135227083

Thank you

Thank you for the opportunity to share our vision and the role philanthropy can play in transforming access to Australian culture and history.

We hope that you share our enthusiasm for the potential of *Treasured Voices* to educate and inspire future generations.

If there is a potential project here that inspires you, we would be delighted to discuss it with you.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of the *Treasured Voices* campaign, or hear more about any of our priority projects, please contact:

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