



# Thank You 2025 Report to Donors



NATIONAL  
LIBRARY  
OF AUSTRALIA

# Thank you

## Dear Friends

As most of you will know, in August this year, I announced my intention to retire as Director-General of the National Library in April 2026 after 24 happy years here, and nine as Director-General.

It has been a great privilege to work at this wonderful institution, and with this wonderful community. As I step down from leading the Library, I take great pride in the things we have been able to do together over recent years. We have endured challenges – from the Covid pandemic to a hail-shattered roof – with resilience. We worked patiently together, staff and readers alike, to keep the Library going while it has been repaired and rebuilt all around us. With no small thanks to your support, we have transformed our ability to bring our rich, precious and varied collections online for millions of Australians everywhere to use, and we have embraced technology such as handwritten text recognition to surface material that might otherwise remain hidden. We have diversified our collecting to reflect Australia as it is today. Through the Library's Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property protocol, we have recognised the rights of First Nations people to be the primary guardians, interpreters, and decision-makers of their heritage.

One of the distinct joys of my time as Director-General has been getting to know so many of you, and to feel your strong, shared commitment to making our national collection accessible to all. Our volunteers, our Friends of the National Library, our donors and our Patrons, and our whole community, all make a tremendous difference to the life of this institution and the experience of those who visit us and use our services.



As always, I am grateful for your generous support. Since 2018, you have helped us to raise over \$12 million for an extraordinary range of projects, and you can read about a selection of these initiatives in the report that follows.

These range from digitising our Antarctic collections to training First Nations oral historians; from sharing the history of women in science to telling the story of avant-garde artist J. W. Power; from producing inspiring Lifelong Learning content relating to the Indian diaspora to documenting the experiences of Australians in Asia during World War II. Many of these projects are about providing access to our rich collections – in particular through support for our digitisation and Fellowships and Scholarships programs. All of them are inspiring. If the National Library remains, in the words of the National Cultural Policy, 'a place for every story,' your support continues to help us to bring those stories to life, in all their diversity and richness.

As proud as I am to reflect on what we have achieved together, I know that there is much more to do in the time to come. I am confident that this community will continue to play an indispensable role in creating a National Library that goes from strength to strength in the years ahead.

With heartfelt thanks,

*Marie-Louise*

The National Library of Australia acknowledges First Australians as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and pays respect to Elders – past and present – and through them to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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.





**COVER:** *Field camp on a dog trip to Horderns Gap* (detail), 1965, [nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn2062582](http://nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn2062582); **OPPOSITE:** *Voyages of Exploration Led by Phillip Law* (detail), c.1966, [nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn2062582](http://nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn2062582); **FOLLOWING PAGE:** Digitisation of Jim Sharman Visual Diaries.

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# Your Support at a Glance



Philanthropic support for the National Library since 1 July 2018 totals **\$12.068 million**, with **\$1.07 million** raised since our last Donor Report.



**1,061**  
DONORS

**1,543**

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL  
LIBRARY MEMBERSHIPS



**1,118**  
GIFTS


- 46%** supported our digitisation programs
- 17%** supported Fellowships, Scholarships and study grants
- 37%** supported a wide range of other priorities

**983** PATRONS



**388,422**  
VISITORS TO  
THE BUILDING

**33**   
ONSITE  
VOLUNTEERS

**23.17**   
**million**  
TEXT LINES CORRECTED  
BY VOLUNTEERS

**13.9 million**  
VISITORS ON TROVE

**20.9 million**  
TOTAL ONLINE SESSIONS



**1.75 million**  
PAGES DIGITISED IN 2025



# Lifelong Learning



The National Library's Lifelong Learning initiative expands beyond the boundaries of formal education, and helps audiences of all ages learn by using the National Library's collections.

Following an enormously generous gift from Platinum Patrons Opalgate Foundation, the National Library has been able to deliver a wide range of new Lifelong Learning modules in 2025.

In September we launched an online education module examining the experiences of the Indian Diaspora in Australia, in which academic Dr Lariane Fonseca guides the audience through the objects, journals, photos and family papers she accumulated after emigrating to Australia as a teenager. Curator Cherie Carter also gives a comprehensive overview of other collections documenting the experiences of people with Indian heritage in Australia, including Alice Garner's interview with Shepparton ice-cream truck owner and farmer Dhami Singh.

Modules exploring our recent exhibitions, *1975: Living in the Seventies* and *Fit to Print: Defining Moments from the Fairfax Archive*, feature our expert curators discussing the themes, moments, objects and stories behind each. In *Fit to Print*, photographer Mike Bowers also explains how techniques like composition and exposure were deployed by Fairfax photographers to capture their glass plate photographs.

**OPPOSITE:** Mark Jesser, Dhami Singh with his well known ice cream van 'Mr Sheppy'. A regular at community events in Shepparton, Victoria (detail), 2025; **ABOVE:** Photographer and curator of *Fit to Print: Defining Moments from the Fairfax Photo Archive* Mike Bowers records interview for a "Learn with the Curator" Lifelong Learning module.





# National Library Publishing

## An Australian Avant-Gardist

This year, NLA Publishing was proud to release *J.W. Power: An Australian Avant-Gardist*, written by Ann Stephen and A.D.S. Donaldson and published in partnership with the Chau Chak Wing Museum, with support from the Gordon Darling Foundation.

Born in Sydney in 1881, Power was a doctor who became an avant-garde artist influenced by cubism. After serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps during World War I, Power moved to Paris in 1920, joining a circle of artists including Picasso and Mondrian. Anticipating World War II, Power and his wife Edith relocated to the Channel Islands in 1938, bringing with them a substantial art collection, including 10 Picasso prints from the artist himself.

When the Nazis invaded Jersey in 1939, their gardener hid the prints and books beneath the house. After Power died in 1943, Edith later stored the materials in a monastery. In 1961, they were sent to Edith's niece, Ida Traill, in Bathurst.

Ida eventually bequeathed the collection – along with 54 of Power's sketchbooks – to the National Library. As noted by authors Ann Stephen and A.D.S. Donaldson in *J.W. Power: An Australian Avant-Gardist*, Power had kept sketchbooks since he was a child, "revealing [his] curiosity for all things".

*J.W. Power: An Australian Avant-Gardist* features these formative sketchbooks held by the National Library alongside the artworks held by the University of Sydney's Power Institute. The book tells the thrilling life story of an iconic Australian visual artist, and we are grateful to the Gordon Darling Foundation for their support of this landmark publication.

**OPPOSITE:** Page from J.W. Power's sketchbook of Australian views and figures studies (detail), [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-139210399](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-139210399); **ABOVE:** Ann Stephen and ADS Donaldson, *J.W. Power: An Australian Avant-gardist*, 2025.



# Oral History Collections

## Training for First Nations Interviewers

The National Library is honoured to be the custodians of extensive collections that document the experiences, culture, and languages of Australian First Nations peoples. We believe that First Nations people should be the primary custodians, interpreters, and decision-makers of their heritage, and we are committed to supporting First Nations people to tell their own stories.

Library oral history projects like *Bringing Them Home* and *Seven Years On* have created lasting records of First Nations experiences, documenting the stories of First Nations people in their own words.

Thanks to a generous gift from the Bettison and James Foundation, we will build on our existing First Nations oral history programs by welcoming more First Nations people to our cohort of interviewers. An oral history expert will help design training program for our new recruits, aligned with best practices in conducting their work according to culturally safe practices.

Over the next three years, two First Nations interviewers will be invited annually to complete the program and conduct interviews across Australia—ensuring stories are shared with someone from a shared cultural background.

## The Memory Tapes Podcast

The National Library's Oral History and Folklore collection contains more than 57,000 hours of recordings from more than 1,200 Australians. By sharing their stories with our interviewers, oral history interviewees bring Australia's cultural, social and intellectual history to life.

Now, with a generous gift from Silver Patron Warren Fahey AM, we will develop a series of podcasts which will bring our rich oral history collections to the world. The first of these projects, a podcast by the National Library called *The Memory Tapes*, will launch later in 2025.



**OPPOSITE:** Hazel de Berg with her tape recorder, interviewing Michael Terry (detail), 1964, [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1405227172](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1405227172);  
**ABOVE:** NLA Patron Margaret Bettison.

# Voices of Regional Life

Thanks to a generous bequest from National Library Patron Margaret Bettison, we will digitise manuscript collections documenting the lives of two rural families in the 19th and early 20th centuries: the papers of the Whittakers family from the Monaro district of NSW, and the Gordon family from Braidwood.

Both families settled in rural New South Wales in the mid-1800s, and their collections detail the experience of Australians living through two economic Depressions and the First World War. Cashbooks, diaries, journals and ledgers detail day-to-day life in these turbulent and difficult times, and correspondence from the women in each family provide precious insight into women's lives in that time and place. They offer a unique perspective on family dynamics and the differing circumstances for women in rural Australia.

A librarian, researcher, author and editor, Margaret Bettison had a strong commitment in life to uncovering the lives of ordinary people and their stories, particularly women. With Anne Summers, she compiled *Her story, Australian women in print 1788–1975* and she was a researcher for Jill Roe's acclaimed *Stella Miles Franklin: A Biography*. We are honoured to be able to further Margaret's legacy and honour her life's work by digitising these collections.





# Fellowships and Scholarships



The National Library holds over ten million items – books, manuscripts, pictures, maps, newspapers and oral histories – making it the nation's largest and most comprehensive collection about Australia and its people.

Our collection comes alive when it is used. Since 1984, we have supported researchers through Fellowships and Scholarships, enabling deep engagement with our collections. These initiatives have supported graduate students, creative practitioners, and leading scholars across a huge range of disciplines to bring history and culture to life.

In 2025, researchers and artists have explored such topics as the political ecology of Australian poet and environmentalist Judith Wright, the experience of rural Australians with polio and other illnesses in the early 20th century, improving desert fire management among many, many others.

None of these opportunities would exist without the continued support of our Patrons. This year we were able to offer six National Library research Fellowships, seven Scholarships and two Creative Arts Fellowships, all funded entirely through philanthropic support. We thank the many generous Patrons who make these important initiatives possible.

The National Library is committed to expanding its Fellowships and Scholarships program, with a vision to offer high-value awards that provide meaningful support to each Fellow and Scholar, supporting them to fully realise the potential of their research. This ambition can only be achieved through the continued generosity of our donors.

**OPPOSITE:** 2025 Creative Arts Fellow Mx Scott-Patrick Mitchell, supported by the Ray Mathew and Eva Kollsman Trust;  
**ABOVE:** 2025 Asia Study Grant Recipient, Hwee Ping Teo, supported by the Harold S. Williams Trust.





# Stokes Family Fellowships



Since 2018, the extraordinary generosity of National Library Principal Patrons the Stokes family has enabled 24 Fellows to delve into our national collection.

Led by former National Library Council Chair Ryan Stokes AO, the Stokes Family donated \$1 million in support of National Library Fellows. This transformational gift has allowed researchers from a diverse array of backgrounds to immerse themselves in material that they could not have found anywhere else.

From exploring the life, work and legacy of Australian novelist Elizabeth Harrower, to examining the role of coconuts as vital commodities for our Pacific neighbours, from investigating the environmental impact of ballast water from cargo ships to charting the political ecology of Australian poet and activist Judith Wright, the diversity of projects made possible through the generous support of the Stokes family is truly extraordinary.

Away from the pressures of everyday life, our Stokes Fellows have been able to dedicate uninterrupted days, weeks and months to their research. In today's busy world, that is a gift of immeasurable value.

As 2025 Stokes Fellow and Professor of Human Geography at the University of Galway John Morrissey said:

*There's a soaring sense of public scholarship alive and well in the NLA, and that couldn't be more important today... institutions like the NLA are vital – they stand for knowledge, they stand for informed citizenship, and they mirror the best of humanity.*

Three more Stokes Fellows will visit the National Library in 2026. This decade of discovery is a testament to the commitment of the Stokes family to the preservation and sharing of Australia's history and culture.

**OPPOSITE:** 2024 National Library Fellow Susan Wyndham, supported by the Stokes Family; **ABOVE:** 2023 National Library Fellow Dr Mei-Fen Kuo, supported by the Stokes Family.



# Digitisation

## Tax Appeal 2025: Antarctica Collections

For over a century, Australian researchers and explorers have mapped uncharted territory, documented new scientific discoveries, and established a presence in Antarctica that still plays an important scientific role in 2025.

Thanks to the unprecedented support of over 1,000 donors to our 2025 Appeal, we have received nearly \$500,000 to digitise the records of scientists and explorers like Phillip and Nel Law, Thomas Griffith Taylor and Isobel Bennett.

As Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition director from 1949 to 1966, Phillip Law AC oversaw expeditions that charted more than one million square kilometres of territory and over 5,000 kilometres of coastline. His photographs, diaries, field notes, and correspondence from Antarctica document the legacy of a towering figure in Australian science and exploration.

In 1961, Phillip Law's wife, Nel Law, was secreted onto an Antarctica bound ship in Perth – she had previously travelled to Macquarie Island without official approval. A media enquiry led to an urgent conversation to gain Ministerial approval, Nel Law made the journey to Mawson Station with Phillip, and became the first woman to set foot on the Antarctic continent in 1961.

A gifted artist, Nel captured Antarctica's landscapes and wildlife in striking paintings and sketches. Her diaries, artwork, and correspondence with Phillip Law will soon be available on Trove.

These collections join our oral histories from Australian Antarctic explorers, the incredible photographs of early Antarctic expeditions undertaken by Frank Hurley and Sir Douglas Mawson, all of which are available to explore on Trove. Your donations have allowed us to bring so much more of Australia's history in Antarctica to this living online resource.

These collections will be available to view on Trove in 2026.



**OPPOSITE:** *Nel Law sketching near Magga Dan (detail), c.1961, nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn2062582; ABOVE:* Nel Law, *Log Book – Nel's Antarctic Voyage 1961, nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn2062582; Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition member and Adelie penguin, 1954, nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn2062582.*







## Visual Diaries of Jim Sharman

Jim Sharman AO is best known for first directing and co-developing *The Rocky Horror Show* musical with its creator Richard O'Brien and later co-writing and directing its cult smash film adaptation, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2025. The National Library is proud to hold Jim's papers, which include a series of visual diaries that tell the kaleidoscopic and flamboyant journey of Rocky Horror from stage to screen.

From newspaper reviews, flyers and tickets to photos taken by Jim of the cast of the Rocky Horror stage show and film, you only need to take a jump to the left and a step to the right to find these treasures on Trove.

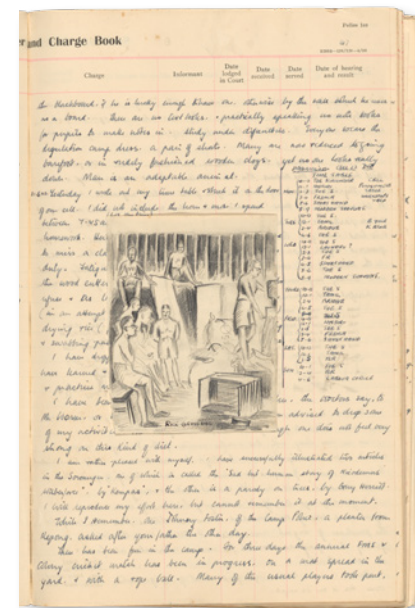
The visual diaries also illustrate the breadth of Jim's career, such as the landmark Australian production of *Hair* he directed in 1969, the West End debut of *Jesus Christ Superstar* in 1972, and his 1978 cinematic collaboration with Patrick White, *The Night The Prowler*.

A bequest from a Patron who was passionate about Australia's performing arts history has enabled us to continue that important work. Frank van Straten AM was a prominent performing arts historian, and founding director of the Victorian Arts Centre Performing Arts Museum, now the Australian Performing Arts Collection at the Arts Centre Melbourne. We are grateful to the Estate of Frank Van Straten for making this project possible.



**OPPOSITE:** Page from Jim Sharman Visual Diaries (detail), [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3674885250](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3674885250); **ABOVE:** Page from Jim Sharman Visual Diaries (detail), [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3674883640](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3674883640).





## Australians in Asia during World War II

Nearly a million Australians served abroad in World War II: fighting in Europe, North Africa, the Mediterranean, and the Asia-Pacific region.

The National Library's collection holds many manuscript collections from Australians whose lives were irrevocably shaped by their participation in the Asia-Pacific theatre during World War II.

From the papers of pioneering war correspondents Chester Wilmot and Osmar White, embedded with the Australian Infantry Force during their gruelling campaign on the Kokoda track, to material from Australian prisoners of war in Singapore, Java and Thailand, these singular and important collections tell the story of the effect of World War II on our nation at the ground level of the conflict.

Included in this material are the diaries of John Harrison, who was interned at the Changi prisoner of war camp from 1942 to 1944 and at the Syme Road camp until his release in 1945.

Harrison left England at 22 to join the Malayan Police, later studying Cantonese in China. As a World War II POW in Changi, he taught the language to fellow prisoners. He was also an artist of considerable skill and talent; his diaries contain many sketches and watercolours of his fellow prisoners and their day-to-day surrounds.

These, and many other collections, will be shared on Trove as part of a new digitisation project supported by Platinum Patron Jane Hemstritch AO. We offer our warmest thanks to Jane for her remarkable support of this project and of the Library.

**OPPOSITE:** J. N. D. Harrison, *Changi POW Camp, Changi, 1942–1945* (detail), [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-141849702](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-141849702);  
**ABOVE:** J. N. D. Harrison, *Diary – volume 1, February–October 1942* (detail), [nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn2011738](http://nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn2011738).





**OPPOSITE:** An NLA staff member and guest viewing collection material at the She Gives ACT Launch event; **ABOVE:** Photograph of Alice Henry, [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3536591063](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3536591063).

## Women Leaders

The National Library's Women Leaders collections reveal Australia's long and challenging path to equality for women. Thanks to generous donations from Larissa Behrendt AO FASSA FAHA FAAL, Kate Gordon, Maureen Chan, and the Friends of the National Library, we are continuing our efforts to bring these collections to Trove by digitising the papers of Alice Henry, Julia Rapke and Marjorie McDonald.

Alice Henry was a journalist and feminist whose work in the campaign for women's suffrage, vocational education, and union organisation in the United States inspired Melbourne women to form the Women's Trade Union.

Julia Rapke OBE was a formidable figure as Magistrate of the Children's Court of St Kilda. Her papers contain 16 manuscript biographies of other Australian women who laid the foundations on which we now stand.

Marjorie McDonald was one of Australia's first female war correspondents. Her papers offer us a rare insight into the broader wartime experience of Australian women during WWII.

Digitisation of these collections complements other collections of women leaders on Trove, including material from Bessie Rischbieth and Ruby Rich.

## She Gives at the National Library

The National Library is honoured to continue supporting contemporary Australian women leaders. In May 2025, we partnered with She Gives to host their ACT launch event, which featured She Gives Founder Melissa Smith in conversation with Michelle Steele, Kamilaroi/Gomeroi woman and Chief First Nations Officer at the Paul Ramsay Foundation, Anna-Maria Arabia, CEO, Australian Academy of Sciences and National Library Director-General Dr Marie-Louise Ayres. The National Library also announced a series of oral histories to document the stories of female philanthropists, in partnership with She Gives.





## Women in Science: WISENET Journal

Growing the participation of women and girls in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) has become an important issue in those fields, and has become a priority for successive Australian governments over the last decade.

Before the issue emerged in the public consciousness, however, organisations like the Women in Science Enquiry Network (WISENet) were working to create change in STEM fields.

WISENet was formed “to bring together people who have a common concern: to give women a fairer share in the responsibilities and benefits of scientific and technological change; and to help direct such change in more beneficial ways”. With branches in every state in Australia, the goal of the journal was to “link readers... to share ideas and provide a voice for our concerns; to publish information on women in science and discuss factors limiting their participation at all levels, and to coordinate action to achieve [their] goals”.

Thanks to the Friends of the National Library, the WISENET Journals from 1985 – 2000 are now available to view on Trove. The journals provide a significant social history of women in science in the 1980s and 1990s and the activism they carried out to increase women’s participation in STEM through that period and beyond.

**OPPOSITE:** *Wisenet Journal*, Number 36, December 1994 (detail), [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3665026831](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3665026831); **ABOVE:** *Wisenet Journal*, Number 37, April 1995, [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3664907044](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3664907044).



# Patron Dinner

We were delighted to welcome our largest cohort of Patrons yet to our 2025 Patron Dinner on a beautiful autumn evening at The Marion on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin. This year, our keynote speaker was our new Chair, Distinguished Professor Larissa Behrendt AO FASSA FAHA FAAL, who spoke about her deep personal connection to the National Library and its collections, the importance of the Library to her work as a researcher, writer and filmmaker, and her commitment to ensuring that the Library is a place where all Australians see themselves reflected.

The Library's Assistant-Director of Publishing, Lauren Smith, shared insights into the role and history of our publishing imprint, and gave some previews of upcoming publications *Postscript*, where contemporary authors respond to letters from our collection, and a book on the Library's Oral History program, supported by longstanding Patron of the National Library, Dr Russell Cope PSM.

Finally, the Director-General spoke of our continuing work to build the physical collection, as well as innovations helping us to share past knowledge through cutting-edge technology.

In addition to the proceedings on the evening, we were proud to present a number of collection items which would soon be digitised with the support of our donors, including photographs and sketches of Antarctica from the papers of Phillip and Nel Law, 19th Century diaries of migrants to Australia, and the visual diaries of *Rocky Horror Picture Show* director Jim Sharman.

We thank all who joined us at the 2025 Patron dinner and look forward to seeing our Patrons again in 2026.



OPPOSITE: *The Gulgong Guardian and District Mining Record*, No. 5, Saturday March 18, 1871 (detail), nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn5717603;

ABOVE: Council Chair Professor Larissa Behrendt AO speaking at the 2025 Patron Dinner; FOLLOWING PAGE (left to right): 2025 Kenneth Myer Lecture speaker Professor Brett Sutton AO, 2025 Ray Mathew Lecturer Christos Tsiolkas, 2025 Ann Moyal Lecturer Dr Ken Henry AC.

## Regional Newspapers

Tens of millions of newspaper pages are available to view on Trove, transforming the way that local, national, and global history is understood. Trove users in Australia and around the world continue to make use of these pages to research the histories of their families and communities. With the support of our donors, we are thrilled to bring even more publications to Trove in 2026.

Our Digitisation team are working to bring to Trove approximately 24,000 pages of *The Maitland Watch* online, thanks to the Wyandra Fund. Pages from *The Portland Guardian*, the second-ever newspaper to be published in country Victoria, are being digitised thanks to Patrons Pamela Marriott and Gary Kent, and various publications from the Goulburn and Queanbeyan regions are being brought to Trove with thanks to Gold Patron Geoffrey White OAM. Additionally, with the support of an anonymous Patron, we will digitise pages from *The Gulgong Guardian*.





# Flagship Lectures



## Kenneth Myer Lecture

The National Library was delighted to host the Kenneth Myer Lecture once again in 2025, with the generous support of Platinum Patrons the Myer Foundation.

The lecture is an opportunity for eminent Australians to make statements on a subject of interest. This year, Professor Brett Sutton AO examined some ‘wicked problems’ that we face today – climate change, biodiversity loss, and the fracturing of multilateralism and social cohesion, enabled by polarisation and mis- and disinformation – and provided thoughts on how tackling these problems can support Australia’s wellbeing.

The Kenneth Myer Lecture is held both at the National Library and in Melbourne, in honour of former Chair of the National Library Council Kenneth Bailleu Myer AC DSC.



## Ray Mathew Lecture

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

In 2025, we were privileged to host the lauded author and playwright Christos Tsiolkas. He tackled the question of polarisation, contemplating the concept of ‘fence-sitting’ and the importance of doubt, in an address that journeyed from Greece to a backyard fence in Melbourne, through post-communist Eastern Europe, and via the pages of a diverse range of writers.

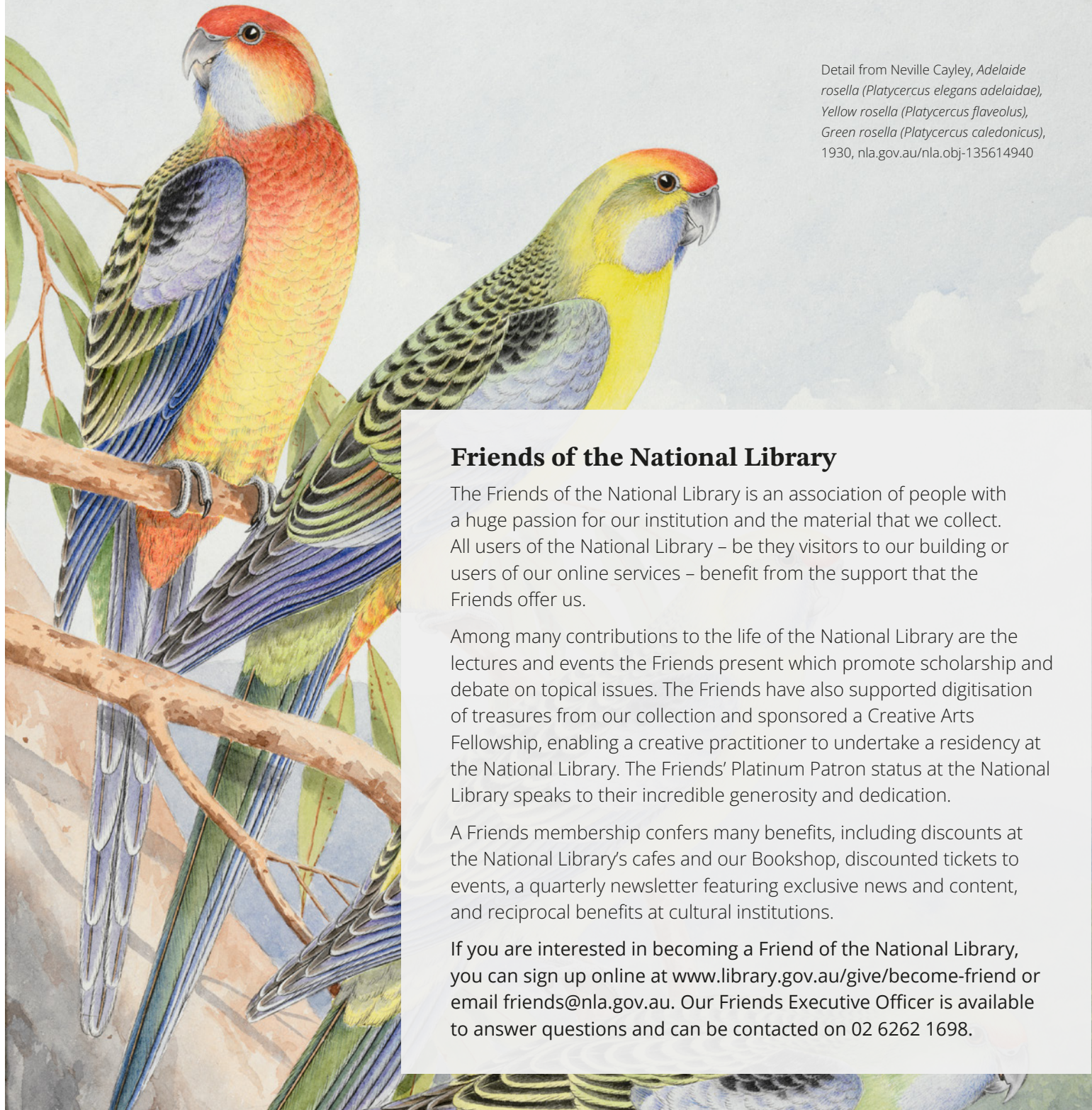


## Ann Moyal Lecture

The guest speaker for the third annual Ann Moyal Lecture on science and society was former Secretary of the Department of the Treasury, and Chair of the Australian Climate and Biodiversity Foundation, Dr Ken Henry AC.

In a talk that advocated the transformation of the Australian economy to repair and harness our natural environment, Dr Henry considered potential solutions that could meet our carbon abatement obligations in a manner that also enhances climate resilience, protects threatened species and restores degraded ecosystems.

The Ann Moyal Lecture was established with a generous bequest by Gold Patron Ann Moyal.



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

## Friends of the National Library

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 National Library – be they visitors to our building or users of our online services – benefit from the support that the Friends offer us.

Among many contributions to the life of the National Library are the lectures and events the Friends present which promote scholarship and debate on topical issues. The Friends have also supported digitisation of treasures from our collection and sponsored a Creative Arts Fellowship, enabling a creative practitioner to undertake a residency at the National Library. The Friends’ Platinum Patron status at the National Library speaks to their incredible generosity and dedication.

A Friends membership confers many benefits, including discounts at the National Library’s cafes and our Bookshop, discounted tickets to events, a quarterly newsletter featuring exclusive news and content, and reciprocal benefits at cultural institutions.

If you are interested in becoming a Friend of the National Library, you can sign up online at [www.library.gov.au/give/become-friend](http://www.library.gov.au/give/become-friend) or email [friends@nla.gov.au](mailto:friends@nla.gov.au). Our Friends Executive Officer is available to answer questions and can be contacted on 02 6262 1698.



# How to Support

## Give

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[www.library.gov.au/give/become-friend](http://www.library.gov.au/give/become-friend)

## Visit

[www.library.gov.au/visit](http://www.library.gov.au/visit)

## Explore

[www.library.gov.au/discover](http://www.library.gov.au/discover)

## Share



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

**Dr Conor McCarthy**

Director of Philanthropy

02 6262 1098 | 0409 103 875

[cmccarthy@nla.gov.au](mailto:cmccarthy@nla.gov.au)

**Philanthropy**

National Library of Australia

02 6262 1336 | [philanthropy@nla.gov.au](mailto:philanthropy@nla.gov.au)



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*Photograph of Morton Moyes, Australasian Antarctic Expedition, 1911–1914 (detail), [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-141779665](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-141779665)*