

# The Hazel de Berg Circle

National Library of Australia  
Bequest Program



NATIONAL  
LIBRARY  
OF AUSTRALIA

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 Hazel de Berg Circle is a program designed to formally thank and recognise those who include in their will a gift to the National Library of Australia. It is named after the pioneer of Australian recorded oral history, Hazel de Berg MBE (1913–1984), whose recordings are the foundation of the Library's Oral History Collection.





Her recordings give a sense  
of place, a sense of integrity,  
a sense of richness ...  
Every Australian is so lucky  
to have had a person  
called Hazel de Berg.

## Hazel de Berg MBE (1913–1984)

**Hazel de Berg was a fifth-generation Australian whose passion for Australian literature led her to establish an oral history collection that is now housed in the National Library of Australia and ranks among the leading oral history collections in the world.**

In 1957, Hazel de Berg was involved in the fledgling program Talking Books for the Blind. She decided to record herself reading Dame Mary Gilmore's book *Old Days, Old Ways*, and said: 'Since I knew Dame Mary, it might be a good idea to say why she wrote it – for the blind listener. She (Dame Mary) suggested Judith Wright, and I just kept on'. Hazel eventually recorded 1,290 Australians born between 1865 and 1953. The list includes poets, writers, artists, composers, playwrights, academics, scientists, dancers, politicians and many more. The recordings vary in length from a few minutes to several hours. Hazel's recordings are the only voice recordings of many incredible Australians, including Nobel Prize-winner Lord Howard Florey and May Gibbs, the creator of *Snugglypot and Cuddlepipie*. Lord Florey admits to playing the line of 'rough colonial' to get away with 'gaucheries' at Oxford University, while May Gibbs reveals that she loved drawing as a child and lay in the grass watching ants, but was a 'very silly, stupid student at school'. The only existing recording of Dorothea Mackellar reciting her iconic poem *My Country* was also made by Hazel de Berg.

The artist John Olsen, whom Hazel recorded in the 1960s, remembered her as 'a person doing something totally uninvited. Having pushed her interview boat out from the shore she was a voyager ... just like the creators

... Her recordings give a sense of place, a sense of integrity, a sense of richness ... Every Australian is so lucky to have had a person called Hazel de Berg'.

Hazel was always very proud that her beloved recordings were held in the National Library for their 'journey into the future'. These recordings, along with Hazel's notes, personal papers and photographs from her interviews, are used regularly, and complement the other collections that the Library holds.

With a shared passion for capturing and preserving Australian society for future generations, the Library enjoyed a close and enduring relationship with Hazel de Berg for 27 years.

Today, the Oral History Collection at the National Library consists of more than 57,000 hours of recorded material. The cornerstone of this collection remains the extraordinary Hazel de Berg Collection. She was a forward-thinking, dedicated and innovative historian who did much to preserve Australia's unique voices.

In honour of Hazel de Berg and her pioneering work in capturing Australians' voices and stories, the Library named its bequest program the Hazel de Berg Circle.



# An Enduring Legacy

## Libraries, and their collections, last a long time.

The National Library has been collecting the nation's voices and its stories for over a century. Our collections, some of them assembled over decades, over lifetimes, or across generations, go back much further.

Deep in the heart of the Library are treasures, such as a twelfth-century printing of Buddhist scriptures, a page from Johannes Gutenberg's 1455 Bible and James Cook's *Endeavour* journal. Embedded in the Library's marble foyer is the Pantainos stone, a legacy from another library, long ago and far away, in ancient Athens.

We are the proud custodians of Australia's largest collection of the nation's documentary heritage. And, of course, we do our work of collecting, preserving and sharing cultural materials on the lands of the oldest continuing culture in the world.

We also collect and preserve with a firm eye on the future. As individuals working here at the Library, we come and go, but the work itself lives on, for years and for decades hence. When the Library's current building opened over 50 years ago, none of our librarians then could have imagined that most of our readers today would access our collections remotely, over the yet-to-be-imagined world of the internet.

Bequests, like the Library itself, are for the long term. In leaving a bequest to the Library, Russell and I know that we are giving to the future of the Library, and to its future readers, for generations ahead.

It is a future we face in the knowledge that the National Library will continue to be an organisation focused on collecting and sharing the stories of Australia and Australians for many, many years to come.

To those of you who join us in making a bequest to the National Library in your will, I offer my gratitude for your support of the Library's future, and I look forward to welcoming you to membership of the Hazel de Berg Circle.

With warm thanks,

*Marie-Louise*

Dr Marie-Louise Ayres FAHA  
Director-General, National Library of Australia



To those of you who join us in making a bequest to the National Library in your will, thank you for your support of the Library's future.





We are delighted to welcome our bequest donors to join the Hazel de Berg Circle.

# Hazel de Berg Circle Benefits

Every bequest to the National Library makes an enormous impact in helping to continue the work of the Library in collecting, preserving and sharing our cultural heritage for the benefit of all Australians.



In recognition of this generous support, we are delighted to welcome our bequest donors to join the Hazel de Berg Circle, a program to formally thank and recognise those who include a bequest to the National Library of Australia in their will.

Members of the Hazel de Berg Circle will enjoy unique opportunities to engage with the Library staff and collections, and are acknowledged for their support in the following ways:

- invitations to Hazel de Berg Circle member-only events
- the opportunity to add their name and a message to the Legacy Ledger, which will be held in perpetuity in the Library's collection
- recognition in the Library's annual report
- recognition on the Honour Wall at the Library once a gift has been received.

This is our way of acknowledging and remembering your contribution. You are welcome to access all, some or none of the benefits available, and we very much respect the wishes of those who would prefer that their support should remain private.

To ensure that we can meet your bequest intentions and offer you the benefits of the Hazel de Berg Circle, please contact us at any stage in your decision-making for a confidential discussion.

OPPOSITE: Hazel de Berg Holding Gramophone Recording of 'Poets Speaking Own Verse', a Joint Venture between the NLA and the ABC, 2, between 1961 and 1968, [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-140522610](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-140522610); ABOVE: Jason Bell, Leanne Benjamin, outside Alice Springs, Northern Territory, 2006, [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-137291493](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-137291493); National Library of Australia Rare Books Stacks, 2021; cover detail from *Waltzing Matilda* by A.B. Paterson (words) and Marie Cowan (musical arrangement), (Sydney: Turner & Henderson, c.1905), [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-166639875](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-166639875).



# Ann's Ongoing Legacy to Science

**Dr Ann Moyal AM FRSN FAHA (1926–2019) was a beloved member of the Library community: a Petherick reader; a Harold White Fellow; and an established historian of science and technology. She was also one of the generous Friends of the Library who included a gift to the Library in her will.**

Ann Moyal regularly discussed the best way she could support future research, writing and the communication of research outcomes, deciding in the end to fund an annual lecture, on the theme 'Science in Society'. She specified that the lecture should be given by a distinguished speaker and discuss a contemporary question, elicited from diverse academic fields such as science, environment, ecology, history, anthropology, art and technological change.

Awarded one of the Library's Harold White Fellowships in 1993 to pursue her long-term interest in the history of science, Ann was always generous in acknowledging support. Her bequest to the Library ensures that she, in turn, is supporting the work of others.

The Library holds all of Ann's publications and her personal papers. From her desk at the Library flowed a formidable body of work, including 10 of her 12 books and a stream of scholarly papers and journal articles, all crafted in her characteristically limpid prose.

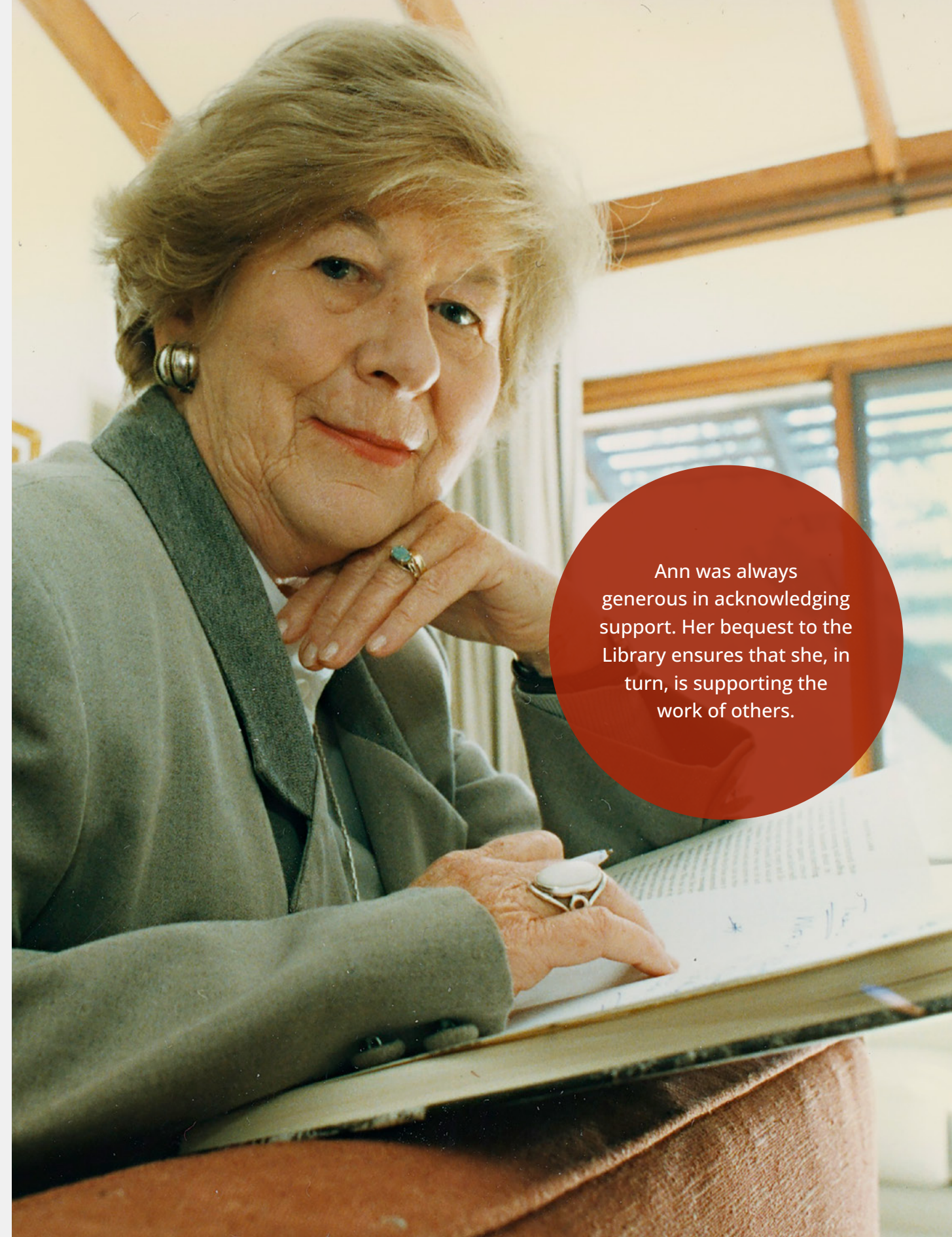
Like Hazel de Berg, Ann also recorded more than 20 oral history interviews with distinguished Australians, many of them scientists and women leaders whom she admired. All held by the Library, a dozen are available for online listening.

We also hold three interviews with Ann herself: in one, she was interviewed by the late Peter Pockley, another great science communicator; in another, by Dr Sarah Engledow, of the National Portrait Gallery, who became intrigued by Ann after Ann donated to the gallery a fine portrait of herself as a younger woman; and in the third, by Professor Mark McKenna. This final recording occurred in 2015, after Ann had been a judge of the Prime Minister's Literary Awards.

Ann will forever be remembered by the Library staff who were lucky enough to know her, by fellow Petherick readers and by friends and family. But her work, her voice and her legacy will also live on here at the National Library.

The inaugural Ann Moyal Lecture on Science in Society was held in 2022.

Ann was always generous in acknowledging support. Her bequest to the Library ensures that she, in turn, is supporting the work of others.







The Crome Collection remains the cornerstone of our remarkable collection documenting the history of Australian aviation.

## A Gift of Australian Aviation History

**Ernest Crome OAM (1902–1987) became fascinated with aviation in 1919, when he witnessed the arrival in Sydney of the Vickers Vimy, piloted by Ross and Keith Smith, at the end of the first flight from England to Australia. He began collecting aviation material, particularly flight covers and aero-philatelic items, and continued to do so all his life.**

In 1928, he met Charles Kingsford Smith and Charles Ulm, and his collecting became especially focused on the achievements of these two aviators. Charles Ulm became the patron of the Air Mail Society of New South Wales, founded by Ernest in 1932.

Ernest Crome won medals for his philatelic collection at the Melbourne Centenary Exhibition in 1934, the South Australian Centenary Exhibition in 1936 and an exhibition in 1938 celebrating 150 years since the colonisation of Australia. By the postwar years, he had assembled one of the finest collections of its kind in the world.

Ernest was related to the English painter John Crome (1768–1821), and he studied painting at the Royal Art Society of New South Wales. Many of his paintings were, perhaps unsurprisingly, on aviation themes. His parents were musicians and, as a boy, he studied the violin. Although he did not pursue a musical career, he had a strong interest in music, especially violin making—an interest that was reflected in his collecting. He was the author of *Qantas Aeriana* (1955) and *Footnotes to History and the First Ten Years of the Rotary Club of Newtown, 1962–1972* (1972).

The Crome Collection, consisting of some 30,000 aero-philatelic items, paintings, photographs, objects and personal papers, was purchased by the National Library in 1966, and it remains the cornerstone of our remarkable collection documenting the history of Australian aviation. Ernest was insistent the collection be named '*Papers of Ernest and Virtie Crome*' to reflect the contribution of his wife, Virtie Ivery Crome (née Coffill).

Over the following 20 years, Ernest made numerous donations to the Library, and advised on the purchase of many additional aviation-related items. Following his death in 1987, the National Library received a bequest of his remaining books, manuscripts and papers, as well as a substantial financial gift to be used for the development and ongoing maintenance of his collection.

Thanks to the close relationship Ernest had with Library staff, they knew exactly how he wished his bequest to be used.

*The Papers of Ernie and Virtie Crome* continue to inspire today, with around one third of the collection now available online thanks to support from the Dick and Pip Smith Foundation.



# The Commitment of a Lifetime

**Anne-Marie Schwirtlich AM FAHA served as director-general of the National Library from 2011 to 2017, having spent a lifetime working across Australian cultural institutions and actively promoting their role as universal and welcoming places for learning, knowledge and culture.**

Anne-Marie's relationship with the Library began many years before she became director-general—she was one of the founding members of the Friends of the National Library at its launch in 1990 and acted as the Library's director of Australian collections and information services in 1998—and it endures to the present day.

In 2011, the year she became director-general, the Library opened the doors to its new Treasures Gallery, showcasing some of the wonders of the Library's collections. During her tenure, the Library's digital capability grew, bringing our collections to millions online.

Anne-Marie's time at the head of the National Library followed a remarkable career across several cultural institutions: State Library Victoria; the National Archives of Australia; and the Australian War Memorial.

She was made a Member of the Order of Australia, in 2015, in recognition of her significant service to the library and archives sector. She is also the recipient of two of Australian librarianship's highest honours, the Ifould Medal and the Redmond Barry Award.

Anne-Marie Schwirtlich and her husband, Stephen Yorke, have both been longstanding Patrons of the Library, and we are enormously grateful for Anne-Marie's continued generosity towards the Library in leaving a bequest.

Speaking of her reasons for leaving a bequest to the Library, Anne-Marie said:

'Leaving a bequest to the National Library is important to me as it is a small link connecting the past and the present to the future. I hope it will go some way to helping the Library with a project that will delight a future audience and continue to connect Australians across time, geography and differences.'

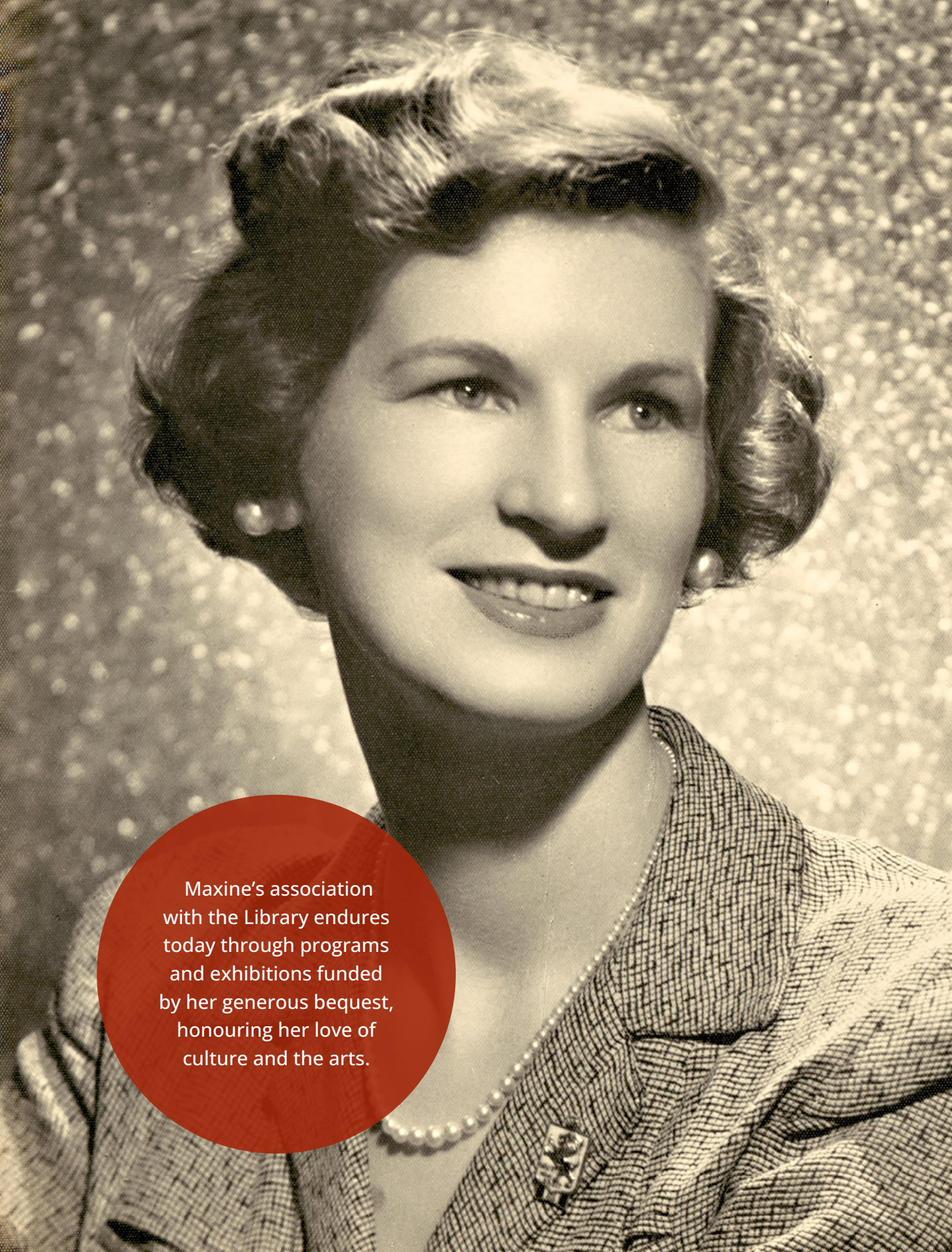
Her contributions to the Library will endure, along with the collections she has helped to build and to share.

Colleen Petch, *National Library of Australia*  
Director-General (2011–2017) Anne-Marie Schwirtlich at Her Yarralumla Home, 2012, courtesy *The Canberra Times*



'Leaving a bequest to the National Library is important to me as it is a small link connecting the past and the present to the future.'





Maxine's association with the Library endures today through programs and exhibitions funded by her generous bequest, honouring her love of culture and the arts.

## The Show Goes on, Thanks to Maxine

**From dame to diva, actor to audience, musical to magic, honky tonk to hip hop, visitors to the Library in 2022 had the opportunity to view highlights from our performing arts collections in a new exhibition.**

Visitors to the Library saw old favourites, discovered new ones and viewed objects that had never been previously on display, all thanks to a bequest from Maxine Poynton-Baker.

Businesswoman Maxine Poynton-Baker (1913–2007) was an incredibly generous woman, who was active in Sydney's cultural life and a regular attendee of exhibitions and theatre productions. Her association with the Library began when she placed the papers of her friend, playwright Sydney Tomholt, in the Library's Manuscripts Collection. It endures today through programs and exhibitions funded by her generous bequest, honouring her love of culture and the arts.

Maxine made the 2022 Library exhibition *On Stage: Spotlight on Our Performing Arts*, possible. Among the items featured was a striking image of Sir Robert Helpmann as Oberon in the 1937 Old Vic production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It was the face of the exhibition; a large AC/DC poster was the centrepiece of another display. Other artists,

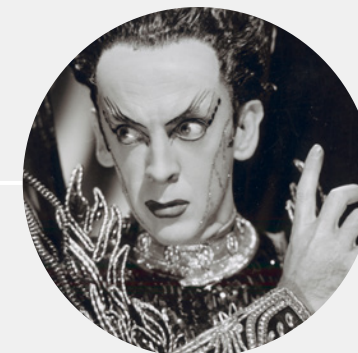
companies and performing arts industry icons featured included Bangarra Dance Theatre, J.C. Williamson, Peter Allen, Dame Nellie Melba and Tim Minchin.

The exhibition also told the story of those behind the scenes, whose artistry may not be so well known but whose roles were just as important.

Director-General of the National Library of Australia Dr Marie-Louise Ayres FAHA said that visitors from all walks of life would be entertained, inspired, challenged and moved by the exhibition:

'Our performing artists and storytellers are our escape, and having been starved of live performance over the past couple of years, turning this spotlight on the performing arts is a way of acknowledging the enjoyment that it brings to our lives.'

Entry to this remarkable showcase of Australia's performing arts history was free, thanks to Maxine.



OPPOSITE: *Portrait of Maxine Poynton-Baker*, c.1940, [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-137925166](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-137925166); RIGHT: Houston Rogers, *Portrait of Sir Robert Helpmann as Oberon*, 1937, [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-136330433](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-136330433); Harold Cazneaux, *Nellie Melba*, 1922, [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-140210035](https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-140210035).



# What Your Legacy Could Be

**Every gift entrusted to the Library is transformational.**

**There are many ways to leave a gift to the Library in your will and we would love to have a conversation with you about what works best for you and your family.**



You might wish to save precious collections for future generations; to support the creation of new scholarly and creative work; or to support improved public access to our cultural heritage, among other options.

We welcome and support any suggestion by those generous enough to entrust us with a gift in their will as to how that gift be used.

To ensure that the Library can fulfil your wishes, we invite you to have a conversation with us.

If you wish to entrust the Library with a financial gift in your will, without specifying what you would like it to go towards, you can be assured that it will be of benefit to all Australians.

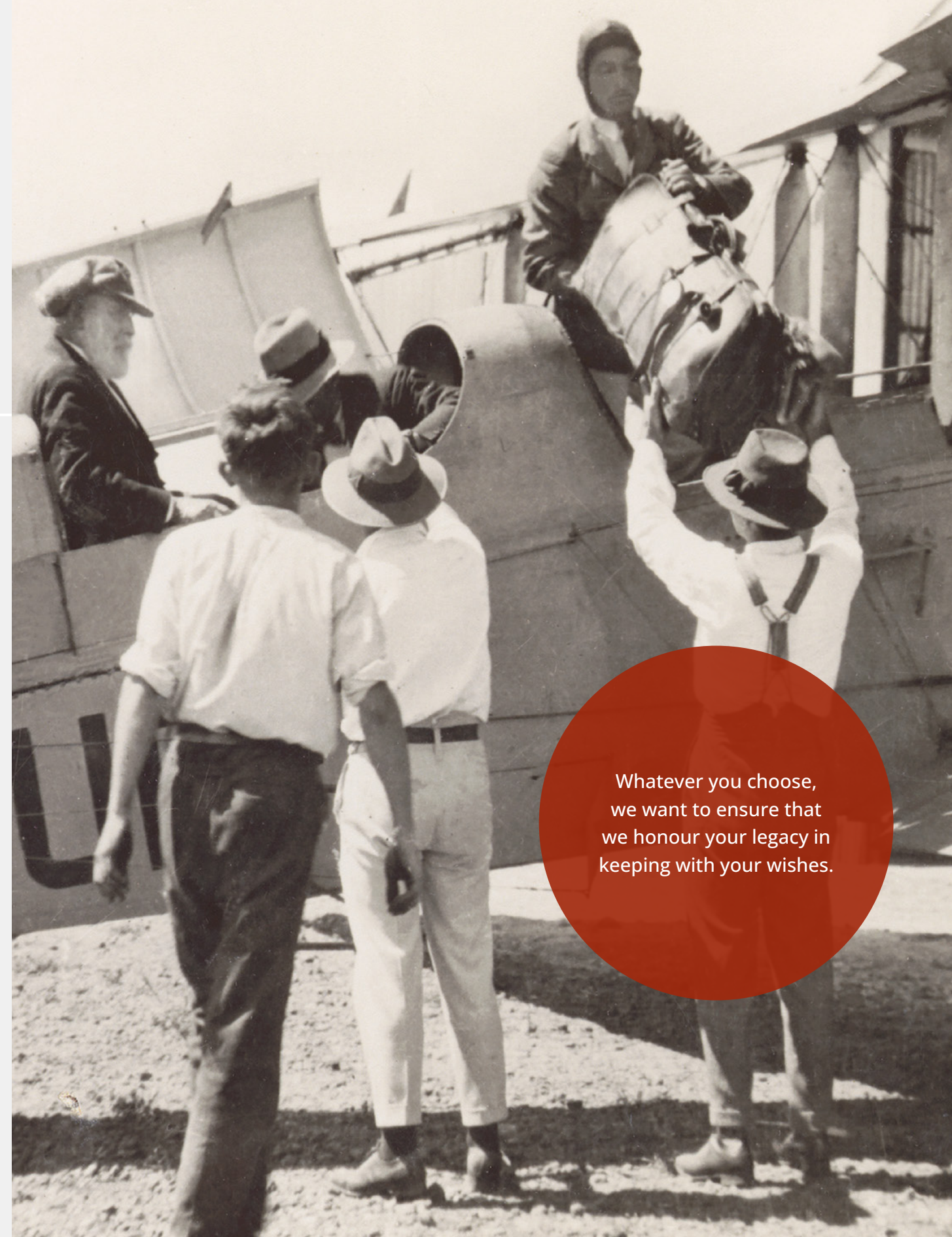
Bequests to the Library can help to:

- broaden our collections
- increase access to collections on Trove through digitisation
- fund fellowships and scholarships
- preserve physical collections
- build education and research programs
- create exhibition and event programs
- realise publications
- support capital works and building projects.

Whatever you choose, we want to ensure that we honour your legacy in keeping with your wishes.

Please contact us to discover what your legacy to the National Library of Australia could be.

**OPPOSITE:** *First Passenger to Travel by Qantas, Queensland, 22 November 1922* (detail), [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-151429836](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-151429836); **ABOVE:** *Records of the Australian Federation of Women Voters 1920–1983*, [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-245104655](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-245104655); Special Collections Reading Room, 2021; Byrne Ernest Goodrick, *Byrne Goodrick and Ian Angus Map Collection*, between 1925 and 1954, [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-2896197411](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-2896197411).



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Each picture, letter, book, manuscript, painting, object, newspaper, flyer ... and oral history is a moment that contributes to our story that ... will forever be changing, but always safeguarded by the Library.

## Every Story Matters

**Libraries have been a constant in my life, from kids story time and riding around in the Bega Valley Shire Library bus with my dad, to studying and working at the University of Canberra Library, through to now, as the Assistant Director of Philanthropy at the National Library.**

When I came to work at the National Library in 2020, I didn't plan on including a gift in my will. However, I remember the very moment I made the decision to do so.

I was exploring the *Papers of Moffatt Oxenbould* and I discovered a handwritten tribute to Dame Joan Hammond on the back of her funeral program. As I sat there, reading this incredible tribute to an Australian star before my time, I was filled with emotion.

Inspired by Moffatt Oxenbould's words, I decided to learn more about Dame Joan by exploring her collection. In this moment, I realised that the Library is greater than the sum of its parts. That each collection is intrinsically related to the other. Each picture, letter, book, manuscript, painting, object, newspaper, flyer, oral history and scribble is a moment that contributes to our story that will never be complete, and will forever be changing, but always safeguarded by the Library.

This was the catalyst in my story and why I have included a gift in my will to the Library.

The reasons for others who have included a gift in their will to the Library are just as varied and diverse as the collections it holds, and I would love to have the opportunity to hear them.

So, if you have included the Library in your will, are considering that inclusion, or would like to know more about including the Library in your will, I would love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

**Celia Rideaux**  
Assistant Director, Philanthropy  
Office of the Director-General



**OPPOSITE:** Celia Rideaux at the 2021 Patron Dinner at the National Library of Australia; **RIGHT:** Seitei Watanabe, *Bijin Shinobazunoike o Nozomu*, nla.gov.au/nla.obj-152406847; cover detail of *The Home*, vol.15 no.7 (Sydney: Art in Australia, 2 July 1934), nla.gov.au/nla.obj-383778189.



# Join Us



We are enormously grateful to everyone who has generously left a bequest to the National Library in their will.

If you have included a gift to the National Library of Australia in your will, we invite you to become a member of the Hazel de Berg Circle, to ensure that we can thank you appropriately and meet your gift intentions.

You can do this by contacting Dr Conor McCarthy, Director of Philanthropy, or Dr Scott McKinnon, Assistant Director of Philanthropy.

*Projections on the National Library of Australia Building during Enlighten*

## Contact us to find out more

### Read more

[www.library.gov.au/give/leave-gift-your-will](http://www.library.gov.au/give/leave-gift-your-will)

### Contact us

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