



Lessons from the Past, Knowledge for the Future

Supporting Fellowships
and Scholarships



**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 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 People, 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.



**Our vision is to create a
national research program
that brings Australian stories
to life; where Library Fellows
and Scholars are gifted time
and space to interpret our past
and shape our future.**



Supporting future knowledge

The National Library of Australia was established to maintain ‘a comprehensive collection of library material relating to Australia and the Australian people.’

Today, the Library’s collection is Australia’s largest, containing over ten million items – from books and manuscripts, through pictures and maps, to newspapers and oral histories.

This rich collection comes to life in the hands of gifted researchers.

For the past forty years, the Library has offered a range of Fellowships and Scholarships to give Australia’s best researchers the time to dive deep into our collections. This program has been made possible by generous philanthropic funding.

Now, we are re-imagining what the program can achieve.

Our vision is to create a nation-leading research program of Fellowships and Scholarships at the National Library, that will support each generation’s very best researchers.

While we face a future defined by constant flows of information moving at ever-increasing speed, careful, methodical and impactful research will always take time – for exploration, interpretation, and discovery.

Our new Fellowships and Scholarships program will provide Australia’s finest minds the gift of time for exploration in the nation’s largest and richest research collection, interpreting the past, and shaping the future.

This vision will only be possible with your help. That is why we ask you to join us in supporting the Library’s Fellowships and Scholarships program.

Sincerely,

Distinguished Professor
Larissa Behrendt AO FASSA FAHA FAAL
Chair of Council

Alison Dellit
Director-General

OPPOSITE: Dr Deirdre O’Connell, 2023 National Library Fellow, supported by the Ray Mathew and Eva Kollsman Trust



The Fellowship was one of the most rewarding experiences of my academic career. It is a rare thing in academia to be granted significant time to devote to exploring a collection of papers, without the pressures of a specific grant proposal or particular output in mind. This is what the Fellowship offers – time, together with a beautiful space to work, access to a diverse and rich collection, and expert support and advice from NLA library staff.

Dr Anna Dziedzic, Stokes Family Fellow, 2021



Our vision for Fellowships and Scholarships at the National Library

Opportunities across Australia for deep thinking and methodical research are increasingly limited. Many research support schemes are only available to university-based researchers working in specific subject areas and with limited collections.

At the same time, costs for travel, accommodation and daily living are increasing for scholars who travel from across Australia and the world to spend extended periods of time exploring our collections.

The renewed National Library of Australia program will reduce the number of awards offered while significantly increasing their value, providing exceptional researchers the chance to bring their projects to fruition.

We will offer awards without any restriction on the topic being researched and which provide real financial support – providing the gift of time to the most inspiring thinkers pursuing the most impactful projects.

Fellows and scholars will join a community of researchers at the Library, with the opportunity to share ideas, develop skills and create ongoing networks.

Our vision for the future is to offer research opportunities in three areas:

National Library Fellowships – allowing world-leading scholars the opportunity to work with Australia's largest cultural collection, producing new knowledge and shaping the nation's intellectual landscape.

National Library Creative Fellowships – giving creative practitioners the time and resources to engage with and re-imagine the treasures in our collection, producing a range of new creative works across a variety of artforms.

National Library Scholarships – offering our brightest emerging researchers the opportunity to delve deep into our rich archives, inspiring new generations of leaders, innovators, and changemakers.

OPPOSITE: Dr Tonya Lemoh, 2022 Creative Arts Fellow, supported by the Friends of the National Library of Australia



About the National Library of Australia and its collections

At the heart of the Library is its collection – over ten million items collected during more than a century, documenting the stories of this country from its deep history to its ever-emerging future, and containing everything from the annotated music scores of soprano Dame Nellie Melba, through the writings of Nobel-winning novelist Patrick White, to the voice of wi-fi inventor John O'Sullivan.

The origins of the National Library of Australia go back to the early years after Australian Federation in 1901, when the Commonwealth Parliamentary Library served both Federal Parliament and the nation. In 1927, with the relocation of Parliament, the Library was moved from Melbourne to Canberra.

In 1960, an Act of Parliament formally separated the National Library from the Parliamentary Library, and in 1968 a new building for the National Library's growing collections and services was opened. Today, the Library continues to serve the Australian community from its iconic building, opened in 1968 on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin, and through its much-loved digital platform, Trove, which attracts over seven million visitors annually.

Under the Copyright Act, the Library has received a copy of every item published in Australia since 1912. But the collection

delves much deeper into the past, in part thanks to three foundational collections relating to Australia and the Pacific: the Petherick collection of 10,000 volumes and 6,500 pamphlets; the collection of the bibliographer Sir John Alexander Ferguson, including some 34,000 printed and manuscript items; and the Rex Nan Kivell collection, purchased in 1962, containing an extraordinarily diverse range of materials.

Another foundational collection, the Hazel de Berg oral history collection, forms the basis of the Library's ongoing interview program. Our archive now contains life story interviews with more than 24,000 Australians across some 58,000 hours of audio.

Rich resources for the understanding of Indigenous languages and cultures are also contained within our archives, as are significant collections of Asian languages and cultures collected since the 1950s. New manuscript materials, documentary photographs, maps, objects and newspapers are added to our shelves each year.

It is these rich collections that our Fellows and Scholars will work with to interpret our past and shape our future.

OPPOSITE: The National Library of Australia building in Parkes, ACT



For more than forty years, the National Library's Fellowships and Scholarships program has enabled exceptional, inspiring research.

Having spent many happy hours researching at the Library myself, I know well the value of time in its collections.

It is tremendously exciting to imagine what future Fellows and Scholars will achieve.

**Distinguished Professor Larissa Behrendt AO FASSA FAHA FAAL,
Chair of Council, National Library of Australia**

**OPPOSITE: Distinguished Professor Larissa Behrendt
AO FASSA FAHA FAAL, Chair of Council**



Fellowships and scholarships bring the National Library's collections to life, supporting research that draws on our history to inform the present and shape the future.

This is work with real impact that informs our ever-evolving understanding of who we are as a nation.

**Alison Dellit, Director-General,
National Library of Australia**



History of the program



Our reimagined Fellowships and Scholarships program will build on an extraordinary legacy.

Since its beginnings in 1983, the work of hundreds of Australian researchers has been supported by a National Library of Australia Fellowship or Scholarship.

Over time, the program has evolved and expanded to meet changing research needs and to create new opportunities.

In 1985, the Fellowships program was named the Harold White Fellowships to honour the first National Librarian, Sir Harold Leslie White CBE (1905–1992). Sir Harold had himself been a recipient of scholarships at the University of Melbourne in the 1920s.

The Library welcomed some 150 Harold White Fellows in celebration of his legacy between 1985 and 2014.

In 2014, the now philanthropically funded program was renamed the National Library Fellowships.

That program has supported over 100 Fellows across its history.

The Library's Scholarships program, offered to students undertaking a PhD, began in 2001 thanks to a philanthropic gift from former National Library council member Norman McCann.

With the support of many generous donors, more than 100 PhD researchers have since received critical support at the beginning of their research careers.

For over a decade, the Library has also offered a number of Creative Arts Fellowships, extending the opportunity to work in the Library's rich collections to creative practitioners.

The future of the Fellowships and Scholarships program will continue this legacy of innovative and inspiring research into the future.

OPPOSITE: Professor Catherine Colbourne, 2025 National Library Fellow, supported in memory of Professor Ivor Jones; **ABOVE LEFT:** Group photo of 2022 fellows, scholars, and grant recipients; **ABOVE RIGHT:** Dr Anita Dewi, 2024 Asia Study Grant recipient, supported by the Harold S. Williams Trust.



Australia's people and their stories are our greatest cultural asset. Stories communicate shared identities and a sense of belonging to place and each other, and can be shared through an artwork, narrative, dance, screen content, music or an idea.

National Cultural Policy: *Revive*



I don't think Australians know enough about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Our histories and cultures are incredibly diverse and complex, and we identify in different ways. The Library holds many sources that prove this.

Dr Madeleine Pugin, Nangaypa Rirrality Scholar, 2022

OPPOSITE: Dr Madeleine Pugin, Nangaypa Rirrality Scholar, 2022, supported by Emeritus Professor Janice Reid AC; **Artwork:** Archie, P., Beebe, G., Beebe, M., Bloomer, R., Bitting, P., Drill, K., Gallagher, B., Leering, B., Malarvie, K., Mengil, S., Mengil, G., Murielle, B., Namala, Q., Newry, G., Ward, B. (artists), "Boab one hundred: a Wesfarmers and Waringarri creative partnership celebrating 100 years of Wesfarmers".



Impact

The research conducted through the Library's Fellowships and Scholarships program has helped shape Australian understandings of the past.

Our Fellows and Scholars are driven by an inspiring sense of public scholarship, creating from their research books, documentaries, audio series, and artworks that transform fresh discoveries into new knowledge.

In some cases, they have produced work that shapes the nation.

In his address marking the twenty-first anniversary of the Fellowships program, Henry Reynolds, one of Australia's great historians, recalled his time as a Harold White Fellow:

'As a Fellow,' he said, 'I travelled far without a map.'

Reynolds' Fellowship research would inform his landmark book, *The Law of the Land* (1987), which reassessed the legal and political arguments around Indigenous land rights and European settlement in Australia.

His findings influenced the outcomes of the Mabo case, which recognised the existence of Native Title in Australia.

The Law of the Land is just one of many lauded works of history based on Fellowship research, which have created new knowledge by delving into the lessons of the past.

We look forward to the transformative discoveries, innovative thinking and great works that will be created by future Fellows and Scholars with your support.

National Library of Australia, Papers of Henry Reynolds, 1966–2016, Conferences and address notes with background material, 1983–2015 (File 15) – Box 3 (MS Acc16.168)



OPPOSITE: National Library Of Australia, Mabo V Queensland (No. 2): 30th Anniversary Exhibition;
ABOVE: Jacinta Mackay, 2024 National Library First Nations Scholar.



Ways to give



To make the Library's Fellowships and Scholarships program a genuinely nation-leading program, we aim to make a smaller number of Fellowships and Scholarships available for a smaller number of recipients in the years ahead.

By 2035 we aim to offer Fellowships and Scholarships at the following amounts:

- \$60,000 for a National Library Fellowship
- \$60,000 for a National Library Creative Fellowship
- \$30,000 for a National Library Scholarship

A gift now

A gift to be expended now can support a Fellow, Creative Fellow, or a Scholar, for one or more years.

We will incrementally raise the grant funds for each research opportunity towards our 2035 goals between now and then.

If you are interested in supporting the program now, we welcome a conversation about a one-off or multi-year gift.

A gift for the future

An endowed Fellowship or Scholarship will allow the Library to invest the donated funds, using the income from the investment to support the Fellowship or Scholarship for many years to come.

A gift of \$600,000 will support an endowed Scholarship. A gift of \$1.2m will support a Fellowship or Creative Fellowship for many years into the future.

We very much welcome the interest of members of the Library community who may wish to support an endowed Scholarship or Fellowship through their will.

OPPOSITE: Ms Natasha Naidu, 2025 National Library Scholar, supported by Professor Robert and Mrs Josephine Shanks; **ABOVE LEFT:** Susan Wyndham, 2024 National Library Fellow, supported by the Stokes Family; **ABOVE RIGHT:** Dr Yao-Tai Li, 2023 Asia Study Grant recipient, supported by the Harold S. Williams Trust.



Recognising your support for Fellowships and Scholarships



Supporting a researcher through the National Library's Fellowships and Scholarships program is a generous act of support for Australian culture, and we are enormously grateful to the supporters who make this program possible.

Should you make a gift to fund a Fellowship or Scholarship, we will be honoured to recognise your contribution by publicly acknowledging that the award is generously supported by you, your family, or in memory of a loved one.

Should you make a gift in your lifetime, we will be pleased to recognise your generosity through the Library's Patrons program.

Should you make a gift in your will, we will be delighted to welcome you to the Hazel de Berg Circle.

We also understand, of course, that some of our generous supporters will wish to remain anonymous.



OPPOSITE: Mx Scott-Patrick Mitchell, 2025 Creative Arts Fellow, supported by the Ray Mathew and Eva Kollsman Trust; **TOP:** Stephanie Shon, 2023 Summer Scholar; **BOTTOM:** Anthony White, 2020 Creative Arts Fellow.



Thank you

Thank you for the opportunity to share our vision and the lasting impact you can have in transforming access to Australian culture and history.

We hope that you share our enthusiasm for the potential of a program to support Fellows and Scholars to use the Library's collection to interpret our past and shape our future.

If there is an opportunity that inspires you, we would be delighted to discuss it with you.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of the program, please contact:

Alison Dellit
Director-General
National Library of Australia
02 6262 1390
directorgeneral@nla.gov.au

Dr Conor McCarthy
Director of Philanthropy
Office of the Director-General
National Library of Australia
02 6262 1098 | 0409 103 875
cmccarthy@nla.gov.au

Celia Rideaux
Assistant Director of Philanthropy
Office of the Director-General
National Library of Australia
02 6262 1640 | 0403 188 105
crideaux@nla.gov.au



OPPOSITE: Mr Tandee Wang, 2024 National Library Scholar, supported by Mr Doug Snedden AO and Ms Belinda Snedden; **ABOVE:** Dr Lorinda Cramer, 2023 National Library Fellow, supported by the Stokes Family.

BACK COVER (L-R CLOCKWISE): Celia Craig, 2024 Creative Arts Fellow, supported by the Friends of the National Library; Dr Tets Kimura, 2023 National Library Fellow, supported by the Harold S Williams Trust; Rima Febriani, 2025 Asia Study Grant, supported by the Harold S Williams Trust; Dr Adam Sundberg, 2023 National Library Fellow, supported by the Stokes Family.

