

The Chertsey Cartulary is the only medieval cartulary held in Australia, and one of a very small number held outside Britain. It is probable (but by no means certain) that the Library's copy is the original from which others were copied. Two other Chertsey cartularies are held in the British Library.

The volume is in good condition and no extensive preservation work is needed. It was rebound before being exported from England. The Library holds the original cover boards.

Other medieval items in the Clifford Collection include bibles from the thirteenth century, books of hours from the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries, a psalter and missal from the fourteenth century, a prayer book from the fifteenth century and a breviary from the fifteenth century. All are on vellum and are illuminated.

The Library's Petherick Collection contains an illuminated psalter dating from about 1330–1350. It is on vellum, written in Latin by an English scribe. The psalter is particularly significant because there is evidence of Welsh ownership. It is possible that it was secretly taken to Wales after Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries in 1536. Some of its pages include delightful sixteenth-century marginal annotations by a school boy. Preservation work on the volume is needed.

An interesting feature of the psalter is that it includes a calendar with similarities to the ones in the books of hours in the Clifford Collection. This link was pointed out by Professor Michelle Brown, Professor Emerita of Medieval Manuscript Studies at the University of London, who visited the Library in 2013. She advised that it would be rare to find two books in a collection with the same calendar. A detailed comparison will be a high priority.

Sir Rex Nan Kivell collected a wide range of items from many unrecorded and unidentified sources. These included medieval legal documents and fragments from theological and biblical works. They form part of the Library's Rex Nan Kivell Calligraphy Collection. One important item is a small unidentified breviary fragment. On her visit to the Library, Professor Brown dated this to the tenth century. This makes it the oldest known manuscript in the Library's collection. The fragment contains text and music. It would benefit from the construction of dedicated housing to ensure its protection.

In May this year, the Library, through The National Library of Australia Fund, launched an appeal for financial support for the preservation and digitisation of its medieval manuscripts. The appeal produced a generous response: when it closed at the end of July, a total of over \$174,000 had been donated, which includes contributions to Treasures Gallery access programs, another of the appeal



Psalterium, written in Latin by hand on vellum by an English scribe. MS1172



Chertsey Cartulary, written in Latin within the Abbey of Benedictine monks in the English county of Surrey. MS1097/65

priorities. The Library is most grateful to all those who contributed, including many Friends.

By digitising rare and fragile documents, the Library can make the medieval past available to scholars throughout the world. The result will be something resembling an online jigsaw; by taking a piece from here and a piece from there experts will be able to build up a more comprehensive picture of the medieval world and its literature. In particular, the technology will enable the psalter's 'digital repatriation' to Wales. It will also facilitate comparisons between the Library's Chertsey Cartulary and the two fourteenth-century Chertsey cartularies held in the British Library.

The digitisation process, however, is not easy. Technical problems will have to be overcome. The manuscripts must first be stabilised and preserved. Digitisation of the psalter will present special problems as the pigment is peeling. The application of twenty-first-century technology to the work of medieval scribes will present challenges but will also offer exciting possibilities.

If you would like to find out more about contributing to The National Library of Australia Fund, visit [nla.gov.au/support-us](http://nla.gov.au/support-us) or contact the Development Office on 02 6262 1336 or [development@nla.gov.au](mailto:development@nla.gov.au).

*John Seymour*

FRIENDS OF THE  
NATIONAL LIBRARY  
OF AUSTRALIA INC.

*Friends*



SEPTEMBER 2014

## MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS IN THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

This year the National Library of Australia links the medieval scriptorium with the digital world.

It will come as a surprise to many that the Library holds 228 medieval manuscripts. These little known items do not represent a separate collection; rather, they form part of various collections, including the Clifford, Petherick and Nan Kivell collections.

The extensive Clifford Collection comprises 75 English and European manuscripts and over 10,000 rare books and 1,500 pamphlets. The collection has an interesting history. It was assembled by the descendants of Thomas Clifford (1630–1673), who held a number of positions under Charles II and was created 1st Baron Clifford of Chudleigh in 1672.

Following the death of the 11th Baron, his nephew, Colonel Hugh Clifford, offered the collection for sale in 1963. The collection was purchased by the Library in November 1963 and reached Canberra in April 1964. Its acquisition reflected the then current Library policy of building up an international research collection of sufficient breadth and depth to support world-class scholarship.

Included in the Clifford Collection are ten medieval manuscripts. Of these, the fourteenth-century Chertsey Cartulary is the most famous item. A cartulary is a volume containing charters, accounts and other documents dealing with property ownership; usually these relate to religious houses or other ecclesiastical bodies.

The Chertsey Cartulary records transactions affecting the Benedictine Abbey of St Peter at Chertsey, Surrey. The various documents, all in Latin, relate to transactions from 1312 to 1345. They are on vellum and were probably compiled in about 1348. They reveal that the Abbey, which may date from Saxon times, was extremely prosperous.

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Chertsey Cartulary, written in Latin within the Abbey of Benedictine monks in the English county of Surrey. MS1097/65



Psalterium, written in Latin by hand on vellum by an English scribe. MS1172

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



The National Library is always a hive of activity. Far from being a solemn half-empty temple of scholarship, it is always busy: young mothers meet with their babies to enjoy a coffee at bookplate, school and university students flit in and out researching assignments, tourists make finds in the bookshop.

The Friends contribute to this lively scene with events such as the recent fascinating talk by Hester Gascoigne in connection with the *Luminous World* exhibition, the Kenneth Myer Lecture by Professor Brian Schmidt AC and our author talk with Hugh Mackay.

This issue of the newsletter tells more about the wide scope of the Library's work and why it is such a valuable part of our cultural life.

Joan Kennedy

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** As Friends of the NLA, we are aware of the Library's Service Charter which is, in part, '... to support learning and creative and intellectual endeavour and contribute to the vitality of Australian culture and heritage'. It may sound rather solemn, but one glance at this September newsletter will remind you how lively and interesting such a role can be. Our collections, exhibitions and associated events are varied and vibrant. Read all about it in this issue!

Robyn Oates

## FEATURE ARTICLES



Anne-Marie Schwirtlich and Victor Crittenden at the Director General's Patron morning tea in 2011

### Victor Crittenden OAM

In June 2014, the Library and the Friends learnt of the passing of Victor Crittenden. Victor spent many years publishing, editing and compiling bibliographies, indexes, guides to reference sources, and facsimile editions in the fields of Australian history, literature and writers, particularly of the colonial period.

He was editor, from 1995, of the periodical *Margin*, director of Mulini Press and founder of the John Lang Project, which published and collected works by and about John Lang, the first Australian-born novelist.

Victor was a librarian at the University of Canberra and a member of the Lu Rees Archive Management Committee. Victor also published *A Bibliography of the First Fleet* (1981) and was a Petherick reader at the National Library.

In 2009, Victor Crittenden received the Friends Medal for his very significant contribution to the Friends of the National Library of Australia and his tireless work over many years to promote the interests of the Library and, in particular, his generosity and commitment to the success of the Treasures Gallery.

Victor was also the recipient of other prestigious awards. In 2005, he was awarded the Lu Rees Award and in 2007 the BSANZ Special Award, the citation of which reads: 'The Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand recognises the sustained contribution of Victor Crittenden, through publishing, editing and writing, to the bibliographical and literary study of the Australian colonial period'. In 2010, Victor was awarded the Order of Australia—Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the arts as a researcher, author and publisher, particularly through the biographical and literary study of the Australian colonial period.

Victor was a loyal and generous friend to the National Library of Australia.

## RECENT EVENTS

### The Friends and Garden Lovers Get Together

In early June, the Friends combined with members of the Australian Garden History Society to hear a lecture by Dr Greg Johnson, *By Quill and Spade: Pioneer Garden Writing for Australians 1788–1888*.

Introducing the lecture, both Joan Kennedy (Chair of the Friends) and Sue Byrne (Chair of the ACT, Monaro and Riverina Branch of the Australian Garden History Society) paid tribute to the work of the late Victor Crittenden OAM (see his obituary in this issue). Victor was a loyal and generous supporter of the National Library. He combined the skills of a librarian with a keen interest in gardening. He had accumulated an extensive collection of gardening books, which he donated to the University of Canberra.

Dr Johnson spoke of his lifelong interest in gardening and in the books and journals which guided and inspired gardeners in pre-Federation Australia. In the earliest years of the colony, gardening was not a hobby: it was part of the struggle to survive. One man who made a contribution was Henry Hicken; in 1838 he was transported to New South Wales for the theft of a spade and was able to put his skill as a blacksmith to good use!

Gradually, the influence of publications about garden design and the special challenges of working the soil in Australia began to be felt. The difficulties of establishing gardens in Australia were recognised, especially as the colony spread westward where the summers were hotter and the winters colder.

A market grew for the books and journals on gardening that were slowly beginning to appear. For example, George Robertson (1825–1898) produced trade catalogues, which are now held in the Library. Almanacs containing gardening information appeared. George Howe (1769–1821) published some of the earliest of these. Robert Sweet (1783–1835) compiled one of the first books on Australian botany, *Flora Australasica*, in London in 1827–1828.

The first local gardening book was published by Sydney bookseller William McGarvie in 1836; this was Thomas Shepherd's *Landscape Gardening in Australia*. It reflected the influence of the English landscape gardeners Capability Brown and Humphrey Repton. Another landmark was the launch in 1858 of Brunning's *Australian Gardener*. This became a well-respected reference book for generations of home gardeners. It was founded by George Brunning who arrived in Melbourne in 1853 and established a nursery in St Kilda.



Evening at Home. Image supplied by Dr Greg Johnson

Publications began to appear in the other colonies. There was the *Manual of Practical Gardening* (1837–1838) by Tasmanian Daniel Bunce; he also contributed articles to the *Journal of Australasia* and the *Victorian Agricultural and Horticultural Gazette*. The first book on rose growing in Australia, Thomas Johnson's *The Culture of the Rose*, appeared in 1866. Albert John Hockings published *The Flower Garden in Queensland* and the *Queensland Garden Manual* (both in 1875). Other titles were *The Garden* (1880) by the Treseder Bros, *The Cottage Garden* (1862) by Ballarat author George Smith and Angus MacKay's splendidly titled *The Semi-tropical Agriculturist and Colonists' Guide: Plain Words upon Station, Farm, and Garden Work, House Keeping, and the Usefull Pursuits of Colonists; with Directions for Treating Wounds, Fevers, Snake Bite, etc., etc.* (1875).

These were just a few of the publications that Dr Johnson described in his comprehensive lecture, which was supplemented by an exhibition of a number of early gardening books and pamphlets selected by the Library's Melanie Sorenson. They attracted much interest.

John Seymour

## Defined by Light: Hester Gascoigne speaks to the Friends

Recently, the Library hosted an exhibition entitled *Luminous World: Contemporary Art from the Wesfarmers Collection*. The exhibition was made up of works from the Wesfarmers Collection of Australian and New Zealand Art. It included *Hung Fire* by local artist Rosalie Gascoigne (1917–1999).

The exhibition prompted the Friends to arrange a talk on the life and work of the artist by her daughter, Hester Gascoigne. The result was a fascinating account of the development of an important body of work.

When she died in 1999, Rosalie was a well-recognised artist. She was, however, a late starter. She spoke of herself as 'an emerging young artist' at the age of 58! Born in Auckland in 1917, she came to Canberra in 1943, where she married Ben Gascoigne, who took up a position as an astronomer at the Mt Stromlo Observatory. Hester spoke of the family's early years in a cold Mt Stromlo house. Rosalie initially found life in Canberra hard; she felt isolated but quickly realised that she had to make her own life. When asked how she survived, she replied, 'I made a quilt'. Hester still has this quilt, which she displayed during her talk.

Rosalie also created a garden and her interest in plants led her to develop skills as a flower-arranger, for which she became well known. This, in turn, led her to explore ikebana.

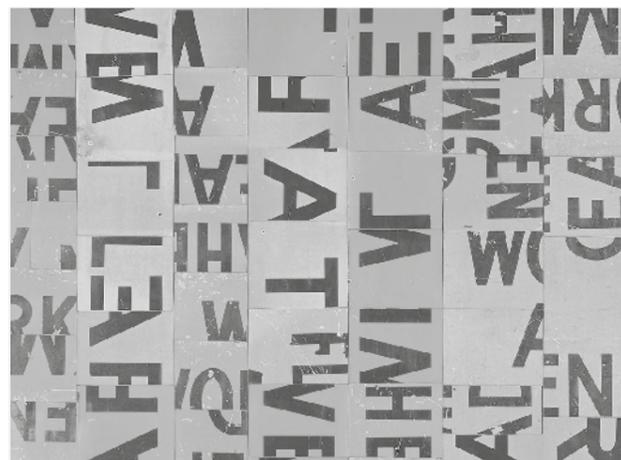


Greg Weight (b. 1946), *Portrait of Rosalie Gascoigne* 1993. nla.pic-an12130187

Gradually her career as an innovative artist developed. She produced panels and installations using scavenged materials. Hester showed photographs of Rosalie on foraging trips, talking to bemused locals who were persuaded to surrender items which were then incorporated into her works. Completing these works was a slow and labour-intensive process. Other photographs showed Rosalie in her studio contemplating piles of miscellaneous materials; she would stare at them and, by trial and error, slowly build up patterns and combinations that satisfied her. For example, one large work, entitled *Monaro*, incorporated 40–50 Schweppes soft drink crates. She became widely known and her work was included in numerous exhibitions; a notable achievement was her inclusion in the Venice Biennale in 1982.

Hester's talk was supplemented by a number of examples of her mother's work, allowing members of the audience to study her techniques and to become better acquainted with her style.

*John Seymour*



Rosalie Gascoigne (b. 1917), *Hung Fire* 1995. Wesfarmers Collection of Australian Art © Rosalie Gascoigne, licensed by Viscopy 2012 and Wesfarmers Collection of Australian Art

## 2014 Kenneth Myer Lecture with Professor Brian Schmidt AC

*The 2014 Kenneth Myer Lecture takes a serious look at scientific research in Australia.*

Since 1990, the National Library has presented the Kenneth Myer Lecture, named for Kenneth Baillieu Myer AC, who was a past Chairman of the National Library Council and a long-time friend of the Library. It is an opportunity for an eminent Australian to make a significant statement on a subject of special interest.

This year, Professor Brian Schmidt AC FRS, Distinguished Professor and astrophysicist at the Australian National University, addressed a full house on the vital role of scientific research in Australian lives. Professor Schmidt was awarded the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics for providing evidence that the expansion of the universe is accelerating. He spoke with convincing authority and a heartfelt commitment.

The big question for Australians is this: how should this nation spend its research dollars?

Professor Schmidt focused on two issues. The first is the need to develop strong, productive connections between universities and industry. Secondly, he stressed the importance of pure research. The unknown lies ahead. Although directed research is good at developing what we already know, it is not so effective at discovering new things.

Australia currently ranks last in the OECD for science and business coordination. Research is at the heart of innovation and we must forge stronger links between the two in order to achieve real progress. In addition, there is a need to think differently about science and to reach beyond basic and applied scientific research. To illustrate his argument, Professor Schmidt referred to the American decision to pursue a broad investigation into how bacteria protect themselves, rather than to focus narrowly on diabetes research. A number of valuable medical breakthroughs resulted from this decision, not the least of which were advances in the treatment of diabetes.

Scientific dissent is crucial and the audience was urged to look to evidence in matters of current concern. Professor Schmidt called for strong national leaders who will support wide scientific endeavours. He questioned the value of those who do not acknowledge human-induced climate change and the evidence that current increases in CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere are almost entirely from anthropological sources.



Professor Brian Schmidt AC at the 2014 Kenneth Myer Lecture

The lecture closed with a focus on the future. How do we transition to a planet with 10 billion inhabitants and not drop our standard of living? How do we better use our major energy sources? We know that energy is central to so much in our world. We need to find a way of creating energy that allows peace on the planet, and does not provoke conflict.

Professor Schmidt combined grace and humour with absolute conviction and he was met with resounding applause for the significant issues that he raised. The Friends thank the Myer family for the opportunity to hear him speak.

*Robyn Oates*

## FRIENDS NEWS

### Friends Annual General Meeting

The 2014 Friends Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 20 November at 5.30 pm. Nomination forms for the 2014 Friends Committee are included in this month's Friends mailout.

### Have you ever thought about joining the Friends Committee?

If you would like to contribute to the running of the Friends of the National Library of Australia consider joining the Committee! Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month and run for around one hour. We try to make it as easy for our Committee members as possible, and you will be offered the chance to contribute to the Friends events program, the Friends newsletter and other initiatives run by the Friends.

There is a change to the process for nomination in 2014. For Friends Association Liability Insurance purposes, all nominees need to complete a Statutory Declaration form stating that they have not been personally declared bankrupt or been associated with an organisation which has gone into insolvency. Please contact the Friends office for further information.

We welcome nominations from all members; previous committee experience is not a prerequisite. If you would like to talk about joining the Committee in 2015, contact Sarah Jaensch, the Friends Executive Officer, on 02 6262 1551 or email friends@nla.gov.au. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Friends 25th Anniversary in 2015

The Friends of the National Library will celebrate 25 years in 2015. We are currently planning a program of events to celebrate this milestone. We would welcome suggestions from our members on what you would like the Friends to do for their 25th anniversary. All ideas welcome. Please contact the Executive Officers via friends@nla.gov.au.

## Friends of the National Library and Reel McCoy Film Screenings

One unique aspect of the Friends program is the regular film screenings in the Library's theatre. Canberra's Reel McCoy Film Society, in an agreement with the Friends, offers a curated selection of classic international and Australian cinema, free of charge for all Friends and members of the Reel McCoy.

James Sandry, Reel McCoy President, points out that the screenings aim primarily to entertain, but also to educate people about the art form that is film. 'The Reel McCoy has been screening films in Canberra since 1990. It is run by a group of volunteers who share a love of cinema. We get together to plan yearly programs, to screen great films, and to share coffee and tea afterwards while we talk about the films. It is a very social, talkative and friendly society. Everyone is welcome.'

James says that the partnership with the Friends has broadened the reach of the film group. 'It's a terrific program for Friends. We present a number of joint screenings each year. The screening with the Dickens Reading Group is always popular. This semester we are showing the classic Ronald Colman version of *A Tale of Two Cities*. We are also screening the Australian film *Smithy*, as a joint screening with the Friends of the National Film and Sound Archive.'

'The audience is always encouraged to make screening suggestions. A 2014 survey showed that *Casablanca* was the Friends' favourite film, so *Casablanca* was scheduled for screening on 22 July,' says James.

Before each screening, there is a special introduction to place the film in context and to provide entertaining background information. 'There is a lucky door prize, being of course, a film classic on DVD. Everyone is invited to coffee and tea afterwards, to chat with other members of the audience.'

James believes that film societies will grow in importance in future years. 'With the sad closing of cinemas all over the country, film societies will be one of the few places where people will be able to see classic films. It's an absolute pleasure to be able to come to the Library's cinema to enjoy the world's best films up on the big screen.'

For further information, visit reelmccoy.org.au or nla.gov.au/friends or call the Friends Office on 02 6262 1698.

David Hogan

## Cox's Walk

As Trustee of the Western Crossings Trust, the Hartley District Progress Association is celebrating the bicentenary of the building of Cox's Road through the Blue Mountains with the launch of its exhibition, *A Moment in Time II*, and a series of guided walks.

The exhibition has been curated by professional historian Joan Kent and captures the area before and after the 1813 crossing of the Blue Mountains by Europeans. It will open at the Historic Hartley Schoolhouse in Hartley, 10 am–4 pm on weekends from Saturday 13 September to Sunday 12 October.

Cox's Road walks will be conducted on Sunday 14 September, Sunday 21 September, Thursday 2 October, Saturday 4 October and Sunday 12 October with bookings accepted for large groups on any day between 14 September and 12 October.

Enquires can be made to Barbara Johnson on 0458 552 017 and further information can be found at [historycouncilnsw.org.au](http://historycouncilnsw.org.au).

*Details taken from the Rope and Pulley Family History Newsletter, No 75, June 2014 and passed to the Friends Office by volunteer Jenny Hadlow.*

If you have an event or item you would like mentioned in the Friends News please contact the Friends Executive Officer on 6262 1551.

## Friends Code of Conduct

The Friends Code of Conduct was recently revised by the Friends Committee. The changes concern activities in the Friends Lounge so please ensure you read the amended version enclosed with this newsletter.

## Friends Lounge Spring Clean

We have decided to spring clean the Friends Lounge! This will include a steam clean of couches, chairs, carpets and curtains. All cupboards, the fridge and microwave will be cleaned. In order to undertake this cleaning, the Lounge will close on Monday 20 October and re-open on Monday 3 November. We thank you for your cooperation during this period and look forward to providing our members with a beautifully cleaned Lounge.

## LIBRARY NEWS

### Evaluating Trove

What do people think of Trove? In 2013, Trove initiated its first formal user evaluation survey to find out. The survey was conducted by Gundabluey Research and attracted 1,086 respondents.

The overwhelming majority of people who responded were happy with their Trove experience: 84 per cent rated us as 'excellent or very good' with another 14 per cent describing us as 'good'. These Trove users were confident in the quality of the information we provide and satisfied with the speed and ease with which they can access it.

The survey highlighted Trove's transformative role in providing Australians everywhere with access to resources. Two-fifths of surveyed users had never physically visited the Library and one-fifth did not consider themselves to be Library users. There was evidence that they either didn't use, or only very rarely used, the onsite services offered by their state libraries. As this quote demonstrates, Trove is reaching a new audience, particularly in regional and rural Australia:

*Trove has transformed my research. I am unable to visit my State Library due to the distance. And I may never get the chance to visit the National Library. So Trove puts so much information at my fingertips.*

The survey also provided evidence of Trove's importance as a digital literacy tool for older Australians. Both research and text correction helped keep people's minds active and broadened their technological horizons. One user noted that Trove was:



John Larkins (b. 1943), *News stand in a railway station showing billboards publicising the opening of Parliament House in Canberra ... Melbourne, 1927.* [trove.nla.gov.au/version/51618747](http://trove.nla.gov.au/version/51618747)

*Easy to use for those not terribly familiar with computers and searching (such as elderly/retired clients) ...*

Trove also helps foster a broader sense of community. Users were conscious of making an important contribution through text correction, and the ability to learn and share more about their local region strengthened their sense of community identity:

*... if you are looking for information on a bit of Australian local history—particularly in the non-urban areas it is great. It is also a great way for the community of these non-urban local areas to be involved in a project of national significance—correcting texts—contributing photos and documents ...*

Trove enriches people's lives. More than 90 per cent of general public users surveyed agreed with the statement, 'Trove has made me more interested in learning and discovering more'. This was considerably higher for those living in regional and rural areas, again demonstrating Trove's importance for Australians living outside urban centres.

Trove attracts many passionate devotees, as one noted:

*I recommend Trove on a daily basis ... it is amazing how many researchers ... don't know about this amazing resource. When I show it to them they are always blown away by its potential to have major benefits to their research. I usually don't see them for a while afterwards as they become Trove addicts too!*

But there is work to do as well. The survey provided feedback on possible improvements and indicated that we need to do more to attract and support a broader range of users. As Trove approaches its 5th birthday, it's a useful opportunity to take stock and think about where we go next. *Catriona Bryce*

## Volunteering in Pictures and Manuscripts: Political Cartoons by Alan Moir and John Frith

When Volunteer Coordinator Lauren Brown offered me the opportunity of some volunteer work in the Library's Pictures and Manuscripts Branch, I eagerly accepted. It was an ideal fit with my university studies in History. Damian Cole was to be my supervisor and I began work on the Library's collections of political cartoons by Alan Moir (b. 1945) and John Frith (1906–2000). These collections were obtained through kind donation and represent a portion of Moir's and Frith's lifework. I have to confess to some puzzlement when confronted with stacks of cartoons, as I'd expected to work with rare and precious documents—every History student's dream.

However, cartoons are also documents that record real events, albeit creatively interpreted by the cartoonist. Like texts, they can be read as representations of a certain time, place and cultural perspective. They require proper storage, which—in addition to security aspects—means accurate identification and labelling. So the initial stages of both the Moir and Frith projects involved arranging the physical items in chronological order and then writing, on the back of each item, a series of letters and numbers pinpointing it to a precise storage location.

The next stage was more challenging: providing a description of each cartoon. My task was to identify the people, year and event depicted in each item, and provide contextual comments. This would assist with cataloguing and also streamline the accessioning process. As an example, the Frith collection is currently being catalogued and will eventually be digitised, expanding the range of potential readers.

A difficulty with the Frith collection was its era. The cartoons were drawn for *The Herald* in 1960s Melbourne, and many of its references are Victorian or specifically Melbourne. Several truly cryptic items can probably be fathomed only by those familiar with the background event. Nonetheless, as a testament to Frith's talent, the essence of an item's meaning can still be appreciated without local, contemporary knowledge.

This particular series of Frith's is confined mainly to local events and people, leaving only a small portion with international content. There are no references to national movements such as the fight for Indigenous Australians' rights, women's liberation or anti-conscription. Perennial favourites cricket and football are prominent as are cultural icons such as the swagman and the idea of the 'fair go'. The ANZAC tradition is somberly portrayed, contrasting with the buoyant spirit of many of the illustrations. Australia's relationship with Britain is prominent, its place in Asia seen largely from a paternalistic stance. While the cartoons make



John Frith, *Local government and dirty linen*, 27 February 1963.  
nla.pic-vn6538208

critical reference to disturbing aspects of civic, domestic and international life, there is a light-heartedness of portrayal which gives the impression of a country and readership largely confident in themselves and their place in the world. One may also reflect on the influence of editorial and censorship demands.

The Moir series (1984–2010), produced for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, is a striking contrast in its confronting portrayal of late twentieth and early twenty-first century life. Moir's cartoons bear witness to the disintegration of traditional power blocs and the emergence of new global superpowers; to a world in which politics and economics embroil nations in mutually dependent relationships; and to climate change, financial crises and humanitarian issues, which raise moral challenges with compromising results. If Frith's is a sunnier outlook, Moir's is a more caustic wit which skewers and satirises politicians and power-brokers in an often damning critique. These cartoons suggest a darker and less secure world, albeit one where unchanging elements of Australian culture, such as sporting passions, remain.

Space does not permit elaborating on the wit and ingenuity of Moir and Frith, but further study of their work will provide insight into how political satire and caricature both illuminate and help hold to account the players in, and structures of, democracy. I migrated from Singapore in 1983 and cartoons have been my personal window into aspects of Australia's past and its culture; I feel most privileged to have had this opportunity. As a History student, I have enjoyed that rare opportunity of chuckling aloud while studying a document; perhaps more important is the realisation that while these items speak from within a particular cultural milieu and mentality, they also enlighten us about our perception of the wider world and of human nature, about what we laugh at, and why.

Carolyn Tow  
Volunteer

Examples from the Frith (above) and Moir (below) collections, still in the process of being catalogued.



## FRIENDS EVENTS

**Bookings** for all Friends events may be made through the Friends Office on 02 6262 1698 or by emailing [friends@nla.gov.au](mailto:friends@nla.gov.au).

**Ticket payments** may be made over the phone at the same number.

**Cheque payments**, made payable to 'The Friends of the National Library of Australia', should be posted to Friends of the National Library, National Library of Australia, Canberra ACT 2600.

**Cash payments** may be dropped off at the National Library Bookshop during opening hours, and must be delivered in an unsealed envelope, with details of your name, the event and the dollar amount written on the envelope. These will then be passed on to the Friends Office.

For further details of these events, as well as other Friends and National Library events in Winter 2014, please refer to the *What's On* guide and the *Friends Newsletter*, or visit [nla.gov.au/events](http://nla.gov.au/events).

### Friends Spring Book Club Lecture with Karen Viggers

Join author Karen Viggers as she discusses books that have inspired her, including *Dirt Music* by Tim Winton, *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway, *The Moth Hunters* by Josephine Flood and *Stories of the Ngunnawal*. Karen is a Canberra-based author and has written *The Stranding*, *The Lightkeeper's Wife* and *The Grass Castle*.

Thursday 25 September, 6 pm  
Conference Room

\$10 Friends / \$15 non-members (includes refreshments)  
Bookings: 02 6262 1698 or [nla.gov.au/bookings/friends](http://nla.gov.au/bookings/friends)

### Launch of *Crime, Punishment and Redemption: John Ward's Convict Diary* by Dr June Slee

Join Dr June Slee for the launch of the Library's latest publication, *Crime, Punishment and Redemption: John Ward's Convict Diary*. To be launched by Alan Kerr.

Thursday 23 October, 6 pm  
Conference Room and Foyer

\$10 Friends / \$15 non-members (includes refreshments)  
Bookings: 02 6262 1698 or [nla.gov.au/bookings/friends](http://nla.gov.au/bookings/friends)

### Friends Spring Day Tour (places filling up fast!)

Join the Friends for a day trip to the Murrumbateman region. Highlights include wine tasting at Eden Road Winery, chocolate making at Robyn Rowe chocolates, and a visit to Cooma Cottage. Includes morning tea, afternoon tea and lunch.

Saturday 25 October, 9 am–4 pm

\$80 Friends / \$90 non-members

Bookings essential: contact the Friends Office on 6262 1551

### Friends Visit to the Library's Hume Repository

Join the Friends for an exclusive visit to the Library's Hume Repository, with a tour by Kylie Hawkins, Manager of Stack Services.

Wednesday 19 November, 10 am–11 am

44 Tralee Street Hume, free

**All participants are to make their own way to the Repository and latecomers may not be admitted.**

Bookings required as numbers are limited: 02 6262 1698 or [nla.gov.au/bookings/friends](http://nla.gov.au/bookings/friends)

### Friends of the National Library of Australia Annual General Meeting

Thursday 20 November, 5.30 pm  
Conference Room, free

Bookings required for catering purposes: 02 6262 1698 or [nla.gov.au/bookings/friends](http://nla.gov.au/bookings/friends)

### Friends Book Club

A monthly literary discussion for members only.

Tuesday 30 September

*The Narrow Road to the Deep North* by Richard Flanagan

Tuesday 28 October

*The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt

Tuesday 25 November

*Old Filth* by Jane Gardam

7 pm

Friends Lounge, free

### Free Film Screenings

In association with Reel McCoy Film Society, the Friends present fortnightly film screenings exclusively for members of both organisations.



Every second Wednesday, 6 pm

Theatre, free

No bookings required

Program: [nla.gov.au/events](http://nla.gov.au/events) or call 02 6262 1698.

The program is included in your Friends June mail package.

## Library Bookshop—Special Offer for Friends

In conjunction with the Library's Bookshop, the Friends are pleased to announce a special offer for members who make a purchase using the Library's online bookshop, [bookshop.nla.gov.au/discount-books/home.do](http://bookshop.nla.gov.au/discount-books/home.do).

For any purchase made between 1 September 2014 and 30 November 2014, Friends will receive a free Brown Pocket Notebook. This offer is in addition to the usual Friends discount and any other offers advertised on the online bookshop website.

To claim your free Brown Pocket Notebook and your 15 per cent discount for all online purchases, use the promotional code FR15SEP14 at checkout. This code is valid from 1 September 2014 to 30 November 2014.

### *A Kind of Victory: Captain Charles Cox and His Australian Cavalrymen*

By Craig Wilcox



*A Kind of Victory* brings to life in words and lavish pictures the high tide of the once-mighty British Empire and a forgotten turning point in Australia's military history.

In 1899, on the eve of the Boer War, Captain Charles Cox from Parramatta took 100 Australian cavalymen to train with the British

Army in England. These military apprentices became soldiers of both Britain and Australia. But everything went wrong. Publicity got in the way of cavalry drill which, in any case, the Australians were allowed to shirk.

The debacle ended with Cox volunteering his little command for the Boer War, the British insisting on the consent of his government and each of his men, and a murder on a lonely farm in South Africa. There was no more talk of Australian fighting men morphing into colonial members of the British Army.

Still, the newspapers said the venture was a brilliant success, that Australians had proved themselves natural warriors, that the British Empire was stronger for what happened—all of which Australians were happy to hear. It was, in the end, a kind of victory.

This is a fascinating story, richly illustrated with more than 100 images, many from Cox's manuscript collection at the National Library, which consists of handwritten letters and diary entries, formal letters and invitations, paintings, engravings and sketches, photographs, colourful sheet music covers, maps, newspaper cuttings, and uniforms. *A Kind of Victory* shows Australia emerging from the British Empire and beginning to develop its national identity as the nation itself was born.

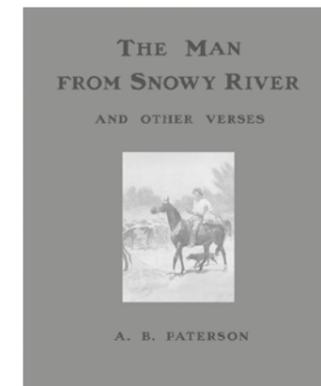
ISBN 978-0-642-27857-9

2014, pb, 250 x 220 mm, 224 pp

RRP \$44.99

### *The Man from Snowy River and Other Verses*

By A. B. (Banjo) Paterson



To mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Banjo Paterson, and the commemoration of the centenary of the First World War, NLA Publishing has produced this beautiful cloth-cover facsimile publication of Paterson's poetry.

These small-format books were originally published in 1914 as 'pocket

editions for the trenches', designed for soldiers to slip into their back pockets and carry with them throughout their war service. Probably purchased by wives, girlfriends and mothers, they were a little piece of Australia to treasure amid the horrors of war.

The 47 poems in the book include *A Bush Christening*, *A Mountain Station*, *Black Swans*, *Clancy of the Overflow*, *Conroy's Gap*, *In the Droving Days*, *Over the Range*, *Our New Horse*, *Saltbush Bill*, *The Man from Snowy River* and *The Daylight is Dying*. At the back of the book, there are two pages of information about Banjo Paterson and the 'trench pocket-books'.

Norman Lindsay's illustrations on the front cover and frontispiece depicting droving and a homestead must have had an emotional impact on the fighting men so far away.

A great Father's Day present or Christmas gift.

ISBN 978-0-642-27858-6

2014, pb, 145 x 117 mm, 184 pp

RRP \$16.99