



NOUVELLE-HOLLANDE : le King.

J.L. BOSTON. (Revue de la Société)

Friends

STATE LIBRARY
South Australia

SEPTEMBER 2019

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we approach the close of another good year, the biggest highlight on the horizon will be the inaugural **Deane Miller Oration** to be delivered the day before the AGM and Dinner.

We are honoured to have as our speaker Mr Paul Brunton OBE, the driving personality behind the Mitchell Library for four decades. With our own Valmai Hankel, he is one of the best-known and respected Library personalities in Australia.

Paul is a book expert: curator, author, scholar, historian, researcher and collector. Emeritus Curator since 2012 he has continued to pursue his interest in books, Matthew Flinders and travel over the ensuing years.

A long-time colleague and friend of Valmai's, Paul has always been supportive of our Friends group, and particularly the *Australiana Publications*. When we published *Matthew Flinders Private Journal*, he generously hosted our Sydney launch at the Mitchell Library. This introduced us to a whole new group of readers and collectors.

Paul has chosen as the subject of the Oration, the life of William Herbert Ifould OBE, "The Great Collector".

Ifould was born near Gawler in 1877 and, at the tender age of 28, was appointed Principal Librarian of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery of South Australia. In 1912 at the age of 35 he was appointed Principal Librarian of the Public Library of New South Wales where he remained for 30 years.

During that time he made a huge impression on this great Library. Not only did he introduce new and expanded services, and establish staff training, he was primarily responsible for the erection of a new library building and influenced its magnificent architecture and internal furnishings. He invigorated the entire profession.

Paul's lecture, however, will concentrate more on his activities as a knowledgeable, crafty and persistent collector for the Library. This, as we will hear, was to be his greatest legacy.

Paul is also going to entertain us the following evening with a totally different speech at our Annual Dinner, to be held at St Mark's College in their new dining room.

It is going to be a wonderful week: a great visiting speaker, intriguing subjects and a lasting legacy from a generous man, Graham Deane Miller, the benefactor who left us his entire estate in 2018.

I am sure this will be our best-attended set of functions for many years. Please ensure you don't miss out by booking early.

Mark Gilbert

UPCOMING EVENTS

2 October 2019 at 1.00pm

Wednesdays at One –

Books in my life

Peter Monteath

23 October 2019 at 10.30am

Artlab tour

19 November 2019

Inaugural Deane Miller Oration

William Herbert Ifould OBE

'The Great Collector'

By Paul Brunton

Mortock Chamber

5.45-7pm, FREE

20 November 2019

AGM & Dinner

'The Learning Commons'

St Marks College

North Adelaide

Guest Speaker: Paul Brunton

4 December 2019 at 1.00pm

Wednesdays at One –

Books in my life

Jane Lomax-Smith

FRIENDS OFFICE HOURS

Monday and Wednesday

10.00am to 2.00pm

Tuesday and Thursday

10.00am to 3.30pm

VISIT TO THE STATE RECORDS

Elizabeth Hambly

On Wednesday July 17th a group of Friends visited the State Records at Gepps Cross where we were given a guided tour of the establishment. State Records is the official custodian for archival records created by State and Local Government agencies within South Australia.



It was fascinating to see the huge storage areas, some of which are kept at a fixed temperature. We were told that the shelving covers over 90 kilometres! The records are now being digitised so that people can more easily search on line.



At the end of the general tour we were shown a selection of records relating to the early history of Adelaide and South Australia, such as the original letters patent establishing the province of South Australia and some plans and drawings for early Adelaide buildings. Goyder's dictionary of some local Aboriginal languages and records of admissions to prison were of interest, as well as some documents from early exploring expeditions on display for us. The notebooks kept by explorers, such as John McDouall Stuart, were fascinating. It was amazing to see the very small notebook he kept, with his very clear tiny writing.

VITA SACKVILLE WEST -

Writing Room, Sissinghurst, Kent

Jane Walkley

The room is packed with books, spanning everything from gardening to poetry to history to psychology. Vita is probably best known today as a gardener, however, she was a prolific author, writing a weekly column for *The Observer* newspaper from her desk at Sissinghurst, along with many novels and poems.



Vita spent so much time in the tower that she added a toilet to a room opposite the entrance door so she didn't have to walk back to the South Cottage. The room, to this day, is still called "the great improvement", as she was so pleased with the addition.



Sissinghurst was a family home. Vita and Harold had their bedrooms in the South Cottage, where Harold worked in his book room. Vita and Harold's sons, Ben and Nigel, lived in the Priest's House in the White Garden, where the family ate meals prepared by Mrs Staples, the cook.

VISIT TO OLD ADELAIDE GAOL

Trevor Grant

On Thursday August 22nd 13 well-rugged-up intrepid Friends met at the Old Adelaide Gaol for a one-hour tour – two hours later we were reluctant to leave, since we had merely scratched the surface of this shocking institution where over 300,000 prisoners had been incarcerated in very primitive conditions since the gaol's opening in 1841. It was only closed in 1988, coinciding with the extension of Yatala and the prohibitive cost of plumbing and electricity to each cell. The original design was never completed and, in fact, the plans sent the fledgling colony bankrupt. The last of the 45 executions there, by hanging, was carried out in 1964.



We were guided and well-informed by the enthusiastic Colleen, full of snippets of information bringing the tour alive and making it even more eye-opening. Apart from the struggle to finance the ever-expanding complex, the conditions were basic at best and the sentences meted out to the prisoners often harsh and inconsistent. Primarily inmates were there for drunkenness, larceny and indebtedness. Once inside, gambling, swearing, noise and indecent language were not allowed – neither was alcohol.

The gaol is basically fan-shaped, so that upon one's arrival at the central entrance there are

five exercise yards fanning out into open wedge-shapes, with cells located between yards one and two. Very high double stone walls, with a dry moat between, made the prison secure. Condemned prisoners were kept separate, as were males from females, in these yards. Cells were small and devoid of facilities, the food fundamentally porridge three times / day and there was no lighting in cells at night. Prisoners were locked in at 4.30 pm.



What we did not have the opportunity to do justice to were the numerous exhibitions throughout the converted gaol spaces, giving practical evidence of the general conditions and mandatory daily routines. These would well repay another visit and Leah has a small number of passes for self-guided tours, saving 25% for groups of up to 4.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER...

With 2019 fast coming to a close there is still plenty on the Friend's schedule.

Next month we have Peter Monteath speaking at Wednesdays at One and a visit to the Artlab for our monthly tour event. November is proving to be busy as well. On Tuesday 19th we have our Inaugural Deane Miller Oration with Paul Brunton. The next night on the 20th is our AGM & Dinner. Do keep the dates free in your diary for these important events.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Friends.
– Leah Cronin

BOOK REVIEW

Bonnie Cronin, Age 9

Friday Barnes - Girl Detective

[Random House Australia, July 1 2014]

By R.A Spratt



This book is about a girl named Friday's intelligence and how it brings her a life that she never thought she could have before now.

Friday Barnes is an 11 year old girl and the youngest of 5 children. Her parents are academics and they pay no attention to her whatsoever, so she spends most of her time reading. Because Friday doesn't have any friends, she generally just blends into the background.

What I liked about the story was how you were told what was happening physically. You only got told what was going on inside her head when she said it and cracked the case. I liked that because then you didn't have to hear the same thing twice.

The first time you figure out how good her detective skills is when she is solving a case of who robbed a bank. 'Then she grabbed the shoe firmly between both hands and wrenched on the heel. Surprisingly, the heel did not come off in Friday's hand. It twisted on one of the boot nails and revealed a cavity big enough to hold a diamond.'

I would recommend this book to people aged between 9 and 11, because for someone younger it would not hold their interest, or they would not understand what was going on.

On a downside, by not describing the colours of the clothing that the characters were wearing, I wasn't able to get a clear picture of what they looked like.

One example of Friday's earlier, less complicated situations is the first time she ever met Mirabella, the most popular girl in the school. Friday had just met her roommate, Melanie, when a girl called Mirabella came in. Mirabella thought that Friday was the scholarship student because of how many books there were in her suitcase, so she decided that she had to make Friday's life miserable, no matter what. Her idea of miserable, however, was exactly what Friday wanted to happen to her anyway.

Overall, I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys reading about detectives, mysteries or both, also because the storyline outlines some interesting situations, one of them being finding out what it is like to only have your books for company which is different to many other children her age.

First Across the Simpson Desert

Available December 2019



E.A. (Ted) Colson in 1938

The Simpson Desert occupies about 160,000 square kilometres of the arid centre of Australia. Aboriginal people have lived there for thousands of years, and early Europeans attempted in vain to traverse it.

In 1936 Edmund (Ted) Colson and his aboriginal companion Peter Ains made a successful crossing.

The sources for this book are the journals and field notes made daily by Colson on this epic journey, together with additional material by geographical scholars Valmai Hankel and Dennis Hall

This edition consists of a paperback version and a limited hardback edition of 99 copies, numbered and handbound in South Australia

Deluxe Handbound Edition:
Members \$85 RRP \$95
Paperback:
Members \$40 RRP \$45
\$15 postage within Australia

Friends
STATE LIBRARY
South Australia



WEDNESDAYS AT ONE
2 October 2019
1.00pm

SPEAKER: Peter Monteath
South Australian Author & Historian

*Admission: \$5 General
Staff, Students & Members free*

VALMAI HANKEL PORTRAIT CELEBRATION

Over 120 of Valmai's closest friends joined her for afternoon tea on 21 July. Those who couldn't make it missed a history making event. Her portrait, commissioned by the Friends and beautifully executed by artist Daryl Austin was officially presented to the State Library. Peter Goers, a long-time close friend of Valmai's, was a gracious MC, and eight of her former colleagues spoke lovingly about their contact with her over the years.



Valmai with Peter Goers

The atmosphere at the event was one of warmth and friendship; many of those present had travelled long distances to be there, and there was much rich reminiscence. The portrait now hangs in the main first floor entrance to the Library, with a list of the generous donors who supported the project.



Fran Awcock



Peter Goers



FRIENDS POP-UP BOOKSHOP

Don't worry about downsizing! If it's books it's not hoarding!



Between your appointments in the city why not drop in to the Friends rooms and browse our little second-hand bookshop?

Books donated by members and friends include many rare and collectible items as well as literature, history, biography, cookery and other topics.



Some of our quality books would make great gifts, and we also have a selection of good children's books.

DIARY DATE!

Our AGM and Dinner is coming up on 20 November. This year it will be held in the bright new function area at St Mark's College.

Our after dinner speaker will be Paul Brunton.

There will be a silent auction of interesting items.

Members – feel free to call in to the Friends rooms when you're next in the city. Browse the Bookshop, have a cuppa, read the London Review of Books, rest your weary legs.

NEW DESIGNS!



Have you seen our latest range of Friends merchandise?

We have our own greeting cards, tote bags, mugs and notebooks all emblazoned with illustrations from our Australiana Publications. Come in and see examples in the Rooms, and you might get some good Christmas Gift ideas too!



Greeting Cards are available from the office. \$10 for pack of cards including envelopes.

Tote bags, mugs and many other variations available at <https://www.redbubble.com/people/FriendsSLSA/shop>

