



December 2022

Friends Newsletter

*A Quarterly Newsletter Publication of The Friends of
the State Library of South Australia*

Edited by Jane Walkley

A note from the President

Professor Rick Sarre

Greetings!

We enjoyed a superb 90th anniversary dinner (and exciting AGM) on November 26 at St Marks. I am indebted to Angela and Marianne and their tribe of faithful helpers for pulling it all together, to all the donors for the silent auction prizes, and to Patricia and Ed Michell for the lovely wines. Rachel Healy was a great after-dinner speaker, reflecting on her years as the Adelaide Festival artistic co-director, with Neil Armfield.

Let me raise in dot point form some of the highlights of the year as I presented them to the dinner guests that evening.

- The most important point is the excellent relationship that we enjoy with the SLSA. Geoff Stempel is a wonderful colleague and a master at bringing people together. The SLSA has launched its New Directions document plan this year and Geoff is bringing us along with him well.
- We convened a strategy meeting of the Committee in April and set about putting new ideas into action, including changes to the constitution, website rebranding, new marketing ideas and membership plans.
- The Books in My Life series has given us some wonderful Tuesday talks. I have enjoyed all of them.
- We farewelled Jayne French, who had been a terrific asset to the EO position, and welcomed Marianne Graton, who has leapt into the role with aplomb.



- I enjoy the committee and its fine composition of polymaths, historians, artisans, artists, editors, and writers. The executive, too, is a joy to meet with, with the wit of deputies Patricia Michell and Angela Bannon, the perspicacious eye of Trevor Grant, and the received wisdom of Mark Gilbert. They are excellent value. Brett Thompson, an old friend of mine, stepped in to run the accounts and I am grateful for his generosity of time and talent both with the committee and the Executive.
- Our giant book sale (this year in the Institute front room) was again a success and I am grateful to all those in the intrepid book sorting and selling team in putting it in place.
- Our newsletters are always of a high standard thanks to Jane Walkley (and Jayne French and now Marianne Gration).
- Our publishing arm, Australiana Publications, too, continues to put out wonderful books under the watchful eye of Mark Gilbert. We have launched *First Across the Simpson Desert* and *Bush Life* this year. Of other recent publications, *Gillen's Modest Record* continues to sell well, and *Under the North Pole* is on pre-order now.
- *Bibliofile* remains a high-class publication and will continue to be so, I am sure, notwithstanding that Bernard Whimpress plans to retire from its editorship after the last volume coming soon. We acknowledge his expertise and thank him for his exceptional work over many years.
- We have recently assisted the library with money from the Deane Miller bequest for the purchase of a valuable 19th century map of land near Gawler. Our Miller bequest subcommittee remains on the lookout for other memorable items that befit this magnanimous bequest.
- Our tours coordinated by Trevor continue to excite interest amongst the membership.
- The book bindery develops new skills for those wanting to make fine handiwork, and we acknowledge the generosity of Anthony Zammitt who unstintingly shares his time and expertise there.
- We acknowledge Stephen Bowers, artist and designer, who is always very generous with his time and expertise, too.
- Our acquisitions subcommittee, and archives, continue to be convened and curated under the watchful eye of Roger Andre.

- We continue to receive truckloads of books from deceased estates and ‘downsizers,’ and we are grateful to those benefactors, as well as to those members with boxes, strong arms and wide car boots.
- On the business front, we changed insurance brokers and thereby saved money, and we survived the Covid restrictions with careful planning and smaller numbers at events.
- Mandy Macky and Nick Porter joined the committee during the year. We now farewell from the committee the mercurial trader and valuer Anthony Hurl, and the photographer and audiographer extraordinaire Allison Murchie, and welcome back the delightful Hettie Tinsley who brings much FSL experience with her.
- In summary: If you will excuse the pugilistic metaphor, we punch above our weight. All of the amazing things that we do to add value to what it means to be a South Australian are done for no financial reward. We rely upon the goodness of the hearts of the committee and of you, the members. For that I am grateful. The SLSA is grateful. The people of SA should be grateful and (to use a good a good legal phrase) their heirs and successors. Remember, volunteers don’t get paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.
- I want to finish with a tribute to a man and woman whom Roger suggested needed to be acknowledged anew. As you know, the Mortlock is recognised as one of the 100 best libraries in the world. In fact, Ruth McKenzie, the new artistic director of the Adelaide Festival, was at the SLSA in November touring the library with Geoff (and Jo Bayly), expressing some interest in the Mortlock as a site for something in the 2024 festival. Who knows...perhaps a Harry Potter tribute or a murder mystery! But where does the name Mortlock come from? John Andrew Tennant Mortlock (1894-1950) was gravely ill in 1948 when he married Dorothy Beech who was, fortuitously for us, a member of the Friends. A very wealthy landowner, John died two years later at 56 years of age and bequeathed a significant portion of his vast estate to state institutions including the SLSA. One assumes that Dorothy Beech had a word in his ear about the FSL. In 1986, under the eye of Premier John Bannon indeed, the Mortlock wing was renamed in his honour because of this bequest. We praise Dorothy anew for her suggestion and, who knows, if you are heading down that magnanimity path, have vast wealth in South Australia’s outback, and don’t feel very well, have a word to Geoff: I am sure he will find something to be named after you.

See you in the new year. Enjoy the festive season!

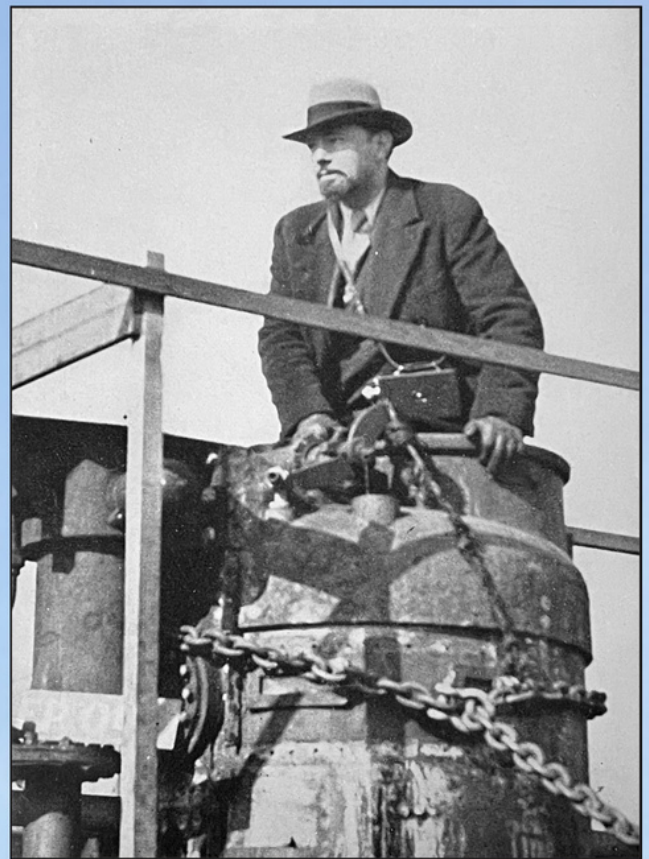
Rick Sarre

President.

Under the North Pole

The Wilkins-Ellsworth
Submarine Expedition

SIR HUBERT WILKINS



To be published in April 2023

Sir Hubert Wilkins' fame as an intrepid explorer, aviator, navigator, reporter, photographer, cinematographer and naturalist had already spread round the world when in 1930 he embarked upon his latest venture, the seemingly impossible task of taking a submarine under the Arctic polar ice. Wilkins produced this book about the planned expedition arguing that a book written by experts would reassure a sceptical world that his *Nautilus* mission was not only feasible, but essential to science and humanity.

Introduction by Carolyn Spooner and Afterword by Stephen Carthew.

Subscriber

Following tradition, Subscribers' copies are reserved before publication, and underwrite the cost of printing. \$350 (includes a \$250 tax deductible component) The *List of Subscribers* will be printed in the book. Subscribers will receive a superior version of the Deluxe edition in a handmade slipcase.

NB: Subscriber applications close on Jan 1 2023

Deluxe

Limited to 150 numbered copies, hand-bound in South Australia.
RRP \$125
Pre-publication Price \$110

Paperback

RRP \$60
Pre-publication Price \$55

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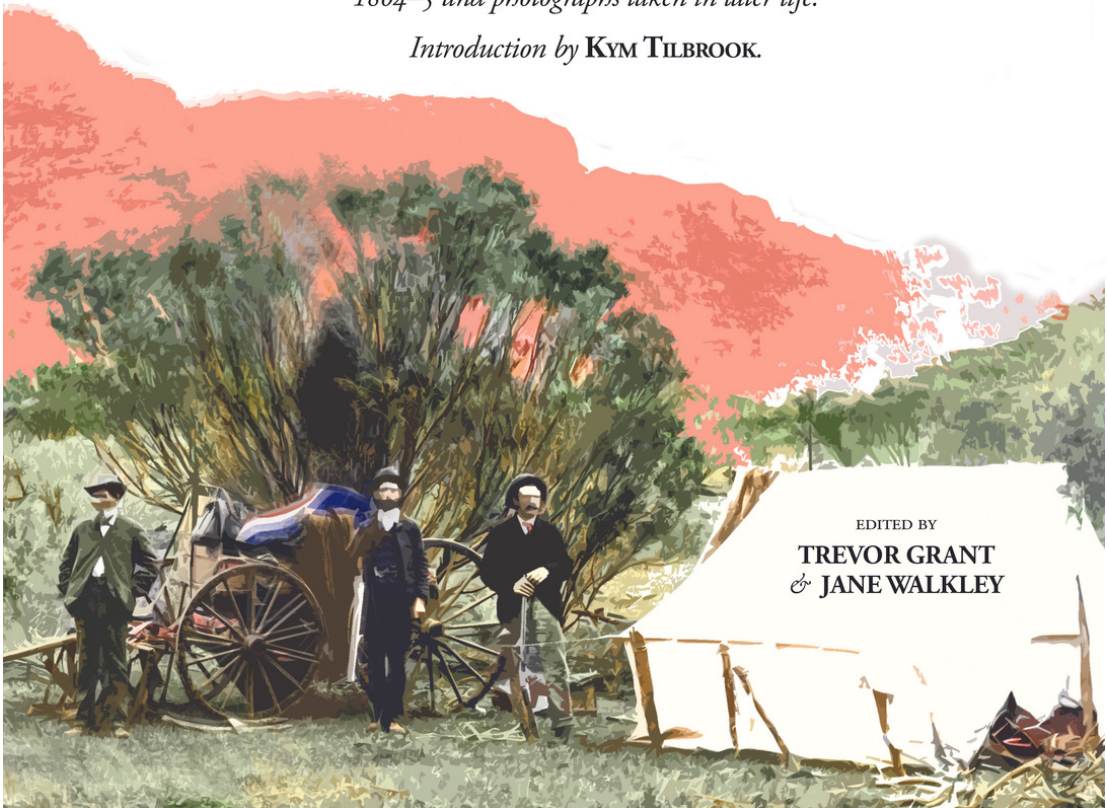
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Bush Life

Reminiscences of HENRY HAMMOND TILBROOK

*His youthful experiences in the north of South Australia,
1864–5 and photographs taken in later life.*

Introduction by KYM TILBROOK.



EDITED BY
TREVOR GRANT
& JANE WALKLEY



Bush Life

HENRY HAMMOND TILBROOK (1848–1937) was an inveterate traveller, often on foot. Born in the United Kingdom, he arrived in Adelaide in 1854. As a teenager he worked for two years in South Australia's Mid-North, firstly on various properties, but in 1865 was employed on Ooraparinna Station. He kept detailed diaries of his adventures.

Tilbrook later became a pioneering photographer and, between 1889–1905, frequently revisited the Mid-North. In his eighties, he expanded those diaries as a family record and for posterity. This book combines a selection of his outstanding photographs with edited extracts from his intriguing unpublished journals.

*An illuminating and entertaining addition
to South Australia's colonial history*

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Books in my Life by Greg Mackie OAM

A Tuesday Talk

October 4 2022

From bookseller to Arts Supremo

Imprints was and continues to be an institution in Adelaide bookselling. How many of us have spent a pleasant hour or so browsing and nearly always taking home a new treasure? Greg worked there for over 20 years as employee and later co-owner.

Like most of us, Greg buys more books than he has read and they linger on the shelf waiting ... Nassim Nicholas Taleb believes that surrounding ourselves with unread books enriches our lives as they remind us of all we don't know. The Japanese call this practice *tsundoku*. Now we have a name for our behaviour!

Greg gradually drew us into his story and his time working in the Premier's Department during the Camelot years of Mike Rann. It was a time of ideas, new challenges and innovations in the Arts sphere and Greg was given the opportunity to be at the centre of these very exciting times. The Festival of Ideas, Writers' Week, Thinkers in Residence, the Adelaide Film Festival and the Adelaide Festival of Arts are just a few.

As a working class kid in the southern suburbs, his reading included Enid Blyton, Wilbur Smith and Biggles and regular visits to the Adelaide Children's Library. As a teenager, his imagination was stimulated by Aldous Huxley, George Orwell and Gerald Durrell. Later he devoured Kurt Vonnegut and Robert Heinlein.

During his wander down memory lane, Greg reminded us of favourite book shops and restaurants that are no longer with us and some of the memorable characters of Adelaide. If it was important to the Adelaide Arts scene, Greg was there either as initiator, collaborator, negotiator or supporter, often at the same time. How did he manage to do all this? Very little sleep, commitment, very long working hours, a love of the Arts, a policy expert and an understanding of how to get results. And strangely, like many successful people, he has a fear of failure.

As part of organising so many events, especially Writers' Week and Imprints book launches, he was often sharing space with authors from all over the world. We were very fortunate that he shared some of these stories with us, giving us an insight into what we often think of as a glamorous world. We were thoroughly entertained and wished we could have listened to his stories for several more hours.

In conclusion Greg advised us to "keep a connection to paper-based text." Perhaps he might come back for an encore performance in the next year or so.

Allison Murchie



Books in my Life by Dr Jane Walkley *A Tuesday Talk*

November 8 2022

Jane grew up in a family of avid readers, surrounded by books. As a young child, every Saturday included a trip to the Children's Library, where members were restricted to borrowing two books and a magazine. By Sunday evening, Jane had polished off the lot of her borrowings. Her favourite books at the time foretold her future passion for travel: *The Young Traveller* series took her around the world and *The Bobbsey Twins* series by Laura Lee Hope opened up adventure in North America and beyond. Jane envied the protagonists of these novels for their experiences in exotic places. When she grew older, *The Guyana Quartet* by Wilson Harris made a particular impression as it introduced to her what is now generally considered a post-colonial world perspective.

Jane studied both the French and German languages, and she lived and worked in Germany for several years. More recently, she has for the past eight years spent several weeks in the Northern Territory, assisting and encouraging indigenous children to develop their reading skills and working with a team focussed on Walpiri-English Bilingual Education in Yuendumu. When in Alice Springs, Jane spends time in the best book store in Central Australia, Red Kangaroo Books on Todd Mall. Books on the Australian indigenous experience that she has found challenging and rewarding include the following:

Crossed Purposes: the Pintupi and Australia's Indigenous Policy by Ralph Folds

Why Warriors Lie Down and Die by Richard Trudgen

The Politics of Suffering by Peter Sutton

Dark Emu by Bruce Pascoe

Farmers and Hunter-gatherers? The Dark Emu Debate by Peter Sutton and Keryn Walshe

Daughters of the Dreaming by Diane Bell

Grog Wars by Alexis Wright

Jane maintains her love of adventure travel, inspired by Thor Heyerdahl's *KonTiki Expedition* and A.J. McKinnon's *The Unlikely Voyage of Jack de Crow*. Patrick Leigh Fermor's *A Time of Gifts* inspired her to walk long distances including the Heysen Trail and the Caminos de Santiago.

Jane Walkley's life through books is remarkable in its depth and breadth, and provided a wonderful vicarious journey for her audience.

Karen Adams

Books in my Life - Tuesday Talk

Next Speaker: Gillian Hicks, AM MBE

Gillian Hicks is the founder of the London-based not-for-profit M.A.D for Peace.

She is a motivational speaker, author, curator and trustee for several cultural organisations.

Gillian began her career as a speaker in the wake of the 7 July 2005 London bombings and is the last living victim rescued.

When: Tuesday February 7, 2023 11am

The Original Book Club

**Meets on the second Tuesday of the month, 10am to
12pm**

Original and different.

**We have fun discussing a wide range of books on a
chosen topic.**

**There is no pressure and we all just love talking about
books.**

Get in touch for further information.

**Enquiries: Diana Chessell 0415 052 174 or Audrey
Kent 0401 810 622**





The Jam Factory Tour - October 2022

Artisanship, Artistry and Art greeted the Library Friends on arrival at the Adelaide Jam Factory in October. This 1992-built, well equipped two-story building, the concept of which began in 1973 in a defunct 'genuine' jam factory in St Peters, follows Don Dunstan's original idea of a space for artisans to develop, display and sell their craft.

Our guide Katherine Grocott, a worker in jewellery, indicated the impressive spiral staircase leading to the glassblowing viewing platform. We all managed the few steps and, as some of us are senior in years, were pleased to have a lift nearby. Two artisans worked in front of roaring furnaces. One was manoeuvring a bubble of orange glass into two sections, the other a mass of mottled green glass into a long oval shape. Although our time was limited, we saw the top of the orange object cut and morph into a bowl shape. I wonder what it was destined to become? Katherine then directed us to the Galleries currently exhibiting the works, Tanglewood, by Peter Walker and Pearlescent, the combined works of nine artists.

Furniture, Jewellery and Ceramics workshops followed where we stood in awe at the beauty of the finished objects and the skill of the artisans. We met a young artist preparing her pottery for a future showing. I would certainly love to own the beautiful tea service she had ready and was fascinated as she explained how to make small surface ripples on pottery. Katherine described the 'science' involved in testing glazes and the importance of following instructions accurately.

We viewed the workshops where photos were permitted when no artist was working. In one stood a milling machine used to shape metals, now sadly, rarely used. Before the development of computer programs to control just about everything, people set up and manipulated these very elaborate machines using their brains and dexterity. Now all they need to do is push a few buttons.

Barbara Fraser

Meet the New Executive Officer: Marianne Gration



I am thrilled to be the new Executive Officer for the Friends in this beautiful location. I have met so many interesting people already.



I've been a librarian for over 20 years with my last position in research at Flinders University. This is a lovely change and I'm learning a lot of new skills.

I live in Hallett Cove where I enjoy walking our labradoodle Milly on the beach, my veggie garden and getting out on my e-bike.

We welcome into Membership:

Steve Roder Family

Monireh Ziaei

Rose Wilson

Carol Diment

Rosemary Hordern

Dianne Hopkins

Clare Branch

Di Wilkins

Dr Neville Rochow

George Morgan

Stephen Bowers

Mike Alexander

Sherron Hunter





Friends

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South Australia

Friends normal opening hours

Monday - Thursday

10am - 2pm

Not open public holidays

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