

Friends Newsletter

March 2023

*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



Welcome to our first Newsletter of the year. I fell off my bike in January, had three days in hospital, and then hobbled around for a while, but I report good progress on the rehabilitation front. I appreciated all the well-wishes that I received. I am back at 90%. I am restricted now, however, by not being able to jump up and down, so that should prevent me from leaping to any conclusions.

The first Books in My Life for the year (Feb 7) featured Gill Hicks AM MBE, the founder of the London-based not-for-profit M.A.D for Peace. She began her career as a motivational speaker in the wake of the 7 July 2005 London bombings. She was the last living victim rescued. Indeed, she was retrieved from one of the deepest parts of the entire underground. She spoke of writing her book *One Unknown*: A powerful account of survival and one woman's inspirational journey to a new life, and was marvellous. We had a full house. The title of the book refers to the fact that, as her almost lifeless body was carried from the carnage, the rescuers, labelling her, were unsure of her age or gender.

The rest of the year's speakers are all set to go. We have a fabulous line up. April 4 features Lester Saegenschmitter, who is a revered Lutheran educator and former principal of Adelaide's Concordia College.

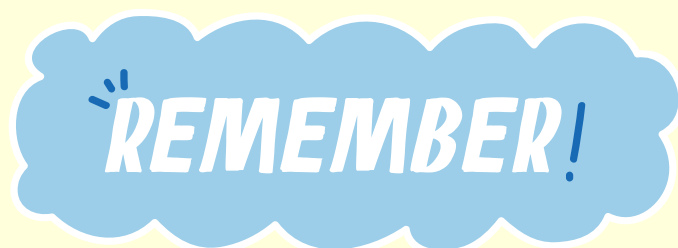
A note from the President continued...

On May 2 we welcome the famed local author Dr Peter Goldsworthy whose self-effacing writings have amused and delighted me for years.

Writers Week has not been without controversy. I applaud Louise Adler's somewhat bold (a fan of Yes Prime Minister might say "courageous") start to her stint as director, but not all those who have seen the program are as sanguine.

The Premier has announced that he will not attend, which does not augur well for the event. I have no difficulty with speakers who present unpopular views, so long as they do not offend the laws that prohibit racism and Holocaust denial, for example, or the statutes that proscribe or limit discriminatory talk. Nor should they expound fake news. But opinions are OK, even controversial opinions, since they are just opinions, and we can all agree to disagree. One might expect in any Writers Week line-up, however, that there be a balance of opinions expressed, and there are some commentators, like David Penberthy, who are not sure that that balance has been fairly struck. I will attend and reserve judgement. I trust that you do as well.

I hope that the weather is as kind to us as it has been in the past few years. Enjoy the glorious summer and autumn weather while it lasts.



Memberships are due in
May 2023
Pay via the Friends
website
or Phone the Friends
office on (08) 7424 6310

[Renew your membership here](#)

Upcoming Friends Tour

**SOUTH
AUSTRALIAN
MARITIME
MUSEUM**

The Friends warmly invite you to a Guided tour of the Maritime Museum

When?

Thursday 27 April, 11am

Price?

\$20 (Entry and private tour)

Where?

126 Lipson St, Port Adelaide SA 5015

How?

Booking link will be emailed in April

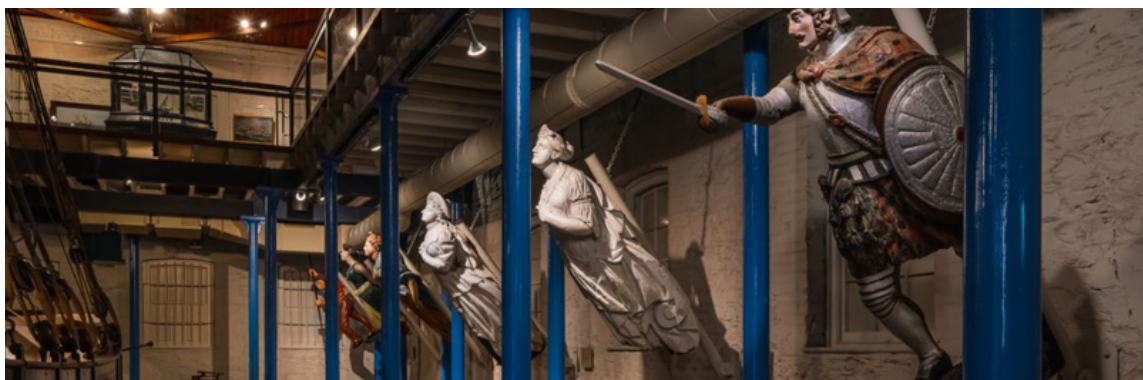


The South Australian Maritime Museum is a state government museum, part of the History Trust of South Australia. The Museum opened in 1986 in a collection of historic buildings in the heart of Port Adelaide, South Australia's first heritage precinct.

The Museum presents exhibitions in a pair of adjoining stone bond stores, built in the 1850s. It offers visitors the opportunity to climb the Port Adelaide lighthouse that was built in 1869 and originally stood at the entrance to the Port River.

Today, the Museum's collection includes more than 20,000 objects that represent voyages that shaped the map and moments that shaped daily life.

*Copyright Wikipedia
Pictures courtesy of the Maritime Museum*





Books in My Life Gill Hicks AM MBE

Tuesday 7 February

As her personal library comprises academic publications on architecture, Gill Hicks chose to talk to a capacity crowd on *One Unknown*, the book she wrote in the aftermath of the London tube bombings. Born and raised in South Australia, Gill had moved to London and had boarded a Piccadilly Line train on 7 July 2005 to commute to her high-powered design job when her life was turned around in a flash.

The last living casualty extracted from one of the three Underground trains attacked, Gill Hicks was tagged 'One unknown, estimated female', hence the title of her book. She bemused the ambulance paramedics by babbling away, yet otherwise exhibiting no signs of life, having lost both legs below the knee and suffering other devastating injuries. As Gill put it, she was 'loved back to life'. She described the importance of touch and the joy she experienced when a nurse jumped in with her to give her her first shower. Gill later sought out all her rescuers and would 'open the bar' each Friday to them and others who had seen her through.

Gill Hicks only decided to write her book when approached by Pan MacMillan with a substantial advance which she immediately put towards the establishment of a new gym for St Thomas' Hospital. Founder of M.A.D. for Peace, Gill exhibits a highly positive outlook. Less than 5 feet tall in the old money, she seized the opportunity of raising her height to 5-foot-9 when fitted with new prosthetic legs.



Catch Gill Hicks at her award-winning Fringe show, *Still Alive and Kicking*.

On a Significant Birthday

I tried to sort the library of my life.
Each tattered tome or dusty magazine
records the child, the lover, mother, wife,
the veiled widow and the troubled teen.

 Their covers clasp the stories, bind them tight
 in cloth and card, in leather, paste and board –
 and foxed or faded, damaged, dull or bright,
 the gathered signatures conceal their hoard.

Then, catalogued and quiet on the shelves
my volumes turn their backs to readers' eyes;
they keep the secrets folded to themselves –
of passion, pain and pleasure, truth and lies.

 With tapes and cords the books are firmly bound –
 that fetterless my future may be found.

AB
Adelaide
November 2019





Dr Neville Rochow

Books in My Life

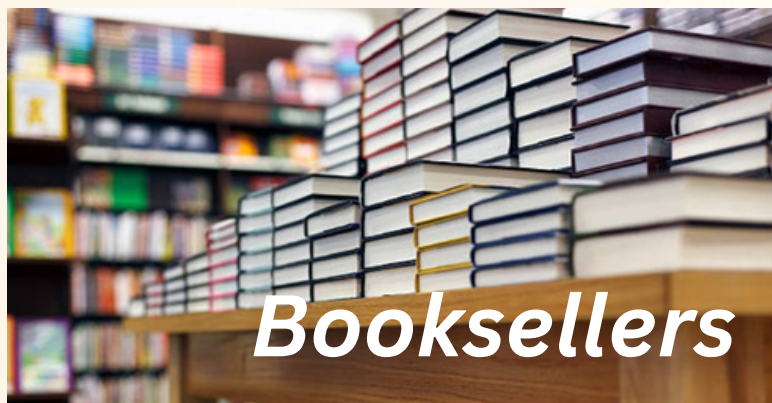
December 2022

We very much enjoyed hearing from Dr Neville Rochow KC on December 6, 2022. Rick Sarre has known Neville for many years as a wonderful scholar, experienced barrister, and well-read philosopher. Rick was not surprised when he drew us expertly through a dozen favourite tomes while relating how he had selected his books and how their authors spoke to him. His diversity of choice was expansive; his theme (the constancy yet quirkiness of the human condition) exceptional.

Here are the books referred to by Dr Neville Rochow KC in his Books in My Life talk:

- *The Cosmopolitan Tradition* by Martha Nussbaum
- *Dignity: Its Essential Role in Resolving Conflict* by Donna Hicks
- *Jesus the Christ* by James E. Talmage
- *Imitation of Christ* by Thomas A Kempis
- *Faust (Part I)* by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
- *The Origin of Satan* by Elaine Pagels
- *Heaven and Hell* by Bart Ehrman
- *Inventing Hell* by Jon Sweeney
- *Divine Comedy* by Dante
- *Labyrinths* by Jorge Luis Borges
- *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* and *The White Album* both by Joan Didion
- *Milton's Vision* by Theo Hobson
- *How Dante Can Save Your Life* by Rod Dreher
- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson
- *Norse Myths* by Neil Gaiman
- *Mythos* by Stephen Fry
- *Fossils: A Guide to Prehistoric Life* by Frank Rhodes, Herbert Zim, and Paul Shaffer

A Happy Ending



A friend asked me whether the Friends had a specific poetry anthology – published in 1986 by Wakefield Press. We didn't, so I rang Wakefield, but the receptionist laughed at my optimism; she was very helpful though and contacted their warehouse on the very slim off-chance it was still languishing in stock. John, there, rang to chat and commiserate, but when I mentioned I had contacted Treloars and other bookshops in Adelaide and googled ebay, Booktopia and Abebooks, he was delighted that I had found a copy on the latter's website, presumably in the U.S. The price was in US dollars, plus shipping and postage, but I had hesitated over the cost.

Then I noticed in very small print that the bookseller with the copy was located somewhere called Gilberton, Australia. John then said he did have an email address for a private seller in Gilberton, South Australia.

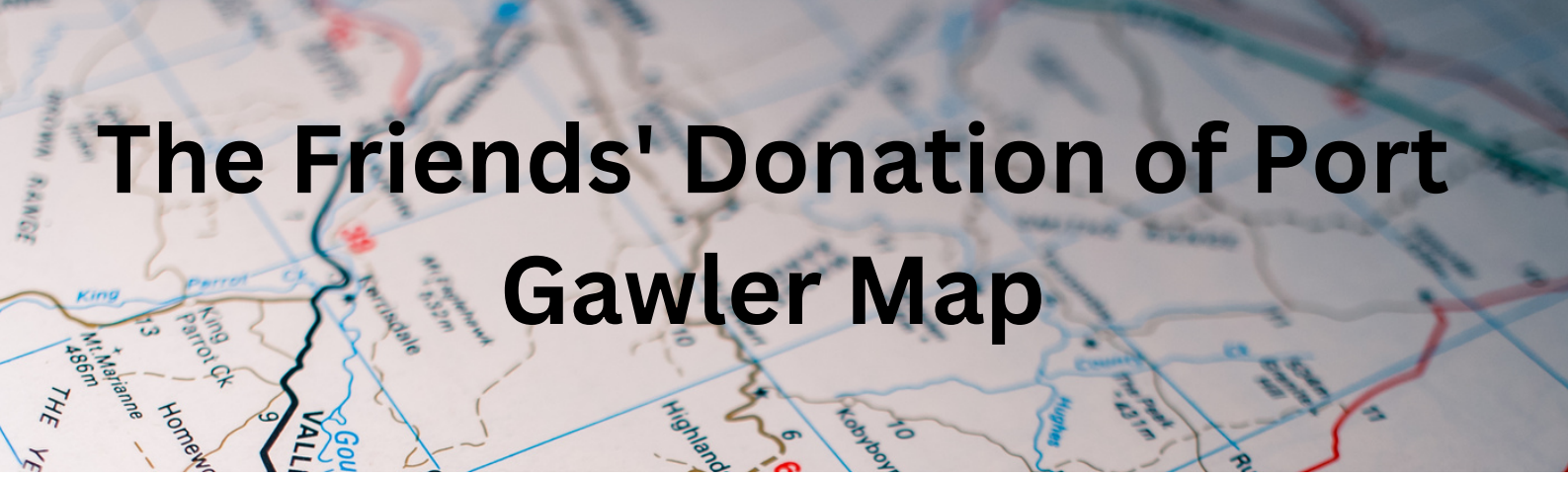
On the off-chance, I emailed the address and received a prompt response; he possessed a copy which I could have for A\$ 20, cutting out the middleman, Abebooks, and if I liked to collect it I could also save on postage. Off to Gilberton I trotted to claim the prize for my lucky friend ---.

Conclusion: those in the book-trade can be extremely helpful and persistence may pay off!

Trevor Grant
March 2023



The Friends' Donation of Port Gawler Map



Recently the Friends were pleased to purchase for the State Library a significant map. The Deane Miller Bequest allowed the Friends to return this piece of history, formerly held privately, to the public of South Australia. The map is a large, hand-coloured plan of the Town of Port Gawler, SA: it was proposed in 1840 but was never built and 'The South Australian Government Gazette of 23 June 1960 announced that the Town of Port Gawler was declared to cease to exist.'

In the early years of the colony, there was a great deal of property speculation and the owner of the Milner Estate, George Milner Stephen, made false claims as to the land values and nearby benefits to purchasers, for example, good agricultural land and non-existent mineral deposits. These deceptions caused a scandal which led to Stephen's trial for perjury and caused a setback in the marketing and the development of the property, part of which later became Buckland Park.

The later purchasers of the property (for a much smaller sum), Captains Allen and Ellis, soon found that the plain was subject to flooding and that the mudflats of the mouth of the Gawler River were not suitable for a port. Port Gawler never became a substantial town but several people made money from investors who bought off the plan. Captain Ellis eventually established a pastoral venture by importing horses, pigs, sheep and cattle from England. The map has been conserved and framed and will be displayed in the library in the near future. It is an important piece of evidence in the history of property speculation in South Australia.

Information from Michael Treloar's online catalogue.





Next Tuesday Talk

Lester Saegenschnitter

Hetzel Lecture Theatre, Institute Building

Tuesday 4 April 11am - 12noon

Lester was a teacher and leader in Lutheran secondary schools in South Australia, Victoria and Queensland for 42 years. For many of these years he was a Science teacher with a particular love for teaching Physics. His positions of responsibilities include being Head of Science, Dean of Students (Pastoral Care) and Director of Studies within various schools. His career culminated with a 12 year tenure as Principal of Concordia College, Adelaide. He retired from this role in 2017 following which he worked for 18 months as the part-time Consultant Principal at Adelaide International School in Rundle Mall.

Lester and his wife, Bev, are avid travellers both within Australia in their much-loved caravan *Piccolo*, and to many overseas countries, where their emphasis is on active, independent adventures that put them in touch with the culture of the places they visit. Other interests include performances by the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and the State Theatre Company. They are also involved as volunteers at various venues and events.

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

Under the North Pole

The Wilkins-Ellesworth
Submarine Expedition

SIR HUBERT WILKINS



Sir Hubert Wilkins' fame as an intrepid explorer, aviator, navigator, photographer, cinematographer and naturalist had already spread round the world when in 1930 he embarked on 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

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**The Friends' famous annual Book Sale is on again!
We're part of the wonderful History Festival.**

When: May 5, 6 and 7, during Library hours

Where: Institute Building, North Tce, Adelaide
Donations of books welcome

And of course, helpers welcome!



South
Australia's

History Festival

“If you are going to get
anywhere in life you have to
read a lot of books.”

– Roald Dahl.



Friends

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South Australia

Normal opening hours for the Friends Office:

Monday - Thursday

10am - 2pm

Not open public holidays

Friends of the State Library of SA - GPO Box 419 Adelaide SA 5001

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