

SEPTEMBER 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

Dear Friend,

I remain astonished at the number of books that are published each week. A quick search online says that up to 30,000 books in Australia each year get an ISBN (International Standard Book Number, a 13-digit number that uniquely identifies books and book-like products published internationally). That's 82 books a day. No wonder I don't get to read them all.

I want to devote this report to refer to the enjoyment I have found in my recent reading. Here is what I have chosen since June this year. I benefited from two long-haul flights to and from the Middle East, which made it easier.

The first is a delightful novel *Love Marriage* by Monica Ali. Set in contemporary London, it is the story of a young doctor who is the daughter of Indian born migrants who want her marriage to her fiancé to be done in a traditional Muslim setting even though neither of the bride and groom professes any faith. It is a terrific story of multicultural lives intertwined with plenty of convoluted hospital dynamics.

Next is *Writing for His Life* by Jenny Cockburn, daughter of famed and remarkable journalist the late Stewart Cockburn. Stewart kept hundreds of his letters in carbon copy files. Jenny has trawled through them and brings to light the political machinations of the Playford and Dunstan years especially. It is a mesmerising read, although I got a little annoyed by Jenny's choice to refer to her dad for the most part as "Cockburn".

I read two books from the Moonglow Publishing stable. The first is a really good 'whodunnit', *Killer Island* by Robert Koehne. Robert is a retired policeman, and I am sure there's a little bit of autobiography here. He tells the story of a newly installed police officer pursuing a cold case on Kangaroo Island. I don't like the title (and I am not sure that Islanders would either) because it's more a story of clever detective work and formal cover-ups than a killing. There's a hint at the end that this begins a series, and I am pleased about that! The second is *Dolphins, Whales and Me* by Mike Bossley who is famous for his work in Australia (and with Greenpeace) for studying and saving these wonderful creatures. It is heart-warming, albeit at times a tragic tale of political neglect.

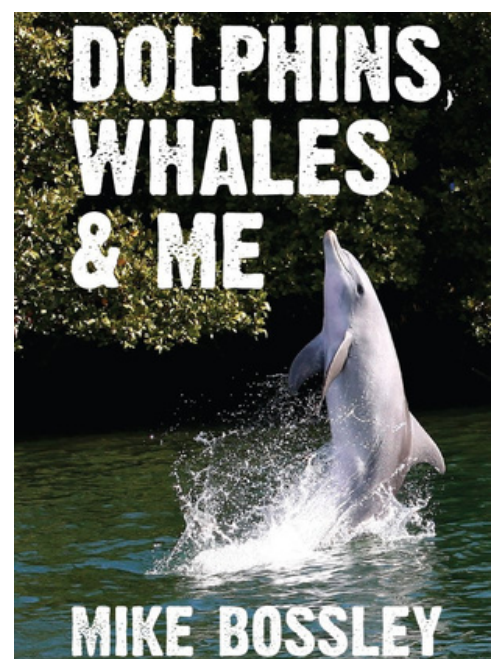
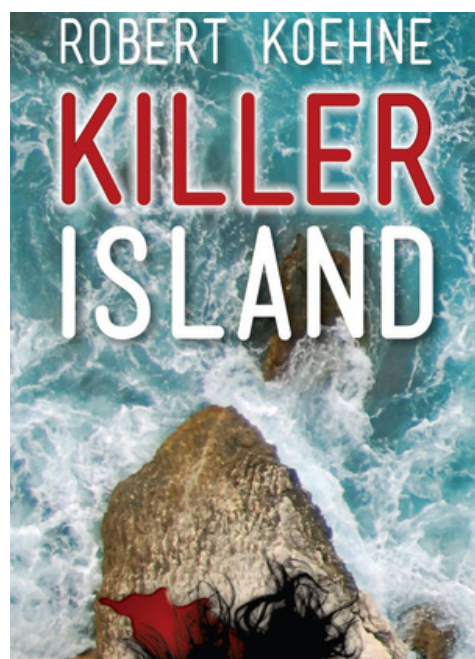
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Good Arguments is the very recently published book by the world debating champion Bo Seo. I interviewed Bo at the Hawke Centre earlier this year. He migrated with his Korean family to Australia when he was in primary school. He spoke no English. The only place he could be heard without being corrected or spoken over was in the debating team. The rest is history. He now speaks flawless English with an Oxonian accent. He is currently studying law at Harvard. Expect more titles from him.

The final one is *Seeking Justice* by the retired Jesuit priest Peter Norden. The book takes us through his life as a prison chaplain over four decades. He is probably most famous for his campaigns to ensure that the bones of executed felons found in unmarked graves within prison walls are reinterred elsewhere for the benefit of the descendants of these men and women. We can be grateful to Peter, too, for ending the practice of the “welcome party” for new prisoners arriving in Pentridge in the 1960s. One needs a strong stomach to read what happened at these “parties.” One cannot believe that former Australian correctional officers could descend to the level of depravity that Peter describes. As Peter reminds us, the greatness of a nation can be judged by how it treats its weakest member. This quote is often (wrongly) attributed to Gandhi, but I am not worried. The aphorism is as valid today as when it was first uttered by whomever.

Rick





Books in my Life by Dr Tanya Lyons A Tuesday Talk

After a career as an academic, lecturing in African Studies and then editing journals on African politics and becoming an “Africa expert” among many other things, Tanya turned her focus to her new publishing house in 2020, Moonglow Publishing. (moonglowpublishing.com.au)

She spoke briefly about the Moonglow publications so far; they are mainly by local authors, writing non-fiction on a variety of subjects, (sport, health, conservation, autobiography) or fiction in several genres, such as thrillers and fantasy.

Her PhD thesis became a book, *Guns and the Guerrilla Girls – Women in the Zimbabwean Liberation Struggle* and in this form, it reached a wider audience. But, as Tanya pointed out, Australian political strategies and aid, since Kevin Rudd’s time in power, shifted gradually away from Africa and now it is probably high time that we focus again on this changing continent, currently being strongly influenced by China, as are the countries closer to us in the Southwest Pacific.



Doris Lessing, won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2013 for her considerable body of work. As a Zimbabwean and a feminist, she spoke out, as a novelist, about corruption and race relations, when it was a highly political act to do so. Tanya spoke at length about Lessing’s 2001 novel, *The Sweetest Dream*, a deeply ironic title, which has stayed with her ever since she first read it. The twists in her life seemed to match the themes in Lessing’s book, so much so that, as throughout the talk, Tanya spoke of herself in the third person, I became unsure of whether and when fiction was fact.

Tanya decided very early in her life, as a result of the publicity and fundraising by Bob Geldof and others for the famine in Ethiopia in the 1980s, to make a study of Africa and Africans. She also had an inspirational professor at Flinders University whom she decided to emulate. In time, the glass ceiling and academic competitiveness made this difficult, but Tanya has been able to reinvent herself at each challenge along the way.

- Jane Walkley



Books in my Life by Dr Tanya Lyons

A Tuesday Talk

In 2020 Tanya established Moonglow Publishing during the COVID lockdowns. Her aim was to assist local authors to share their stories with the world. She spoke of some of the titles from SA authors whose works she has enjoyed editing and publishing including Mike Bossley's *Dolphins, Whales and Me*, Kerri Reeks' *Cage of War*, *Killer Island* by Robert Koehne, *The Silent Syringe* by Judith Lees, *The Estate* by Lyn Dickason, and my book *Life Actually*.

She then moved the discussion to the other books in her life that had shaped her thirty plus years' experience in academia in South Australia, principally at Flinders University. Tanya took us back over her academic career through the lens of age and experience and noted the essential role of books – the ones she had read or written or wanted to read.

Her PhD was published in 2001 as *Guns and Guerrilla Girls: Women in the Zimbabwean Liberation Struggle*, followed by a number of other books, chapters and articles that emerged from her 20-year career as an academic. As the managing editor of the Australasian Review of African Studies, the flagship journal of the *African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific*, Tanya devoted much of her research and teaching on a focus on Africa.

Tanya then spoke about the influence on her of the 2013 Nobel prize-winning author Doris Lessing and her book *The Sweetest Dream* and related this to her own career as an Africanist scholar in Adelaide.

Tanya concluded that books have always shaped her life, and one of her key dreams is that her children will continue this tradition. She delights in the thought that, as they grow, they will write their own stories. Tanya's children are, to adopt the Lessing theme, the sweetest dream for her, and the reality of her everyday life.

- Rick Sarre





Books in my Life by Nick Iadanza A Tuesday Talk

Nick Iadanza entertainingly maintained the standard of excellence we have come to anticipate and appreciate from the SA Friends' monthly "Books in My Life" talk. In his preamble, Nick highlighted that a prerequisite to the art of good storytelling is being a good listener, a skill that he honed particularly during his two stints as a 'Survivor' participant.

As Head of English at Prince Alfred Collage, Nick chose to present five representative books that currently form a key part of the reading curriculum at PAC, spanning each of the Years 8 through 12 respectively:

- *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo (2003)
- *Catching Teller Crow* by Ambelin and Ezekiel Kwaymullina (2018)
- *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1892)
- *The House of Bernarda Alba* by Federico García Lorca (1945)
- *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver (1998)

Nick described how such a reading curriculum is constantly being reviewed as a dynamic reflection of an ever-changing society encompassing cultures, attitudes and worldviews, and spanning decades and centuries. The sample of books presented manifested a broad tapestry of subjects and themes from brotherhood to parenthood, from trials and trauma to triumph, from adventure and grief to faith - themes worthy of contemplation and reflection not only by Young minds still coming of age but also by young minds already age-accomplished.

Nick's enthusiasm for his field was infectious and was delivered fluently, and with consummate mastery. Not only did all attendees survive – but all thrived with enthusiastic appreciation.

Makes you want to go back to school and major in Literature (lucky students at PAC!)

- Peter Summerside





Books in my Life by Elizabeth Vines A Tuesday Talk

Attendees at the first-Tuesday *Books in My Life* talk on 6 September 2022 enjoyed a stimulating and memorable talk by Elizabeth Vines OAM. The room was literally full, in anticipation.

The underlying theme of Elizabeth's talk was drawn from her own career in architecture, which laid the foundation for some very poignant insights and reflections on the preservation of cultural heritage in general, spanning a wide range of places and cultures around the world, including Australia, America, Italy, China, Myanmar, Syria and Turkey.

Elizabeth's opening reference to *The Little House* (Burton) set the scene, with the quaint little family home being overrun by high-rise development and modernisation, with the ultimate happy ending that all grown-up kids remember.

Elizabeth described her own personal involvement in many heritage-preserving architectural projects with reference to *Architecture in Australia* (Freeland), *Towards an Australian Architecture* (Sowden, Ed), *The Image of the City* (Lynch) and *Townscape* (Cullen).

From there we were taken to America (*The Death and Life of Great American Cities* by Jacobs) and on to Italy with *The Companion Guide(s) to Florence* (Borsook) and [...] *Rome* (Masson). Yes, it is hard to believe that some of those works of art by Michelangelo are in fact real.

We were led on a pictorial tour of parts of China (*Life and Death in Shanghai* by Nien Cheng) and on to Myanmar (Burma) (*The River of Lost Footsteps* by Thant Myint-U).

The Museum of Innocence A Novel (Pamuk) brought us to Turkey and to a unique museum established by the author focussing on "innocent little things" found in ordinary homes rather than those found in the grand museums and palaces around the world.

The Hare with the Amber Eyes (de Vaal) gave us a diversionary glimpse into the porcelain figurine collection of Charles Ephrussi "at the height of the Parisian rage for all things Japanese".

And then it was on to Syria (*The Battle for Home, Memoir of a Syrian Architect* by Al Sabouni) where we also reflected on the destruction by terrorists of the ageless architectural antiquities of Palmyra.

Reflecting on the 'demise' of so much of the world's architectural heritage under the relentless wheels of 'high-rise modernisation' (including and particularly in Adelaide), Elizabeth ended her talk with *Phosphorescence* (Baird) which tied in perfectly to the ultimately happy fate of Burton's *Little House* [- or of *Scuffy the Tugboat* back in his bathtub].

In sharing her own journey, Elizabeth introduced her listeners to a trove of new titles which no doubt have been popularly flagged as 'Must Reads'. The full bibliography of the 14 books presented by Elizabeth can be found on the following page of this Newsletter.

Elizabeth left us [*sic ...*] *In Awe and Wonder at The Things That Sustain Us When the World Goes Dark*.

Cont ...

- Peter Summerside



Books in my Life by Elizabeth Vines *A Tuesday Talk*

List of books referenced by Elizabeth Vines in her *A Tuesday Talk*:

- 1 - Burton, Virginia Lee *The Little House*, 1942
- 2 - Freeland, J. M *Architecture in Australia: A History*, Pelican books, 1968
- 3 - Sowden, Harry, Editor *Towards an Australian Architecture*, Ure Smith, 1968
- 3 - Lynch, Kevin *The Image of the City*, 1960
- 5 - Cullen, Gordon, *Townscape*, 1960
- 6 - Jacobs, Jane, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, 1961
- 7 - Borsook, Eve, *The Companion Guide to Florence*, Collins, 1966
- 8 - Masson, Georgina, *The Companion Guide to Rome*, Collins, 1965
- 9 - Cheng, Nien, *Life and Death in Shanghai*, 1995
- 10 - Thant Myint-U, *The River of Lost Footsteps- Histories of Burma*, 2006
- 11 - Pamuk, Orhan, *The Museum of Innocence A Novel*, 2009
- 12 - Edmund de Vaal, *The Hare with the Amber Eyes - A Hidden Inheritance*, 2011
- 13 - Marwa Al Sabouni, *The Battle for Home, Memoir of a Syrian Architect*, 2016
- 14 - Baird, Julia, *Phosphorescence: On Awe, Wonder and Things That Sustain You When the World Goes Dark*, 2020





Friends' Tour - Army Museum

"Both my parents were enlisted in the Air Force during World War II - my mother Margery Jean Boyd from Hawthorn Victoria and Father Graham Finlay McLean of Kyle Street Burnside. So my interest in visiting this Museum was due to their own personal service. Mum was adept at deciphering code as a WAAF and Dad was a Leading Aircrafts Man in RAAF up in Darwin and also over on Horne Island to the North of the tip of Australia. They both reminisced when taken on holidays to Lake Boga to see the Catalina Flying Boats and Swan Hill where they spent their honeymoon. My friend Carmen Walker Galpin accompanied me as a Senior WRAN in the Royal Australian Navy." - Glenys Jones

We parked my car after finding Gate No 4 off Anzac Highway and then maneuvered in between a series of decommissioned Army tanks of varying varieties. Veterans were dutifully wiping down and polishing these machines chatting away to each other.

Our tour guide then ushered our small group of FLSA members inside one of 3 Heritage Listed Buildings where a large display of donated items from World Wars 1 & II were fought. Displays of more recent deployments by serving Army personnel were added outside of these many glass cases in multiple side rooms. The other two Heritage Listed buildings are the Hospital and Nurses Quarters of this vast area at Keswick.

This building was used as stables to house up to 80 horses. A very high ceiling with large boards covering the glass windows had ropes to open and close during the different times of the day as no electricity was installed.

World War 1 Embroidered Postcards (Known as Silks) were displayed on a board. Silks were made in France and Belgium by local women who attached them to postcards. Discovered by a British soldier, they became popular and provided income for the local women.

Cont ...



Friends' Tour Army Museum of SA



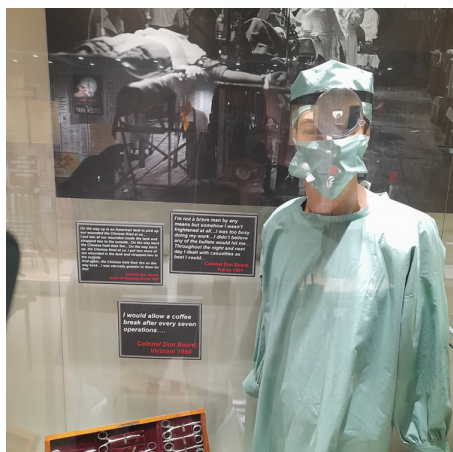
Honour Boards appear above a piano which is obviously used for sing-a-longs with a display model dressed as an army nurse. Another photo momento of famous Banjo Patterson c. 1890 War Correspondent Sydney Morning Herald with his metal drinking bottle.

Then we came to the more recent story of a surgeon who operated during Vietnam 1968 Colonel Don Beard – who wrote *“I would allow a coffee break after every seven operations”*. He also served in Korea 1951: *“I am not a brave man by any means but somehow I wasn’t frightened at all... I was too busy doing my work... I didn’t believe any of the bullets would hit me ... Throughout the night and next day I dealt with casualties as best I could...”*.



At the Battle of Kapyong Korea 1951 he wrote *“On the way up in an American tank to pick up our wounded the Chinese fired at us...I put two of our wounded inside the tank and strapped two to the outside... On the way back the Chinese held their fire...On the way back up, the Chinese fired at us. I put two more of our wounded in the tank and strapped two to the outside. And again, the Chinese held their fire on the way back...I was extremely grateful to them for that”*.

Newer displays of more recent terms of service overseas including Vietnam and Afghanistan had interactive and informative boards to read. A poster advertised 'Keswick Barracks Heritage Walk' on the first Sunday of each month at 2.00pm at the front of the Museum.





Friends' Tour Royal Geographical Society of SA

On the west wall of the impressive main room of the Royal Geographical Society of SA (RGSSA), upstairs in the Mortlock building, hang two portraits. On the right is the Hon. John Lewis (1844-1923), pastoralist and politician, who was President of the Society for seven years; on the left, sporting impressive side-whiskers, is S.W. Silver (1819-1905), a London shipping merchant. Immediate Past President Rod Shearing pointed the portraits out to us during our tour on 8 September.

I had never heard of Silver before, but I had heard of his York Gate Library and its importance to South Australia's library history. Silver had amassed a stunning collection of more than 7,500 volumes in his London home, including colonial histories, voyage and exploration narratives, and atlases dating back to at least the 16th century.

The RGSSA, which had been founded in 1885, bought the York Gate Library on Silver's death in 1905 for the sum of £2000. The Premier at the time, Tom Price, welcomed the initiative and decreed that the RGSSA should have permanent accommodation in the State Library to house their newly acquired treasures and make them available to the public. This collection has continued to be enriched by further purchases, bequests, and donations. It now contains over 25,000 books, along with maps, photographs, relics, and manuscripts. In addition to the materials in their rooms, the whole of the upper gallery of the Mortlock Chamber houses RGSSA items.

Rod pointed out several treasures they had on display, including John McDouall Stuart's journal and the diary of Christopher Giles, who had worked on the southern section of the Overland Telegraph line. There were several facsimiles of fascinating early maps of the world, graphically illustrating the development of cartography over the centuries.

The richness of this collection of rare books can be gauged by the fact that of the books Matthew Flinders used when researching his Voyage to Terra Australis, copies of more than two-thirds are to be found in the current collection of the RGSSA. Flinders' exhaustive history of the exploration of the Australian continent, written 1812-1813, is the longest introduction to a voyage narrative ever written at the time, and he went to extraordinary lengths to track all the sources down in London.

But the RGSSA is not just a library. Its remit from the beginning has been to offer public lectures and publications as well as a research library, and these activities continue. They run regular talks (usually in the Hetzel Room) and hands-on Rare Books Group workshops in their rooms. If you missed the tour, you can visit at your convenience during opening hours, and they welcome new members and volunteers. Details on their website <https://rgssa.org.au/>.

- Gillian Dooley



Friends' Event - A date with your Obituary Writer, Tim Bullamore

On 25th August, Friends of the State Library and Friends of the University of Adelaide Library shared an event with Tim Bullamore, obituary writer for the UK press of 30 years standing.

Originating in the 16th century, with the appearance of newspapers, obituary columns remain the first interest of readers. Obituaries are not about death but life. They seek a balanced view of the subject's life, achievements, and impact – sometimes bringing to notice double lives and unknown dimensions. Sources are reference books (not Wikipedia), press cuttings for obituary prospects, first-hand knowledge and anecdotes but avoiding unverified stories. Online publishing is facilitating community input. A doubtful trend is obituaries commissioned by corporate interest. About 4,000 obituaries sit in a “morgue” for ready use - gaps inevitably occur but are sometimes unexpected.

Bullamore had just a couple of hours to write obituaries for Bishop Tutu and Karl Lagerfeld. New influencers emerge - for example a cookbook author whose background may be unknown. Obituary statistics show that people of colour and women remain underrepresented. Retrospectivity can occur – backlogs occur due to increased mortality rates in winter, but there are exceptional cases – Jane Austen got a short notice in the 1817 *Gentleman's Magazine* as a bereavement for her father. She got a full obituary 200 years later. A fraught issue is obituaries for people of notoriety – such as Hitler, Ceaușescu, or serial killer Peter Sutcliffe. The obituary writer will draw our moral judgements only as they are implicit in the life or experience of the subject.

Take away – make sure the person is dead and beware of false identities. Paul Vance of *Catch a Falling Star* was an example of a premature obituary based on a false identity report.

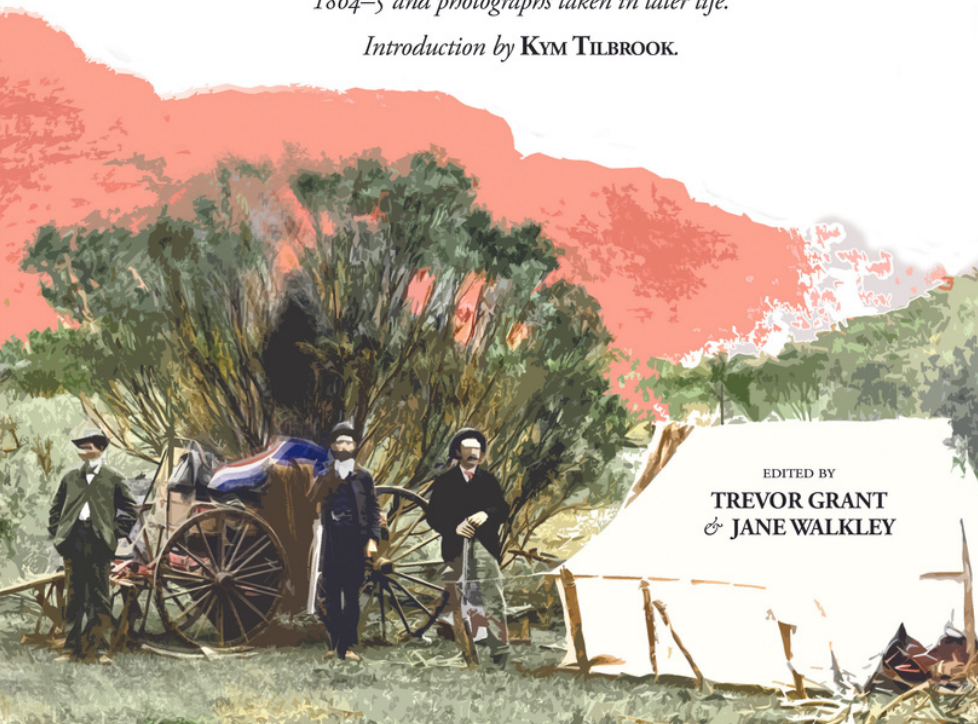
- Paul Wilkins

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.



EVENT

Book Launch : Bush Life

Wednesday, 21 September
2022

Henry Hammond Tilbrook's (1848-1937) youthful experiences in the north of South Australia 1864-5, with photographs taken in later life.

Bush Life celebrates the youthful diaries of South Australian pioneering photographer Henry Hammond Tilbrook (1848-1937), recording his adventures in South Australia's mid north in 1864 and 1865. Henry returned to the area 30 years later as an established photographer. In 1937, in his eighties, he rewrote his youthful diaries as journals for posterity, and called them Reminiscences and Memoranda. The book features a selection of his remarkable images of the mid north including Burra, Mount Bryan, the Flinders Ranges, and beyond.

Kym Tilbrook, the great-great-grandson of Henry Hammond Tilbrook, will launch the book with our President, Professor Rick Sarre. Refreshments will be served.

When: Wednesday, 21 September 2022 at 5.00pm for 5.30pm to 6.30pm

Where: Hetzel Lecture Theatre, Institute Building, State Library of SA

Cost: FREE - *bookings are essential as numbers are strictly limited* - book via the links below

Refreshments will be provided

RSVP by booking your ticket [HERE](#)
If you ordered copies of Bush Life, please indicate on
[YOUR BOOKING](#) so we have them ready for you

SAVE THE DATE!

ANNUAL DINNER

& AGM

When: Saturday, 26 November 2022

6.00 AGM 7.00 Dinner

Where: St Mark's College, Pennington Tce, North Adelaide

**Come and celebrate
~ 90 years ~
of the Friends of the State Library
1932 - 2022**

Things to look forward to:

- ◆ Three course dinner in The Learning Commons, St Marks College
- ◆ Great wines thanks to the generosity of Marble Hill wines
- ◆ Guest Speaker: Rachel Healy, director of the Adelaide Festival
- ◆ Silent Auction of special collectable items
- ◆ The good company of fellow book and library lovers

Tickets will be on sale soon

\$90 to celebrate 90 years

(\$15 of which is a tax-deductable donation to the Friends)





Welcome

We welcome into Membership:

Han Baltussen

Cora Bouchier

Mark Green

Nick Iadanza

Heidi Ing

Hubert Kimber

Dr Tanya Lyons

George Morgan

Nick Porter

Veronica Scheepers

Malcolm Schluter

Priyambudi Sulistiyanto

Elizabeth Vines



What's On @ The Friends

September 2022 –

BOOK LAUNCH : BUSH LIFE – Australiana Publications

Wednesday, 21 September 2022 5.00pm-6.30pm

Hetzel Lecture Theatre, Institute Building

Cost: Free - [BOOK HERE](#) *Bookings essential!*

October 2022 –

A TUESDAY TALK – Books in my Life by Greg Mackie OAM

Tuesday, 4 October 2022, 11am-12pm

Hetzel Lecture Theatre, Institute Building

Cost: Free - [BOOK HERE](#)

FRIENDS TOUR – Jam Factory

Wednesday, 19 October 2022, 10.30am-11.30am

Jam Factory, Morphett Street, Adelaide

Cost: \$10 - [BOOK HERE](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Friends' AGM/Annual Dinner - St Mark's College

Saturday, 26 November 2022

More details in Newsletter and to follow

WANT MORE FRIENDS EVENTS?

KEEP AN EYE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND WEBSITE



Seeking: Furniture Donations



Farewell from the Executive Officer, Jayne French

It is with a heavy heart that I farewell the Friends to follow new exciting opportunities, this week being my last week!

It has been an amazing experience at the Friends, meeting incredible, tireless, and inspiring people, volunteers and customers alike.

I will endeavor to stay in touch with the Friends and follow its exciting adventures, helping the new Executive Officer to find their feet and help carry on the wonderful work that is the Friends. I hope to attend Friends' events including the exciting Australiana Publications book launch of Bush Life nest week. I trust I will see many of you there.

I just ask that you are patient with the Friends in its transition between Executive Officers and you will be kept updated on opening hours, phone attendance, book orders, and event bookings during this time.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of the Friends. I wish you a fabulous Spring season ahead.

Jayne





Friends Volunteer Profile

Mandy Macky

How long have you been a Friends member?

For many years!

What is the best part of being a Friends member?

Knowing that this special group is supporting our wonderful State Library and buying publications which add to the resources available to readers and researchers. They also publish or reissue books about South Australia. As well, there are events and talks which are so diverse and interesting.

How long have you been assisting the Friends as a Volunteer?

Just this year - now that I have retired from bookselling, I finally have time to give more practical support.

How else are you involved with the Friends?

My staff at Dymocks and I were delighted to support the Friends by displaying publications and with information about membership and events for several years.

What are you favourite pastimes?

Reading (of course), gardening, cooking, Girl Guides and a variety of crafts.



“The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the Library.”

— Albert Einstein

Friends

STATE LIBRARY
South Australia

Friends normal opening hours

Monday - Friday

10am - 2pm

Not open public holidays

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

Institute Building, State Library, North Tce, Adelaide

Ph: 08 8207 7255 – slsafriends@sa.gov.au

www.friendsofthestatelibrarysa.org.au/