

THE Australiana Fund

a collection for the nation



MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL
THE HONOURABLE DAVID HURLEY AC DSC (RETD)
GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF AUSTRALIA

Linda and I wish to convey our heartfelt thanks to members and supporters of The Australiana Fund for what you do for our nation. It is important to us that your passion, kindness and generosity in maintaining, preserving and managing a national collection is recognised.

One of my priorities as Governor-General is that visitors to Government House and Admiralty House have a positive experience. Whether they are a visiting dignitary or part of a delegation, a guest at an event or a student coming to learn about our democracy, The Australiana Fund members have contributed significantly to achieving that aim.

In May of this year Linda and I had the pleasure of hosting a reception in recognition of The Australiana Fund's 45th anniversary at Government House. It was an opportunity for us to meet with and thank members for their important work and celebrate the Fund's outstanding service to the work of this Office, the national collection and Australian art. We enjoyed the occasion immensely.

There is a lot that The Australiana Fund does. When I think of the Fund, I immediately think of its people – members and supporters with smiley faces, engaging with and educating people about the Fund and leading walking tours.

Thank you, again, for helping showcase Australia's arts and cultural diversity to the world and for enriching the lives of all who visit the two residences.

HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL THE HONOURABLE DAVID HURLEY AC DSC (RETD)
GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
(delivered at The Australiana Fund Annual General Meeting 27 October 2023)

PLEASE HELP SECURE THE FUTURE OF THE AUSTRALIANA FUND AND ITS COLLECTION FOR THE NATION

In March 2023, The Australiana Fund marked 45 years of service to the nation through the quiet philanthropy which underpins our commitment to enhance Australia's Official Residences with our significant Collection of Australian decorative arts, fine art, furniture and design.

To celebrate The Australiana Fund's 45th Anniversary, we have launched an Endowment campaign to raise \$5million by our 50th Anniversary in 2028. This will enable The Fund to continue to enhance, preserve and tell the stories of Australia through our significant Australian Collection on display and in use in the nation's Vice-Regal and Prime Ministerial residences.

The Australiana Fund has a proud record of cultural achievement, sound governance and patriotic philanthropy acquiring a collection that is beautiful, useful and, quintessentially Australian.

The Private Entrance Hall, Government House with the 'Yarralumla cabinet or Dad's cabinet' Queensland maple and Brazilian mahogany, inlaid with 22 timbers, made in Lismore, 1991 by Geoffrey Hannah OAM, born 1948. Left, a hall chair, Tasmania c.1845, blackwood, made by William Hamilton, (attrib.), Ireland/Australia, c.1796–1885, for Thomas Chapman, Premier of Tasmania (1861–1863). Opposite is a loo table, Tasmania, c.1850, Oyster Bay pine, blackwood, red cedar. Against the wall, is a card table, red cedar, Sydney NSW, c.1848–1851, made by Andrew Lenehan, Ireland/Australia, c.1815–1886, arrived 1835. At the back, a loo table, [NSW], cedar, c.1845.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

As Prime Minister, I am so grateful for the exceptional Australian art surrounding me at The Lodge and Kirribilli House.

Each item tells a story, weaving together our nation's history and our culture. Sharing this collection with guests – whether members of the public or visiting dignitaries – is always a source of pride.

It is also a representation of an extraordinary legacy: 45 years of dedication by the Australiana Fund.

On your anniversary, I commend all past and present members and supporters of The Fund for your part in *Collecting for the Nation*.

The Australian Government is pleased to continue to support charitable donations of cultural items to the Fund through the Cultural Gifts Program.

I join you in celebrating four and a half decades of acquiring and preserving Australia's cultural heritage.

Thank you for helping to tell Australia's story.

THE HON ANTHONY ALBANESE MP
PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA
(delivered at The Australiana Fund Annual General Meeting 27 October 2023)





ABOVE: The Entrance Porch at Admiralty House features a statue of Captain Cook, after Thomas Woolner c.1880 on a late Regency-style console table. On the wall are portrait medallions of NSW Governor Sir Hercules Robinson, 1882, and poet Henry Kendall, 1887, both by John Baird, Scotland/Australia, 1834-1894.

RIGHT: On display at The Lodge, this Kettle with burner and stand, by Joachim Matthias Wendt, Denmark/ Australia, 1830-1917, arrived 1854, J M Wendt Silversmiths, 1854-1996, silver, South Australia, 45 x 24 x 18 cm. Made for Henry Rymill. Donated by Mrs A Lendon under the Taxation Incentives for the Arts Scheme, 1979.



Four hall chairs, William Hamilton (attrib), c1796-1885, arrived 1832, Ireland/Australia, Tasmania, c. 1845, blackwood, 89 x 41 x 42.5cm. Carved with the crest of Thomas Daniel Chapman, Premier of Tasmania 1861-1863.

OUR PURPOSE

The Australiana Fund is an independent membership organisation established in 1978 to raise funds to collect and preserve works of art reflecting Australian culture, history and contemporary creativity for display and use in the nation's four Official Residences.

The Fund acknowledges the foresight of its founder, Tamara Fraser AO who was inspired by Jacqueline Kennedy's initiative in 1961 to establish The White House Historical Association to acquire artworks and décor for the White House.

We are thankful to the many people, notably our Members and Supporters, whose fundraising and generous donations enables the acquisition of The Fund's significant working Collection on show in Government House and The Lodge, Canberra, and Admiralty House and Kirribilli House, Sydney.

Furniture for daily use is at the core of The Fund's Collection. These hall chairs are in the State Entrance main hallway in Government House, Canberra. The centre table is in the State Drawing Room and is used by the Governor-General when conducting investitures and for the commissioning of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers.

The Official Residences are the settings for Australia's Governor-General and Prime Minister to receive royal guests, heads of state, international dignitaries and Australia's citizens. Here our leaders fulfil their constitutional, ceremonial and public duties – the perfect locations to present Australia's fine and decorative arts, and design – our shared history and contemporary creativity. In a typical year, the Governor-General officiates at more than 560 official engagements, and welcomes over 8,700 guests, visitors and school groups to Government House and Admiralty House.



Centre table, Queensland, c.1875, Huon pine, tulipwood, Queensland kauri pine, red cedar, brass, 75 x 141 x 110.2cm. Purchased with funds raised by the Queensland Committee of The Australiana Fund, 1985.



Open Day at Government House Canberra, 2014. © Wendy McDougall Photographer

On Open Days, The Fund's Collection is seen by thousands of people and Fund volunteers talk with visitors about the histories of the Residences and their occupants, as well as The Fund's Collection. The Fund cares for and conserves the Collection to ensure that the artworks and furniture, on display and in use, enhance the Residences' high standards of presentation.

The Yarralumla cabinet, designed and made by Australian master cabinetmaker, Geoffrey Hannah OAM, is being conserved as part of The Fund's continuing Collection Care program. School groups love seeing Government House staff 'open' the cabinet doors and demonstrate the secret drawers. Made with over twenty-two Australian and exotic timbers, the cabinet has inlaid panels depicting Australian flora and fauna.

With loans of artworks to museums and galleries for exhibitions, the Collection is seen by a wide audience. The Fund's book, *Collecting for the Nation – The Australiana Fund* (2017), paid for by donations, tells stories of Australia, the Official Houses and their incumbents, through artworks in the Collection. So too does our program of national and state events, symposia, online lectures and, The Fund's website <https://www.theaustralianafund.org.au/> and Newsletter.

Reaching a global audience, our Collection is online through the National Library of Australia's research database TROVE, www.trove.nla.gov.au as well as via eHive, a web-based system used internationally by hundreds of museums, societies, researchers and private collectors. www.ehive.com



Yarralumla cabinet, or Dad's cabinet, Geoffrey Hannah, born 1948, Lismore, NSW, 1991, Queensland maple and Brazilian mahogany, 184.2 x 150 x 51.1cm. © Geoffrey S. Hannah OAM

OUR COLLECTION

The Collection's artworks are Australian by origin or by association and range from works by Indigenous artists and makers to contemporary design, sculpture, furniture, paintings, works on paper, presentation silverware, glass, textiles and ceramics.

The Collection tells many stories – from the long history of Indigenous peoples living in Australia, epic journeys of discovery and exploration, of migration and settlement to build a nation, to the coming of age of the Australia in 1901 when Federation united the nation. More contemporary are the stories about the maturing of a modern Australia taking our place on the world stage and seeking the best from our distinctive cultural diversity.

Our goal is to strengthen our Collection by acquiring artworks representing priority themes in the Collection, for example:

- Indigenous history and culture: historic and contemporary artworks representing artists and makers from across Australia. This spherical pot is by revered community elder, traditional owner and artist, Thancoupie AO. She received a Visual Arts Emeritus Award from the Australia Council for the Arts in 2006.
- Sculpture by major Australian sculptors, especially for the Residences' gardens and landscapes. The Fund has several sculptures placed in the grounds and interiors of Government House and The Lodge, including work by Clement Meadmore and Inge King AM. Robert Klippel's sculpture is on display in the Chancery building, Government House.
- Contemporary Australian crafts and design, including commissions of furniture and objects to meet specific needs of the Residences. An example is the pair of table bells commissioned from silversmith and designer Oliver Smith in 2006.



ABOVE: Thancoupie AO, Thaynakwith people, Napranum, Qld, 1937–2011. Spherical ceramic pot, Trinity Beach, Queensland, 1987, 30.5 x 30.5cm. © Estate of Thancoupie Gloria Fletcher AO



RIGHT: Robert Klippel AO 1920 –2001, Opus285a, Sydney NSW, 1973, brazed steel, 64 x 21.5 x 21cm. © Andrew Klippel. Courtesy of The Robert Klippel Estate, represented by Galerie Gmurzynska, Zurich /Licensed by Viscopy, 2017.

- Artworks and objects related to heads of state and prime ministers, and significant figures, movements and events in Australia's political, industrial, social, artistic and cultural development. This bust is of Edmund Barton, Australia's first Prime Minister, who was sworn into office at Centennial Park, Sydney on January 1st 1901.
- The powerful influence of migration and settlement in shaping Australia with its distinctive cultural diversity. The painting 'The parting cheer' by Henry Nelson O'Neil, captures the drama of the moment of separation when immigrants left British shores to make the voyage to Australia. Successive waves of migration from diverse countries continue to contribute to Australia's culture.
- Works by women artists and makers are a priority, especially contemporary crafts, design and artworks across a range of media.
- Australia's flora, fauna and landscapes represented in a range of artworks depicting species and scenes from across Australia. In the 19th century, colonial silversmiths decorated emu eggs with Australian flora and fauna motifs for the growing market of souvenirs and trophies.
- Artworks on paper depicting collection themes to enable the rotation of artworks on display for conservation best practice. A map drawn in 1753 by French cartographer Jacques Bellin of Australia's charted and uncharted coastline is on display in Admiralty House.



Emu egg inkwell, William Edwards, 1819–c1889, England/
Australia, Melbourne, silver, c 1865, 20.5 x 10.5 cm.



Edmund Barton, Portrait bust, Nelson Illingworth, England/
Australia, 1862–1926, terracotta, c1901, 31 x 21 x 12cm.

STRATEGY

Our strategic plan provides a clear direction for the future:

- A significant collection presenting to the nation stories of culture, place, identity and memory which inspire Australians to celebrate and cherish their distinctive cultural heritage and contemporary creativity.
- A recognised and respected organisation well supported by Members, supporters and donors, operating in a financially sustainable way, and preserving and maintaining its significant collection.

OPERATIONS

The Fund relies on the voluntary commitment of its Council and Members to fulfil its unique role of collecting for the nation to contribute to the high standards of presentation in Australia's Official Residences. The Council is led by the Chair who is elected from the ten Council members, who are themselves nominated for election by the State Committees.

The Fund employs the Fine Arts Advisor (a permanent, part time position), and a casual, part-time assistant. The Fine Arts Advisor is responsible for the management of the Collection, liaison with the Official Residences, with the Chair and Council and, The Fund's relationship with its Membership.

The State Committees are key drivers of fundraising to support The Fund's activities, especially acquisitions, but also specific projects such as Collection care and conservation projects, publications and symposia.



'Yarralumla', Grace Cossington Smith AO OBE, 1892–1984,
Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, 1933, crayon on
paper, 35 x 33.5 cm. Purchased 1995. © Ann Mills



Henry Nelson O'Neil, England, 1817–1880, 'The parting cheer', England,
1861, oil on canvas, 44.5 x 64cm. Purchased with funds donated by the
Utah Foundation.

FINANCES

The Fund is recognized by the Commonwealth Government's Cultural Gifts program and is a registered, not-for-profit charity under the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC).

All acquisitions for the Collection, and its conservation and care, are financed through donations, grants or sponsorships. The Fund's operating costs are met through membership fees and a yearly Grant in Aid from the Government. The Fund works closely with the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General and the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet through a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to ensure mutual goals and expectations are managed and achieved.

A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR THE AUSTRALIANA FUND

To sustain The Fund in the long term, we must substantially increase our Endowment so that our annual income meets our annual operational expenditure and resourcing requirements. The Fund will continue to launch appeals for specific acquisitions and collection-related projects through targeted fundraising.

We recognise the challenges which our organisation faces in attracting community support when there are so many worthwhile charitable requests. Our target is to raise \$5 million over the next five years to secure The Fund's future by 2028 – The Australiana Fund's 50th Anniversary.

Your generosity will enable us to make priority acquisitions to ensure that the Collection reflects our nation's distinctive history, heritage and culture and to continue our program of conservation and care of the 'working' Collection on display and in use in the Official Residences.

We will also strengthen our engagement with a wider audience in the narratives of our nation represented in the Collection and the histories of the Official Residences.



SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

The publication of our book, *Collecting for the Nation – The Australiana Fund*, in 2017 has enabled new opportunities to promote The Fund. Our partnered program of online lectures and symposia with guest speakers from The White House Historical Association, USA (2017) and the Royal Collection Trust UK (2019) position The Fund in an international context. These sponsored events are fruitful exchanges of ideas, strategies and achievements and have led to increasing national and international interest in The Fund.

Our website, www.theaustralianfund.org.au, makes the Collection globally accessible as does our museum-grade collection database. Central to The Fund's success is our focus on the conservation and care of our 'working' collection – chairs are sat on, vases filled with flowers, silverware adorns the dining rooms and The Fund's magnificent Stuart and Sons piano is played. Our program of condition assessment, conservation treatment and care ensures that The Fund's Collection is both beautiful and practical.

Our Collection is the heart of The Fund and, since our establishment in 1978, many significant acquisitions have been made including these highlights.

This painting by Uta Uta Tjangala, a founder of Papunya Tula Artists Pty Ltd, was presented to The Australiana Fund by Papunya Tula Artists in 1981. The work represents the influential development of the 'dot and circle' paintings of the Western Desert Art movement



ABOVE: The Fund's founder, Tamara Fraser AO, talking with Chairman of the Aboriginal Arts Board Wadjuk Marika OBE, 1981 at The Lodge. © Photographer Sue Broadbent/ Netflix.

OPPOSITE: The Reception Room in Admiralty House features the studio grand piano designed and made by Wayne Stuart OAM, Stuart and Sons (est 1990), 2002–2003, red cedar, Queensland hoop pine, King William pine, metal, Newcastle, NSW. Provenanced to the Elizabethan Theatre Trust, The Fund purchased the piano in 2004. Centre, a wine carafe, engraved by Frank Piggott Webb, England/Australia, 1859–1942, arrived c.1879 (attrib.), [Sydney, NSW], c.1900. Behind, one of a pair of handpainted porcelain punch bowls, probably made in Canton, China, c1829 and owned by John Hosking, the first elected Mayor of Sydney, December 1842. On the wall, a portrait of Lord Northcote, Governor-General 1905–1908, by Violet Teague (1872–1951), Victoria, c1930, Gift of the Northcote Trust of Victoria, through Sir Arthur Coles, 1978.



ABOVE: Untitled, Uta Uta Tjangala, 1926–1990, Papunya, Northern Territory, 1981, acrylic on canvas, 123 x 78.2cm, Donated by Papunya Tula Artists Pty Ltd 1981 © Estate of the artist licensed by Aboriginal Artists Agency Ltd.

The sculpture, 'Up', by Clement Meadmore, one of Australia's most successful sculptors, was acquired to celebrate the Centenary of the Federation and to commemorate the New Millennium of 2000. Set in the grounds of Government House, Canberra, the dynamic work is framed by the landscape of the Brindabellas. The sculpture's acquisition was funded anonymously in 2000.

Commemorating the opening of the First Federal Parliament 9 May 1901, this medal is provenanced to HRH Princess Victoria Alexandra (1868-1935), who was present at this historic event.

In 2019, The Fund purchased the Munro Ferguson Collection, provenanced to Australia's sixth Governor-General, The Right Honourable Sir Ronald Craufurd Munro Ferguson GCMG PC, Governor-General of Australia (1914-1920). The collection includes 82 Australian timber samples carved to resemble books, each with the botanical and common name of the sample. Commissioned by Munro-Ferguson's friend, botanist Richard T Baker, both men were foresters and ardent promoters of Australian timbers and their sustainable use in cabinetmaking and industry.



ABOVE: Medal, gold, silk, enamel, [Australia], 1901, 8.3, 25.6gms. Purchased with funds from The Fund's 40th Anniversary Appeal, donated by Members and Supporters, 2019.



ABOVE: Timber book, *Eucalyptus Fergusonia* – Ironbark, named by RT Baker, carved by Frederic W Tod, stamped with the crest and initials of Munro-Ferguson, [Sydney], c1918. 18.4 x 10.5 x 2.6cm.

One of 82 volumes of timber sample 'books' in the Munro Ferguson Collection purchased with funds donated by Members and Supporters 2019.

BELOW: Clement Meadmore, 1929–2005, 'Up', New York, USA, 1997, aluminium, black paint, 262.5 x 95 x 90cm © Meadmore Sculptures, LLC/VAGA. Licensed by Viscopy, 2017



In 2021, The Fund commissioned the sculpture, 'Coming Together, Moving Forward, Standing Tall' for Government House to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Depicting Australia's two iconic animals, the emu and the kangaroo from Australia's coat of arms, the sculpture was designed by Adam Humphreys who worked with BackTrack Youth Works, supervising the making of the sculpture. BackTrack teaches young people in regional NSW new skills and involves them in community life.

His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and Mrs Hurley have been Patrons of BackTrack since 2016. This sculpture represents their involvement with diverse community groups. Given the ravages of bushfires, floods and the pandemic, support for communities across Australia has been a defining theme of Their Excellencies' term of office.



TOP: Young people from BackTrack who made the sculptures meeting with Her Excellency Mrs Hurley with the Official Secretary, Paul Singer MVO, Bernie Shakeshaft, founder and Director, BackTrack Youthworks and Jennifer Sanders, Chair of The Australiana Fund. © James Shakeshaft Photographer.

LEFT: His Excellency The Governor General with sculptor Adam Humphreys. 'Coming Together, Moving Forward, Standing Tall', Adam Humphreys, Wales/Australia, born 1987, arrived 2009, BackTrack Youth Works, manufacturers, est. 2006, Armidale, New South Wales, mild steel rods, sheet steel, Kangaroo: 200 x 150 x 220cm, Emu: 180 x 80 x 150cm. Purchased with funds donated by Members and Supporters. © Adam Humphreys / BackTrack Youth Works.



‘The kelp II’, porcelain bowl carved from cast sheets assembled into the bowl shape, 16.5 x 30.5cm, Les Blakebrough AM, England/Australia, 1930–2022. Purchased with funds raised by the Australian Capital Territory Committee and Volunteer Garden Guides of The Australiana Fund, 2014. 2014.4 © Les Blakebrough AM.

The Australiana Fund’s Endowment enables us to continue our unique role to acquire and conserve The Fund’s Collection for the nation so we can tell the stories of Australia through our significant artworks, on display and in use, in Australia’s Vice-Regal and Prime Ministerial residences.

We are deeply grateful to our Members and Supporters for their continuing generosity and support of The Australiana Fund since 1978.

WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Please support The Fund’s unique contribution to the nation by donating to our Endowment Fund. Your generosity will enable us to make priority acquisitions to ensure that the Collection reflects our nation’s distinctive history, heritage and culture; to continue our program of conservation and care of the ‘working’ Collection on display and in use in the Official Residences; and, to strengthen our engagement with a wider audience in the narratives of our nation represented in the Collection and the histories of the Official Residences.

DONATING TO THE AUSTRALIANA FUND

The Australiana Fund has a proud record of cultural achievement, sound governance, and patriotic philanthropy, acquiring an outstanding Collection that is beautiful, useful and, quintessentially Australian.

Public acknowledgement can inspire others. If you decide to make a donation to The Fund, we would be happy to acknowledge your generosity in our publications, website and Honour Roll.

If you prefer, your gift can be made anonymously. Donations to The Australiana Fund of \$2 or more are Tax Deductible.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF YOUR GENEROSITY

Contributor:	up to \$249
Supporter:	\$250–\$999
Friend:	\$1,000–\$4,999
Donor:	\$5,000–\$9999+
Benefactor:	\$10,000+

HOW TO DONATE:

Here are the ways in which you can support us and help to build The Fund’s Endowment.

- Make a one-off or recurring tax-deductible donation

TO DONATE BY BEQUEST:

Make a bequest and formalise your legacy for the preservation and development of this valuable national Collection.

There are a number of ways in which you can make a bequest to The Australiana Fund including:

- A Specific Bequest – that is, a specified dollar amount of your choosing, or a specified asset such as shares.
- A Percentage Bequest – this would be a nominated percentage of your estate up to 100%.

TO DONATE BY EFT

Please mark your deposit with “First Initial Surname Donate” E.g. “JSmithDonate”

NAB BSB: 083 088 Account: 767550438

In the name of The Australiana Fund

TO DONATE BY OUR WEBSITE: *

www.theaustralianafund.org.au

*DONATIONS VIA THE WEBSITE ARE SUBJECT TO FEES.

Help us maximise the benefit from your donation by selecting payment by EFT or Credit Card.

TO DONATE BY VISA/MASTERCARD BY PHONE:

(02) 9994 8034 Mon–Tues & Thurs–Fri from 10–4pm



Sofa, red cedar, c.1845, New South Wales, 102.5 x 224.5 x 59.5cm.



Minton & Co., established in 1793-6, Pair of sulphur-crested cockatoos, England, c.1860, majolica, Purchased 1982.