

Newsletter #10



Thank you to the NSW Committee for organising
a fantastic AGM weekend of tours, talks, dinners and fundraising
in the Southern Highlands!

The Australiana Fund looks forward to welcoming Members and Guests to Victoria
in 2024.

Newsletter #10

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His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

The Australiana Fund

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.

L. Hurley



PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

THE AUSTRALIANA FUND

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

27 October 2023

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Message from the Chair

The Chair's Report to the 46th AGM Bowral 27 October 2023

Thank you very much to Councillor Philip Gosse and his NSW Committee for your enterprise and attention to detail in planning our Southern Highlands adventure. After the excitement of meeting in person in Adelaide last year, it's terrific that so many Members have travelled to Bowral for The Fund's 46th Annual General Meeting

Open Days: Post Covid, there has been a very welcome increase in activities initiated by State Committees as you will hear later. Most importantly, The Fund is back in the public arena as the Official Residences open their gates and their doors for thousands of visitors on Open Days, Picnic days and Garden Tours. A big thank you to all Members, their friends and the Canberra Garden Guides, for representing The Fund and, by association, the Official Residences, so hospitably and enthusiastically at these events.

There is no doubt that our contribution is appreciated by the Official Residences, especially the vice-regal staff who are increasing their program of public events. Indeed, at the last Government House Open Day, Lynette Mace, the House Manager said that The Fund is considered to be part of the Government House *family* just as is the Honours Secretariat. Now you can't get a better recognition than that of The Fund's role with the residences.

Furthermore, the Memorandum of Understanding which The Fund has with the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General and the Prime Minister and Cabinet is working very well.

Special thanks to Sonya for ensuring that our relationships with all the Houses are mutually beneficial and productive.

Online Lectures: We have also increased our online presence with the program of monthly lectures – an initiative after the cancellation of the Canberra AGM and 3rd Narratives of Nations symposium. The papers were instead presented via zoom and we continued the program through last year with new speakers thanks to the assistance and support of Caroline Johnston and Sonya Abbey.

My special thanks go to all the speakers for the 2023 Lecture Series for their very interesting lectures and their willingness to speak and answer questions: Dr Anne Watson, Amy Jarvis and Meredith Hinchliffe AM, Professor Nicholas Brown, Professor Tim Entwisle, Emma Busowsky, Martin Green, Dr Mathew Trinca AM FAHA, and Robert Reason. Recordings are now available on The Fund's website.

Bendigo Art Gallery: From March to June this year, The Fund was a major lender to the critically acclaimed Bendigo Art Gallery exhibition 'Australiana – Designing a nation' curated by Emma Busowsky. Sonya and I had met with Emma two years earlier and considered her exhibition to be such a milestone in understanding the origins and scope of the term Australiana, that it was important to support it by loans. With the agreement of the Houses, thirteen objects were lent which meant The Fund had a prominent presence in the show. This was picked up by the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age in which Stephanie Bunbury wrote an article in Spectrum about The Fund, our purpose and our Collection.

Social Media: With the support of Lydia Stevenage, our online presence on Instagram, Facebook and X has greatly increased and I urge all of you with any social media presence to follow The Fund and like and share everything!

2022 National Raffle: Our online profile is very important when we are promoting our National Raffle which has become an important fundraiser and means of promoting The Fund. Thank you everyone for your support for the Raffle. Special thanks to Bettina Groves for initiating and developing the raffle which will go from strength to strength!

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45th Anniversary celebration & Launch of Endowment Campaign: The major event so far this year was the celebration of our 45th anniversary hosted by Their Excellencies at Government House on 16 May. This was a wonderful, convivial evening with special guest Tamie Fraser, speaking eloquently about the impetus behind The Fund's establishment and the singular importance of its role.

On this occasion, I formally launched our Endowment Campaign which has the goal of raising \$5million over the next 5 years so that by The Fund's 50th Anniversary in 2028, we are a thriving and sustainable organization. Given our goals of key acquisitions and the conservation and care of the Collection, our annual income is insufficient to meet our annual expenditure and future needs.

Paralleling this strategy is our drive to increase our Membership. We now have 178 members and, under the Articles of Association, can have 250 Members – a cohort of this size supporting The Fund would make a significant difference to our capacities for fundraising. As importantly we would have the benefit of Members' enthusiasm, knowledge and company – especially on occasions like this!

I am delighted to announce that our second major Endowment Campaign event will be on Friday December 1st when Their Excellencies host a Musical Evening at Admiralty House, Sydney, featuring The Fund's magnificent Stuart piano. Distinguished pianist Gerard Willems AM accepted my invitation to both perform and, to be artistic director for the evening. He has invited Sydney Symphony cellist Christopher Pidcock to join with him in a duet and pianist Matthew Dennet to play as guests mingle. [See Report on the Musical Evening on pages 14-15]

This is of course an unticketed event so guests will receive our Endowment booklet seeking funding support. All Councillors have been very helpful in proposing people to invite to introduce them to The Fund and gain their support.

The Endowment Campaign is a priority for Council and fundraising strategies for the next 5 years will be a major focus at our Strategic Planning session in February and, at Council meetings. Already, State Committees are engaged in campaign strategies.

The Gidleigh Foundation Grant: Following representation by Fund Member and former Councillor, Bruce Trethowan, The Fund has been the beneficiary of a generous grant of \$300,000 from the Gidleigh Foundation, a charitable foundation based in Melbourne. Bruce brought The Fund to the attention of the Foundation's Trustees the time of the Melbourne launch of our book, *Collecting for the Nation*.

The Trustees were keen to offer a grant to support the acquisition of significant decorative arts objects for The Australiana Fund's Collection. After an exchange of letters, it was agreed that the grant will fund the acquisition and/or manufacture of a significant piece of Australian furniture and/or decorative arts.

The Gidleigh Foundation grant is a most generous and welcome gift to The Australiana Fund. We will now discuss priorities and possibilities for acquisition(s) with the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General and, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Please join me in thanking Bruce for his initiative and advocacy on behalf of The Fund.

Priorities for acquisition: In planning our Endowment Campaign, Council has determined areas of strategic priority for acquisition after consideration of the current scope of the Collection and, the potential for its use in the Houses.

4th Narrative of Nations Symposium: The proposed 4th *Narratives of Nations* symposium will explore the relationship between Great Britain – Australia and France from the earliest days of exploration and discovery when both nations were competing for influence and presence in the Pacific. The discovery of

new species of flora and fauna inspired decorative arts featuring distinctive species from the Great Southern Land and fostered a republican push in the later 19th century. The proposed event will be

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presented in partnership with the State Library of NSW which has outstanding collections of scientific drawings and maps – the legacy of both British and French voyages of discovery.

In conclusion: On behalf of Council, my heartfelt thanks to all The Fund's Members who have enabled The Australiana Fund to be a respected cultural organization with a unique purpose.

The significance of our role was underscored for me when I attended a workshop at Government House last March, convened to contribute to an updated statement of the Heritage Values of Government House, its gardens and its landscape. Hearing the views of the other attendees from ACT heritage organisations and societies, I realized that The Fund does indeed make a unique and significant contribution: enhancing the Houses' interior decoration and their stunning vistas with artworks which are both beautiful and useful; assisting with the essential care and maintenance of those works working closely with the Houses Management to ensure the Australia's residences reflect well on the nation; and telling the stories of the residences and the Collection to widen public appreciation and understanding of our nation. I guess you could call it 'soft diplomacy.'

Our legacy of quiet philanthropy – our legacy of patriotic philanthropy. Thank you

Jennifer Sanders
Chair
The Australiana Fund
AGM Bowral, 27 October 2023

45th Endowment Fund Campaign Update

The 45th Anniversary Endowment Fund campaign was initially launched at Government House, Yarralumla in May this year. We celebrated our 45th anniversary at a function hosted by Their Excellencies at Government House on 16 May.

Our second major Endowment Campaign event will be on Friday December 1st when Their Excellencies host a Musical Evening at Admiralty House, Sydney, featuring the Fund's magnificent Stuart piano. [See Report on the Musical Evening on pages 14-15]

So far, the Campaign has raised \$ 53,227.00 and we look forward to the support of everyone towards this Campaign in 2024 and the years beyond that leading up to the celebration of our 50th year.

An informative Endowment Fund booklet has been prepared to support the 45th Anniversary Campaign Fund launch and will be shared with Members and Supporters. This provides a very good summary of why The Fund has been established and what we hope to achieve.

[TAF Endowment Fund Booklet](#)



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Collection Update



Insights from UK silver expert: A former colleague of our Fine Art Advisor, in London, put us in contact with visiting silver expert Dr Tessa Murdoch FSA, who was visiting Australia in October to present a series of lectures. Sonya Abbey arranged for Dr Murdoch to accompany her on a walkthrough of the Collection at Admiralty House.

Given Dr Murdoch's career with the Victoria & Albert Museum and her experience in working closely with the Royal Collection in London, she was particularly impressed by the achievements of The Fund given our limited resources.

It is moments like this that emphasise that The Fund – our Members, Donors, Councillors and Supporters and Fine Art Advisors over the last 45 years – have a great deal to be proud of.

Conservation Assessment: The Conservation Assessment continues with the aim to ensure the Collection is maintained constantly to a high standard for display and practical use. We are working with our Canberra Conservators, Patinations, to explore new ways to record and report on the condition of artworks on display and in storage and have recently signed up for a free subscription to 'Airtable' a cloud-based platform that allows users to create and share relational databases. The user-friendly interface can be used to store, organize, and collaborate on information about anything, in The Fund's case, Collection inventories, conservation/ condition assessments, or insurance valuation figures. By using the 'Airtable' system we calculate saving The Fund at least 8 hours of administrative work for the 2023 assessment. In monetary terms, this is \$1,600 incl GST for each assessment. Over several years it will be a significant saving on all conservation costs.

Valuation for Insurance: The next formal valuation update of our Collection for insurance is scheduled for 2024. We will use 'Airtable' for the update which in turn will save us valuable time and money on a project that, although it only takes place every four years, is extremely time consuming.

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Report on Annual General Meeting, Friday 27 October 2023

Chair's report: Jennifer Sanders presented this report which is included in the 'Message from the Chair' (abridged version).

Fine Art Advisor's report: Sonya Abbey presented this report at the meeting and circulated to the Members ahead of the AGM.

Treasurer's report: This was presented by Mr David Murray at the meeting and circulated to the Members ahead of the AGM.

Strategic Plan report: This report was presented by Mrs Caroline Johnston at the meeting. The Fund's Council will be holding a strategic planning session in February 2024 to discuss and refresh our strategies going forward. We will review all aspects of the operations and ongoing governance, plan for the future while continuing to strengthen and develop relationships.

Council will continue to assess risks as finances and sustainability are an issue as well as the limitations of our resources. Sonya Abbey takes on the lion's share of operational issues with the assistance of Councillors and other members and supporters. The Fund relies heavily on the support of volunteers.

Caroline reminded Members that The Fund's vision is: To present a significant Collection which inspires and tell stories of Australia's cultural diversity and cultural creativity; and To be recognised as a respected organisation supported by its members. This vision may change as we look to strengthen our membership, strive to reach a wider audience and work to achieve a sustainable model.

The newsletter has been well received and is an important way of keeping Members informed.

Caroline encouraged Members to speak to Council members over the AGM weekend about what they would like to see and how they feel we are doing.

Re-election of Councillors

The following Councillors were re-elected at the AGM:

Dr William Downey
Ms. Harriet Elvin AM
Mr. Philip Gosse
Mrs. Bettina Groves
Mrs. Caroline Johnston OAM
Mr. Alan Smith

Appointment of Auditors: The following resolution was approved: That Mr Graham B Wilkinson be reappointed auditors for the year ended 31 December 2023 at a level of remuneration to be agreed by Council

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Report on Southern Highlands AGM October 2023



Events kicked off on Friday with a welcome from Philip Gosse and Patrick O'Neill giving the history of Milton Park over lunch. Well-fed and energised meeting others at lunch then followed the AGM. Despite inclement weather that day we had an interesting visit to the award-winning local Berrima Museum; a few of us still also did the River Walk tracing the history and achievements of over 300 German internees in Berrima during the First World War.

On Saturday we were very privileged to tour the Leslie Wilkinson homes of Brian Thornton and Ian and Stephanie Hardy (Bibury and Shadowood respectively) plus garden tours conducted by their dedicated and expert gardeners. We were also treated to Howard Tanner AM, prominent heritage architect, speaking at each home as well. The weather was magnificent for both Saturday and Sunday and it was a joyful time in the Spring to view the houses and their perfect gardens.

Following the theme of properties that had been owned by the prominent Hordern family (starting with Milton Park) we then visited the Retford Park Estate. First, we had a private tour of the Ngununggula Southern Highlands Regional Gallery (an excellent example of repurposing a collection of buildings) with its contemporary indigenous exhibition along with lunch there at Hearth by Moonacres. After this we toured the grand house itself, and its gardens. It was also exciting that one of our NSW Committee Members, Louise Dobson, had spent her childhood visiting her grandmother and Uncle James Fairfax AC there, and was able to recount many reminiscences of life at Retford Park during that time.

We returned to Milton Park for our AGM dinner where Jennifer Sanders gave the 94 attendees a brief update on The Fund. Her Excellency Mrs Hurley had kindly donated two beautiful, limited edition Christmas tree ornaments in presentation boxes, for us to raffle as a fundraiser. This was very successful in raising \$5,400 and was won by South Australian Member Sue Kitchener.

On Sunday Golden Vale was opened for us by the National Trust, for another private tour. Then we processed to Hillview which was the summer residence of the NSW Governor from ~1884 to 1957. The Southern Highlands was then a popular escape for Sydneysiders to obtain relief from the summer heat and humidity, in the days before air conditioning and beachgoing.

We had a quick but delicious lunch at the local Centennial Vineyards before travelling to Thirlmere to be met by the Chief Executive of the NSW Rail Museum, Andrew Moritz, to view the luxurious Governor-General's carriage ("the Airforce One of its day") and in stark contrast - a NSW Railways prison carriage! Finally, we stepped back in time for a steam train ride - a wonderful way to end our action-packed AGM! We could not have had such a fabulous meeting without the support and hard work of so many people and our great NSW Committee: Louise Dobson, Di Garder, Bunny Gardiner-Hill, Stephanie Hardy, John Milne, Jane Stanham & Julieanne Watson.

We now look forward to next year's AGM in Victoria!

Philip Gosse
Chair NSW Committee

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NSW ORGANISING COMMITTEE (L to R) - Julieanne Watson, Stephanie Hardy, Jane Stanham, Philip Gosse, Di Garder, Louise Dobson, John Milne.

LOST PROPERTY: A black rain jacket was left on the coach returning to Sydney on the last day of the AGM. Please contact the Fund Office via email contact@theaustralianfund.org.au for details of how to have it returned.

Images from the AGM 2023





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Messages of thanks to the NSW Committee

"It would be difficult to choose a favourite, with such variety on offer. Suffice it to say it was a most memorable Australiana Fund Annual event, with the happy throng all joining together for the Gala Dinner at Milton Park. So very appreciative of all that you and your team designed for all we who attended. Thankyou!"
All the best
Mary Marston & Phil Blake (Members SA)

"It was such a delightful three days, packed with fascinating places and beautiful homes and gardens. The highlight as always was catching up with Fund members in such congenial and charming surroundings. Thank you to you and all the NSW Committee for putting together such a successful AGM. Daryl and I had such fun."
Warmest regards
Alan Smith (Chair, SA Committee)

"On behalf of ACT Fund members, our sincere thanks and congratulations to you and the whole NSW team for providing such a splendid, varied, and well-organised AGM program. The only problem is that you've set a very high bar for others to follow! I know the huge amount of effort and preparation that go into creating such an interesting and smooth-running program, and wanted to let you know how much we valued and enjoyed it. Our appreciation and warm congratulations to all those involved."
With best wishes
Harriet Elvin AM (co-Chair, ACT Committee)

"What a great program in the Southern Highlands - congratulations. Many thanks again to the committee for organising such an interesting weekend of activities. How fortunate we all were to be able to enjoy all that was offered."

"My thoughts have been in overdrive thinking of plans for 2024 when we can welcome you here. Well done!"
Regards, Caroline Johnston OAM (Chair, Vic Committee)



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An Evening of Music and Friendship at Admiralty House

The festive season got off to a wonderful start on Friday 1 December. Their Excellencies, the Governor-General and Mrs Hurley hosted Fund Members and their guests for an evening of musical celebration at Admiralty House, Sydney.



Virtuoso pianist Gerard Willems AM performed on The Fund's exquisite, Australian-made Stuart & Sons piano, accompanied by Christopher Pidcock, cellist from the Sydney Symphony Orchestra to the delight of all present. Canberra pianist, Matthew Dennett, provided incidental piano music as guests enjoyed the view across to the Opera House and a welcome cooler breeze from the Harbour.

The piano's designer and maker, Wayne Stuart reinvented piano technology, creating the first acoustic pianos with greater frequency range – one octave either side of the 1880s, 88 keyboard standard. The Fund's Stuart & Son's piano incorporates an expanded keyboard of 97 keys, F to F, and an additional soft pedal.



Our Stuart & Sons Piano is one of only sixty in the world, each taking up to a year to make. It is hand-crafted using selected, carefully seasoned timbers. The Queensland Hoop Pine and King William Pine were used in the construction of the piano and its iron frame was cast at R C Wahn's foundry in Newcastle. The cabinet has been veneered in a rare, highly figured ancient river red gum, sourced from the Murray River basin. It is trimmed in 'bog' red gum exhumed from the Oxbow Lake along the Murray River. The red gum has been carbon dated to 10,000 years of age. This unique piano has created much joy since The Fund acquired it for Admiralty House in 2004.

As Artistic Director, Gerard Willems compiled a programme of personal favourites, knowing how good they would sound on this incredible instrument. Schumann's *Scenes of Childhood Op 15* and Beethoven's *Sonata for Piano and Cello Op 69* echoed through Admiralty House transporting the listeners to a magical realm. Ending with Beethoven's - *Sonata quasi una fantasia 'Moonlight' Op 27 No 2*, a piece Gerard is renowned for playing on the Stuart piano.

Our thanks to Their Excellencies for their generosity, words of friendship and encouragement. To our sponsors of the evening performances and not least, Gerard Willems AM, Christopher Pidcock and

Matthew Dennett for sharing their gift with us and for helping to sponsor the event.



Past Chair of The Fund, Richard Griffin AM, gave a vote of thanks reminding us all of the journey to acquire the piano in 2004 and importance of having the piano played to keep it in peak condition.

Captions

Above:

1. Performers: Matthew Dennett, Gerard Willems AM & Christopher Pidcock.
2. Christopher Pidcock & Jennifer Sanders, Chair of The Fund.
3. Malcolm & Di Garder, Peter Watts AM & Josephine Watts with His Excellency the Governor-General.

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Australia is a country of possibilities of chances which are not possible in other countries in the world. Australia is open to new ideas and it is only in Australia that students can experience an instrument like this.

Gerard Willems AM



Images: Centre: His Excellency addressing Members and Guests.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Gerard Willems AM and Christopher Pidcock. 2. Her Excellency Andrew Luckhurst-Smith, Richard Spoehr and Simon de Meyrick. 3. Gerard Willems AM, Jay Griffin, Georgina Ward & Richard Griffin AM. 4. Toby & Mimi Forwood. 5. Julieanne & John Watson AM, with His Excellency, the Governor-General. 5. Caroline Wilkinson OAM, Justine Jenkins & Stephanie Hardy. 6. Margie Allsopp & Jay Griffin. 7. Bruce McClintock & Margaret Betteridge.

Featured:

Stuart & Sons, established 1990, Designer and maker: Wayne Stuart OAM, born 1954, Studio grand piano, no. 15, matching piano stool and cover, Newcastle, New South Wales, 2002– 2003, red cedar, Queensland hoop pine, King William pine, metal, 99 x 163 x 220 cm. Provenance: Elizabethan Theatre Trust. Purchased 2004. 2004.9.1–3 © Wayne Stuart OAM. Image © Wendy McDougall Photography.

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The Australiana Fund Office Update

Towards the end of the year, The Fund Office has been working on progressing conservation work on artworks already identified for treatment. It was a good opportunity to catch up on projects such as the Moveable Heritage Database for Government House and research on the Collection which often gets delayed in favour of staging fundraising events.

The Membership Subscription invoices will be drafted ready for circulation in January and preparation for the 2024 insurance valuation update will begin. The Insurance Valuation is updated every 4 years and this time we will be using 'Airtable' which should make the process a lot easier than in previous years.

The Office will be closed for December but phone and email messages will be monitored. There may be a delay in responding.

Garden Tours at Government House



Image Courtesy of Government House, Canberra.
©Wendy McDougall Photographer

A unique opportunity to tour one of Australia's most iconic locations. Take in the beautiful Lake Burley Griffin as you cruise with Southern Cross Yacht Club to the historic Official Residence of the Governor-General, and then an exclusive one-hour walking tour of its grounds. The tour of the picturesque surroundings is led by volunteer Garden Guides from The Australiana Fund. Our guides will educate and enthral you as you stroll through the picturesque surroundings. Help support the work of The Australiana Fund - to acquire and preserve our historic and culturally significant collection for the nation!

Departure: 1 pm Thursdays from the Southern Cross Yacht Club, Mariner Place, Yarralumla. This cruise runs every Thursday during Feb, March, April, September, October & November. For further information, please call 02 6273 1784 or email the Club at reception.yachtclub@csc.com.au Adult \$30; Concession \$24; Child (5-12 years) \$17; Child (under 5) Free

Tea and coffee available for purchase on board, along with a fully licensed bar. Add an Afternoon Tea Buffet to your Government House cruise booking! Just \$35 pp. includes sandwiches, scones, pastries, slice or cake and a glass of sparkling on arrival. Southern Cross Yacht Club reserves the right to cancel this cruise and tour in the event of bad weather or low booking numbers. The AFP reserves the right to refuse access to the Gardens at short notice for security reasons

BECAUSE OF THIS TOUR'S IMPORTANT DESTINATION, THE YACHT CLUB REQUIRES BOOKINGS AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE, WITH THE NAMES AND DATES OF BIRTH FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS. THIS INFORMATION WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE. All guests are required to provide photographic ID.

Please note, for the 1-hour walking tour of Government House Gardens, unfortunately there is no wheelchair access from the Lake up to the grounds of Government House, and the path of the tour is quite uneven. Guests are also advised to use the bathrooms before disembarking from the boat as there is no access to toilets at Government House.

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Special thanks to everyone who has helped in 2023

We are fortunate to have the support of many in conducting activities of The Australiana Fund. Thanks go to all our:

- Volunteers generally in every state
- Garden guides in the ACT
- Those who volunteer on open days in ACT or NSW including at Admiralty House and Kirribilli
- Members for their overall support in addition to attending events including state events and our yearly AGM weekend of activities and meeting
- Supporters
- Partners
- Donors
- Council members
- State committee members: and
- Our very competent Fine Art Advisor Sonya Abbey

2023 Lecture Series – Lecture & Speaker list & recordings

We again sincerely thank all the speakers for this year's lecture series – they have made a very special contribution to the learning and outreach program that The Fund has initiated.

Below we provide a list of the lectures given by the speakers and the links to recordings:

[Lecture 1](#) - 'Marion's Nature – Marion Mahony Griffin as Pioneering Environmentalist'.

Speaker: Dr Anne Watson.

[Lecture 2](#) - 'Fred Ward, Pioneer Australian Designer: His Life and Work in Furniture Design'.

Speakers: Amy Jarvis and Meredith Hinchliffe AM.

[Lecture 3](#) - 'Canberra's Modern: Variations on a Theme'. Speaker: Professor Nicholas Brown.

[Lecture 4](#) - 'A Life in Botanic Gardens'. Speaker: Professor Tim Entwisle.

[Lecture 5](#) - 'Curating Australiana: an exhibition in the vernacular'. Speaker: Curator Emma Busowsky.

[Lecture 6](#) - 'The Story of Beleura' Speaker: Martin Green.

[Lecture 7](#) - 'Collecting and Exhibiting for the Nation' Speaker: Dr Mathew Trinca AM FAHA Director, NMA.

[Lecture 8](#) - 'House of Treasures: The David Roche Foundation House Museum'.

Speaker Robert Reason, Museum Director.

Report on Queensland Members Event – October 2023

The Qld Committee hosted an event for QLD members at the home of Fund Member Andrew Clouston. It was a very interesting, happy and special night.



L-R Andrew Clouston, Bettina Groves, Beverley Trivett, Megan Read, Lachlan Henderson, Thomas Bradley.

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Report on South Australia's Government House Reception, 13 – November 2023

The Governor kindly wished to acknowledge the 45th anniversary of The Australiana Fund and the contribution of South Australian members and supporters to the aims of the Fund during all that time.

Guests thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality of Her Excellency and Mr Rod Bunten and the opportunity to closely inspect the furniture, artworks and the charming architectural details of Government House. Her Excellency praised the efforts of South Australian volunteers in supporting the work of this national endeavour.



L-R Alan Colton, Diane Colton and Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC Governor of South Australia



(lhs photo) Peter Hayward, Robert Reason, Mary Abbott

(centre photo) Hon Alexander Downer AC and Nicky Downer AM

(rhs photo) Lesley Haas Baker, Lee Ross-Solomon, Richard Solomon

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(lhs photo) Deborah Hamilton, Brian Morgan
 (centre photo) Andrew Morphett and Her Excellency
 (rhs photo) Nicky Downer AM, Jeanette McLeod, Greg Johansen and John Granich

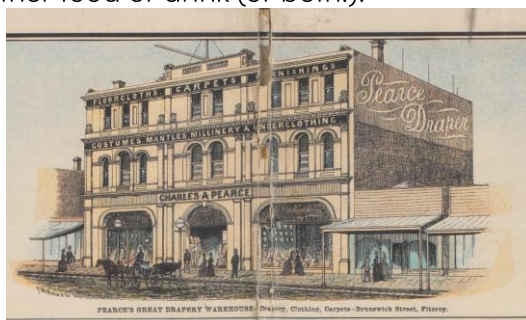


(lhs photo) Vince Ciccarello, Hon Diana Laidlaw AM and Brian Morgan
 (centre photo) Brian Morgan, Julian Dunstone and Barry Garside
 (rhs photo) Christopher Verco RFD KSJ and Lesley Haas Baker.

2023 State Events

VIC Committee Christmas Party – 19 December 2023

Invitations have been sent to all Victorian members and supporters. It promises to be an interesting evening in a wonderful space in Brunswick St Fitzroy from 6-8pm. Our host Suzie Forge purchased an old draper's department store in Brunswick Street, Fitzroy and has enjoyed tinkering with the property ever since. She was bequeathed a large painting collection recently and inspired by a Venetian sojourn created a grand salon in her building which is the venue for our party. Attendees are encouraged to bring along a contribution to the evening, either food or drink (or both!).



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2024 National Events

AGM Weekend 2024 – To be held in Victoria

The 2024 AGM Program of Events is likely to be held in and around Melbourne, Victoria next year. All Members will be advised when timing is confirmed, with more details to follow when available.

Potential Program for Lectures and/or Symposium

Information will be confirmed when details are available.

2024 State Events

Further details will be sent to Members and Supporters for the following events and tours when information is confirmed.

TAS “Discovery Day” at Clairville – 20 February 2024

“Discovery Day” at Clairville, home of Fund Member the well-known artist Michael McWilliams and his partner Robert Henley will be held on 20 February 2024. Built in the 1820’s Clairville had been in one family for generations. Michael and Robert purchased the house in 2019 with some original furniture. There is an expansive garden, and attendees can tour the house and Michael’s Art Studio which is rarely seen by the public. Michael McWilliams is a highly regarded Australian artist whose work is much sought after.

The day will start with Robert and Michael discussing Tasmanian treasures brought along by attendees. Lunch and a glass of wine or soft drink can be enjoyed in the lovely garden. The cost will be \$100 which will include a tax-deductible \$50 donation to The Australiana Fund.

There will also be a Gin Tasting from Turner Stillhouse. Their brand ‘3 Cuts Gin’ is produced by Fund Member Brett Coulson, the Distiller.

ACT – Government House Garden Tours are expected to recommence in the new year. Please check website for details (refer to section above with full details)

NSW – Planned Tours

In 2024, with the assistance of two NSW Members, Dr Jana Vytrhlik and Mr Simon de Meyrick, the Committee are planning a tour of The Great Synagogue, in Sydney and a Colonial House in Dawes Point.

QLD – Large fundraising event

The Qld Committee are planning a large fundraising event for 100+ guests for mid next year. Guest speaker Mark McGinness and a venue have been organised and the date has yet to be confirmed.

SA – Planned fundraising events

A number of fundraising events have been planned for 2024 including a visit to the studio of contemporary furniture designer Khai Liew and a visit to former vice regal residence Marble Hill.

Newsletter #10

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collecting for the nation

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Contributors: Sonya Abbey, Jennifer Sanders, David Murray, Caroline Johnston OAM (Editor), Philip Gosse, Julieanne Watson, Alan Smith, Bettina Groves, Di Mackinnon

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Please support The Fund's unique contribution to the nation by donating to our Endowment Fund.

Your generosity will enable us to develop and preserve our remarkable collection inspired by our shared love of Australia.

Other opportunities include donating towards conservation and maintenance:

Details of our current conservation activities which include the *Yarralumla Cabinet* by Geoffrey Hannah OAM and The Fund's suite of furniture in the Small Dining Room at Government House, Canberra, can be found on The Fund's Website 'Support Us' pages.

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