

August 2019

Dear Members,

Welcome to The Fund's Newsletter, an initiative to keep our Members and Supporters up to date and better informed about The Fund's activities and upcoming events. In our discussions at Council meetings about The Fund's strategic goals, we agreed that we should enhance our communications, especially with all those Members, Partners and Supporters who are key to the success of The Fund.

This inaugural issue is almost entirely about the Sydney AGM and the 2nd Narratives of Nations symposium. I would like to thank all the sponsors and institutions who made possible both the AGM program with the 2nd Narratives of Nations symposium and also thank our three international speakers for their contribution to the success of the symposium and the Fund's learning and outreach objectives. I have elaborated further on these aspects in the newsletter.

Future issues will cover a wider range of our activities, not only of The Fund as a whole but also activities organised by the State Committees – which are so important to the life of The Fund. Sonya will also be keeping you up to date with what is happening in The Fund's Office – the heart of our lean organisation. Many of you will already be aware of Sonya's terrific social media postings – the newsletter will be a wonderful complement to those postings.

As importantly, State Committees will be contributing news of upcoming events which you may wish to attend – whether organised by The Fund or by our partners and collegial organisations.

Please let us know your responses and any suggestions as to content in relation to this and future issues so we can continue to engage with you, our Members and Supporters in the best way possible.

Best wishes



Jennifer Sanders
Chair

The Australiana Fund



Sydney AGM 14 – 16 June 2019

It was wonderful that so many Members and Supporters were able to attend the Sydney AGM and 2nd Narratives of Nations Symposium held from 14 – 16 June this year. The AGM program was very capably organised by the NSW Committee headed by Philip Gosse with Di Garder, Bunny Gardiner-Hill, Margaret Betteridge and Kimberley Webber, assisted by Sonya Abbey and Julieanne Watson from The Fund's office.

42nd Annual General Meeting

Friday 14 June

The State Library of NSW hosted our AGM in their handsome Gallery Room. Messages of thanks from His Excellency, The Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove and the Prime Minister, the Hon. Scott Morrison were read out and, we congratulated two Fund Members recently recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours– Krystyna Campbell-Pretty AM and Caroline Wilkinson OAM, generous supporters of The Fund as well as other public and cultural organisations.

In addition to the Chair's report, there were presentations on the Financial Report by David Murray, the Strategic Plan Update by Caroline Johnston, the Fine Art Advisors Report by Sonya Abbey (previously circulated), and State Committee reports by Victoria Cox (Tas), Carolyn Forster (ACT), Mimi Forwood (SA), Philip Gosse (NSW), Bettina Groves (Qld) and Bruce Trethowan (Vic). Several key aspects of the report on the Fund's Strategic Plan are noted later in this newsletter.

AGM program of Visits and Tours

14 June

Following the AGM, the Library provided curator-led tours of the Library's magnificently refurbished galleries displaying outstanding objects and artworks from the Library's collection.



The afternoon tours of CBD heritage sites proved to be an excellent introduction to the symposium.

Pictured left: Heritage consultant Margaret Betteridge led a tour through the Chief Secretary's Building which includes the office of Sir Henry Parkes.

Camden Park House Sunday 16 June

This visit on Sunday to Camden Park House, which included guided tours of the house and its historic garden, was an absolute treat despite the rainy weather. The hospitality of John and Edwina Macarthur-Stanham (pictured right) and their helpful volunteers made it a very special occasion.



Vice-Regal Reception at Admiralty House

14 June



A highlight of the AGM was the Reception at Admiralty House, hosted by then Governor-General, Sir Peter and Lady Cosgrove. The opportunity for Members to visit one of the Official Residences is always appreciated.

This was a memorable occasion as His Excellency presented two gifts to The Fund to mark his term in office, 2014 – 2019, which The Fund was very honoured to receive as I

said in my speech of thanks. The first gift is an Australian flag presented to Sir Peter from the men and women serving on operations in the Middle East on the 25th April 2015 when he visited.

The second gift is a painting by Indigenous artist Raymond Bush from, Jilamara, Tiwi Islands. Bush's painting is in the Tiwi tradition and is of a dugong. It was presented to Their Excellencies when they visited a primary school at Nguiu, Bathurst Island.

Sir Peter also noted with appreciation the gift to The Fund from member Patricia Macdonald – a miniature of her great-grandfather, Vice Admiral Sir George Tryon KCB, the first Commander-in-Chief of the Australia Station of the Royal Navy, who was based at Admiralty House. The miniature is now on display at Admiralty House.

Pictured right: Victorian member, Patricia Macdonald with the portrait miniature of her great-grandfather beneath his coat of arms in the Lyon, Cottier & Co. lancet windows at Admiralty House.



2nd Narratives of Nations symposium

Saturday 15 June

The focus of the program was the 2nd Narratives of Nations symposium, held in partnership with the Australian National Maritime Museum, which explored the theme of Discovery. The three international speakers: Tim Knox, Director Royal Collection Trust UK, Todd Longstaffe-Gowan, Gardens Advisor, Historic Royal Palaces and Dan Finamore, Russell W Knight Curator of Maritime Art and History, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem MA USA were joined by distinguished Australian speakers: Dr Susannah Helman, National Library of Australia, Louise Anemaat, Dixon Librarian, State Library of NSW, Ann Toy, independent curator, Margaret Betteridge, Director, Betteridge Consulting Pty Ltd and Dr Penny Stannard, Senior Curator, NSW State Archives. I also presented a paper on objects in The Fund's collection linked to the 1879 Sydney International Exhibition.

Over 100 people attended the symposium and the presentations generated much animated discussion in the breaks, at the Annual Dinner that evening and over the

rest of the weekend. The international speakers' papers were particularly well received as Tim, Todd and Dan each spoke on topics which were new to the audience, who appreciated the depth and scope of their presentations. Text of the full symposium program can be sent to those interested.

Annual AGM Dinner at the Australian Museum

Saturday 15 June

Beginning with drinks in the Museum's Westpac Long Gallery - a brilliant showcase for the richness of the Museum's collection, the dinner was held at the top of the Museum looking out onto the Vivid Festival lighting up St Mary's Cathedral. Tim Knox gave a witty and amusing speech on the theme of 'Collecting,' drawing on his extensive and deeply informed experiences as both a private collector from a young age, and in his professional roles with England's National Trust, the Sir John Soane Museum, the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge and now at the Royal Collection.

Overseas Speakers: Program of Visits:

Canberra 11 – 12 June

Prior to The Fund AGM, I organised an intensive program of visits for the overseas



speakers beginning with a 2 day visit to Canberra arranged with the assistance of the National Museum of Australia and the Office of the Official Secretary of the Governor-General. We were met by Matt Malone, OOSGG, and his team for a tour of Government House, The Fund's collection, and the expansive grounds, including the resident kangaroo mob.

Pictured above: Dr Dan Finamore, Tim Knox and Dr Todd Longstaffe-Gowan at Government House, Yarralumla.

Ideas of Gardens Seminar: National Museum of Australia

11 June



The afternoon was spent at the National Museum where the Museum and The Fund jointly presented a (fully booked) seminar, *Ideas of Gardens*. Todd presented a paper on *The English garden*; garden historian Richard Aitken spoke on *Crossover between the English and the Australian garden*, and landscape architect Kate Cullity spoke about the *Emergence of the Australian garden*. With the assistance of ACT Committee, we were able to attract many ACT and NSW Fund Members and Supporters as well as people new to The Fund – and passionate about gardens.

Pictured left: Todd Longstaffe-Gowan, Richard Aitken and Kate Cullity

National Library, National Gallery and Parliament House

13 June

The following day we visited the National Library of Australia where Treasures Curator, Nat Williams arranged for a private viewing of material from the Rex Nan Kivell collection and several Augustus Earle watercolours (pictured right). We were then met at the National Gallery of Australia by Fund Member and Gallery Director Nick Mitzevich.



A number of the curators took us on guided tours of the Gallery focussing on areas of interest to Tim, Todd and Dan. (Pictured left with curator Lara Nicholls.)



From there we went to Parliament House for a bespoke tour of the landscaping and gardens followed by a special tour of the artworks collection including the heroic 1903 painting by Tom Roberts, *The Opening of the First Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia by H.R.H. The Duke of Cornwall and York, May 9, 1901*. This painting is on permanent loan from the Royal Collection.

Government House and Admiralty House, Sydney

13 June

Back in Sydney, the next day began with a guided tour of Government House Sydney, led by Fund Member Ann Toy. We were met by the Governor's Official Secretary, Michael Miller RFD who spoke of the role of the Governor and the significance of Government House Sydney, designed by Edward Blore who was also the architect for additions to Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. Then across to Admiralty House where we were joined by Howard Tanner and Sonya to meet with Matt Malone, OOSGG and his team for a tour of the House, The Fund's collection and the wonderful harbourside grounds, including the Marine Barracks.

The Steam Yacht Ena

13 June

That evening, Fund Member and ANMM Director Kevin Sumption and I co-hosted a small afternoon event on the Museum's new acquisition, the Edwardian steam yacht, SY Ena which was built in Sydney in 1900 and is now beautifully restored. Tim, Todd and Dan attended the function as well as Treasurer, David Murray. Other guests included the former Governor of NSW, Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO and key

supporters of the Museum, many of whom were unaware of The Fund and its role. I gave a short presentation about The Fund and its plans for the future.



Pictured left L-R: ANMM Director Kevin Sumption PSM, Dr Dan Finamore, Leo Schofield AM



Pictured above left & right: Guests admire the SY Ena's restoration and enjoy the opportunity to network and learn more about The Fund.



On the last day of Tim, Todd and Dan's visit, we went to see Trevor Kennedy and his impressive Australiana Collection in his private museum in Miller Street which many of you will remember from The Fund's afternoon there at the 2015 AGM.

Speakers Dinner

14 June

The night before the symposium, an informal Speakers Dinner was held at the Australian Club so speakers could meet each other as well as Fund Councillors, sponsors and alumni of the Attingham Trust. It was the perfect occasion to thank The Copland Foundation, which supports the Attingham courses, (Royal Collection Studies is one) and, has supported our two symposia. Tim spoke about the role of the Attingham Trust and the value of their scholarly courses which several of those present, including myself, had attended over the years.

The Fund's Partners and Sponsors

I would like to thank all the sponsors and institutions who made possible both the AGM program with the 2nd Narratives of Nations symposium and, the visits of Tim, Todd and Dan. Particular thanks to our partners – the Australian National Maritime Museum (Dan's travel was sponsored by their USA Gallery fund) and the National Museum of Australia; the Office of the Official Secretary of the Governor-General; the State Library of NSW; the Australian Museum; The Copland Foundation; and to Harriet Elvin, Richard Griffin AM, Bettina Groves, Phillip Gosse, Donald McDonald AC, David Murray, Dick and Pip Smith Foundation, Carl Stevenage, Bruce Trethowan, John Walton AM and Caroline Wilkinson OAM.

Benefits to The Fund

One of the key areas in the Fund's 2018 Strategic Plan is the further development of learning and outreach objectives for the benefit the Fund and its Members, Supporters and Partners. The 2019 AGM, symposium and overseas visitor program raised the profile of The Fund and strengthened relationships with key supporters and institutions.

As I wrote in thanks, The Fund can only achieve its goals with the assistance of people and organisations who appreciate and support The Fund's role. It is also very rewarding for The Fund to introduce people from overseas and interstate to our colleagues in cultural institutions and the official residences. And I can assure you, Tim, Todd and Dan loved seeing our distinctively Australian collections, architecture, landscapes, flora and fauna.

Fundraising:

Another key goal for The Fund is to achieve a financially sustainable model. While increasing our membership and the negotiation of a new Grant in Aid are important strategies, fundraising has always been a core activity of The Fund.

At the AGM in June 2019 I was pleased to report that The Fund's 40th Anniversary Acquisition Fund now totals \$45,018.00 and donations to Conservation Projects have reached \$31,560.00.

In recognition of the generosity of our Members and Supporters the former Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove signed 12 copies of our book *Collecting for the Nation - The Australian Fund*. These were presented to the 12 most generous donors on the occasion of the Sydney AGM.

I was delighted to acknowledge at the AGM, The Glendonbrook Foundation, who gave \$25,000 to fund specific collection conservation projects. Valued supporters of The Fund, the Foundation was a major sponsor of our publication *Collecting for the Nation*.

Swearing-In of the new Governor-General

1 July

In conclusion, I am pleased to report that as Chair of The Australiana Fund, I was invited to the Swearing-in of General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) as Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia at Parliament House Canberra, July 1st 2019. It was an honour to attend representing The Fund and all its Members and Supporters as it was recognition of the important role and contribution of The Fund to the nation's official residences.

As former Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) said in his speech at Admiralty House:

'The nation's official residences owe so much to The Australiana Fund. It is your eye, your pride that shines through in its priceless national collection. Your love of art, beauty and style is a reflection of the past, but also a statement of who we have become and who we can be. Thank you – I know you will keep 'collecting for the nation.'

Strategic Plan Update

A key agenda item at the AGM was the Report on The Fund's Strategic Plan presented by Councillor, Caroline Johnston who is leading the Strategic Plan's development and reporting. The Strategic Plan was developed and approved by the Council in 2018 and a summary of the plan was presented at the 2018 AGM. Some key aspects of the update on the Fund's Strategic Plan presented at the AGM in Sydney June 2019 are summarised below:

Confirming The Fund's Vision

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.

Re-affirming the Key Goals

1. Develop The Fund's significant national Collection so that it represents Australia's cultural heritage and contemporary creativity.
2. Reach a wider audience through the stories in the Collection which express Australia's history, identity and culture.
3. Strengthen The Fund's membership through a clear statement of purpose and engaging and stimulating programs.
4. Achieve a financially sustainable model by securing the financial and in-kind support from a range of stakeholders and partners
5. Work to establish mutually beneficial relationships with The Fund's members, partners and supporters.

Celebrating Recent Achievements

There are eight (8) areas to develop in the Plan and key achievements in each of these over the last year are summarised below:

- Collection:
 - Continued ongoing conservation and maintenance in conjunction with the houses
 - Increased collection information and accessibility
 - Sponsored commissioning of portrait of Fund founder, Tamie Fraser AO
- Learning & Outreach:
 - Presented second symposium (2019)
 - Continued to tell stories through the collection and the houses:
 - Produced information banners for the Vice-Regal residences

- Partnerships & Relationships:
 - Strengthened partnerships with Official Residences and ORAC
 - Strengthened relations with museums and arts organisations internationally (in particular UK) and within Australia
- Program
 - Conducted successful AGM weekend in Brisbane (2018)
 - Offered wide variety of State events
 - Supported open days in NSW and ACT
- Financial Sustainability:
 - Launched 40th Anniversary Acquisition Fund
 - Increased awareness of Conservation Fund
 - Offering more targeted funding opportunities
- Members:
 - Maintained stable level of membership
 - Broadened supporter base (particularly so in Qld)
- Houses & Other Activities:
 - Provided many volunteers for open days (Canberra, Sydney)
- Governance & Operations:
 - Progressed many strategic plan activities
 - Refreshed branding at minimal cost
 - Introduced online event ticketing

Summarising Progress & Challenges

Over 43% of the activities developed under the Plan are now well underway, with over 26% needing more action and some still to be started.

The ongoing challenges include:

- The priorities for ongoing action are strategic acquisitions, collection management, members, relationships / partnerships, symposia & other programs
- We have limited resources within The Fund Office and rely on voluntary contributions of Council members, members & volunteers

Underpinning the Plan

The ongoing support of Members, continued activity of The Fund office & voluntary contributions, and a vibrant & active membership are all crucial to achieving the plan.

Contributors, August 2019

Jennifer Sanders, Chair

Sonya Abbey, Fine Art Advisor

Caroline Johnston, Councillor – Strategic Plan Update