

October 2022



Images from the Annual General Meeting, Adelaide, 9 – 11 September 2022



# Newsletter #7

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## Message from the Chair

After two years of Covid cancellations, at last we were able to gather for The Fund's 45<sup>th</sup> AGM in Adelaide on 9 September 2022 at the Queen Adelaide Club.

However, with the momentous news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, proceedings commenced with two minutes silence for Her Majesty. Alan Smith, Chair of the South Australia Committee, then read a message from the Governor of South Australia. Fund Members were invited to sign the condolence book at Government House. In the evening, Alan proposed a toast to the late Queen and, to King Charles III at the Annual Dinner at the Adelaide Club. It was a day to remember.

It was wonderful that so many Members were able to attend the meeting in person. It was a great pleasure to welcome The Fund's founder, Tamie Fraser AO to the meeting as well as former Chair Richard Griffin AM.

On behalf of The Fund, I thanked Carolyn Forster OAM, Councillor and Chair ACT Committee who retired after 9 years service. A member since 1997, Carolyn is a stalwart supporter of The Fund. With her Committee, Carolyn has staged three AGMs as well as organizing The Fund's involvement with Open Days at Government House and the volunteer-led Garden Tours of the Government House grounds. We welcome Professor Robin Stuart-Harris to The Fund Council representing the ACT.

As is customary for the AGM, The Fund received a letter from the Governor-General and a letter from the Prime Minister. Both letters are very appreciative of The Fund's contribution, through its Collection, to the presentation of the Official Residences and their landscapes. The outstanding generosity of The Fund's Members and supporters is warmly acknowledged. I am pleased to share extracts from the letter from the Governor-General and a letter from the Prime Minister below.

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Key to the success of The Fund are our relationships with the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. These relationships are specified in the new Memorandum of Understanding which has been in place since 2020 is working very well.

Conservation is but one of many highlights in Sonya Abbey's *Report of the Fine Art Advisor*. Indeed, a formal vote of commendation and thanks was passed by the meeting in recognition of Sonya's contribution to The Fund, evident in the high standard of her detailed Report.

The key message of my address was the importance of ensuring The Fund's future as a thriving, sustainable organization. Members are the foundation of all that we do – we are a membership organisation and our fundraising ensures that Australia's Official Residences reflect the best of Australia's shared history and culture in the artworks on display and in use as a working collection.

I reflected on the fact that this was our 45<sup>th</sup> AGM and, that on 30 August, the Council met for the 168<sup>th</sup> time. This is a proud record of sound governance and achievement by The Fund and we should be conscious – especially at the AGM when we were joined by The Fund's founder Tamie Fraser AO – that we are continuing a legacy of quiet philanthropy – no grand halls with donors' names, no plaques – and, a legacy of patriotic philanthropy – generosity inspired by love of country – love of Australia.

The challenge for us as an organization is to ensure that The Fund's legacy continues and, to that end the Council's overarching goals for the next year – indeed for as long as it takes – will be firstly, to build our Endowment so that The Fund is sustainable and can continue to develop and care for its Collection; and secondly, to increase our Membership in line with our Articles of Association so that we continue to welcome new Members to help fulfill the purpose of The Fund. The increasing activities of the State Committees are essential to this goal and I thank all the Committees for their contribution to The Fund's longevity.

The Adelaide AGM was an absolutely delightful event, all due to the terrific program and warm hospitality which we experienced throughout the three days – from the heritage of the Barossa Valley's wineries to outstanding historic houses and inspiring gardens – with a special nod to The Fund's now quite tall tree at Anlaby planted by former Chair Donald McDonald 8 years ago.

Heartfelt thanks to Alan Smith and to his for their detailed planning of such a convivial range of experiences and, for showcasing the very best of Adelaide's distinctive strengths – heritage, landscape, very special wine and delicious food! Most importantly, we were able to gather again in each other's company after a long period of separation and can look forward to the 2023 NSW AGM to be held in the Southern Highlands.

Best wishes



Jennifer Sanders

Chair

The Australiana Fund

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### Letter from the Governor-General [Extract]

*“Over the last 12 months, members and supporters of the Fund have again made an outstanding contribution to the work of my Office and particularly the Government House and Admiralty House environments.*

*One of those contributions is the sculpture, ‘Coming together, Moving forward, Standing tall’. Linda and I see the statues of an emu and a kangaroo each morning and reflect on the partnership between The Australiana Fund and BackTrack Youth Works that made it possible. It will be a centrepiece of the Queen Elizabeth II Garden and a tribute to Her Majesty The Queen.*

*Not a day goes by when Linda and I don’t receive a positive comment about the houses and grounds. The Australiana Fund is a big reason for those compliments. Your Annual General Meeting is an opportunity for us to say thank you to all involved in The Australiana Fund for your generous philanthropy and for what you do.”*

His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia  
September 2022

### Message from the Prime Minister [Extract]

*“As a new occupant of The Lodge and Kirribilli House, it’s a privilege to live among the extraordinary paintings, furniture and objects of the Australiana Fund. I’m grateful for all the work the Fund does to preserve and display our national heritage.*

*Most importantly, the Fund takes as its starting point the egalitarian understanding that its collection belongs to the whole nation. I hope the powerful combination of tours and technology helps more and more people celebrate our national progress and our Australian story.*

*I commend the Australiana Fund for its ongoing contribution to the life and heritage of our nation and I honour all those who support its profound and valuable work.”*

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Prime Minister of Australia  
September 2022

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### The Australiana Fund National Raffle 2022

LAUNCH: 24 October 2022, DRAW: 12 December 2022

Refer to the ticket site for details and images of all 7 of the very special prizes.

Tickets will be available online from 24 October at <https://rafflelink.com.au/austfundraffle22>



#### 1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE

John William Lewin, England, 1770, Arrived Australia 1800 – 1819

A pair of hand-coloured engravings circa 1822

Framed and glazed 49cm x 37cm. [Value \$2,200]

#### 2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE

An exquisite, antique aquamarine pendant necklace [Value \$1,880]

#### 3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE

A Weekend at Bundanon, NSW

For further information and the Terms & Conditions about the packages for 2022, please use the link: <https://www.bundanon.com.au/stay-2022/> [Value \$1,700]

#### 4<sup>TH</sup> PRIZE

Six highly collectible, Australian art reference books from the personal collection of a private collector, including:

- 1 Vol., Australian Furniture – 1788 to 1938 – Pictorial History & Dictionary, Kevin Fahy & Andrew Simpson Casuarina Press, 1998.
- 1 Vol., Australian Jewellery – 19th & Early 20th Century, Anne Schofield & Kevin Fahy, David Ell Press, 1990.
- 1 Vol., Australian Art Pottery – 1900 to 1950, Kevin Fahy, John Freeland, Keith Free & Andrew Simpson, Casuarina Press, 2004.
- Volumes 1 & 2, 19th Century Australian Silver, John B Hawkins, Antique Collectors Club, 1990.
- 1 Vol., Art Gallery of Ballarat – Stories from the Collection, Gordon Morrison, Art Gallery of Ballarat – Hilton White Bequest, 2017.

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[Value \$1,400]

### 5<sup>TH</sup> PRIZE

Two sets of Antique Books including:

2 Vols., *British Settlements in Australasia* by W. C. Wentworth ESQ, 3rd edition (1824). With an Appendix, in two volumes, they focus on New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land.

*The Cyclopaedia of Tasmania, Volume 1 & 2* in presentation slipcase. This facsimile set was produced by Prestige Book Binders, Launceston from the original two volumes published in 1900. Limited edition (printed 1988) of 500, these two are numbered 194. Hand bound in navy blue Moroccan-grain leather and gold embossed by hand.

[Value \$1,150]

### 6<sup>TH</sup> PRIZE

Craigs Royal Hotel, Ballarat – Gift Voucher for 2 nights' accommodation for 2 people in a Superior Room including cooked breakfast each day. Additional dinner or high tea (on Sundays) for 2 people at \$75 per person.

Accommodation booking subject to availability.

[Value \$730]

### 7<sup>TH</sup> PRIZE

A Jug and four beakers set, by award-winning designer Robert Foster – F!NK Design.

[Value \$565]

## Online Lectures – 3<sup>rd</sup> *Narratives of Nations: the online symposium*

Final Lecture in the 2022 series: Wednesday 2 November 2022 at 6pm

Completing a fascinating sequence of lectures, the fifth and final presentation for 2022 will be given on Wednesday 2 November by The Fund's first Fine Arts Advisor, John McPhee. Titled *Australian timbers: a history of their use in cabinetmaking*, John will refer to several examples of furniture in The Fund's Collection, many of which he was responsible for acquiring.

## 2023 Online Lecture Series

In 2023, the online lecture series will commence in February continuing through to November. The dates will be circulated shortly and the speaker line up is being finalised. Confirmed speakers are Dr Anne Watson presenting about Marion Mahony Griffin and her landscape designs in Canberra and, a joint presentation by Fund member Meredith Hinchliffe and Amy Jarvis about the work of designer Fred Ward who is well known for his interior and furniture designs including at University House, ANU, Canberra.

This is a new initiative for The Fund which extends our reach to wider audiences so please promote it to your friends and relations. If you miss a talk on the night, at the end of this first series, the talks will be available online.

Details for online registration for the free Lectures is available on [The Fund's Events page](#)



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### Collection Update – Current Conservation Projects

As a 'working collection', The Fund artworks are on loan to the Official Residences for use and display. With the assistance of the House staff and our Conservators in Canberra and Sydney, we aim to make regular assessments of the condition of every artwork every 18 months approximately.

The proceeds from this year's National Raffle will be allocated towards conservation, in particular the *Yarralumla cabinet* by Geoffrey Hannah OAM (pictured right) which will be assessed for preventative conservation including a deep clean and re-waxing.



In addition, The Fund's suite of furniture in the Small Dining Room has been flagged for treatment to address UV damage. As reported to the AGM, this will be a time consuming and intricate undertaking with an estimate of \$50–60,000 including transport and insurance. Based on our recommendation and the advice of our conservator, Government House have already installed UV protection on the glass in this room to address the light levels and UV damage concerns.



We hope you will support the Raffle and Conservation Project Appeals as outlined on the website [Support Us](#) page

### Annual General Meeting, Adelaide, 9 – 11 September 2022



Members and Supporters at Anlaby, September 2022

The South Australian Committee was delighted to welcome 80 members and supporters to the AGM held from Friday 9 – Sunday 11, September. The three days had been planned to provide a quintessentially South Australian series of experiences, most of which would not have been available to the casual visitor. After the long three-year gap since the last AGM, everyone threw themselves into it with gusto. The happy buzz of conversation was only stilled during the fascinating talks and the many delicious meals and wine tastings which regularly punctuated the (relatively) mild Spring days.

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Our plans of course were affected by the very sad news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, in the early hours of Friday morning. Government House advised that our scheduled reception that evening had been cancelled due to the Official Mourning. We were however very kindly invited to attend Government House to sign the Condolence Book and I was provided with a statement from Her Excellency the Governor, to read out on her behalf at the beginning of our AGM meeting at the Queen Adelaide Club and we observed a two-minute silence in tribute to Her Late Majesty.

Following an excellent lunch at the Queen Adelaide Club, we made our way by bus to the North Adelaide home of Fund Member and former Councillor, Deborah Hamilton, who generously opened up her beautiful house and garden for us all to enjoy. Not to mention providing us with a lavish afternoon tea. By now you will have noticed that food and drink were a prevalent theme throughout. Our first day concluded with an extended pre-dinner drinks gathering followed by the Annual Dinner both at the Adelaide Club. During the evening, our Chair Jennifer Sanders gave a gracious address thanking everyone for attending and I had the honour of proposing a toast to the memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and a toast to our new King, His Majesty Charles III.

Day two was spent in the Barossa Valley which was looking wonderfully green and lush after the best season we have had in years. The day was designed so that the three venues we visited would together tell the story of how the landscape, indeed the very soil itself, the vigneron and their workers, the very functional heritage buildings, the distinctive food traditions and above all - the extraordinary continuity as five or six generations of winemaking families - all interact to create a region unlike any other in Australia.

Our first port of call was the Barossa Cellars, the newly created centre of the Barons of the Barossa, whose massive cellars built into the side of a hill, are home to what will be a decades long experiment and programme of testing and analysing the results of long cellaring of a wide variety of wines. All of which have been donated by the various vigneron of the Valley. Louisa Rose, the current head of the Barons gave us an intriguing talk on the history of the valley, the many different soil types that determine which varieties grow best where and many other aspects of the wine makers art. All enhanced by tastings of some of the wines in question.

We then moved on to Australia's oldest family-owned winery, Chateau Yalumba, with tours of the exquisitely maintained historic buildings - more wine tastings - and a delightful lunch. We were able to choose our favourite wine from the tasting to accompany our meal. A particular treat was our tour in small groups of the Hill-Smith family's private wine museum, which consisted of cellar after cellar after cellar of extraordinary wines dating back over nearly two hundred years.

We then travelled to Seppeltsfield, which has the largest array of heritage wine buildings in the country. Our wine tasting there in the private dining hall was accompanied by samples of delicious food inspired by the unique Barossa traditional artisan cuisine. Executive Chef, Owen Evans gave us an unforgettable, impassioned talk on his mission to revive the food traditions of the Valley. His story of how he recommissioned an old Smokehaus that had sat unused on the estate for 80 years to prepare smoked butters, bacon and salt as well as ageing prosciutto in old wine barrels was delightfully brought to life for us by sampling the delicious results of his endeavours.



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Finally, Sunday was spent amongst the enchanting environs of the home and sheep station of Fund Members Andrew Morphett and Peter Hayward – Anlaby Station. There had been many requests from members to have a chance to revisit Anlaby to see the many restoration projects that had been completed since The Fund’s last visit eight years ago. People enjoyed seeing the restored folly, the camellia house, the cucumber house, the apple house, the peacock pavilion and the many other improvements to gardens and grounds. The lamb pies at the lunch were a great hit as were the scones at the morning and afternoon teas. At the end of the visit Philip Gosse and myself had our little Olympic handing over the baton ceremony. With no baton to hand, I passed a symbolic lanyard to Philip to mark the South Australia Committee handing over the AGM to the New South Wales Committee.

Together we all experienced the past, the present and had glimpses of the future of the Barossa Valley.

The South Australian Committee – Lesley Haas Baker, Jeanette McLeod, Ann Preston-Flint, Andrew Morphett and myself wish to thank everyone who attended and we all look forward to enjoying the hospitality of NSW next year.

Alan Smith

Chair, South Australia Committee



### AGM Official Business

At the September 2022 AGM the official AGM business included among other things:

- Noting that the Minutes from the 2021 AGM were tabled and adopted at the August 2021 Council meeting
- Reports of The Chair, of The Fine Art Advisor, of The Treasurer (presented by Jennifer Sanders on behalf of the Treasurer), on the Strategic Plan, State reports by State Chairs
- Election of Councillors:
  - David Murray was re-elected as a Councillor
  - Professor Robin Stuart-Harris was elected as a Councillor
- Auditor: Mr Graham B Wilkinson was re-appointed as Auditor of The Fund

### Strategic Plan Update

At the September 2022 AGM, Members received an update on The Fund’s Strategic Plan including recent achievements and the wonderful fundraising support for new acquisitions over the last two years. In addition, the presentation included various ways in which we are achieving the plan and how The Fund is addressing the challenges and risks present in the current environment. It is clear that Members and Supporters, and their voluntary and financial contributions, are vital to the ongoing viability of The Fund.

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Recent achievements included:

- Collection: Continued ongoing conservation and maintenance; new funded and donated acquisitions; updated care manuals; and increased information and accessibility (social media, eHive, TAF website inc. object of the month)
- Learning & Outreach: Delivering 3<sup>rd</sup> Narratives of Nations Symposium via zoom; and preparing for 2023 lecture series
- Partnerships & Relationships: New MOU and positive relations with PM&C, OOSGG; and ongoing strengthening relations with museums and arts organisations
- Program: Organised 2022 AGM weekend in SA; and range of State events
- Financial Sustainability: Increased funding opportunities; and continuing with second national raffle
- Members: Offering new opportunities for Members & Supporters; stable level of membership; and broadened supporter base
- Houses & Other Activities: Open / Garden Days re-commencing soon; and State based events ramping up again
- Governance & Operations: Established new Events & Marketing Committee; changes to Council membership; new website in 2021 & online event booking; and progressed many strategic plan activities

### Future Events:

Note: Bookings are either via [The Fund's Events page](#) or by direct invitation for the Members only events.

- 24 October: Launch – The Australiana Fund Raffle 2022 (online)
- 27 October \*Garden Tours at Government House (each Thursday until 24 November)
- 2 November: The Fund's 3<sup>rd</sup> Narratives of Nations Symposium – Lecture #5 by Dr John McPhee
- 5 November: NSW A guided walking tour of The Rocks and Millers Point by Heritage Architect, Dr Anne Warr
- 12 November: \*\*Public Open Day Government House, Canberra
- 30 November: Queensland Members Christmas Drinks, 6–8 pm
- 30 November: South Australia Members Christmas Drinks, 6–8 pm
- 12 December: Draw – The Australiana Fund Raffle 2022
- 15 December: New South Wales Members Christmas Drinks, 6–8pm
- December (tbc): Victoria Members Christmas Drinks, 6–8pm

\*Garden Tours at Government House – will continue each Thursday from 27 October until 24 November – go to [The Fund's Events page](#) for details including security requirements and bookings.

\*\*Public Open Day Government House, Canberra now 12 November, 10am to 2pm.

This Open Day was rescheduled due to very wet weather. The Canberra Committee have organised a roster of guides inside the House, at the State Entry, the State Drawing Room, the Dining Room and the Governor-General's Study. Our team of volunteer Garden Guides will assist Government House Garden staff to provide four garden tours throughout the event. In addition, our volunteers will staff The Australiana Fund stall, where we have copies of The Fund's limited-edition book, our tea towels and postcards for sale, as well as the CMAG exhibition catalogues for 'Ruth Lane-Poole: A Woman of Influence' and 'Australia Revealed' (CMAG 2013). The event will run from 10am to 2pm. It is hoped that the weather will be suitable for this revised date.

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## Recent State Events:

16 October: (Victoria)

### A visit to the historic property of Coriyule, Curlewis on the Bellarine Peninsula

Over 70 Members and Supporters attended this event and donations will go towards The Fund's current conservation projects. Special thanks to our hosts Isobel Williams and Bryce Raworth, who are both Members of The Australiana Fund. Over the last 20 years they have meticulously restored and renovated the house and transformed the garden into a feast of trees, wonderful plantings of Australian natives, exotics and vegetable garden. Thanks to their enormous generosity of our hosts, members and supporters of The Fund were invited to take a second look at their property which The Fund last visited in 2013, following completion of the first stage of the building and garden works.



18 August: (Queensland)

### Private Viewing & Talk: Cressida Campbell at Philip Bacon Galleries

80 guests gathered at Phillip Bacon Gallery Brisbane for Private Viewing & Talk by Simon Elliott, Deputy Director of QAGOMA, on the work of one of Australia's leading female artists Cressida Campbell.



Left:  
Simon Elliott, Deputy Director QAGOMA



Above Right: Guests at Philip Bacon Galleries, Brisbane.



Left: The Fund's Queensland Committee at the Cressida Campbell Event - L-R: Thomas Bradley, Lachlan Henderson, Bettina Groves (Chair), Megan Read.



## WAYS TO DONATE

### Donation Opportunities

Support us by donating to one or more of our conservation activities:

The Collection update in this Newsletters covers 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.

Donations can also be made by credit card over the phone:  
(02) 9994 8034 Mon - Tues & Thurs-Fri from 10 -4pm

Or through our website - <https://www.theaustralianafund.org.au/supportus>

Or click: [\*\*DONATE NOW\*\*](#)

If returning this form by Mail – please mail to:

The Fine Art Advisor, PO Box 906, Maroubra NSW 2035

This form can be printed, scanned and returned to The Fund by email to [austfund@bigpond.net.au](mailto:austfund@bigpond.net.au)

### TO DONATE BY VISA / MASTERCARD

I would like to donate \$ .....

Name on the

Card:.....Telephone:.....

Signature:.....

Email

Address:.....

Card

number:.....Expiry:.....

### TO DONATE BY EFT

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

NAB BSB: 083 088 a/c: 767550438 In the name of The Australiana Fund

Email Address:.....

#### Contributors, October 2022

Jennifer Sanders, Chair  
Bettina Groves, Councillor, Qld

Sonya Abbey, Fine Art Advisor  
Alan Smith, Councillor, SA

Caroline Johnston OAM, Councillor, Vic  
Professor Robin Stuart-Harris, Councillor, ACT