

Newsletter #4

Dear Members and Supporters,

September/October 2021

Thank you everyone for your support for The Fund during what have been unusual and trying times. We had such a positive response to the Canberra AGM program of events which promised to be both memorable and convivial. I would like to thank ACT Committee Chair, Carolyn Forster OAM and her Committee for their hard work in organising an AGM which would have undoubtedly been a highlight of The Fund's year. Equally, thanks to Carolyn and her Committee, and Sonya for their management of the cancellation of the AGM. It is very encouraging that the responses of Members and partner organizations minimized the financial impact on The Fund with Member donations totaling \$22,545.

Thanks to the online skills of David Murray, Caroline Johnston and Sonya, The Fund held our 43rd Annual General Meeting via Zoom and telephone. As the minutes show, 28 Members attended virtually and 31 proxies were received as well as a long list of apologies, many from Members who had accepted for the AGM planned to be at Government House. It was pleasing that several Members who have not been at a recent AGM attended the virtual AGM – and many stayed online to chat at the meeting's close. While a great benefit of Fund membership is the social occasions, it is reassuring that we are developing our online presence and capacity – Covid or not!

Perhaps the biggest disappointment of the AGM cancellation, was the inability of Members and Supporters to see the Canberra Museum and Art Gallery's exhibition, *Ruth Lane-Poole: A Woman of Influence* curated by former Fund Fine Arts Advisor, Margaret Betteridge. Special thanks to Harriet Elvin AM, Committee Member and CEO, Cultural Facilities Corporation for her role in overseeing the exhibition and organising The Fund's planned visit to this landmark exhibition about a key figure in the history of Canberra's Official Residences. As Harriet outlines below, CMAG are planning to have a record of the exhibition online. Even now, the catalogue can be viewed on CMAG's website and there is a review by Fintán O Laighan in the Australian Forest History Society Newsletter, No.83 August 2021 at the end of the Newsletter.

Frustratingly, the Ruth Lane-Poole exhibition offered Members the opportunity to see our recent acquisition, the Munro Ferguson Collection with its outstanding timber sample 'library' presented to Governor-General Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson P.C. G.C. M.C. by Richard Baker, Curator, Technological Museum, Sydney. From exhibition photos, the display from the Collection looked splendid and we can now look forward to seeing it on display in Government House at Open Days. Thank you everyone who has contributed to the Munro Ferguson Collection Appeal – we have almost reached our target!

3rd Narratives of Nations symposium

The Fund's 3rd *Narratives of Nations* symposium was also a casualty of Covid. However, we are now finalizing plans to present the Symposium online as a series of monthly sessions with one to two speakers and Q&A. All the scheduled speakers: John McPhee, Margaret Betteridge, Dr Andrew Montana, Dr Catriona Quinn and I are participating and I am also hopeful that a number of speakers unavailable earlier will be able to take part. This online symposium will lead into regular online presentations on diverse topics, especially ones relevant to The Fund's interests and Collection. Sonya will send out notification as soon as the program is confirmed. The Fund is very grateful to The Dick and Pip Smith Foundation for their sponsorship of the symposium.

Significant new Acquisition by Commission.

As a tangible result of the collaborative and positive working relationship between The Fund and the Official Residences, The Fund's Council has accepted an invitation from the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General to commission a pair of sculptures by sculptor Adam Humphreys, made with the involvement of Indigenous children and regional students from the BackTrack Youth Works. (www.backtrack.org.au).

This is an exciting commission which will result in a major work designed by established artist Adam Humphreys and made with the assistance of Indigenous youth involved in the highly regarded BackTrack Youth Works program – teaching and supporting '*marginalised young people doing it tough*.' The pair of sculptures, *Kangaroo and Emu* will be installed on the Lakeside Lawn at Government House. This location, decided by Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General, reflects the significance of the sculptures in the context of Government House – the nation's primary Vice-Regal residence and landscape

The Governor-General and Mrs Hurley have been Patrons of BackTrack since 2016 and their continued involvement is testament to their support for the organisation's mission '*To help as many young people having a hard time as possible.*'

This acquisition is important for The Fund as it represents the unique relationship between the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and The Australiana Fund working together to ensure that The Fund's Collection on loan to the nation's Official Residences contributes to the residences' high standards of presentation.

The Fund is now launching an appeal to raise the funds for the commission. Following in the Newsletter is detailed background to this wonderful project. The key role that The Fund plays in ensuring that the Official Residences reflect Australia's history and culture through its Collection is beautifully expressed in these quotes from official letters received for the AGM.

From His Excellency, the Governor-General and Mrs Hurley:

'The work that you do is important. It enhances the décor of the respective residences and helps showcase Australia's arts and cultural diversity to a wider audience, especially through official visits and open days.'

Linda and I particularly want to acknowledge your outstanding commitment to philanthropy. Maintaining, preserving and managing a prized national 'working' collection is an ongoing business. It requires people who are selfless, generous and passionate – a common trait among all at The Australiana Fund.

7 July 2021

From Her Excellency, Mrs Linda Hurley:

'Please pass on my best wishes and thanks to The Fund's Members. I hope we can all meet again sometime in the future.'

27 July 2021

From the Hon Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister of Australia:

'For more than four decades, The Australiana Fund has given careful consideration to curating a collection that celebrates Australia's rich and diverse cultural history – developing an enduring legacy that reflects the story of our nation.'

Jenny and I have a deep appreciation of the time and effort you invest in maintaining this treasured collection and greatly value your continued guidance and generosity.'

9 July 2021

Work on the commission will commence next month and it is intended that *Kangaroo and Emu* will be installed on the Lakeside Lawn early next year – what a celebration to look forward to!

Events and Membership

While it is clear to all that The Fund's normal program of state and national events has been impacted by Covid restrictions, especially on our capacity to raise funds and to attract new Members, Council and I are heartened by the commitment shown to support The Fund in this challenging time. The inaugural Australiana Fund raffle initiated by Queensland Chair, Bettina Groves was very well received and reached a new audience. This will now be a bi-annual event on our calendar. It is good to hear that both Queensland and South Australia recently held terrific events which raised funds and attracted new Members. And I urge you all to mark the 2022 AGM dates in your diaries as Alan Smith, South Australian Chair and his Committee are planning a not to be missed program as described later in this newsletter.

Collecting for the Nation – The Australiana Fund

This major publication with fabulous illustrations of The Fund's Collection and erudite essays by noted curators and scholars of Australian history, decorative arts and design is available for purchase through The Fund's website and The Fund Office.

As Fund Member, Dr Mat Trinca, Director, National Museum of Australia writes:

'Collecting for the Nation' tells why Australia's history deserves to be thought about, studied, discussed – and ultimately – cherished. Taken together, each of the beautiful things in this book shows that The Australiana Fund Collection is really a national compendium, affording a surprisingly wide-ranging view of Australian life.'

And from Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, former Director-General, National Library of Australia:

'Collecting for the Nation is a visual feast and a fascinating story about Australia's four official residences, their history, occupants, architects and designers and the collection of artworks that makes each official house a home and a museum of the national aesthetic.'

Former Fund chair, John Walton AM recently organized a visit to Government House by the Young Presidents Association and took the initiative of purchasing and presenting each attendee with a copy of *Collecting for the Nation* which John reported was very well received.

The Young Presidents Association were major donors towards the purchase of the Sir John O'Shanassy silver testimonial epergne by Hunt and Roskell on display in Government House – and the subject of an essay by Christopher Menz in the book on p209.

Please consider purchasing copies of *Collecting for the Nation* as personal and/or corporate gifts – such a gift would signal both your excellent taste and your philanthropic support for The Fund. It would also be the perfect way to introduce new people to the work of The Fund, potentially becoming new Members. The Fund's book is written and presented so that it avoids being a dated record of The Fund's contribution to the Official Establishments. Discounts are available for bulk purchases – contact The Fund Office (see page 13 for more details).

Vale Victoria Cox, former Chair, Tasmanian Committee

On behalf of The Fund, I wrote to Victoria Cox's husband Dale Lloyd-Webb expressing our sincere condolences on Victoria's death on 17 July 2021 after a short illness. It was some comfort that the message and flowers I sent on behalf of the Council reached Victoria before she died.

Victoria joined The Fund in 2004 and became Chair of the Tasmanian Committee in 2013. She immediately set about raising The Fund's profile in Tasmania and The Fund benefited greatly from her knowledge, networks, enthusiasm and skill in attracting new Members and Supporters.

It is due to Victoria's advocacy that Tasmania is once again represented on Council and we look forward to building on her good work and positive representation of The Fund in the future. It was very pleasing that Council reinstated Tasmanian Committee representation on Council following Victoria's advocacy.

The Fund welcomes Mrs Di Mackinnon as the new Chair of the Tasmanian Committee and, as a newly elected member of Council following the AGM.

With best wishes,



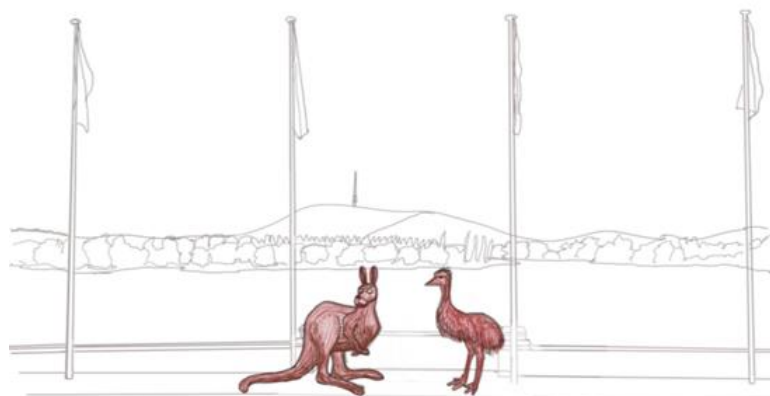
Jennifer Sanders

Chair

The Australiana Fund

Kangaroo and Emu - A New Commission for The Fund's Collection for the Lakeside Lawn, Government House, Canberra.

The Commission



Kangaroo and Emu, steel sculptures, pair, Adam Humphreys, sculptor working with BackTrack Youth Works, makers, Armidale, NSW, 2021 planned completion.

The Lakeside Lawn location, decided by Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General, reflects the significance of the sculptures in the context of Government House – the nation's primary Vice-Regal residence and landscape.

Relevance to The Fund's Collection

His Excellency, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Her Excellency, Mrs Linda Hurley are Patrons of BackTrack Youth Works having met Bernie Shakeshaft, Founder and Director, in 2016 when the Governor-General was then Governor of New South Wales. Their Excellencies' active involvement is testament to their support for the organisation's mission – *'To help as many young people having a hard time as possible.'*

In The Fund's Collection Policy and Plan, a key goal is the acquisition of artworks with provenance to Official Residents. The acquisition of this pair of sculptures, *Kangaroo and Emu*, ensures that The Fund's Collection represents Their Excellencies' longstanding support for BackTrack Youth in particular, and community groups in general. Given the ravages over the last two years of bushfires, floods and now Covid 19, community support is a defining theme of Their Excellencies' term of office.

The integral involvement of Indigenous youth in the design and making of the sculptures through the leadership, training and mentoring by the artist, Adam Humphreys, gives new perspectives on both the challenges and opportunities embraced by Indigenous and regional youth in programs like BackTrack.

The sculptures depict the two iconic Australian animals – kangaroo and emu – represented on the Australian coat of arms – a significant image in the Collection, as are depictions of Australian fauna. On display in The Lodge is The Fund's Australian coat of arms made by Colin Burchett, 1981 and commissioned by The Fund with funds provided by Sir Andrew and Lady Grimwade, for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Canberra.

The Fund has identified both works by Indigenous makers and, works depicting Australian fauna as important themes throughout the Collection. Works by Indigenous makers and, sculpture are priorities in the Acquisition Plan.

Design Brief

'The original design was to re-create the Australian coat of arms, the Kangaroo as Dexter and the Emu as Sinister, with the shield between them. Further conversation and a visit to Government House shaped the design to take a more organic approach; replicating the same two animals but in a more natural state that heavily referenced the coat of arms pose without directly copying it. The location was agreed to be on the lawn below the flag poles, between the dining room and the lakeside.' Adam Humphreys 2021

Having created large kangaroo sculptures previously, BackTrack Youth Works and Adam have refined a style that allows all the young people involved to be able to assist with the sculpture's construction.

Adam describes how the Indigenous children working on his projects are keen to point out and correct his interpretation of anatomical details of the native animals. This collaboration is important to Adam and gives the children engagement in the whole process. In addition, the manufacturing methods such as welding, are teaching them valuable skills which can be translated into work experience for future employment opportunities.

BackTrack Youth Works

BackTrack Youth Works was started in 2006 by a handful of individuals determined to help some of our most marginalised young people doing it tough. It has grown into a multi award-winning independent community-based organisation based in Armidale NSW and working with kids right

across regional Australia. Linked organisations – Trackers, based on the BackTrack model, are LeaderLife, Dubbo, Making Tracks, Broken Hill, Down the Track, Lake Cargelligo, RuffTrack, Windsor, Flattrack, Moree and ShoreTrack, Macksville.

As part of the charity's 'Ironman Welders' program, young people are provided with a range of expert training and work experiences opportunities such as designing and welding sculpture from scrap metal. The artworks are designed initially by artists like Adam and refined by the youngsters using spray cans to map out the form and anatomical details – Adam notes the creative process is greatly enhanced having indigenous kids' advice when creating native Australian animals.

(Information provided by: BackTrack Youth Works)

About the Artist

Adam Humphreys was born in Wales in 1987 and grew up with a background in farming and sustainable forestry. He has created sculpture for private and public collections across the United Kingdom, New Zealand, South Africa and Australia, and has been a full-time sculptor for the last 12 years.

Adam began using a chainsaw on his family farm from the age of 16. He studied a Bachelor of Outdoor Adventure Leadership and Management for three years at the University of Worcester, graduating as a qualified mountaineering, rock climbing, canoeing and kayaking instructor.

In 2008, Adam worked for the United Kingdom's Prince's Trust, a for-purpose organisation offering programs to help empower and transform the lives of disadvantaged youth. Adam worked with young people in the field of outdoor pursuits, as both an instructor and mentor. It was here Adam learnt how to engage with and teach disadvantaged children, while fostering their interest in further employment and training opportunities.

In 2009 Adam travelled to Australia, where he was Artist in Residence at The Crisp Galleries, Yass. His first public sculpture exhibition in 2010 was a resounding success, spurring him to pursue sculpture full time.

In 2012, Adam was again connected to Australia through his now wife, Emily Herbert, an Australian writer and presenter. Emily interviewed Bernie Shakeshaft, founder of 'BackTrack Youth Works', a for-purpose organisation enabling young people who have lost their way to reconnect with education and training, become work ready and secure meaningful employment.

In 2017, Adam collaborated with the BackTrack boys to create the Victor Moore memorial sculpture in Armidale and in 2019, Adam started working as a sculptor at 'Metalworks Wanaka', a bespoke metalworking and steel fabrication company. It was here that he developed his new style of welding steel sculpture, creating the large-scale figurative pieces that he is now known for. In 2020, Adam set up his workshop outside Tamworth and again began collaborating with BackTrack to create sculpture for clients such as the University of New England and mining magnate Andrew Forrest.

The majority of Adam's sculptures are in private collections. Below is a list of some of the public and private locations:

- The Crisp Galleries, Yass
- Usk Town Square, Wales. Presented by HRH Duchess of Cornwall. Butterfly. wooden
- Usk Castle, Wales, in situ historical figure, *Gruffed Ap Owain*, carved from local tree.
- Coughton Court, National Trust, Alcester, Warwickshire, England. Grandfather clock, carved wood

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- Frankston Marina, Queenstown, New Zealand. Himalayan Thar, steel
- Canberra Riding for the Disabled AU. *Pegasus* sculpture, timber
- Okavango Horse Safaris, Maun, Botswana. Horse's Head, steel
- University of New England, Armidale. Kangaroos, steel (see sketch below)
- Wirragery Centre, Condobolin. *Windradyne*, Indigenous warrior, carved wood
- House of Gerrish, private collection, London, UK, Horse's Head, wood and steel
- Armidale Livestock Yards, Victor Moore memorial sculpture, Kelpie, steel.
- Andrew Forrest Private Collection WA, Kangaroo and Emu, steel.

Castle Carvings | Adam Humphreys Sculpture

Sketch for *Kangaroos*, UNE, Armidale



'As part of working through the renovation of the Deer Park, once we can complete the humane relocation of our beloved kangaroos, we are in discussion about using these tethered funds to commission a sculpture (six-foot-high metal pieces) from the fantastic BackTrack. In one go we can recognise the wildlife who are part of the Armidale campus, create a valuable addition to our open landscape sculpture collection, provide skills development and employment for young people, and generate an

interactive piece of art for those who visit the campus and New England more widely.' (Notes from the VC's Desk: Direct from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brigid Heywood this week – insiders' guide @ UNE

'Trooper' Adam Humphreys (Duri), mild Steel, 1850 x 600 x 620mm

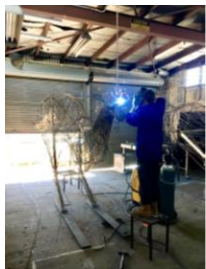
Artists Statement: 'A fierce statement piece, this horse's head is pure defiance to the troubles 2020 has brought on. The spirit is embodied in the work reflective of his namesake the 'Trooper'. He carries on no matter the cost.'

<https://www.sculpturesinthegarden.com.au/2020-exhibition-91/>

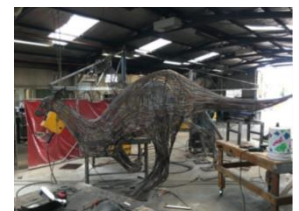


Design and Construction

'The basis of this design is to create a frame that acts as a skeleton. To get the shape, the profile is chalked out on the workshop floor and then the kids lock it in using spray paint. The mild steel rods are then bent to follow the painted lines, before welding the skeleton together. After a discussion about movement and balance they start to clad the sculpture, using more steel rods to slowly fill it in. The best technique for this is for one student to hold the rod in place while the other welds it.'



Adam noted that 'the only significant change to the design (pictured left and right) will be the use of thinner (6mm not 8mm diameter) steel rods, which will take more time but also allow the younger members of BackTrack to physically bend and shape it. The overall effect will be eye catching, while remaining partly opaque to allow the viewer to see through the sculpture in part'.



Summary

Sculpture is an identified priority for acquisition as is work by Indigenous makers, in this case working with an established sculptor. The fact that the collaborative works are the result of the initiative of BackTrack Youth Works to provide practical training and opportunities for young Indigenous and regional youth gives the works added significance as associated with an acknowledged success in independent Australian community capacity building. Their Excellencies' patronage of BackTrack makes *Kangaroo and Emu* a defining representation of their term of office.

Fundraising Appeal for *Kangaroo and Emu*

The commission will cost \$15,000 per sculpture, delivered and installed.

The Council have resolved to raise the funds for the commission by appealing to our Members and Supporters for your generous support for this significant acquisition. We invite you to share in our excitement about this new commission and, its subsequent benefit to the charity BackTrack, by making a donation towards this commissioned acquisition.

Please use the form at the end of this newsletter.

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

Annual General Meeting & Program of Events, September 2022

– Alan Smith, Chair South Australia Committee

We are very much looking forward to welcoming members and supporters of The Fund and their friends to South Australia next year. Our State Committee of Lesley Haas Baker, Jeanette McLeod, Ann Preston-Flint, Andrew Morphett and myself had been planning to hold it in Autumn, in the first week of April.

We have now decided that to better manage the risk and to give us more of a buffer, whilst attempting to second guess the course of the hoped for easing of restrictions, to delay the AGM until Spring next year.

We now intend to plan for Friday the 9th, Saturday the 10th and Sunday the 11th of September 2022. The overarching theme will be the wine heritage of the Barossa Valley, encompassing the multi-generational wine families, the distinctive landscape and the many historic buildings.

The Friday will be spent in Adelaide with luncheon at the Queen Adelaide Club, a Private View, a cocktail reception and a very special dinner.

On the Saturday we will be spending the entire day in the Barossa Valley having behind the scenes tours of heritage wineries with buildings and in some cases the very vines themselves, dating from the 1840s. There may well be some wine tastings involved! We will return to Adelaide in good time to allow everyone to repair to their hotels before the Annual Fundraising Dinner to be held at The Adelaide Club that evening.

The Sunday will be an optional extra day consisting of a return visit to Anlaby Station. In the eight years since The Fund last visited an additional 1,500 acres of the original land holding has been added and extensive restorations have been made to the garden and grounds and to many of the buildings, including the Folly, the Camellia House, the Head Gardener's Cottage, the Governess's Cottage and much more.

The sheep stud has risen to new heights and Anlaby's commitment to quality has been acknowledged with the recent announcement that from now on every new Rolls Royce will be sold with an Anlaby merino wool blanket. We very much look forward to welcoming you all in September next year in what we hope will be a post-lockdown world.

Ruth Lane-Poole : A Woman of Influence

– Harriet Elvin AM, Chief Executive Officer, Cultural Facilities Corporation

The Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG) was proud to present the exhibition *Ruth Lane-Poole, A Woman of Influence* as the intended highlight of the planned AGM program in Canberra.



Installation images ©Rob Little Digital Images

The aim of the exhibition was to explore the life and career of a remarkable woman whose work had a profound impact on Australian home furnishing and interior design, and who left an important legacy, especially to Canberra.

Ruth rose to national prominence in 1926 when she was appointed as an interior ‘furnisher’ for the two official residences in Canberra that would house the Governor-General and the Prime Minister, following the relocation of Federal Parliament to Canberra.

She was chosen for this role as a result of her contribution to home furnishing in Australia during the mid-1920s, through articles she wrote for popular magazines. Ruth’s helpful advice and her practical, yet elegant, design philosophy encouraged amateur home decorators to create tasteful domestic environments, even on modest budgets.

Born in Ireland in 1885, Ruth grew up as part of the famed literary and artistic Yeats family that was associated with the Celtic Revival and Arts and Crafts movements, and which included her cousin, the renowned poet and playwright William Butler Yeats.



It was Yeats who gave Ruth away at her wedding in 1911 to Charles Lane Poole, who went on to become Australia’s chief forester. That role led to them both moving to Canberra, where Charles founded the Australian Forestry School and where they set up home at Westridge House, Yarralumla.

(Pictured above left: Ruth’s wedding veil and headpiece, together with napkin rings designed to celebrate the marriage).

Their three daughters attended the Girls Grammar School and their lives were interwoven with Canberra society through charity and war work, and the ski club that Charles helped establish.

Ruth’s main legacy is the collection of furniture and household furnishing that survives in The Lodge and Government House, together with the collection of her designs for the furniture that was commissioned for the residences.

A major theme of the exhibition was to reflect on the beauty of Australian timbers, by exploring Ruth's commitment to showcasing the individual properties of specific Australian woods in her designs, and by discussing the work of her husband, Charles, and his far-reaching impact on the development of the Australian forestry industry.

Distinguished guest curator Margaret Betteridge is to be congratulated for creating such a rich and insightful exhibition. In this task, Margaret was ably assisted by Rowan Henderson, Assistant Director, Exhibitions and Collections at CMAG, as project manager for the exhibition, and by the entire staff of CMAG, under the leadership of Director Sarah Schmidt.



The exhibition was developed in close partnership with The Fund and, as noted by Fund Chair Jennifer Sanders, a feature work in it was the timber 'library' made by Frederick Tod for presentation to then Governor-General Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson, and recently acquired by The Fund.

(Pictured left: A selection from the Munro Ferguson Collection - native Australian timber samples formed as books. And an inscribed presentation copy of 'The Hardwoods of Australia and Their Economics', published 1919 by authority of The Government of The State of New South Wales.)

As a Councillor of The Fund, as well as head of the Cultural Facilities Corporation, which manages CMAG, I was delighted that CMAG was able to present this exhibition in collaboration with The Fund, and am most grateful to Jennifer Sanders, to Fine Arts Advisor Sonya Abbey, and to my fellow Fund Councillors, for their enthusiasm and support for the exhibition.

Many other institutions and individuals generously loaned works for the exhibition, especially the National Library of Australia, and we were extremely grateful for their support.

Despite the cancellation of the AGM program in Canberra due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the exhibition opened to the public, as planned, on 10 July 2021, and was able to remain open until 12 August 2021, when the introduction of a lockdown in the ACT led to its closure. During the month it was open to the public, it attracted a very high level of interest and support, with the many visitors to it including the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Her Excellency, Mrs Linda Hurley.

The ACT lockdown period has now been extended to 15 October 2021, which is beyond the scheduled end date of the exhibition. Sadly, it is not possible to extend the run of the exhibition due to CMAG's other exhibition commitments. I feel especially sad that Margaret Betteridge was never able to visit the exhibition she so skilfully curated.

We are, however, arranging a number of ways in which the exhibition will have a continuing online presence; for example, the exhibition catalogue can already be viewed online at [Ruth Lane-Poole: A Woman of Influence by CMAG - issue](#) and, before it is demounted, the exhibition is being professionally filmed in situ, with the film, and the accompanying script provided by Margaret Betteridge, to be made available online.

These steps will ensure this very fine exhibition has a continuing life and that, despite the many challenges and disappointments of the COVID-19 pandemic, we can all discover and celebrate the enduring legacy and influence of Ruth Lane-Poole.

Update on Our Recent Acquisition



Margaret Worth, (born 1944) Australia
'VAJRASANA meditation', 2018,
Clayton South, Victoria, 2018
corten steel, painted steel, stainless steel,
400 x 110 x 140cm
Gift of the artist, 2021. 2021.1 ©Margaret Worth

As reported in issue 3 of the Newsletter, established Australian artist, Margaret Worth has donated her sculpture 'VAJRASANA meditation', to The Australiana Fund.

We consulted with the Office of the Official Secretary and Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects to identify a suitable location for the work, overlooking Lake Burley Griffin and visible across the lake from the grounds of Government House, this sculpture will be a striking addition to the landscape and shoreline.

Plans to have the work transported from Victoria to Canberra and installed have been delayed due to border closures but the concrete footing has been fabricated and is ready for the next stage of the installation. Margaret Worth hopes to be onsite when this takes place and we welcome her guidance on the orientation of the sculpture according to its intention.

State Program Activities

TAS – Historic Waterton Hall, Rowella, Tasmania – 23 November 2021

\$85pp (all proceeds go to The Australiana Fund)

The Tasmanian Committee are planning a walking and tasting tour in Northern Tasmania, for 23 November. This magnificent family owned, 1850s homestead is the home of Waterton Hall Wines. The 2-hour tour led by the owners or Estate manager will focus on the property's history, its historic outbuildings while enjoying sweeping views of the Tamar River, wine tasting and canapés.



Covering convict history in the magnificent, restored stone barn with Riesling and nibbles, colonial history in the gorgeous gardens and maritime history in the delightful boathouse and a taste of Shiraz. View the Saint Mary McKillop Josephite School House with Viognier followed by a special private tour of the ground floor of Waterton Hall before enjoying a charcuterie and cheese platter and something sweet!

Our gratitude goes to David and Susan Shannon for their assistance planning this event, and for their generosity in hosting our members and guests so that all proceeds will benefit The Australiana Fund.

Keep an eye on The Fund's website during October for booking details – Numbers will be limited!

SA – Carrick Hill

The fundraising cocktail reception and Private View at Carrick Hill on Tuesday, 23 March was an enjoyable and profitable evening. More than 50 people, many of them new to The Fund, attended and all of them expressed interest in supporting further Fund events.

The final net profit was \$3,700 which consisted of \$1,650 in donations and the balance being the mark up on the ticket price. Since this event was held in March, twelve of those who attended have subsequently become members of The Fund which is most gratifying

QLD – Toowoomba

The event in Toowoomba at The Royal Hotel on 8 December was a very successful talk promoting The Fund and we sold 4 books. The cocktail party of 20 invited guests from Toowoomba and the district was hosted by Thomas Bradley and Bettina Groves. After this successful event, 20 new supporters have been added to the QLD list and a new Qld member.

The Qld committee met in May to discuss new fundraising event ideas such as a tour of The Met New York exhibition of European Masterpieces is at GOMA 12 June – 17 October 2021.

Committee member The Hon Justice Thomas Bradley has been working with GOMA. They have limited spots due to covid lock down and mask restrictions. We have been offered 10 places at a foundation event so a few members can see the exhibition privately on the 5 October.

The Qld committee hope to have a gathering for members at the end of the year. We are also planning a function next year at historic home of your new member Wendy Mort in Toowoomba. We are looking forward to the exciting AGM in Adelaide in 2022.

Australiana Fund Raffle 2021

The Raffle was drawn on 29 March 2021. It was a huge fundraising success towards the acquisition of the Munro Ferguson Collection. Many thanks to the states for contributing prizes and for the hard work behind the scenes to obtain permits.

Along with this excellent profit we increased awareness of The Fund and the new website. We have decided to run this bi-annually so keep an eye on our social media for updates.

Congratulations to our prize winners:

- 1st PRIZE Lyn Crowley (Qld) Ticket Number: #655
- 2nd PRIZE Kathryn House (SA) Ticket Number: #816
- 3rd PRIZE John Collins (Vic) Ticket Number: #106
- 4th PRIZE Julian Dunstone (SA) Ticket Number: #930
- 5th PRIZE Heather Barker (Vic) Ticket Number: #645
- 6th PRIZE Christopher Anderson (QLD) Ticket Number: #457
- 7th PRIZE Alison Quinn (Qld) Ticket Number: #131

The total profit is \$17,850.50

Membership

Thank you, those Members who have renewed their subscription for 2021.

As noted in our last newsletter, our target under the *Articles of Association* is 250 Members. Following the AGM in May, membership is up to 174 and by location Members are distributed across the country as follows:

ACT 12 NSW 73 QLD 23 SA 29 TAS 6 VIC 30 WA 1

New Members are vital to The Fund's future.

If you would like to help increase our membership, please share this newsletter or bring friends, family and colleagues to our events and introduce them to the work of The Fund. Nominations can be submitted to The Fund Office via email austfund@bigpond.net.au. All that is required is a short bio of the nominee outlining their profession, interests, and how you feel they may benefit The Fund. Information flyers about The Fund are also available on request.

Purchase 'Collecting for the Nation – The Australiana Fund'

Our fabulous, limited edition publication is still available and makes an excellent gift. Copies are available now from [The Fund's website – The Book](#) or from The Fund Office if you need extra assistance.

Summary of 44th Annual General Meeting (2021) – Meeting Resolutions

The 44th Annual General Meeting of The Australiana Fund was held on Friday 9 July 2021 and all Members were invited to attend. Due to the cancellation of the AGM program of events in Canberra, ACT due to COVID19, the AGM was held via zoom.

At the meeting all the items of business (as outlined on the agenda distributed to Members) were approved including the approval of the minutes of the 43th Annual General Meeting, approval of the Financial Reports of the Councillors and Auditors, the re-election of Jennifer Sanders as a Councillor, the election of Dianne Mackinnon as a Councillor, the appointment of auditors, and the approval of the special business to add Article 47.3 to the Memorandum of Articles.

The zoom meeting format was well received with many Members attending virtually, including some that have not been able to get to recent AGM weekends. It is planned to offer virtual access to future AGMs.

Financial Situation Update

– David Murray, Treasurer

The 2020 financial year was as challenging as it was for many other businesses. State Committees were unable to arrange their usual fundraising events and, perhaps most importantly, we were unable to gather in person for our AGM in Tasmania as planned. This was particularly disappointing for the Tasmanian Committee and I know that we would have had a very enjoyable and sociable gathering in Launceston had this been possible. Our appreciation goes to the late Ms Victoria Cox and her Committee for the significant work which they undertook in preparation for the 2020 AGM.

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic The Funds' Council took important steps to ensure that the financial strength of The Fund could be maintained, as far as possible.

Three actions were undertaken:

- We reduced our running costs.
- A new government Grant was negotiated.
- The running of the raffle was approved, originally intended to run in late 2020 but due to significant organisational requirements the launch was moved to 2021.

Strategic Plan Update

Caroline Johnston provided an update on the key achievements of The Fund over the past year. It is very clear that The Fund is well advanced in achieving many of the key activities of the Strategic Plan [2018–2020]. This is particularly positive for The Fund and its Members even though there have been many disruptions particularly to some state-based events caused COVID19.

Key achievements include: continued ongoing conservation and maintenance of the Collection in conjunction with the houses; extended Collection through funded acquisitions and gifts; increased Collection information and accessibility (eHive, TAF website); progressed planning for The Fund’s 3rd *Narratives of Nations* symposium (2021); established new MOU with PM&C, OOSGG; continued to further strengthen relations with museums and arts organisations internationally and within Australia; offered some State events (those states less affected by COVID); increased targeted funding opportunities; introduced national raffle to support fundraising; maintained stable level of membership and broadened supporter base in some states; launched new professional website with increased functionality; and progressed many other strategic plan activities.

Caroline also provided an update on the current activities as preparation for the updating of the Strategic Plan by the National Council in 2022. These include reviewing the risks in relation to strategic and operational aspects of The Fund. This work will help focus Council’s deliberations in preparing to update the Strategic Plan in the first half of 2022.

We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2022.



Government House, Canberra



Admiralty House, Sydney



The Lodge, Canberra



Kirribilli House, Sydney

Contributors, September/October 2021

Jennifer Sanders, Chair
 David Murray, Hon. Treasurer
 Sonya Abbey, Fine Art Advisor
 Harriet Elvin AM, Councillor
 Bettina Groves, Councillor
 Caroline Johnston OAM, Councillor
 Di Mackinnon, Councillor
 Alan Smith, Councillor

Donation Opportunities

This form can be printed and returned to The Fund Office by email to austfund@bigpond.net.au or completed online using the writable form which has been emailed to you with this Newsletter.

Payment can also be taken by phone (02) 9994 8034 Mon - Tues & Thurs-Fri from 10 -4pm

If returning this form by Mail – please mail to The Fine Art Advisor, PO Box 906, Maroubra NSW 2035

Since 1978, The Australia Fund's members and supporters have contributed more than \$10 million to support collection acquisitions and preservation as well as initiatives to promote the collection to a wider audience. The Fund's Collection continues to grow as a visual expression of our nation's distinctive cultural and contemporary creativity. To contribute to this important endeavour, we invite you to support the following projects:

NEW Acquisition of the Kangaroo and Emu Sculpture

by Adam Humphreys and BackTrack Youth Works

Work on this commission will commence in late October. The Fund will fund its creation, delivery and installation onsite at Government House, Canberra

To contribute to this appeal please mark your amount here \$.....

Acquisition of the Munro Ferguson Collection

The Munro Ferguson Collection is a major acquisition for The Australia Fund, an important part of Australia's movable cultural heritage.

We still need a further \$8,752 to meet our target for this acquisition.

To contribute to this appeal please mark your amount here \$.....

40th Anniversary Acquisitions Appeal

This appeal is to fund the acquisition of artworks in areas that are underrepresented in the collection and that will significantly enhance the ambience of the Official Residences.

To contribute to this appeal please mark your amount here \$.....

Conservation Projects

Proactive conservation is a priority so that the collection is in excellent condition and reflects the high standards of the official residences for all official public events.

To contribute to this appeal please mark your amount here \$.....

Care Manual Upgrade Project

Each House Manager receives a copy for use by the staff.

The estimated cost will be at least \$1,500

To contribute to this appeal please mark your amount here \$.....

TOTAL DONATIONS*\$.....

*Donations to The Australia Fund of \$2 or more are tax deductible a receipt will be issued by email (or post if requested)

TO DONATE BY VISA / MASTERCARD

Name of the Card:.....Telephone:.....

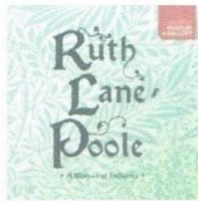
Card number: Expiry:.....

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 Australia Fund

Email Address:.....



Canberra Museum and Gallery, 2021. *Ruth Lane-Poole: A Woman of Influence*, CMAG, Canberra ACT, 54pp. ISBN 9780987545534. \$15.

Review by Fintán Ó Laighin.

This book has been published to accompany the exhibition of the same name currently showing at

the Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG) and presented in partnership with the Australiana Fund.¹

The name "Lane-Poole" is well known in forest and forestry circles, being the surname of one of Australia's eminent foresters, Charles Lane-Poole.

The exhibition focuses on his wife Ruth who rose to prominence in 1926 when she was appointed the interior "furnisher" for the two official residences in Canberra – Government House and The Lodge – that would house the Governor-General and the Prime Minister.

However, both the exhibition and the book also recognise her connection to forestry. As Harriet Elvin, CEO of the ACT Government's Cultural Facilities Corporation, writes in her introduction, "A major theme of the exhibition is to reflect on the beauty of Australian timbers, by exploring Ruth's commitment to showcasing the individual properties of specific Australian woods in her designs, and by discussing the work of her husband, Charles, and his far-reaching impact on the Australian forestry industry" (p7).

The book contains many photos of the items on display, including a 1927 photo of the entrance hall of the Australian Forestry School (p40) which shows the wonderful parquetry floor and a table designed by Ruth. A 1930 photo of Ruth and Charles's home, Westridge House, is on the following page, while photos of Ruth and Charles themselves appear on p39, including one of their presentation to the Governor-General in c.1934, and another at the opening of the Australian Forestry School in 1927. (While not shown in the book, the exhibition displays the school's flag which was designed by Ruth.)

The director of CMAG, Sarah Schmidt, has also written an essay in which she notes the involvement of the ANU's Matthew Brookhouse. While examining a desk at Government House, he "gave insights into its Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) and Tulipwood (*Harpullia pendula*, a Queensland timber) surfaces, pointing out small circular features in various sections, explaining these were small notches in the wood where fine twigs have broken off; now they form part of the delightful patterning on these polished timbers. Ruth Lane-Poole enthused about Tulipwood as 'that most decorative of all Queensland's woods.' (pp11-12)"

The main essay is by curator Margaret Betteridge in which the Lane-Pooles' backgrounds are discussed and their lives in Australia, starting with their arrival in 1916 when Charles was appointed Western Australia's Conservator of Forests. She writes:

"For Ruth Lane-Poole, time in Western Australia gave the opportunity to become acquainted with the local native timbers and their properties, no doubt encouraged by her husband who had attempted to persuade English cabinetmakers to consider using these for furniture, visiting respected cabinetmakers in London while there in 1920 to attend the first Empire Forestry Conference. Perhaps the greatest compliment paid to Australian timbers that year was the gift to HRH the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) during his tour of Western Australia of a presentation box of samples of Western Australian timbers which Ruth designed on behalf of the Saw Millers' Association, the Chamber of Mines and the Pearlers' Association." (p24)

The final essay is by Jennifer Sanders, chair of the Australiana Fund, with the rather lengthy title of "Champions of Australia's Timbers: Richard Baker, Curator and Economic Botanist, and Sir Ronald C. Munro Ferguson P.C. G.C.M.C, Governor-General and Forester". The essay includes three pages of photographs, including one of Baker's 1919 book, *The Hardwoods of Australia and their Economics* – a book which is dedicated to Munro Ferguson. One photo is of a set of Australian timbers carved by Frederick W. Tod, a "renowned woodcarver and cabinetmaker" and which are in the shape of books. The photo is impressive, but the carvings are even more so. The production of these "books" (or "xylotheques") was commissioned by Baker to present to Munro Ferguson.

Sanders describes the enthusiasm that both Baker and Munro Ferguson have for forestry. She quotes John Dargavel's essay, "Australia's Foresters" (on the Australian Dictionary of Biography, adb.anu.edu.au/essay/17) in which he writes that Munro Ferguson "was an outstanding example (of a forester) who encouraged forestry in Australia and nurtured his plantations in Scotland" (p47). Both Baker and Munro Ferguson recognised the contribution that forestry would make to the post-war reconstruction.

On Baker, she notes that he "undertook extensive research on eucalyptus and its commercial applications, research supported by his colleague H.G. Smith. Their work, which challenged more orthodox botany, is now recognised as pioneering" (p45). Sanders also notes his encouragement of Australian timbers in decorative and applied arts. "His 1915 book, *The Australian Flora in Applied Art*, is a passionate call for the nation's flora to be the inspiration for decorative motifs for design, art, craft and industry", themes which were "closely identified with Federation in 1901" (p50).

Finally, in addition to John Dargavel's article on "Australia's Foresters", another source of information for the exhibition is his 2008 book, *The Zealous Conservator: A Life of Charles Lane Poole*, published by the University of Western Australia Press uwap.uwa.edu.au/products/the-zealous-conservator-a-life-of-charles-lane-poole.

¹ Unfortunately, plans to include a review of the exhibition were thwarted by the COVID-19 lockdown in Canberra. Hopefully the exhibition will be extended beyond its scheduled closing date of 2 October 2021 www.cmag.com.au/exhibitions/ruth-lane-poole-a-woman-of-influence.