

the second  
narratives of nations  
symposium

THE AUSTRALIANA FUND  
in partnership with the  
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM



THE  
Australiana Fund  
a collection for the nation

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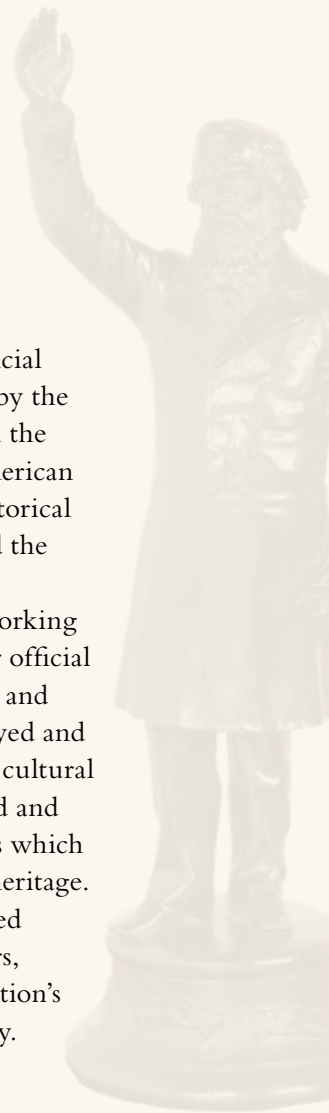
## THE AUSTRALIANA FUND

The Australiana Fund is an independent fundraising and collecting organisation with a membership of like-minded philanthropic art lovers Australia-wide. Its objective is to develop a culturally significant collection on behalf of the nation to enhance the official residences of the Governor-General and the Prime Minister.

The Fund was founded in 1978 following the advocacy of Tamara Fraser AO, wife of the then Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser AC CH GCL. During an official visit to Washington in 1976, Mrs Fraser was impressed by the 1961 initiative taken by Jacqueline Kennedy to establish the White House Historical Association to acquire fine American decorative arts and works of art in keeping with the historical interiors of the White House. Mrs Fraser was appointed the inaugural President of The Fund.

The Fund's collection has a unique purpose as a working collection used to furnish and decorate the nation's four official residences – Government House and Admiralty House, and The Lodge and Kirribilli House. The collection, displayed and in use in the public spaces, presents Australia's evolving cultural heritage to dignitaries and visitors from across the world and across Australia, in the context of houses and landscapes which are themselves important sites of our built and natural heritage.

The Australiana Fund's collection has been acquired solely through the generosity of members and supporters, and it continues to grow as a visual expression of the nation's distinctive cultural heritage and contemporary creativity. This symposium and The Fund's publication, *Collecting for the Nation – The Australiana Fund*, are also tributes to the benevolence of The Fund's members and supporters, who have made The Fund's achievements since 1978 possible.



## SYMPOSIUM THEME: DISCOVERY

The Discovery theme of The Australiana Fund's second Narratives of Nations symposium encompasses the physical act of discovering and the intellectual satisfaction of unearthing new facts, developing new theories and establishing fresh connections, thereby opening up new perspectives on the way we interpret and describe our world through the prism of cultural heritage.

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## SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

**9.45am – 10.00am: Symposium commences**

**Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome**

Michael Harvey, Assistant Director, Public Engagement, Research & Conservation,  
Australian National Maritime Museum  
Jennifer Sanders, Chair, The Australiana Fund

**10.00am – 11.00am: Session 1**

Chair: Jennifer Sanders, Chair, The Australiana Fund

Speaker: Tim Knox, Director of The Royal Collection, United Kingdom

**Looking after The Royal Collection**

The Royal Collection is one of the largest and most important art collections in the world, and one of the last great European royal collections to remain intact. Comprising almost all aspects of the fine and decorative arts, and running to more than a million objects, it is displayed, and still used, in 13 royal residences and former residences across the United Kingdom. It is held in trust by The Queen as Sovereign for her successors and the nation. Tim will talk about the work of The Royal Collection Trust, which cares for the collection and shares it with the wider public, making special reference to the challenges and opportunities of caring for a working collection. He will also highlight some of the works of Australian interest owned by Her Majesty.

**Speaker biography:**

Tim spent his childhood in Nigeria and Fiji before being educated in England. A graduate of the Courtauld Institute of Art in London, he trained as an architectural historian at the Royal Institute of British Architects Drawings Collection 1991-1995. Joining the British National Trust in 1995, he became its Head Curator in 2002, before moving on to become Director of Sir John Soane's Museum in 2005, where he initiated a major restoration of that atmospheric and eccentric museum. Tim was Director and Marlay Curator of the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge between 2013 and 2018, and was appointed Director of The Royal Collection by HM The Queen in 2018. His publications include *Sir John Soane's Museum, London* (2009), *The British Ambassador's Residence, Paris* (2011), and *The Rebirth of an English Country House: St Giles's House*, with Lord Shaftesbury (2018). Tim lives in Bedfordshire with his partner, Todd, and two miniature smooth-haired dachshunds, Worm and Missile.

### 11.00am – 12.00pm: Session 2

Chair: Ian Stephenson, University Curator, University of New England;  
Trustee, Copland Foundation

Speaker: Dr Todd Longstaffe-Gowan, landscape designer; Gardens Adviser to Historic Royal Palaces; President of the London Parks & Gardens Trust, United Kingdom

#### Where Elegance and Grandeur Meet

Todd will discuss the origins and development of the English garden – from its rise in the early eighteenth century as a rejection of the oppression of nature as exemplified by the rigid geometrical gardens of André Le Nôtre to its apogee in the mid- to late-nineteenth century with the development of wild gardening and the English cottage garden aesthetic. The English garden shall be examined as a social and aesthetic phenomenon that through a combination of factors, from the rise of historicism to the advent of a new appreciation of the natural world, became expressive of the modernity of the times.

#### Speaker biography:

Todd is a landscape architect, landscape historian and collector. He has worked on a range of diverse projects both in Britain and abroad, many of which include an element of conservation. He brings to his garden design a sense of the complexities of our relationship to the past that is informed by his training and experience as an architect, landscape architect, cultural geographer and historian. Todd has developed and implemented long-term landscape management plans for the British National Trust, English Heritage and a wide range of private owners in the UK and abroad. He has similarly had extensive input in the conservation and redevelopment of a variety of historic landscapes including Hampton Court Palace, Kensington Palace Gardens and The Crown Estate in Central London. Todd is Gardens Adviser to Historic Royal Palaces and President of the London Parks & Gardens Trust.

### 12.00pm – 1.00pm: Session 3

Chair: Daina Fletcher, Senior Curator Communities, Australian National Maritime Museum

Speaker: Dr Daniel Finamore, Russell W Knight Curator of Maritime Art and History, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts, United States of America

#### In Plain Sight: Discoveries and Rediscoveries in an Old Museum Collection

The collections of a 220-year-old museum are bound to turn up surprises. Some new insights are gleaned by applying new scientific techniques, while others are obtained simply by adopting novel perspectives or asking new questions of long-held objects. Daniel will discuss some recent discoveries among the holdings of the Peabody Essex Museum, including insights gleaned from a manuscript journal that documents a voyage of the *General Wolfe*, and how the discovery of a colonial cabinetmaker's account books clarified the mystery of an unusual Massachusetts desk, bringing to light the amazing Caribbean voyage of a 17-year-old shipmaster.

#### Speaker biography:

Daniel is the Russell W Knight Curator of Maritime Art and History at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, where he has organised exhibitions on a range of maritime subjects, from French Impressionist and Dutch seascapes to Antarctic expeditionary photography. Daniel was curator for the recent exhibition *Ocean Liners: Speed and Style*, which was featured at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London and as the inaugural exhibition at the new V&A museum in Dundee, Scotland. He received the Dissertation Award from the Society for American Archaeology for outstanding PhD research, and has conducted archaeological field research from Sable Island to Belize, some of which contributed towards the groundbreaking exhibition and book *Fiery Pool: The Maya and the Mythic Sea*. Daniel has written over 40 articles and chapters for academic and popular publications, and is the author and/or editor of five books, including *Maritime History as World History*.

### 1.00pm – 1.30pm: Lunch break

### 1.30pm – 3.00pm: Session 4

Chair: Dr Kimberley Webber, curator and historian

Speaker: Dr Susannah Helman, Curatorial Manager, Exhibitions, National Library of Australia

#### Cook and the Pacific

The National Library of Australia's recent major exhibition *Cook and the Pacific* (22 September 2018 – 10 February 2019) explored James Cook's three Pacific voyages between 1768 and 1779 as meetings of peoples and their knowledge systems. Susannah co-curated and project managed the exhibition. Her talk will reflect on the exhibition's approach, with a particular focus on how connections and voices featured in the exhibition.

#### Speaker biography:

Susannah has worked as a curator at the National Museum of Australia and the National Library of Australia. Exhibitions at the Library include: *The Dunera Boys: Seventy Years On*; *Handwritten: Ten Centuries of Manuscript Treasures from Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin*; *Mapping Our World: Terra Australis to Australia*; *Keepsakes: Australians and the Great War*; *Revealing the Rothschild Prayer Book*; *The Sell: Australian Advertising 1790s to 1990s*; *Athol Shmith Fashion Photographs*; *Cook and the Pacific*; and the Library's ongoing *Treasures Gallery*. Susannah has a wide range of curatorial interests. Her PhD was on the collecting of King Charles II (reigned 1660–1685).

Speaker: Louise Anemaat, Executive Director, Library & Information Services and Dixson Librarian, State Library of New South Wales

#### **Drawing in the Colony**

Drawings were the means by which knowledge about colonial Australia found its way into books and museums and from there, into European consciousness. New, detailed art historical analysis of the traditions of natural history art production demonstrates that colonisation was not just about physical and cultural occupation of the land but also intellectual engagement with it. Drawings present a view of a culturally richer, more expressive colonial community than commonly thought, expose new lines of investigation, and encourage us to look more deeply at our history through the prism of collections.

#### **Speaker biography:**

As Executive Director of Library & Information Services, Louise has responsibility for collection acquisition, processing and cataloguing, curation, conservation and for the reading rooms. Louise is the author of *Natural Curiosity: Unseen Art of the First Fleet*, NewSouth Publishing (2014), an analysis of the traditions of natural history art production in Australia and Britain during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

#### **3.00pm – 3.15pm: Afternoon tea**

#### **3.15pm – 4.15pm: Session 5**

Chair and Panel discussion member: Ann Toy, independent curator

#### **Discovering Places, Objects and Big Ideas in the World of Sir Henry Parkes**

#### **Speaker biography:**

Ann joined the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales (now Sydney's Living Museums) in 1981 as the inaugural Curator of Vaucluse House, and was later responsible for Elizabeth Bay House, Susannah Place, Meroogal and Government House NSW, Sydney. In addition, she has worked as a consultant for the City of Sydney, The Australiana Fund, and the Official Establishments Trust. Ann's research on the art patronage of Sir Henry Parkes and his collection in the Colonial Secretary's Building was published in the book, *Colonial City Global City: Sydney's International Exhibition 1879* (2000).

#### **Panel Presentations:**

Speaker: Kylie Winkworth, museum and heritage consultant

#### **Introduction: Significance as a Discovery Tool**

#### **Speaker biography:**

Kylie is an independent curator and heritage practitioner working with museums and heritage places, notably in regional Australia. She has a particular interest in the connections between people, places and objects. Her publications include *Significance 2.0: A Guide to Assessing the Significance of Collections* (2009) with Roslyn Russell, and *Connecting Collections: Thematic Studies of Museum and Heritage Collections* (2001). Kylie has a long-standing interest in heritage and museum policy, and has served on various boards and committees. She is a former Trustee of the Powerhouse Museum, and for 12 years was a member of the National Cultural Heritage Committee, which oversees the Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act.

Speaker: Jennifer Sanders, Chair, The Australiana Fund

#### **The 1879 Sydney International Exhibition: Bringing the World to the Colony of New South Wales**

The Australiana Fund's collection has several objects and artworks linked to the Sydney International Exhibition, one of the most ambitious projects undertaken by the colony of New South Wales. The aim was to attract countries and manufacturers from across the world to exhibit their technology and applied arts in the context of the fledgling production of Australia's colonies, which, spurred on by the discovery of gold and migration, had aspirations to take their places in the world of industry and arts. Even today, the influence of the Exhibition is evident across the road and across the nation.

#### **Speaker biography:**

Jennifer joined The Australiana Fund in 2011 and was elected Chair in 2017, the year that The Fund co-published *Collecting for the Nation – The Australiana Fund*, for which Jennifer was editor and a contributing author. Now a heritage and museum consultant, Jennifer had a distinguished career at the Powerhouse Museum and was Deputy Director, Collections, from 2001 to February 2009. She began at the Powerhouse in 1978 and was Curator, then Senior Curator, Decorative Arts and Design, for a decade before taking up her senior executive roles. From 1999 to 2008 she was a member of the National Cultural Heritage Committee.

Speaker: Margaret Betteridge, Director, Betteridge Consulting Pty Ltd

**A Poem in Stone: Discovering the Politics of Art and Patronage in the Colonial Secretary's Building**

For over 120 years, the Colonial Secretary's Building was the administrative powerhouse for the New South Wales Government, housing public servants with wide-ranging portfolio interests which impacted on the political, economic and social development of New South Wales. A collaboration between colonial architect James Barnet and political supremo Sir Henry Parkes, the building, in its location and design, its grand statuary, allegorical references and international decorative arts, was a fitting metaphor for the aspirations of the colonial government.

**Speaker biography:**

Following a successful career at the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences where she played a central role in developing the former Royal Mint and Hyde Park Barracks Museums, Margaret was appointed to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as Fine Arts Adviser, to oversee the Australian Government's official gifts program and to advise the occupants of Australia's four official residences on furnishings and artworks. For a decade in this role, Margaret worked as the Honorary Adviser to The Australiana Fund before establishing a consultancy which specialises in the heritage of public buildings and their contents. Recent publications include *A Poem in Stone: The Chief Secretary's Building* (2007).

Speaker: Kylie Winkworth, museum and heritage consultant

**Sir Henry Parkes: A Man of Many Parts, Places and Collections**

Sir Henry Parkes is the Father of Australian Federation, a self-taught man of vision, political guile and prodigious energy. As one of our great leaders and reformers, he is the subject of numerous works of art and commemorative wares. What may be less well understood are his passions as a collector. Perhaps no other politician has shown such personal and political interest in objects, works of art, collections and collecting. This paper looks at what might be called the distributed collections of Sir Henry Parkes, and explores some issues and opportunities to connect the man with places and objects held in libraries, archives, museums, galleries and official residences.

Speaker: Dr Penny Stannard, Senior Curator, Exhibitions, New South Wales State Archives

**The Queen's Album: A Nineteenth-century Pictorial Expression of Optimism, Possibility and Identity**

In 1882 a selection of 64 photographic 'views' bound in a magnificently crafted album was gifted to Queen Victoria by the people of New South Wales at the behest of Sir Henry Parkes. The photographs portrayed edifices built to promote knowledge and scientific inquiry, engineering feats, the cultivation of nature and displays of imperial power and benevolence. Together, they represent a carefully constructed colonial narrative of progress and a reshaping of New South Wales's identity. In 2019 the State Archives reimagined the 'Queen's Album' and launched an international search for its whereabouts.

**Speaker biography:**

Penny has held a number of senior-level roles in government with responsibility for the arts/culture portfolio, spanning venues, sites, landscapes and collections. Currently Senior Curator, Exhibitions, at New South Wales State Archives, she leads the curatorial interpretation of the State Archives Collection – one of Australia's most significant cultural holdings – and the delivery of knowledge through onsite, off-site and online platforms incorporating exhibitions, publications and visitor experiences. Penny has substantial non-executive director experience of publicly funded arts companies and has served on New South Wales and Australian Government arts funding and advisory committees. Penny holds a PhD from the University of Technology Sydney.

**4.15pm – 4.30pm: Closing Remarks – Jennifer Sanders**



# collecting for the nation

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Illustrations: From The Fund's collection: Cover: William Byrne, 1743–1805, after a painting by George Stubbs, 1724–1806, *An animal found on the coast of New Holland, called Kangaroo*. Inside front cover: Jacques Nicholas Bellin, France, 1703–1772, *Carte réduite des terres Australes, pour servir a l'histoire des voyages*, Paris, 1753, engraving. Page 1: Nelson Illingworth England/Australia, 1862–1926, *Sir Henry Parkes*, c.1898, painted terracotta. Page 2: Royal Doulton, 1901 – present, Designer: Lucie Emilie (Lulu) Shorter, 1887–1989, Plate, Burslem, Staffordshire, England, c.1913. Page 5: Sydney International Exhibition Medal, Engravers: Joseph Shepherd Wyon, England, 1836–1873, and Alfred Benjamin Wyon, England, 1837–1884. Page 6: Goblet, Great Cobar Copper Mining Company est. c.1869, New South Wales, 1888. Page 9: Peter Thomle, Denmark/Australia, Specimen occasional table, Brisbane, Queensland, 1879.