

Newsletter #8

MAY 2023

Open Days & Picnic Events, Government House & Admiralty House.



Left: Her Excellency, Mrs Hurley chatted with Harriet Elvin AM, ACT Committee Co-Chair and our wonderful team of volunteer Members and Garden Guides at the Government House Open Day 12 in November 2022. The Fund's banner was on prominent display to help encourage sales of *Collecting for the Nation* and other souvenir merchandise.



Left-Right: The grounds of Admiralty House were open on 8 March 2023 for an afternoon picnic event. Assistant to the Fine Art Advisor, Julianne Watson and NSW Member Kerrie Stokes promoted our Collection and organised the raffle of a fabulous bottle of Moët & Chandon with a copy of *Collecting for the Nation*. The winner, pictured right, returned home to the UK with a unique memento of his stay in Australia!



45th Anniversary Reception at Government House, Canberra, 16 May 2023



Sixty-one Members & Supporters travelled from all over the country to support this celebratory evening. Mrs Tamara Fraser AO, founder of The Australiana Fund, was guest of honour at this reception hosted by Their Excellencies, The Governor-General and Mrs Hurley. Fund Chair, Jennifer Sanders and Fine Arts Advisor, Sonya Abbey with Their Excellencies and Mrs Fraser, below left. Past Fund Chair, Mr Richard Griffin AM with His Excellency, below right.



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Message from the Chair

45th Anniversary Event, Government House, Canberra, 16 May 2023.

Their Excellencies the Governor-General, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Mrs Linda Hurley kindly hosted a wonderfully convivial evening at Yarralumla for Members and Supporters of The Australiana Fund.

His Excellency spoke warmly and appreciatively of The Fund's unique contribution to the Official Residences, especially to the vice-regal residences. The Governor-General singled out several artworks which have been highlights of his term of office including the sculpture *Coming Together, Moving Forward, Standing Tall* designed by sculptor Adam Humphries and made by BackTrack Youth Works. As Patrons of BackTrack Youth Works, Their Excellencies were delighted that The Fund supported the acquisition which now has pride of place in the new garden marking the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Our Guest of Honour, Mrs Tamara Fraser AO, The Fund's Founder gave a reflective and illuminating speech about the origins of The Fund, in particular the efforts made by her and her close advisors to ensure that The Fund was supported at the outset by both sides of government. The impressive list of The Fund's donors and benefactors and, its Membership, is testament to the careful thought and clear strategies which underpin The Fund's foundation.

My speech recognized and thanked all The Fund's Supporters and Members from Their Excellencies and Mrs Fraser to the longstanding Members who have been generous donors over many years. After highlighting several of The Fund's key achievements and noting new directions to engage wider audiences, I launched The Fund's campaign to raise \$5 million by The Fund's 50th Anniversary to build our Endowment Fund to ensure the future of The Australiana Fund.

[CLICK HERE FOR JENNIFER'S SPEECH](#)

The evening was a very special event for The Fund as it was a rare opportunity for guests to enjoy their surroundings in Government House and, to view not only The Fund's Collection but also artworks on loan to the House from the National Gallery of Australia. Most enjoyably, Members and their guests had the opportunity to talk with Their Excellencies who have a great interest in The Fund and its Members.

Mrs Hurley entertained us all with a special tribute in song which she had written for the occasion in honour of The Australiana Fund [CLICK HERE TO HEAR MRS HURLEY'S TRIBUTE](#)

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Meeting with representatives of the Office of the Official Secretary of the Governor-General and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet – 27 February 2023

This regular meeting between the parties to the MOU covered a range of topics of importance to the working relationship between all parties. This forum has proved to be an excellent opportunity to exchange information and to flag forthcoming events and opportunities. Topics included organisation of the newly reinstated Open Days at the vice regal Houses; the completion of landscape management plans for the grounds of Government House and of the peninsula defined by the grounds of Admiralty House and Kirribilli House; the potential for new guidebooks for the Houses; collection care and conservation projects and, The Fund's upcoming launch of its Endowment Campaign.

Heritage Values Workshop, Government House

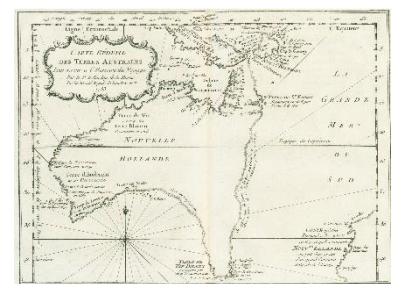
On 5 April, I participated in a workshop at Government House, organised by GML Heritage to discuss the Heritage Values of Government House and its landscape. GML had been engaged by the Office of the Official Secretary of the Governor-General to review the heritage values of Government House and develop a document which informs the heritage significance of the place.

The other participants represented a range of ACT heritage associations including Australia ICOMOS, National Trust ACT and University of Canberra. It was very interesting and informative to hear the range of views about and experiences of Government House. It is clear to me that The Fund has an important role assisting the OOSGG in opening the House and grounds to the public and, in engaging people in the history and stories of the House, Collection and grounds.

The Fund's Collection at large

In The Sydney Morning Herald's March 27 edition, an article by Rob Harris reported on the forthcoming sale of a journal of a French voyage from Brest to Siam in 1687 and 1688. Handwritten by Louis XIV's royal fleet's surgeon, Bremond, the journal recounts the sighting of the coast of Western Australia when the *L'oiseau*, under the command of Captain Abraham Duquesne-Guitton, sighted what he called Terra Australis or 'terre aux tralles' on August 4 1688.

The article goes on to say that the sighting was noted at least as early as 1741 in Jacques-Nicholas Bellin's chart of the Indian Ocean. Many of you will be familiar with The Fund's chart produced by Bellin in 1753 – less than 20 years before James Cook's *Endeavour* voyage. The chart was published in l'Abbe Prevost's *Histoire generale des voyages, 1746 – 1757* and records accumulated discoveries of parts of the Australian coast up to that time. Most were on the west and north-west coasts with Bellin making suppositions about the eastern and southern coastlines, including Tasmania connected to the mainland. The Fund acquired Bellin's chart in 2016 and it is illustrated, (p156), in Nigel Erskine's excellent chapter, *Terra Australis*, in The Fund's book, *Collecting for the Nation*, (pp152 – 161).



A serendipitous discovery

Members who were at the wonderful 2017 AGM in Canberra will remember the visit organised to see *Westridge House*, the Arts and Crafts style home designed by Harold Desbrowe Annear and built for the first principal of the Australian Forestry School, Charles Lane-Poole, husband of Ruth Lane-Poole. Margaret and Chris Betteridge have written a fascinating article in *Australian Garden History*, vol 34, no2, October 2022 about Margaret's discovery there of a wishing well which looked

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very familiar to one shown in photos of *Yaralla's* grounds. Researching the auction sale of the contents of *Yaralla* led Margaret to conclude that the *Westridge House* wishing well was, in fact, a re-purposed Italian well head, possibly dating to the 14thc.

She and Chris traced the well head's provenance to its Venetian origins, then to the grounds of *Yaralla*, Dame Eadith Walker's estate on the Parramatta River and, via a home in Bellevue Hill, to its later appearance in the grounds of *Westridge House*. Their identification and authentication resulted in funds being raised by *Yaralla's* custodians to acquire the well head and restore it to its original site at *Yaralla*.



How serendipitous that the visit to *Westridge* to focus on the story of Ruth and Charles Lane-Poole, led to the restitution of a key element in *Yaralla's* history and setting. Congratulations to Margaret and Chris Betteridge!

Best wishes

Jennifer Sanders

Chair

The Australiana Fund.

2023 Online Lecture Series

There have been 3 online lectures so far this year and the next lecture is on 13 June. Details for online registration for the free Lectures is available on [The Fund's Events page](#). The Fund extends our thanks to all the speakers for their impressive lectures so far and are pleased to advise that the recordings for the Lectures 2022 and #1 and #2 are now available via <https://www.theaustralianafund.org.au/events>.

The recordings for last year's 3rd *Narratives of Nations Symposium* are all available on the website.

Lecture #4 – Tuesday 13 June – 'A Life in Botanic Gardens'. Speaker: Tim Entwisle

Lecture #3 – 'Canberra's Modern: Variations on a Theme'. Speaker: Professor Nicholas Brown

Lecture #2 – 'Fred Ward, Pioneer Australian Designer: His Life and Work in Furniture Design'.
Speakers: Amy Jarvis and Meredith Hinchliffe AM

Lecture #1 – 'Marion's Nature – Marion Mahony Griffin as Pioneering Environmentalist'.
Speaker: Dr Anne Watson

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Collection Update – Conservation Projects

Work began in February on the condition and conservation assessment of The Fund's furniture in storage. Artworks are often moved into or out of storage when there is a change of occupancy in the Houses. To ensure all furniture is in good condition and ready to be moved as required, Greg Peters of Patinations Conservation Services and the Fine Art Advisor examined the condition of each piece and noted any conservation needs, while assessing each item's suitability for practical use and return to display in the Houses.

Patinations will supply a report for each piece, noting its condition and grading any conservation requirements in order of priority – Urgent, Moderate or Low and, prepare a schedule to address any treatment required.



The priorities remain the furniture in the Small Dining Room and the *Yarralumla cabinet* (details pictured) at Government House, as noted in The Fine Art Advisor's Report to the 2022 AGM. In keeping with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General and the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet, this will be a shared cost with Government House.



Thanks to your generosity we have so far raised \$29,307.17 towards these Conservation Project Appeals since January 2020. If you would like more information or would like to help, please go to our website's [Support Us](#) page or use the form at the end of this Newsletter.

Outward Loans

Australiana: Designing a Nation at Bendigo Art Gallery will close 25 June. We have received great feedback from all who have visited and seen the 13 artworks on loan from The Fund's Collection to this important exhibition. Fine Art Advisor Sonya Abbey and Chair of the Fund Jennifer Sanders were interviewed for an article in the Sydney Morning Herald which was published in March.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE ARTICLE](#)

Internship project

With the assistance of ACT Member, Roxanne Missingham OAM, and Professor Laurajane Smith, Head at the Centre for Heritage & Museum Studies, The Fund has embarked on a project to offer ANU students studying Heritage & Museum Studies the opportunity to gain experience and practice in producing significance statements for artworks in The Fund's Collection.

Relationships

In March, our friends at the Australiana Society took a tour of Canberra, visiting a number of historic properties and collections in the region. With the help of the House Manager and staff at Government House, Sonya Abbey was able to arrange for a private viewing of the public reception rooms. She provided a catalogue of The Fund's Collection on display and ACT Member and Fund Conservator, Greg Peters generously gave up his time to demonstrate the *Yarralumla cabinet* and showcase key Fund acquisitions such as the *Munro Ferguson Collection* of native Australian timber samples as well as other significant furniture in the House's collection. Thanks also to Greg's wife Ionë, herself a former assistant to the Fine Art Advisor, who talked about The Fund's decorative arts on display.



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Annual General Meeting, NSW Southern Highlands, 27 – 29 October 2023



On Friday 27 October, Members and Guests will travel by bus at 10am from Sydney CBD or Sydney Domestic Airport at 10:30am, to the Milton Park Country Hotel, in Bowral. Following a light lunch, the Annual General Meeting will be held, followed by a tour of the historic village of Berrima in the afternoon.

Saturday 28 October will include a visit to two privately owned 1930s houses designed by renowned architect Professor Leslie Wilkinson (1882-1973). Wilkinson was Founding Dean of the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Sydney in 1920 and was highly influential.

We will take a tour of 'Ngununggula,' the newly opened Southern Highlands Regional Art Gallery. Following lunch we will tour Refford Park, the heritage home of former Australiana Fund Member James Fairfax AC (1933-2017). We will view the house and garden, now owned by the National Trust, replete with furnishings and art collected by James Fairfax.

The day's events will conclude with our Annual Dinner for Members and Guests which will be held in The Orangerie at Milton Park.

Sunday 29 October, we will visit Hillview House, formerly the country residence of New South Wales Governors from 1882 to 1957, as well as its attendant sculpture park in Sutton Forest. The House was built c.1872-1875 and sold to the NSW Government in 1881 by Richard Pemberton Richardson.

Following this we will visit Golden Vale, a National Trust property and enjoy lunch at Centennial Vineyard and en route back to Sydney we will stop at the NSW Rail Museum in Thirlmere, to view The Governor General's luxurious, historic rail carriage. For those who are interested there will be an opportunity to ride in an historic steam train on the local loop line.

Continuing by bus to Sydney, Members and Guests can be dropped off at either Sydney Domestic Airport at around 6.30pm or continue to the Sydney CBD.

Accommodation

Please Note: Spring is peak season in the Southern Highlands and accommodation can be difficult to find and we therefore recommended you book your accommodation early.

A limited number of rooms are being held on behalf of The Australiana Fund at:

Members are advised to enquire regarding rates and mention The Australiana Fund when booking.

Milton Park Country Hotel Bowral - 02 4861 8100 or reservations@miltonpark.com.au

Please note:

1. Availability is limited. We have reserved some extra rooms but please hurry and book!
2. There have recently been issues with the Milton Park incoming phone system. If you have difficulty reaching them by phone, please use the email address provided above to make your reservation.

Briars Country Lodge Bowral - 02 4868 3566

Other local options are available: Please Note: The Australiana Fund is not holding rooms at these hotels:

Links House Hotel Bowral - 02 48611977

Peppers Manor House Sutton Forest - 1300 092876

Osborne House Bundanoon - 02 4883 6027

Philip Gosse

Chair, New South Wales Committee

Image: Milton Park Country House Hotel & Spa.

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Strategic Plan Update

The current Strategic Plan will be reviewed at the Council meeting in August 2023. Councillors discussed and prepared a risk assessment during the last 12-18 months and this work will be re-considered as part of the review of the Plan. It is anticipated that an update on strategic planning will be provided to Members at the October AGM and then circulated in a later newsletter for Members and Supporters.

The Strategic Plan developed in 2018 was updated and approved by Council in 2021 and currently provides a clear vision that is still relevant for the 45th anniversary.

'A significant collection presenting to the nation stories of culture, place, identity and memory which inspire Australians to celebrate and cherish their distinctive cultural heritage and contemporary creativity.'

A recognised and respected organisation well supported by members, supporters and donors, operating in a financially sustainable way, and preserving and maintaining its significant collection.'

Substantial progress has been made on the 5 (five) key goals:

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

The Australiana Fund National Raffle 2022



The Australiana Fund's second National Raffle was drawn on 12 December 2022

Seven wonderful, Australian prizes, with a total value of \$9,625, were generously sourced or donated by The Fund's State Committees. The inclusion of the unique 'experience' prizes was well received and helped with promotion of the states attractions.

Awareness of The Fund and raffle increased this year providing excellent cross promotion. Our sincere thanks to all those who purchased the 542 tickets sold for this raffle and all those who assisted in its promotion. The profit from the raffle was \$10,373.75. These much-needed funds will be put towards conservation of the Collection.

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The next raffle will be scheduled in 2 years. As well as selling tickets online, an allocation of physical tickets will be supplied for each state committee to sell at events.

Thanks to all the Members and Supporters for their generosity in purchasing tickets, with many purchasing multiple tickets. Your contributions and encouragement are greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to the winners!

1ST PRIZE - John William Lewin, England, 1770, A pair of hand-coloured engravings circa 1822. Framed and glazed [Value \$2,200] Winner J. Boller, Ticket: #301

2ND PRIZE - An exquisite, antique aquamarine pendant necklace [Value \$1,880] Winner D. Colton, Ticket: #188

3RD PRIZE - A Weekend at Bundanon, NSW [Value \$1,700] Winner R. Hannan, Ticket: #345

4TH PRIZE - Six highly collectible, Australian art reference books from the personal collection of a private collector, [Value \$1,400] Winner T. Bradley, Ticket: #79

5TH PRIZE - Two sets of Antique Books including: 2 Vols., British Settlements in Australasia by W. C. Wentworth ESQ, 3rd edition (1824). The Cyclopaedia of Tasmania, Volume 1 & 2 in presentation slipcase. [Value \$1,150] Winner D. Garder, Ticket: #243

6TH PRIZE - Craigs Royal Hotel, Ballarat - Gift Voucher for 2 nights' accommodation for 2 people in a Superior Room including cooked breakfast each day. [Value \$730] Winner A. Tyson, Ticket: #7

7TH PRIZE - A Jug & four beakers set by award-winning designer Robert Foster,
- F!NK Design. [Value \$565] Winner A. Parbury Ticket: #272

Events:

Future events will be added to the Events page when events are confirmed.

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

The Fund's website

Members are reminded that the website is a vital source for Members, Supporters and the general public to access information on the Collection and objects organised in key themes and by type of artwork, conservation and care of the Collection, information on events, access to electronic bookings and purchases, and how to donate. Please take a look at the website for news and updates and follow us on Instagram and Facebook - like and share our posts with your friends!

Contributors, May 2023

Jennifer Sanders, Chair

Sonya Abbey, Fine Art Advisor

Caroline Johnston OAM, Councillor, Vic

Bettina Groves, Councillor, Qld

45th Anniversary Images © SGT Jake Sims, Government House

WAYS TO DONATE

Donation Opportunities

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

The Collection update in this Newsletter 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, Canberra.

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 by clicking: [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

TO DONATE BY VISA / MASTERCARD

I would like to donate \$

Name on the Card:

Telephone:

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:

Thank you for your support