



STATE LIBRARY
VICTORIA

2024 Donor Impact Report

State Library Victoria Donor Impact Report 2024

Published by State Library Victoria

328 Swanston Street

Melbourne VIC 3000

Australia

© State Library Victoria 2024

State Library Victoria acknowledges the traditional lands of all the Victorian Aboriginal clans, and their cultural practices and knowledge systems. We recognise that our collections hold traditional cultural knowledge belonging to Indigenous communities in Victoria and around the country. We support communities to protect the integrity of this information, gathered from their Ancestors in the colonial period.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, who have handed down these systems of practice to each new generation for millennia.

Cover: Attendees view items purchased with funds from the Women Writers Fund on display at *Suffragettes: Sacrifice, power and legacy* event 2024. Photo by Francine Schaepper.

Contents

Thank you from Chair of Foundation Council, Alex Cartel	4
Welcome from CEO, Paul Duldig	5
Vice-Regal Patronage	6
Building the State Collection	8
Caring for the collection	12
Supporting the Library's programs	14
Victorian Indigenous Gallery	17
Your donations at work	18
Spotlight on our donors	22
Bookplates	24
Plaques in La Trobe Reading Room	28
Redmond Barry Society	30
A lasting legacy	32
Events	34
How to support State Library Victoria	35

Thank you from Chair of the Foundation Council, Alex Cartel



Photo by Abigail Varney.

Alex Cartel
Chair, Foundation Council

As Chair of the Foundation Council, I am honoured to present extraordinary stories of philanthropic support for State Library Victoria over the past 12 months. The pride I have in leading the Foundation Council is the same that I have in reading this report. I am humbled to learn of the enthusiasm and generosity of our donor community for the Library's programs and services. What an incredible impact you have had on building the State Collection and preserving Victoria's social history and heritage for future generations.

From its founding 170 years ago, State Library Victoria is now a global cultural landmark and treasured icon for all Melburnians. With over 2.65 million visitors coming through its doors and 6 million visitors online, the support of our donors is paramount in helping the Library meet the ever-changing and growing needs of a diverse Victorian community.

Thank you for your generosity. Together we can ensure State Library Victoria continues to be a place for learning, inspiration and creative enrichment.

Alex Cartel
Chair, Foundation Council

Welcome from State Library Victoria CEO, Paul Duldig

Photo by Jarrod Barnes.



Paul Duldig
CEO, State Library Victoria

The past year was marked by exceptional achievements. These achievements are founded on the generosity and support of our donor community. The stories in this report exemplify your unwavering loyalty to building the treasures of the State Collection and helping the Library become more accessible to all Victorians.

It is important that we acknowledge the significant legacy of our Vision 2020 donors, in particular – the John and Myriam Wylie Foundation, the Hansen Little Foundation, the Gandel Foundation, and Maria Myers AC and Allan Myers AC to highlight just a few.

This legacy has enabled the Library's visitation to reach new heights with an average of 7300 visitors daily, with almost half from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Our exhibitions have attracted unprecedented numbers, with over 1.8 million visitors exploring our special and permanent displays.

Our donor community ensures State Library Victoria can continue its pivotal role as the nexus of arts, culture and learning.

Thank you, so very much, for your generous support.

Paul Duldig
Chief Executive Officer

Vice-Regal Patronage

State Library Victoria is honoured to receive Vice-Regal Patronage by the Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, during her term of office.

Since 1854, State Library Victoria has been a critical enabler of the growth and development of Melbourne. As one of the first three public libraries in the world – and one of the most visited, with over 2.6 million people accessing our free services, programs and historic buildings – it is fitting that the Governor of Victoria would have an official role with our organisation.

Her Excellency the Governor has held many prestigious titles throughout her career, including the first female President and Vice-Chancellor of Monash University, the Chair of the Group of Eight Universities in Australia and Chair of CASE Asia-Pacific Regional Council. In January 2020, the Governor was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia for her eminent service to tertiary education through leadership and innovation in teaching and learning, research and financial sustainability.

Melbourne Public Library, later to be known as State Library Victoria, was founded by Redmond Barry as the people’s university to create open access to knowledge. Today, the Library is a hub of learning, creativity and inspiration with a vast and enduring State Collection that preserves Victoria’s rich, collective heritage.

State Library Victoria looks forward to welcoming the Governor of Victoria to future events.



The Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC.
Photo supplied.



(L to R) Christine Christian AO, the Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC and Paul Duldig.
Photo by Jarrod Barnes.

Building the State Collection

The Women Writers Fund breathes new life into the Library's Rare Books Collection by acquiring significant works by women writers throughout history.

In 2021, two generous donors, Krystyna Campbell-Pretty AM and Helen Sykes, founded the Women Writers Fund, which funds the acquisition of important works written by female authors. To date, the fund has acquired over 150 books with the loyal support of over 60 donors.

Their generosity and foresight enables State Library Victoria to redress the gender imbalance in the State Collection, which stems from historical systemic biases in the literary world and academia. Traditionally, men have been more prominently published and recognised, leading to disproportionate representation of their works.

Acquisitions

The Library wishes to acknowledge the extraordinary support of co-founders, Helen Sykes and Krystyna Campbell-Pretty AM, along with many other donors the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, who have all continued to promote, source and donate incredibly rare and culturally significant items to the fund.

Krystyna Campbell-Pretty has donated a number of items from the UK Suffragette movement, as well as other works by highly significant women. These include:

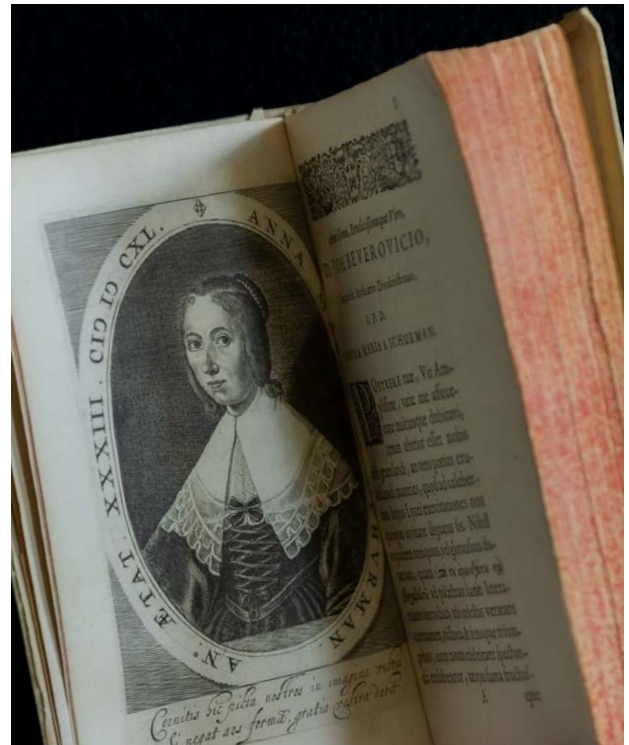
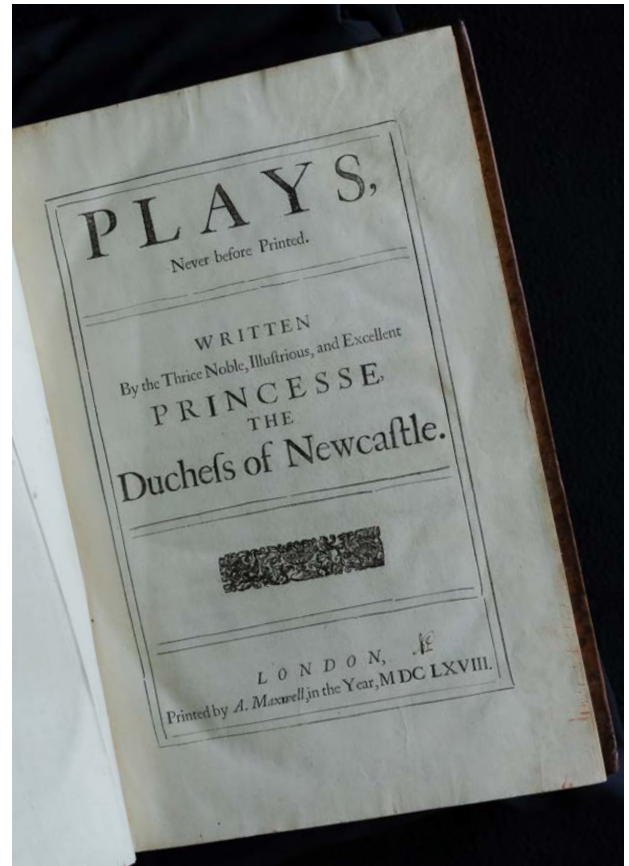
- The hunger strike medal awarded by the Women's Social and Political Union to Elsie Wolff van Sandau in 1912
- A handkerchief created by opponents to the Suffragette movement entitled *Woman's rights and what came of it 198*. Created in the early 1900s, the artwork on the handkerchief depicts the world in 1981 if women were given the vote!

- A first edition of *Plays, Never Before Printed; Written by the thrice noble, illustrious and excellente princesse, Duchesse of Newcastle* by Margaret Cavendish (1623–1673), a playwright, philosopher, poet and scientist who published under her own name at a time when many women could not.
- The most famous work by the Dutch polymath, artist and early feminist Anna Maria van Schurman entitled *Opuscula Hebraea, Graeca, Latina, Gallica. Prosaica & metrica*, first published in 1648. Comprising over 70 letters in Latin, Greek, Hebrew and French, the work cemented van Schurman's status in the 17th century as the most learned woman in Europe.

Helen Sykes generously supported the acquisition of a signed copy of *The Common Reader* by Virginia Woolf (Hogarth Press, London, 1925), the second collection of Woolf's critical essays. This edition includes the dust jacket by Vanessa Bell and is highly valued, as it is the first UK edition.

The Helen Macpherson Smith Trust donated five exciting new acquisitions this year, including:

- *The Tale of Genji* by Lady Murasaki (c. 973–c. 1014/1025). The cultural significance of this work is unparalleled; it is widely considered to be the first novel ever written. Like other iconic texts, including Homer's *Iliad* and Dante's *Divine Comedy*, it is a work that has resonated throughout art and literature, in all periods and across many cultures. However, *The Tale of Genji* has an additional significance in that its author was female.
- *Instituzioni Analitiche ad uso della Gioventu' Italiana* (1748) by Maria Gaetana Agnesi (1718–1799), believed to be the first book of advanced mathematics published by a woman.



Hunger strike medal awarded to Elsie Wolff van Sandau (1912) by the Women's Social and Political Union, H2023.104. Photo by Digital Production, State Library Victoria.

Margaret Cavendish, *Plays, Never before Printed: Written by the thrice noble, illustrious, and excellent princesse, the Dutchess of Newcastle*. London, A. Maxwell, 1668. Photo by Yeoseop Yoon.

Virginia Woolf, *The Common Reader: Second series*. London, Hogarth Press, 1932. Photo by Yeoseop Yoon.

Anna Maria van Schurman, *Nobiliss. Virginis Annae Mariae à Schurman Opuscula Hebraea, Graeca, Latina, Gallica: Prosaica & metrica*. Leiden, Elzevir Press, 1648. Photo by Yeoseop Yoon.



Carshaw & Henderson, *Woman's rights and what came of it '1881'* satirical handkerchief, 1881.
Photo by Digital Production, State Library Victoria.



Ebina Masao (artist), *Mokuhanga Genji Gojūyonjō* ("Woodblock Illustrations to the Tale of Genji"). Tokyo, Yamada Shoin, 1958.
Photo by Yeoseop Yoon.

(L to R) Monika Sznejko, Christine Christian AO, Krystyna Campbell-Pretty AM, Anna Welch, The Hon Maxine McKew AM and Paul Duldig. Photo by Francine Schaepper.



Attendees view items purchased with funds from the Women Writers Fund on display at *Suffragettes: Sacrifice, power and legacy* event 2024. Photo by Francine Schaepper.

Suffragettes: Sacrifice, power and legacy

In March 2024 we celebrated the Women Writers Fund in International Women's Week. Over 160 guests attended a very special event on the suffragette movement entitled *Suffragettes: Sacrifice, power and legacy*. Hosted by former Board member the Honourable Maxine McKew AM, the event was an 'in conversation' with fund co-founder Krystyna Campbell-Pretty AM and Dr Anna Welch, co-curator of the *World of the Book* exhibition at State Library Victoria.

With the trio discussing the suffragette movement in context of the Pankhurst family, it was a special treat to have two surprise guests in attendance: Dr Helen Pankhurst CBE, the granddaughter of Sylvia Pankhurst, who beamed in from London, and Susan Hogan, the granddaughter of Adela Pankhurst, who attended in person. On display were many recent acquisitions to the Women Writers Fund from the suffragette movement that attendees could enjoy.

If you would like to view the conversation, please call our Philanthropy team on (03) 8664 7589.

'What a wonderful evening we all enjoyed last Tuesday. Michele and I found it stimulating; the hall was filled with an atmosphere that was palpable that evening.'

Gwen McIntosh

'I want to say how much we enjoyed the evening! It was a superbly orchestrated event, congratulations to everybody. High quality content as usual from the panel and a masterly performance from Maxine.'

Mary and Miles Lewis

'Great to be able to watch the session. Fascinating and inspiring.'

Dame Barbara Mary Frost DBE

Portrait of Alexander McCrae, oil on canvas, 1835. Before conservation treatment. Photo by Helen Gill.



Portrait of Alexander McCrae, oil on canvas, 1835. After conservation treatment undertaken in 2023-2024, made possible with the generous support of the Marquill Foundation. Photo by Helen Gill.

Caring for the collection

It is only thanks to our generous supporters that we are able to ensure the longevity of the State Collection and preserve its beauty and historical significance for future generations.

Marquill Foundation

The Marquill Foundation has continued its generous support of conserving paintings at State Library Victoria. Painting restoration is not part of the Library's core expenditure and it is only through the generosity of donors such as the Marquill Foundation that paintings on display in Cowen Gallery can be maintained and conserved.

This year, the Marquill Foundation supported the conservation work of 3 paintings: *Melbourne as it Was in 1837, from the Emerald Hill Side of the Falls* by Henricus Leonardus van den Houten; *Robert Hoddle Dec. 1845 near Source of Yarra River Starvation Creek* by Henry Short; and *Portrait of Alexander McCrae* by an unknown painter. As a result of the Marquill Foundation's support, conservator Helen Gill has removed layers of discoloured varnish from these works including oily residue, resulting in paintings that are brighter and more readable.

Collection and Conservation Fund

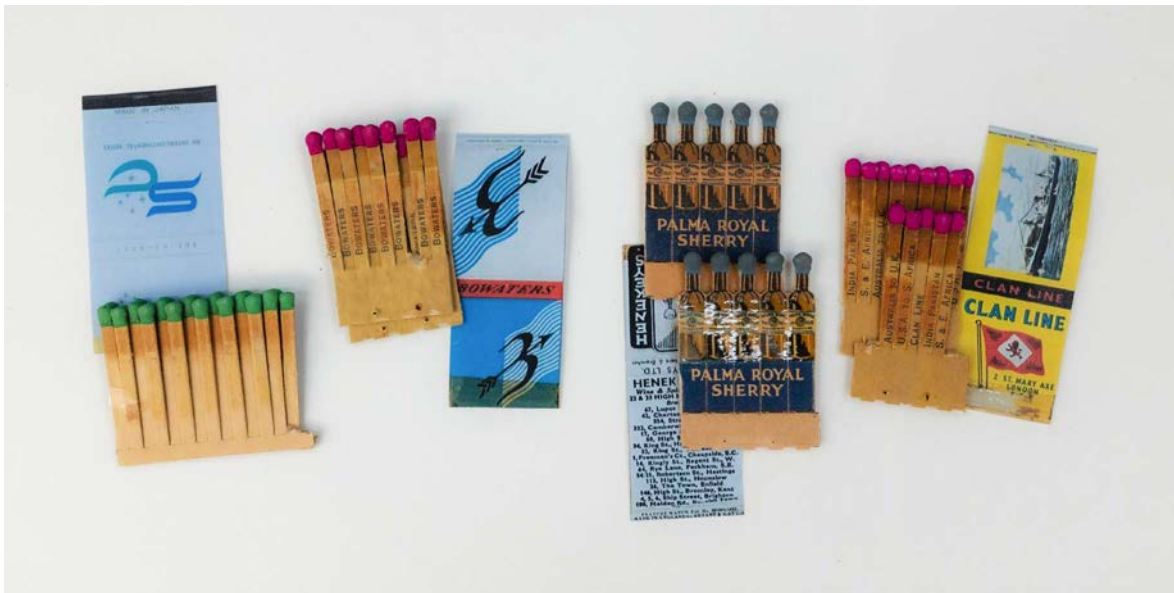
The Collection and Conservation Fund provides much needed support to enable the Library to undertake conservation and preservation that occurs behind the scenes and expand public access to collections into the future.

In 2024, your donations to the fund have supported work on the large Bryant and May matchbook volumes. There are three volumes in total and work has involved the painstaking removal of hundreds of matchbook covers from acidic pages and their rehusing into archival sleeves and albums for greater visibility. The deterioration of sticky tape has caused many matchbooks to come loose within the volumes, so staff have painstakingly restored order to each volume, removed the tape and reinstated matchbooks to their correct place within archival albums, retaining original business information.

Henry Short, Robert Hoddle Dec. 1845 near Source of Yarra River Starvation Creek, oil painting 1860, Photo by Helen Gill.



Bryant and May matchbook volumes, Photo by Yeoseop Yoon.



2024 Lisa Ring and Family Scholar. (L to R) Dr Anushi Rajapaksa and Lisa Ring. Photo by Carmen Zammit Photography.



2024 Lisa Ring and Family Scholar. (L to R) Lisa Ring and Edward Barraclough. Photo by Carmen Zammit Photography.



2025 Lisa Ring and Family Scholars. (L to R) Josh Farrington, Lisa Ring and Ruwini Cooray. Photo by Carmen Zammit Photography.

Supporting the Library's programs

State Library Victoria's programs play a vital role in supporting our community by fostering literacy, learning and access to information for all.

Lisa Ring and Family Scholarships

Since 2022, the Lisa Ring and Family Scholarships have provided seed funding, coaching and support to new business founders just starting their journey. Through the Library's StartSpace program, these scholarships ignite dreams and empower innovators, helping them transform their visions into realities.

The 2024 scholarship recipients were:
 Dr Anushi Rajapaksa co-founder of MISTI – who are developing a consumer-grade next generation nebuliser that will enable better home management of viral infections like influenza, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus and Edward Barraclough co-founder of Drone-Hand – an AI-driven, automated flight-app designed to work with drones that allows easier monitoring of livestock across all terrains.

At the end of 2024, we were pleased to announce the 2025 Lisa Ring and Family Scholars:

- Josh Farrington for development of a patient-centric mobile application to educate and support hospital patients navigating long or complex healthcare journeys.
- Ruwini Cooray for development of an advanced cell-based brain implant solution for treating neurological diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

'My family and I are extremely proud of this year's scholarship winners – both Josh and Ruwini have created and developed fantastic innovations in the health space, and we are looking forward to seeing each of their visions grow into reality over the coming years.'

Lisa Ring



State Library Victoria 2024 fellowship recipients . Photo by Jarrod Barnes.

Fellowships

The Victoria: State Library Fellowships Program supports artists, writers, creatives and scholars to undertake projects that reimagine the State Collection, bring the collection to life and act as an incubator for creative, imaginative responses and fresh perspectives. Fellowships offer recipients funding, desk space at the Library, and access to Library staff expertise to work on a project across a range of areas.

The Fellowships Program has run since 2003, with over 300 fellows supported to work on their projects. The program is run in partnership with several generous donors and organisations, and together we have delivered over \$2.9 million in funding since it began. The 2024 fellowships were awarded to 16 creatives and scholars at an event held on Tuesday 25 June in front of over 80 people. The exciting projects include a new work of fiction about female convicts by an award-winning writer, a digital e-graphic novel to teach teenagers about AI and deepfakes, and plans to re-enact a séance at the Library, evoking the Victorian-era obsession with the afterlife.

Working out of offices in the Library’s magnificent dome annulus, the 2024 fellows reimaged our collections through photography, musical performance, video animation, sculpture and more. This work enriches Victorians’ understanding of who we are, where we’ve been and where we’re going.

- Amor Residency at Baldessin Studio – awarded to Tom Sevil
- Children’s Storytelling and Literature Fellowship – awarded to Anthony and Declan Crowley
- Climate Futures Artist Fellowships – awarded to Michael Dulaney, Dr Ana Lara Heyns and Professor N’arwee’t Carolyn Briggs AM
- Creative Fellowships – awarded to Grace Vanilau and Lawrence Leung
- Georges Mora Fellowship – awarded to Olivia Koh
- John Emmerson Research Fellowship – awarded to Dr Ruby Lowe
- La Trobe Society Fellowship – awarded to Dr Andrew Kilsby
- Marion Orme Page Regional Creative Fellowships – awarded to Dr Christie Nieman and Dr Amaara Raheem
- Redmond Barry Fellowship – awarded to Dr Bridget Vincent
- Russell Beedles Performing Arts Fellowship – awarded to Dr Kate Rice
- Tate Adams Memorial Residency at Baldessin Studio – awarded to Dr Perdita Phillips

Thank you to the donors and bequests who made the Fellowships Program possible:

- Emeritus Professor Robert Shanks and Josephine Shanks
- Rick Amor and Meg Williams
- Morag Fraser AM
- Georges Mora Foundation
- The CJ La Trobe Society
- Anonymous

‘Thank you so much for helping our small rural school students access the wonderful education program you offer. The Ned Kelly armour was such a highlight for so many of our kids. We really appreciate the generosity of the program.’

Emma Phillips, Classroom Teacher,
Berrigan Public School

Primary Research Skills workshops

The Primary Research Skills workshop is specifically designed to build students’ core critical literacy skills by exploring important concepts in online research like bias, credibility and fake news. William Angliss Charitable Fund’s continued support in 2024 provided crucial access for primary school students from disadvantaged and rural schools to participate free of charge. The support covers the cost of participating in the program, a bursary for travel costs if attending the Library onsite and facilitators for the workshop.

Students from across Victoria including schools located in Keysborough, Bendigo, Ballarat and Eildon participated in workshops this year. The workshops enabled students to begin to understand that not everything they read and see online is true, and that it can be tricky to distinguish between credible and unreliable information. As part of the onsite program, students also participate in a guided tour of the Library’s services and heritage spaces.

Access education

Providing free access to our schools programs is an important part of the Library’s mission to open our doors to all.

Yet for many disadvantaged schools in regional and remote parts of the state, it is the costs associated with bringing their students to the Library – such as bus transport – that is the biggest barrier to accessing our programs. Thanks to the generosity of the Datt Family Foundation and other donors including a major anonymous donor, this year 1,135 students from 41 schools participated in our education programs, onsite and online.

One such school is Berrigan Public School, which is more than 250 km from State Library Victoria. Thanks to our donors, we were able to award the school with a grant that helped them travel to Melbourne and visit the Library.



Warrambool College students and their teacher photographed in the La Trobe Reading Room while attending workshops supported by the Access Education program. Photo by Education Program, State Library Victoria.

‘(The facilitator) kept the students engaged with the content and the students learnt about reliable and unreliable websites, which is a skill that they all need.’

California Gully Primary School teacher

Victorian Indigenous Gallery

State Library Victoria is very proud of the establishment of the new Victorian Indigenous Gallery, which is dedicated to telling the story of Victoria's Aboriginal communities. The gallery's first exhibition celebrated the return to Country of two rare and culturally significant works by William Barak, the last traditional Ngurungaeta (elder) of the Wurundjeri-william clan.

Titled *beruk*, William Barak's name in the Woiwurrang language of his people, the exhibition featured a painting, *Corroboree (Women in Possum Skin Cloaks)*, and a parrying shield.

'We have a responsibility as the caretakers of much of Victoria's recorded history to tell the story of Victoria through the ages – and one of the most important aspects of that story is the place of Indigenous communities in our history.'

President of the Library Board of Victoria,
Christine Christian AO

A \$1.25 million gift from the Hansen Little Foundation made the establishment of the new gallery possible. Led by the Victorian Indigenous Research Centre (VIRC) and curated by Indigenous Victorians, the gallery is in a pivotal location in the Library, forming part of the Cowen Gallery/Rotunda suite.

'The State Library Victoria holds an incredible collection of items of deep cultural significance to Indigenous Victorians. The new gallery will open up that collection to the community and provide a safe space for Indigenous communities to shape, share and connect with their history and stories.'

Marcus Hughes, Manager of the Victorian Indigenous Research Centre (VIRC)

The current exhibition in the Victorian Indigenous Gallery is *Treaty*, showing from 27 October 2024 – 27 October 2025.



(L to R) Marcus Hughes, Jane Hansen AO, Paul Little AO, Paul Duldig and Christine Christian AO celebrating the launch of *beruk*, the first exhibition in the new Victorian Indigenous Gallery made possible by the Hansen Little Foundation. Photo by Gerard Assi.

Your donations at work

Past Fundraising Appeals

SOS: Save Our Stories Appeal 2023

At the end of last financial year, we appealed to our supporters to help us raise funds to digitise *The Sun News-Pictorial*, a major Australian daily newspaper offering unique insights into daily life in Victoria that were not captured in any other publication. State Library Victoria has always held hard copies and microfilm of this much-loved pictorial newspaper, but a recent donation of the master film presented the opportunity to digitise the 1922–1954 editions and upload them to Trove, so those living outside of Melbourne could access them.

The appeal to digitise 244 microfilms of *The Sun News-Pictorial* raised over \$420,000 from more than 920 people – many of whom were first-time donors! It was a great result and testament to the passion of the Library’s donors and your support of our mission to collect the stories of our state and to make them accessible to as many people as we can.

Digitisation of *The Sun News-Pictorial* master film is now complete and available on Trove for all Victorians to access. Containing photos and stories of everyday life, it is an invaluable resource for researchers, historians and people seeking to understand their family and ancestral history, as well as social and commercial life in Victoria.

Thank you for your generous support of State Library Victoria’s SOS: Save Our Stories Appeal 2023. We could not have digitised *The Sun News-Pictorial* without your donations.



'I'm excited to share with you that I had a breakthrough in my family history research just yesterday – thanks to a small notice in The Sun News-Pictorial in 1928... I'm thrilled that our donation has resulted in direct benefit for my research, which wasn't really the motivation, but is a great thing. I trust many family history projects are benefiting from The Sun now being on Trove.'

Donor and family historian Ian Young



Two boys in the sunshine enjoying a game of chess on the Library forecourt.
Photo by Eva Garobets.

Make a Move for Victorians Appeal 2023

Summer provided us with a fantastic opportunity to look outside the Library’s walls, where a vibrant community thrives. The giant chessboards on the forecourt are used daily by students, office workers, retirees and families exploring the city, and this is evident in the physical wear and tear of the black and white decals. Our end of year appeal focused on reviving the chessboards, and thanks to the generous support of everyone who donated, the Library was able to raise \$63,000 – exceeding the original \$50,000 target. These funds have already been put to work with the purchase of new decals and chess pieces.

Stop Press

Approval has now been received from Heritage Victoria to commence works for permanent chessboards on the Library’s forecourt. We look forward to sharing an update on the completion later in the year.

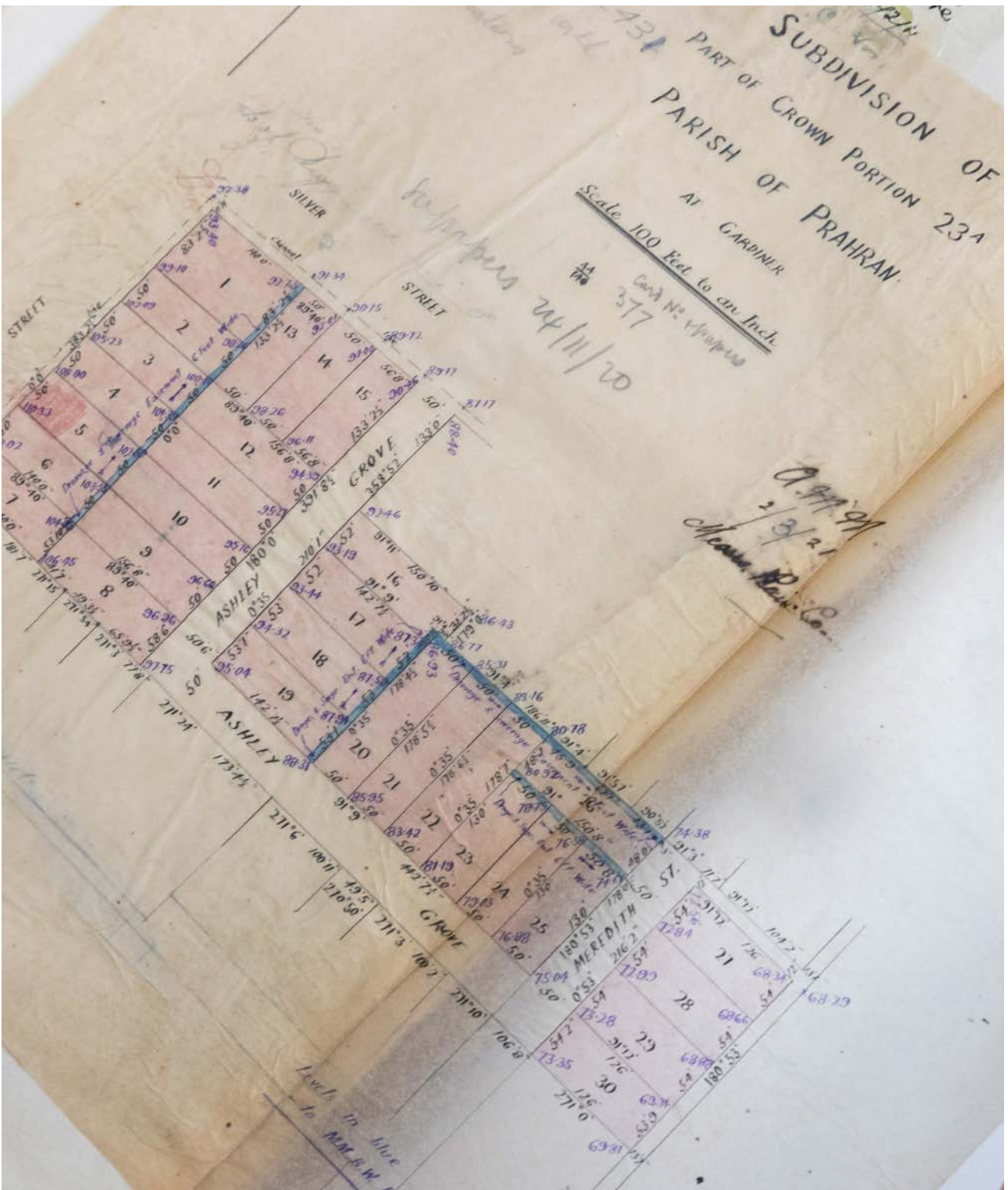
The Library has a strong connection with chess and is home to one of the world’s largest collections, the MV Anderson Chess Collection. This collection contains books, magazines and historic texts on display, along with a row of publicly available chessboards, placed on tables in The Ian Potter Queen’s Hall.

‘Thank you for the opportunity to support the chessboard appeal. The family has a longstanding interest in chess and the MV Anderson Collection. The community chessboard initiative provides important opportunity for engagement and to develop interest in chess for the next generation.’

Rhys Watson, MV Anderson family

‘My grandmother was born in Melbourne and I come down now and then to do family research and see friends... It was my pleasure to make a small donation to the chessboards appeal... Congratulations on reaching the target. It’s a great project with community at its heart.’

Rose Savage, donor



A survey map showing a subdivision in the parish of Prahran photographed for the Maps that Made Melbourne Appeal 2024. Photo by Jim Arneman.

'It is such a worthy cause. I have made use of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works maps at the Library over the years in my heritage research projects. It's time to pay back.'

Anna Wolf, donor



Maps that Made Melbourne Appeal 2024

State Library Victoria's collection of Melbourne survey maps is a missing piece in the story of Melbourne's development. It gives an account of our streetscapes, civic spaces and social development dating back from the 1880s, and reveals hidden histories of the building of our great city.

When the collection was acquired by the Library in 2015, it numbered 37 volumes of 27,000 original field notes and maps. Upon its arrival at the Library, we undertook specialist assessments and determined the poor condition of the maps. While the collection is now stabilised from further damage, it is too delicate to be part of our public collection.

In 2024, the Library appealed for support to preserve this historically significant collection. The generosity of donors exceeded our target, raising an astonishing \$316,000. This means we can now extend our conservation efforts beyond the initial four map volumes.

Given the maps are extremely fragile, often drawn on thin tissue paper that has been folded for 100 years, our Collection Care team will carefully unbind the volumes, unfold and flatten the maps, and safely house them in individual archival sleeves and custom boxes. Cleaning and tear repairs will complete the time-consuming process.

Our Description team will then make meticulous cataloguing records, which will allow our Library patrons to search and discover both the physical and digitised items. High-resolution images will be created using specialised digitising equipment to capture the content of these maps in incredible detail.

These intricate steps undertaken by a number of teams in the Library are necessary to save the maps from permanent damage and to make them publicly available, so that the stories they hold can be accessed by all Victorians.

We would like to thank all who contributed. This incredible result could not have been achieved without your loyal support of State Library Victoria's work.

Spotlight on our donors

We are so grateful to each and every supporter whose generous contribution ensures the Library is a thriving community space and resource hub for everyone to enjoy.

Emanuel Ajay Datt

A love of reading and literature runs deep in Emanuel Ajay Datt's family. Emanuel was greatly influenced by his elder sister, who 'always had her head in a book,' his mother who encouraged 'his voracious thirst for knowledge', and his grandmothers, both retired educators. 'Who instilled in the family the importance of learning and developed in us a curiosity to discover through reading,' Emanuel says.

Throughout high school and university, Emanuel would spend time at State Library Victoria after class, finding it a serene and special place. 'Not surprisingly, my wife also studied at the Library.' He chose a career in fund management, which he finds 'intellectually stimulating and allows me to pursue my curiosity and keep on top of change that is happening so quickly in today's world'.

Emanuel gave to our Access Education Appeal because he says education is key to building a better life. 'Poverty is linked to ignorance and education encompasses equality of opportunity to public resources, no matter what station one comes from in life,' he says. 'This is exemplified at State Library Victoria: accessible and open to all.' With his donation, Emanuel has helped to give students from low-income schools the opportunity to visit the Library and use its programs and services.

'A free library can inspire and create a better society,' he says. And we couldn't agree more!



Photo by Jim Arnehan.

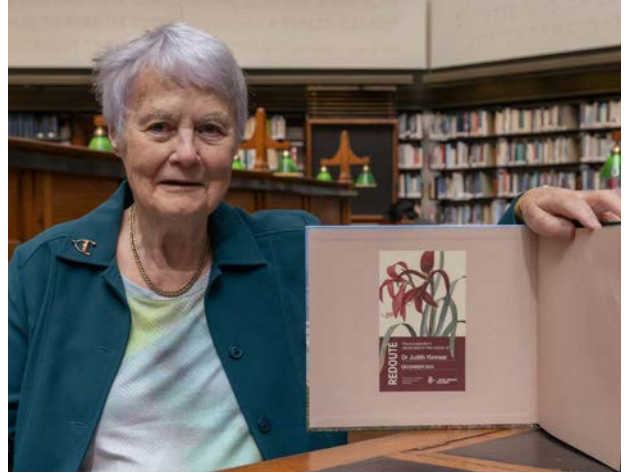


Chris Egan

Chris Egan may have stumbled upon his career – ‘I found a pamphlet on surveying and, being good at maths and science, applied for a cadetship’ – but it proved to be anything but a mistake. Now retired, after over 50 years in the public service, Chris started with the Lands Department as a surveyor. That background proved useful when he switched to IT and became involved with databases and computer-generated maps.

Growing up in Melbourne and living at Queen’s College while at university, Chris would come to the Library to both study and explore his passion for stamp collecting and philately, finding specialist books on the topic. He also has a keen interest in astronomy, which plays an important role in surveying, particularly in identifying true north, as the bearings used in surveying are not always accurate.

Philanthropy is very important to Chris and since 2018, State Library Victoria has been one of 30 charities Chris has selected to donate half of his income. We are so thankful for Chris’s generosity and passion for keeping the Library open and accessible for all.



Dr Judith Kinnear

Growing up ‘a stone’s throw from the domain of Dame Edna Everage’, Dr Judith Kinnear remembers a childhood in Moonee Ponds and later, the bayside suburb of Bonbeach. ‘Here, I began my first collection – one of shells collected on my beach walks, with each specimen later identified and carefully stored.’ This passion for biological sampling at such a young age led Judith to pursue a degree in biology at the University of Melbourne, describing it as an ‘enthraling and fascinating field of study that captured my for my entire adulthood and resulted in my co-authorship of several editions of biology textbooks’.

Now retired, Judith enjoyed a rewarding career as a teacher, researcher and administrator, culminating in her appointment as the Vice-Chancellor at Massey University in New Zealand. Throughout Judith’s life, the Library has been a place of wonder and discovery for her, most notably in her exploration of her family history. ‘There, I could access the valuable documents, books, maps and historical street directories that provided information about generations that preceded me.’

As a bookplate donor, Judith says it gives her pleasure to fund the acquisition of such important books. A true botanist, she says her own interest in books centres principally on antiquarian books related to descriptions and illustrations of early Australian flora and fauna, and the 19th century publications of Charles Darwin. Thank you for your incredible support, Judith!

Bookplates

Bookplates are personalised dedications placed on the inside front cover of new books entering into the State Collection. It is one of the most tangible ways you can show your support for State Library Victoria and continue to safeguard our stories and shared history.



Photo by Francine Schaepper.

Catherine McDonald

A former State Library Victoria staff member, Catherine McDonald (née Leslie) chose to celebrate the birth of her great nieces and nephews Quinn, Shae, Jackson, Leila, Emilia, Olivia and Audrey by dedicating bookplates to them.

This is her way to honour and have family members always remembered and continues a wonderful family tradition she began in 2000.

Catherine says she was delighted with the recent choice of book to place a bookplate in: *Gymnastica Fantastica* by Briony Stewart, which won the 2024 Book of the Year: Early Childhood at the Children's Book Council of Australia awards. Catherine says she looks forward to bringing all her great nieces and nephews to the Library to see their books in person.



Photo by Jim Arneman.

Dr John Dwyer KC

Despite spending some 40 years practising and teaching law, including 20 years as a QC at the Victorian Bar, Dr John Dwyer KC has always preferred the world of plants. It seems only fitting that bookplates bearing his name can be found in a number of books in the State Collection on the subject! 'I like the bookplate program because I can make my mark on books in the Library of botanical turn,' he says. John's main passion area is weed management, having attained a PhD on *Weeds in Victorian Landscapes* in 2007. He later published a book, *Weeds, Plants and People*, in 2016 and an anthology, *Weeding Between the Lines*, in 2023. John is a long-term bookplate donor and Library Cultural Member.

Photo by Francine Schaepper.



Primrose Bright

In the 1920s, an extraordinary family treasure was shipped to Australia and stored in a cellar in Sorrento, Victoria: a trove of papers documenting more than two centuries of international trade. After the cache was almost consumed by a fire in 1967, it was donated to the University of Melbourne in 1980 for protection and conversation. These papers formed the basis of Primrose Bright's painstakingly researched *Tales of Opportunity: The Bright Family of Hereford & Bristol 1066-2020*, documenting her husband's family's involvement in the West Indian trade from the mid-18th to the mid-19th century. Today, that book contains a bookplate honouring Primrose's late husband, Charles Bright. The couple have supported the Library's bookplate program since 2011, and their generosity is honoured and remembered by the Library.

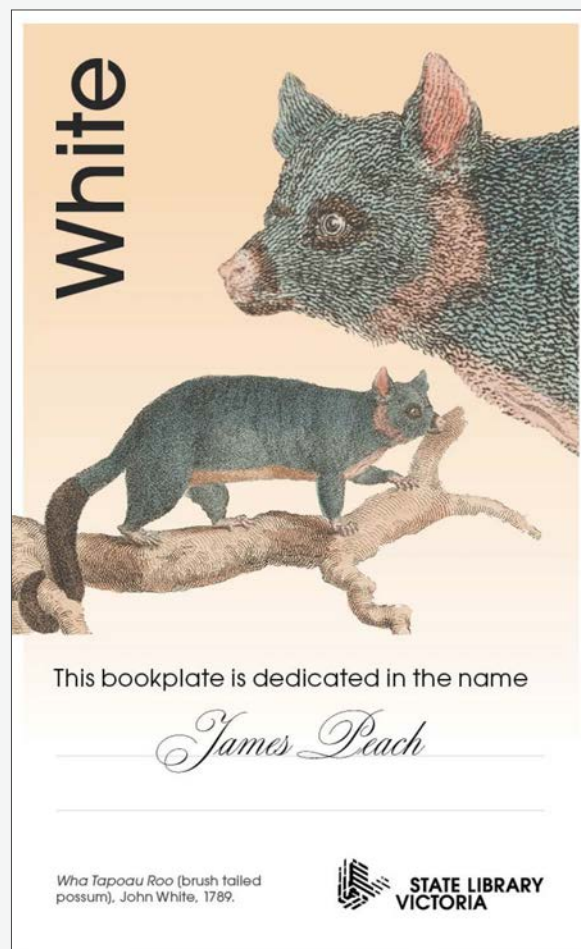


Photo by Jim Arneiman.

Mary Apostolopoulos and Barbara La Scala

Jane La Scala was the definition of a book lover. Her daughters Mary and Barbara say their family home had so many bookcases, some were even placed on the landing because they ran out of room! Jane was the State Librarian at State Library Victoria in the late 1980s, and Mary and Barbara say they remember her office being where Mr Tulk Cafe now stands. Jane was interested in Pompeii, Roman gardens and woodwork. The sisters say that if she was interested in a topic, Jane would buy every book she could find about it. Mary and Barbara came to the Library in June 2024 to view their bookplate donation book in the memory of their beloved mother Jane.

Bookplate designs for 2025 (L to R): Wha Tapoau Roo (brush tailed possum) by John White; Schnabelthier ... (Platypus...) by Eugene von Guérard and Osphranther Antilopinus (Red Kangaroo), by John Gould



New bookplates for 2025

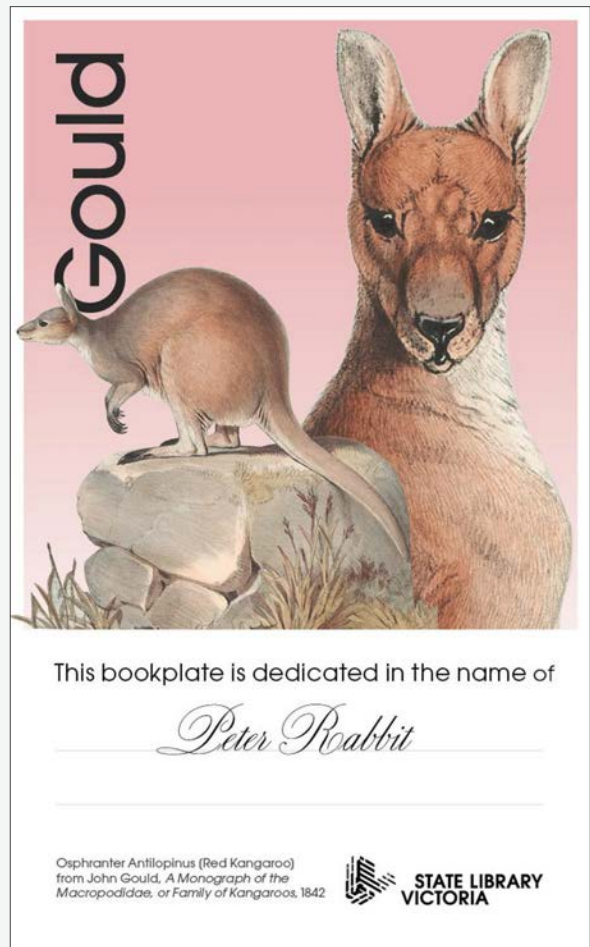
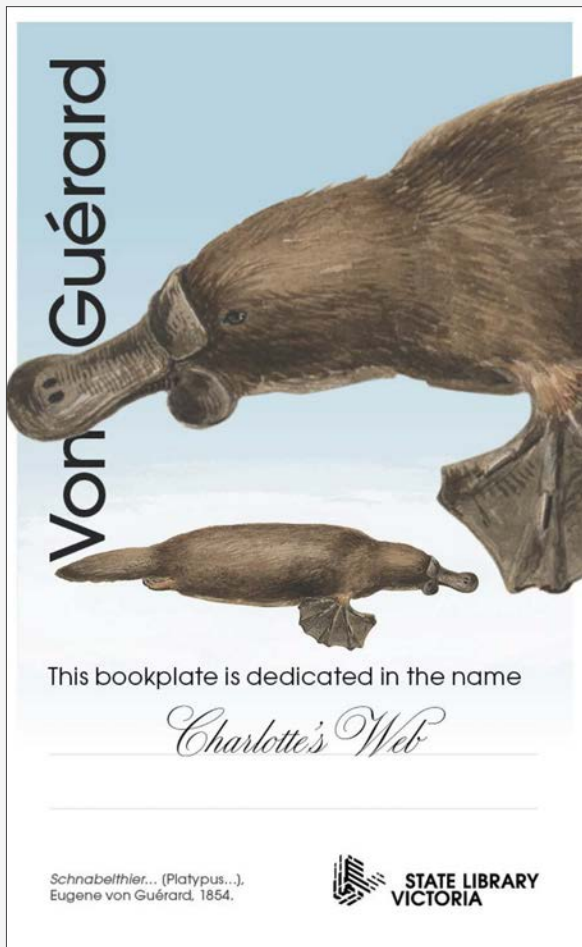
Every year, three new bookplate designs are available to choose from, each including a stunning illustration from the Rare Books and Pictures Collections. Our latest series features three native Australian animals:

- Wha Tapoau Roo (brush tailed possum),
by John White (1756–1832)
– \$175 donation
- Schnabelthier ... (Platypus...),
by Eugene von Guérard (1811–1901)
– \$500 donation
- Osphranther Antilopinus (Red Kangaroo),
by John Gould (1804–1881)
– \$1000 donation

About the illustrators:

White

In 1786, John White (1756–1832) was appointed chief surgeon to the First Fleet and surgeon general in the colony of New South Wales until 1794. With a keen interest in natural history, White published *Journal of a Voyage to New South Wales* in 1790. The work represents one of the earliest and most important first-hand accounts of Australian colonial history and includes 65 plates of a wide variety of animals, insects, fishes and plants.



Von Guérard

Austrian painter Eugene von Guérard (1811–1901) bravely set out to paint the unexplored territories of Australia ‘with the eye of a scientist and the heart of an artist’. He was arguably one of Australia’s most important colonial landscape painters given his meticulous attention to detail and breathtaking compositions. A global traveller, von Guérard trained in Vienna and painted throughout Europe before settling in Australia in 1852 for the latter three decades of his life. Von Guérard served as the first Master of the School of Painting (1870–1881) for the National Gallery of Victoria.

Gould

English-born John Gould (1804–1881) was known as ‘the birdman’ and the ‘father of ornithology’ in Australia. Gould collected birds obsessively from a young age, and by 14 showed his entrepreneurial flair selling taxidermy to children of the aristocracy. Gould worked closely with his wife, artist Elizabeth Gould, who contributed her skills in illustration and lithography to a number of his publications. While undertaking field work in Australia, Gould’s attention was also captured by the ‘strange’ mammals, and he is credited with describing 45 species.

If you would like to learn more about donating a bookplate, please call our Philanthropy team on (03) 8664 7589.

Plaques in La Trobe Reading Room

Plaques in the iconic La Trobe Reading Room, one of the most famous tourist hotspots in Melbourne, can both honour and memorialise our achievements and our loved ones – those living and those who have passed.



Photo by James Braund.

Brad Grandison

Each plaque carries not just a name, but a story of a life lived – their passions and their contributions, as told by the people who love them. Some touch on the pain of loss such as a plaque donated by Brad Grandison to honour his older brother, Stephen.

Stephen was an electrical contractor who worked on major city building sites and was a mentor for many young electrical apprentices. As a book lover, and collector he would often visit State Library Victoria. Brad felt that the La Trobe Reading Room was the perfect place for family and friends to reflect on Stephen's life and impact and ensure his spirit is kept alive.



Photo by Jim Arneiman.

Damien and Lisa Richardson

Damien and Lisa Richardson donated a plaque in honour of their son, Jack, who died just shy of his 31st birthday. Jack was a hero on many levels. He would often come to the Library from where he worked and read for a few hours.

Damien, Lisa and their daughter, Molly described their pride in Jack who was simply a wonderful, caring human being.



Emeritus Professor Andrew Scott

Earlier this year, Prof Andrew Scott marked the importance of the Library in his life with a plaque in his name. He shared with us his memories of the La Trobe Reading Room from decades past:

'In 1978, as a teenager, one of the books I read there was by Julian Symons, entitled Bloody Murder: From the detective story to the Crime Novel: A history, published by Faber and Faber, London, 1972. The process of ordering books then was to put in a handwritten slip (after finding the call number for it on a card) in one of the many small wooden drawers which made up the catalogue... After a staff member brought the book down from the stacks, they would call out its title. One week, a man who brought that book down looked at the main title and was a bit shy to call it out, so he coughed nervously and just said, "A History of the Detective Story". The next week a different man brought it down and he had no inhibitions at all, indeed he was a complete larrikin - so he yelled out at the top of his voice, "BLOODY MURDER!!" I was somewhat embarrassed as I went to collect it from him with several older people smirking as they waited for theirs.'

Prof Andrew Scott

If you would like to learn more about donating a plaque, please call our Philanthropy team on (03) 8664 7589.

Redmond Barry Society

The Redmond Barry Society honours those who, through a bequest or living legacy, support the Library's collections, conservation work, free programming and free exhibitions – for now and for future generations.

In honour of the Redmond Barry Society, an inaugural dinner was held on 19 June with guest speaker Kim Williams AM, Chair of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

More than 150 guests attended the formal dinner that commenced with a collection display of bequeathed items in the La Trobe Reading Room, followed by a three-course dinner in Cowen Gallery – a beautiful surround of artworks representing Victoria's history. Kim commented on the vision of Sir Redmond Barry in founding the Melbourne Public Library (that was to become State Library Victoria) and the importance of access to information and knowledge.

The inaugural dinner marked the reinvigoration of the Library's bequest society with updated brochures and a special pin for all Redmond Barry Society members who have pledged to leave a gift in their will to the Library.

To view a recording of Kim Williams's speech or for further information about joining the Redmond Barry Society, please contact the Philanthropy team on (03) 8664 7589.



Harpist Hannah Lane performing in the La Trobe Reading Room for the Redmond Barry Society Dinner 2024. Photo by Francine Schaepper.



Kim Williams AM giving his keynote address at the inaugural Redmond Barry Society Dinner 2024.
Photo by Francine Schaepper.



(L to R) Roger Blythman OAM RFD, Alison Blythman, Ian Morrison, Tim Bourke, John Arnold, Elspeth Dargaville, Dr Garry Joslin, Prof. Dimity Reed AM, Rev. David Richardson, AO, OBE, Margie Richardson.
Photo by Francine Schaepper.



(L to R) The Hon. Minister Colin Brooks MP, Christine Christian AO, Kim Williams AM and Paul Dulzig. Photo by Francine Schaepper.

A lasting legacy

A gift in your will, whatever the size, will help the Library continue to expand our collections, present exhibitions and run cultural programs for our growing number of visitors. You'll help us plan ahead and fund innovative projects that inspire new audiences.

We would like to honour the following donors who have remembered State Library Victoria in their estate over the past 12 months. We thank them for their generosity that will ensure the Library can continue to serve our community for generations to come.

- The late Bettina Florence MacAulay
- The late Colleen Farrell
- The late Robert (Bob) Ross
- The late Joyce Olga Evans
- The late Lynn Rooney
- The late Frank Van Straten

Living legacy: Dorothy Anderson

One day in the 1980s, Dorothy Anderson was flipping through the *Geelong Advertiser* when a small article about a ship called *Gazelle* caught her eye. On this ship were men of all trades, including dock workers, ship builders, dentists and doctors, who built and sailed *Gazelle* from London to Geelong in 1853 in search of a better life.

Something about this story piqued Dorothy's attention and from then on, she would visit State Library Victoria one day a week to undertake research. Eventually, her hard work became a book, *The Tradesmen of Gazelle*, self-published in 2000. Written in three sections, the book covers the journey to Australia, the tradesmen's settlement, and their impact and contribution to the growth of the settlement of Victoria.

Dorothy began giving to the Library in 2020 after her husband Ewart passed away. Both she and Ewart were teachers, who shared a love of education and learning. Dorothy's decision to leave a gift in her will to the Library is in gratitude 'for the pleasure in finding treasures in unexpected places over the years' she visited the Library. Dorothy also loves that the Library is open to all and treats all who visit equally and with respect.

Thank you, Dorothy, for your wonderful generosity.

Bob Ross. Photo supplied.



Vale Bob Ross

A tribute by David Boyle, friend and executor of Robert (Bob) William Ross estate:

Born in East London on Valentine's Day, 14 February 1943, Bob immigrated to Australia in 1955 with his family and settled in Wandin. Bob attended Lilydale High School and later commenced his working career in the Department of Crown Lands and Survey in 1961. Bob's father died at a relatively young age, his mother passed away 12 days after Bob's 45th birthday, and his brother Antony died in about 2007, leaving Bob as the only surviving member of his immediate family. He never married.

He remained with the government until his retirement early in 2010, where he was employed as the Office of Surveyor-General's Geodetic Surveyor. Geodesy is the science of accurately measuring and understanding the earth's geometric shape, orientation in space and gravity field. Bob and his work were widely respected across the geodetic sections of both the Australian and New Zealand government agencies.

Bob was intolerant of incompetence and laziness, and as a result, some knew him as 'Grumpy Bob'. Apart from being a man of few words, there were few in the workplace with whom he would engage in social chit-chat. However, he was genuinely happy to help and teach those who were willing to learn. Bob was intelligent, educated, very widely read and blessed with a seemingly semi-photographic memory. Bob was never motivated by money but was generous to a fault. He donated to what he believed were deserving charities and would often bring in his produce from his garden to give to the ladies in the office.

Grumpy Bob? Perhaps. I liked him because he spoke his mind and was to the point. Bob was a genuine individual who lived with adversity but did so without complaint. He was a man with a social conscience and a heart of gold.

State Library Victoria wishes to thank David for his words and Bob for his incredibly generous bequest.

Events

End of Year Cocktail Party

Given 2023 was a record-breaking year for State Library Victoria, with over 2.6 million people coming through our doors (the highest number in the Library's history!), it was only fitting we threw a big party to celebrate. Our End of Year Cocktail Party was also a great chance to honour the essential role our donors and friends played in the year's success.

The night was hosted by Alex Cartel, Board and Foundation Council Member; and President of the Board, Christine Christian, announced a new Gallery in the South Rotunda, made possible by the support of the Hansen Little Foundation.

Stacey Piper, Coordinator, Curatorial and Collections in the Victorian Indigenous Research Centre, introduced the new *beruk* exhibition in the South Rotunda, created by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and celebrating William Barak's life and cultural legacy. Guests were invited to explore the exhibition which welcomed home two artworks, *Corroboree (Women in Possum Skin Cloaks)* and a parrying shield, back to Wurundjeri Country and community where they belong.

We were truly delighted to see a room full of active donors and to witness the rise in popularity of this annual event. With this huge surge in popularity in 2024 we introduced a cap on this event. Be sure to RSVP to the 2025 event early!

Donor morning teas

Our donor morning teas are a fantastic opportunity to express our gratitude to our supporters and strengthen relationships within our community. These informal gatherings also allow donors to see the impact of their contributions firsthand.

This year, we had two morning teas. In February, we celebrated the success of our end of year Make a Move for Victorians Appeal and highlighted our valued bookplate donors by displaying the books that hold their bookplates from the past year.

Our morning tea in August was our biggest morning tea yet, with over 160 supporters attending in the beautifully decorated Isabella Fraser Room. We celebrated the success of our Maps that Made Melbourne Appeal, with our experts from the Collection Care team sharing how they will prepare the map volumes for intensive treatment and conservation. It was a captivating presentation, with many audience members saying they learned a lot about preserving historically significant artefacts.



Guests celebrate at the 2023 End of Year Cocktail Party in a colourfully lit Cowen Gallery. Photo by Gerard Assi.



Dome ceiling in the La Trobe Reading Room. Photo by Cameron Murray.

How to support State Library Victoria

There are many ways you can support State Library Victoria:

Consider leaving a gift in your will and become a member of the Redmond Barry Society. Our Philanthropy team can provide you with more information via the number below.

Remember your loved ones through a plaque in the La Trobe Reading Room or a bookplate that will appear in a new book from the Library's collection.

Donate:

- **Online:** slv.vic.gov.au/donate
- **Call (03) 8664 7589** for our bank details or to speak to a member of the Philanthropy team to find out more information on our programs

We rely on the generosity of our supporters to keep knowledge and learning open to all. Thank you for considering how you can partner with us.

Women Writers Fund

Your support will help us preserve and celebrate women's voices.

Please donate now
slv.vic.gov.au/womenwriters



Suffragettes: Sacrifice, power and legacy event 2024. Onstage (L to R) Monika Szumelko, The Hon. Maxine McKew AM, Krysina Campbell-Prierty AM and Dr. Anna Welch, *Woman's rights and what came of it* '1981' satirical handkerchief, '1881'. Photo by Francine Schaepper.

State Library Victoria
328 Swanston Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
Australia
slv.vic.gov.au

