

A new year, a new name but even more opportunities to connect with the arts and each other!

From the Chair:



Dear fellow Members and Supporters of ArtsNational Molonglo Plains,

Our ArtsNational year of lectures and events is happening **soon** – starting a month earlier than usual. We’re thrilled that we have been able to offer a series of 9 lectures this year – 6 UK lectures, 3 Australian -as well as two Special Interest Mornings – mid year and November – that provide an opportunity to learn even more about some fascinating topics. This is the biggest program we have ever fielded and with some upgrading to our audio-visual capacity at the C3 venue, it should be a marvellous year ahead.

We’re also continuing to provide some extra benefits for ArtsNational Molonglo Plains membership. Coming up soon is an opportunity to visit historic ‘Bedervale’ in Braidwood and also a chance to grab some excellent tickets to the next Canberra International Music Festival.

So read all the details in this newsletter and the Committee and I look forward to seeing you all on Thursday 22 February.

Lindy Ross, Chair.

Ready for
the first
lecture in
two weeks?

Membership
Matters p.2



Members’ Special
Event –
Visit to historic
‘Bedervale’ in
Braidwood +
lunch at Albion
Hotel p. 7



Members’
Special Offer –
Group discounts
to five events at
the Canberra
international
Music festival
See page 8.



All about our first
three lectures for
2024 pp 3-5

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

So far, we have 82 financial members, still well short of our 2023 total of 108, and it goes without saying that we wish to increase our 2024 numbers beyond last year's total. So, if you have not already renewed your membership, or joined us for the first time, please consider doing so.

As in previous years, our first lecture will be very busy before the lecture, as we distribute new Membership Badges, sign up new and renewing members and process payments. We therefore ask that you arrive early (from 1.30) and be prepared to queue for a short time. Committee members will be on hand to assist and guide.

Membership 2024

Thank you to those members who have already renewed for 2024 or joined for the first time. If you wish to renew/join before the lecture there is a link to the Trybooking website at the end of this Newsletter. **This is our preferred option.**

Alternatively, please print the Membership Form, and write your details on it. Payment instructions are included on the form, but you can also bring the completed form with you to the lecture and pay at the Membership Desk.

Membership Badges and Visitor Arrangements

Please note that your 2024 Badge is proof of your membership as well as your means of entry to each lecture. To assist your fellow members and your committee, please retain it for the duration of the 2024 lecture season and wear it at each lecture.

Membership Badges for financial members 2024 will be available for pickup at the lecture. For **Early Bird** members who joined before the end of November 2023 your free **Visitors Pass** will be inserted behind your name on the badge.

Visitors (RSVP 12pm Tue 20 February)

Visitors are always welcome to attend. Visitors should advise Membership Secretary Jessica Cameron of their name and if they have any dietary needs and/or accessibility requirements.

Visitor entry fees, discounts, Visitor Passes and 'lending' your Membership Badge	
\$30	Normal Visitor rate, including afternoon tea.
\$25	Discounted rate for Canberra and other ArtsNational society members (proof of membership required).
Visitor Pass	If you have a free Visitor Pass, please surrender it at the Visitors' Desk.
Other	If you are a member and can't attend the lecture you can lend your Membership Badge to a friend/family member, but please advise us in advance that you are doing so. Your friend/family member MUST show the badge on entry and let us know they are attending in lieu of you.

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These were the delicious scenes at our final lecture for 2023 'Everything Stops for Tea.' Things certainly didn't stop for our superb afternoon tea, as you can see!



And now, more treats coming up in our Autumn Lecture Program:

2pm Thursday 22 February

CLARE BLATHERWICK The Story of the Cullinan Diamond Mine

Clare is an independent jewellery consultant with over 20 years' experience in the industry. She spent 10 years as Head of Jewellery for Bonhams in Scotland, which involved travelling internationally searching for unique jewels to auction. Clare has a passion for the historical aspect of jewellery and lectures widely on this in both the U.K and the U.S Clare is also a member of the Society of Jewellery Historians.



This talk deals with the fascinating story of a diamond mine in South Africa that remains the source of the largest piece of diamond rough in history. From the creation of diamonds deep within the earth's crust to images taken by the speaker as she travelled 750m underground to examine the workings of the mine and of

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course a look at some of the famous diamonds it has produced, this talk gives a behind the scenes look at something most of us only ever see in shops.

2pm Thursday 21 March

SHARON FIELD Really Big Art Works- Why Do Them?

Sharon is one of our 'local heroes'. She is a botanical artist who has exhibited locally, nationally, and overseas. Awarded a residency at Bundanon, a certificate of excellence from the Botanical Art Society of the UK, a finalist in the Waterhouse Natural Science Art awards, Sharon has recently been elected Board Member of the American Society of Botanical Artists. She now travels regularly to speak at workshops and exhibitions all over Australia and overseas. Sharon has lectured previously for our society and is back by popular demand!



Why do artists create over-sized artworks? Sharon's lecture will be a unique opportunity to examine firsthand an over-sized artwork- a 9 metre, hand painted evolving scroll. This scroll has travelled the world as it has grown, pictured here in New York. What is the message behind this work called '3000 days – and counting'? A clue lies in Sharon's philosophy behind her art 'My particular interest is in the dramatic sculptural forms and patterns that nature creates which can be living or dead, large or small, coloured or bleached.'

Interested in home hosting our travelling lecturers?

Last year we home-hosted all our visiting lecturers – a great experience not only for our members who did the hosting, but the lecturers who really enjoy time in a 'home' rather than a hotel. If you are interested, there is financial assistance available to help defray your costs and we can discuss what time of the year or lecturer you would prefer. I know from experience it's great fun! Contact me at chair@artsnationalmp.au or 0427 625 860 if you need more information.

Lindy

2pm Thursday 18 April

SUSANNAH FULLERTON 'And so to bed . . .'- The Diary of Samuel Pepys and Restoration London.

Susannah has been passionate about literature for as long as she can remember. She has a BA from the University of Auckland NZ and a post-graduate degree in Victorian literature from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. She currently teaches literature courses in Sydney and lectures regularly at the State Library of NSW and the Art Gallery of NSW. Susannah is the first recipient of an Arts Fellowship of the Royal Society of NSW and has received an OAM for services to literature. Susannah is one of our most popular Australian lecturers and spoke to us last about The Mitford Girls.



The diary of Samuel Pepys has long been considered the greatest diary in the English language. Historians have found it invaluable, but it is also a superb work of literature and the record of an extraordinary man. Founder of the modern English navy, President of the Royal Society, Member of Parliament, author of books on the navy, talented musician and composer and lover of a very large number of women, Samuel Pepys delighted in many aspects of Restoration London and recorded them all in his diary.

“And so to bed ...”, Susannah Fullerton’s talk on Pepys, tells of his experience of the Plague and the Great Fire, his constant womanising, his theatre-going and his dinners. Susannah loves to share her enthusiasm for this most human and delightful of diarists.

Any philanthropists out there?? Cash burning a hole in your pocket? Some welcome news for all our ArtsNational societies – we are now registered for tax-free deductible donations. We’ll soon have a donations button on our web page and booking site if you feel so inclined. Maybe you might consider boosting our Young Arts Grants program? 😊

Young Arts Program:

Our 'Spectacular' success in 2023

Our Young Arts Grant fundraising last year (2023) enabled ArtsNational to help Marie-Cecile's School of Music at Jerrabomberra stage its first public concert at the Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre. Thank you to so many of you who have supported our monthly raffles, we contributed \$1,000 to School of Music's concert for which all concerned were extremely grateful.

Marie-Cecile has expressed her sincere thanks and appreciation for our financial support. She commented that her feedback from family and friends, who attended the concert, was somewhat overwhelming. **Without ArtsNational her Music Spectacular at The Q in November 2023 would not have happened.**

It was a wonderful display of local talent with performances from Marie-Cecile's many students. The concert was divided into 2 sessions; the first session consisted of approximately 20 young students including special needs children. The later second session was for older students...including some with diverse abilities. The duration of each session was about 3 hours and included choral and instrumental performances.

ArtsNational Molonglo Plains will consider how we could continue some financial support for her this year with our 2024 Young Arts Program.

We are also endeavouring to identify and support other local Young Arts Programs and hopefully this year we will be as successful as 2023.

Thank you again for your generous support.

Jan Whyte
Young Arts Coordinator



Our first Special event for Members: Tuesday 5 March

EXPLORE



Seminar Bedervale – 200 years of history

Tours of the house with presentation by Roslyn Russell, of Roslyn Russell Museum Services, and other speakers on why Bedervale should be preserved.

BEDERVALE HOMESTEAD
Monkitee Street, Braidwood

5 MARCH TUESDAY 10 AM–3 PM



For further information or to register for this event please email advocacy@nationaltrust.com.au

There is no cost for this event.

This seminar is a part of Collection Conservation Project running in Bedervale from 5 March to 10 April 2024.

Our ArtsNational Molonglo Plains member Margaret Royds has suggested this might be a great outing for our members. This is Margaret's family home – a really special part of our local history and we want to support its preservation.

Let us know if you'd like to come along to the tours and seminar and join us for lunch at the Albion Café in Braidwood. We'll have a sign on sheet at the Feb 22 lecture or contact Lindy chair@artsnationalmp.au

Our second Special Event:



Once again Committee Member Anna Prosser has arranged for ArtsNational Molonglo Plains members to purchase discounted tickets to this **year's Canberra International Music Festival**. This was a most popular event last year and many took up our special discount offer, so here it is again!

This year the main CIMF venue is the stunning new Snow Concert Hall at Canberra Grammar – marvelous seating and acoustics. There are also opportunities to buy tickets for daytime events at the Albert Hall.

The discount code is **ArtsNational** valid for \$10 off the **\$60 ticket**, In the case of Snow, these are the Reserve B seats (Albert Hall is General Seating). Members just choose the \$60 ticket and apply the discount code (not case sensitive) at checkout.

Code	Date/Time	Music	Venue	Web link	Discount
C2	Wed 01 May 7:30pm	Opening Gala - Compassion	Snow	https://events.humanitix.com/c2-compassion	Discount code: ArtsNational
C3	Thu 02 May 11am	Trio Karénine	Albert Hall	https://events.humanitix.com/c3-trio-karenine	Discount code: ArtsNational
C4	Thu 02 May 3pm	Dudok Quartet	Albert Hall	https://events.humanitix.com/c4-dudok-quartet	Discount code: ArtsNational
C12	Sat 4 May 7:30pm	Bach's Brandenburg - Part I	Snow	https://events.humanitix.com/c12-brandenburg-part-i	Discount code: ArtsNational
C13	Sun 5 May 11am	Bach's Brandenburg - Part II	Snow	https://events.humanitix.com/c13-brandenburg-part-ii	Discount code: ArtsNational

The whole festival program is available on the website <https://cimf.org.au>

Many thanks, Anna, for again organizing this very special opportunity for us.

ARTSNATIONAL MOLONGLO PLAINS 2024 COMMITTEE

CHAIR Lindy Ross **VICE CHAIR** Jan Whyte
TREASURER Lydia Melnikoff **SECRETARY** Susie Ryrie
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARIES Jessica Cameron and Chris Costas

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Lucy Costas, Barry Cranston, Margaret Dunkley, Elizabeth Grant, Sophia Notaras, Meralyn Bubear, Anna Prosser, Margot Sawyer.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES AND WEB PAGE

Please add our new email addresses to your email address book.

Membership (Jessica Cameron): membership@artsnationalmp.au

Chair (Lindy Ross): chair@artsnationalmp.au

Web page: <https://www.artsnational.au/societies/molonglo-plains/>

New/renewing memberships: <https://www.trybooking.com/CMGEZ>

ArtsNational Molonglo Plains Inc
Meeting in 2024 at the C3 Auditorium,
116 Monaro St, Queanbeyan. Enter from Rutledge Carpark.
9xThursdays at 2 pm.
ArtsNational Molonglo Plains members FREE, visitors \$30
Contact the Membership Secretary for visitor booking on
membership@artsnationalmp.au