

## From the Chair:



Dear fellow Members and Supporters of ArtsNational Molonglo Plains,

Welcome back to another year of stimulating lectures with a group of like-minded members! We are thrilled to be able to provide our members with ten lectures this year, plus a wonderful Special Interest Morning in April. There will be six lecturers coming from our UK sister organisation (The Arts Society) and four Australian speakers, all providing new insights into their specialty areas.

Our first lecture in February brings a very special experience with two experts –Robert and Catherine Ketton – speaking AND painting the story of the brilliant artist JMW Turner

And later, in April, we celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of Jane Austen with Australia's foremost Jane Austen tragic, Susannah Fullerton speaking at both her Austen lecture and then a **Special Interest Morning** on Byron and Vita Sackville-West.

Our Committee has one change this year. We farewell and thank Margaret Dunkley for her time with us and welcome new Committee member Bev Webb. And many thanks for the many home hosting offers – only one spot left in September. Interested?

***AND we have been offered a great new members' discount at the Urban Bar and Grill Café. Details below.***

I look forward to catching up with you all on February 13.

Lindy Ross, Chair.

### Next lecture: Turner p.2



Special Interest Morning.  
p.4  
Susannah Fullerton on Byron & Vita Sackville-West

Special Offers and Discounts:  
**Coffee or lunch before a lecture?**  
**Discount at URBAN BAR AND GRILL**  
**Details p. 8**

March and April Lecture previews  
p. 3, 6

**Inigo Jones**  
**Jane Austen**

## ***Our first lecture for the New Year – a stunner!***

**Thursday 13 February 2pm**

### **ROBERT AND CATHERINE KETTON: *The Life and Times of JMW Turner***

**Robert Ketton** was educated at King's School Tynemouth and the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, and Burton School of Speech and Drama. He migrated to Australia in 1974 to help establish Theatre in Queensland Secondary Schools. In 1976 he was appointed as a Lecturer in Theatre at the University of Southern Queensland in Toowoomba. Over the next thirty-three years Robert taught acting and directed dozens of plays for the university's Performance Centre. Robert retired as senior lecturer in acting in 2009. Since that time Robert has worked for GP Connections (a division of general practice) establishing 'Floodlight' to help with flood relief in Toowoomba and environs. Robert is voluntary P.R. Manager for Downs Steam tourist Railway& Museum and is Vice President of Sunrise Way a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre.



Robert has a number of published books and plays and is currently working on an illustrated children's book with his artist wife, Catherine.

**Catherine** took her first adult art lesson in 2004 and quickly became obsessed with new ways of looking and the thrill of making an aesthetic statement.

Having had a career as a drama teacher and family therapist, Catherine was used to hard work and quickly set about completing ten thousand hours of practice (generally regarded as the time needed to transform from student to practitioner).



Amongst the many highlights of her painting career have been a spell at the Florence Academy of Art, teaching oil painting both free lance and for U3A and holding exhibitions of her work. Catherine has been the recipient of several art prizes, most recently the Fred Gardiner award for best picture the Toowoomba Art Society show in September 2020.

*Whilst Robert talks about the life and times of JMW Turner, Catherine will take to the easel with oil paint, rags, scrapers and brush to give us a glimpse of Turner's style and technique.*

*Turner lived at a time of great social change and scientific invention. More than anyone else he recorded, in thousands of works of art, the transition of Britain from a rural to an industrial society.*

*Turner was a fascinating character, secretive, driven, penny pinching and generous, chaotic in his private life and fiercely patriotic. He is regarded as one of the greatest nineteenth century painters, and his works are exhibited in galleries the world over.*

**... and our March lecture:**

**Thursday 20 March 2pm**

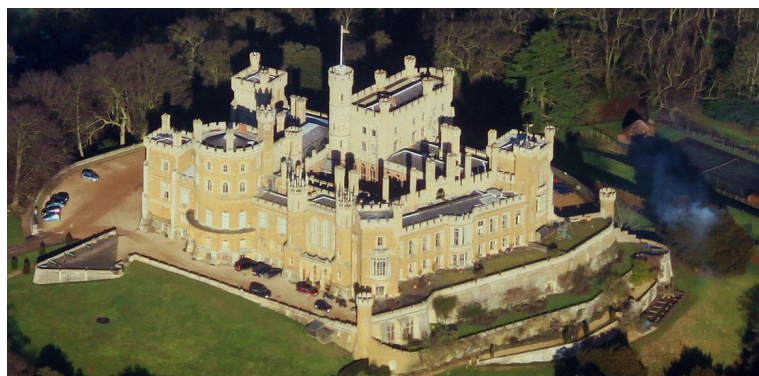
**CHRISTOPHER GARIBALDI:  
*Architecture of Inigo Jones, John Webb and William Sawtell***

Christopher is an independent researcher. He has held the following positions: 2010–2019 Director of Palace House, Newmarket (National Horseracing Museum); 2008–2010 Co-Director of the Attingham Summer School for the Study of Historic Houses and Collections; 1998–2003 Senior Curator & Assistant Keeper of Art (Decorative Art) at Norwich Castle Museum; co-curator of 'Flower Power – The Meaning of Flowers in Art' and 'Eat, Drink and Be Merry, the British at Table 1600 to 2000.'; 1994–1997 catalogued the silver in the Royal Collection at Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and other royal residences.



Whilst Inigo Jones (1573–1652) became Surveyor of the Kings Works in 1611, John Webb (1611–1672), his sometime pupil, assistant and natural successor, failed to secure the same formal role. Webb was, nevertheless, one of the most important and influential architects working in England in the mid-seventeenth century and was responsible for many important royal commissions. Designing part of the palace of Greenwich for Charles II and alterations to the Queen's House in 1662, he also completed significant alterations at Belvoir Castle, home to the Dukes of Rutland, between 1654 and 1668. During the same period his work influenced that of the gentleman architect William Samwell (1628–1676) who built the palace at Newmarket between 1668 and 1671.

Based on recent research, this lecture looks at the relationship between the work of these three architects for their respective royal and aristocratic patrons and places them in the context of pre-Civil War and Restoration architecture more generally, examining their lasting legacy and influence.



**... and our April double header – lecture plus Special Interest Morning:**

**Wednesday 9 April 10am -12.30pm Special Interest Morning**

***SUSANNAH FULLERTON (back by popular demand)***

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 leads literary tours to the UK, France and the USA. These tours are run by Australians Studying Abroad.

Susannah has lectured regularly for ADFAS for many years and is a firm favourite with Molonglo Plains audiences.



### ***Lecture 1:***

### ***Mad, bad and dangerous to know: the wicked poet Lord Byron***

Lord Byron was both famous and infamous for his audacious poetry, his scandalous love life (which included an affair with his half-sister!) and his devotion to liberal ideals. Ostracised by English society, Byron went off to fight for Greek independence and died at 36. His personality and his romantic poetry made a unique impression on 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe and the term “Byronic” was coined.

Susannah Fullerton recites some of his best-loved poems and tells the story of the colourful, shocking and revolutionary life of one of England’s greatest poets. Find out just why Byron was considered “mad, bad and dangerous to know”!





**Lecture 2:*****Vita-Sackville West: novelist, poet and creator of 'Sissinghurst' garden.***

Born to affluence in one of the great stately homes of England, Vita Sackville-West never really recovered from the fact that she had been born a girl and so could not inherit Knole, the house she adored.

Her life was controversial and full of contradictions: She married Harold Nicolson, but eloped with Violet Keppel; she wanted to be a famous poet, but is best remembered today for creating one of the loveliest gardens in England; she was loved by men and women and had an astonishing variety of sexual partners, but she remained happily married to one man.

Susannah Fullerton depicts the creation and development of Sissinghurst's wonderful garden and discusses the intriguing life story of Vita herself.



**SPECIAL INTEREST MORNING: These two one-hour lectures with a delicious morning tea, 10am – 12.30pm Wednesday 9 April. \$50 per ArtsNational Molonglo Plains member.**

**Non-members \$55**

**Bookings: Trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/CXMMQ>**

... and then, the following day to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of Jane Austen ...

Thursday 10 April 2pm:

## **SUSANNAH FULLERTON: Jane Austen – Her Life and Works**

Susannah has been president of the Jane Austen Society of Australia for the past 18 years and has spoken about Jane Austen to many schools, community groups and adult classes.

Susannah is the author of several books – *Jane Austen – Antipodean Views*, *Jane Austen and Crime*, *Brief encounters: Literary Travellers in Australia*, *A Dance with Jane Austen* and *Happily Ever After: Celebrating Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice*.



The 6 most polished, controlled and elegant social comedies to be found in English Literature were written by a woman whose personal life was unexciting and confined. Jane Austen's cool judgment, ironic detachment and her genius gave her novels depth and charm and made them some of the most popular novels ever!

Susannah Fullerton, President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia and author of several books about Jane Austen, shares her passion for Austen's novels and her interest in her life and times. Illustrations bring the Regency world to life and readings will remind audiences just how funny Jane Austen can be.



## ***From the Membership Secretary:***

### ***Your 2025 Molonglo Plains Committee:***

We have a great team of people on our committee, headed up by **Lindy Ross** at the helm as Chair.

Vice Chair is **Jan Whyte**, who also organises the Raffles and Lighting!

**Susie Ryrie** is Secretary and takes note of proceedings at our committee meetings.

**Lydia Melnikoff** is our Treasurer and is very diligent in organising our funds so that we make the most of the monies at our disposal!

**Jess Cameron** is Membership Secretary, assisted by **Chris Costas** as Co-Membership Secretary and Technical, Computer and Stage Management wrangler.

**Lucy Costas** is Lecturer Liaison Officer, responsible for welcoming the visiting lecturers and making sure they are comfortable. She is also on the National Committee as *ArtsNational in the Community Coordinator*.

**Margot Sawyer** is responsible for ordering the food for afternoon tea and making sure the kitchen runs smoothly.

**Liz Grant, Sophia Notaras, Anna Prosser, Meralyn Bubear** and **Barry Cranston** are stalwarts of the Committee who step in and help out wherever they are needed. And please welcome **Bev Webb** who has now joined the committee.

Our Membership continues to grow, with 23 New Members for this year. As at 17/1/25 we have a total of 104 Members, compared with 119 last year.

If you have yet to renew your membership, you can do so via Trybooking, Direct Debit into our account or pay at the first lecture on Feb 13<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to all the people who passed on the information about how wonderful the Lectures are. I'm sure we will need to order more sandwiches for the afternoon teas!

***Jess Cameron***



## ***ArtsNational Molonglo Plains partnerships***

***Special discounts, offers and opportunities for our members.***

### **Urban Bar and Grill offers a members discount!**

Looking for a bit to eat or a coffee before the lecture? There's a smart, new café across the road from our venue and there's a discount on offer if your ArtsNational membership badge is shown. Urban Bar and Grill is a great spot for coffee or lunch, at 109 Monaro Street. Just show your membership badge for a 10% discount.



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TBIB offers members travel insurance to age 90, including for multiple trips in one year, each of less than 90 days duration,



**ARTSNATIONAL MOLONGLO PLAINS 2025 COMMITTEE**

**CHAIR** Lindy Ross

**VICE CHAIR** Jan Whyte

**TREASURER** Lydia Melnikoff

**SECRETARY** Susie Ryrie

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARIES** Chris Costas and Jess Cameron

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Lucy Costas, Barry Cranston, Beverley Webb, Elizabeth Grant, Sophia Notaras, Meralyn Bubear, Anna Prosser, Margot Sawyer.

***ArtsNational Molonglo Plains Inc***  
**Meeting in 2025 at the C3 Auditorium,**  
**116 Monaro St, Queanbeyan. 10xThursdays at 2 pm.**  
**ArtsNational Molonglo Plains members FREE, visitors \$ 30**  
**Contact the Membership Secretary for visitor booking on**  
**[membership@artsnationalmp.au](mailto:membership@artsnationalmp.au)**