



Message from our Chair

Dear Members and Friends,



Winter is well and truly upon us – I hope everyone is keeping warm and healthy!

We have had very well attended lectures for the first half of this year with absorbing topics and excellent lecturers. The second half of this year is looking great too with two Special Interest Mornings (SIMs) coming up. Chris Aslan who is giving a lecture in August, '*A Carpet Ride to Khiva: A Personal Story of Reviving Ancient Silk Carpet Designs*', is also giving a SIM at the Commonwealth Club on 20 August on *Unravelling the Silk Road* and Eileen Goulding is giving a SIM on 22 October on '*Mesoamerican Pyramids – Tombs or Temples*' and '*Aztec and Maya Civilisations of Mexico*'.

It was wonderful to have three young people, accompanied by their Manager Donna Parkes, who are young musicians and who are Fellows within the Canberra Symphony Orchestra Kingsland Fellowship to 'serenade' us after Jamie Hayes's lecture, '*Gilbert and Sullivan- Their Topsy Turvey World*' on 20 May. We had Emily on the flute, Elsa on the trumpet and Ollie on the clarinet and they performed beautifully, so much so that many of our members would like to hear them again! I cannot promise anything but we hope they will return in the not so distant future.

The Committee is being updated on lectures for 2026 which also look very promising. It is not quite set in stone yet but we will provide information on the 2026 programme as soon as we can.

Our New Members' Lunch was held at the Book Plate Restaurant at the NLA on 11 April this year with most of the new members attending and having great conversations with Committee members. It was most enjoyable.

The Committee is planning to have another New Members' Lunch in September for members who have only joined us for the second half of the year.

The ArtsNational Council Meeting and Annual General Meeting was held in Sydney in March. Penny Campbell, ArtsNational Canberra Committee member and Public Officer, and I attended. It was a great opportunity

to meet Chairs and representatives of all the Societies, put faces to names and to exchange notes on what is happening with ArtsNational Societies across Australia. New Executive Officers were elected, including Meg Larkin OAM as National Chair, Sally Louw as Vice Chair and Tom O'Connor elected as National Treasurer. Myra Croke, ArtsNational Canberra's Treasurer, was also elected as a member of the National Finance Committee – our congratulations to her. I know that the National Finance Committee is very pleased to have her on board as she has a wealth of knowledge and experience which she can add to the Finance Committee's deliberations. Luckily Myra will also remain as ArtsNational Canberra's Treasurer!

Plans are underway to celebrate our Ruby Anniversary next year so keep tuned! 2026 is going to be a busy and interesting year with an exciting lecture programs and events to celebrate our Anniversary.

Best wishes and cheers.

Sue Healy OAM
Chair – ArtsNational Canberra

CSO Musicians at May Lecture

Members and guests were treated to a performance by a musical trio from the Canberra Symphony Orchestra in the NLA foyer following Jamie Hayes' fabulous lecture on Gilbert and Sullivan in May. The musicians were Emily Thornton (flute), Elsa Guile (trumpet) and Ollie Wong (clarinet). They played a number of classical music pieces, including some Gilbert and Sullivan tunes, during supper and drinks.



From left to right: Jamie Hayes, Ollie Wong, Emily Thornton, Elsa Guile, Donna Parks, Jean Hayes.

Ollie, Emily and Elsa are three of the five Fellows within the CSO's 2025 Kingsland Fellowship. These are young, tertiary age musicians who undertake 12 months mentoring with the CSO for career development purposes. More details can be found on the CSO website at: cso.org.au/the-orchestra/education/kingsland-fellowship.

The manager of the Fellows is Donna Parkes (CSO Community and Education Manager).

The Kingsland Fellowship is part of the CSO's Kingsland Pathways Program, for advanced tertiary and postgraduate musicians encompassing solo, chamber and orchestral performance, as well as mentorship, audition preparation and career development. A number of youth ensembles as well as the Canberra Symphony Youth Chamber Orchestra (for musicians aged 8-18) are part of the Program.

The CSO welcomes individuals who would like to sponsor a Fellow (\$1,500 per year) or the youth Orchestra (\$1,000 pa negotiable).

Half year memberships – coming soon!

Do you enjoy the ArtsNational Canberra lectures? Love learning something about the arts that you might not have been exposed to before? Look forward to the social camaraderie and wonderful refreshments afterwards in the lovely foyer of the National Library of Australia? If so, tell a friend or encourage a colleague or relative to join up for the remainder of 2025!

The Committee plans to open half year memberships on 2 July. The half year memberships will include four lectures (July, August, September and October) and a discounted membership rate for two optional Special Interest Mornings (SIMs). These are:

22 July	Sophie Oosterwijk: <i>Frans Hals (C.1582/3-1666): A Dutch Painter with Flemish Roots</i>
19 August	Chris Aslan: <i>A Carpet Ride To Khiva: A personal story of reviving ancient silk carpet designs</i>
20 August	SIM - Chris Aslan: <i>Unravelling the Silk Road:</i> 1. <i>The Wool Road</i> 2. <i>The Silk Road</i>
23 September	John Francis: <i>The Mistress of Menace and the Master of Suspense</i>
21 October	Eileen Goulding: <i>The Treasures of Tanis</i>

22 October

SIM - Eileen Goulding:

1. *Meso/American Pyramids - Tombs or Temples*
2. *Aztec and Maya Civilisations of Mexico*

The cost of the half-year membership will be released via email soon.

Upcoming Events – Canberra

Canberra Glassworks

Fulcrum, by Aidan Hartshorn

*Winter is the
white of snow
against its
black forms*

*Vincent Van
Gough*

Walgalu/Wiradjuri artist Aidan Hartshorn explores the ongoing colonial disruptions to Walgalu connections with the land. Using industrial glass and elements, the exhibition reflects his journey of crafting cultural objects while examining the degradation of his ancestral landscape. Raised in Tumut, where the headwaters of the Murrumbidgee River and Tumut River converge, Aidan Hartshorn's family was deeply rooted in their culture, though their connection to it became increasingly restricted with the development of the Snowy Hydro Scheme in the 1960s.

Exhibition programs

- Opening Event Thu 3 Jul at 5pm. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP for catering purposes.
<https://events.humanitix.com/exhibition-opening-of-aidan-hartshorn>
- Cultural Workshop Sat 19 Jul at 10.30am with Aidan Hartshorn and Shane Herrington
- Gallery Floor Talk + Demonstration Sun 10 Aug at 11am with Aidan Hartshorn in the Hotshop

Smokestack Gallery by Bronte Cormican-Jones

Emerging artist Bronte Cormican-Jones is showing her solo exhibition from 21 Aug to 26 Oct 2025. Called '*Smokestack Gallery*' Bronte's work explores how we interact with those materials such as glass, timber, steel, and concrete, which are present in our daily lives and how they are perceived within the confines of the gallery space.



Image courtesy of Canberra Glassworks

Upcoming Events - Eurobodalla Shire

A South Coast Selection by Heide Smith

This exhibition highlights renowned photographer, Heide Smith's deep relationship with the South Coast where she now lives and works. Through her images viewers are invited to experience the quiet beauty, character and community of the region.

Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre Moruya from 28 June - 26 July 10am to 4pm.'

ArtsNational Canberra Ruby Anniversary

Next year ArtsNational Canberra turns 40 years old! The Committee is working on a number of initiatives to celebrate our Ruby Anniversary in 2026. If you have an idea, would like to volunteer to assist in organizing an event or would like to participate in our planned Trunk Treasures day (see below), we'd love to hear from you!

Trunk Treasures

Let's suppose that every member of ArtsNational Canberra, has something at home that they would regard as a treasure: something that was gifted to them, inherited, found in an op shop or by the side of the road.

Of all these friends, colleagues, and people we sit next to at lectures, a small number may be willing to bring their personal treasure out and show it to us, perhaps talk about how they came by it, or what it means to them.

The ArtsNational Canberra Committee is planning a morning tea in the middle of next year to allow us to get together, have some fun, and for some of us to share the stories about our treasures. If you are interested in telling your story, or showing your treasure, please consider the following:

- is your treasure small and portable, so that you can easily carry it to the venue?
- is your treasure, while valuable to you, not materially highly valued? There will be no insurance provided for items on the day.
- are you able to talk about your treasure in just three or four minutes?

This event is being scoped by a small working group of members: Alex Hagan, Stephanie Reilly and Jenny Hefford. They welcome feedback on this proposal and to gauge whether there are enough members willing to come forward and show their treasure.

The working group are hoping for a truly entertaining morning with lots of variety, laughs and a touch of shared envy.

If you are interested in showing and talking about your treasure, please email Stephanie Reilly at stephanie@coolbeg.com with your contact details and the nature of your treasure.

Did you know? The cost of putting on a lecture

*There is no
must in art
because art is
free.
— Wassily
Kandinsky*

Members may not appreciate what's involved in putting on an ArtsNational Canberra lecture at the National Library of Australia (NLA) and how much it costs. The selection of lecturers is the least of it!

This year, the average cost of holding each lecture is \$5,178, which includes NLA costs (venue hire, audio-video support and staff costs), catering, the lecturer's fee, transport costs for the two Australian lecturers, and accommodation and meals that we are obliged to provide our lecturers in accordance with ArtsNational policies. The Committee tries to align catering to expected numbers to contain the costs, as catering, along with the venue costs, are the most expensive line items.

This average cost does not include incidental costs such as the purchase of raffle prizes, the printing of member and guest name badges, or TryBooking fees. In any event, some of these costs are covered by Committee members.

Our members will be aware that the costs of many goods and services have increased dramatically over the past few years and ArtsNational Canberra has not been immune from these changes. Indeed, the direct

costs for hiring the NLA theatre have increased by 63% since 2021. Over the same period, the annual membership fee for ArtsNational Canberra has only increased by a modest \$10.00 or 4.5% for a single member (from \$220 to \$230).

The Committee works hard to contain expenditure, while continuing to deliver the standard of lecture and refreshments our members have come to expect and enjoy. For example, Committee members directly source the beverages at discount prices, which reduces the per capita catering cost.

However for next year, the indications from the National Conference in March are that the national Executive Committee will seek to increase the affiliation fees levied on member societies. These fees cover things like the annual fee paid to ArtsUK (our link to the UK lecturers), travel costs within Australia for the UK lecturers, insurance, and our website. The fees this year are \$37 per member. We are also expecting our NLA venue and catering costs to further increase in 2026.

Over the last five years, the Committee has minimised increases to membership and guest pass prices, and is anticipating a small loss overall for this financial year as a result. Sadly, while the Committee is keen to keep costs down, it is likely that there will be an increase in our fees next year so we can cover the costs of continuing to hold our wonderful lectures.

Getting to know your Committee members

– Jenny Hefford

Jenny Hefford grew up in Adelaide as one of four girls in a suburb by the sea. Following school, she completed a degree at the University of Adelaide and then moved to Canberra for a further year of study at what is now the University of Canberra.

Jenny joined the Commonwealth Public Service, like many others, and spent most of her time in the Department of Health.

Forty years later, after finishing work, she wondered what to do with her new found freedom. She enjoys gardening, reading, travelling and going to the theatre and movies.

A former work colleague invited her to join her at an ADFAS (as it was then called) lecture and the rest, as they say, is history. Now she wonders, like many of her friends, how she ever found time to go to work....



Jenny joined the ArtsNational Canberra Committee in February 2022. She has taken on the marketing role, ensuring that news of ArtsNational gets out in many Canberra publications and media. She also has a leading role in preparing for our Ruby Anniversary in 2026.

ArtsNational has given Jenny a whole new interest to pursue, but also brought her new friendships and even brought people back into her life she thought she might not see again.



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