

From the Chair:



Dear fellow Members and Supporters of ArtsNational Molonglo Plains,

This edition of the newsletter will give you a preview of our final four lectures for the year. This year we have been thrilled that we could offer members a total of ten lectures plus a Special Interest Morning. This is two more lectures than the offerings of many other societies and we are planning to provide the same full program of ten lectures again next year - with the addition of two SIMs.

Our second Theatre Party for the year – ‘The Pirates of Penzance’ was another jolly occasion for members and friends. There had been very positive feedback for these extra events and we hope to be able to continue similar outings in the future.

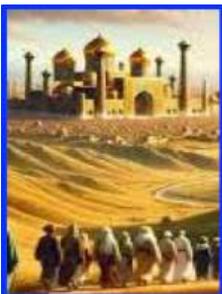
As we confirm our program for next year, please consider offering to home-host a lecturer. All you need to provide is a spare bedroom and private bathroom and I know from experience that you will find hosting such enthusiastic and personable people a real joy!

Please read the suggestion in the newsletter about joining the Queanbeyan Leagues Club – it may help parking problems!

I look forward to seeing you ‘on the road to Samarkand’ later this month.

Lindy Ross, Chair.

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Lecture previews**
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Latest happenings . . .



Ahoy there! Some of the rascally crew at our Pirates of Penzance Q Theatre Party



Musée des Beaux Arts – WH Auden

About suffering they were never wrong,
The Old Masters: how well they understood
Its human position; how it takes place
While someone else is eating or opening a window or just
walking dully along;
How, when the aged are reverently, passionately waiting
For the miraculous birth, there always must be
Children who did not specially want it to happen, skating
On a pond at the edge of the wood:
They never forgot
That even the dreadful martyrdom must run its course
Anyhow in a corner, some untidy spot
Where the dogs go on with their doggy
life and the torturer's horse
Scratches its innocent behind on a tree.

In Breughel's *Icarus*, for instance: how
everything turns away
Quite leisurely from the disaster; the
ploughman may
Have heard the splash, the forsaken cry,
But for him it was not an important
failure; the sun shone
As it had to on the white legs
disappearing into the green
Water; and the expensive delicate ship
that must have seen
Something amazing, a boy falling out of
the sky,
had somewhere to get to and sailed calmly on.



An ArtsNational
member at our
wonderful lecture
by Sophie
Oosterwijk
remembered this
poem, as the
painting by Bruegel
was discussed.



Queanbeyan Leagues Club

The Queanbeyan Leagues Club is situated just a few doors down from our lecture venue and offers a very convenient spot to have lunch or a coffee before or after our lectures. Lunch specials are available for around \$14.

Membership of the Club only costs \$6 for 3 years and another GREAT advantage is the fact that there is **free 2-hour car parking for members**, right on our doorstep. Possibly also heavily used, but it's another possible option for parking.

OUR YOUNG ARTS GRANT FOR 2025

We have previously announced that our recipient for this year's Young Arts grant is the creative arts extension program at Gundaroo Public School. This week members of the Committee travelled to Gundaroo to present the (symbolic) cheque to the school and we were able to view one of the program's art lessons.

Students who have been identified as having special talents in the arts are invited to join in a term-long project that allows them to spend extended time and effort on a piece of work. We were mightily impressed by their work on a still life painting in acrylics and to see examples of work from previous groups this year. All their works will be exhibited at a Gundaroo Community breakfast at the end of the year – to which we are all invited!

Students from Gundaroo Public School accept the Young Arts grant from ArtsNational Molonglo Plains.



For our August lecture let's travel to exotic places . . .

Thursday 21 August 2pm

CHRIS ASLAN:

The Golden Road to Samarkand: the Architecture, Art and Textiles of Uzbekistan.

Chris Aslan was born in Turkey (hence the name Aslan) and spent his childhood there and in war-torn Beirut. After school, Chris spent two years at sea before studying Media and journalism at Leicester University. He then moved to Khiva, a desert oasis in Uzbekistan, establishing a UNESCO workshop reviving fifteenth century carpet designs and embroideries, and becoming the largest non-government employer in town. He was kicked out as part of an anti-Western purge and took a year in Cambridge to write *A Carpet Ride to Khiva*. Chris then spent several years in the Pamirs mountains of Tajikistan, training yak herders to comb their yaks for their cashmere-like down. Next came a couple more years in Kyrgyzstan living in the world's largest natural walnut forest and establishing a wood-carving workshop. Since then, Chris has studied and rowed at Oxford, and is now based in Cambridge, but with plans to move to North Cyprus. When he's not lecturing for The Arts Society, he writes. His latest book, *Unravelling the Silk Road*, is published by Icon Books. Chris also takes tours to Central Asia, returning whenever he can, having left a large chunk of his heart out there.



THE GOLDEN ROAD TO SAMARKAND: The Architecture, Art and Textiles of Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan in the heart of Central Asia boasts glittering mosques, madrassahs and minarets in the Silk Road cities of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva. These contrast wonderfully with the brutalist Soviet buildings of Tashkent, Urgench and Nukus. This lecture is an overview of the country, and a primer for anyone thinking of visiting. We explore the Savitsky Museum in Nukus, with the second largest collection of Russian Avante Garde Art, collected at a time when these artistic styles were banned by the state. We explore the revival of Islamic miniature painting in Bukhara and the

resurgence of handicrafts all over the country that ceased during the 1930s and the Soviet drive to make everything factory-based. Embroidered suzanis from Nurata, stunning ceramics from Rishton, and the production of silk and velvet in Margilan. Plus, what are the ways that tourism is helping and hindering the production of high-quality handicrafts?

... and in September, it's back to very different times ...

Thursday 25 September

JOHN FRANCIS:

I Got the Dust Bowl Blues: Texas and Oklahoma Photography, Art and Music

John is an inspirational speaker who has delivered lectures and workshops in the US, Beijing, Malaysia and the UK. Initially trained as a painter, John was awarded the Max Beckmann Memorial Scholarship in painting in Brooklyn, New York and went on to be artist in residence for the state of Texas. Later in his career John produced and directed several short films and animations. He has taught film, art and pedagogy at the University of Exeter, Arts University Bournemouth, University Sains Malaysia, Southwestern College, California, Brunel University, London and Kingston University.



ARTSNATIONAL
Molonglo Plains

Illustrated talk and refreshments with:

JOHN FRANCIS
"I got the Dust Bowl Blues - Texas and Oklahoma photography, art and music"

Thursday 25 September 2025 2pm
C3 Church, 116 Monaro St, Queanbeyan.

\$30
FOR VISITORS
MEMBERS
FREE

I GOT THE DUST BOWL BLUES TEXAS AND OKLAHOMA PHOTOGRAPHY, ART AND MUSIC

The Wall Street crash in 1929 led to a questioning of the success of the American dream. President Roosevelt stepped in with the WPA (Works Progress Administration) and the New Deal. The government initiative meant employment for over eight million largely unskilled Americans and importantly 5,300 artists. Murals, painting, photography, graphic design all flourished. In this lecture we will explore some of the key artists at this era. Jackson Pollock will be evaluated along with the social realism of Dorothea Lange and Ben Shahn. The soundtrack of the era is provided by Woody Guthrie and Jimmie Rogers.

... and in October we're off to the Mediterranean ...

Thursday 23 October

EILEEN GOULDING:

The Knights Crusaders

Eileen has an MA from the Department of Archaeology at the University of London, is a published author and an authority on the ancient cultures of the world. She specialises in the History and Culture of the ancient worlds of the Mediterranean, South America and Australasia and spends her time doing further research and giving lectures to The Arts Society, on cruise ships and to various local organisations. Her first book "What Did the Poor Take with Them" is an academic treatise on Ancient Egyptian funerary goods, while her second book "Understanding Ancient Egypt" is a more accessible introduction to the subject.



THE KNIGHTS CRUSADERS

The Orders of knights who helped keep the Kingdom of Jerusalem safe for Christians settled and prospered on islands in the Mediterranean such as Rhodes. Learn of the exploits of the Hospitallers and Templars, their legacies and the notorious Assassins.

ARTSNATIONAL
Molonglo Plains

\$30
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Illustrated talk and refreshments with:

EILEEN GOULDING
"The Knights Crusaders"

Thursday 23 October 2025 2pm
C3 Church, 116 Monaro St, Queanbeyan.

... and to finish our year of Jane Austen Commemoration ...

Thursday 13 November

Anne Harbers:

Superb Treasures of England -The Superb Silver in Austen's England

Anne Harbers is an independent Art Historian & Lecturer focusing on European and Australian artists as well as on Decorative Arts. She completed early studies in Art History from Oxford University Department of Continuing Education before completing a Masters in Arts (Art History) from University of Sydney in 2014. She was successful in being selected to participate in a 2009 Dutch art history course from Amsterdam – Maastricht Summer University in conjunction with the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, followed by a 2012 Summer Academy run by the State Arts Museums of Dresden (SKD) and a number of specialist courses at the Sotheby's Institute of Art in London and Singapore.



She had previously worked internationally in commercial biotechnology for 25 years, and gained her Masters degree in Chemistry (by Research & Thesis) and an MBA in Organizational Behaviour & Marketing. She has published on art and collecting, contributing to over 5 books. She is active as a writer and continues to publish on art historical subjects.

Her time is now divided between working as a freelance university lecturer, researcher and presenting to adult art enthusiasts through lectures and cultural travels.

Superb Treasures of England - The Superb Silver in Austen's England

Antique silver gives us a window into the society of their original owners with Silversmiths making both practical and decorative pieces. This talk will look at the enticing silver of Jane Austen's time (1775 – 1817) including beautifully engraved patch-boxes, shaped and decorated snuff boxes designed to fit in the pockets of those smart tight Regency gentlemen's breeches, and little vinaigrettes, to overcome the smells of the street. A status item was a personal silver nutmeg grater. You will also be introduced to some of the Huguenot silversmiths, including Louisa Courtauld and her wonderful tea set.



ArtsNational Molonglo Plains partnerships

Special discounts, offers and opportunities for our members.

Urban Bar and Grill offers a members discount!

Looking for a bite 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. **I have re-confirmed with the manager that this discount applies to meals as well as coffees!**



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

Contact TBIB <https://tbibtravel.com.au/>

Email: travel@tbib.com.au Ph: 07 3252 5254

ARTSNATIONAL MOLONGLO PLAINS 2025 COMMITTEE

CHAIR	Lindy Ross	VICE CHAIR	Jan Whyte
TREASURER	Lydia Melnikoff	SECRETARY	Susie Rylie
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