



## Message from our Chair

Dear Members and Friends,

The ArtsNational Canberra 2025 lecture program has been of great interest and was very fulfilling. The lectures given by John Francis 'The Mistress of Menace and the Master of Suspense' on 23 September, and Eileen Goulding's 'Treasures of Tanis' on 21 October along with her SIM 'Mesoamerican Pyramids – Tombs or Temples?' and 'Aztec and Maya Civilisations of Mexico' on 22 October, attracted many members and guests.



We look forward to the 2026 program which should be exciting, covering a diverse range of topics, and very interesting. The 2026 program is now detailed on our website – and listed below in brief - so please check it out! Please don't forget to register for the Special Interest Mornings (SIMs); members are offered a special deal on the 2026 SIMs program.

You will have received emails from Liz Quinn, Membership Secretary, relating to renewing membership for 2026 and I do hope you are renewing your membership and encouraging others to do the same. Since Covid, ArtsNational Canberra has had fantastic lecture programs and we will continue to ensure that we maintain the quality of lectures and topics.



You have also been sent emails from Liz Quinn and Penny Campbell providing information about ArtsNational Canberra's 40<sup>th</sup> (Ruby) anniversary which is next year. The big celebration of our anniversary will be on 29 April 2026 with a Trunk Treasures event over a wonderful morning tea at the Red Shed on the Acton Peninsula. Bookings are open on TryBooking.

The Committee has been putting together activities to celebrate our Ruby Anniversary and both Liz Quinn, Membership Secretary, and Penny Campbell will continue to provide you with updates through the GEMs (General EMails).



This year has been fantastic and interesting. The Committee members have worked hard to present such a wonderful lecture program and to improve communication strategies between members and the Committee. I thank Committee members for their support, commitment and dedication in making this year such a success.

I thank also the Society's members for their support and participation throughout 2025.

Wishing everyone a joyful festive season and a healthy and wealthy New Year! I look forward to seeing you all in 2026.

Best wishes, cheers and jingle bells!

Sue Healy OAM  
Chair – ArtsNational Canberra

## Young Arts recipients

Our monthly raffle proceeds go towards supporting Young Arts in Canberra and donating to the Patricia Robinson Fund, part of the Association of ArtsNational.

This year, we contributed \$3 000 to enable two young artists, Laura de Carteret and Billy Crellin, to attend a masterclass in glass blown replicas, led by Ben Edols. Ben is an Australian artist who has been blowing glass since 1987 and has travelled and worked in the United States, Japan and Italy. The five-day masterclass explored the deep history of glass through the art of replication.

Laura and Billy spoke at the AGM on 1 December 2025 about their masterclass experience. Billy runs his own glass studio in Melbourne and said the "important lessons and discussions in Canberra were invaluable". He was thankful for "the amazing opportunity to discuss techniques with Ben Edols".

Laura makes jewellery which incorporates glass pieces but she has had no formal training in glass blowing. For her, the masterclass was "a great and special opportunity" to "progress my learning in a very real way."

With your support, the ArtsNational Canberra bursary enabled two young artists to further their learning and practice, and to enrich their glass blowing skills. Thank you to all our members and guests who bought raffle tickets throughout the year to help realise this important outcome.

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*What would it be like if you lived each day, each breath, as a work of art in progress?*

*Imagine that you are a Masterpiece unfolding every second of every day, a work of art taking form with every breath.*

- Thomas Crum

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L to R: Sue Healy (Chair, ArtsNational Canberra), Aimee Frodsham (Artistic Director Canberra Glassworks), Laura de Carteret (bursary recipient) and Billy Crellin (bursary recipient)

## 2026 Membership now open

For those of you who have already taken out membership for 2026, thank you! For those of you still considering, please remind yourself of the many benefits of being a member of ArtsNational Canberra.

- ArtsNational Canberra offers a yearly program of one hour illustrated lectures by Australian and overseas lecturers. Light refreshments and beverages are held after the lecture. As a member, you have access to all eight lectures over the year.
- In 2026, we will hold two half-day sessions (Special Interest Mornings), offering an additional two lectures on each half day for a separate fee. A morning tea is held between the day's lectures.
- From 10 February 2026, members will be eligible for a discount of 15% on purchases made at the NLA Bookshop.
- Receive regular newsletters which provide information on lectures, speakers and other activities.
- Other discounts and special offers for members are available through ArtsNational's partnership with various organisations.

Details can be found here:  
<https://www.artsnational.au/partnerships/>

Membership for 2026 is \$235 for one person, or \$460 for a couple. A guest pass for a single lecture is \$40.

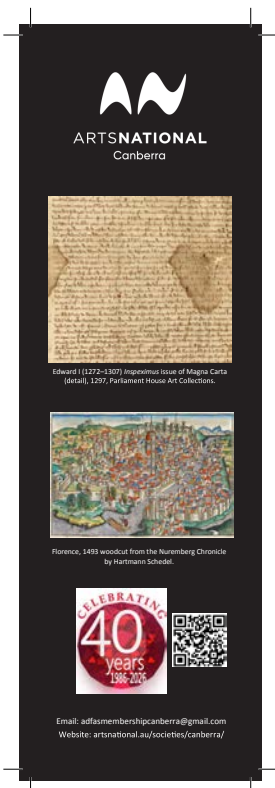
If you would like to join as a member for 2026, or you would like to refer a friend, please go to: <https://www.trybooking.com/DHCPO>

## The 2026 Program

The 2026 lecture and SIM program looks fantastic. The year kicks off on 10 February with a fascinating lecture by Libby Melzer, who led the recent restoration project of the Australian copy of the Magna Carta.

The rest of the year looks like this:

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|---------------|--|
| 10 March      | Susan Kay-Williams: <i>Imperial Purple to Marie-Antoinette's Fleas: The Colourful History of Textiles to the 18th Century</i>                            |
| 19 May        | Zara Fleming: <i>Journey Across the Himalayas</i>  |
| 20 May (SIM)  | Zara Fleming: <i>Buddhism and the Sacred Art of Tibet</i>  |
| 16 June       | Paul Brunton: <i>The Art Work and Handwritten Journals of the First Fleeters</i>   |
| 14 July       | Charlie Hall: <i>Florence and the Birth of the Italian Renaissance</i>   |
| 15 July (SIM) | Charlie Hall: <i>Renaissance Rivals: How Competition Between Leonardo, Michelangelo and Raphael Provided the Fuel that Drove the Italian Renaissance</i> |
| 18 August     | Tessa Boase: <i>Fashion, Feathers and Feminism: Women's Fight for Change</i>   |
| 15 September  | Mariska Beekenkamp-Wladimiroff: <i>The Dutch Golden Age in Six Paintings</i>   |
| 20 October    | Graham Jones: <i>The Art of State Ceremonial Music</i>   |
| 7 December    | AGM/ 40th Anniversary Finale   |



## Did you know?



Image courtesy of the NAC

Speaking of the Magna Carta, did you know that there is a Magna Carta monument in Parkes (close to the traffic intersection opposite the Hyatt Hotel) symbolising the ties between the Australian people and those of Great Britain?

Magna Carta Place was fittingly designated by the Chief Justice of the High Court, The Hon. Sir Gerard Brennan AC KBE, on 12 October 1997. This date was chosen as it is the 700th anniversary of the sealing by King Edward I of the 1297 issue of Magna Carta. An original of this issue is on permanent display in the Australian Parliament House and is the subject of our first lecture of 2026.

The design of the monument is based on an ancient English funeral barrow, which has been cut away to reveal the treasure inside (being the Magna Carta). The small mound in the middle holds a time capsule. The etched marble walls depict the life and times of Magna Carta and the development of the Rule of Law and Australian parliamentary system. A copper dome sits over the monument, with Latin text from the 1297 version of Magna Carta etched into the metal.

Perhaps after the lecture on 10 February, you could wander down from the NLA and visit it yourself!

Information from <https://www.nca.gov.au/attractions/magna-carta-place#>

## Your new Committee

Following our AGM on 1 December, we now look like this:

Chair	Sue Healy
Vice-Chair	Margaret May
Secretary	Jan Lynch
Treasurer	Myra Croke
Membership Secretary	Liz Quinn
Committee	Jenny Hefford
Committee	Cathy Johnstone
Committee	David Campbell
Public Officer	Penny Campbell

A key change to our Committee membership is the departure of Deb McMillan and Arnis Stonis. Deb and Arnis are stepping down for 2026 due to a very full personal calendar. They have contributed greatly to ArtsNational Canberra, particularly in the area of running our raffles and purchasing wine for our post-lecture refreshments, and the new Committee wishes them all the best in the future endeavours. We hope they return to us in 2027.

## The Red Shoes

For something a little different, and to get you in the Ruby Anniversary frame of mind, SBS on Demand is showing the film *The Red Shoes*.



*Theatrical release poster*

This 1948 British dance-drama film, was directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger. The story follows a young ballerina, Victoria Page (Moira Shearer), who joins the world-renowned Ballet Lermontov, and is torn between her career and romance.

Upon release, *The Red Shoes* received critical acclaim, and received five Academy Award nominations, winning Best Original Score and Best Art Direction. It also won the Golden Globe Award for Best Original Score.

The story is based on Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale of the same name.

You may wish to read the fairy tale, then watch the movie! (And for more red shoes, we'd also commend *The Wizard of Oz!*)

## Trunk Treasures – 29 April 2026

Our Trunk Treasures event will be on Wednesday 29 April 2026 between 10 am - 12.00 pm at the Red Shed on the Acton Peninsula.

We have many society members who will be showcasing some personal treasures. These could be family heirlooms, surprise finds, or just treasured possessions just like the item below.



This strange looking item is a cast iron shoe last, owned by Committee member David Campbell. He inherited it from his father, Samuel Jock Campbell, who was born in 1916 and grew up during the Depression. Few households in those days were without a cobbler's last, which was used to make or repair footwear. Fellow Committee member Jenny Hefford's father used to have one just like it!

If you would also like to talk about your own family treasure at this event, please email Jenny Hefford at: [jenniferhefford@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferhefford@gmail.com)

Ticket prices are \$55 for members and \$60 for guests. Morning tea will be provided. Ticket Bookings can be made at

<https://www.trybooking.com/DHCPO>

## Upcoming Events - Eurobodalla Shire

If you are heading to the coast this summer, consider dropping in for some art!

The Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre ('the Bas') Moruya presents *I Made You a Mixtape* by Armidale-based painter Jo White.



Artwork by Jo White. Detail.

Brought to life with her signature graphic style, vibrant palette and irreverent sense of humour, this musically informed collection of paintings borrows from the titles of our most beloved and enduring pop-bops.

Where: Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre, corner of Vulcan and Murray streets, Moruya

When: Saturday 6 December 2025 to Saturday 31 January 2026, 10am to 4pm. Note that the BAS is closed on Sundays and from Wednesday 24 December, 2pm reopening Monday 5 January

Cost: Free

Gallery Bodalla presents *Beyond appearances* by Veronica O'Leary.



Artwork by Veronica O'Leary titled 'Fruit, flowers and Gosia's mug.'

Veronica works in her Tathra studio painting still life compositions, interior studies (often of the artists own domestic environment) and gathered flamboyant bunches of flowers. These works are bold celebrations of colour and light, exuberant and celebratory of the simple beauties which go beyond appearances.

Where: 66a Princes Highway, Bodalla

When: Thursday 4 December 2025 to Sunday 4 January 2026

Open: Thursday to Sunday, 11am to 4pm

## 40th Anniversary – food for thought!

In Latin, the number 40 is written as XL. Excel.

Our 40<sup>th</sup> Ruby Anniversary is sure to be excellent! Help us celebrate in 2026.



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Canberra



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