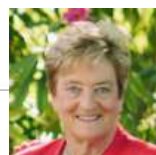


From the Chair:



Dear fellow Members and Supporters of ArtsNational Molonglo Plains,

Surrounded by autumn colours and with the weather cooling down it's the perfect time to look ahead to our winter lectures and events. Our first four lectures have taken us travelling around the world and into times past and we have some beautiful art and music ahead of us, as well as a shopping trip to 1930's London.

Once again, I will ask our members to consider the possibility of joining our Committee, or if your time or energy is limited, you could offer your services to our Friends of the Committee group, which may call upon you every now and then for extra assistance. Societies can't run without Committees, so please give it some thought!

One of the aims of ArtsNational Molonglo Plains is to provide members with opportunities for social interaction beyond our lecture afternoons. So it was great to have 35 members attending a brilliant production of Les Misérables last Saturday.

Another major aim of our Molonglo Plains society is to support and foster the arts amongst the young people of our region. We're thrilled that we've been able to provide both Gundaroo and Michelago Public School with \$1000 grants, and to give \$3000 to the Queanbeyan Junior Brass Band. All thanks to the generosity of our members!

Lindy Ross, Chair.

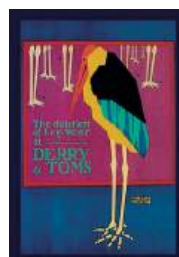
Next lecture: **Art of Iran p.2**



July and August **Lecture previews** **p. 3, 5**



August **Special Interest** **Morning** **p.4**



Young Arts News **p.6**



2.

Our next lecture!
Thursday 18 June 2pm

SAM BOWKER:
Nightingales and Roses: The Art of Iran

Dr Sam Bowker is an Associate Professor in Creative Art at Charles Sturt University. Beyond developing Australia's leading 'Islamic Art and Design' subject for university students, he has curated diverse international exhibitions and published widely on the history of *khayamiya* (Egyptian tentmaker applique). Many of you will know Sam through his series of on-line lectures, 'The Art of Everywhere Else' that ArtsNational members were able to subscribe to over the past couple of years.



This lecture will focus on the cultural legacies of the Safavid and Qajar dynasties, and discuss the extent to which they have informed contemporary art in Iran and the Persian diaspora. Using remarkable case studies, we will review how Iranian art has made distinctive contributions to global art histories, including architecture, textiles, painting, photography and literature. The art of Iran is complex, vast and diverse, so this is designed to provide a compelling introduction for a lifetime of exploration.

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1497266>

.. and our July lecture:

Thursday 16 July 2pm

CHARLIE HALL:
Peggy Guggenheim: A Lifetime of Collecting

Charlie is a passionate arts educator, lecturer, and guide, based in London and Italy. Director of the highly regarded John Hall Venice Course (est. 1965), he is a tour lecturer and leader for Kirker Holidays since 2013, and of independent tours in Italy. Charlie has designed and hosted a series of art talks and events for the Soho House group of private members clubs and courses for Christie's Education and The Serpentine Gallery Collector's Circle.



Describing herself by writing, "I am a museum", Peggy Guggenheim's life took a clear path, from setting up a commercial gallery in London, going on a single-minded shopping trip to

Paris in the late 1930's even as the German tanks were rolling into the suburbs, to escape (with her selection of European artists) to New York and the subsequent establishment of her museum (and Arts centre), and finally the purchase of the eccentric 'unfinished palazzo' in Venice. Her collection remains one of the most iconic assemblages of twentieth century art in the world.

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1497271>

.. and in August, something very special!

Wednesday 19 August 10.00 – 12.30

Special Interest Morning

The Fabulous World of London's Lost Department Stores

London's sumptuous Victorian and Edwardian department stores changed the capital – and changed its women. Shoppers of every rank were lavishly wooed, seduced and often undone by the temptations laid out before them in these new 'cathedrals of desire'. This varied and fascinating morning brings to life the untold stories behind objects, institutions and 'invisible' people of the Victorian and Edwardian era.

Two lectures with a delicious morning tea in the middle.

Lecture 1: A Walk around the Capital in the Golden Age of Shopping.

London's sumptuous Victorian and Edwardian department stores changed the capital – and changed its women. Shoppers of every rank were lavishly wooed, seduced and often undone by the temptations laid out before them in these new 'cathedrals of desire'.

Starting on Oxford Street's 'golden mile', we'll set off on a cultural tour of the capital's big stores – from snooty Marshall & Snelgrove, to Pontings, 'House of Value'; from Kennards' wart-removal service, to the live flamingos atop Derry & Toms; from Bodgers of Ilford, to Bon Marché of Brixton. How did it feel to enter a great store in 1850 – and in 1950? What was it like to serve? From shoppers to shop girls, publicity stunts to wow factor window dressing, a fascinating slice of social history, with wonderful period images.

Lecture 2: Secrets of an Edwardian Shopaholic

An extraordinary personal collection of Edwardian couture clothing lies in the vaults of the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, once worn by a debutante named Heather Firbank. When Heather's maid persuaded the museum to accept her former mistress's entire wardrobe, the V&A's Fashion and Textile department was born. So, who was Heather – and what secrets do her clothes yield up? An intimate portrait of shopping, high society, seduction, and ruin in the years leading up to the Great War. Social history at its most intimate and revealing.

\$50 Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1497308>

Thursday 20 August 2pm

TESSA BOASE:

**London's fabulous Deco department stores in the Flirty Thirties,
and the showmen and showgirls who made it all happen.**

Tessa Boase is a freelance journalist, author, lecturer, and campaigner with an interest in uncovering the stories of invisible women from the 19th and early 20th-centuries – revealing how they drove industry, propped up society and influenced politics. She is the author of three books of social history: *The Housekeeper's Tale: The Women Who Really Ran the English*



Country House (2014); *Etta Lemon: The Woman Who Saved the Birds* (first published as Mrs Pankhurst's Purple Feather in 2018), and *London's Lost Department Stores: A Vanished World of Dazzle and Dreams* (2022). Since uncovering the feminist origins of the RSPB, Tessa has been campaigning for public recognition of its female founders with plaques, portraits, and a statue.

Bold publicity stunts, statement architecture, suave dining: the 1930s was a supreme era for London's great emporia. Starting on Piccadilly with Joseph Emberton's Moderne masterpiece, Simpsons, we'll explore the capital's department stores through an Art Deco lens – from Derry & Toms' roof garden, to the bold new build of D.H. Evans, to the curved glass wall of Peter Jones. Then off to the suburbs where superb Deco buildings were springing up in surprising locations: Shinnars of Sutton, Holdrons of Peckham, Bodgers of Ilford... Who were the personalities behind these facades? How did they woo their customers? And what future today for obsolete emporia? A rich slice of social history from a fascinating era.

Behind the facades of some of London's best-known 'houses', life's dramas are playing out. There are arson attacks, sackings, strikes, marriage proposals – even murders. From Harrods' amateur dramatics society to the Channel Islands department store that served the Nazis, this is social history at its most colourful and engaging.

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1497276>

Young Arts Grants program 2026:

This year, thanks to the generosity of members who buy raffle tickets every month, and to a wonderful donation from one couple of members, we have been able to support **the artistic efforts of young people in our area in four different creative arts projects.**

Members of the Committee recently travelled to Michelago Public School and Gundaroo Public School to present a \$1000 cheque to each school to support their creative arts projects. These small rural schools run amazing programs to provide enrichment activities for their students and we are delighted to be able to help out.



Committee members at Michelago PS



Students at Gundaroo PS working on their creative arts project.

Our major fund recipient this year has been the Queanbeyan Junior Brass Band and our \$3000 grant has enabled the band to start renewing and replacing their instruments.

We recently received this letter of thanks from the Band's organisers.

'Once again, we thank you most sincerely for the generous grant of \$3000. This was a welcome gift for which we are most grateful.

Here is a picture of one of our members who is proudly holding the brand new tenor horn which has been purchased with money from this grant.

When the band first formed in 2019/20 we purchased a set of very inexpensive brass instruments which have helped the children to get stated as new musicians.

There are currently 27 band members and we are proud of them all. They range from 8 to 18 years and are tremendously keen musicians. We have held many concerts over the years and have performed at many local events.

Please pass on our sincere thanks to all the members of our organisation. This is a great thing you have done for the children of our band.'



Using Trybooking for registering attendance and visitors:

We are using technology to make the admin side of our society easier and, hopefully for the members too. Now, for our lectures we will offer members the chance to book in their visitors via a Trybooking link, as well as their own attendance. There will be a Trybooking link in the reminder email that will come a few days before each lecture. You can, of course, still contact Membership Secretary Jess and let her know of any visitors to the lecture.

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](tel:0732525254)

ARTSNATIONAL MOLONGLO PLAINS 2026 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, Beverley Webb, Elizabeth Grant, Sophia Notaras, Meralyn Bubear, Anna Prosser, Margot Sawyer, Roz Townsend.

ArtsNational Molonglo Plains Inc
Meeting in 2026 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