

# Spring Friends



G.C.Fenton  
*Sturt Pea, Central  
Australia* c.1860  
watercolour;  
12.8 x 17.5 cm  
Pictures Collection  
nla.pic-an5836959

Welcome to our spring edition. It looks like 2003 will be a hard year to beat for the quality of its Friends events. Having filled the theatre in June with the Alexandria Library presentation, and then again with the incredible Professor Fiona Stanley's Kenneth Myer Lecture in July, the rest of the year is looking equally amazing. Watch this space to find out which Australian icon the Friends will celebrate in November.

But first, in September, come and spend an evening with Robert Holden. The author of 21 books, Robert has lectured widely on the history of Australian art and illustration, nineteenth-century photography and children's literature and folklore. Robert is no stranger to the National Library either, having frequently researched here; the Library has published several of his

works. So it is more than fitting that the Library will be the venue for the launch of Robert's latest book, *The Devil & the Deep Blue Sea*. A ripping tale of abduction and madness, naval warfare, pirates and colonial adventure, this latest release from Robert could be mistaken for fiction, from the adventures of Horatio Hornblower. But this is the life story of a true Australian survivor, William Chamberlain, who was abducted by an insane whaling captain before his eighth birthday. Do join us for the launch of *The Devil & the Deep Blue Sea* at 6 pm on Tuesday, 23 September in the Library Foyer, and get your copy signed.

On Friday, 3 October at 6 pm, come and celebrate Floriade at the Library. The Friends are presenting a 'white gloves evening', a rare and exclusive occasion where you can get close to

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September/October 2003

### An Evening with Robert Holden

Date: Tuesday, 23 September

Time: 6 pm

Venue: Foyer

Admission: \$12 Friends, \$15 others  
(drinks included)

Bookings essential: (02) 6262 1698,  
or email friends@nla.gov.au

### White Gloves Evening

Date: Friday, 3 October

Time: 6 pm

Venue: NLA Visitors Centre

Admission \$20 Friends, \$25 Others  
(refreshments included)

Bookings essential: (02) 6262 1698,  
or email friends@nla.gov.au

### For bookings, details of membership and subscriptions, contact:

Friends of the NLA

National Library of Australia  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6262 1698

Fax: (02) 6273 4493

Email: friends@nla.gov.au

Website: www.nla.gov.au/friends

and actually hold examples of the Library's magnificent garden history collection. This is genuinely a once in a lifetime opportunity, as it may be years before this material is on display again. Join Friends and staff and share your passion and expertise, some food and a drink while enjoying a hands-on experience with botanical drawings, books, manuscripts and other fascinating items from the Library's remarkable and unusual collection. Numbers are strictly limited for this special after-hours event, so book early.

JAMES HALLIGAN  
Executive Officer