



Electric Lives: the Australian Dictionary of Biography Online

Nicholas Brown, senior research fellow, will speak about the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* going online as a free, fully searchable database.

Date: Thursday 16 November 2006

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: 4th Floor Conference Room

Cost: Gold coin donation at the door

Bookings recommended:

(02) 6262 1698

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

Donald Friend (1915–1989)
Shoppers at Night, Bondi Junction Mall
(detail)

From 'Ayam-Ayam Kesayangan'

Manuscript Collection MS 5959, Item 2

November Friends

In recent years, biography has become one of the most popular literary genres.

New celebrity memoirs appear on the bookshelves with increasing frequency and media hype, and have become one of the most lucrative areas of publishing.

The *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (ADB) recognised the importance of biography many years ago. Established in 1957, the ADB has to date produced 16 volumes of biographical articles on important and representative figures in Australian history. Volumes one to 16 encompass the lives of subjects who lived and died during the period 1788–1980. Work is progressing on articles covering subjects who died in 1981–1990. These articles will be published in two print volumes (volumes 17 and 18).

On 6 July 2006, this information became even easier to access, with the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* going online as a free, fully searchable database. The database incorporates all published volumes of the ADB and makes a pioneering contribution to the development of electronic research into Australian history in particular, and the humanities and social sciences in general. At a time when digitisation is transforming all aspects of education, research and writing, the *ADB Online* is a landmark venture. You can visit *ADB Online* at <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/about.htm>

The Friends of the National Library are pleased to announce that Nicholas Brown (senior research fellow in the ADB and the History Program, Research School of Social Sciences, The Australian National University) will present a lecture entitled 'Electric Lives: *The Australian Dictionary of Biography Online*'. Nicholas will speak about the achievements of this project to date, and outline its potential as both a resource and an agent in research. The lecture will be held on Thursday 16 November at the National Library and entry will be by gold coin donation at the door. Bookings are recommended on 02 6262 1698.

Finally, I would also like to remind you of our Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Monday 11 December at 5.30 pm, in the Theatre at the National Library of Australia. All Friends are welcome and the meeting will be followed by our Christmas Party in the Foyer, during which you may eat, drink and be merry AND receive a whopping 20 per cent off all items in the Bookshop. To assist us with catering for this event, please RSVP to the Friends Office on 02 6262 1698.

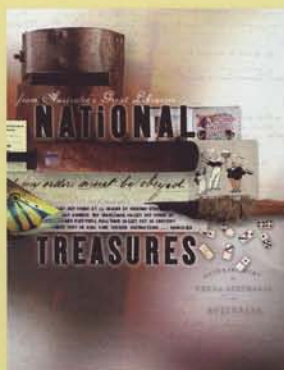
SHARYN O'BRIEN

Acting Executive Officer

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