

Media release

July is the month for Melbourne Rare Book Week, now in its fourth year

Over 40 FREE events and exhibitions dedicated exclusively to the wonderful world of rare books and book collecting, held at literary and historical societies, libraries and bookshops throughout Melbourne from 16 to 26 July

Why do we love books? Because like nothing else they teach us, they entertain us, they delight or they challenge us, sometimes all at once. There are not many other things in the world that can do that. Jörn Harbeck, ANZAAB President

Hear

People of the book:

John Arnold, Richard Overell, Stephen Herrin and Merete Smith will talk about how and what to collect, including 19th and 20th century paperbacks, illustrated books, and the emergence of boy's books of adventure, exploration and history as a collecting genre; and **Kay Craddock AM** will talk about her life as a Melbourne bookseller over five decades, drawing on the fascinating history of the rare book trade in the second half of the twentieth century.

Book collectors past:

Dr Donald Kerr, Richard Overell, Shane Carmody and Geoff Down will talk about famous book collectors including Sir George Grey, Dr T. M. Hocken, Dr John Emmerson and Dr Leslie Cowlshaw.

Book collectors present:

Professor Emeritus Chris Browne, the Honorable Justice Timothy Ginnane, Emeritus Professor Louis Waller, and Jason Taliadoros will engage us with their tales about the joys and pitfalls of book collecting.

Medical men:

Drawing on historical records and books held in our libraries, **Dr Jonathan Burdon AM** will enlighten us about medicine in 19th century Melbourne, and **Mr Felix Behan**, the importance and place of the French surgical books of Ambroise Paré and his successors in the overall history of medicine.

Linguist:

Kate Burrige will join **John Byrne** to discuss Samuel Johnson, his dictionary and its place in society as one of the most influential dictionaries in the history of the English language.

Learn

How fine arts students studied the masters without the internet in the 1920s; what geometry lecture notes looked like in the mid-1800s, what 17th century pharmacology students considered a good cure for passing wind, and how important God was to a researcher of astronomy in Venice on the 6th of March 1550 – with the answers portrayed in an exhibition curated by **students at St Mary's Newman Academic Centre**.

Explore the way in which the rare manuscript collection at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria mirrors the early exploration and attempts at settlement, with historian **Emma Russell**.

Discover how legal archives help Victorians understand the history of their own backyard, as historian and Senior Lecturer in Criminology in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne, **Julie Evans**, tells the story of the 1881 Coranderrk Inquiry.

Enjoy an introduction, by **Brigadier Ian Lillie AM CSC (Ret'd)**, to the First World War material held in the library of the Royal United Services Institute of Victoria.

And be fascinated by the rivalry between touring Shakespearean actors Barry Sullivan and Charles and Ellen Kean, sometimes referred to as the “1863 Melbourne Shakespeare War”, as **David McInnis**, **Gerry Higgins Lecturer in Shakespeare Studies at the University of Melbourne**, provides an overview of this unique document of Shakespeare performance in Gold Rush era Melbourne.

Visit

Melbourne’s wonderful libraries, historical societies and museums and get an understanding of how their collections have informed historians, researchers and the community over the centuries. Go behind the scenes with their curators, including **Bec Carland** (Museum Victoria), **Dr Grace Moore** (University of Melbourne), **Sheila O’Connell** (British Museum), **Emeritus Professor Sasha Grishin** (State Library Victoria) and **Alisa Bunbury** (National Gallery of Victoria).

Read

Your favourite books with others at the **North Melbourne Library**, and hear what sports journalists like to read, during a panel discussion at the **Melbourne Cricket Club Library**.

Attend

The launch of the **Hands in Print** literary inspired art installation at **The Readers’ Walk** precinct, and the long awaited launch of the late John Holroyd’s book, *The Australian Book Trade*, at the bookshop of Douglas Stewart Fine Books.

Benefit

From the advice of experts **Belinda Gourley** (Melbourne Museum) and **Debra Parry** (The Genealogical Society of Victoria) as they tell us how to care for our books, photographs.

Experience

The synergy between the performing arts and the printed word as actors **Debra Lawrance and Mark Lee** read selected letters from Helene Hanff’s romance about a bookstore - *84 Charing Cross Road* – in Reader’s Feast Bookstore.

See the way in which artists are turning the physical book into works of art as **Nicolas Jones** reveals how he cuts intricate valleys and crevices into old books, and **Ruth Johnstone** presents her micro-installation, housed to its own minute scale amongst the shelves at the Melbourne Athenaeum Library, which offers reflection on the compression of knowledge and the written word and the function of a library in the digital age.

Discover

Whether your family favourites, collected items or inherited books are of sentimental or market value during the **Rare Book Discovery Day** at Melbourne Museum.

Celebrate

The 150th anniversary of the birth of William Butler Yeats at an exhibition curated by **students at St Mary’s Newman Academic Centre**, accompanied by audio recordings of Yeats’ work.

Acquire

Unique, rare, historic, collectable, or simply nostalgic items at the **Melbourne Rare Book Fair** – Australia’s major annual event for rare books, maps, prints and ephemera – where you can meet **leading Australian and international booksellers**.

Find the full program at www.rarebookweek.com

For more information contact Convenor Kay Craddock AM

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