

THE LaTROBE JOURNAL

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State Library Victoria acknowledges the traditional lands of all the Victorian Aboriginal clans, and their cultural practices and knowledge systems.

We recognise that our collections hold traditional cultural knowledge belonging to Indigenous communities in Victoria and around the country. We support communities to protect the integrity of this information, gathered from their Ancestors in the colonial period.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, who have handed down these systems of practice to each new generation for millennia.

Above left: Edna Walling,
Self portrait, 1952 (see p. 32)

Above right: *Panko; or, Votes for women: the great card game*, c. 1909 (detail; see p. 105)

Front cover: Howard Arkley,
Untitled house, c. 1995 (detail; see p. 6)

Back cover: Sarah Spencer at work on *Stargazing*, 2022 (detail; see p. 87)

Inside front cover: Rudi Rappold,
Vali and her fox, 1972 (see p. 24)

State Library Victoria advises that articles in this journal may include images and names of deceased people. They may also include words and descriptive terms that may be offensive to Indigenous Australians. These works are presented as part of the record of the past; contemporary users should interpret the works within that context.

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EDITORIAL

This edition of *The La Trobe Journal* reflects some of the ideas and experiences that have coloured these past three years, as the COVID-19 lockdowns rolled on. As we tried to stay well and mentally active, many of us turned our attention to our homes and gardens, or to more introspective pursuits like art and literature. This issue touches on these themes, and we also look to the past, to remember what we are capable of enduring.

We showcase fascinating collection items and stories from State Library Victoria, from a fresh look at the breadth of the work of Howard Arkley, known best for his images of Australian suburbia, to a broader view of the aesthetic roots and pursuits of garden designer Edna Walling, an investigation of editor William Shum's contribution to Australian culture through *The Australian Home Beautiful* magazine and an account of an expedition of great astronomical interest tracked via a comparison of two photograph albums. The author of the last of these, William Tobin, sadly passed away shortly before this went to print, and we extend our condolences to his family. It seems that, no matter the times, war is ever-present in some form, and you'll find here a vivid description, drawing on the Library's Argus Collection of Newspaper Photographs, of the day World War II came right into Melbourne's suburbs, with the crash of a Royal Australian Air Force dive bomber. We also feature a work of research into a 19th-century photograph album that contributes to our understanding of the context in which photographs of Indigenous Australians were taken in that period, drawing on historical documents held by the Library.

Our librarians carry invaluable knowledge about our collections and items, and in this edition we share librarian Kevin Molloy's history of the provenance of the first edition copy of James Joyce's *Ulysses* that we hold. We also hear from Collection Development & Description staff Toni Burton



Attendees of Bricks and Beats, an event that took place in the summer of 2022, as part of the summer State Library Bricktoria program, when Victoria was finally at the tail end of its Roadmap out of lockdown. Photograph by sdprmedia.com.au

and Fiona Jeffery on the unconventional life of artist and dancer Vali Myers, whose archive of drawings, visual diaries and personal effects (including her cosmetics and brass bed) are held by the Library.

The Library offers an incredible variety of resources and opportunities for curiosity, thinking and creating. We hope to give a sense of these through the articles discussing the work of one of the Library's fellows, the magnificent creations of artists involved in the exhibition *Handmade Universe*, our collaborations with organisations like the Melbourne Fringe Festival and the remarkable cultural contribution we are able to make through the acquisitions facilitated by our philanthropy programs.

Finally, we would like to thank all who give to State Library Victoria – our volunteers, staff, donors, members and visitors. We recognise that without you we would not be able to share or care for our remarkable collections. The pandemic is not over, and it changes us still; we hope you find solace and enjoyment in what's on offer here.