



Club Fermoy

Issue 63

Dear friends and supporters,

We are now in the final weeks of our exhibition *Nature Revealed*. This show has delighted visitors with vibrant botanical illustrations of Australian wildflowers by Rosa Fiveash and Ellis Rowan, rarely seen on public display in the last thirty years. Don't miss this opportunity to view the internationally award-winning work of Rowan and local talent Fiveash, whose record of endangered Australian orchids is unique. You can also learn more about South Australia's orchids from Jerry Smith, Senior Scientific Officer with the South Australian Seed Conservation Centre on 15 May as he traces a century of interwoven efforts to record and conserve these vulnerable plants.

Also closing soon (less than two weeks!) are entries for *Best in Show 2025: Australian Photographic Dog Prize*. Don't delay in snapping a great photo of your favourite furry friend to be in with a chance to win \$5000 and have your work exhibited at DRG. Visit our website for full details and enter now!

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of *Club Fermoy*. If you like what we do, please consider a donation to DRG as we approach the end of the financial year. Every contribution, large or small, really does make a difference to our exhibitions and public programs, and all gifts over \$2 are tax deductible.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason
Director, David Roche Gallery



Your donation will help David Roche Gallery reach its full potential to acquire works of art and present innovative exhibitions that will add to the cultural life of South Australia. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

No matter how large or small, your gift will help us do more.

[DONATE TODAY](#)

EXHIBITION



Nature Revealed: Rosa Fiveash & Ellis Rowan

Final weeks! Must close 24 May

The Australian wildflower paintings of Fiveash and Rowan come together for the first time in this landmark exhibition exploring South Australia's rich botanical collections. Challenging Victorian conventions, Ellis Rowan travelled widely and enjoyed international acclaim for her wildflower paintings, and the work of Rosa Fiveash attracted the interest of Australia's leading botanists.

[DETAILS AND TICKETS](#)

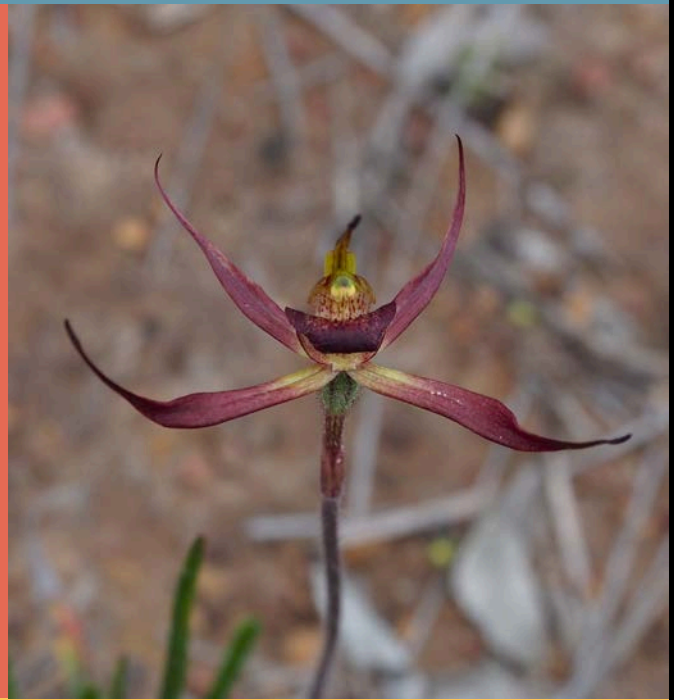
Vibrant and painterly, Rowan's large watercolours of wildflowers are exhibited with the delicate botanical paintings of South Australian artist Fiveash. For many this will be the first opportunity to marvel at the botanical art created by these two inspiring women. Luminous, exquisite and meticulous, their watercolours reveal some of Australia's most beloved and endangered native flora.

PRINCIPAL LENDER



Stethoscopes, Sketchbooks & Shade houses:

Doctors, artists and
the ongoing
conservation of
South Australia's
flora



**Thursday 15 May 6:00–7:15pm
at David Roche Gallery**

Join Jerry Smith as he traces South Australia's orchids through a century of interwoven efforts—from Rosa Fiveash's stunning 19th-century sketches to the urgent mission of saving endangered species like the Bayonet Spider-orchid, *Caladenia gladiolata*. This talk reveals how artists, doctors, and scientists, each in their own way, have contributed to a shared journey of conservation.

See how a flower once drawn on paper is now being saved through seed banking and post-fire recovery at the South Australian Seed Conservation Centre. It's a story of persistence, teamwork, and hope for SA's native flora, brought to life with vivid pictures.

Discover how past efforts guide the present and learn how to help write the next chapter in this ongoing tale of protecting the state's botanical treasures.

About the speaker

Jerry Smith is a Senior Scientific Officer with the South Australian Seed Conservation Centre. He has spent 25 years getting his hands dirty in flora conservation across South Australia, especially in the Mount Lofty Ranges. He's part of a small, passionate team working to secure the future of our native plants—like the endangered *Caladenia gladiolata*—through seed banking, propagation, and post-fire recovery.

Before joining the Centre, Jerry managed *Back from the Brink*, a major project to boost the survival of some of SA's most threatened species, which is where his love for orchids and teamwork really took root. He's here to share the story of how artists, scientists, and conservationists—past and present—are keeping SA's flora alive, one seed at a time.

DETAILS AND TICKETS

UPCOMING EVENT

Curators' Tea & Tour Nature Revealed: Rosa Fiveash & Ellis Rowan



**Friday 23 May 10:30am–noon
at David Roche Gallery**

On Friday 23 May 2025, enjoy tea and coffee in the Roman Room from 10:30am, then embark on our final curator's tour of *Nature Revealed: Rosa Fiveash & Ellis Rowan* led by exhibition curators Robert Reason and Timothy Roberts, with special guest Lindl Lawton, Manager, Interpretation and Cultural Collections, Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium of South Australia.

As you marvel at these luminous watercolours that depict some of Australia's most beloved and endangered native flora, learn more about the two inspiring women who painstakingly created these exquisite works.

DETAILS AND TICKETS

CANINE TIDBIT



**BEST IN
SHOW 2025**

Australian Photographic Dog Prize

DAVID
ROCHE
GALLERY



ENTRIES CLOSING SOON!

Enter up to four works across the categories of Dog portrait, Dogs and companions, Dogs in action, and Puppies! See the finalists featured in *Best in Show 2025: Australian Photographic Dog Prize* exhibition at David Roche Gallery from 30 August to 25 October 2025.

Co-judges for Best in Show 2025 are Director of David Roche Gallery Robert Reason, and internationally renowned animal photographer Alex Cearn OAM.

To be eligible to enter, all colour photographs must be the photographer's original artwork taken in Australia after 19 May 2023. Open to Australian citizens or a resident of Australia (here until the end of 2025). Complete Rules of Entry to *Best in Show 2025* and the online entry portal can be accessed [here](#). Enter NOW!

Entries open to amateur and professional photographers with a first prize of \$5000.

Young photographers prize \$500.

Competition entries close at 5pm, **Monday 19 May 2025.**

Shortlisted photographs will be exhibited at David Roche Gallery 30 August – 25 October 2025.

READ MORE AND ENTER HERE

TODAY'S TREASURE

An
ornithological
cabinet plate



Pierre Neppel factory, Paris c.1815

This wonderful plate decorated with a pheasant is the work of the Pierre Neppel factory. Established in Paris in 1805, the factory achieved a high level of excellence for its wares.

The border of the plate is decorated with a matt gilt ground and oval panels of stylised gilt rosettes. These frame a large, magnificently coloured bird with red, blue, yellow and brown plumage, perched on a tree branch within a wooded riverscape. A large stone block in the foreground is inscribed 'le Faisan hupé de la chine'.

The image derives from the work of George-Louis Leclerc Buffon (1707–88) the French naturalist who held the position of intendant at the Jardin du Roi. His seminal work was the *Histoire Naturelle, générale et particulière....* (Natural History, General and Particular....) an encyclopaedic collection of 36 volumes. The *Histoire naturelle des oiseaux* were the nine volumes dedicated to birds, published between 1770 and 1783. There Buffon describes *La Faisan doré ou Le Tricolor huppé de la Chine* (The Golden Pheasant or, The Crested Tricolour of China).

Buffon attached much importance to the illustrations accompanying his text and François-Nicolas Martinet (1731–c.1800) depicted the birds. The image on this plate is almost identical to Martinet's illustration.

The golden pheasant (*Chrysolophus pictus*) is a species in the family Phasianidae, order Galliformes. It is native to China which earned it the name Chinese pheasant. It also has the name of tricolour pheasant. Like many birds, the species exhibits noticeable sexual dimorphism. The male's plumage has striking colours which made it a frequent sight in aviaries and zoos, whilst that of the female's colouring is muted brown.

David Roche purchased this plate at auction in 2007. It was formerly the property of Giampaolo Lukacs, a noted ceramics dealer and scholar. Today the plate can be seen in the Drawing Room at Fermoy House, surrounded by other important examples of European eighteenth and nineteenth century porcelain.

Leslie S



Become a Member

DRG Members enable us to maintain David Roche's exquisite collection, present world-class exhibitions, program lectures with expert guest speakers and to fulfil our vision as a centre of excellence and a leader in decorative arts in Australia. By becoming a DRG Member, you will meet like-minded enthusiasts who share your passion for art and history, and receive many great benefits including:

25% discount off full price house tour ticket (4 times per year) and full price exhibition entry fee • 10% discount off full price purchases in the shop (this excludes online shop) and 10% off full price DRG Lecture Series tickets • Invitations to exclusive tours and special events • Advance notice of DRG programs and events • Members only events & trips.

SIGN UP ONLINE TODAY



Shop Online



The 144-page, richly illustrated *Nature Revealed: Rosa Fiveash & Ellis Rowan* exhibition catalogue is a perfect gift for lovers of flowers and painting alike!

\$45 - [BUY NOW](#)



This still life by Theude Grönland is just one design in our range of greetings cards and postcards featuring highlights from the David Roche Collection.

[SEE THE FULL RANGE](#)

SHOP ONLINE TODAY

HIGHLIGHTS AT OTHER HOUSE MUSEUMS

THE CEDARS

**Nora Heysen: at home & abroad
Open now!**

This rich and varied exhibition showcases a wide range of Nora Heysen's subjects - portraits, still life, interiors, landscapes, genre scenes, and animal studies - offering a rare opportunity to trace the evolution of her artistic practice over eight decades.

Visitors will experience not only individual masterpieces but also preliminary sketches, giving insight into her creative process. Complementing the artworks are photographs, personal documents and objects from the Nora Heysen Foundation collection, displayed both in her studio and sitting room.

CARRICK HILL

**William Morris: the work of ten men
a talk by Christopher Menz
May 14 2025 | 6:00pm
\$25 | Carrick Hill Members \$10**

William Morris was one of the greatest pattern designers of all time: his work remains enduringly popular. He is famous for his superb textiles and wallpapers. Morris's London design firm Morris & Company (1861–1940) was one of the most successful and progressive in Victorian Britain. It had an international clientele that extended to Australia, largely through Adelaide's Barr Smith family.

Part of the exhibition program for *Morris & Co | An Adelaide Obsession*, the lecture will cover key aspects of Morris's design work.

MORE INFORMATION

MORE INFORMATION

YOUR GIFT HELPS US DO MORE



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No matter how large or small, your gift will help us do more.

DONATE TODAY

Images in this newsletter: **Club Fermoy Banner:** Rex Wood, *Geelong Grammar graduation portrait of David J Roche* c. 1948, oil on canvas. The David Roche Collection. **Giving:** Hubley Manufacturing Company (manufacturer), Daniel Cooke (inventor) 'Trick Dog' mechanical money box, designed 1888. The David Roche Collection. **Exhibition:** Rosa Fiveash, *Sturt's desert pea (Swainsona formosa)* c. 1887, watercolour and gouache on toned wove paper. Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium of South Australia. **Lecture:** *Caladenia ovata* in flower at Deep Creek 2019. Image supplied. **Tea & Tour:** Ellis Rowan (designer); Royal Worcester Porcelain Factory (manufacturer); Ernest Phillips (decorator), *Cup and saucer, Waratah* 1916. Private collection, Adelaide. **Canine Tidbit:** A canine portrait by Alex Cearns OAM, courtesy Houndstooth Studio. **Today's Treasure:** Pierre Neppel Factory (1805–1836) *Cabinet plate, Chinese crested pheasant* c.1815. The David Roche Collection. **DRG Membership banner:** Germany, *Armchair (Fauteuil)* c. 1750, oak, pine, gilt, replacement silk upholstery. The David Roche Collection. **DRG Shop banner:** George Bullock, *Specimen table* c. 1815, Brazilian rosewood, brass, gilt bronze, hardstones. The David Roche Collection.



David Roche Gallery continues the work of The David Roche Foundation, established in 1999 by David J Roche AM (1930–2013).

DAVID ROCHE GALLERY

241 Melbourne St,
North Adelaide,
Sth. Australia 5006

FERMOY HOUSE TOURS
TUESDAY – SATURDAY
10AM – 12PM – 2PM

GALLERY OPEN
TUESDAY – SATURDAY
10AM – 4PM

DRG acknowledges the Kurna people as the traditional owners of the Adelaide region. We recognise and respect Kurna heritage, beliefs and spiritual relationship with Country, and we pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.



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