



# Club Fermoy

## Issue 73

Welcome to Club Fermoy, and I hope everyone had a relaxing Easter even as we grapple daily with cost-of-living challenges and global uncertainty. The April edition hails the final weeks of *Fantastic Forms*, a must-see show for Merric Boyd pottery and drawings, and for all who share an enthusiasm for historical and contemporary Australian studio ceramics. We also welcome Dr Eugene Barilo von Reisberg from Melbourne, who will be giving lectures on Empress Marie Louise of France and the Military Uniform later in April. Keep reading to find out.

For history buffs, May is fast approaching and with it the History Festival. Book now for our own contribution presented by Andrew Turley on the fascinating topic of Sidney Nolan's group of paintings known collectively as the 'Adelaide Ladies'.

The team here are busy working on our next exhibition, *Making Old New: DRG 10th Anniversary, SA Craft & Design reimagine the Collection* to celebrate our first decade of sharing David's remarkable collection. Bringing together twenty of SA's most talented makers and our collection, I look forward to sharing more details in May.

The capital redevelopment also continues apace as we push to complete the work by June, and the new back gallery structure is framed-up and the roof newly installed. Elegant outdoor chairs and tables for the café are on order, and the new operator is finalising the winter menu!

Best wishes,

Robert Reason,  
Director, David Roche Gallery

## EXHIBITION



*Fantastic Forms* captures the energy, movement and colour in the expansive creative practice of Merric Boyd (1888-1959). Featuring over 200 drawings and ceramics from the Bundanon Collection, in dialogue with contemporary works by Rubyrose Bancroft, Stephen Benwell and Nabilah Nordin, this exhibition celebrates the endless creativity of the human imagination. Don't miss out, ends 9 May.

DETAILS AND TICKETS

**BUNDANON**  
A Bundanon touring exhibition



Australian Government  
National Collecting Institutions  
Touring & Outreach Program

## EVENT

### Lecture Series: Napoleon's Other Wife & Military Uniform

Dr Eugene Barilo von Reisberg



## Lecture 1

### Napoleon's Other Wife: The Destinies of Empress Marie Louise and the King of Rome

This lecture unravels their complicated destinies during the heydays of the First Empire and offers fresh insights into their resilient navigation of the turbulent political landscape after Napoleon's downfall.

Wednesday 22 April | 6:00–7:15pm

Only a Few Tickets Left!

FIND OUT MORE

## Lecture 2

### Military Uniform: Power, Authority and Sex Appeal

Eugene Barilo von Reisberg invites you to explore the history and significance of the military uniform, examining its popularity in nineteenth-century society as a symbol of patriotism, power, and authority, and its associations with social advancement, upward mobility, and even sex appeal.

Thursday 23 April | 6:00–7:15pm

Tickets Selling Fast!

FIND OUT MORE

EVENT

The lost  
history of  
Sidney Nolan's

# Adelaide Ladies

A talk by Andrew Turley



Thursday 7 May | 6:00–7:15pm

In 1964, after travelling to the Adelaide Festival, iconic Australian artist Sidney Nolan painted 60 portraits of women to represent Australia's modern identity. With affection, he dubbed the works his 'Adelaide Ladies.' Sixty years on Nolan author and scholar, Andrew Turley, reveals the themes, hidden identities and secrets buried in their paint.

This event is presented by David Roche Gallery as part of South Australia's History Festival 2026, and is supported by the Sidney Nolan Trust.



Supported by the  
**SIDNEY NOLAN TRUST**  
[www.sidneynolantrust.org](http://www.sidneynolantrust.org)

[DETAILS AND TICKETS](#)



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. As a member, you'll enjoy the following special offers:

**25% discount** off full price Fermoy House tour ticket (4x per year)

**25% off** full price exhibition entry fee

**10% off** purchases in the Gallery shop

**10% off** full price DRG Lecture Series tickets

Invitations to **exclusive tours** & **special events**

**Members only** events & trips



**Join a community of like-minded enthusiasts who share your passion for art and history—become a member today!**

SIGN UP TODAY

DRG Shop Online

**New Scarves On Sale**

Treat yourself or someone special to a beautifully hand-rolled 100% silk scarf—the perfect accessory to elevate any outfit. Available to purchase in-store and online.



### **100% Silk Scarf (Malachite)**

Design inspired by: Attributed to Carl Woerffel Manufactory [from 1880 known as Hoessrich and Woerffel] (Russia, 1842-1914); M.C. Elkin (Russia), lapidary workmaster, *Malachite vase and cover*, c.1860-70, malachite, 97.0 x 43.0 cm diameter.

[BROWSE HERE](#)



### **100% Silk Scarf (Royal Porcelain)**

Design inspired by: Barr, Flight & Barr, Royal Porcelain Works (Britain, 1804-1813), *Dessert dish with Chinese cabbage pattern*, porcelain polychrome enamel gilt, 4.1 x 22.8 x 22.6 cm.

[BROWSE HERE](#)

HIGHLIGHTS AT OTHER HOUSE MUSEUMS



## THE CEDARS

### **2026 Workshops at The Cedars | Zinia King and Sandra Johnston**

Join talented artist Zinia King as she hosts her *Birds of The Cedars* Painting workshop in August and *Spring Flowers* in October. Each workshop will be held over four Saturdays as a 4-part painting workshop series where you will discover the joy of capturing the vibrant beauty of flowers and birds.

Join renowned botanical artist Sandra Johnston for a delightful series of Sunday workshops where she will guide you through creating your own botanical masterpiece inspired by nature.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## CARRICK HILL

### **FUSE Glass Artist Residency Exhibition | 24 April 2026**

JamFactory and Carrick Hill present the 2026 *FUSE Glass Artist Residency* Exhibition showcasing Melbourne based glass artist Nadège Desgenétez.

Desgenétez's work is inspired by her experience of migration, and the ways in which feelings of connection to and dislocation from place can coexist. Desgenétez will showcase two related bodies of work, drawing on her doctoral research and extending her current practice.

[LEARN MORE](#)

YOUR GIFT HELPS US DO MORE



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

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. **Exhibition:** Merric Boyd, *Trees*, 1950, pencil, coloured pencil and watercolour on paper. Bundanon Collection. Photo: Rob Little. **Event lecture series:** Joseph Franque, *Empress Marie Louise and the King of Rome*, 1811, Oil on canvas. **Event talk:** Sidney Nolan, *Country Woman*, 1964, private collection, Sidney Nolan Trust. **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. **Carrick Hill:** Nadège Desgenétez, *Silver Scape*, Image courtesy of the artist. **Giving:** Hubley Manufacturing Company (manufacturer), Daniel Cooke (inventor) 'Trick Dog' mechanical money box, designed 1888. 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,  
SOUTH 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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