

# CLUB FERMOY

## The David Roche Foundation House Museum Newsletter

### Issue 43



Image: The Main Bedroom in Fermoys House looks better than ever with a lighting upgrade that enhances the ambience of the room and collections within.

## From the Museum Director

Dear friends and supporters,

For those of you living in an old house you will know that there are always jobs to be done and Fermoys House is no exception. We have recently completed an upgrade to the lighting in David's bedroom with beautiful results and will roll out further upgrades over the next twelve months so that you can enjoy the full visual splendour of this art collection. Our large collection of English regency, French and Russian empire furniture has also benefited from its annual 'health check-up' and repolish and likewise we have been repairing and cleaning some of David's superb antique chandeliers. Often our visitors ask 'who does the dusting' but really it takes a team of specialists to look after David's home!

In this issue you can learn more about our Worcester dishes painted with exotic shells from volunteer Leslie and our canine tidbit explores a champion winning poodle. The exhibition *Arthur Boyd: The Life of Saint Francis* from the National Gallery of Australia collection continues to delight visitors and each time walking past the tapestries I cannot help feeling the intensity of these enormous Boydian figures radiating out toward me. Boyd really was one of Australia's greatest biblical and mythological storytellers. In a few weeks' time you will have the opportunity to learn about Boyd and Bundanon from Collections Manager, Jennifer Thompson. Book now for what is sure to be a fascinating talk.

My sincere thanks is extended to all those who so generously supported TDRF prior to June 30, and to those who donated funds specifically toward our upcoming Wedgwood exhibition catalogue. Thank you!

Best wishes,

Robert Reason

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ARTHUR BOYD  
THE LIFE OF SAINT FRANCIS

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Image: Arthur Boyd (designer), Tapeçarias de Portalegre (manufacturer), *St Francis when young turning aside* 1972. High warp tapestry. Collection: National Gallery of Australia, purchased 1975. Arthur Boyd's work reproduced with the permission of Bundanon Trust.

Celebrated Australian artist Arthur Boyd and his vision of the endearing medieval Italian saint, St. Francis of Assisi, comes to Adelaide from the collection of the National Gallery of Australia.

Rarely seen, a selection of Boyd's large, and spectacular tapestries illustrating the life of the saint are joined by sketches, pastels and lithographs exploring the universal human conditions of love and pain, sacrifice and compassion. Only at The David Roche Foundation.

**ARTHUR BOYD  
THE LIFE OF SAINT FRANCIS**

**Until 2 September 2023  
Tuesday to Saturday  
10AM – 4PM**

**No booking required.**

**\$15 Adult. \$12 Concession.  
\$11 TDRF Member.  
Children under 12 free.**

**PRINCIPAL LENDER**



**Guided Tours  
Thursdays 11:30AM  
[Book your tour here](#)**

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**BUNDANON REIMAGINED  
ARTHUR & YVONNE BOYD'S VISION**



## THURSDAY 20 JULY 2023 6:00PM

In January 2022 the new Bundanon Art Museum and Bridge for Creative Learning was opened to the public after many years of planning, designing, and building. Architect Kerstin Thompson created a dynamic concept design for Bundanon's Riversdale property. At the heart of the plan sits a light-filled contemporary art gallery, and a dramatic bridge structure housing a Creative Learning Centre, accommodation, and a cafe. The new infrastructure is sensitively integrated into the beautiful Shoalhaven landscape sitting alongside existing heritage architecture on the site.

Jennifer Thompson's talk will explore the history and gift of Bundanon, the Collection (which includes pastels and lithographs by Arthur Boyd, from the St Francis series), the new development, and how it continues to honour Arthur & Yvonne Boyd's vision.

### About the speaker

**Jennifer Thompson** is Collections Manager for Bundanon, where she has worked for over 20 years. Her work includes managing Bundanon's collection and archive, conducting and facilitating research, developing and managing exhibition tours, caring for and maintaining the heritage buildings and providing physical and online access to the Collections.

**Cost:** General: \$25 | TDRF Members \$22.50

(all tickets include a complimentary beverage on arrival)

[Book your tickets now](#)

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## CANINE TIDBITS



David Roche's life as exhibitor and breeder of pure dogs and an All Breeds Judge is well known in the Dog World . As with all things, David was a consummate professional and always prepared for his judging appointments. He judged in most countries, notably major shows in The United Kingdom and the United States. David had many friends in both countries, often holidaying with friends and visiting kennels. He very much enjoyed time in California in a relaxing environment.

The photo here shows David judging at the Santa Barbara Kennel Club, United States, 1977. He is awarding Best of Breed to the Standard Poodle Ch Rimskittle Bartered Bride, handled by Tim Brazier.

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# TODAY'S TREASURE

Showcasing the favourite pieces of our volunteers in The David Roche Collection. In this edition, Leslie S writes about a pair of richly decorated porcelain dishes displayed in the Main Bedroom at Fermoy House.



Image: Worcester Porcelain Factory (Flight, Barr & Barr), *Pair of dishes* c. 1810. Porcelain, polychrome enamel, glazed, gilding. TDRF 1707.

These early nineteenth century square shape dishes with scalloped rims are from the Worcester porcelain factory. They are impressed on the reverse with BFB and a crown and the printed words, 'BARR FLIGHT & BARR, Royal Porcelain Works, WORCESTER, London-House, No.1 Coventry Street', being the address of the London retail shop which opened in 1789. The Worcester porcelain factory was established at Warmstry house, Worcester in 1751, and was purchased by Thomas Flight in 1783. In 1792 Martin Barr joined the firm and over subsequent years there were several changes in the factory name reflecting changes in ownership involving the Flight and Barr families.

Just prior to 1810 the company began producing transfer printed pictures of sea shells but very shortly after these were only hand painted. These superb quality depictions were executed by artists such as Thomas Baxter and others, though often were not signed.

I find these shell paintings utterly charming. Framed by an exquisite border of the famous 'Barr orange' overlain with a gilded fretwork design, the shells are the stars. They lend themselves to pictorial representation because of the endless variety of colour, the fantastic patterns on the shell bodies, the wonderful spiralling volute shapes together with the filigree of seaweed and coral with visible signs of textural diversity.

It is unclear if these shells were ever scientifically catalogued by the company as they are not usually associated with any identifying script. They appear on plates, cups, inkstands and vases.

Leslie S

*Book a tour of Fermoy house today to see these treasures and many more!*

[Book now](#)

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## FROM THE ARCHIVES

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Image: Job Ridgway & Sons (Britain, 1808-1813) Cachepot c. 1810. Porcelain, glazed. TDRF 3887.

Many visitors to Fermoy house remark at the group of *marmotinto* pictures crafted from sand. David Roche purchased two of the six pictures in 2011 at an auction of the contents of Dysart House, Tasmania. Several other pieces were purchased at the auction, notably a group of shells, a white stoneware tulip vase, and this porcelain cachepot, with scant catalogue detail: 'English, early 19th century.'

Comparison of this work against other examples has revealed that this cachepot was produced by Job Ridgway & Sons. Job Ridgway was partner alongside his brother George in a pottery operating from Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent since the early 1780s, but dissolved their partnership around 1802 so Job Ridgway could establish the Cauldon Place pottery, less than a mile away. The pottery produced useful and decorative pieces in earthenware and porcelain, with hand-painted or blue transfer print decoration.

This cachepot is manufactured from bone china with lavender blue slip, and sprigged decoration depicting Venus in her chariot escorted by cupids. The sprigged technique and classical imagery deliberately imitate the famed jasperware produced at Wedgwood, which by the early decades of the nineteenth century was copied and referenced by potteries throughout Europe. Examples of Ridgway's sprigged work are rarely seen in this size; a potpourri in the same technique is held in the Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

*Search the collection online to discover many hidden treasures collected by David Roche.*

[Search the collection](#)

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## MEMBERSHIP



Are you a regular visitor to The David Roche Foundation House Museum? Even if you're not but are keen to support the work of the Foundation, then becoming a TDRF Member would be the ideal thing for you!

TDRF Members enable the Foundation to maintain David Roche's exquisite collection, present world-

class exhibitions, program lectures with expert guest speakers and to fulfil its vision as a centre of excellence and a leader in decorative arts in Australia. By becoming a TDRF 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)
- 25% discount off full price exhibition entry fee
- 10% discount off full price purchases in the shop (this excludes online shop)
- 10% discount off full price TDRF Lecture Series tickets
- Invitations to exclusive tours and special events
- Advance notice of TDRF programs and events
- Members only events & trips

#### Become a TDRF Member

To become a TDRF Member, please call into the museum or download the membership application form here [www.rochefoundation.com.au/membership/](http://www.rochefoundation.com.au/membership/)

Please return your completed form by post or by dropping it off at the museum.

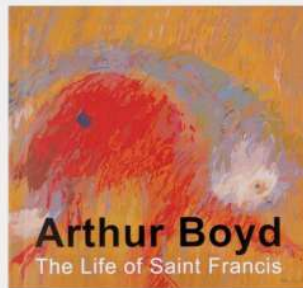
For further information please e-mail [memberships@rochefoundation.org.au](mailto:memberships@rochefoundation.org.au) or phone 08 8267 3677.

[Find out more](#)

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## GIFT SHOP

The David Roche Foundation has a wide range of beautiful products on sale which make perfect gifts or a treat for yourself. Here are some of our favourites.



Enrich your experience of *Arthur Boyd: The Life of Saint Francis* with an exhibition catalogue, written by Robert Reason and featuring over 40 illustrations!

**Only \$18.00**

[Buy Now](#)



Cold winter nights call for warming cocoas! Enjoy yours in one of our fine bone china mugs. Available in two patterns: flowers (pictured) or fruit!

**Only \$20.00**

[Browse the range](#)

Order online at <https://www.rochefoundation.com.au/shop/> or by calling us on (08) 8267 3677 or emailing us at [info@rochefoundation.org.au](mailto:info@rochefoundation.org.au) (with your contact details). Click and collect is available.

**We now post internationally!**

[Visit the shop](#)

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## EVENTS AT A HOUSE NEAR YOU

Our friends at The Cedars and Carrick Hill offer wonderful experiences and events. Here's what's on:

#### THE CEDARS

Tea Tasting with Brackendale Tea

Saturday 8 July 10am - 11:30am

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Become a true tea enthusiast! Join Tea Sommelier, Anthea Brockbank, of Brackendale Tea Co as she guides you through the ins and outs of tea and tisanes. Get to know your Black from your Green, your Oolong from your Pu-erh, and everything in between. Together with all the tips and tricks you need to know about brewing that perfect cup of tea every time, this workshop is the ultimate tea experience.



Your experience includes tasting The Cedars full range of luxury loose leaf teas and tisanes, and taking home a small selection of samples you have tried on the day.

**BOOK NOW ONLINE!**

#### THE CEDARS

##### Still Life Drawing and Collage

**Thursday 20 July 10am and 1pm**



Combine drawing and collage techniques in this two hour mixed media workshop to produce a still life art work influenced by the abundance and creativity of the home of the Heysen family, The Cedars. Taking a novel and playful approach, you will be guided through the process of creating your own unique artwork. Enjoy learning techniques that open up new possibilities and spark new ways of working whether you are a beginner or more experienced artist.

Plan your visit and after the workshop, spend some time immersed in the artist's garden or enjoy a light lunch at our Tea Shop.

**BOOK NOW ONLINE!**

#### CARRICK HILL

**Opens Wednesday 2 August**

##### Adelaide Mid-Century Moderns: émigrés, mavericks and progressives

This exhibition will be the first survey of Adelaide modernism during the 1950s and 1960s, extending from the influx of European émigré artists who arrived in Adelaide around 1950, through the heyday of mid-century modernism, to the arrival of Pop and post-painterly abstraction in the late sixties.



Adelaide Mid-Century Moderns has been made possible as a result of the generous loan by AGSA of paintings, works on paper and archival material from its collection, including many rarely seen works. These are supplemented by loans from private collections.

**FIND OUT MORE**

Image: Wladyslaw Dutkiewicz (1918-1999) *Calligraphy* c. 1952, oil on canvas. Art Gallery of South Australia. Gift of the Dutkiewicz family, 2000.

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## COLLECTION

**Did you know that many of the items in The David Roche Collection are available to view online?**

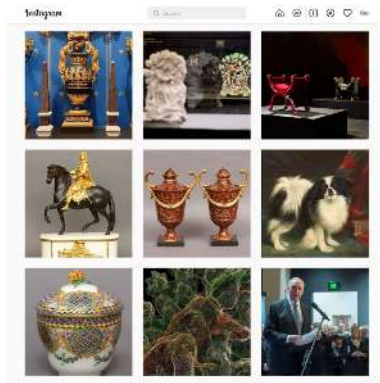
*Use our collection search to find out more about your favourite piece or discover something new.*



**Search the collection**

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## KEEP IN TOUCH



**We are on Facebook and Instagram!**

*We provide regular content through our social media channels. Follow us now to keep in the loop.*



**Facebook**



**Instagram**



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House Museum**

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

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