

CLUB FERMOY

The David Roche Foundation House Museum Newsletter

Issue 45



Image: Explore nearly 265 years of artistry in our upcoming exhibition *Wedgwood: Master Potter to the Universe*

From the Museum Director

Dear friends and supporters,

Spring is the season of renewal and so too are we in the midst of a refresh. *Arthur Boyd: The Life of Saint Francis* closed having bowled audiences over with its stunning tapestries and sell-out catalogue. We are now busy readying the galleries for our upcoming exhibition *Wedgwood: Master Potter to the Universe*. Curated by Timothy Roberts, this exhibition will surprise and enchant everyone as you take a journey through 265 years of this iconic ceramics manufacturer. This week is also your final chance to see the exquisite objects and jewellery made by Regine Schwarzer for our 2023 SALA exhibition.

In this issue you can learn more about David Roche's purchase of Robert Lefèvre's portrait of a young woman who turned out to be Désirée Clary, the future Queen of Sweden from volunteer Geoff. Our canine tidbit recalls a very special guest to Fermoy. Make sure to book early for our opening weekend of Wedgwood talks and, in the shop, you'll find some beautiful new pens inspired by patterns featured in objects from our collection.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason

FINAL DAYS!



Image: Regine Schwarzer *Banksia container 2023*, *Pill container 2023*, *Papaver somniferum container 2023*. Photo: Sam Roberts.

REGINE SCHWARZER DELIBERATIONS ON FERMOY

When visiting The David Roche Foundation House Museum, Regine Schwarzer's attention was immediately drawn to the diverse, small-scale, precious, utilitarian artefacts held in cabinets throughout Fermoy House. These treasures prompted her to research their historical uses, and to contemplate what the objects meant to the people that lived with them many years ago.

Schwarzer has created small objects for daily use and appreciation: containers, canisters, tea caddy spoons, toothpick holders, spice dishes with spoons, bodkin cases, and other objets d'art. Often thought as commonplace or designed for their utility, these have been elevated beyond the everyday through the use of precious metals, gemstones, rocks and minerals. A selection of jewellery and works from the artist's archive are also displayed.

Regine Schwarzer: Deliberations on Fermoy is proudly presented by The David Roche Foundation as part of the South Australian Living Artists Festival.

SALA

REGINE SCHWARZER DELIBERATIONS ON FERMOY

Must close 4pm, Saturday 9 September 2023
Tuesday to Saturday 10AM – 4PM

Free entry (Roman Room and Foyer spaces only), no booking required. Selected works on display are available for purchase.

COMING SOON

WEDGWOOD

Master Potter to the Universe



Image: Wedgwood (Britain, established 1759), *Nymph at Well* c. 1870, black basalt stoneware. TDRF 2365

In 1769, Josiah Wedgwood famously declared his intention to become 'Vase Maker General to the Universe'. Experimentation and innovation brought Wedgwood's name and product into homes worldwide, and continue to be the defining features of this internationally celebrated ceramic manufacturer.

Nearly 200 works sourced from Australian public and private collections will evidence Wedgwood's diversity. See historically celebrated pieces from the Frog Service, created for Catherine the Great, Empress of Russia; the Portland Vase, based on the ancient Roman original in the British Museum; and the Sydney Cove Medallions, made from Australian clay in 1789. Lovers of mid-century and modern design will relish the work of Keith Murray, Norman Wilson, and Australian studio potters Michael Dillon and John Dermer. From familiar white on blue jasper to the glittering colours of Fairyland Lustre, this exhibition promises to surprise, enchant, and delight.

This Adelaide-exclusive exhibition curated by TDRF is the first Australian survey of Wedgwood in nearly 30 years. Explore 265 years of history, experience iconic works of art, and expect the unexpected.

Opens 23 September 2023
Tuesday to Saturday
10AM – 4PM

Purchase your ticket online
Tickets also available at the door

\$12 Adult. \$10 Concession.
\$9 TDRF Member.
Children under 12 free.

Guided Tours
Thursdays 11.30AM
[Book your tour here](#)

WEDGWOOD INTEREST DAY



SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

Join us to celebrate the opening of *Wedgwood: Master Potter to the Universe* with a day of discussions on aspects that define this iconic British ceramic manufacturer.

9.30AM Morning tea on arrival

9.55AM Welcome and housekeeping, Robert Reason, TDRF Museum Director

10.00AM John Adeny *Josiah Wedgwood: An engineering innovator*

Josiah Wedgwood introduced engine turned decoration to the Potteries in 1763. Engine turning proved so popular to eighteenth century audiences that by the time of Wedgwood's death in 1795 these increasingly complex patterns were adopted not just by other Staffordshire potteries, but further afield in France and even the United States. Josiah Wedgwood's business acumen has long been recognised, but his innovative contribution to a uniquely English method of mechanical surface decoration should not be overlooked.

10.50AM Lee Bradshaw *Reinventing the Classics*

The Neoclassical revival in the late 18th century was described at the time as 'vase madness'. The excavations at Herculaneum and Pompeii caused such a demand for classical objects that Josiah Wedgwood was able to make a fortune by supplying his own interpretation of vases and other objects from ancient Greece and Rome. His 'encaustic painted vases', in particular, were works of art in their own right.

11.40AM Colin Jones *Wedgwood and Australia*

Wedgwood and Australia have a unique connection going back to the first months of the founding of the colony in 1788. In this presentation, Colin Jones explores the bond and highlights some important pieces Wedgwood has made over the years recognising the connection plus other items which are readily available on the secondary market for collectors.

12.35-1.15PM Lunch

1.15PM Roger Elliott *Millicent Taplin - Thoroughly Modern!*

This presentation illustrates Millicent Taplin's achievements at Wedgwood by following her career from 1917 to 1962. It includes her early hand-painted pieces; her highly prized ornamental wares designed by Alfred and Louise Powell; her more modern ornamental and table wares painted in the Handcraft Department; art deco designs on tea and coffee sets; lustre decoration for Keith Murray's and Norman Wilson's modern shapes; outstanding lithographic designs; and post-retirement designs. Changes within Wedgwood and their impact on Taplin's role and career are explored, in the context of her contemporaries.

2.00PM Timothy Roberts *Exhibition Tour: David Roche and Wedgwood*

On this exhibition tour of *Wedgwood: Master Potter to the Universe*, TDRF Curator Timothy Roberts speaks to David Roche's collection of Wedgwood and other selected highlights within the exhibition.

2.45PM Concluding comments, Robert Reason and Timothy Roberts

3.00-4.00PM *Wedgwood: Master Potter to the Universe* available for viewing

Saturday 23 September 2023

9.30AM - 4.00PM

General: \$65 | TDRF Members: \$55

[Book now](#)

WEDGWOOD: TEA & TOUR



Our popular Tea & Tours will be returning for *Wedgwood: Master Potter to the Universe!*

After tea and coffee in the Roman Room at 10.30am, be among the first to see *Wedgwood: Master Potter to the Universe* as you are guided by exhibition curator Tim Roberts. Learn more about the history of this iconic ceramic manufacturer, and see some truly spectacular examples of the potter's art.

Friday 29 September 2023

10.30AM - NOON

General: \$18 | TDRF Members: \$14

[Book now](#)

CANINE TIDBITS

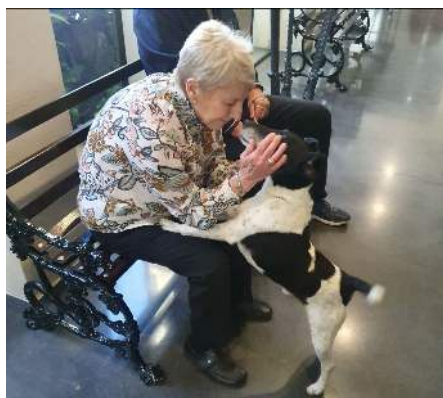
All guests to The David Roche Foundation are important to us, but during August we were delighted to welcome a very important member of the TDRF family back to Fermoy!

Smooth Fox Terrier Fermoy Nite of the Falcon - aka Archie - was born at Fermoy Kennels on 26 July 2011. He is the son of sire American Champion Forest Edge Night Falcon and dam Australian Champion Fermoy Angel Flite.



Archie spent his first eighteen months at Fermoy Kennels, where he got to bond with kennel staff June Ashton and Marie Merchant. David Roche observed the special bond forming between Archie and Marie as they prepared for Archie's first Championship Show at Le Fevre Kennel Club in March 2013, and made arrangements for Archie to remain in Marie's care after his death. Archie and Marie impressed judges again and again, taking many Best in Group and Best in Show awards. Archie was titled an Australian Supreme Champion in 2015.

Archie retired from conformation championships in 2017, and enjoys family life with Marie and her husband Phil. Now aged 12, he has all the character of a sporting gentleman, enjoys his daily walk, and retains the spark in his beautiful dark eyes. Here is Archie and June candidly sharing a moment together, reconnecting after many years.



TODAY'S TREASURE

Showcasing the favourite pieces of our volunteers in The David Roche Collection. In this edition, Geoff S writes about a Neoclassical portrait and a diamond and ruby parure.



Image: Robert Jacques François Lefèvre (France 1755-1830), *Bernardine Eugénie Désirée Clary* c. 1798. Oil on canvas, TDRF 1427.

In the Yellow Drawing Room at Fermoy House there is a painting 1798 by the French history and portrait Robert Lefèvre (1755 - 1830) of a young woman. She holds up her left hand to show off a ring, perhaps an engagement ring.

When David Roche bought the painting, he did not know who the subject was. A visitor from London later told him it was Désirée Clary. Désirée was briefly engaged to Napoleon Bonaparte from 21 April to 6 September 1795.

Napoleon's older brother Joseph was married to Désirée's sister Julie. The couple introduce Désirée to General Jean Baptiste Bernadotte on 2 August 1798. Fifteen days later they were married. This was smart move on Bernadotte's part – he was a political schemer and intriguer, and the marriage brought him close to the Bonaparte family.

On 21 August 1810, the Swedish Diet unanimously elected Bernadotte Crown Prince to King Charles XIII John of Sweden. He succeeded the throne in 1818, upon the death of King Charles XIII.

When you see a photograph of Mary, Crown Princess of Denmark wearing a tiara, necklace and earrings containing diamonds and rubies, those stones were originally part of a suite of jewellery given to Désirée by her husband in 1804 who was by then Marshal Bernadotte. The maker was likely Marie-Étienne Nitot, who had been appointed jeweller to Napoleon in 1802.

Désirée took the jewels to Sweden in 1823, where they remained within the family. The marriage of Désirée's granddaughter Josefina to Frederick, Crown Prince of Denmark in 1869 saw the jewels presented to the couple because of their symbolic red and white colours, and thus formed part of the Danish Crown Jewels.

Geoff S

Book a tour of Fermoy house today to see this treasure and many more!

[Book now](#)

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

You can now join the membership online by visiting www.rocchefoundation.com.au/membership/ Alternatively, please call into the museum or download the membership application form [here](#).

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

For further information please e-mail memberships@rocchefoundation.org.au or phone 08 8267 3677.

[Find out more](#)

GIFT SHOP

The David Roche Foundation has a wide range of beautiful products on sale which make perfect gifts or a treat for yourself. We have two new pen designs



Celebrate David Roche's love of malachite with this vibrantly coloured classic ballpoint pen.
Only \$2.50 each!

[Buy Now](#)



Marvel at the detailed Sèvres porcelain *Oiel de Perdrix* design on this classic ballpoint pen.
Only \$2.50 each!

[Buy Now](#)

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

We now post internationally!

Visit the shop

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

High Tea at The Cedars

Saturday, September 9 at 11am and 2pm

Join us for an exclusive guided tour of the Heysen home and studios finished with a delectable Heysen High Tea in the historic home. Discover the remarkable history, heritage and stories of this famous artist and his family at The Cedars and savour the experience with afternoon tea, coffee, sparkling wine and delicious gourmet, home-baked sweet treats and savoury bites in the blossoming spring garden. This enormously popular event is running for one day only so get your tickets before they sell out!

[BOOK NOW](#)

Botanical Drawing: Hellebores at The Cedars

Tuesday 12 September + Sunday 24 September 2023, 10AM

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Seasonal Garden Talk: The Joy of Spring at The Cedars

Saturday 23 September 2023, 2PM - 3PM

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



CARRICK HILL

Spring Program

Carrick Hill will come alive this Spring with an exciting events program. The House museum will be 'In Bloom' with a floral exhibition featuring a series of contemporary floral installations and sculptures created in dialogue with the Hayward's renowned collection of artwork and furniture. Created as part of Adelaide's Nature Festival, *Nature and the Home*, this is a perfect fit for Carrick Hill. Our Gardens will host a series of art & nature themed family workshops throughout the school holidays.



'In Bloom' with Floral Designer in residence Sky Allen of Arcadia aquatic: September 30 – 15 October.

Adelaide Mid-Century Moderns exhibition closing 15 October.

Exhibition entry included in House Admission.

[DISCOVER EVENT PROGRAM AND BOOK HERE](#)

The National Botanic Gardens, Kilmacurragh: The Evolution of an 18th Century Irish Garden

Friday 6 October 2023, 5:30PM \$25pp

Join Seamus O'Brien, Head Gardener of the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland at Carrick Hill as he traces the evolution of the 18th century garden to what it is today.

This event raises funds for the Australian Museum of Gardening at Carrick Hill.

[BOOK HERE](#)

COLLECTION

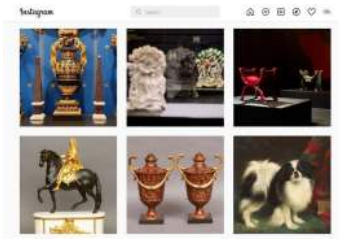
Did you know that many of the items in The David Roche Collection are available to view online?

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



Search the collection

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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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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