

# CLUB FERMOY

## The David Roche Foundation House Museum Newsletter

### Issue 47



Image: Keith Murray's vases are famed for their modern elegance. See them now in *Wedgwood: Master Potter to the Universe*.

## From the Museum Director

Dear friends and supporters,

With beautiful spring weather upon us in Adelaide it's a perfect time to visit Fermoy House and acquaint yourself with the stunning interiors furnished rare objects and paintings collected by David Roche from around the world. At this week's volunteer guide meeting we commented on the difficulty of choosing our favourite 'treasures' when leading the house tours. The collection's abundance generates so many stories to share from David's canine judging, travel and collecting, to the development of his home, making each tour unique.

Throughout November we have lots of things happening. I encourage you to attend our talk by Dr Shirleene Robinson AM for Feast Festival. Later in the month Kenneth Park presents two lively evenings on the London townhouse (think mansion!) and London's exclusive private clubs. Every Thursday you can join a guided tour of our stunning exhibition *Wedgwood: Master Potter to the Universe* and afterwards pick-up the catalogue, the first of its type in Australia in nearly thirty years!

Please enjoy reading more about David's passion for Kerry Blue Terriers and his purchase of an equestrian bronze by Pierre Lenordez of *The Stallion 'Angelo'*, c.1850. Our archival piece this month delves into another of David's acquisitions on display in the *Wedgwood* exhibition.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason

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NOW OPEN

# WEDGWOOD

*Master Potter to the Universe*



Image: Wedgwood (Britain, established 1759); Henry Webber (Britain, 1754–1826), designer; William Hackwood (Britain, c.1757–1839), modeller, *Sydney Cove Medallion* 1789 (detail), buff earthenware, clay sourced from Sydney Cove. Collection: Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales. Bequest of L. Richard Smith, 2003.

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.

240 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 is the first Australian survey of Wedgwood in nearly 30 years. Explore 265 years of history, experience iconic works of art, and be prepared for the the unexpected.

**From 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](#)**

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## THIS THURSDAY!



Image: *National Lesbian Feminist Conference & Celebration, Adelaide 1989* (detail). Australian Queer Archives Collection, Melbourne.

# VOICES FROM THE 'QUIET REVOLUTION'

Thursday 9 November 6.00–7.15pm

*There's five of us in Adelaide. There's five gay men! I'm no longer alone!*

Join historian, academic, author and curator Dr Shirleene Robinson AM on Thursday 9 November for a talk on the social transformation driven by the LGBTIQ+ community of South Australia. As part of the 2023 Feast Festival, this event will draw upon interviews of South Australians to explore what it has been like for different generations to have lived through a social revolution without comparison.

This event is proudly presented by The David Roche Foundation as a part of Feast Festival 2023



**Thursday 9 November 2023 | 6.00–7.15PM**

**General: \$25 | Concession: \$20 | TDRF Member: \$20**

Price includes one beverage on arrival. No access to Fermoy House or the exhibition galleries during this event.

[Book now](#)

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## NEXT WEEK



Image: Giovanni Antonio Canal, known as Canaletto, *Northumberland House, Strand 1752*. Alnwick Castle Collection, Northumberland.

## THE KENNETH W PARK SERIES

Wednesday 15 + Thursday 16 November

### LECTURE 1

#### Clubland London

**Wednesday 15 November 6.00–7.15pm**

*I refuse to join any club that would have me as a member!* is a quote attributed to the great Groucho Marx. In days gone by, membership of the right social club(s) was regarded as a good indicator of your social standing. In more recent years, many of the long-standing London establishments have moved with the times with innovative makeovers and relaxation of rules. By surveying the London club scene from historical and contemporary perspectives, this lecture will open doors of these bastions of London society.

### LECTURE 2

#### The London Townhouse

**Thursday 16 November 6.00–7.15pm**

The term townhouse 'originally referred to the town or city residence, in practice normally in London, of a member of the nobility or gentry, as opposed to their country seat, generally known as a country house or, colloquially, for the larger ones, stately home.' The grandest of the London townhouses were

stand-alone buildings, boasting stunning interiors with dazzling collections of furniture, art and much more. This beautifully illustrated lecture explores London's rich collection of townhouses.

Buy tickets to a single lecture, or purchase The Kenneth W Park Series 2-lecture package for 10% off!

**Clubland London | Wednesday 15 November 2023 | 6.00–7.15pm**

**The London Townhouse | Thursday 16 November 2023 | 6.00–7.15pm**

**Single lecture: General \$25 | TDRF Member \$22.50**

**The Kenneth W Park Series 2-lecture package: General \$45 | TDRF Member \$40**

Price includes one beverage on arrival per lecture. No access to Fermoy House or the exhibition galleries.

[Book now](#)

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## EVENT



## TWILIGHT EVENING: WEDGWOOD

Thursday 7 December 5.00–7.30pm

Our popular Twilight Evening returns to usher in Summer! TDRF will be open until 7.30pm for you to explore *Wedgwood: Master Potter to the Universe* and enjoy the early evening light with refreshments in the forecourt. Get dressed up, gather your friends, and spend quality time together among beautiful works of art.

**Thursday 7 December 2023 | 5.00-7.30PM**

**Admission: \$20**

Ticket includes beverage on arrival and access to *Wedgwood: Master Potter to the Universe*. Last entry tickets sold 7.00PM. No access to Fermoy House.

[Book now](#)

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## CANINE TIDBITS



Image: David Roche presenting the sterling silver trophy and certificate to Ch. Marberlane's Minuet at the Morris and Essex Kennel Club, 2 June 1955. Photograph: Evelyn Shafer.

A little Kerry Blue history was made when a young Australian David Roche was offered an appointment judging Terriers at the famous Morris and Essex Kennel Club in the United States. The club was established in 1927 by dog breeder, judge, and philanthropist Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge, and the annual competition was hosted on her Giralda Farms in Madison, New Jersey.

As breeder and exhibitor of Kerry Blue Terriers himself, David was delighted with his appointment and thrilled with the quality of his entry. For the 'Specials Only' category, he awarded a stunning Kerry Blue, Ch. Marberlane's Minuet.

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## TODAY'S TREASURE

Showcasing the favourite pieces of our volunteers in The David Roche Collection. In this edition, Geoff S introduces one of David Roche's favourite equestrian portraits.



Image: Pierre Lenordez (France 1814-1892), sculptor; Victor Boyer Foundry (France active 19th century), *The Stallion 'Angelo'* c. 1850, bronze, TDRF 2410.

David Roche had a penchant for collecting bronze animalia, and *The Stallion 'Angelo'* was a favourite. This charming subject depicts an animated interaction between a racehorse and a dog discovering each other.

The bronze was sculpted by Pierre Lenordez, one of the best equestrian sculptors of his time. Lenordez exhibited regularly at the Salon from 1855 to 1877, and lectured at the School of Fine Arts in Caen for over a decade. He was a member of many horse racing groups and received commissions for portraits of

known horses. His sculptures often portray real sporting horses, winners of important races or horses which had strong blood lines and were responsible for siring outstanding winners. He also created hunting and racing scenes, and was sought after for commissions.

This sculpture evidences Lenordez's firm knowledge of horse anatomy, which may be seen especially in the shape of Angelo's head and alert eyes. The bronze was cast by the Victor Boyer foundry, which was noted for the crisp detailing in its casts, and has a beautiful patina.

Angelo was foaled in England in 1837, and is portrayed tacked up with saddle. On both his dam's side and his sire's side he was related to the English mare Roxana, and the Godolphin Arabian (Scham), respectively. Frank Calcroft Turner's portraits of those horses are displayed in the red hallway among David Roche's other equestrian paintings.

Geoff S

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

[Book now](#)

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## FROM THE ARCHIVES



Image: Wedgwood (Britain established 1759), *Neoclassical medallions* 1770s, jasper, polychrome enamel, mounted and framed. TDRF 2822.

In 2009 a visitor to Martyn Cook Antiques brought a group of cameo medallions for appraisal. Mounted on gold-painted board and housed in an old gilt frame, the largest cameo depicted Wedgwood's *Sacrifice to Hymen*. Understanding David Roche's interest in Wedgwood and neoclassical art, Martyn arranged purchase of the group, which was then remounted on blue silk before being returned to their refurbished frame.

At the time of purchase, the group was thought to date from the early nineteenth century. However, examination of the cameos prior to their display in *Wedgwood: Master Potter to the Universe* reveals that these works were produced in the 1770s, and are among the earliest pieces made by Wedgwood while developing the now-iconic jasper.

The smaller cameos in this group are produced in the white biscuit earthenware developed and refined by Wedgwood during the 1770s, and painted after firing. The blue, red, rust, and black enamel colours on these cameos echo the palette used to decorate Wedgwood's Black Basalt. The glassy surface of the central medallion evidences Wedgwood's 'waxen biscuit' of the 1770s, with the relief scene laid on a blue ground plaque.

Similar cameos are held in the collection of early Wedgwood formed by Isaac Falcke, now in the British Museum. The medallions variously depict *Athene with a Gorgon shield*, *a Hero stopping the Chariot of Victory*, *a warrior examining his helmet*, *Perseus and Andromeda*, *Sacrifice to Hygeia*, *a soldier with a trophy of arms*, *Sacrifice to Hymen*, with research continuing to identify the remaining scenes.

*To see these remarkable cameos, book your ticket to Wedgwood: Master Potter to the Universe today!*

[Book now](#)

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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

You can now join the membership online by visiting [www.rochefoundation.com.au/membership/](http://www.rochefoundation.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@rochefoundation.org.au](mailto:memberships@rochefoundation.org.au) or phone 08 8267 3677.

[Find out more](#)

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# GIFT SHOP CHRISTMAS IS COMING!



Our newest greetings card celebrates Christmas, featuring David Roche's gilt brass *Wreath for All Seasons*.

**\$15 per pack of 5**



Know someone who has everything? TDRF Gift Cards can be redeemed in-store to purchase tickets and gifts!

**Available in \$20, \$30, \$50, and \$100**

**Buy Now**



Buy three packs of greetings cards and save! Choose from *Icon*, *Wreath*, or *Madonna and Child*.  
**\$40 (separately \$45)**

**Buy Now**

**Buy Now**



One for you and one for a loved one! Our mug designs feature *Flowers* or *Fruit*.  
**2 mugs: \$35 (separately \$40)**  
**4 mugs: \$60 (separately \$80)**

**Buy Now**



**FOR THE AVID READER**  
*Empires and Splendour: At Home with David Roche* is the definitive guide to the finest works of art collected by David Roche. This 300-page, resplendently illustrated hardcover volume is an essential investment for every person who admires beautiful things.  
**\$70 (original price \$90)**

**Buy Now**



**IN STORE ONLY**  
Wedgwood Christmas ornaments inspired by iconic blue and white Jasperware. Each ornament is presented in a Wedgwood blue box. Designs include *Present* (left), *Snowman* (right), *Tree*, *Angel*, *Snowflake*, *Robin*, *Teapot*, *Stag Cameo*, *Deer Bauble*, *Nativity Bauble*  
**\$100 each**

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**

## 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

**Exhibition and Garden talk: Nora Heysen's "Bloom"**

Saturday 11 November 2023 | 1.00 – 3.00pm



Saturday 25 November 2023 | 1.00 – 3.00pm

Join Exhibition Curator Jill Swann for a guided tour and talk on *Bloom: Nora Heysen's art and garden* in Nora's original studio, followed by a tour of the beautiful Artist's Garden led by Cedars Curator and garden expert, Allan Campbell.

Nora Heysen was the first female winner of the Archibald Prize, and found great joy in nature. Many of her beautiful flower and fruit pieces were inspired by pickings from the Artist's Garden at The Cedars. This special event will dig into Heysen's life to show the profound influence the natural world had on her.

Following the talks, enjoy a complimentary tea or coffee in the Cedars Café & Tea Rooms. Numbers are strictly limited for this event so book now to avoid disappointment.

[BOOK NOW](#)



### Seasonal Garden Talk: The Cedars Summer Palette

Saturday 2 December 2023 | 2.00 – 3.00pm

In the third *Seasons of the Cedars* Garden Talk, join Cedars Curator and garden expert Allan Campbell for a tour of the Artist's Garden. As you wander, engage in a rich exploration of Heysen garden history, appreciate the seasonal changes from Spring growth to Summer exhibition, and learn about the lasting influence the gardens and broader property were on the art of Hans and Nora Heysen. Your ticket includes a voucher for a cup of tea or coffee in Cedars Café & Tea Rooms.

[BOOK NOW](#)

### CARRICK HILL

#### FUSE Glass Artist Residency

#### Marcel Hoogstad Hay: Sublime Scales

4 November 2023 – 28 January 2024

The FUSE Glass Artist Residency, valued at over \$20,000, is awarded biennially to mid-career glass artists, and provides a 4-week opportunity to work with hot blown glass at JamFactory's Glass Studio in Adelaide.



Marcel Hoogstad Hay, a South Australian-based artist educated at ANU School of Art & Design, presents *Sublime Scales*, an exhibition of new works exploring perceptions of space, time and matter.

Exhibition entry is included with house admission: Adult \$17 | Concession \$13

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Image: Marcel Hoogstad Hay, *Trace/Traverse*, 2023, Image: Pippy Day.

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## COLLECTION

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

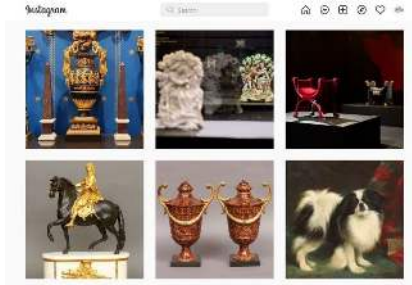
*Use our collection search to find out more  
about your favourite piece or discover  
something new.*



[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.*



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TDRF 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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