

CLUB FERMOY

The David Roche Foundation House Museum Newsletter

Issue 53



Image: Be among the first to relish the nostalgia in our new exhibition *Australian Toys 1880–1965*. Come today!

From the Museum Director

Dear friends and supporters,

Welcome to our first winter edition of Club Fermoy for 2024! We have a real treat to put a smile on your face this June with the opening of *Australian Toys 1880–1965* from the collection of Luke Jones. An exhibition for all ages, *Australian Toys* will reawaken the joy and wonders of childhood play. On 20 June there is an opportunity to hear from Luke and find out how this amazing collection has been developed over the decades. As a small addition to the exhibition, we are displaying some of David Roche's collectible toys in the birdcage. There are also many wonderful mechanical money boxes to be seen in Fermoy House.

On 3 June we celebrated the eighth anniversary of David Roche's home opening to the public. Many thousands of visitors have been welcomed to the museum which I'm sure would bring great pleasure to our founder. Over the last eight years our exhibition programme has grown, we've seen wonderful works of art brought together from around Australia, and many experts have travelled to Adelaide to share their knowledge with us in our monthly lecture series. If you're fond of the museum and want to enjoy more of what we do, please support us this June. Every contribution, large or small, really does make a difference to our programming, and all gifts over \$2 are tax deductible.

In this issue, our volunteer Ian helps us 'spot the difference' between two gorgeous pink hardstones; and our canine tidbit discusses a handsome piece of jewellery presented to David Roche.

Happy reading and keep warm.

Best wishes,

Robert Reason

Donate to TDRF today

All gifts over \$2 are tax deductible.

NEW EXHIBITION



Image: Winkie Toys *Kangaroo*, early 1930s, wood, paint, leather. The Luke Jones Collection.

AUSTRALIAN TOYS 1880–1965 THE LUKE JONES COLLECTION

1 June – 24 August 2024

In simpler times before smart phones and video games, we played with tin toys, wooden trucks, and paper planes.

Rediscover the excitement and wonder of childhood through this exhibition of historic Australian toys from the collection of Luke Jones. Initiated by a 9-year-old North Adelaide paperboy's earnings, Jones has nurtured and researched his extensive collection for over 40 years. From board games to a toy hills hoist, this exhibition provides a detailed insight into Australian childhood through the lens of play. You will see a fascinating range of Australian toys made between the 1880s and the 1960s, including refined lithographed tinplate toys of the 1920s, charming folk art creations, mass-produced toys that emerged during the post-war period, and European and Japanese made toys with local relevance. Be engaged by toys which are inspired by historic events, be entertained by toys which celebrate Australia's love of sport, and be enchanted by fantasy creations straight from toymakers' imaginations.

Stroll down memory lane and share the nostalgia with your own children through *Australian Toys 1880–1965: The Luke Jones Collection*. Only at The David Roche Foundation, Adelaide. Tickets available online or at the door, and children under 12 are free!

1 June – 24 August 2024
Tuesday to Saturday

Book your tickets now
Tickets also available

10:00am – 4:00pm

at the door

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

**Guided Exhibition Tours
11:30am Thursdays
[Book here](#)**

LECTURE



Image: Leckie and Gray *Sunshine Biscuits from Ballarat truck* 1930s, tinplate; lithography. The Luke Jones Collection.

AUSTRALIAN TOYS: MY COLLECTION A LECTURE BY LUKE JONES

Thursday 20 June 2024 6:00–7:15pm

Join collector Luke Jones for a very special lecture that will discuss, with the passion of a long-term collector, the exhibition of Australian toys from his collection. Luke will explain the structure of his collection and reveal the highlights and important objects, as well as share the joy that a collector gets from their hobby. The toys cover a broad range of Australian manufactured objects from the turn of the last century to around the mid-1960s including one off and folk-art type creations which have always been a feature of children's play.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Luke Jones is an architect by profession and an experienced equestrian competitor in the sport of Eventing; however, a life's passion for collecting antique toys preceded both of these pursuits. The first item in his collection was purchased in 1983 when Luke was aged nine. His long-term commitment to the subject has led to the assembly of a comprehensive and considered collection of Australian manufactured vintage toys. Luke's collecting instinct extends to Australian colonial furniture from the Barossa Valley, South Australian historical documents, art and ephemera.

**Thursday 20 June | 6:00–7:15pm
General \$25 | TDRF Member \$22.50**

Ticket includes one beverage on arrival. No entry into *Australian Toys 1880–1965* or Fermoy House.

[Book your tickets now](#)

CANINE TIDBITS



A tour of David Roche's home makes no secret that his love of animals extended into the realm of art. From selected stick pins to snuff boxes to Essex crystal pendants that David collected, it is clear that he cultivated this interest in antique and modern jewellery as well.

This gold tie pin is formed as a crop and features a central cartouche with a hand-painted head of a smooth fox terrier. It was purchased in Antwerp in 2012 by a member of kennel staff while on holiday, and was presented to David as a gift on behalf of the team at Fermoy Kennels. Today the tie pin is displayed in the Drawing Room alongside beautifully painted examples of Essex crystal and a rare Meissen dog kennel dating from about 1740.

Take a closer look at this fascinating jewel and many other treasures in our collection online, anytime!

[Search the collection](#)

TODAY'S TREASURE

Showcasing the favourite pieces of our volunteers in The David Roche Collection. In this edition, Ian S writes on two hardstone pieces which will leave you knowing your Rhodochrosite from your Rhodonite!



Image: Unknown lapidarist *Tazza* 1920-40 Rhodochrosite, onyx; Karl Hahn *Snuff box* c. 1895 Rhodonite, diamonds, gold. The David Roche Collection.

David Roche collected a beautiful selection of hardstones, many of which are incorporated into objects d'art and can be seen throughout Fermoy House. Two striking pink stones that you can see on a tour of the house are Rhodonite and Rhodochrosite.

Among the amazing collection of boxes in the Main Bedroom is an oval box made at Karl Hahn's St Petersburg workshop. The box is fashioned from Rhodonite and is adorned with a gold and diamond setting in the design of a crown. The crown is set with two old mine-cut diamonds, approximately one-carat each. The body and lid of the box are held together with a gold hinge, and the clasp to open the box is set with diamonds. Karl Hahn's workshop produced items of very high quality, to the same standard as Karl Faberge, and one of their many commissions was the coronation crown of Empress Alexandria Feodorovna. The rhodonite in this box would have come from the Ural Mountains, which have been quarried since the 1790s. The rhodonite from this area is renowned for its deep pink hue and black manganese inclusions.

A delicate tazza made from Rhodochrosite and black onyx is displayed in the mahogany and giltwood vitrine in the Drawing Room. David purchased this objet d'art while travelling in the United States in 2004. Rhodochrosite has a similar pink colour to Rhodonite but has a distinctive wavy banding. It is a national symbol of Argentina, where some of the best quality Rhodochrosite is found.

Ian S

To see these handsome hardstone treasures and many more, book your tour of Fermoy House today!

[**Book a house tour 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.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 or phone 08 8267 3677.

[Find out more](#)

GIFT SHOP



Australian Toys: A Collection is a beautifully illustrated book filled with pieces in our current exhibition.

\$59.95

Buy Now

Have fun with the family this winter with our 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle inspired by the *Butcher's shop diorama!*

Only \$30.00

Buy Now



IN STORE ONLY

Take some of the joy of *Australian Toys* home with you! We have a wonderful selection of vintage-style toys for sale including Jacobs' ladders, flying birds, wooden acrobats, and Tinka-Tek engineering kits! While stocks last.

Priced from \$3.95 to \$12.95

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 (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

In Service - Nora Heysen: War Artist

Until 25 August 2024

Nora Heysen was appointed Australia's first female official war artist 80 years ago. From 1944 to 1946 she produced over 170 works of art. This new exhibition, displayed in Nora Heysen's studio, features some precious studies that Nora retained in her private collection. Exhibition entry is included with Guided Tour or Self Guided Tour admission.

BOOK TICKETS

Whiskey, Cheese & Charcoal at the Cedars

Sunday 28 June | 6:00–8:00pm | \$65

Spend the evening sitting by the fire in The Cedars Café as you are guided by our artist and teacher in the relaxing art of charcoal sketching. Sample warming and nourishing local cheeses and whiskeys and let your creativity flow on a Winter's night. Learn about Hans and Nora Heysen's work with charcoals and other mediums as you are treated to this special evening of creativity, local food and whiskey and great company.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

CARRICK HILL

To Bare All: The Hayward Nudes

Last chance! On display until 30 June

Like many avid collectors, the Haywards acquired various works depicting the nude form. From the sensual and beautiful, to the lewd and rude, this installation allows us to consider how interpretations of the human figure developed over the early-mid twentieth century.



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

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

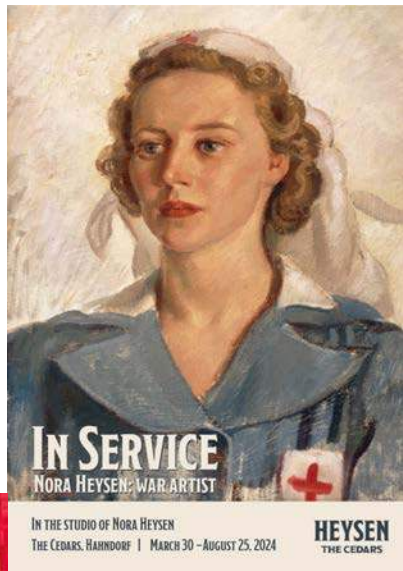
Life Drawing Workshops

Saturday 15 and 22 June | 4:00–6:30pm | \$65 per session

Join us for an exclusive after-hours drawing course led by Alex Beckinsale in Carrick Hill House Museum, surrounded by the Hayward's collection of nudes. No previous drawing experience is required and all materials are provided.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Image: Matthew Smith, *Nude with a Pearl Necklace*, c. 1930 © Estate of Matthew Smith. Photo & Design: Bit Scribbly



COLLECTION

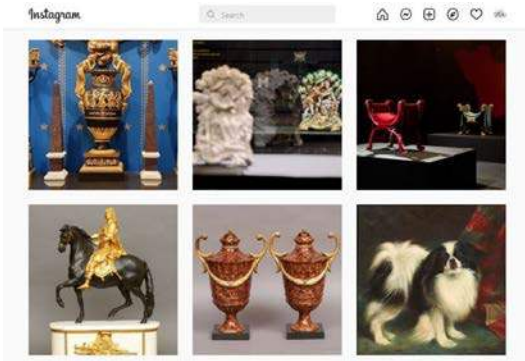
Did you know that many of the items in The David Roche Collection are available to view online?

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



**The David Roche Foundation
House Museum**

**241 Melbourne Street
North Adelaide 5006**

T: [+61 8 8267 3677](tel:+61882673677)

E: info@rochefoundation.org.au

W: www.rochefoundation.com.au



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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