

CLUB FERMOY

The David Roche Foundation House Museum Newsletter

Issue 54



Image: In these cool months, warm your body and your mind with a tour of Fermoy House.

From the Museum Director

Dear friends and supporters,

The gallery was delighted to welcome Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, to officially open *Australian Toys 1880-1965: The Luke Jones Collection* which throughout June has been engaging young and old alike. With July school holidays approaching I encourage you to bring along your children or grandchildren to explore the hundreds of antique and vintage toys on display. Remember, children under 12 are free and we have a special trail with the opportunity to win some toys.

In July there are further opportunities to hear from Luke Jones and we are looking forward to having television and radio presenter Claudia Chan Shaw back at the gallery to talk about her own significant toy collection. Read further for more information and booking links. It's hard to believe, but the SALA Festival is almost upon us again and this August we are showing the work of talented glass artist Jessica Murtagh in *What will remain*. Murtagh recently won the People's Choice Award at SAM's prestigious Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize and is known for glass that explores either the natural world or pithy contemporary narrative themes moonlighting as elegant classical artefacts. More to come in August.

In this issue learn about the history of our George Armfield painting *Dog and dead game* c.1850, and volunteer Sandra discusses the ever-popular Directoire period *Mantel clock* by Joseph Coteau. We also share with you a rare acquisition of a Coalport Porcelain Breakfast cup and saucer from the illustrious breakfast set presented to Horatio, Lord Nelson in 1802. Happy reading!

Best wishes,

Robert Reason

CURRENT EXHIBITION



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

AUSTRALIAN TOYS 1880–1965 THE LUKE JONES COLLECTION

Until 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 or grandchildren 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!

Until 24 August 2024
Tuesday to Saturday
10:00am – 4:00pm

Book your tickets now
Tickets also available
at the door

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

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

LECTURE



PLAYFUL PURSUITS: A TOY COLLECTOR'S WORLD A LECTURE BY CLAUDIA CHAN SHAW

Wednesday 17 July 2024 6:00–7:15pm

From the moment she parted ways with her childhood toys at a local market, Claudia Chan Shaw realised the gravity of her mistake, sparking a relentless pursuit to reclaim and preserve the cherished relics of her past.

In this thought-provoking talk, Claudia examines the world of collecting and shares her personal odyssey, gathering toys that reminded her of childhood and the TV shows she loved growing up.

Join her as she navigates the labyrinth of nostalgia and obsession, reminding us that sometimes, the most cherished treasures are those that stir the deepest memories.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Claudia Chan Shaw has a multi-faceted career as a television and radio presenter, author, fashion designer, curator, artist and collector. She is co-host of television program, *Antiques DownUnder* and was co-host on ABC TV's popular program, *Collectors*. Her book *Collectomania: From objects of desire to magnificent obsession* celebrates the world of collecting.

She is co-designer and director for acclaimed Australian fashion label, Vivian Chan Shaw, with the designs represented in the permanent collection of the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney. Claudia was the inaugural curator of the City of Sydney's Chinese New Year Festival and designed large scale installations for Lunar New Year celebrations (2016 – 2021). Her artwork has featured in solo and groups shows, the Head On Photo Festival, GLOW Festival at HOTA, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, and Sydney Lunar Festival.

Wednesday 17 July | 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



Image: George Armfield, *Dog and dead game* c.1850, oil on canvas. The David Roche Collection.

Among the 39 canine paintings on display in the Den at Fermoy House is an elegant picture by George Armfield depicting a dog - perhaps a Welsh Springer Spaniel - returning from the hunt holding a Common Pheasant. Recently rediscovered correspondence has provided further details about the painting's history.

On 7 March 1906, Alfred Johnson of the Huddart, Parker & Co. shipping line wrote to David Barclay, art collector and Managing Director of the Commercial Bank of Tasmania. His letter notes that Armfield exhibited 'Dog and dead game' in the 1850 Royal Academy exhibition in London and that the work was in Melbourne by 1888, where it was purchased by Charles Raymond Staples, an entrepreneur who founded the Victorian Freehold Bank Ltd (later named British Bank of Australia Ltd) for the handsome sum of £110. Staples formed a substantial collection of Australian and international paintings in the late 1880s, the majority of which he released in 1891 prior to moving to San Francisco when his empire was on the verge of collapse.

In his letter, Johnson persuasively writes to Barclay 'Should you buy this painting, you will be the happy possessor of the finest dog picture in the state. Armfield ranks next to Landseer as a painter of animals.' He goes on to urge 'You should secure it, as there is no possibility of your ever having a chance of securing a painting by this great artist.'

Many years later, the painting was a gift to David Roche from his mother Dorinda.

Take a closer look at this painting 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, Sandra W introduces a Directoire period mantel clock on display in the Main Bedroom, Fermoy House.



Image: Joseph Coteau, *Directoire Period Mantel Clock* 1796, marble, ormolu, polychrome enamel. The David Roche Collection.

This mantel clock is signed by Joseph Coteau, celebrated enameller and creator of high-quality clocks. The handsome design is surmounted by Jupiter's eagle grasping a thunderbolt. The top rotating numbered dial in deep-blue enamel shows the phases of the moon, while the central five-inch dial is delicately painted with Arabic numerals, and conceals a two-train, eight-day movement. The lower dial shows the months and seasons with representations of flora, below which is an enamel miniature painting by Coteau featuring the goddess Diana with one of her handmaidens.

Born in Geneva, Coteau became master painter-enameller of the Académie de Saint-Luc in 1766, and was received as a Maître in 1778. From 1772 until his death in 1812 he is recorded as working in the Rue Poupé supplying dials, plaques and painted cases to leading Parisian clockmakers. From 1780 to 1785 Coteau did piece work for Manufacture Royale de Sèvres, where he contributed to the famous 1785 porcelain lyre clock by Gabriel Courieult at the Palace of Versailles, and the Comtesse du Nord toilette service in Pavlovsk Palace outside of St Petersburg, Russia.

David Roche first saw this clock in 1982 when it was on display at the Frick Museum, New York. Nearly thirty years later, in 2011 he acquired it through New York antique dealers Dalva Brothers.

Sandra W

To see this clock and many others, book your tour of Fermoy House today!

Book a house tour now



NEW ACQUISITION



Image: Coalport Porcelain Works, *Breakfast cup and saucer (from the Nelson Set Breakfast Service)* c.1802, hard-paste porcelain, polychrome enamel, glazed, gilt. The David Roche Collection.

The Foundation is pleased to have acquired a distinctive cup and saucer from the 'Nelson Set' Breakfast Service. It features an impressive hand-painted and gilt armorial centered on the augmented English arms of Nelson, surrounded by a border of green oak leaves and gold acorns. The armorial contains the crest of the Chelengk, referring to the diamond chelengk presented to Nelson by Sultan Selim III of Turkey after the Battle of the Nile in 1798; and the crest of the San Josef, the Spanish three-decked battleship which was captured by Nelson in 1797 and subsequently made his flagship.

The 'Nelson Set' is believed to have been presented to Vice Admiral Horatio Nelson in 1802 by the City of London, and consisted of a dessert set manufactured from Paris porcelain blanks, and a Breakfast set of Coalport and Paris porcelain. It is likely that the set was commissioned from a London china shop with its own decorating workshop. This cup and saucer is one of 24 Coalport blanks used for the Nelson Breakfast set.

The service was delivered to Merton Place, the residence of Nelson, Lady Hamilton, and Sir William Hamilton; and was one of the porcelain services confiscated by Alderman JJ Smith as surety against an advance to bail Lady Hamilton out of debtors prison. It is likely that the service was passed from Alderman Smith to Nelson's niece, Charlotte, Duchess of Bronte, who had married Samuel Hood, Baron Bridport. On his death in 1868 his Nelson relics passed to their son, Alexander Nelson, Viscount Bridport. The set was dispersed in Lord Bridport's sale at Christie's on 11 July 1895.

David Roche collected a number of objects commemorating Horatio Nelson, including a Staffordshire Pottery figure after a model by Pierre Stephan and a glass paste cameo portrait of Nelson attributed to William Tassie. He also purchased many fine examples of armorial porcelain, including a Meissen plate from the Prince Orlov service, a Meissen teabowl and saucer from the Foscari service, a pair of Flight, Barr & Barr plates from the Stowe service. The acquisition of this cup and saucer not only develops those collections, but also enhances the Foundation's Napoleonic collections by evidencing the distinctions bestowed upon one of Napoleon's greatest military adversaries.

*Donations of works of art or cash builds upon David Roche's vision to celebrate decorative and fine arts.
Give today.*

Support our activities

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](#)

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



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

CARRICK HILL

ACSA at Carrick Hill – Pastel Interiors with Zoe Freney
Monday 15 & Tuesday 16 July | 9:30am–4:30pm | \$235.00

Drawing inspiration from Carrick Hill's historic interiors, exquisite gardens, and eclectic art collection, you will learn to capture the charm of these domestic surroundings. This short course will introduce participants to essential observational skills to create interior and still-life drawings.

[BOOK NOW](#)

Rose Pruning Workshops

Wednesday 17 and Friday 19 July | 10:30am–12:30pm | \$25–\$30

Learn about the history and care of the Carrick Hill roses with a guided tour, followed by a hands on rose pruning demonstration where you will be shown the techniques of rose pruning. You will then have the opportunity to practice your new skills with the guidance of our Garden Team.

[BOOK NOW](#)



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](#)

The Cedars Winter Garden Talk

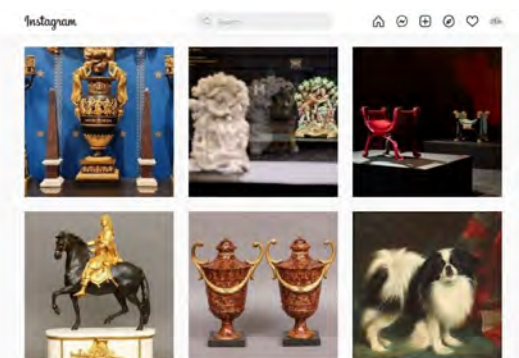
Saturday July 20 | 1:00–2:30pm | \$35

Join Cedars curator and garden expert Allan Campbell for our Winter garden talk. Wander through the Artist's Garden and appreciate the sweeping selection of plants and trees, while learning about the history of the gardens and their influence on the art of Hans and Nora Heysen. Your ticket includes a voucher for a cup of tea or coffee in the Cedars' Café and Tea Rooms.

[BOOK NOW](#)



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 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.