

PATRON OF THE FRIENDS
Susan McCulloch, OAM

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Welcome to the Spring issue of our Friends newsletter. This time of year we embrace the warmer weather and longer days, along with the growth, beauty and colour in our gardens. The Mornington Botanical Rose Garden is spectacular during Spring and an ideal setting for our **Southern Peninsula Concert Band** event in **November**. A perfect way to end another exciting and productive year. More information soon.

Another event to look forward to is a coach trip to Geelong. **A trip has been organised by The Friends of MPRG to the Geelong Gallery on September 25 to visit the 2025 Archibald Prize.** A coach trip takes the stress out of driving so secure your coach seat and exhibition entry ticket to ensure a relaxed entertaining day. Numbers are limited so don't be disappointed and book online at [Trybooking](#)

The Friends of MPRG has a long and proud history. A **rich and lively conversation** has been planned for **October** with a focus on the people and their contribution to the development of the gallery and Friends. It is easy to sometimes get caught up in the current moment and this event reminds us about understanding and respecting our past to help us work together towards a positive future for gallery staff and members. More information soon.

Many thanks to the members who attended our recent **Annual General Meeting** at MPRG. As our minds shift to planning for the coming year, it's always timely to be reminded of the varied events, successes and art acquisitions purchased during the past 12 months. This annual occasion also highlights the importance of our Friends Committee, members and local businesses who continue to respect and support each other and MPRG. Thank you.

The **motion to change the Rules of Association for FMPRG** was discussed at the AGM and passed unanimously. This brings us in line with the requirements as laid down by Consumer Affairs Victoria. The key issue that will affect both members and committee is that we need to have 10% representation at an AGM. This will mean we need at least 60 people to attend the AGM (or submit valid proxy forms). This year, we were still operating under the old Rules. We had 30 attend the meeting so the committee will require a much greater attendance next year.

Congratulations to the newly elected Friends Committee featured on page 4.

Skywhales Across Australia: Red Hill

Saturday, 08 November 2025 | 05:00 AM to 07:30 AM

Red Hill Recreation Reserve

Leading Australian contemporary artist Patricia Piccinini's hyperreal hot air-balloon sculptures *Skywhale* and *Skywhalepapa* take flight at Red Hill Recreation Reserve. Pack a picnic, grab a coffee or breakfast from a food van and feel the anticipation build as the balloons inflate and take flight before your eyes. A soundscape sets the mood, followed by a special introduction from the visionary artist Patricia Piccinini herself. As the first light of day breaks over the Mornington Mornington Peninsula, the Skywhales ascend and lift your spirits.

Free community event, presented by the National Gallery of Australia, hosted by MPRG & supported by the Friends of MPRG



[BOOK HERE](#)



Joan Lindsay by John Longstaff

It was a pleasure to welcome Janelle McCulloch to the gallery in July to share information about the life of Joan Lindsay, author of *Picnic at Hanging Rock*.

Janelle, an author, journalist and magazine editor, spent six years researching the Lindsay family with specific reference to Joan, the youngest of four à Beckett children. Joan grew up wanting to be an architect, but the influence of her artistic family led her to study art at the National Gallery Victoria under the guidance of Frederick McCubbin. It was during this time she met Daryl Lindsay, who later became the Director of NGV, and fell in love. After spending their early married life in London, they moved to Mulberry Hill in Baxter, Victoria and enjoyed a wonderful and entertaining life together with family and friends.

Joan loved gardening and the Australian bush. From an early age she enjoyed family picnics at Hanging Rock and was fascinated by the history of the area and its unique beauty. It inspired her to write the well known Australian classic, *Picnic at Hanging Rock* in 1967. Her memory of family picnics and the rugged rock formations were the basis of her story about three young girls and a teacher who go missing on a school trip to Hanging Rock.

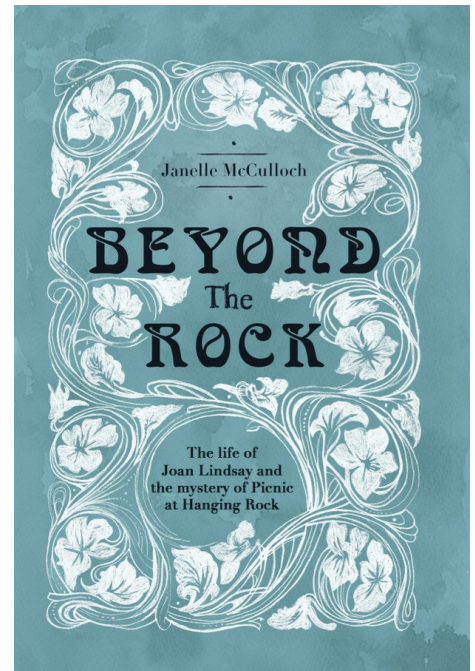
Film Director, Peter Weir and Film Maker, Patricia Lovell worked together in creating the well-known movie adapted from the novel. They consulted closely with Joan Lindsay to ensure they captured the mystery, secrets and eeriness of the Macedon area. Joan was also particular about the dresses the girls wore. They were white tea dresses indicating a sign of the times and wealth of the girls' families, similar to Joan's own childhood memories.



The ending of the book was changed by Joan's editor to ensure it was left open-ended, a move that Peter Weir attributes to the overall success and mystery of the book and movie. People from all over the world continue to visit the rocky area even though many believe it brings bad luck.

The film undoubtedly made the book and Joan more famous and ensures the legacy of Joan Lindsay lives on.

Many thanks to Janelle for sharing her knowledge about one of Australia's most celebrated authors. Many left the event keen to read the novel again. ■



Mulberry Hill by Joan Lindsay



Archibald Prize 2025
25th September
Geelong Gallery

Cost \$70 for Coach trip and entry



Fifty-seven works, including the winning portrait of artist Justene Williams by Julie Fragar will be on display.

[BOOK HERE](#)

Monday 13th
October

In Conversation

We are hosting a panel Chat with our very own Ken Parker, Friends patron Susan McCulloch, and Rene White, who worked with Alan McCulloch for more than 25 years.

They will be discussing the impetus and beginnings of the Mornington Peninsula Arts Centre (MPAC) which is now known as the MPRG.

10.30 am to 12.00 pm

Morning Tea provided



November

Mornington Botanical

Rose Garden

Southern Peninsula Concert
Band

Date T.B.A.



Let's Be Friends!

Join Friends of MPRG and become part of the vibrant cultural life of the peninsula. Members are part of a social network that organises events and raises funds to support the continued growth of our great Gallery.



Membership cost

Membership type	Annual	3-year
Single	\$35	\$90
Concession/Students	\$30	\$75
Family/Duo	\$55	\$140



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<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091463713533>



Benefits:-

- Receipt of the MPRG quarterly Gallery Program brochure, which provides information about the Gallery's exhibitions.
- Discounts when enjoying talks and excursions organised by the Friends.
- Invitations to exhibition openings featuring guest speakers, artists and curators. Meet new friends and enjoy refreshments.
- The MPRG new members annual morning tea and a behind-the-scenes tour hosted by Gallery staff and Friends' representatives.
- Discounts on Gallery activities such as guest speakers, workshops, excursions and master classes.

Your Committee for 2025/26

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Sandra Oluich



Vice President

Marylin Ransome



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George Oluich



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Ralph Powell



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