

# Contemporary Australia celebrated in ambitious new exhibition

The development of modern Australia is the dominant theme in the National Library's exhibition *In a new light: Australian photography 1930s-2000*, on display from 2 December 2004 until 28 March 2005. The exhibition, drawn exclusively from the Library's collection, follows the widely acclaimed *In a new light: Australian photography 1850s-1930s*.

The selection of more than 300 images showcases many of Australia's well-known photographers including Frank Hurley, Harold Cazneaux, Olive Cotton, David Moore, Wolfgang Sievers, Athol Shmith and Jeff Carter. A wealth of lesser known but fascinating photographic material, produced for personal reasons or by amateurs with particular passions, will also be shown.

What emerges in dramatic progression is a reflection of an increasingly confident and evolving 20<sup>th</sup> century nation.

Idealised images of the 30s and 40s give way to the look of today's brash celebrity culture. Portraits, including those of Cathy Freeman, Kylie Minogue and Elle McPherson, demonstrate the changes in

photographic style and taste. The built environment features strongly with the streets as the setting for protest demonstrations, for Royal visits, and for tours by the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. Australia's modernity is asserted in images of architecture and in 1960s fashion photographs.

*In a new light* is also concerned with representations of the 'typical' aspects of Australian life — camping, pushing a broken-down car, playing cricket, or going shopping. The desire to identify the Australian experience is also expressed in landscape photographs, images of the outback, wilderness photography and selections of recent photo-documentary work by some of Australia's best known practitioners, among them Ruth Maddison and Matthew Sleeth.

A dedicated website is available at <http://www.nla.gov.au/exhibitions/newlight2/> from 2 December 2004.

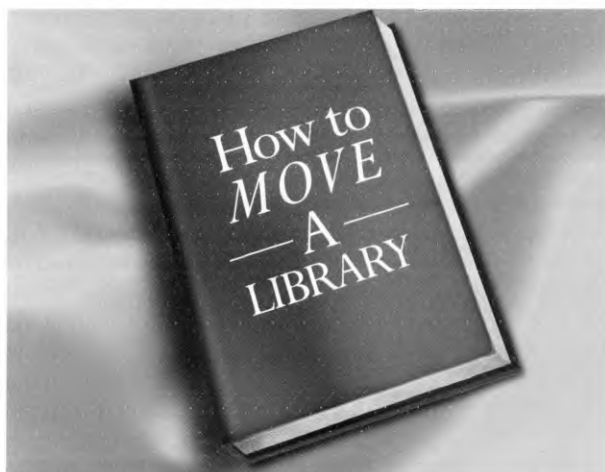
An accompanying book by Helen Ennis, *Intersections: Photography. History and the National Library of Australia*, is the first representative survey of the Library's photographic holdings. This landmark



Laurence Le Guay (1917-1992)  
Model in lace dress posing in front of  
flowers [1960s] Courtesy Candice Le Guay

National Library Pictures Collection

publication retails for \$59.95 at the National Library Bookshop and major bookstores nationally. It can also be purchased through Sales and Distribution at the National Library of Australia, phone 1800 800 100 or online at <http://www.nla.gov.au/onlineshop/>.



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