

Australiana special

The Footscray Institute of Technology Library now has an Australiana Special Collection to augment its resources for the support of teaching and research in Australian cultural studies and the areas of heritage and tourism. The 2000 volume collection — part of the personal library of Melbourne book collector John White, which was purchased in 1988 — is particularly strong in the fields of Australian history, literature and art.

Nineteenth century works include first editions of accounts of travel and residence in the colonies (by Louisa Meredith, Richard Hourt, Richard Horne and many others); first editions of novels by John Houlding ('Old Boomerang'), Rolf Boldrewood and Marcus Clarke; and a copy of the 1929 edition of Clarke's *For the term of his natural life*. An item of particular value is a copy (in very good condition) of *The Gordon and Gotch Australian newspaper directory* of 1888.

Twentieth century imprints include many small press publications, and issues of little magazines of the twenties

and thirties, histories of Melbourne clubs — Yonck, Savage, Bread and Cheese, Lyeum — Jindyworobak publications, and signed copies of the works of Alan Marshall. Two particularly valuable and rare items are, respectively, copies of



The Faufrilico Press pamphlet *Norman Lindsay does not care* by P.R. Stephensen, and of the two-volume (beautifully bound) newspaper history produced in 1923, *Men who made The Argus and The Australasian*.

There are representative key sources for studying the history of transport and communications in Victoria: Purves on the postal history of the Port

Phillip District; Harrigan on the Victorian Railways; and a Broadbent's road and railway directory of Victoria and a Melbourne tramways guide, both from the 1890s.

Manuscript items in the collection include letters from John Shaw Neilson and Alan Marshall.

The late Stephen Murray Smith — academic, educationalist and writer — inspected the John White library prior to its purchase by the Footscray Institute of Technology and reported that he considered it 'an excellent collection of both basic publications and specialist items in the Australian studies field'. The Institute is fortunate to have these resources to assist the development of its Australian studies programs.

In launching the collection, Dr John McLaren of the Institute's Humanities Department spoke highly of its quality: 'A collection such as this enables us to call on the memory of our past. We are not truly educated without that. This remarkable collection represents the truth discovered in Australia during the last 100 years, without which we would not have another 100 years.'

5 Dr John McLaren (left), Ms Elizabeth Morrison, Mrs Doreen Parker and Mr John White with works from the Footscray Institute of Technology Library Australiana Special Collection.

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