

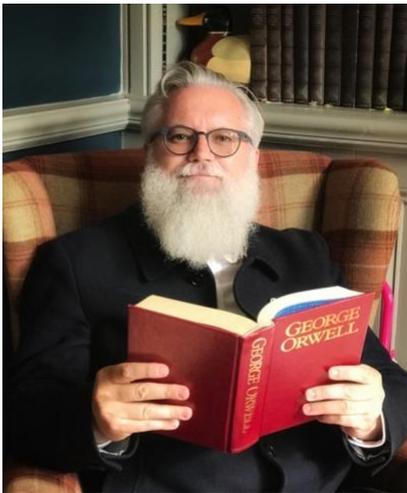
Friends of Kiama Library

May 2019 Newsletter

PO Box 75, Kiama 2533 Phone 4233 1133

library@kiama.nsw.gov.au

DARCY MOORE : *THE UNKNOWN GEORGE ORWELL* SATURDAY 8 JUNE 2.30PM IN THE FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE



Most of us would have read, or at least know something about, George Orwell, but may know little or nothing about the life of Eric Blair who first chose the pseudonym George Orwell for the publication of his first book, *Down and Out in Paris and London*, in 1933. FOKL member Darcy Moore has devoted much time researching Orwell - the very English author of *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four* - a secretive and superstitious man whose will made clear no biography was to be written. There were good reasons for him to keep some aspects of his life private. His talk explores Orwell's mid-20s (in the 1920s) as an Indian Imperial Police Officer fresh out of Eton and young bohemian in Paris.

Darcy Moore is a resident of Kiama and Deputy Principal at Dapto High School. An English and History teacher, Darcy has also worked in post-graduate level teacher education at the University of Wollongong and taught in England and Denmark. He is currently writing and researching his first book about George Orwell. His interest in Orwell began at school, thirty-six years ago, when he was enthralled by *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Darcy has just returned from overseas where he visited Catalonia with Orwell's son; presented a paper - *Orwell & Opium* - at University College London; as well as researching Orwell's time in Paris.

Our standard entry donation of \$5 (members)/\$8 (visitors) will apply, and refreshments are provided. We look forward to a fascinating afternoon!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING : WEDNESDAY 3 JULY 4.00PM IN THE FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE

We hope as many members as possible will be able to come to the AGM. While we are assured of having nominations already in hand for most of the Committee, we are looking for fresh faces and ideas to join us to support our Library and provide our members with a best possible agenda of entertainment. If you feel that you may like to enjoy joining us, just come along. For more information you might like to ring Vice-President Florence Rankin (42321416) or Membership Secretary Steve Spooner (42378331) for a chat, or have a word with Librarian Michelle Hudson in the Library.

The AGM will also let you know all about the substantial ways we have helped the Library over the last year (something we probably don't say enough about!).

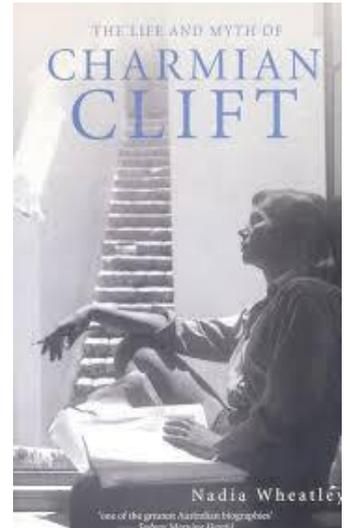
We would love to see you there for what will be a brief meeting. Please note time, date and venue!! A free glass of wine, cheese and biscuits and tea/coffee will celebrate our new financial year.

REMEMBERING CHARMIAN : NADIA WHEATLEY AND PANEL

SATURDAY 6 JULY 2.30PM IN THE LIBRARY

The Friends of Kiama Library and the Kiama and District Historical Society (KDHS) join to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the death of a true Kiama legend, author Charmian Clift, when we meet in the Library from 2.30pm on Saturday 6 July. The key-note address for this special event will be presented by Charmian's biographer Nadia Wheatley, followed by discussion led by an eminent panel of local commentators Richard Walsh, Graham Tucker and Bonie Maywald.

Members will all, to an extent, be aware of the life of Charmian Clift - born in Kiama in August 1923; "Pix" Beach Girl Winner in 1941; "escaped" to Sydney; met and married fellow journalist and author George Johnston after the war, with whom she co-authored 'High Valley' to win the Sydney Morning Herald (SMH) £2,000 prize for 1948; left with Johnston for London and subsequently the Greek islands of Kaliminos and Hydra; returned to Sydney in 1964; a period as celebrated columnist with the SMH; death from overdose of sleeping tablets on 8 July 1969.



Nadia Wheatley is a prolific and successful Australian writer whose work includes novels, biography and history, and also children's books. Her biography *The Life and Myth of Charmian Clift*, was described by one critic as "one of the greatest Australian biographies" and won the year's NSW Premier's Award for Australian History. Our panel members will add their own insights from their deep interest in aspects of Charmian's life. Richard Walsh, who will be very well known from his days as publisher and media figure, is likely to reflect on Charmian's writing after her return from Greece; Graham Tucker with background of post-graduate study on Charmian's life, particularly her associations with Kiama; and Bonie Maywald as a "soon to be" resident moving from Queanbeyan and a deeply interested contributor.

The day's program will commence at 2.30pm with Nadia Wheatley's talk, with a break for tea and biscuits, followed by a session of perhaps 40 minutes discussion headed by the panel. Entry will be \$10 a head, with tickets to be available on the Kiama Library website <http://www.kiama.nsw.gov.au/library/home> through a link to TryBooking, or go to the Library and staff will make a booking for you. Full details will be sent to members in plenty of time.

Members may also be interested in a "Remembering Charmian" self guided walking tour pointing to places in Kiama which have particular significance in Charmian's life. This is an app developed by Kiama Library and KDHS and will be available on the Library website for you to download to your phone. The app will be launched at the event.

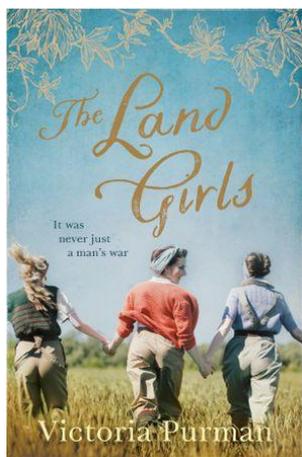
The KDHS museum in the Pilot's Cottage on Blowhole Point has an excellent display recording her life and work. Entry will be free over the weekend, Saturday, Sunday and Monday 6 -8 July.

FRIENDS NEWS

Due to circumstances surrounding the Government's announcement of the general election on Saturday 18 May, we regret that we have been unable to proceed with an agreed feature event with Jessica Rowe in the Pavilion on that date, or find satisfactory alternative arrangements.

Annual memberships for the Friends of Kiama Library for 2019-2020 are due from the first of June, and members who have not already done so are asked to renew their memberships at the Library or at our meeting on 8 June (still only \$7 single/\$5 seniors and pensioners/\$10 couple, cash or cheque please!). If you need to check whether you are up to date, please ask at the Library or check with Membership Secretary Steve Spooner on 42378331. As noted above, our AGM will be held on Wednesday 3 July at 4.00pm the Family History Centre.

FROM THE LIBRARIAN'S DESK ...



The Library's next *Kiama Conversation Hour* features bestselling author Victoria Purman who joins us at 11 am on 6 June, for morning tea at 3 Brothers Dining, 45 Collins Street, Kiama. Victoria will be discussing her new book *The Land Girls* - a moving story of love, loss and survival against the odds. Tickets are \$20, which includes tea or espresso coffee, and cakes and light refreshments. Books for sale and signature on the day

Book online at TryBooking <https://www.trybooking.com/book/sessions?eid=500435>
There is also a link to TryBooking and more information on Kiama Library website <http://www.kiama.nsw.gov.au/library/home> or come to the Library and ask staff to make a booking for you.

After keeping everyone busy during the school holidays with a mix of robots, craft, Lego and paper cranes activities, library staff have been busy planning some more great events for the next couple of months.

Our Tech-Connect program resumes, so if you are in need of help with a technology problem, book in for a 30-minute one-on-one training session with one of our knowledgeable high school students. The Friend of Kiama Library will be supporting our HSC Help program in May with classes for year 12 students in Creative Writing and PDHPE.

Need a Justice of the Peace to certify a copy of an original document or statutory declaration? Kiama Library is now offering a volunteer JP service every Saturday morning between the hours of 9.30am-12.30pm. This is a free drop in service and no appointment is necessary.

Our very popular Friday Flicks, a free film screening event continues and bookings open on the 1st of each month. Our movies are often book-to-film adaptations, recent Australian releases, or anything else that looks interesting.

We are also partnering with RoboLink Education to provide a weekly RoboClub open to primary school kids in years 2-6. This after-school program will provide students with the opportunity to try out robotics and coding. Visit the library website or call 4233 1133 for more details about these great library programs .

See you in the Library!
Michelle