



# NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER 2025

*Patron: Jessica Dames AM*



*Michelle Prak (Centre) with Jill Argent (Left) and Helen Onopko (Right), Event Organisers at the Special Literary Luncheon, September 2025*

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## Board Matters

### IAF Chair's Report

Dear Members and Friends

As we come to the close of the year, I am pleased to reflect on a period defined by renewal, sustainability, and community. It has been a year of consolidation and forward momentum, and one in which the Board has made clear progress against its aim while continuing to deliver the activities and events that our members value so highly.

Throughout the year, the Board has remained focused on strengthening governance and structure, maintaining and exploring opportunities for growth and diversification. This strong foundation positions the organisation well for the future, and the pages that follow in this newsletter provide fulsome detail on the many activities, events, and achievements that have taken place across the year.

#### **Key achievements this year include:**

- Finalisation of the IAF [Strategic Plan 2025–2027](#)
- Development of an accompanying Operational Plan
- Establishment of three key Board sub-committees
- Implementation of a Board Charter and supporting governance documents
- A refreshed website, new Instagram account, a new logo, and a centralised digital recordkeeping system
- Multiple events and gatherings of the membership providing entertaining and educative opportunities to get together with friends and meet new ones
- Providing grants to the total of \$30,684 to emerging creatives in our state

Our mission remains clear: **to provide financial assistance to creatives and build community through the celebration of local artistic talent.**

This mission continues to guide everything we do.

#### **Thanks and Acknowledgements**

I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all current and past Board Members. Their dedication, generosity of time, and hard work have been essential in a year of renewal and progress.

To those who support our events *Cheryl Appelkamp de Valenzuela, Jill Argent, Jenny Dunstan, Marg Jude, Carol Maelzer, Steve Charles, Sherry Proferes, Carolina Cruz, Paula Barbato and Beck Rowse* – my sincere thanks for the varied and valuable contributions you make – we couldn't do this without you.

To our members, thank you for your unwavering support — whether through attending events, renewing your membership, or making donations. Your belief in the IAF and its mission makes everything we do possible.

The vision of the IAF is for South Australia to be a place where emerging creatives are empowered to develop their careers and thrive. A vibrant arts culture enriches all of us, and your support ensures that creatives have a pathway — and an opportunity — to succeed.

Thank you for being part of that vision. I wish you a joyful and restful holiday season. With some [fabulous events](#) already in the planning, I look forward to seeing you again in the new year.

Warm regards

Jane

Chair, IAF

## Board Changes 2024-2025

Prior to the AGM, held on Tuesday 7 October 2025, three Board members, Dr Moira Simpson PhD, Dr Merinda Edwards PhD and Kathy Darling-Brookes resigned. We thank them for their valuable contributions. Their absence however, reduced the Board to six members and we decided to seek not only new Board members, but those with skills to bolster the governance of the IAF.

The Board was thrilled with the response and we are very happy to introduce you to our 2025-2026 Board members.

## Board Members 2025-2026

<b>Jane Angel:</b>	Chair
<b>Peter Burdon:</b>	Deputy Chair and Chair, Finance, Risk, Audit & Management Sub-committee
<b>Mary Odlum:</b>	Treasurer; and Co-Chair, Events & Communications Sub-Committee
<b>Helen Onopko:</b>	Archivist and Secretary
<b>Felicity Ern�:</b>	Co-Chair, Events & Communications Sub-Committee
<b>Margaret Lynch:</b>	Chair, Grants Sub-Committee
<b>Samela Harris:</b>	Board Member
<b>Tracey Korsten:</b>	Board Member
<b>Public Officer:</b>	John Holmes

## Introducing new IAF Board Members



### Samela Harris: Board Member

Samela's association with the IAF goes back to the Frank Ford days when the IAF first funded the Adelaide Critics Circle during her time as Chair. She joined to express her gratitude when she retired from The Advertiser in 2012.

Born into an Adelaide arts family, she's an award-winning journalist who has been a critic and arts writer in mainstream and online media for many decades.



#### Tracey Korsten: Board Member

Tracey comes to the IAF board with a diverse background in the arts, education, law, and events. She currently teaches in SA government schools, is currently serving on the Board of the WEA, and is involved in various education-related organisations. Tracey is also a busy arts writer, producing reviews and interviews within the film, music, theatre, and literature fields.

### Continuing IAF Board Members



#### Jane Angel: Chair

Jane is currently CEO of a peak leadership body in a role that intersects the academic and cultural sectors; she has expertise in leading membership organisations, with significant experience in strategic leadership, stakeholder engagement, advocacy, project, resource and events management.



#### Peter Burdon: Deputy Chair; and Chair, Finance & Risk Management Sub-Committee

Peter is well known to the IAF from the SA Critics Circle and an enthusiastic supporter of the arts in all its forms. He is an arts researcher, writer and critic and brings to the Board strategy and vision, event planning, grant management, and valuable networks and connections to the arts community.



#### Felicity Erné: Co-Chair, Events & Communications Sub-Committee

Felicity Erné is an artist and educator and combines her love for visual arts with a strong focus on mental health and community support. She is passionate about making art something everyone can connect with and believes creativity has a place in everyone's life.



**Margaret Lynch: Chair of Grants Committee**

Margaret has been a member of the IAF since 2020 and later that year she was invited to participate in the Small Grants Subcommittee. She was pleased to join the Board in 2021. Margaret has broad experience in education, strategy, policy and administration.



**Helen Onopko: Archivist and Minutes Secretary**

Helen has been a member of the IAF since 2004, joining the IAF Board in 2016. Helen is passionate about supporting young and emerging artis. There are many areas of her life that are complementary to the expertise required as a Board Member.



**Mary Odlum: Treasurer and Co-Chair, Events & Communications Sub-Committee**

Mary became a member of IAF in 2008 and joined the Board in August 2010, taking up the position of Treasurer the following year. Mary is an experienced Finance Manager having enjoyed a lifetime career in University Finance administration in Adelaide.



**Patron: Jessica Dames AM**

Jessica Dames AM, founding Chair of the Independent Arts Foundation in 1991, became Patron of IAF in 2021. Jessica has been an active supporter of the IAF for 34 years and is a Life Member.

Further information about our Board members is available on our [website](#).

## IAF Board Planning Days

The IAF Board held two planning days in 2025. This photo of the 2024–2025 Board was taken during the first planning day in January 2025.



*(Left to Right: Kathy Darling-Brookes, Moira Simpson, Jane Angel, Peter Burdon, Mary Odlum, Helen Onopko, Margaret Lynch, Merinda Edwards, Felicity Ern )*

## New Website and Logo

Felicity Erne, the co-chair of the Events and Communications Sub-Committee has updated the IAF website and designed two new logos. A new Banner is on the way for 2026.



## Treasurer's Report

By Mary Odlum



The IAF is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) which allows us to receive tax deductible donations.

A full report for the Financial Year 2024-2025 was presented at the AGM held on 7 October 2025. Please get in touch if you would like to receive a copy.

The IAF revenue comes from members and friends attending fundraising events, supporting the raffles, paying membership fees and making donations. Nearly all funds raised go towards supporting emerging artists, a small amount is needed to cover the IAF operating costs. We thank all of you that support us.

In the financial year 2024-2025, the IAF gave \$40,704 in small grants and awards. Of this:

- \$38,704 was awarded in Small Grant awards, seven to individual artists and seven group awards
- \$1,000 – sponsorship of the Brighton Jetty Sculptures
- \$1,000 for the Adelaide Critics' Circle Innovation Award

Please see our separate report on our 2025 grant and award recipients.

The IAF had a very successful year.

Our membership numbers are now around 150 and we thank those of you who continue to support the IAF and artists through membership fees.

### Donations

Donations can be made at any time. Simply add a donation when booking for an event or renewing your membership via Trybooking. Over the past four financial years, we have raised over \$17,881 through donations made this way.

Alternatively, you can donate to our main ongoing fundraising campaign, '[Investing in Artists' Futures](#)' which commenced in May 2022. To date, this campaign has raised \$21,085. Members can donate either via Trybooking or by EFT – please contact the Treasurer on 045 857 385 for EFT details.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

All donations are deposited into the Special Fundraising Account and are used to support the Small Grant Awards.

## Raffle Donations

The IAF greatly appreciates the generous support of businesses, members and non-members who donate items such as chocolates, wines, and vouchers for use as raffle prizes. If you have suitable items you would like to donate, please contact the IAF.

We thank the following individuals and organisations who generously donated gifts as raffle prizes for our events in 2025.

### **IAF Members**

Jill Argent OAM  
Peter Burdon  
Vincent Burke  
Kathy Darling-Brookes  
Christopher Dibden  
Jen Dunstan  
Samela Harris  
Christine McMahon  
David McClay  
Carol Maelzer  
Helen Onopko

Mary Odlum  
Sherry Proferes  
Clare Russ  
Burt Surmon

### **Special Guests**

Catherine Fitz-Gerald  
Michelle Prak

### **Businesses**

Beerenburg Family, Hahndorf  
Cellarbrations, Blackwood  
Dolci, Mitcham  
Fella Hamilton, Norwood  
Nick Haselgrove Wines  
Wallis Cinemas

## Financial contributions

We would like to acknowledge the generous donations received from members and non-members who supported us by contributing to our fundraising campaign, donating directly to the Special Fundraising Account, adding a donation when renewing their membership or booking an event, or gifting their ticket payment in lieu of attendance when they were unable to attend.

Ruth Banks  
John Bishop AO  
Madeleine Blackwell  
Gavin Blake  
Andree Brett  
Kathy Darling-Brookes  
Peter Burdon  
Vincent Burke  
Anne Butcher  
Judy Connor  
Carolyn Corkindale  
Michael Davey  
Christopher Dibden  
Nicola Downer  
Gillian Drewer  
Jen Dunstan

Elaine Fardell  
Carmen Galessi  
Beverley Gibson  
Helen & Grantley Gill  
Micheleine Hannaford  
Samela Harris  
Sam Harvey  
Ralph Holmes  
Elizabeth Hutchins  
Anne Jensen  
Tracey Korsten  
Yvonne Learmonth  
Don Loffer  
David McClay  
Ines Medianik  
Gillian Miller

Julie Montgomery  
Pamela Peacock  
Ann Preston-Flint  
Brian Quinn  
Stephanie Ratnaike  
Helen Robinson  
Margaret Rohrsheim  
Tim Reeves  
Steve Charles & Moira Simpson  
Elizabeth Smith  
Jennifer Tobin  
Tina Turci  
Robin & Glen Weir  
Wendy Wauchope  
Susan White  
Mandy Winter

## IAF Grant and Award Recipients

By Margaret Lynch: Chair Small Grants Subcommittee

This year, the South Australian Government released a 10-year State Cultural Policy<sup>1</sup> for the arts, culture and creative industries. One of the strategies identified in this document, titled *A Place to Create* is:

*Thriving artists, makers and creatives*

*Making South Australia a world leader in supporting artists, makers and creatives to live and work at every stage of their careers.*

The IAF Small Grants for Emerging Artists are contributing to this strategy and continue to provide increasingly needed and valued support for individuals and groups as they strive to further their artistic careers.

In 2025, we continued to support emerging artists through two rounds of grants. In June, \$18,704 was awarded to 6 individuals and 3 groups. In November, a further \$11,980 was awarded to 2 individuals and 2 groups, bringing the total funding distributed this year to \$30,684.

In 2024, grants totalling \$31,263.48 were awarded. The combined total for the past two years highlights the significant impact of the IAF Small Grants program and underscores the vital importance of our fundraising activities. We can only continue this level of support if the value of our fundraising efforts continues to grow.

The creativity, passion for, and commitment demonstrated by applicants in their proposals and final reports consistently confirm the value of the IAF Small Grants program. As these grants are entirely funded through fundraising, we encourage you to continue supporting these efforts and invite others to do the same.

Reports on projects from this year's grant recipients are published on our website as they are received. Reports from previous years are also available and make compelling reading.

Together, we can make a meaningful difference to the lives of emerging artists. A diverse and inclusive arts and cultural sector generates artistic, cultural, social and economic opportunities that strengthen social cohesion and enhance recognition of South Australia's identity on both the national and international stage.

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<sup>1</sup> [State Cultural Policy A Place to Create](#)

Recipients of IAF Small Grants: 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Grant Recipient	Date Awarded
<b>Zac Steele</b> Short film: <i>The Red Part III</i> , third film in a series, psychological thriller	June 2025
<b>Poppy Anthony</b> Participation in <i>ImPulsTanz</i> at the Vienna International Dance Festival	June 2025
<b>Teresa Busuttil</b> Provide support to attend one month residency with <i>Euroatia</i> in collaboration with Hangar Art Research Centre, Lisbon, Portugal	June 2025
<b>Nadera Rasulova</b> Assist with the creation of <i>Soil</i> , mixed-media exploration of how land, memory and migration shape cultural identity through the sensory echoes of food and place	June 2025
<b>Luca Sardells</b> Attend the Shakespeare Summer School at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art	June 2025
<b>Jessica Rowe &amp; Pierah Summers</b> Assist with the production of a short film exploring the theme of identity, queer friendship and coming of age	June 2025
<b>Bethany Hall</b> Support to attend the International Summer School ballet workshop in Estonia	June 2025
<b>Alice McCool &amp; Ena Grozdanic</b> Assist with their multi-disciplinary exhibition at Bus Projects Gallery, Melbourne	June 2025
<b>Constantine Stefanou</b> Assistance towards participation in 2025 Atelier for Young Festival Managers, Germany ( <i>awarded Round 1 2025</i> )	September 2025
<b>Liliana Pasalic</b> Support for first solo exhibition <i>From a Small Seed a Forest Grows</i> at Curatorial & Co Gallery, Sydney	November 2025
<b>Nicola Watson (The Russell Starke Small Grant)</b> Assistance with production costs of <i>Spare a Thought for Jana Wendt</i> at La Mama HQ, Melbourne in April 2026	November 2025
<b>Aida Azin</b> Assistance with <i>Palengke Girl</i> , a Fringe exhibition and City of Norwood Community Event, to be held at fab Studios March 2026, curated by Aida Azin, featuring work created by Philippine-based artists	November 2025
<b>Street Legal (Max Tulysewski, Matthew Hayward, Libby Verrall, Tasman Strachan &amp; Joel Byrne)</b> support for production of Street Legal's EP <i>Wildlife</i>	November 2025
<b>Arida Hierns (Michael Harpas, Kyle Davis, Bridget McDonald &amp; Gere Fuss)</b> Post-production costs associated with the completion and release of short film <i>On Wild Horse Plains</i>	November 2025

Sponsorships / other awards: 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

### Brighton Jetty Sculptures IAF sponsorship



In January 2025, the IAF became a Patron of the Brighton Jetty Sculptures and will support this event with an annual \$1000 sponsorship for 3 years (2025 to 2027).

This is a fantastic opportunity for the IAF to support yet another art form and to strengthen our presence within the arts community.

The IAF encourages all Members to visit the exhibition again in 2026. It will be open from 21 January to 1 February 2026.

For more information click [here](#)



*Photo: Diané Ranck OAM, Brighton Jetty Sculptures Ambassador, Margaret Lynch & Jane Angel*

### Russell Starke Small Grant 2025: Broadening access to the arts in country SA



The 2025 recipient of the Russell Starke Small Grant is Nicola Watson, an emerging regional South Australian playwright based in Penola.

The grant will support the production and staging of her debut play, *Spare a Thought for Jana Wendt*, at Melbourne's La Mama HQ in April 2026.

*Spare a Thought for Jana Wendt* was also featured as part of the State Theatre's presentation of *Great Australian Bites*.

Thank you to Petra and Miranda Starke for generously supporting this grant.

## Adelaide Critics Circle Awards - Independent Arts Foundation (SA) Award for Innovation



The IAF Award for Innovation, presented as part of the Adelaide Critics Circle Awards in December 2025, was awarded to Eleen Deprez and Michael Newall. The award recognised their project, *The Living Machine – Space for Contemporary Art*, for its innovative contribution to the contemporary arts landscape.

Jane Angel and Mary Odlum attended the Critics Circle Awards on December 8, 2025 at the Holden Street Theatres.

Peter Burdon, Chair of the Critics Circle accepted the award on behalf of The Living Machine Co-Directors, Eleen Deprez and Michael Newall. IAF received the following acceptance speech from Eleen Deprez and Michael Newall.



*“We’re sorry we can’t be there in person tonight. We’re currently sequestered in the cold Belgian winter, quietly recharging as we prepare for a new exhibition program.*

*We’re deeply grateful for this award. Since 2023, we’ve been committed to building a program of exhibition, talks, events and performances that contribute meaningfully to Adelaide’s cultural landscape.*

*We started The Little Machine as a modest experiment; through the rent-free scheme Renew Adelaide we were able to lease a small space in Regent Arcade. We wanted to make exhibitions that we found fascinating, that otherwise wouldn’t happen in Adelaide, and to do so with an ethical and professional approach.*

*What started as a temporary, month-by-month project quickly expanded into something bigger. Since then, we have moved to a bigger space (still in Regent Arcade) have curated and mounted many exhibitions and events, working with scores of artists.*

*Our exhibitions and other projects – including artist talks, artist performances, lectures, an art-book and zine fair, and a reading group – have been driven by a desire to provide a scaffolding for artists and audiences to explore ideas vital to contemporary culture, linking them to broader cultural discourses within and beyond Adelaide. In the process, we have engaged with the tangled questions around identity and self, urgent social and political concerns, and our technological and natural environment.*

*Despite its name, The Little Machine isn’t cold or mechanical. It’s made of people: the two of us, the artists we collaborate with, the many friends who dig in to help, and the audiences who we have been happy to discover share so many of our fascinations and convictions. We are especially grateful to the artists who have worked with us: who have trusted us with unfinished ideas, fragile experiments, and ambitious visions. They are the heart of everything we do.*

*The Little Machine is a labour of love, and much of that labour is invisible. So this recognition truly means a great deal.*

*Thank you to the Independent Arts Foundation and everyone who has supported us, believed in us, and helped keep this little machine running.*

*Thank you, Eleen and Michael”*

## Neil Curnow Award

The Neil Curnow Award is made possible through the generous bequest of the late Neil Curnow. Following his impressive career as an actor, director, teacher and voice coach, Neil made a bequest through the IAF to support emerging South Australian theatre people through this prestigious award.

The Neil Curnow Award is available to final-year students and graduates aged between 18 and 30. The purpose of the award is to support an emerging artist to undertake further study or career development in acting, theatre performance or theatre direction.

The award supports the recipient to undertake further study or an internship at a recognised institution, nationally or internationally.

For further information on the application process for the Neil Curnow Award 2026, please visit their website at: [Helpmann Academy - Neil Curnow Award](#)

### **The 2026 Neil Curnow Award recipient is Shardae Santos.**

Shardae is an artist driven by authenticity, rigour, and joy, moving fluidly across disciplines and embracing creativity wherever it leads.

As a recent Flinders University, Bachelor of Performance (Acting) Honours graduate, Shardae is motivated by telling stories that invigorate audiences and spark connection.

Her work includes the SASA award-winning *Guttercat* (directed by Aubrey Winslow), which was previewed at the Helpmann Academy Graduate Filmmaker Showcase 2025 and premiered at Adelaide Film Festival; *Odyseed* (directed by Kristoffer Lucia), winner of Best Film at Sydney Underground Film Festival's Take 48; and State Theatre Company Stateside show *Starweaver* (directed by Shannon Rush).

In 2026, Shardae will star in *B\*tch Boxer* by Charlie Josephine for DEAD DARLING THEATRE and the Adelaide Fringe.



*"I am so honoured to receive the 2026 Neil Curnow award, which will provide me with new perspectives surrounding physical theatre on an international scale and will enhance my approach to character and storytelling as an emerging artist."*

## IAF News

### IAF Meets with Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC



Jane Angel, Chair and Mary Odlum, Treasurer were invited to meet with Her Excellency in April to update her on the IAF's recent activities and future direction.

### IAF Small Grant Recipient, Lucky Smith, Exhibition "Under 30's Eat Free"

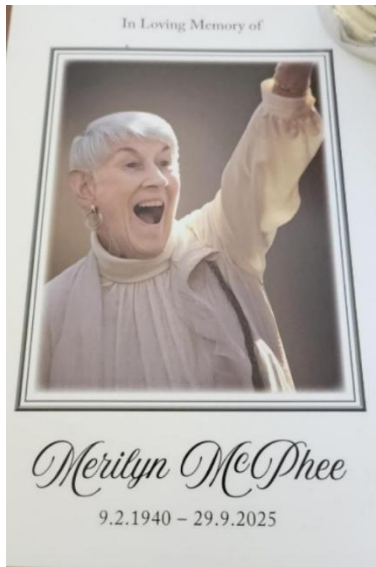
Mary Odlum, along with IAF members Carol Maelzer and Sherry Proferes, attended the opening night of IAF Small Grant Recipient, Lucky Smith exhibition at The Mill Gallery.

*Lucky said "The exhibition explores the impending turn of thirty; an age of paralytic decision-making, the frazzled and hurried pursuit of escaping dreams, and an overwhelming sensation one is not where they need to be as they are compared to their contemporaries and generations before them. Under 30s Eat Free is a visual representation of my comparative and anxious feelings towards turning 30 in the present day."*

Read Lucky's grant recipient report at <https://www.iafoundation.org.au/pastrecipients/>



Vale Marilyn McPhee (9/2/1940 - 29/9/2025)



We were saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Marilyn McPhee, a longstanding member of IAF and a regular and enthusiastic attendee of our literary evenings.

Our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

The Poem, *A Limb Has Fallen From The Family Tree* was read by Campbell McPhee & Ella McPhee at Marilyn's Funeral

*A limb has fallen from the family tree.  
I keep hearing the voice that says, "Grieve not for me"  
Remember the best times, the laughter, the song.  
The good life I lived while I was strong.  
Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you.  
Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.  
My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest.  
Remembering all, how I truly was blessed.  
Continue Traditions, no matter how small  
Go on with your life, don't worry about falls  
I miss you dearly, so keep up your chin,  
Until the day comes we're together again*

## Special Fundraising Events

If fabrics could speak – Catherine Fitz-Gerald, January 2025

By Mary Odlum



Twenty years ago, Catherine Fitz-Gerald and her mother, Marjorie Fitz-Gerald OAM (*pictured with the hydrangeas Marjorie won in the raffle*) staged a one-night only art exhibition as a fundraiser for the IAF that kickstarted Catherine's Career.

In January 2025, Catherine generously invited IAF Members and friends to the Pepper Street Gallery to learn about her inclusive, audio described exhibition of paintings, photographs and digital stories.

Inspired by memories of her dressmaker mother, Marjorie Fitz-Gerald, a former Chair and long-time member of the IAF, Catherine asked *If fabrics could speak, what stories would they tell?*

The result was this award-winning community project, where 40 people shared the memories bound within the weft and warp of the fabrics they make or treasure.

Many thanks to Catherine for giving up her time sharing such an interesting exhibition and for donating a set of prints for the raffle.

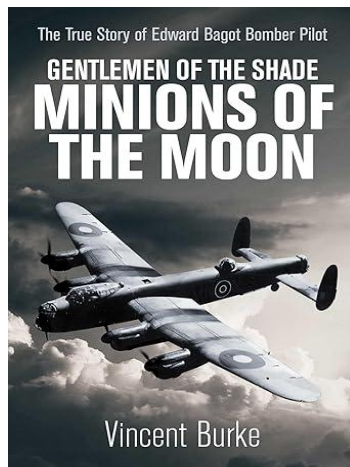


# If fabrics could speak...



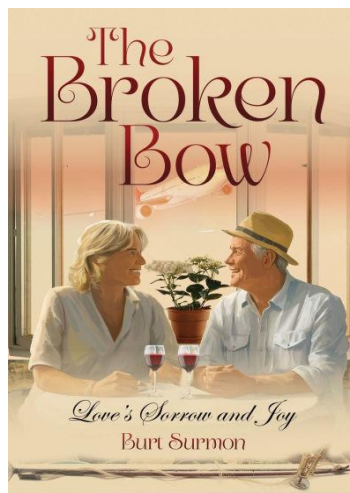
## Burt 'n Burke Special Literary Event, May 2025

By Helen Onopko



In May this year, the monthly Literary evening celebrated two of our long time IAF supporters and members, **Vincent Burke** and **Burt Surmon**.

Vincent has been a supporter of IAF for more than two decades and we were thrilled to secure him for this event. Vincent's many works range from histories to travel. At this event, Vincent presented a commissioned work "*Gentlemen of the Shade – Minions of the Moon*" detailing the journey of Edward Bagot, Bomber Pilot, amid a background of war-torn Europe and the opulent halls of English nobility. A book of meticulous research was well received by attendees.



Burt has also supported IAF since his Clare Valley winery days. His retirement saw IAF sampling his wines at several literary events.

Burt has written many novels from murder mysteries to romances, with all embracing the Clare Valley context and its industry characters. Burt presented his latest novel "*The Broken Bow*" – a wine expert's romance with a psychologist when they meet at an airport.

Many thanks Burt 'n Burke!

## Michelle Prak – Special Literary Luncheon, September 2025

By Helen Onopko



Our third in the series of annual literary lunches was held on September 14 2025. The first in 2023 *“In Conversation with Pip Williams”*, and the second in 2024 *“In Conversation with Lainie Anderson”* were very successful events, both hosted on stage by interlocutor, and a generous champion of IAF, Sandy Verschoor.

This year we secured South Australian author Michelle Prak, who had shortly before, followed her first publication *“The Rush”* with another thrilling page-turner *“Barren Cape”*.



We were thrilled to have Michelle with us on the day, supported by popular bookseller Dymock’s Jo Pugh. Helen Onopko was Emcee; Jill Argent (CEO Raffles and quiz mistress) with IAF Treasurer Mary and IAF member Carol, secured raffle ticket purchases from approximately 50 attendees. Raffles were donated from Berenberg, Christopher Dibden, Fella Hamilton fashions, and Nick Haselgrove Wines. IAF is always most appreciative of our donors, as our costs remain minimal and all monies support grants for emerging creatives.

Michelle was well received and responded to many questions about the novel which delicately presented a story involving difficult aspects of young adult lives forced to the fringe of society by circumstance. It remains an important novel, and we all look forward to Michelle’s forthcoming publications.

Jill and Helen plan to continue the series later next year. Thanks to the generosity of popular authors who donate their time, to all who attend, and to Sandy Verschoor who has been generous to IAF for many years. We look forward to seeing you all in 2026.

Watch our [website](#) for IAF events.



## Film Report

By Mary Odlum and Carol Maelzer



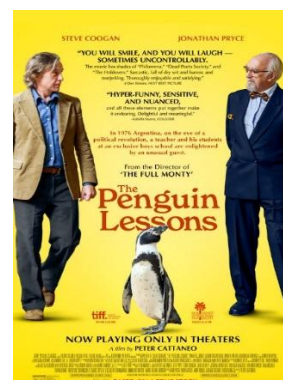
In 2025, we enjoyed another outstanding and diverse collection of films. We began the year with a record-breaking turnout of over 120 attendees for *Widow Clicquot* – the highest attendance event for an IAF film night!

Thank you to our IAF and non IAF Members, as well as their family and friends, for your ongoing support and wonderful company throughout the year. We are also grateful to our generous raffle donors and to everyone who supported our raffles.

A special thank you to **Wallis Cinema Mitcham** for their continued support of the IAF. Many of our film attendees have also enjoyed the 15% discount at Hugh's Lounge & Bar at Wallis Mitcham, which has been a welcome addition to our film night.

In 2025, we watched the following films:

- February: *Widow Clicquot*
- March: *Black Bag*
- May: *The Penguin Lessons*
- August: *Four Letters of Love*
- September: *The Roses*
- October: *After the Hunt*
- November: *Now You See Me Now You Don't*



# WallisCinema

We look forward to seeing you at the movies in 2026.

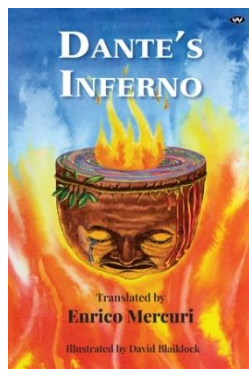
## Literary Dinner Report

By Cheryl Appelkamp de Valenzuela, Convenor, Literary Dinners



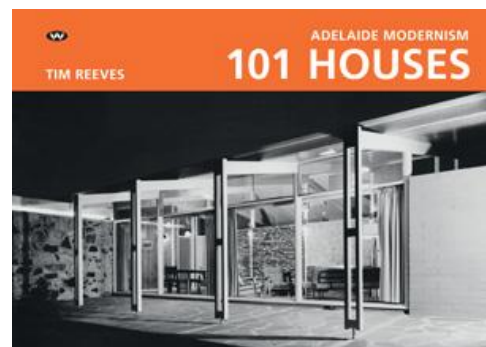
Grateful thanks to Michael Bollen, Publisher of the wonderful South Australian institution, Wakefield Press, for sponsoring our IAF Tuesday literary dinners again in 2025, thus giving us access to a wide range of interesting guest speakers and topics.

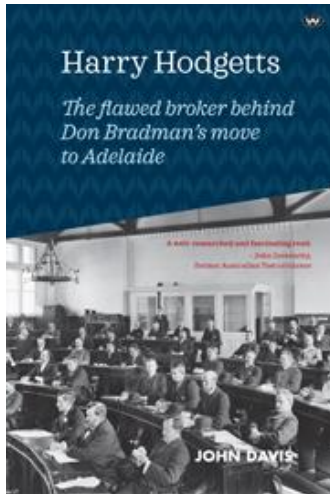
We commenced the year on 18 February, with guest speaker John West-Sooby, a former Emeritus Professor of French at The University of Adelaide, talking about the book he edited and for which he contributed information on some topics, 'What have the French ever done for us?', a fascinating insight into the influence of French culture on our own in ways many of us would not have imagined.



Enrico Mercuri was guest speaker on 15 April to talk about translating Dante's Inferno into English, not from standard modern Italian, for which he was awarded a medal when studying at The University of Adelaide, but from the vernacular in which Dante wrote his Divine Comedy. Enrico was accompanied by David Blaiklock, the illustrator of the book, who created an illustration in every book purchased that night, to the delight of all who purchased a copy.

Tim Reeves, a historian and author, was guest speaker on 16 June, when he talked about his latest book, 'Adelaide Modernism: 101 Houses' and illustrated his comments with slides of relevant houses, which made guests aware of the architectural merits of these houses, many of which were recognised by guests as being in their neighbourhood.



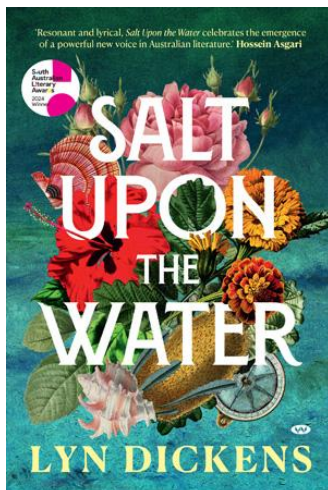
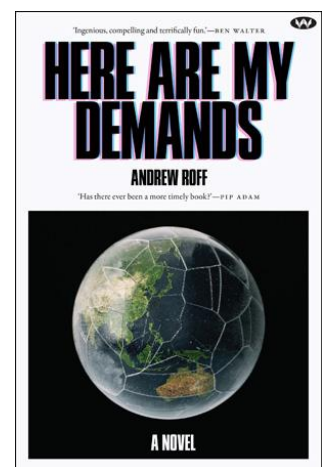


On 15 July another historian and author and former history teacher, John Davis, was guest speaker to talk about his book, 'Harry Hodgetts - The flawed broker behind Don Bradman's move to Adelaide', which provides an insight into Adelaide society at the time when Don Bradman was becoming a household name and Harry Hodgetts was found to be a fraudster.

John illustrated his talk with informative slides about Harry Hodgetts and his fall from grace.

Andrew Roff, an author of speculative fiction, was guest speaker on 19 August to talk about his first published novel, 'Here are my Demands'. Guests were intrigued about the story and some also queried the meaning of 'speculative fiction'.

This was the second time Andrew has been a guest speaker, the first time being in 2022 when he talked about a collection of short stories which were published under the name, 'The Teeth of a Slow Machine' and which also provoked a lot of commentary.



Our Tuesday, 7 October dinner was held after the IAF AGM with a changed format - Samel Harris in conversation with Lyn Dickens, author of 'Salt Upon the Water', which Wakefield Press published this year after it was judged to be the best unpublished manuscript by a South Australian writer at the 2024 Adelaide Writers' Week.

Samela had familiarised herself with the story beforehand and was therefore able to conduct a very interesting and pertinent conversation with Lyn about her book, which is beautifully written and provides an

evocative picture of life in colonial South Australia.





Our last dinner for this year was held on 18 November and I asked the two guest speakers, Peter Goers and John Roe, to give Christmas themed talks on any topic. They didn't disappoint, with Peter giving an entertaining, but also poignant, account of some of his Christmas memories, one being the last Christmas before his parents were killed in a plane crash. John, on the other hand, did a lot of research into the beginnings of Christianity and presented a fascinating account of the events and principle historical figures of the period, which kept us all spell-bound.



The 2025 literary dinners were again held in the Osmond Terrace Function Centre and I thank the Norwood Hotel staff for their collaboration in making the evenings possible.

Cheryl Appelkamp de Valenzuela  
Convenor



Michael Bollen pictured with John Roe who was his former St Peter's College English Master

Photos from the Christmas Literary Dinner



## From the Archive

By Helen Onopko (Archivist)

### *From the Archive.....*



### **Support for Adelaide Writers Week (AWW)**

Many may not know that the IAF was a generous sponsor of Adelaide Writers Week (AWW) earlier this century. The Archive records the following memories from earlier days:

- The regular attendance of Neil Curnow, to witness the presentation of his annual award of \$10,000 to an emerging artist; in 2010, Russell Starke performed as MC, introducing each speaker, including the Chair, IAF who presented the cheque to the winner of the Neil Curnow Award.
- IAF sponsorship of \$5,000 for an overseas writer, was regularly provided to the Executive Producers of AWW. In 2006, our reward was to have sponsorship acknowledgment in the program, plus a free advertisement of the IAF Booklovers Breakfast, and complimentary breakfast for 30 writers;
- The very successful Booklovers Breakfasts were conducted in the grounds of Government House prior to the commencement of the interviewing of writers in the Pioneer Memorial Gardens.



Many of us remember enjoying the breakfast, with a writer present at each table. Organised expertly by a small Committee, the minutes in 2009 read that Vincent Burke was the Chair, ably supported by Marjorie Fitz-Gerald, Lynn Crosby, Judy Sinton, Sue Mintz, Lyn Hillier and Wendy Wauchope.



Many other contributors including current convenor of the Literary Evenings Cheryl Appelkamp de Valenzuela ensured the continued success of these events.

The efforts of the committee and convenors are remembered with gratitude.

## Christmas Parties of past years



Marjorie Fitz-Gerald OAM- continuing champion of the IAF - regularly hosted a Christmas party at her Heathpool home. At these events, the Neil Curnow recipient would be a guest speaker, entertainment would be provided, and the awarding of any Honorary Life Memberships would be conducted. In 2012, the guest speaker was Ellonye Keniry with her presentation “*Shakespeare*”, Libby Donovan entertained with song, and the late Franz Kempf was presented with Honorary Life membership.

Amid large bowls of hydrangeas, attendees drank champagne, ate ham finger sandwiches, meatballs, mini quiche and cream puffs for their \$25 ticket. A magnificent Christmas hamper was the raffle prize. The attendee list shows at least a dozen persons who continue 13 years later, to attend our events.

### ***Calling for all IAF historical records.....***

We remain keen to discover records of the IAF from its launch at Greenaway Gallery in November 1991 to the current day. The current catalogue of the records in our Archive is our starting point for identifying what we should have and what is missing from our story.

Jill Argent and I are more than happy to respond to all those who think they might have some memories, records or photographs to contribute.

Helen Onopko & Jill Argent

Archive IAF



The Independent Arts Foundation (IAF) is a registered charity established in 1991 to raise funds to support emerging artists in all art forms, including dance, film, literature, music & visual arts.

Grants, scholarships and annual awards supported by the IAF provide financial assistance for individuals and groups seeking support for professional development or a project, such as an exhibition, performance or film.

Funds are raised through donations, membership fees and a program of events including literary dinners, film nights, and special events.

All monies raised go to providing grants and sponsorships.

Non-members are welcome to join us at our fundraising events.

The IAF welcome new members who are interested in meeting like-minded people, knowing that supporting the IAF also supports the arts in South Australia.

### IAF Contact Details

Please visit our [website](#) and consider [joining](#) if you are not a current member.

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

IAF phone: 0457 857 385

Postal address to PO Box 251, Stepney 5069.

### Donations

Please consider donating to our [ongoing fundraising campaign](#) or contact the Treasurer on mobile: 0457 857 385.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

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