

## **Ambitious new exhibition celebrates Australian contemporary life**

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 from the Library's 600,000 strong Pictures Collection, follows-on from the widely acclaimed ***In a New Light: Australian Photography 1850s-1930s*** which attracted more than 40,000 visitors to the National Library.

Director-General Jan Fullerton said "The National Library has one of the most important photographic collections in the country. This second ***In a New Light*** exhibition presents a wonderful opportunity to celebrate its riches. Its appeal to a great variety of people lies in the way it showcases the development of Australia alongside the progress of photography as a medium."

The selection of over 300 works 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 on the walls and in the showcases is a reflection of an increasingly confident and evolving 20<sup>th</sup> century nation.

The built environment features strongly with the streets as the setting for anti-war 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 60s' fashion photographs.

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

***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 this Australian experience is demonstrated 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.

Guest curator Helen Ennis, Senior Lecturer at the ANU School of Art and one of Australia's leading photographic historians said, "The exhibition is broader than a documentation of social history. It encourages the viewer to think differently not only about photography and Australian history but also about the National Library's role in representing our multi-dimensional Australian visual culture."

A dedicated website is available at [www.nla.gov.au/exhibitions/newlight2](http://www.nla.gov.au/exhibitions/newlight2) from 2 December 2004.

*Intersections: Photography, History and the National Library of Australia* is the first representative survey of the Library's photographic holdings by curator Helen Ennis. This landmark publication retails for \$59.95 at the National Library Bookshop and major bookstores nationally. It can also be purchased through Sales and Distribution National Library of Australia ☎ 1800 800 100; fax 02 6273 1084; [nlasales@nla.gov.au](mailto:nlasales@nla.gov.au)

**Supported by Novotel Canberra. For accommodation enquiries and bookings**  
☎ (02) 6245 5000 or Canberra Getaways 1800 100 660

***In a New Light: Australian Photography from 1930s–2000***

National Library of Australia, Parkes Place, Canberra

2 December 2004 – 28 March 2005

Exhibition Gallery

Open daily 9am – 5pm

Free Admission

Closed Christmas Day

**Media enquiries:**

**Yvonne Kennedy, Director Communications and Marketing**

☎ (02) 6262 1353; 0411 753 891 or [ykennedy@nla.gov.au](mailto:ykennedy@nla.gov.au)

**James Halligan, Communications & Marketing Coordinator**

☎ (02) 6262 1160 or [jhalligan@nla.gov.au](mailto:jhalligan@nla.gov.au)

**Julia Dean, Communications Officer**

☎ (02) 6262 1571 or [jdean@nla.gov.au](mailto:jdean@nla.gov.au)