

September

WHAT'S ON | DONATE
BECOME A FRIEND



Image: *Forms at Bondi*, 1939 (detail). Photo by Max Dupain

Definitive Dupain exhibition open now

A free exhibition until July 2027

Definitive Dupain is the first major retrospective to explore the complete body of work of Max Dupain (1911–1992), Australia's most famous photographer.

Featuring 200 images and original prints personally selected by Dupain for magazine and book publishers during his lifetime, the exhibition reveals the extraordinary breadth of his work.

[Learn more](#)

A limited-edition red cover copy of the book that accompanies the exhibition is available exclusively at [the Library Shop](#). You can order your copy of *Definitive Dupain*, published by

Thames & Hudson, today.



FREE

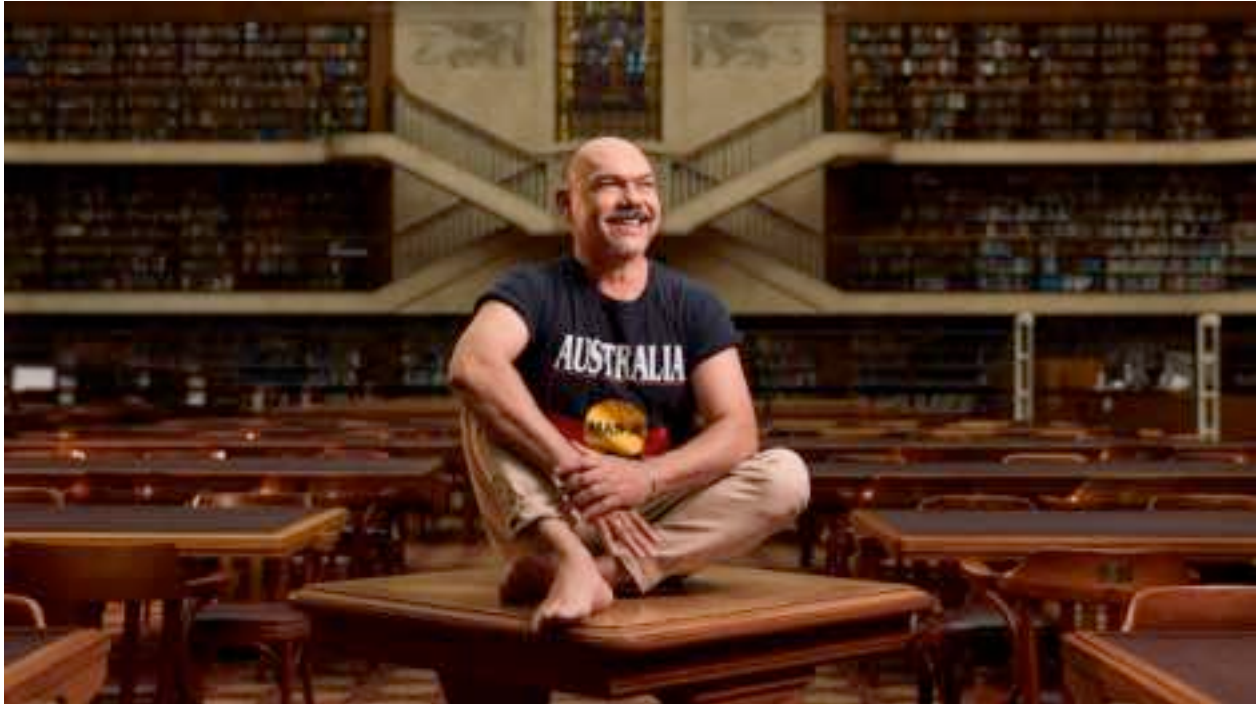
Defining Dupain

Tuesday 29 September, 11 am

A conversation with curator Avryl Whitnall and *Openbook* editor Phillipa McGuinness about the research, discoveries and decisions behind the *Definitive Dupain* exhibition and book.

[Book here](#)

Not to be missed



200

200th Anniversary Performances

In this milestone year, experience extraordinary new work from some of Australia's leading artists and storytellers, inspired by the Library's collection and spaces.

RECLAIM: A Contemporary Ceremony

Mitchell Library Reading Room, 11, 12 September

Created by Stephen Page AO, *RECLAIM* combines dance, spoken word, poetry and music to celebrate the resistance and resilience of NSW's First Nations peoples.

Earth Flow

Mitchell Library Reading Room, 18, 19 September

William Barton delivers a collage of music, poetry, movement and song reflecting on two centuries of story-keeping at the Library.

The Scott Sisters: Pioneers of Science and Art

Library Auditorium, 25, 26, 27 September

Skye McIntosh and the Australian Haydn Ensemble present an immersive new multimedia work inspired by the legendary 19th-century illustrators.

A Night at the Library — A new show for kids and families

Library Auditorium, 20, 29, 30 September, 1 October

A young student spends one memorable night 'stuck' in the State Library, discovering more than they could have imagined. Written by Joanna Erskine.

[Learn more](#)



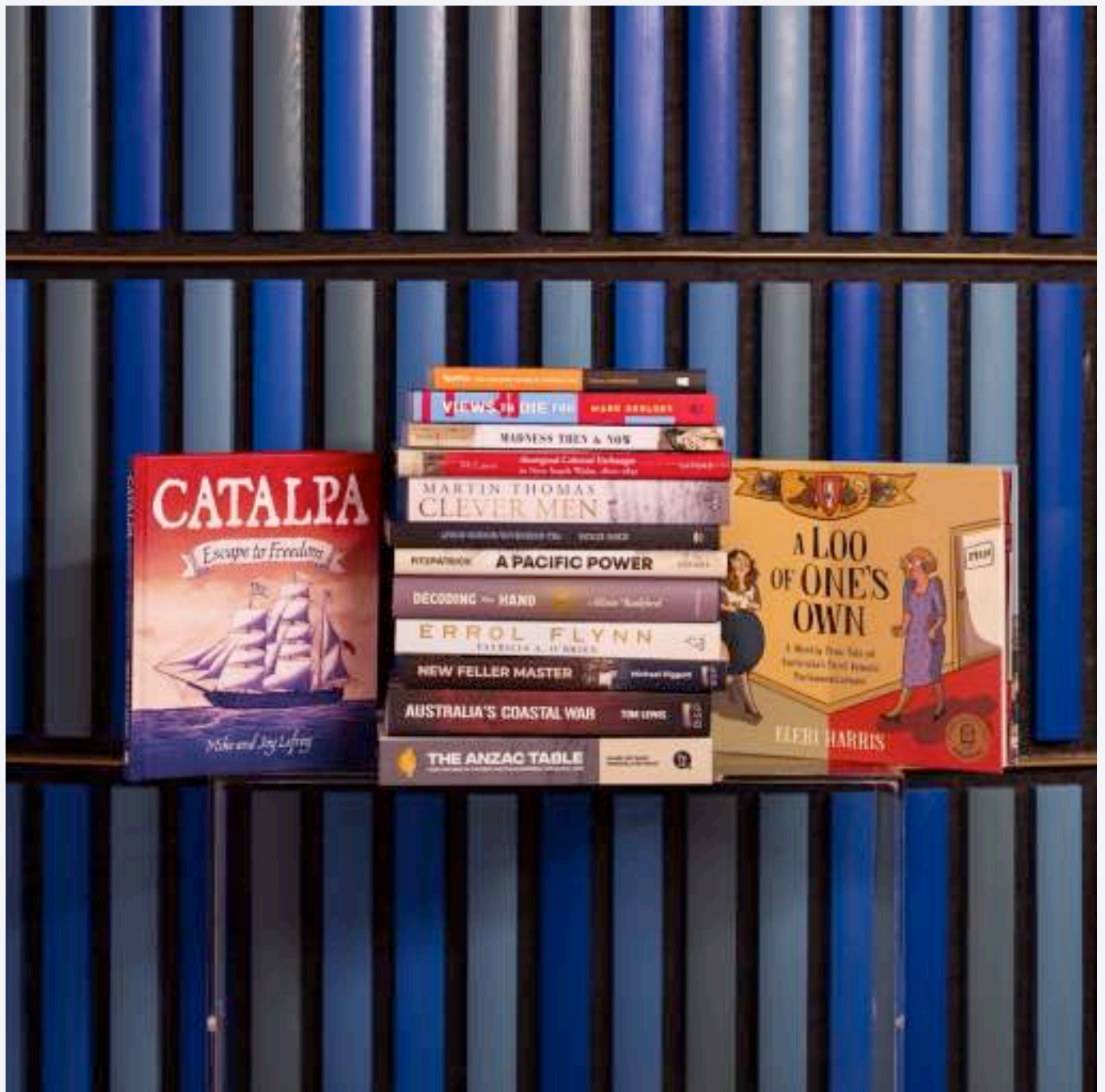
FREE 200

Spring Sessions: Live music on the Macquarie forecourt

Wednesday evenings, 16 September – 21 October

Catch weekly free sunset performances from some of Sydney's best local musicians, including DEVAURA, Manfredo Lament, RIAH and more.

[Explore the program](#)



FREE

NSW History Awards 2026 ceremony

Join us at the Library on Monday 7 September as we announce the winners of this year's NSW History Awards and celebrate the start of History Week!

[Attend the ceremony](#)

[Discover the shortlist](#)

Must see events



FREE ONLINE

Caring for your family collections

Monday 31 August, 10 am

Learn how to care for your family history collections and keep them safe for years to come with expert Library conservators.

[Book here](#)

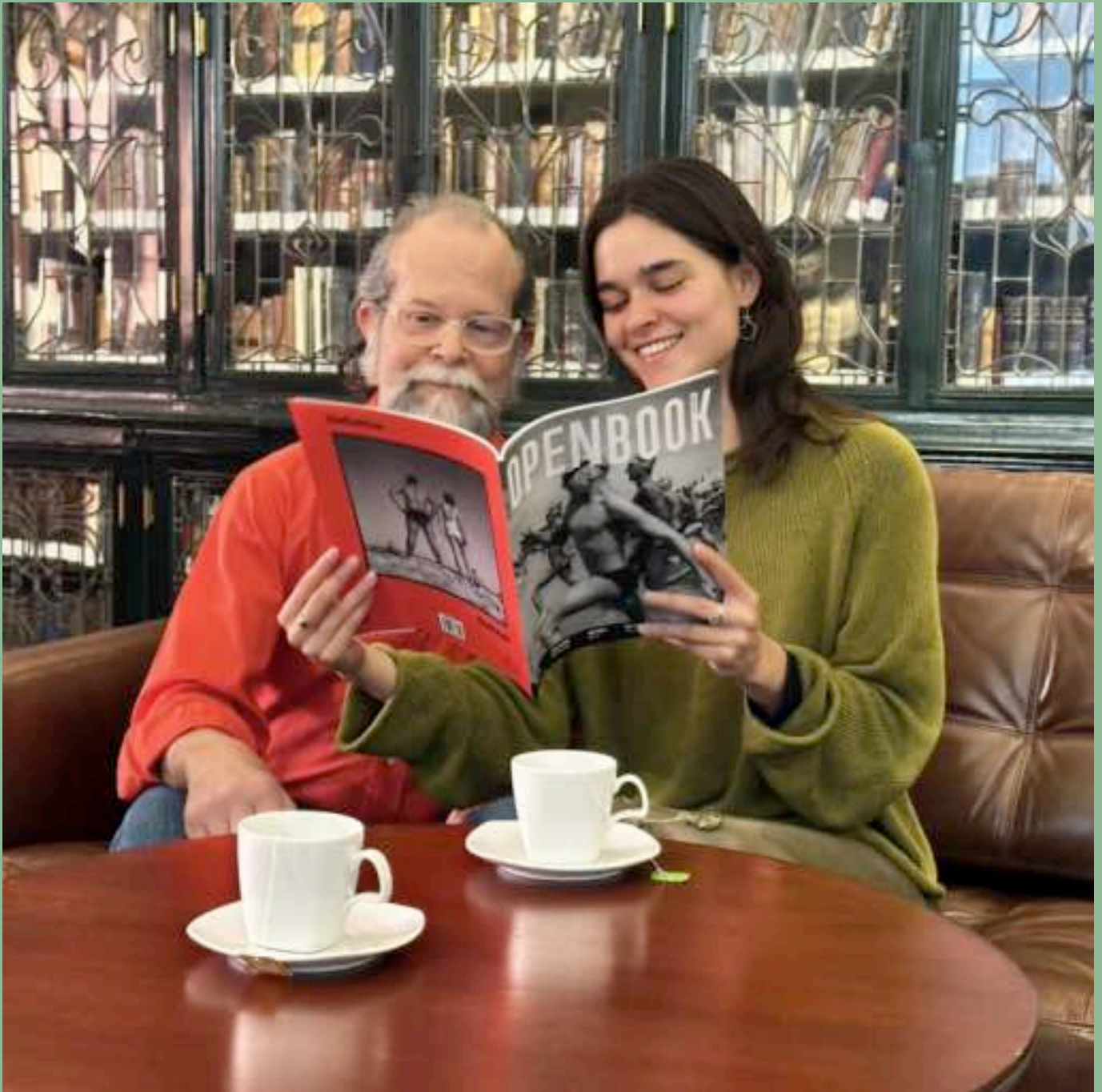


The Library Book Club: *The Transit of Venus*

Wednesday 9 September, 6 pm

Don't miss out on the last Library Book Club of the year! Join hosts of the *Secret Life of Books* podcast, Jonty Claypole and Sophie Gee, to discuss Shirley Hazzard's sweeping family saga.

[Book here](#)



Give a Friends membership this Father's Day!

Give Dad a year of exclusive Library perks including exclusive collection viewings, a subscription to *Openbook*, discounts to events and the Library Cafe and Shop, and monthly offers from industry partners. Your gift membership includes a personalised gift card from you.

[Purchase a gift membership](#)

Beyond 200

Support a living library for future generations.

Help us enable better access to our collections, acquire and preserve born-digital collections, and increase our audience reach through our education programs for young people.

Give today



From our friends



Australian Museum

Sydney's iconic museum party is back for a night of devilish fun!

Australian Museum is offering our subscribers a **10% discount on your Jurassic Lounge ticket**. Limited discounted tickets are available on a first come, first served basis.

[Book here](#)

This offer applies to one ticket per transaction.

Plan your visit

The Library opens 9 am to 8 pm Monday to Thursday, 9 am to 5 pm on Friday, and 10 am to 5 pm on weekends. [See our website](#) for more information on how to make the most out of your next visit.

The following events, programs and exhibitions are generously supported by

Definitive Dupain

State Library of NSW Foundation and its donors

200th Anniversary program

State Library of NSW Foundation and its donors

NSW History Awards

State Library of NSW in association with Create NSW. We are pleased to acknowledge the support of the History Council of NSW, and the Trustees of the Anzac Memorial Building for their establishment and sponsorship of the Anzac Memorial Trustees Military History Prize



The State Library of NSW acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which the Library stands. We pay respect to Aboriginal Elders past and present and extend that respect to other First Nations people.

State Library of NSW

1 Shakespeare Pl, Sydney, NSW 2000

PH: +61 2 9273-1414 sl.nsw.gov.au

[SUBSCRIBE](#) | [DISCLAIMER](#) | [COPYRIGHT](#) | [PRIVACY](#)



The State Library of NSW acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which the Library stands. We pay respect to Aboriginal Elders past and present and extend that respect to other First Nations people.

State Library of NSW

1 Shakespeare Pl, Sydney, NSW 2000

PH: +61 2 9273 1414 sl.nsw.gov.au

[SUBSCRIBE](#) | [DISCLAIMER](#) | [COPYRIGHT](#) | [PRIVACY](#)