



Rananim

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OUR NEW MEDIA VENTURE

THE DH Lawrence Society of Australia launched its new venture – Rananim Media Enterprises – at a function in Surry Hills on Saturday, November 1.

More than 20 members turned up to hear the announcement of the launch and see its first offering – Garry Shead’s new film, “In the Steps of Lawrence”.

It was not the premiere of Garry’s film – that was at the Chauvel cinema in Paddington several months ago – but it was the first showing of his new editing of the film, the version that is now available on DVD through Rananim Media Enterprises (see distribution details below *).

In actual fact, the occasion was a long-planned memorial to two of our DHLA stalwarts, our late President John Lacey and our late secretary, Margaret Jones.

As our President Rob Darroch explained, we would have had our traditional Spring event – our Jacaranda Harbour Cruise on the *Lady Hopetoun* – about this time of year. Sadly, John (who was responsible for arranging these delightful occasions) is no longer with us. But our Bar Cleveland venue in Surry Hills provided a pleasant alternative.



Rob Darroch and Garry Shead at the launch of Rananim Media Enterprises

We converted the upstairs bar into a mini-cinema and sold a number of copies of Garry’s DVD after the “show”. (Proceeds will go to our DHLA society, thanks to Garry’s generosity in supplying us with his DVDs at wholesale rates.) After Rob announced our new Rananim Media Enterprises venture – and Sandra paid a warm tribute to John and Margaret – Professor Andrew Moore gave a short talk on how Lawrence might have become involved with the secret army on which *Kangaroo* is based.

The first book to be made available through Rananim Media Enterprises will be Rob’s new revised edition of his 1981 *DH Lawrence in Australia*.

Several other titles – and DVDs – will follow, culminating (we hope soon) with a new edition of Lawrence’s novel itself, which will become the first edition of the text of *Kangaroo* “that he really wanted” (in the words of Lawrence’s bibliographer, the late Dr Warren Roberts.) There has never been an edition of Lawrence’s eighth major novel that contains the correct, definitive text that he completed in Taos in 1922-23.

The Cambridge University Press Collected Works edition, published in 1994, was supposed to establish that definitive, accurate text.

Serious error

However, through a serious editing error – the omission of the last 365 words Lawrence added on the first typescript – that edition, otherwise excellent, did not live up to Dr Roberts’ stricture of being the text “he really wanted”.

As well, the Introduction Dr Bruce Steele wrote for the 1994 CUP edition is crippled by its ignorance of the historical background to the composition of the novel (which John Douglas Pringle described as “the most important book ever written about Australia”).

In addition, many of Dr Steele’s annotations and other parts of the edition’s textual apparatus need updating.

So our new edition of *Kangaroo* will provide a major addition to Lawrence knowledge and the understanding and appreciation of his Australian novel.

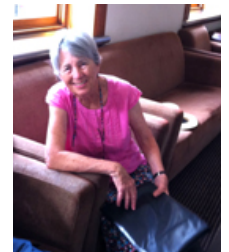
In particular it will reveal – for the first time – what the novel is about (fascism in Australia, and Lawrence’s reaction to it).



Beverley Firth and Andrew Moore (who gave a talk about secret armies)



John Ruffels, who has helped Rob Darroch with his research over many years



Sally Rothwell, whose grandmother was married to Jack Scott, on whom Lawrence based Jack Callcott in *Kangaroo*



Greg Baran, a long-time Member of the DHLA



Attendees in the upstairs room at the Bar



Rob Darroch picks up the



Everyone helped put up the plastic which



With the task completed, the



Ingrid & Yusuf Ismail, visiting from

*Cleveland gather to hear Andrew Moorre's
talk on secret armies*

*secret army theme from
Andrew (seated left)*

blacked out the windows ready for the 'show'

'show' begins

*

**TO PURCHASE A COPY OF THE DVD
OF GARRY SHEAD'S FILM
"IN THE STEPS OF LAWRENCE"**

Cost: \$25.00 plus postage & packaging \$5 (total \$30)

**Please make out a cheque for \$30 payable to the DH Lawrence
Society of Australia, include your address, and mail to:
PO Box 1852
Strawberry Hills, NSW 2010**

If you wish to join the DH Lawrence Society of Australia, it's free. Just send us your name and email address. Click [HERE](#)

In



Artist Garry Shead's depiction, from his Kangaroo series, of the secret army that Lawrence calls "The Maggies" in Kangaroo.

NEW LAWRENCE FILM PREMIERE

A new film about Lawrence has just been premiered in Australia.

Its subject is Lawrence's Australian novel *Kangaroo*. It was made by the renowned Australian painter Garry Shead.

The film, which features Garry's paintings of Lawrence and Frieda, is a recreation of their stay in Sydney and Thirroul between May 27 and August 11, 1922.

It is accompanied by music by Annette Golden and excerpts from leading Australian composer Peter Sculthorpe's "Fifth Continent". It is narrated by Australian film-actor Jack Thompson and Robert Darroch, author of *DH Lawrence in Australia* (and President of the DH Lawrence Society of Australia). Rose Gissing assisted with the production and script.

In the film Garry explains how his 30-year-long interest in Lawrence, which inspired his *Kangaroo* series of paintings, was originally sparked by Robert Darroch's 1981 book *DH Lawrence in Australia*, in which it was first revealed that Lawrence had stumbled across a real-life secret army in Sydney in 1922. (A revised and substantially up-dated version of this work is due to be published soon.)

As well as works from his renowned series of paintings of Lawrence and *Kangaroo*, Garry's film uses documentary footage to dramatise the post-war climate of disaffected returned soldiers (the "Diggers") which Lawrence encountered during his time in Australia (the Australian upper-classes being so fearful that they recruited a local secret-army to forestall an outbreak of revolution).

The film features a pair of actors portraying Lawrence and Frieda exploring the bushland near Thirroul and enjoying the ocean beach below Lawrence's famous "cottage by the sea", *Wyewurk*.

It illustrates, vividly, how Lawrence in *Kangaroo* captured the essence of both "the silvery freedom" he encountered in Australia, and the underlying "horrible paws" of the fascist movement he unexpectedly chanced upon there.

If you wish to join the DH Lawrence Society of Australia, it's free. Just send us your name and email address. Click [HERE](#)

