

MEDIA RELEASE

23 March 2017



Clockwise from top left: John McKenzie, Pearl McKenzie, Jack Coulthard, Susie Wilton.
Credit Charles Mountford, 1937. Images from the State Library Mountford-Sheard Collection.

UNSETTLED: Colonial ruin in the Flinders Ranges Rediscovered through a multimedia exhibition at the State Library of South Australia

Rediscover colonial ruin in the Flinders Ranges through a mixture of media art, photography, archival imagery and documentary interviews, in a new exhibition at the State Library of South Australia opening 24 March.

Ruins are rich sites of material memory and offer insight into the passage of time. This exhibition unearths the stories hidden by the colonial rubble in the Flinders Ranges. Hear these stories, through filmed interviews, told by the Adnyamathanha people upon whose lands these ruins stand, and the inhabitants of the 'ghost town' of Beltana. Also on display is a photographic work, *What Time Collects*, which includes 1400 macro-photographs taken in the Flinders Ranges over three years.

UNSETTLED: Colonial ruin in the Flinders Ranges has been produced by Grayson Cooke from Southern Cross University, and photographer Dea Morgain, in partnership with the State Library of South Australia and the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA).

Acting Director State Library of South Australia, **Geoff Stempel** says, "This exhibition is not only an excellent opportunity to develop partnerships with creative researchers and artists but also showcases the richness of the Library's collection." Featured in the exhibition are images of the Adnyamathanha people taken at Nepabunna Mission in 1937. These images are from the State Library's Mountford-Sheard Collection which is recognised as internationally significant by the

UNESCO Memory of the World Register. This Collection contains photographs, field notes, motion pictures, diaries, artworks and correspondence gathered by South Australian ethnographer and photographer Charles Percy Mountford during the 1930s to the 1960s.

“We are very pleased the artists are using images from the Mountford-Sheard Collection, as these significant images have rarely been shown. It also encourages us to explore the Library’s collections with a contemporary and innovative outcome”, says Geoff Stempel.

Southern Cross University Associate Professor **Grayson Cooke** comments, “This project has been a real labour of love for us. The Flinders Ranges is such an incredible environment, and having the opportunity to work with the State Library’s images from that region, particularly the images of Adnyamathanha people from the Mountford-Sheard Collection, has been an immense privilege.”

Vince Coulthard, CEO of ATLA, says “The Mountford photos from Nepabunna mean a lot to Adnyamathanha people, and ATLA are extremely pleased to have this opportunity to show these photos of our people at the State Library.”

Frustrated with how Australians tell the story of their history, **Dea Morgain** comments it was this that motivated them to produce the exhibition. “We live in a country which has been loved and cared for as part of the oldest living culture on earth yet we insist on focusing on the settler story”, says Dea Morgain.

As part of the exhibition the State Library’s Story Wall will feature two new works – UNSETTLED: Beltana No Western and UNSETTLED: Nepabunna Mission 1937 – both using images from the Library’s collections.

Questioning the stories we tell ourselves about Australia’s past, this thought-provoking exhibition is on display in the Institute Gallery, on the Story Wall (screens after dark) and the 6-screen video wall at the State Library of South Australia until the 14 May 2017.

EXHIBITION DETAILS:

UNSETTLED: Colonial ruin in the Flinders Ranges

24 March to 14 May 2017

Open 10am – 5pm daily (closed public holidays)

Institute Gallery, Institute Building

Corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue

Free entry

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONTACT:

Bev Scott

Manager Marketing

State Library of South Australia

Phone 08 8207 7221 or mb 0467 770 793

beverly.scott@sa.gov.au

www.slsa.sa.gov.au