

## **Revisit the 1960s in Canberra: Members Special Event 27 May 2010**

### **Enrico Taglietti:**

Enrico Taglietti was born in Milan in 1926 and came to Australia in 1955 to design an Italian promotional display for a Sydney department store. He was then invited by the Italian Government to design their embassy in Canberra and decided to stay in Australia to help shape the architectural future of the national capital, a place he once described as the 'invisible city'. Strong angles, long horizontal roof lines and an emphasis on the use of steel and concrete in production were key elements of Taglietti's practice during the 1960s, and he has since designed schools, churches, commercial buildings and private homes in Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney, and in regional centres such as Wagga Wagga. Enrico has been recognised as one of the leading practitioners of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century organic style of architecture, with his buildings reflecting prevailing themes, such as emphasis on the 'arrival', the importance of a 'central space' for social activity, interlocking volumes to sustain interest, walled gardens and courtyards, and deep overhanging eaves to offer protection from the Australian sun, all inspired by his Mediterranean artistic heritage. His *Sea Residence* at Lilli Pilli in NSW received a Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) award in 1996, and he was awarded the most prestigious Royal Australian Institute of Architecture (RAIA) Gold Medal for Architecture in March 2007. Enrico's many iconic Canberra designs include the Australian War Memorial Annex; the Center Cinema; the Italian and Saudi Arabian Embassies and the Flynn Primary School

### **Martin Gascoigne**

Martin Gascoigne will talk about his parents, the astronomer S C B (Ben) Gascoigne AO and the artist Rosalie Gascoigne AM. Ben and Rosalie were New Zealanders by birth and grew up in Auckland. Ben came to Canberra in 1941 to work at Mt Stromlo and Rosalie followed to marry him in January 1943. They lived on Mt Stromlo until 1959 when they moved to Deakin and then to Pearce in 1969. Ben joined the staff of the ANU when Mt Stromlo became part of the University. He was awarded a Personal Professorship in 1964 and elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Science in 1966. From the mid 1960s through to 1975, Ben was deeply involved in the planning and construction of the Anglo Australian Telescope at Siding Spring. Rosalie was an exhibitor in the Horticultural Society flower shows for about ten years from 1955 and gradually developed a strong personal style using materials from the Canberra countryside. She took up Ikebana in 1962 and was a sought after speaker on dried arrangements and Ikebana. In 1972 Rosalie decided to forgo Ikebana to concentrate on her sculptural work, having her first one person show in 1974. Her progress was rapid, and in 1982 she became the first woman to represent Australia at the Venice Biennale. Rosalie was awarded an AM in 1994 and Ben an AO in 1996. Rosalie died in 1999, and Ben in March 2010. Martin Gascoigne trained as a historian, began collecting art in 1964, worked for many years in the Defence policy and intelligence community, and is the family archivist.

### **Kathryn Chisholm**

Kathryn Chisholm is the Acting Curator of Social History at the Canberra Museum and Gallery. She previously worked for the National Museum of Australia where she curated the 'Behind the Lines' political cartooning exhibition in 2008. She has also worked for the National Archives of Australia as the Travelling Exhibitions Coordinator, and as Collection Manager for the Cinesound Movietone Newsreel Collection in Sydney. Kathryn is a graduate of the University of Sydney Masters degree program in Museum Studies, and is currently engaged in completing a Graduate Diploma in Cultural and Environmental Heritage at the Australian National University.