

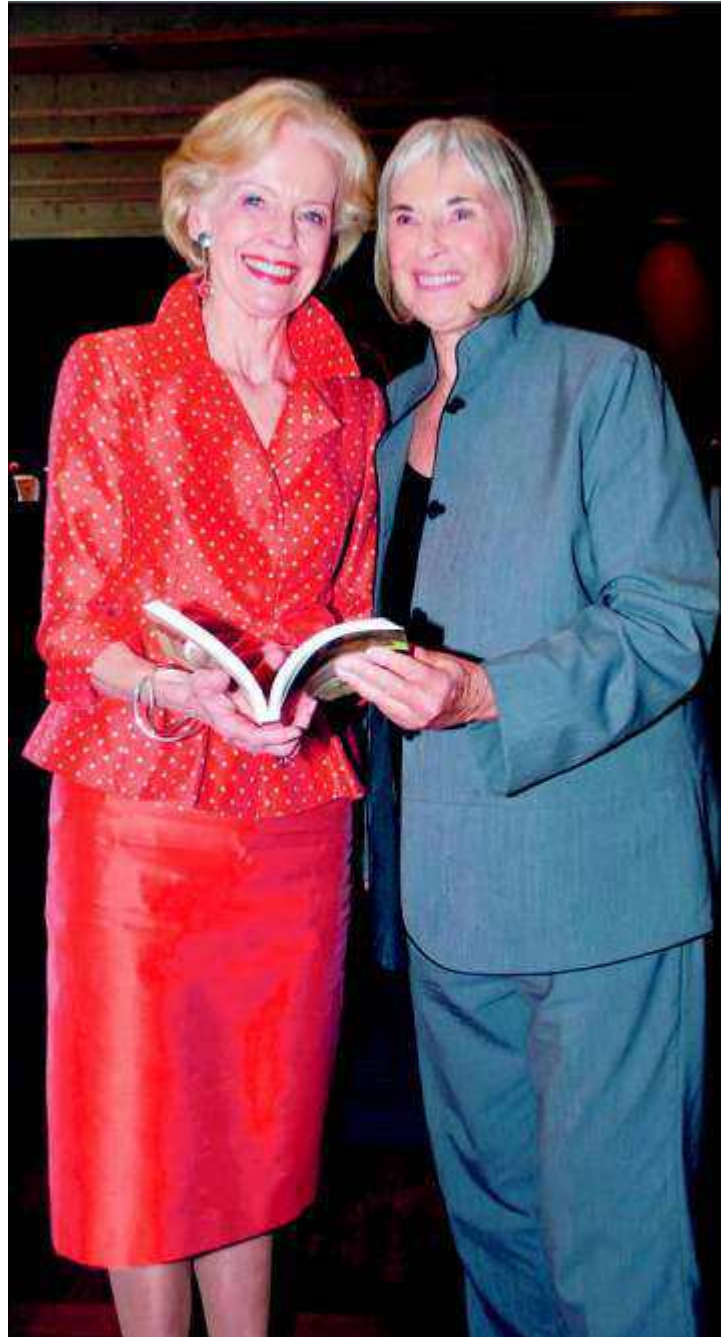


## Out and About with Lyn Mills

### Blockbuster of a book

**WHAT:** *Notebooks* by Betty Churcher official launch.  
**WHERE:** Gandel Hall, National Gallery of Australia.  
**WHEN:** Thursday, April 7.

A FAVOURITE picture I took is of Betty Churcher and Barbara Blackman. I can reflect on it in many and varied ways but essentially for me it is about vision; theirs, mine and yours. It will stay in my mind's eye forever. Betty Churcher is for Canberrans the NGA director with an eye for the possible as her vision for the gallery stopped a few in their tracks, but for those who got on board it was a ride setting the bar high and making things happen. Retirement kept her in touch and teaching us on television with that inimitable Churcher way of engaging our eye for the detail and relishing the story. Art with Betty Churcher is not about high falutin language, pretensions or a them-and-us attitude, it's inclusive, involving and a never-ending journey of discovery. So too her gift to her grand children with the publication of *Notebooks*, the Betty Churcher treasure trove of sketches, annotations and a journey to revisit her favourite masterpieces to sketch them, examine them and enjoy them before her eyesight fails. In launching the book Governor-General Quentin Bryce said she'd be reading aloud (to husband Michael and I'm sure anyone who happens to be in the vicinity) from this book as she makes time to visit the Churcher favourites she's not yet seen. It will also give you a new perspective on so many aspects of a painting. It is also a beautiful read. A book that celebrates great art from her favourite Rembrandts to Gustave Courbet's *Girls on the Banks of the Seine* just a little 'en deshabille' in the summer of 1856 and Paul Gauguin's *Nevermore* with his model's curling toes a telling feature. A book launch to remember, with the Governor-General's speech a personal tribute to a friend and the hint of more to come from the treasure trove of memories of Betty Churcher.



Governor-General Quentin Bryce and Betty Churcher.



Rachel Jackson and children, Oliver, Isabel and Lucas Churcher.



Ben, Paul and Tim Churcher with their father Roy Churcher.



Rachel Letts, Tami Jacobsen and Bronwyn Rose.



Elizabeth Wetherell, Matthew Richardson and Barbara Blackman.



Margaret McMahon, Susan Westcombe and Kate Scott.



Ron Radford and Michael Bryce.



Neil Archibald, Margaret Shaw and Alan Dodge.