



Government House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

28 October 2022

## Honorary Appointment - General Division - October 2022

The Governor-General is pleased to announce the following appointments in the Order of Australia:

### HONORARY MEMBER (AM) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

**Professor Paul KANE**, New York, United States of America

For significant service to literature, particularly through the promotion of Australian arts, poetry, and emerging talent.

**Mrs Debra Sue SCHOLL and Mr Dennis SCHOLL**, Florida, United States of America

For significant contributions to advancing and promoting Indigenous Australian art, culture and knowledge in the United States of America.

By His Excellency's command

**Paul Singer MVO**

Official Secretary to the Governor-General

**APPOINTED AN HONORARY MEMBER (AM)**  
**IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA**

**Professor Paul KANE**, New York, United States of America

For significant service to literature, particularly through the promotion of Australian arts, poetry, and emerging talent.

Professor Paul Kane is widely considered an ambassador for Australian literature, providing valuable service and contributions to the arts in Australia for over two decades.

As a founder of the Mildura Writers' Festival, known as a 'gem in the Australian literary event calendar', Professor Kane has created an exceptional platform for emerging and local writers, Indigenous Australian voices and tertiary and school students to share their work. His deep knowledge and passion for Australian literature has also driven his desire to encourage and promote budding Australian writers to international audiences.

Simultaneously, he has introduced vital economic and cultural sustenance to remote parts of Australia through this renowned Writers Festival, which he has directed and attended annually at his own expense.

Professor Kane is a founding member of the American Association of Australasian Literature Studies, where he also served as President from 1991 to 1996. Moreover, Professor Kane's 1996 publication *Australian Poetry: Romanticism and Negativity* has been acclaimed as 'the best study we have of poetry in Australia' by Nobel Prize in Literature recipient Mr John Maxwell Coetzee.

Professor Kane's dedication to Australian literature is also exemplified in his collaborations with many Australian universities, including La Trobe University where he was recognised with an Honorary Doctorate in 2013.

On the basis of his legacy of support to Australian literature and emerging talent, which remains ongoing, Professor Kane is worthy of national recognition with an appointment as an Honorary Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM).

**APPOINTED AN HONORARY MEMBER (AM)**  
**IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA**

**Mrs Debra Sue SCHOLL and Mr Dennis SCHOLL**, Florida, United States of America

For significant contributions to advancing and promoting Indigenous Australian art, culture and knowledge in the United States of America.

Active supporters of the arts and philanthropy for more than 35 years, Mrs Debra Scholl and Mr Dennis Scholl have made significant contributions to the promotion of, and to Australian Indigenous art, culture and knowledge in the United States of America.

In 2017, they announced a major donation of over 200 works by donating part of their collections to three museums, Miami's Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University, the Nevada Museum of Art, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The donation includes works by Paddy Bedford, Nonggirnga Marawili, Warlimpirnga Tjapaltjarri, and Gulumbu Yunupingu.

This is the second major donation from the Scholls, who gave 300 works by contemporary artists to the Perez Art Museum Miami in 2012.

Because of their interest, investment, action, and generosity, Indigenous Australian art and artists, and Australia's rich culture are permanent pieces of multiple American collecting institutions.

They have also organised and co-curated touring exhibitions of contemporary Indigenous Australian art, namely: 'No Boundaries: Aboriginal Australian Contemporary Abstract Painting', 'Marking the Infinite: Contemporary Women Artists from Aboriginal Australia', and 'The Inside World: Contemporary Aboriginal Australian Memorial Poles'. Each travelled to multiple museums and galleries in the United States, accompanied by a scholarly publication, and brought large, interested audiences at each venue.

The Scholls have spent much time with Indigenous communities from which they purchased and commissioned art works. They developed relationships with the communities and artists, learning first-hand the processes and techniques, and absorbed the important of culture and identity connected to the creation of art.

In addition to their fine arts contributions, Mr Dennis Scholl has produced award winning documentaries that document Australian culture, one of which is 'Broken Hill' with Peter Drew (Best Short Documentary, St. Kilda Film Festival, 2017; Official Selection, Miami International Film Festival, 2018; Adelaide Film Festival, 2017/2018; Cinequest International Film Festival, 2018).

Mrs Debra Scholl and Mr Dennis Scholl's significant contributions to Australian Indigenous art, culture and knowledge is worthy of formal national recognition with appointments as Honorary Members in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM).