



Friends of the National Library of Australia Inc.
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 21 November 2019, 5.30pm
Conference Room, National Library of Australia

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and Apologies**
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting**
- 3. Chair's Report**
Presented by Lyn Adams
- 4. Financial Report 2018–2019**
Presented by Jennefer Nicholson
- 5. Presentation by Rachael Eddowes, recipient of the 2019 Friends Travelling Fellowship**
- 6. Announcement of the 2020 Creative Arts Fellowship**
- 7. Presentation of the 2019 Friends Medal**
- 8. Other Business**
- 9. Election of the Friends Committee for 2020**
- 10. Closure of Meeting**

AGENDA ITEM 2

Friends of the National Library of Australia Inc

Draft Minutes of the Committee Meeting held
Thursday 22 November 2018, 5.30pm
Conference Room, National Library of Australia

Present: 2018 Committee Members

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|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Gary Kent | <i>Chair</i> |
| Janice Taylor | <i>Deputy Chair</i> |
| Jennefer Nicholson | <i>Treasurer</i> |
| Lyn Adams | <i>Member</i> |
| Anne Davis | <i>Member</i> |
| Howard Murray | <i>Member</i> |
| Kathryn Favelle | <i>NLA Representative</i> |
| Melanie Olde | <i>Executive Officer</i> |

Friends Members

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Marion Amies | Marjorie Lindenmayer |
| Catherine Anderson | Joanne Maples |
| Peter Anderson | Kathleen Marshall |
| Gillian Bellas | Shinko Mori |
| Tom Bellas | Elizabeth Morrison |
| Diane Bell | Patricia Murray |
| Murray Brown | Robyn Oates |
| Michael Bryan | Lynn Parry |
| Margy Burn | Dennis Pearce |
| Esther Davies | Diana Pearce |
| John Davies | Michael Pearson |
| Anne Davis | Mary Pollard |
| David Denham | Samuel Sebenzo |
| Margaret Dent | Dallas Stow |
| Melanie Drake | Janice Taylor |
| Michael Falk | Damaris Wilson |
| Shirley Gollings | Jim Winseyer |
| Meredith Hinchliffe | John Worcester |
| Eleanor Hing Fay | |
| Janet Ho | |

1. Welcome and Apologies

Chair Gary Kent welcomed members and noted that there were enough members present for a quorum.

Apologies were received from Marie-Louise Ayres, Carolyn Curnow, Ingrid Moses, Heather Nash, Jenny Oates, Cathy Pilgrim, Elizabeth Story, Ros Welch.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2017 AGM were examined, and no changes were requested. Dennis Pearce moved that the minutes be accepted, and the motion was seconded by Lyn Adams. Members present at the AGM accepted the minutes without dissent.

3. Chair's Report for 2018

The Chair presented his report for 2018 and expressed his delight that in 2017-18 the Friends had funded digitisation of the papers of Jessie Street, funded the 2018 Creative Arts Fellowship and presented 9 events sharing the Library's collections.

He mentioned that the Friends were pleased to contribute to the Library's 50th anniversary celebrations in several ways including welcoming visitors to the Friends Lounge on the Library's Open Day.

He reported the healthy state of the Friends organisation with membership hovering around 2,000, with continued strategies to attract and retain members.

The Chair reported on a range of successful communications highlights including outreach to regional libraries, with thanks to Janice Taylor for her work on this; the Friends Newsletter, with thanks to Ingrid Moses; the Friends Facebook page and the weekly e-newsletter, providing members with an up to date source of information about Friends and other Library activities.

The Chair mentioned several event highlights including:

- the Friends preview of the 1968 Exhibition
- the Friends viewing of the Cook and the Pacific Exhibition
- Lenore Coltheart's address on Jessie Street
- the White Gloves event: 50 Favourite Things of the NLA Volunteers
- the talk on the Cruden Farm diaries
- several very successful coffee with the curator events.

The Chair particularly thanked the recently retired Assistant Director-General Margy Burn for her assistance in organising the Jessie Street talk and exhibition.

The Chair thanked all fellow Committee Members. He acknowledged the Friends Executive Officer Melanie Olde, the Friends Assistant Belinda Jessup and gave thanks to Eleanor Hing Fay, Kathryn Favelle and Cathy Pilgrim from the National Library.

The Chair thanked the Friends of the opportunity to chair the organisation, stating that having reached his three-year tenure, chairing the Friends has been one of the true highlights of his life.

Janice Taylor moved that the Chair's report be accepted, and the motion was seconded by Robyn Oates. Members present accepted the report without dissent.

4. Financial Report 2017–2018

The Treasurer, Jennefer Nicholson, presented the financial statements of the Friends of the National Library for the financial year ended 30 June 2018.

The Treasurer advised that the financial statements were prepared by Anthony Wilson of AccountAbility after an audit of the accounts and in accordance with the provisions of the *Associations Incorporations Act 1991* of the Australian Capital Territory, accounting standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.

The Treasurer advised that the auditor, who has audited the Friends' accounts over the past eleven years, reports that the Financial Report gives a true and fair view of the Friends financial position as at 30 June 2018 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.

The Treasurer noted that equity had increased \$74,099 compared with \$55,385 in 2017.

Income had also increased \$98,496 compared to \$81,651 in 2017 due primarily to an increase in Membership income of \$6,683 over 2017, and an increase in Functions income of \$8,885 over 2017. The membership increase includes two year memberships, which has contributed to the current liability for income in advance being increased to \$74,016 compared with \$64,306 in 2017.

Expenses in 2018 were \$79,782 compared to \$86,995 in 2017. In 2018 the NLA did not propose a recipient for the FNLA Travelling Fellowship and a Donation to the NLA was not made, whereas in 2017 there was expenditure of \$20,067 for those items. Though the Friends Committee agreed in 2017-2018 to commit \$10,000 to the NLA to purchase a gift representative of the 50th anniversary of the NLA building this amount was not expended within the financial year. Note 6 states the intention to commit these funds in future. The FNLA Creative Arts Fellowship for \$10,000 was awarded to Dr Carolyn Young in 2018.

Total assets increased from \$120,772 in 2017 to \$155,310 in 2018 due to an increase in cash assets from \$118,248 (2017) to \$152,646 (2018). This continues to meet the Friends' policy for cash reserves being not less than \$100,000.

The Treasurer concluded that this was a very positive and welcome result, and that it represented the commitment of the Committee and the support of Friends and the NLA throughout the year.

The Treasurer thanked the members of the Sub-Committee and the Committee and asked for questions.

Peter Anderson queried \$3,000 listed for insurance and was informed that this was for Public Liability and Association Insurance.

The Treasurer moved that the general meeting accepts the audited Financial Statements of the Friends of the National Library of Australia. This was moved by Anne Davies and seconded by Howard Murray. Members present accepted the report without dissent.

5. Presentation by Kathryn Favelle, recipient of the 2018 Friends Travelling Fellowship

Kathryn Favelle thanked the Friends for the opportunity to support the Library's work. She acknowledged the first nations of Australia and also of New York, Washington DC and Ottawa.

Kathryn shared her Travelling Fellowship experiences through a presentation of video and images. The first example was from the *Reblink* immersive experience from the Art Gallery of Ontario. *Reblink* was a project aimed at reimagining artwork for the 21st century in a new light. Using an iPad, it allowed viewers to reimagine classical artworks in a contemporary setting. The Art Gallery's research showed that a viewer looked at an artwork for an average of 2.31 seconds, while using the *Reblink* app, this increased to 30 seconds. It enabled the viewer to look up, experience and learn something new.

Kathryn spoke of learning new engagement ideas, new thinking, fundraising and transforming visitors into users.

While in New York, Kathryn attended the Future of Museums Conference, which aimed to answer the question 'What's the difference between access and connection?'

In all, Kathryn visited nineteen libraries and museums, which has led her to consider new ideas, approaches and new ideas for audience development and connecting.

She noted that throughout her travels, organisations were focused on community-making through playing. One quote referred to cultural institutions as 'a university with a playground attached'.

This led to the enquiry of who is the audience? Our demographic is over 55 years old and female.

How do we demonstrate what we do?

She reflected that things she would take home would be:

- Impactful infographics from the Smithsonian Libraries
- The honour board from the Canadian Museum of History
- 'Where our artwork can be found' from the Libraries and Archives of Canada
- 'Impact' exhibition showing books that had been written using collections at the New York Public Library.
- 'Chaperoned' emails.

While travelling, Kathryn made posts to the Friends Facebook community.

Kathryn thanked the Friends for the opportunity that the fellowship provided.

6. Announcement of the 2019 Creative Arts Fellowship

The Chair announced that the recipient of the 2019 Friends of the National Library Creative Arts Fellowship is Joel Bray. He noted that he, Gary Kent, was also on the panel.

Joel danced in Europe for most of his career and now lives and works in Melbourne. Joel is of Wiradjuri, Scottish and English heritage and his choreography springs from his Wiradjuri cultural heritage.

Using this fellowship and the resources in the National Library's collection, Joel proposes to undertake in-depth research of the primary and scholarly sources bequeathed to the Library which document traditional Indigenous ceremonial practices in the South-east of the continent. This research will form the basis for a new work of immersive dance-theatre for large-scale presentation in 2021. He will use the collections at the National Library of Australia to write a 'script' for his new work- *Burbang*. The NLA has a series of collections of papers and photographs which depict his people's ceremonial life from the 1800s to the early years of the 20th Century. While in Canberra, he proposes to dive into the primary sources, eye-witness accounts, oral history recordings and photographs of the traditional ceremony of his people - the Wiradjuri of Central NSW and the neighbouring peoples with whom they share ceremonial practices.

7. Presentation of the 2018 Friends Medal

The Chair announced that the recipient of the 2018 Friends Medal is long-time volunteer, Shirley Gollings. This Medal was awarded for Shirley's 20 years of significant service to the National Library since 1998.

Shirley has been an outstanding advocate for Exhibitions and Public Programs of the National Library of Australia. She began guiding with the very first guide program, and now she regularly contributes many hours of her time each month.

Shirley has been a lynch-pin to the Volunteers program since it began, especially with the role she has played in mentoring new guides and sharing her knowledge. It has been her depth of knowledge about the National Library, its work and programs that has been such a support for the Volunteer Coordinators as well as the public.

The Chair thanked Shirley for sharing her time, knowledge and caring nature with the National Library for so many years.

8. Other Business

Janice Taylor thanked Gary Kent for his years of service and time as a Friends Committee member.

9. Election of the Friends Committee for 2019

The Chair advised that a call for nominations for the 12 vacant positions on the 2019 Friends Committee was included in the spring 2018 issue of the Friends Newsletter. By close of business on 22 October, the closing date for nominations, seven nominations were received.

The Chair noted that there were several members who were retiring from the Committee at this AGM: Chair Gary Kent, Deputy Chair Janice Taylor, Newsletter Editor Ingrid Moses, Richard Reid and Anne Davis. He thanked them for their hard work and good humour during their tenure. He also thanked Jennifer Evans and Susan Ford who resigned from the Committee earlier in the year.

The Chair advised that the following 2018 committee members have nominated to re-join the Committee for another year: Lyn Adams, Howard Murray, Jennefer Nicholson and Ros Welch.

The Chair advised that there were three new nominees: Diane Bell, Mary Pollard, and Graham Thom.

The Chair asked for objections to the appointment of any of the aforementioned members to the 2019 Committee. As no objections were received, the Chair requested formal acceptance of the following as members of the 2019 Friends Committee:

Lyn Adams
Howard Murray
Jennefer Nicholson
Ros Welch
Diane Bell
Mary Pollard
Graham Thom.

The Chair noted that this left five positions vacant which the Committee may choose to fill through the co-option of members at a future Committee meeting, as specified in our Rules of Association. She noted that the Executive Officer had received one expression of interest for co-option.

Acceptance of the 2019 Friends Committee was proposed by Margy Burn and seconded by John Worcester. Members present accepted the 2019 Friends Committee without dissent.

The Chair congratulated the successful nominees for the 2019 Friends Committee and noted that the first meeting of the new Committee would be held on 4 December 2018.

Meeting closed at 6.20pm

AGENDA ITEM 9

Election of the 2020 Friends Committee: Nominee Profiles

Diane Bell

As a Friend, Diane has enjoyed the special events where library experts have taken us inside the collections and explained special holdings, and has found the presentations of the recipients of travelling and creative arts fellowships sponsored by the Friends to be stimulating and a tribute to the foresight of the Friends. She is currently preparing her own papers for deposit in the NLA and has the greatest respect for the staff and administration who have been uniformly thoughtful and engaged. She has held senior positions in higher education in Australia and the USA, undertaken a range of consultancies for community-based entities and, after retiring as Professor Emerita of Anthropology, The George Washington University, USA returned home to Australia in 2005. She is currently Distinguished Honorary Professor in the College of Asia and the Pacific at the ANU. She has published widely across a number of fields and genres, including *Daughters of the Dreaming*, *Generations: Grandmothers, mothers and daughters*, *Evil: A novel*; *Listen to Ngarrindjeri Women Speaking*, and *Ngarrindjeri Wurruwarrin: A world that is, was and will be*.

Howard Murray

Howard Murray is a retired public servant with a working background largely in investigation, security and human services. He has a keen interest in history and is an active member of two historical societies. He regularly attends presentations and events at the National Library and since early 2018 has been an invited member of the Friends Committee, specifically as a member of the Communications Sub-Committee. He seeks election to the Committee to continue to assist in contributing to its important role in support of the National Library.

Mary Pollard

Mary joined the Friends of the National Library of Australia Inc. in July 2009. She is a qualified librarian and has worked as a Reference Librarian in university libraries and at the Australian War Memorial Research Centre. For the last 8 years of her career she worked in collections management at the National Archives of Australia in Canberra. On retirement she joined the Volunteers of the National Library and now enjoy doing research for guest authors for the Publications team, working front of house at the information desk in the weekends and public holidays, and attending the many functions organised at the Library.

Grahame Thom

Grahame moved to Canberra from Sydney in 1963 to take up a position with the Government Printing Office. Not long after he used the Library's reading room at Kings Avenue, Barton. He continued using the Library's facilities when the new building opened in 1968. He was using the library's facilities to such an extent staff thought he must be a professional researcher, which he was not. Mostly his research related to his interest in family history and history generally. All this continued till 1991 when he was transferred to Hobart for work purposes, then to Melbourne up to 2001 when he retired as a senior executive. He now lives in rural Victoria. His qualifications include Bachelor of Economics and FCPA. He is a Fellow of the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra. He holds a reader's card, has been a member of the Friends of the NLA since it began in 1990. He is listed 14 times in the NLA's online catalogue and his web site has been archived by Pandora.

Kerry Blackburn

Kerry's interest in nominating for the Friends Committee has developed from five years as an NLA volunteer. Since her first involvement as a guide for the Mapping our World exhibition, she has guided for every subsequent special exhibition (now more than 10), each iteration of the Treasures Gallery, Behind the Scenes and Discover Your National Library. For a number of these exhibitions, she has been part of the working groups to develop the guides' guides. She also assisted the Publications team with research for authors and proofreading for publications that have ranged from 18th century explorers' journals to boxing to steam trains. All of these activities have been a great learning experience and made her aware of the wonderful resource that is the NLA—and how more people should be made aware of its amazing collections. She has had extensive experience in the Public Service including national responsibility for industrial relations and personnel and as state manager WA—all positions involving working with a wide range of people. Having gained a lot personally from my participation in the NLA volunteer program, I would like to return the commitment through the Friends Committee.

Meredith Hinchliffe

Meredith has been involved with the arts since 1977 when she began work with the Crafts Council of the ACT. She is now a freelance curator and writer and an arts advocate. Meredith was a contributor to the Canberra Times from 1978 to 2009 and writes review articles of crafts and visual arts exhibitions and books. She also writes about issues of importance to the arts. She now reviews craft exhibitions for City News. Meredith was the full time Executive Director of the National Campaign for the Arts Australia Ltd; was appointed Executive Officer of Museums Australia, the national professional association for museum workers and museums; Public Arts Project Officer for artsACT and managed several public art installation projects; and served on the boards of a number of local arts organisations in the visual and performing arts. In 2000 she was awarded an ACT Women's Award in recognition of her significant contribution to the ACT community in the arts. In 2011 she was awarded an Australia Day medal by the National Gallery of Australia.

Margo Geering

A decade ago both Margo and her husband were active on the Friends of the National Library Committee but stopped coming due to ill health and subsequent death of Bill. She has been an active member during 2019 and would like to continue. She was active on the Events group and is happy to be useful in any way. A former biochemist turned teacher, she has been retired for many years and has travelled extensively. She loves also love art, reading and belong to a book club and volunteer in Australian Art at NGA.

Colleen Kinnane

Colleen has been a member of the Friends and a National Library Volunteer since 2012. She has taken many tours and has held casual roles in the Library's Engagement Branch. Colleen enjoys volunteer guiding for the Treasures and Exhibition Galleries, as well as working behind the scenes on collection projects. A former nurse and nurse educator, she has also worked for a membership-based organisation. She enjoys being part of people-focused teams.