



**Friends of the National Library of Australia Inc.  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Monday 14 November 2016, 5.30pm  
National Library of Australia, Conference Room, Level 4**

**AGENDA**

- 1. Welcome and apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting**
- 3. Chair's report**  
Presented by Robyn Oates
- 4. Treasurer's report for 2015-16**  
Presented by James Ferguson
- 5. Presentation by Monika Szunejko, recipient of the 2015 Friends Travelling Fellowship**
- 6. Announcement of the 2017 Friends Creative Arts Fellowship**
- 7. Announcement of the 2016 Friends Medal**
- 8. Other business**
- 9. Election of the 2017 Friends Committee**

**FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA INC.  
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
5.30pm, Thursday 5 November 2015  
Conference Room, National Library of Australia**

**Present:**

**Members of the 2015 Committee:**

Robyn Oates	Chair
Joan Kennedy	Deputy Chair
James Ferguson	Treasurer
Kathryn Cole	Member
Alan Ives	Member
Alan Kerr	Member
Geraldine Mackey	Member
Robyn Oates	Member
Dennis Pearce	Member
James Sandry	Member
John Seymour	Member
Anne-Marie Schwirtlich	Director-General
Kathryn Favelle	NLA representative
Cathy Pilgrim	NLA representative
Sharyn O'Brien	Executive Officer

**Friends Members Present:**

Don Abey	Sharen Mack
Marion Amies	Sylvia Marchant
Margaret Astbury	Kevin Mayes
Michael Astbury	Shinko Mori
Terry Birtles	Ingrid Moses
Gillian Bellas	John Moses
Tom Bellas	Jenny Oates
Simon Cullen	Lyn Parry
Anne Davis	Diana Pearce
Graeme Hodges	Andrew Schuller
Anne Huffam	Heather Seymour
Gary Kent	Susan White
Ian Primrose	

**Observers Present:**

Monika Szunejko  
Susan Thomas  
Kelli Turner

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Robyn Oates welcomed members.

Apologies were received from Thomas Bradley, Yvonne Byron, Pat Clarke, Margaret Dent, Kris Durrant, Meredith Hinchliffe, Claudia Hyles, Catherine Oakeshott, Mary Pollard, Libby Robin, David and Margaret Simmonds, Valerie Staggs, Elizabeth Storrs, Kevin White, Mary Wilson, and John Worcester.

## **2. Adoption of minutes of 2014 AGM**

The minutes of the 2014 AGM were examined and no changes were requested. Alan Ives moved that the minutes be accepted, seconded by Anne Davis. Members present at the AGM accepted the minutes without dissent.

## **3. Chair's Report for 2015**

The Chair presented her report and expressed her thanks to her fellow committee members for working diligently and contributing wisely to the Friends monthly meetings over this past year.

The Friends held forty functions at the Library in 2015 and the Chair mentioned some of the highlights, including the Friends 25th anniversary event *Why Libraries Matter*, and joint events with external organisations – *Celebrating 150 years of WB Yeats*, co-hosted with the Friends of Ireland and the Embassy of Ireland, and *Fearful Symmetry: The Medici Legacy and Renaissance Gardens*, co-hosted with the ACT Branch of the Australian Garden History Society.

The Chair advised that the committee, through the formation of a sub-committee entitled Quo Vadis, had undertaken a review of the structure, role and functions of the Friends during 2015. The review involved consultation with Library representatives as well as other bodies similar to our own which are attached to national institutions. The review concluded that the Friends should remain in its current structure as a separate incorporated association, and that the current Objects of Association be maintained. The review agreed that future events and activities will be closely aligned to these Objects. The membership benefits program will be developed further and the Library has kindly offered a 15% discount to Friends members when purchasing Library event tickets online. The Chair expressed her thanks to Alan Kerr and his sub-committee for the time and expertise they gave to this examination of current practices.

The Chair acknowledged the Friends Executive Officer Sharyn O'Brien and Friends Administration Officer, Rosemary Walker for their hard work and support, as well as the support of the National Library itself, through Anne-Marie Schwirtlich and her dedicated staff.

Acceptance of the Chair's report was proposed by Joan Kennedy and seconded by Dennis Pearce.

## **4. Treasurer's Report for Financial Year 2014-2015**

The Treasurer, James Ferguson, presented the financial statements of the Friends of the National Library for the financial year ended 30 June 2015 and advised the meeting that copies of the report are also available for examination on the Friends website, or on request from the Executive Officer.

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 reported that the Friends had an operating deficit of \$34,540 for the financial year, with expenses of \$126,354 exceeding income of \$91,814,. He noted that this was a planned deficit, and is attributed entirely to expenditure of \$26,439 on art works donated to the National Library in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the Friends, and which now adorn the Main Reading Room, and \$10,000 expended on the Creative Arts Fellowship for 2015. He advised that the Committee had decided, rather than continue to accumulate funding in our bank accounts, it was appropriate to contribute some of these accumulated funds towards meeting the Friends' objectives through these activities. As a result of the donations made during the year, the cash reserves declined from \$173,970 as at 30 June 2014 to \$132,630 as at 30 June 2015. This is still a most comfortable position.

The Treasurer also noted that during this year's audit an error in the 2014 accounts was identified, which has resulted in a surplus of \$14,337 being recorded for 2014 rather than a deficit of \$7,897 as reported last year. The explanation for this can be seen at note 10 in the financial statements.

The Treasurer thanked Robyn Oates for her dedicated hard work and leadership as Chair during the year, and invited questions about the financial statements.

Acceptance of the financial statements for the 2014-2015 year was proposed by James Ferguson and seconded by Alan Kerr. Members present at the AGM accepted the statements without dissent.

#### **5. Presentation by Susan Thomas, recipient of the 2015 Friends Travelling Fellowship**

At the 2014 Friends AGM, Susan Thomas was awarded the 2015 Friends Travelling Fellowship. This fellowship enabled Susan to visit the United Kingdom to research important primary and secondary resource material relating to the history and provenance of the National Library's Clifford Collection. This work will enhance understanding, description and future access to the Library's medieval collections.

Susan gave a brief presentation on her Fellowship experiences and thanked the Friends for offering the Fellowship, which had provided her with the incredible learning experience of accessing world class collections and a small but real opportunity to engage with international experts. She advised that she had returned inspired and brimming with new knowledge and ideas, which she hoped could be applied to the Library's medieval collections and the Clifford manuscripts in particular.

#### **6. Presentation of the 2016 Friends Travelling Fellowship**

The Chair advised members that the recipient of the 2016 Friends of the National Library Travelling Fellowship was Monika Szunejko, Director of Libraries Australia. The Fellowship will enable Monika to travel to Britain and France to assess the applicability of linked data to a national bibliographical database. Monika will meet with her counterparts at the British Library and Bibliotheque Nationale de France to investigate how these libraries manage linked data.

Monika Szunejko expressed her gratitude to the Friends for the providing this Fellowship and looked forward to presenting her research at next year's AGM.

#### **7. Announcement of the 2016 Friends Creative Arts Fellowship**

The Chair announced that the recipient of the 2016 Friends of the National Library Travelling Fellowship was playwright Micharne Cloughley. Using this fellowship and the resources in the National Library's collection, Micharne will develop a play based on the life and work of oral historian, Hazel de Berg. The play will weave a series of vignettes around themes and stories, selected from oral histories recorded by Hazel de Berg with female pioneers and leaders.

#### **8. Presentation of the 2015 Friends Medal**

The Chair announced that the recipient of the 2015 Friends Medal was Margaret Astbury, noting that the Medal was awarded for Margaret's significant contribution to the National Library of Australia over many years. Margaret has generously given her time as a volunteer at the Library since 1999, working variously as an exhibitions guide, a behind the scenes guide, and a front of house volunteer. She has also been the first point of call for building art tours at the National Library and has guided many groups around the building, inspiring them with her knowledge of the stained glass windows and other objects. Margaret has been a member of the Friends for many years and supported the activities of the organisation, particularly as a founding member and co-convenor of the Friends' Book Club, which was formed in 2006.

Margaret Astbury thanked the Friends Committee for such an unexpected honour. She advised that volunteering at the Library had been a pleasure and was rewarding in so many ways, including the friendships formed with fellow volunteers and staff at all levels. Margaret thanked the Director-General, Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, and the former Director-General, Jan Fullerton, for supporting the volunteer program, and the Library staff who worked with volunteers on a daily basis.

## **9. Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **10. Election of the Friends Committee for 2016**

The Chair advised that a call for nominations for the twelve vacant positions on the 2016 Friends Committee was included in the September issue of the Friends Newsletter. By close of business on 5 October 2015, six nominations had been received, all from existing Committee members.

The Chair advised that the following members have nominated to re-join the Committee for another year: Kathryn Cole, James Ferguson, Alan Ives, Geraldine Mackey, Robyn Oates, and John Seymour. She noted that this leaves 6 positions vacant, which the Committee may chose fill through the co-option of members at a future Committee meeting, as specified in the Rules of Association.

The Chair advised that four members were retiring from the Committee at this AGM: Joan Kennedy, Dennis Pearce, Dianne Parrey and James Sandry. The Chair thanked these members for all their hard work and good humour during their time on the Committee.

The Chair asked if there were any objections to the appointment of the aforementioned members to the 2016 Committee. As no objections were received, the Chair requested formal acceptance of the following as members of the 2016 Friends Committee:

Kathryn Cole  
James Ferguson  
Alan Ives  
Geraldine Mackey  
Robyn Oates  
John Seymour

Acceptance of the 2016 Friends Committee was proposed by Dennis Pearce and seconded by Ingrid Moses. Members present accepted the 2016 Friends Committee without dissent.

The Chair congratulated the successful nominees for the 2016 Friends Committee.

**Meeting closed at 6.20pm**

**Nominees for the 2017 Committee of  
the Friends of the National Library of Australia Inc.**

**Kathryn Cole**

Kathryn worked with the Australian Government Solicitor until leaving the paid workforce in 2012. In an earlier life, she was Director of the Law and Government Group in the Parliamentary Library's research service (and is therefore keenly aware of the relationship between the NLA and the Parliamentary Library). She holds degrees in Arts (UNSW) and Law (ANU). Kathryn has lived in Canberra since 1976 and enjoys reading, walking and travelling, and is a member of the Friends of the Arboretum Council. She was a member of the Friends of the National Library Committee in 2015 and 2016.

**Anne Davis**

Anne worked in HR management roles in Canberra and has an earlier career in the property, finance and tourism sectors in Sydney. Her interests include community radio broadcasting, Australian heritage, history and cultural institutions, in particular the National Library of Australia. Anne was a member of the Friends Committee in 2011-2013 and 2016, and served on Events and Communications Sub-Committees.

**James Ferguson**

A graduate of the University of Sydney (BA (Hons) MA), James spent twenty-six years as a member of the Department of Foreign Affairs, before becoming First Assistant Secretary at the Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories. He was Executive Director of the Australian Sports Commission for eleven years. He has been a Member of the Migration Review Tribunal, the ACT Performing Arts Council, President of ACT Rugby Union, a board member of the Australian Rugby Union and a board member of Boxing Australia. He is the author of *John Alexander Ferguson: Preserving our Past, Inspiring our Future*, a biography of his grandfather, whose collection resides in the National Library. James was Treasurer of the Friends Committee during 2015 and 2016.

**Gary Kent**

Gary has served as Chief of Staff to several Federal Ministers and as Company Secretary of the Defence Housing Authority, and since 2009 he has held a senior position at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Gary is a keen genealogist and book collector, focusing on colonial Victoria, and a contributor to the series *Australian Book Collectors*, edited by Charles Stitz. He has been a regular user of National Library for 25 years and a member of the Friends of the National Library since its inception. Gary has been a member of the Friends Committee in 2007-2009, 2011-13 and 2016, holding the positions of Deputy Chair in 2011 and Chair in 2008-2009 and 2012-2013.

**Geraldine Mackey**

Geraldine is a teacher and writer. She has qualifications in Arts, Education, Special Ed. and teaching English as a Second Language. Geraldine has taught in a range of schools in the ACT, including the very rewarding experience of teaching at the Tuggeranong Introductory English Centre. During her teaching career she also wrote for a number of Educational publications, reviewed Young Adult Fiction, and wrote a parenting column for ten years. She taught writing courses through the ACT Writers Centre, and the Carers Association. Geraldine has contributed to the work of range of committees, including the Early Childhood Association Publication Committee, and was a member of the Friends of the National Library Committee in 2015 and 2016. Now she is retired Geraldine can focus on her love of gardening, writing and the beauty of Canberra in her blog called "Canberra's Green Spaces".

**Professor Ingrid Moses**

Ingrid joined the Friends of the National Library soon after moving to Canberra in early 2006, when she took up the position of Chancellor, University of Canberra. Since her retirement from the Vic-Chancellorship of UNE in early 2006, she has been active in higher education, welfare, community and cultural organisations as Board and Committee member and volunteer. She was a member of the Friends Committee in 2016.

**Jennefer Nicholson**

Jennefer served as Secretary General of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) for 8 years prior to her retirement in June 2016. She is also a previous Executive Director of the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), and has extensive experience as a director of NGO, company and government bodies in the creative industries and tertiary/vocational education sectors. She is pleased that in IFLA's international advocacy, including in the UN and UNESCO, she was able to promote the National Library's innovative programs such as Trove, and user-generated content, as examples of world's best practice. On her return to Canberra in August 2016, she joined the Friends of the NLA as part of her commitment to continue supporting and raising awareness of the significance of library services to our growth as individuals and as a nation.

**Jenny Oates**

Jenny spent her early career as a secondary school teacher and an executive manager in the TAFE sector, followed by ten years as a senior manager in the Australian Public service. She established her own Human Resources Management Consulting business in 1999 and retired from the paid workforce in 2013. Jenny has been a Volunteer at the Library since 2009, a Friends Committee member in 2012-2013 and 2016, and a member of the Friends for over 15 years.

**Janice Taylor**

Prior to her retirement in 2015, Janice's career in public libraries had spanned some 40 years. Her roles have included: Manager, Operations, of nine public libraries in the ACT; Coordinator of Collections and Acquisitions at the State Library of NSW; Manager of Libraries for the City of Ballarat; Director of Professional Services with the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA); and most recently as Manager, Libraries, Arts and Culture for Eurobodalla Shire Council. Janice's lifelong learning experience and passion for libraries has put her in a position to understand and advocate the importance of the National Library to the Australian community.