

Friends of the National Library of Australia Inc.  
Committee Meeting  
5.30pm Tuesday 30 November 2021

Online via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84153912201>  
Meeting ID: 841 5391 2201

## Agenda

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1. Welcome and apologies
2. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting
3. Chair's Report  
Presented by Kerry Blackburn
4. Financial Report  
Presented by Grahame Thom
5. Friends Creative Arts Fellowship for 2022
6. Presentation of the 2021 Friends Medal
7. Other Business
8. Election of the Friends Committee for 2022
9. Closure of Meeting

2.

Adoption of the Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting,  
3.30pm 26 November 2020

Present:

**2020 Committee Members**

Howard Murray	Chair
Kerry Blackburn	Deputy Chair
Vivien Arnold	Member
Margo Geering	Member
Margaret Goode	Member
Meredith Hinchliffe	Member
Larissa Karpish	Member
Colleen Kinnane	Member
Jo Schumann	Member
Janice Taylor	Member
Grahame Thom	Treasurer
Kathryn Favelle	National Library representative
Stuart Baines	Observer
Melanie Olde	Executive Officer

**Friends Members**

Lynette Adams	Ingrid Moses
Marion Amies	Pat Murray
Peter Boege	Nivarith Nair
Di Chalmers	Nina Pangahas
Sandy Clugston	Lyn Parry
Annette Davis	Michael Pearson
Margaret Dent	Margaret Pender
Karen Downing	Mary Pollard
Melanie Drake	Aileen Power
Alan Duff	Garrett Purtill
Pam Graudenz	Pamela Rutland
Christine Hillbrick-Boyd	Syamantak Saha
Irene Kaspar	Patrick Walters
Gary Kent	Margaret Webber
Annette Lock	Richard Whitwell
Jennifer Mardel	Ingrid Moses

1. Welcome and apologies

Chair Howard Murray welcomed members and noted that there were enough members present for a quorum.

Apologies were received from Marie-Louise Ayres, Lynne Curran, Judy Pearce, Julie Hochin, Janet Hadley Williams, Jennifer Wardell, Diane Bell, Johanna Jaireth, Michelle Lucas, Kwaku Amoo-Appau, and Heather Nash.

## 2. Adoption of the minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting

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The minutes of the 2019 AGM were examined, and no changes were requested. Kerry Blackburn moved that the minutes be accepted, seconded by Pat Murray. All members were in favour.

## 3. Chair's Report

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I have pleasure in providing a report of the Friends activities during 2020.

The year started promisingly with a new committee, a blend of continuing and new members, keen to deliver a program of events and activities. One of the first, scheduled for late March, was a 'Meet the Members' event, an informal get together of old and new members, designed to allow the new members to meet some more experienced members with a view to integrating more quickly into the life of the Friends. Unfortunately the event fell victim to the changes wrought by COVID-19 and had to be cancelled following the decision to cease all on-site programs from 16 March.

This decision came on top of the hailstorm that caused so much damage to cars in the car park but also to the Library building, the roof especially. As a consequence the Friends Lounge has had to be closed in recent months and moved to a temporary location in the Rex Nan Kivell Room, on level 2.

With the support of the Library's senior management, two other types of activities were developed to fill the events void, involving both the Friends and professional staff from the Library. Curious Collections was a series of on-line presentations featuring items of unusual interest from the breadth of the Library's holdings. An online book club was also established to allow discussion of a book of topical interest, by an Australian author. The Friends were successful in having each of the authors present to discuss their book. The Online Book Club has now been renamed 'Meet the Author' and the most recent author, Helen Ennis, participated yesterday in discussing her recent book on the life of the prominent photographer Olive Cotton. More Meet the Author events are planned for 2021.

The Friends are keen to extend their reach beyond the immediate Canberra and environs area. Contact was made during the year with kindred organisations and libraries in New South Wales and Tasmania depending on the book chosen for discussion. For example, Cassandra Pybus discussed her recent book on the Tasmanian indigenous leader, Truganini, so a number of staff of the Tasmanian Library service joined the conversation. Links have also been established with libraries on the far north coast of New South Wales and at Broken Hill. Further contacts are planned.

Early in the year, and with no indication of how long that Friends' activities might be disrupted, the committee decided to offer a three-month extension of membership as a gesture to support Friends whose connection to the Library had been significantly disrupted. Favorable comments were received from a number of Friends.

The decline in on-site activities led to a reduction in new memberships and renewals. Whilst this is understandable, it remains of concern. On a positive note though whilst income may have been affected there has been a significant drop in expenditure due to the reduction in the type and number of events. Grahame Thom, the Treasurer, will shortly take us through the financial scenario.

One of the key activities of the Friends is to fund a Creative Arts Fellowship. This fellowship provides \$10,000 for a person to make use of the resources of the Library to develop a creative work of some kind. Albeit the reduced activities of the Friends, the funds were able to be made available and the recipient of the Fellowship will be announced this evening.

The impact of COVID-19 on travel means that our 2020 Creative Arts Fellow, Anthony White, and our 2020 Staff Travelling Fellow, Ben Pratten, have had to delay their Fellowships. We look forward to hearing about their research and discoveries, hopefully in 2021.

As this most interesting of years draws to a close, it's timely to thank those who have made the Friends operate as smoothly as it has. May I express my thanks to the Director-General, Marie-Louise Ayres and her senior staff for facilitating the Friends through the demands of this year. A special thank you to the Executive Officer, Melanie Olde, who bears the brunt of the day to day demands of managing the Friends as well as dealing with the many and varied crises which regularly arise. I thank my fellow committee members for their enthusiasm and diligence and especially thank those leaving at the completion of their term for a job well done. Diane Bell and Margaret Goode are leaving before the end of their terms due to a range of other commitments, and I thank them for their cheerfulness and professionalism.

To all of the Friends, thank you for your support and fellowship, may you have a peaceful Christmas and may you continue to enjoy all that the Friends and the Library offer in 2021 and beyond.

*Howard Murray*  
Chair 2020

Margo Geering moved that the Chair's report be accepted, with Janice Taylor seconding. All members were in favour.

#### 4. Financial Report 2019-2020

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Chair, Director-General Marie-Louise Ayres and Friends, I am pleased to present the Financial Statements for the Committee of the Friends of the National Library for the financial year ended 30 June 2020. Copies of the Statements and my report are available at this meeting.

##### **Introduction**

As has been the case for recent years, the Statements have been prepared by Anthony Wilson of AccountAbility (ACT) Pty Ltd following an audit of the accounts in accordance with the provisions of the Australian Capital Territory Associations Incorporations Act 1991 and other mandatory reporting requirements.

The auditor reports that the Financial Statements give a true and fair account of the Friends financial performance for the 2019-2020 financial year and of its financial position as at 30 June 2020.

The auditor has issued an unqualified opinion.

Events affecting the financial results for 2020

Two nation-wide events took place in Australia during the reporting year.

##### **Bushfires**

Throughout the summer, hundreds of fires burnt, mainly in the southeast of the country. The major fires peaked during December–January. They had a serious impact on the lives of many Australians. While this did not have a direct impact on the Friends, membership renewals significantly declined from January to March 2020, possibly on outcome of the bushfires.

##### **COVID-19**

The international pandemic COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the operations of the National Library of Australia, and consequently on the Friends.

All public events at the National Library were cancelled in March 2020 and on 23 March the Library was closed to the public. Many staff worked from home. This meant that planned Friends events did not take place during the rest of the reporting period and into 2020/21. As a result Friends income and expenses have declined, the Friends lounge closed in March 2020.

The Committee of the Friends decided, that as Friends activities were not available to members, to extend memberships by three months from 1 March. This has had an impact on income from membership renewals.

The National Library of Australia started reducing restrictions on 22 June with the reopening of the Bookshop and Bookplate. On 3 August Galleries were reopened. Full operations for the Library and the Friends have yet to be resumed.

### **2020 FINANCIAL OUTCOMES**

The year's activities resulted in a surplus result of \$9,772, compared with \$8,779 in 2019.

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Total income	92,064	101,259
Total expenses	82,292	92,480
Operating surplus/(deficit)	9772	8,779

Equity stands at \$92,650 compared with \$82,878 in 2018-2019. Cash reserves are \$155,951 compared with \$149,274 in 2018-2019. This complies with the Friends policy for cash reserves not being less than \$100,000.

#### **Income**

The decrease in membership income from \$88,222 in 2019 to \$76,440 this year is probably the result of the impact of bushfires and COVID 19. Another factor could be due to the way income in advance is allocated. The Finance Sub-Committee will need to closely monitor revenue from memberships in 2020-2021.

Despite the cancellation of events from March 2020, income from functions increased from \$10,192 in 2018-2019 to \$13,060 this past year. To a significant extent reduced activities in the prior year has meant higher income this year. The impact of COVID 19 will be more evident in 2020-2021.

#### **Expenses**

Like functions income increasing in 2020 compared to 2019, expenses have also increased from \$3,127 to \$8,347 for the same reasons.

Also the drop in membership has resulted in a reduction of postage and printing costs from \$20,970 in 2019 to \$16,132 this past year.

Also the one-off donation of \$10,200 to NLA in recognition of the 50th Anniversary has not been repeated.

#### **Current assets and liabilities**

The cash movements in 2019-2020 have resulted in a favourable increase in equity from \$82,878 in 2018-2019 to \$92,650 this past year.

There was no significant movement in current assets and liabilities. In 2019-2020 current assets are \$149,807 compared to \$152,807 in the previous year. Current liabilities are \$66,133 compared to \$69,929. The reduction in liabilities is primarily due to the drop in membership.

#### Overall operating results

The main reason for an improved operating surplus from \$8,779 in 2019 to \$9,772 is the reduction in donations to the NLA. This was offset by the yearly movements in membership, functions, and postage and printing as mentioned above.

With the continuing impact of COVID-19 on the Australian community, it is likely that there will be a significant impact on the 2020-2021 financial results, especially on membership income, due to the full impact of the three months free membership and reduction in renewal of memberships.

The Committee thanks the NLA Management for their continuing support, including the funding of the Executive Officer position. Also a big thank you to the Executive Officer and staff for their significant contribution to the administrative support of the Friends.

*Grahame Thom FCPA*

Treasurer 2020

The Treasurer requested questions about the Financial Statements, and none were received.

The Treasurer and the Chair moved that the meeting accept the audited Financial Statements of the Friends of the National Library for the Financial Year ending 30 June 2020, with Gary Kent seconding. All members were in favour.

#### 5. Announcement of the Friends 2021 Creative Arts Fellowship

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The Chair announced that the 2021 Creative Arts Fellowship has been awarded to Mr David Wickham from Perth, Western Australia.

David Wickham is a pianist specialising in accompaniment, with considerable recital and opera experience. His field of research is Australian art song, a body of work begun while he was a lecturer at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

His proposed project is titled 'Frederick Septimus Kelly: the Lost Olympian'. F.S. Kelly (1881–1916) produced a body of compositions and the project will examine all extant Kelly manuscripts in the NLA, typeset and edit them, and prepare them for publication in five volumes. Access to manuscripts and diaries will help to establish an accurate chronology of his works. At the conclusion of the project, songs, solo piano works and the first Violin Sonata will be performed in Canberra, for the first time since the composer's death. Finally, a lecture-recital will be given, comparing Kelly's work with that of Australian contemporaries and that of Ralph Vaughan Williams up to the age that Kelly was when he was killed on the Somme in the First World War.

#### 6. Presentation of the 2020 Friends Medal

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The Chair announced that the 2020 Friends Medal was awarded to Lyn Adams for significant contributions to the National Library and to the Friends.

Lyn started volunteering at the Library almost twenty years ago and has worked as an exhibition guide and most recently has been sewing for Preservation for a variety of archival purposes. Lyn has served passionately, and with conviction for two terms while on the Friends Committee first as Treasurer between 2009 and 2012 and on the Committee from 2017 to 2019, where she served as

Chair in the final year. After her retirement from the Committee, Lyn continued to help the Friends by volunteering to help archive the Friends records.

Lyn was a strong advocate for Friends members and encouraging of people to join the Committee, always helping and supporting at events, as well as encouraging NLA Volunteers to connect with the membership. Lyn has been a dedicated, passionate and tireless member of the National Library family in many ways and has made a valuable contribute to the promotion and support of the Library.

#### 7. Other Business

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There was no other business from the meeting.

#### 8. Election of the Friends Committee for 2021

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The Chair advised that a call for nominations for the 12 vacant positions on the 2021 Friends Committee was included in the Spring 2021 issue of the Friends Newsletter. By close of business on 12 October, the closing date for nominations, 10 nominations were received.

The Chair noted that three members were retiring from the Committee at this AGM: Howard Murray, Diane Bell and Margaret Goode. The Chair thanked them for their hard work and good humour during their tenure and for their service to the Friends of the National Library.

The Chair advised that the following 2020 Committee Members nominated to re-join the Committee for another year: Kerry Blackburn, Meredith Hinchliffe, Grahame Thom, Margo Geering, Colleen Kinnane, Janice Taylor, Jo Schumann, Larissa Karpish, and Vivien Arnold.

The Chair advised that there was one new nominee: Jennifer Mardel.

The Chair asked for objections to the appointment of any of the aforementioned members to the 2021 Committee. As no objections were received, the Chair requested formal acceptance of the following as members on the 2021 Friends Committee: Kerry Blackburn, Meredith Hinchliffe, Grahame Thom, Margo Geering, Colleen Kinnane, Janice Taylor, Jo Schumann, Larissa Karpish, Vivien Arnold, and Jennifer Mardel.

The Chair noted that this left two positions vacant, which the Committee may choose to fill through the co-option of members at a future Committee meeting, as specified in the Rules of Association.

Margaret Goode moved to accept the 2021 Friends Committee with Mary Pollard seconding. Members present accepted the 2021 Friends Committee without dissent.

The Chair congratulated the successful nominees for the 2021 Friends Committee.

2020 Deputy Chair Kerry Blackburn thanked Howard Murray for his leadership inspiration during the turmoil the Friends had faced, for new ideas and his patience throughout the year.

The meeting closed at 4.07pm.

## 8.

### Election of the Friends Committee for 2022

Nancy Clark

I am a retired librarian. As campus librarian at the Canberra Campus of Australian Catholic University during its founding years I enjoyed being part of a team that created a library service for a new national institution during a period of huge technological and institutional changes. I was active in the library community of Canberra during those years particularly as a member of the University sector of the Australian Library and Information Society. I joined the Friends of the NLA in its very early days – my membership number is 22! Post retirement I have spent a good deal of time as an active member of the Australian Garden History Society, serving on the Committee of the ACT Monaro Riverina Branch as Secretary for many years, and on the Society's National Management Committee for six. In these roles I have been involved in planning and organising numerous events, frequently, and rewardingly, joint events with other bodies – including for the last 15 years an annual talk with the Friends of the National Library but also one-off or recurring events with organisations like the National Trust Canberra. I am a local, who grew up in Goulburn, came to Canberra to the ANU, left, and returned many years later.

Ken Douglas

Ken is a retired career public servant. He worked in four different agencies and was a senior executive in three of them. His final appointment was in the Department of Home Affairs. While Canberra has been and continues to be his home of choice for most the past 40 years, he has also lived and worked in Queensland, New South Wales, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. A New Zealander by birth but an Australian citizen, Ken has also lived in Papua New Guinea. Since retiring he has indulged his passions for golf, travelling, reading and looks forward to continuing quench his curiosity through membership of the Friends of the National Library Committee.

Sue Gage

At the age of 13, I moved with my family to live at 'historic' Lanyon, a large sheep and cattle property near Canberra. Since leaving school I have continued to live in Canberra. My most interesting job was between 1968 and 1970 when I worked with a friend who was the Director of the Australian Sculpture Gallery in Canberra. While I worked at the Gallery I met many local and interstate artists. I enrolled in an art course with a well known Canberra artist and some years later enrolled in an evening course, 'Understanding Art', at the ANU. In 1973 I became a member of the Canberra Committee of the Children's Medical Research Foundation. I held the positions of Ordinary Member, Secretary and Vice-President during my five years on the committee. In 1970 I became a Life Member of RSPCA ACT and over many years was involved in various areas of volunteer work, including giving talks for the RSPCA on Radio 1 RPH. In 1996 I was invited to join the ACT RSPCA ACT Council. I sat on the Council for 16 years and held the positions of Ordinary Member, Secretary and Vice President before being elected President in 2004 . As President of RSPCA ACT, I sat on the National Council of RSPCA Australia for nine years until I retired from my position of President of RSPCA ACT. For many years I was a member of the ACT Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. I also sat on Animal Welfare Committees for both the Canberra University and CSIRO. In addition, I assisted in establishing SPCA Bangladesh during four visits to assist Bangladeshi women and girls. Over the decades I have regularly visited the National Library for various exhibitions & lectures and now belong to two book clubs.



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Peggy Horn

I was born, raised and educated in Wisconsin and California, USA. I have lived and worked in Canberra since the early 1970s. Before retirement (from ANU and the University of Canberra), I was involved in teaching and research in the biomedical sciences (mostly immunology). Since retiring, I've volunteered with OzHarvest and Jerrabomberra Wetlands and am still a volunteer with Questacon as an explainer. I'm a long-standing visitor to the NLA, and a great admirer of its aesthetics, its public engagement and of course, it's role as a cultural caretaker.

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Larissa Karpish

Larissa was a member of the 2020 Friends Committee. Larissa's love of the NLA continues to grow and in 2020, as a first term member of the Friends Committee, it has deepened and grown. She feels that it has been a somewhat unrequited love—with the challenges of a hailstorm, closely followed by a pandemic resulting in reduced contact with the NLA as she would have liked. However, like fellow Committee members, she feels these challenges strengthened her resolve to contribute practical and constructive new ideas to supporting the Friends and the Library. These included: expansion of the membership base whilst investing effort for current members; supporting Friends events; promoting to wide networks and advocating the many benefits of being a Friend and supporter of one of our most treasured national institutions. She says that it has been a joy and privilege to serve on the Committee and the Events and Communications sub-committees. She seeks a second term on the Committee as there is so much more she can offer to ensure that our national heritage, as represented in the collection that is the NLA, is supported, protected and enriched by as many friends as possible.

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Christopher Kenna

Thanks for the opportunity to nominate for the NLA Friends Committee. I am a semi-retired educator with experience of university tutoring in Sydney and as a teacher in ACT government schools and at CIT. I brought excursions to the NLA and there benefitted from the expertise of staff. I was honoured by Life Membership of the ACT History Teachers' Association and by the award of ACT Secondary Teacher of the Year. I was a public servant in AusAID including in Bangladesh, and in other departments. I also worked at the Centre for Appropriate Technology in Alice Springs. Qualifications are BA (Hons I), PhD, Grad Dip Ed, Grad Cert Lit Studies, and Cert IV Training and Assessment. Interests include Buddhism, violin, and Bengali language and culture. Thanks to the NLA for providing such diverse resources and rich learning opportunities, and to the NLA Friends for actively supporting its community outreach.

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Gary Kent

Gary has been a member of the Friends since 1992. He has previously served a total of 9 years on the Committee of the Friends, including 5 years as Chair. Gary has been President of the National Trust (ACT) since 2018, and is currently chair of the Inner South Canberra Community Council. He was President of the Liberal Party of Australia (ACT Division) from 2000-07. Gary has had a long career in the Australian public service, including chief of staff roles to several Federal Ministers and Company Secretary of the Defence Housing Authority. He is a keen genealogist and book collector, specialising in books, manuscripts and ephemera published in colonial Victoria. He is currently co-authoring a biography of Dr Arthur Andrews of Albury and a bibliography of Australian private libraries. Gary has a B Com, LLB, Grad Dip Pub Law, GAICD.

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Nivarith Nair

Nivi has loved the National Library since 2008, when he first came to Canberra. Hailing from Sunny Singapore with a Librarian mother, a deep love of learning and libraries has been an ever present. A passionate supporter of the Library, he has a deep appreciation for the work of the Friends Committee, and was a member of the 2021 Friends Committee. Nivi has worked in diverse strategy and people centered roles serving the Private Sector, Higher Education, Government and Non-Profit Groups. Prior to moving back to Australia, he worked as a Business Developer for a Healthcare firm that did philanthropic and outreach work. Nivi has served in a variety of leadership roles at the Australian National University, including as a Community Coordinator and Alumni Mentor. He has completed a Masters of International Relations, having been awarded a Hedley Bull Scholarship. He currently serves in the Indigenous Tuition Programme at ANU to support and accelerate the outcomes of Indigenous tertiary students. He believes that the Library is instrumental not just as a beacon of knowledge and inspiration but also a space that connects and welcomes everyone. Nivi hopes to bring experience in people engagement and community building and to continue to contribute to development and outreach with the Friends.

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Margaret Nichols

I have served one year on the Committee in 2021. It has been a challenging year. I also served on the Committee in the early 2000s. I have been involved with the Library since I came to Canberra in 1967 – as a student, a staff member (1980–1989), a consultant (1990–2005) and now as a volunteer (2008 -). For the last 10 years I have been a volunteer; as an exhibition guide, a front desk coordinator and periodically as part of a team assisting with documentation for upcoming exhibitions. I have been a member of the Friends since its inception in 1990. I value my Friends' membership and would be pleased to continue with the Committee to assist in bringing a knowledge of the Library and the wealth of its collections to the Friends via its events and online communications.

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Karin Oldfield

Before retiring at the end of 2019, Karin Oldfield had a broad range of responsibilities in a highly complex role as Company Secretary for the accreditation authority for medical education and training. As well as managing the executive committees, including directors and council, she oversaw the development and delivery of the Reconciliation Action Plan. In her role Karin also had a passion for and focus on Indigenous health. She has travelled extensively, nationally and internationally, with the accreditation authority accrediting medical education programs and researching ways to improve not only Indigenous health in medical education but also participation of Indigenous people in medical education. Now that she has retired, Karin is focused on writing her mystery novel based on an Aboriginal massacre, using her Aboriginal family's history and experiences to inform the basis of the book. Karin has always regarded 'the library' as vital for knowledge and essential for the creative spirit and she would be honoured to contribute and support the library as part of the Friends Committee. Karin is a doer and has the time to commit. Many thanks for considering her nomination.

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Anna Robinson

I have lived in the ACT since 1983 and been involved with many different aspects of Canberra life. My academic studies [BSc (Hons), PhD] were completed at the Australian National University. I then worked as a Scientist (JCSMR, RSB), Lecturer and Administrator (ANU, CIT, Australian Medical Council), and Academic Adviser for Graduate Studies which involved all aspects of graduate study throughout the ANU campus.

Other interests include membership of professional, sporting and community associations at different levels. I undertook the role of National Convenor of Women in Science Enquiry Network (WISENet) from 2002–2006. This involved leading a group of over 300 members throughout Australia, arranging AGMs, overseeing financials, Journal editing/production, media interviews and representation at national and international levels (Science Meets Parliament Day; the UNESCO Report: Science, Technology and Gender). I have also been active in the sport of fencing for the past 40 years—as competitor, Coach, and various committee positions with the ANU Sports Council, ANU Fencing Club (President/Secretary/Treasurer), ACT Fencing Association Inc. and, currently, Principal Coach/Manager of the Lancaster Fencing Program in Forrest.

I enjoy being part of different groups such as Friends of the National Botanic Gardens, Canberra Astronomy Society, University House; and of course, Friends of the National Library of Australia.

Jo Schumann

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My career includes extensive experience in the public sector having worked in both the ACT and Commonwealth public sectors. My roles have encompassed commonwealth/state funding arrangements, social policy and service delivery in the welfare, housing and community areas. For the latter part of my career, I have held the role of Chief Operations Office for several Australian Public Service agencies giving me experience and expertise in finance, human resources, information technology, and media and communications. I currently provide talent management services for APS 5–EL1 officers with my colleague Melanie Fisher to ACT Government and APS agencies. I also hold a number of non-executive director Board positions in the community sector where my roles include Board Chair and Treasurer. I am currently the independent Chair of the Climate Change Authority, Infrastructure Finance Agency Audit Committees. My interest in again joining the National Library of Australia Friends Committee (I was a member of the 2020 and 2021 Committees) stems from my passion for National Institutions like the Library and the role they play in the Australian community, psyche and history. I have a range of skill sets based on a solid understanding of governance and an enthusiasm for all things historical and modern Australian that I hope I can again bring to the Friends Committee.