

Friends of the National Library of Australia Inc.

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 26 November 2020, 3.30pm
Theatre, National Library of Australia

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and Apologies**
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting**
- 3. Chair's Report**
Presented by Howard Murray
- 4. Financial Report 2019–2020**
Presented by Grahame Thom
- 5. Announcement of the 2021 Creative Arts Fellowship**
- 6. Presentation of the 2020 Friends Medal**
- 7. Other Business**
- 8. Election of the Friends Committee for 2021**
- 9. Closure of Meeting**

AGENDA ITEM 2

Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held
Thursday 21 November 2019, 5.30pm
Conference Room, National Library of Australia

Present: 2019 Committee Members

Lyn Adams	<i>Chair</i>
Howard Murray	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
Jennefer Nicholson	<i>Treasurer</i>
Ros Welch	<i>Member</i>
Mary Pollard	<i>Member</i>
Diane Bell	<i>Member</i>
Grahame Thom	<i>Member</i>
Margo Geering	<i>Member</i>
Kerry Blackburn	<i>Member</i>
Kathryn Favelle	<i>NLA Representative</i>
Melanie Olde	<i>Executive Officer</i>

Friends Members

Margy Burn	Margaret Callan
Sandy Clugston	Carolyn Curnow
Melanie Drake	Rosemary Everett
Neville Exon	Michael Falk
James Ferguson	Kristiane Herrmann
Wolf Mayer	Pat Murray
Elizabeth Nelson	Robyn Oates
Lyn Parry	Jennifer Phillips
David Phillips	Aileen Power
Philip Roper	Pamela Rutland
Rosslyn Thom	Stavros Georgiadis
Tim Walshaw	Robyn Holmes
Simon Cullen	David Campbell
Margaret Dent	John Worcester
Judy Pearce	

1. Welcome and Apologies

Chair Lyn Adams welcomed members and noted that there were enough members present for a quorum.

Apologies were received from Malcolm Thurston, Marie-Louise Ayres, Cathy Pilgrim, Margaret Dent, Meredith Hinchliffe, Kevin Judah White, Ingrid Moses, Margaret Reid, Lynne Curran, Dennis Pearce, Janice Taylor, George Nichols, Carlene Bolt, Shirley Gollings, Kathryn Cole, Rob O'Connor, Richard White, Christine White, Gini Hole, Shirley Randell, Sallyann Ducker, Patricia Clarke, Len Goodman, Joyce Goodman, Janet Hadley Williams, Kaye Wesley-Carter, Halina Zachara.

10. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2018 AGM were examined and no changes were requested. Diane Bell moved that the minutes be accepted, and the motion was seconded by Jennefer Nicholson. Members present at the AGM accepted the minutes without dissent.

11. Chair's Report for 2019

The Chair presented her report for 2019 and expressed thanks to the NLA for their ongoing support and expertise in helping the Friends to facilitate their program.

She was pleased to inform members that in 2018-19, the Friends funded from operating funds: the 2019 Creative Arts Fellowship, the 2019 Travelling Fellowship and the Friends fiftieth birthday gift to the NLA.

Thanks to the hard work of the Events Sub-Committee led first by Ros Welch and now by Meredith Hinchliffe, the Friends have hosted eleven events, two as part of the UNESCO Year of Indigenous Language. These were Cultural Connections: Papua New Guinea a special evening of language, culture, song and dance; and then Indigenous Language: Stories of Place, Culture and Identity. The presentation of the Friends gift "Pandanus Fish Trap" by Jenni Kemarre Martiniello was included at this latter event. "Pandanus Fish Trap" was chosen because of its contemporary nature and its cultural and aesthetic beauty. Friends also provided their time during a NLA Codeathon to add Austlang Codes to relevant collection material to increase accessibility for First Nations People.

In April, the Friends were able to view a selection of Asian textiles from the NLA's Asian collections at a White Gloves evening. The Friends also hosted three popular Coffee with the Curator mornings and reintroduced the Friends Spring Tour – a day trip to Joaja. The annual Australian Garden History Society event presented a talk by Professor Tim Entwistle on the Botanic Gardens of Melbourne and Sydney.

In November the Library presented the 2019 Creative Arts Fellowship Lecture by Joel Bray, a Wiradjuri man, choreographer and performer. Also in November, the Friends supported an initiative by the National Centre for Biography to commission articles for over 1500 colonial women to be included in an Australian Dictionary of Biography.

The Friends face ongoing challenges in sustaining membership numbers members. The Committee has focussed on promotion at Friends and NLA events and encouraging membership renewal through personal contact. The Chair thanked Margo Geering for her time spent making many phone calls.

The Friends quarterly newsletter has been edited by Mary Pollard and her Communications Sub-Committee. Contributors now provide more personal information with their articles to help you get to know the Friends Committee, Friends members and Library Volunteers.

After suggestions by some members we now include the Friends Logo on event images to more easily identify Friends events in the weekly Enews, which is emailed to 1700 members.

The Friends are slowly increasing our Facebook presence and now have 230 Followers on our Friends Facebook page.

The Chair also noted the membership cards now have a colourful image of two Golden Bowerbirds from a 1917 Ellis Rowan painting.

The Chair thanked the Friends Office and Library staff, the Director-General and senior staff for their support of the Friends. She expressed her heartfelt thanks to the 2019 Friends Committee for their dedication and hard work. She thanked Friends members for their unwavering support of the Friends and the National Library of Australia.

Margy Burn moved that the Chair's report be accepted, and the motion was seconded by Howard Murray. Members present accepted the report without dissent.

12. Financial Report 2018–2019

The Treasurer, Jennefer Nicholson, presented the financial statements of the Friends of the National Library for the financial year ended 30 June 2019.

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 Friend's financial performance for the 2018-2019 financial year and of its financial position as at 30 June 2019.

The auditor has issued an unqualified opinion.

The year's activities resulted in a surplus result of \$8,779, compared with \$18,714 in 2018. Equity stands at \$82,878 compared with \$74,099 in 2018. Cash reserves are \$149,274 compared with \$152,646 in 2018 – this complies with the Friends policy for cash reserves not being less than \$100,000.

The increase in membership income from \$75,281 in 2018 to \$88,282 in 2019 is primarily due to the way income in advance is allocated. Though Functions income decreased from \$19,820 in 2018 to \$10,192 this year, Functions still made a surplus as expenses were lower. These figures demonstrate the impact of years such as 2018 when the Friends are able to stage some 'blockbuster' events. However as there was only a \$3,275 net result difference for Functions in 2018 over the 2019 result the Committee has managed a good result for this year given the event opportunities.

The increase in expenses in 2019 can be attributed to the expenses of \$29,255 (\$10,000 in 2018) for the FNLA Creative Arts Fellowship (\$10,000), the FNLA Travelling Scholarship (\$9,255) (no expense in 2018) and the gift to the NLA (\$10,000) of the *Pandanus Fish Trap*, by Jennifer Kemarre Martiniello, marking the 50th anniversary of the Library building.

Equity stands at \$82,878 compared with \$74,099 in 2018. There was no significant movement in current assets and liabilities. In 2019 current assets are \$152,807 compared with \$155,310 in 2018. Current liabilities are \$69,929 compared with \$81,211 – this reduction is primarily due to a reduction in creditors and income in advance.

The surplus result of \$8,779 is better than expected. It represents the commitment of the Friends Committee to recruiting and retaining members, providing well-supported events, and informative communications.

Membership figures show a small decline in numbers. It will be important to continue working on membership growth and retention, in particular the two year memberships, to secure a strong membership and financial base for the Friends.

A challenge this year was to fund the FNLA Creative Fellowship, FNLA Travelling Fellowship, and the gift to the NLA for the 50th anniversary of the building. This has been achieved with the funds of \$29,255 being met from operating funds, avoiding the need to utilise reserve funds, and still return a surplus for the year.

The Committee is delighted to report that this year the Friends is now a Platinum Patron of the NLA having donated over \$250,000 to the NLA since the establishment of the Friends of the NLA.

On behalf of the Committee, the Treasurer thanks the NLA management for their continuing support, including their essential support in providing the Executive Officer position. Our thanks to EO Melanie Olde for her commitment to keeping everything on track for the Friends throughout the year; to Friends members for their ongoing support; and to those NLA staff and Volunteers who so generously shared their expertise to enhance our events program and communications.

There were no questions.

The Treasurer moved that the general meeting accepts the audited Financial Statements of the Friends of the National Library of Australia. This was seconded by Grahame Thom. Members present accepted the report without dissent.

13. Presentation by Rachael Eddowes, recipient of the 2019 Friends Travelling Fellowship

Rachael thanked the Friends for the opportunity enabled by the Travelling Fellowship.

Rachael commenced working in the IT section of the Library in 2015, working to help connect the collection to those who use it.

Rachael's Fellowship involved travelling to the United Kingdom to survey digital engagement and discovery and attend the library user experience conference UXLibs. She toured libraries in Edinburgh, Aberystwyth, Oxford, and London, as well as the conference at the University of London Royal Holloway.

Among her activities, she presented a conference poster From the Reading Room to the Living Room; explored strategies for digital engagement at the Welcome Collection; and digital discovery at the Science Museum. She has since contributed her findings to Blueprint and other review processes at the Library, and applied her knowledge in the redesign of Trove.

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

14. Announcement of the 2020 Creative Arts Fellowship

The Chair announced that the recipient of the 2020 Friends of the National Library Creative Arts Fellowship is Anthony White.

Anthony is an internationally renowned Australian painter who exhibits internationally. His fellowship project, *A Curious Eye Never Runs Dry (The Stockade project)* will investigate material from the Sidney Nolan collection related to the creation of the Eureka Stockade mural. He will create a new body of abstract paintings that incorporate painterly interventions and collage for exhibition in 2022. Researching the Library's Nolan collection will offer him the opportunity to reflect on an artist who was similarly drawn to painting notions of Australian national identity and continued to do so during his working life in Europe.

15. Presentation of the 2019 Friends Medal

The Chair announced that there were 2 recipients of the 2019 Friends Medal, Margy Burn and Jennifer and David Phillips.

Margy Burn

Margy has given significant service to the National Library of Australia and to the Friends of the National Library of Australia as the former Assistant Director-General of the Australian Collections and Reader Services. Margy established and nurtured numerous significant relationships with collection and donation and bequest prospects, relationships that will continue to benefit the Library.

Jennifer and David Phillips

Like so many of our volunteers, David and Jennifer have contributed widely – volunteering their time to support exhibitions; undertaking short projects in the Engagement Branch; and providing support and friendship to colleagues across the Library.

The Chair thanked Margy Burn, Jennifer and David Phillips for their long service to the Library and the Friends, and for sharing their time and knowledge for so many years.

16. Other Business

No other business was raised.

17. Election of the Friends Committee for 2020

The Chair advised that a call for nominations for the 12 vacant positions on the 2019 Friends Committee was included in the spring 2019 issue of the Friends Newsletter. By close of business on 21 October, the closing date for nominations, 8 nominations were received.

The Chair noted that there were several members who were retiring from the Committee at this AGM: Chair Lyn Adams, Treasurer Jennefer Nicholson, Ros Welch, Mary Pollard, Malcolm Thurston. She thanked them for their hard work and good humour during their tenure and for several of them, over the many years of their service to the Friends and the National Library.

The Chair advised that the following 2019 committee members have nominated to re-join the Committee for another year: Howard Murray, Diane Bell, Meredith Hinchliffe, Grahame Thom, Margo Geering and Kerry Blackburn.

The Chair advised that there was one new nominee: Colleen Kinnane.

The Chair asked for objections to the appointment of any of the aforementioned members to the 2020 Committee. As no objections were received, the Chair requested formal acceptance of the following as members of the 2020 Friends Committee:

Diane Bell
Howard Murray
Grahame Thom
Kerry Blackburn
Meredith Hinchliffe
Margo Geering
Colleen Kinnane

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.

Acceptance of the 2020 Friends Committee was proposed by Pat Murray and seconded by Jennefer Nicholson. Members present accepted the 2020 Friends Committee without dissent.

The Chair congratulated the successful nominees for the 2020 Friends Committee and looked forward to an exciting 2020.

Meeting closed at 6.20pm

AGENDA ITEM 8

Election of the 2020 Friends Committee: Nominee Profiles

Janice Taylor

Janice was a member of the 2018 and 2020 Friends Committee. 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.

Colleen Kinnane

Colleen was a member of the 2020 Friends Committee. 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.

Jo Schumann

Jo was a member of the 2020 Friends Committee. Jo's career includes extensive experience in public sector having worked in both the ACT and Commonwealth public sectors. Her roles have encompassed Commonwealth/state funding arrangements, social policy and service delivery in the welfare, housing and community areas. For the latter part of her career, she has held the role of Chief Operations Office for several Australian Public Service agencies giving her experience and expertise in finance, human resources, information technology, and media and communications.

She currently provides talent management services for APS 5- E11 officers with her colleague Melanie Fisher to ACT Government and APS agencies. She holds a number of non-executive director Board positions in the community sector where her role includes Board Chair and Treasurer. I am currently the independent Chair of the Climate Change Authority, Infrastructure Finance Agency Audit Committees. She also volunteers as a mentor for young juvenile justice offenders.

Her interest in joining the National library of Australia Friends Committee stems from her passion for National Institutions like the Library and the role they play in the Australian community, psyche and history. She has a range of skill sets based on a solid understanding of governance and an enthusiasm for all things historical and modern Australian that she could bring to the Friends Committee.

Margo Geering

Margo has been a member of the 2019 and 2020 Friends Committee. 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.

Vivien Arnold

Vivien was a member of the 2020 Friends Committee. Vivien has lived in Canberra for over fifty years. On arrival and being driven to her new home she passed the National Library. It was one of the reasons for the love-at-first-sight she felt for the capital. She has BEd and M Analytical Psychology degrees as well as qualifications in counselling and TESOL. Her careers have been in teaching, HR and private consultancy. In 1995 she founded Communication Working, a training company which specialises in workplace communication, team building and personal development. Having delivered such services to the Library for the last 25 years, she has a strong interest and commitment to the institution and the role it plays in Australian culture.

Her hobbies are in theatre and music. As a composer she has had a body of work published by Wirripang. She was director of choral music at St Christopher's Cathedral for many years, has staged over 90 amateur productions of plays and musicals, and for over a decade has been director of Kaleidoscope Productions - which raises funds for Home in Queanbeyan through concerts and drama presentations. A referee stated, 'working with people to make things happen is her strength'. This is what she would bring to the committee.

Kerry Blackburn

Kerry has been a member of the 2019 and 2020 Friends Committee. 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.

Jennifer Mardel

Jennifer's application to serve on the Friends Committee arises from a number of years enjoyment of the connection with the Library that comes from being a Friend, plus a desire to support the extremely valuable work of the Library. She would bring to the role a professional background and experience that ranges across a number of areas from advertising through teaching to government and public service. As an avid student of Australian history and a lover of Australian literature, she would be keen to explore avenues for the Friends' Committee to broaden the Friends' engagement with the community to reach more young people, in addition to their use and appreciation of the available resources.

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.

Meredith Hinchliffe

Meredith was a member of the 2019 and 2020 Friends Committee. 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.

Grahame Thom

Grahame has been a member of the 2019 and 2020 Friends Committee. Grahame is a long time member of the Friends, living in Victoria. He is a retired senior executive with the Department of Veteran's Affairs, and a former President and Fellow of the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra. In 2020, as an accountant he found himself filling the position of Treasurer of the Friends. He has a long term relationship with the Library recalling visiting the new Library building on the day it opened in 1968. He is a Patron of the Library, his family history website has been copied by the NLA's Pandora project, has 14 titles in the NLA catalogue, and uses Trove almost every day.