



Friends of the National Library of Australia Inc.
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 23 November 2017, 5.30pm
Conference Room, National Library of Australia

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and Apologies**
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting**
- 3. Chair's Report**
Presented by Gary Kent
- 4. Financial Report 2016–2017**
Presented by James Ferguson
- 5. Announcement of the 2018 Creative Arts Fellowship**
- 6. Presentation of the 2017 Friends Medal**
- 7. Other Business**
- 8. Election of the Friends Committee for 2018**
- 9. Closure of Meeting**

AGENDA ITEM 2

Friends of the National Library of Australia Inc.
Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting
Monday 14 November 2016, 5.30pm
Conference Room, National Library of Australia

PRESENT: 2016 Committee Members

Robyn Oates	<i>Chair</i>
Kathryn Cole	<i>Deputy-Chair</i>
James Ferguson	<i>Treasurer</i>
Anne Davis	<i>Member</i>
Gary Kent	<i>Member</i>
Alan Kerr	<i>Member</i>
Geraldine Mackey	<i>Member</i>
Ingrid Moses	<i>Member</i>
Jenny Oates	<i>Member</i>
Anne-Marie Schwirtlich	<i>Director-General</i>
Cathy Pilgrim	<i>NLA Representative</i>
Kathryn Favelle	<i>NLA Representative</i>
Sharyn O'Brien	<i>Executive Officer</i>

Friends Members

Margaret Astbury	Stephen Holt
Michael Astbury	Antonia Kasunic
Gillian Bellas	Elizabeth Kentwell
Tom Bellas	Paul Mackey
Barbara Bullen	Sylvia Marchant
Derek Bullen	John Moses
John Chapman	Ann Moyal
Anthony Clark	Elizabeth Nelson
Patricia Clark	Jennefer Nicholson
Pam D'Costa	Louise Oliver
Michael de Percy	Lynn Parry
Melanie Drake	Dennis Pearce
Alan Duff	Diana Pearce
Susan Ford	Janice Taylor
Irene Foster	Kelli Turner
Robert Foster	Tim Walshaw
Sally Grimes	

Observers

Monika Szunejko

1. Welcome and Apologies

Robyn Oates welcomed members.

Apologies were received from Marion Amies, Grace and Terry Birtles, Stuart Braga, Robyn Duncan, Janet Hadley Williams, Marguerite Hancock, Geoff Pryor, John and Heather Seymour, Nanette Simmons, Valerie Stags, Kevin White, John Worcester, Ros Welch.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2015 AGM were examined and no changes were requested. Ingrid Moses moved that the minutes be accepted, seconded by Alan Kerr. Members present at the AGM accepted the minutes without dissent.

3. Chair's Report for 2016

The Chair presented her report and expressed her thanks to her fellow committee members for giving so much of their time, care and professional skills in contributing to the Friends activities and decisions over the past year. She noted that John Seymour, Alan Kerr and Alan Ives would be stepping down from the Committee at this AGM, and thanked them for their years of commitment and many hours of work.

The Chair noted that 2016 has seen the Friends take clear moves into electronic communication. Membership renewals are now predominantly sent by email, and the weekly e-newsletter has been redesigned and attracts a considerably higher 'click-through' rate than average for similar communications in the arts sector.

The Chair acknowledged the Friends office staff 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 Gary Kent and seconded by Margaret Astbury.

4. Financial Report 2016–2017

The Treasurer, James Ferguson, presented the financial statements of the Friends of the National Library for the financial year ending 30 June 2016 and advised the meeting that copies of the report are also available for examination on the Friends website or by 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 \$7,219 for the financial year, with expenses of \$99,276 exceeding income of \$92,057. He noted that this was a pleasing result as the expenditure figure included the \$12,500 allocated by the Friends for the Creative Arts Fellowship, which had been funded from reserves accumulated over past years.

Tim Walshaw asked the Treasurer for further information on the funds expended on the benefits review. The Treasurer advised that a contractor had been engaged to undertake this review and to liaise with external organisations to provide additional benefits to members. Mr Walshaw requested that he be provided with a copy of the benefits review report.

ACTION: Executive Officer to provide Mr Walshaw with a copy of the benefits review report.

Mr Walshaw expressed concern that if the Committee continue to run down their cash assets, the organisation will soon be out of business. Former Committee member Dennis Pearce noted that when he joined the Committee, the organisation had cash assets of \$180,000. He put a case to the Committee, who subsequently agreed, that a greater contribution should be made to the work of the Library. This led to the funding of the Creative Arts Fellowship for 5 years, as well as the one-off purchase of artwork marking the 25th anniversary of the Friends of the National Library. Mr Pearce noted that it was not correct to think of the decline in cash assets as a pattern, as it was a strategic decision made by the Committee, who had agreed that the organisation did not require such large cash reserves. The Chair also noted that the main purpose of the Friends is to support the work of the National Library, which was foremost in the Committee's minds when making these financial decisions.

Mr Walshaw also queried the credit card charges detailed on the financial statement, asking why the organisation is incurring these charges at all. The Treasurer advised that all businesses accept credit card payment, especially those taking payments online as the Friends do for membership fees. The credit card charges are the small charge associated with processing this type of payment.

Acceptance of the financial statements for the 2015–2016 year was proposed by James Ferguson and seconded by Alan Kerr. Members present at the AGM accepted the statements without dissent.

The Treasurer also expressed his thanks to outgoing Chair Robyn Oates for her dedicated hard work and leadership during past two years. He noted that as Chair, she had worked very hard, represented the Friends with aplomb and distinction as our public face and been a most stimulating and efficient committee leader.

Kathryn Cole also expressed her thanks to Robyn Oates and presented her with a gift of appreciation.

5. Presentation by Monika Szunejko, recipient of 2016 Friends Travelling Fellowship

At the 2015 Friends AGM, Monika Szunejko was awarded the 2016 Friends Travelling Fellowship. This fellowship enabled Monika to visit the United Kingdom and France to assess the applicability of linked data to a national bibliographical database. She also met with her counterparts at the British Library and Bibliothèque Nationale de France to investigate how these libraries manage linked data.

Monika gave a brief presentation on her Fellowship and thanked the Friends for a wonderful professional development opportunity, which had provided the chance to connect with colleagues in the UK and France. She noted that she had been chuffed and grateful with Robyn Oates sent her messages via Monika's blog to let her know that Friends members were following her trip online.

Monika advised that due to the personal contacts she made during her Fellowship she has been able to arrange for several specialists in linked data to deliver seminars to library colleagues in Australia.

The Chair advised that while she had hoped to be able to announce the 2017 Friends Travelling Fellowship at the AGM, the selection process is not quite complete. Once the decision is made, Friends members will be advised through the weekly e-news and the February issue of the Friends newsletter.

6. Announcement of the 2017 Creative Arts Fellowship

The Chair announced that the recipient of the 2017 Friends of the National Library Travelling Fellowship was playwright Timothy Daly. Using this fellowship and the resources in the National

Library's collection, Timothy proposes to read the records of Donald Friend and write a script called 'Fragrance: the Dream-Life of Donald Friend'.

7. Presentation of the 2016 Friends Medal

The Chair announced that the recipient of the 2016 Friends Medal was Dr Patricia Clarke, noting that the Medal was awarded for Patricia's significant contribution to the National Library of Australia over many years.

Patricia has generously given her time as a Committee Member of the Friends of the National Library of Australia between 1997 and 1999 and also filled the Deputy Chair position in 1998.

For 20 years, from 1997 to 2016, Patricia continuously represented the Australian Society of Authors as a member of the Library's Fellowships Advisory Committee, assisting in the selection of all Harold White, National Library Fellows and Summer Scholars, and she was a tenacious advocate for the establishment of the Creative Arts Fellowship. In this capacity, she has also chaired the National Folk Fellowship selection panel since 1996.

Patricia is a tireless supporter of the Library, attending Friends, Fellowship and Library events.

As a former Harold White Fellow and still a Petherick reader, Pat continues to contribute to the intellectual life of the organisation on a daily basis. She maintains a prolific publishing output, particularly in women's history and the history of journalism.

Patricia thanked the Friends Committee for such a great and unexpected honour. She remembered the formation of the Friends in 1990 and the first Friends Committee, commenting how far the organisation had come from when she was on the Committee and finances only permitted the buying of a book for the National Library.

8. Friends Farewell to Anne-Marie Schwirtlich AM

The Chair announced that in recognition of Anne-Marie Schwirtlich's exemplary contribution to the work of the National Library of Australia in her role as Director-General and Chief Librarian, and as a farewell gift from the Friends, the Committee has allocated \$10,000 towards a one-off digitisation project. This project will be named the Friends of the National Library/Anne-Marie Schwirtlich AM Digitisation Project.

The Committee had agreed that this digitisation project should be something of Anne-Marie's choosing. The Chair advised that the project had been selected, and that the funds will support improved access, including selective digitisation, to the papers of Jessie Street.

Born in India, like Anne-Marie herself, Jessie Street (1889–1970) fought hard for many years as an advocate for women's rights in Australia. She was a key figure in Australian political life for over 50 years, well known for campaigning for human rights and women's issues. In 1945, at the founding of the United Nations, she was the only female Australian delegate. In 1967, she initiated a successful amendment to the Australian constitution to remove discriminatory references to Aborigines. The papers of Jessie Street includes diaries, photographs, and writings on feminism, peace and Aboriginal rights. It is a collection in constantly high use and, given that, it is eminently worthy of having some parts digitised.

The Chair invited those in attendance to join her in thanking Anne-Marie and acknowledging her contribution to the National Library by acclamation.

Anne-Marie Schwirtlich thanked the Friends, noting that both she and Patricia Clarke were at the Library in 1990 for the launch of the Friends, and that she and her husband became members that day. She noted that she has been very proud to have been associated with the Friends since that time, and even more closely as the Director-General since 2011.

9. Other Business

Tim Walshaw asked when the National Library will introduce a boom gate for the back carpark, noting that he believes the Library own this land, not the National Capital Authority. The Chair advised that she could not answer this question but would let him know if she hears anything further.

10. Election of the Friends Committee for 2017

The Chair advised that a call for nominations for the twelve vacant positions on the 2017 Friends Committee was included in the September issue of the Friends Newsletter. By close of business on 14 October 2016, nine nominations had been received.

The Chair advised that the following members have nominated to re-join the Committee for another year: Anne Davis, Kathryn Cole, James Ferguson, Gary Kent, Geraldine Mackey, Ingrid Moses, and Jenny Oates. Nominations have also been received from two new nominees: Jennefer Nicholson and Janice Taylor. She noted that this leaves three 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 asked if there were any objections to the appointment of the aforementioned members to the 2017 Committee. As no objections were received, the Chair requested formal acceptance of the aforementioned individuals as members of the 2017 Friends Committee.

Acceptance of the 2017 Friends Committee was proposed by Dennis Pearce and seconded by Paul Mackay. Members present accepted the 2017 Friends Committee without dissent.

The Chair congratulated the successful nominees for the 2017 Friends Committee.

Meeting closed at 6.35pm

AGENDA ITEM 9

Election of the 2018 Friends Committee: Nominee Profiles

Lyn Adams

Lyn commenced volunteering at the Library in 2002 as an exhibition guide; she now helps with sewing projects for Preservation. Lyn served on the Friends Committee as Treasurer between 2009 and 2012 and on the Committee in 2017. Now retired, Lyn brings a variety of skills to the Committee having experience as a nursing sister, Australian and international air hostess, the wife of an army officer posted in Australia and overseas, a graduate of ANU and a public servant.

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 from 2011–2013 and 2016–2017, and served on events and communications sub-committees.

Jennifer Evans

Jennifer has a PhD in English Literature from the University of Western Australia, and is a qualified and experienced secondary school English teacher, having taught in government, independent and Catholic systems in Western Australia, New South Wales and the ACT. Her experience has given her an appreciation of the value of libraries, as well as a passion for their promotion and support. She is an avid user of libraries, and more than halfway through a Certificate III in Library and Information Studies at the Canberra Institute of Technology. Her co-interests include international and current affairs (following nine years' with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, both in Australia and overseas), animal welfare, human rights, and the education of women and girls.

Susan Ford

Susan Ford is currently a research associate at ANU, where she recently graduated with a PhD in Classics. Her earlier career in IT was spent largely in the Australian Public Service designing and programming Centrelink benefit payment systems. She has also worked on analysis and design of large-scale business systems for private firms in London, where she developed an interest in the history of computing and made full and delighted use of the London Library and the British Library. Her professional interests now combine Classics and IT: in particular she earns a living as editor, database developer, translator and tutor. As a digital humanist she is an inveterate library user with an interest in the advancement of both digital and book collections. She has been a student representative on several ANU library advisory committees. She has also been a volunteer guide with the British Museum and is currently a guide for the ANU Classics Museum.

Gary Kent

Gary has been a member of the Friends Committee in 2007–2009, 2011–2013 and 2016–2017, holding the positions of Deputy Chair in 2011 and Chair in 2008–2009, 2012–2013 and 2017. Gary 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.

Ingrid Moses

Ingrid joined the Friends soon after moving to Canberra in early 2006, when she took up the position of Chancellor at the University of Canberra. Since her retirement from the Vice-Chancellorship of the University of New England in early 2006, she has been active in higher education, welfare, community and cultural organisations as a board and committee member and volunteer. She has been a member of the Friends Committee and its events and communications sub-committees for two years. She represents the Independent scholars Association of Australia Inc. on the NLA Fellowships Advisory Committee.

Jennefer Nicholson

Having served as Secretary General of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) (The Hague, Netherlands) for 8 years until her retirement in June 2016, and previously as the Executive Director of ALIA, Jennefer has an acute understanding of how libraries create informational, social, cultural and economic benefits for their users, the wider community and the nation. In IFLA's international advocacy, including in the UN and UNESCO, she was able to promote NLA's innovative programs such as Trove, and user-generated content, as examples of world's best practices. On her return to Canberra in August she joined the NLA Friends as part of my commitment to continue supporting and raising awareness of the significance of library services to our growth as individuals and as a nation.

Richard Reid

Dr Richard Reid is a retired high school teacher, museum education, officer museum curator and public historian. He has been responsible for a number of websites, publications, exhibitions, and overseas tours relating to the story of the Irish in Australia and Australia at war. In 1993, he was the Australian War Memorial's Executive Officer for the return of Australia's Unknown Soldier to the Memorial. In 2011, he was responsible for a major temporary exhibition at the National Museum on the Irish in Australia, *Not Just Ned: The True History of the Irish in Australia*. In 1993, Richard co-founded the Irish/Australian cultural and historical weekend 'Shamrock in the Bush' was the co-organiser of this event for 21 years. He is a Fellow of the Society of Australian Genealogists, was given life membership of the Yass and District Historical Society and has recently been elected a Fellow of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies. Currently, Richard is working on a research project that will hopefully bring a major collection of 20th material relating to an Irish/Australian organisation in Sydney into the collections of the National Library.

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.

Ros Welch

Ros has served on the Friends Committee in 2017 and previously between 2012 and 2014. She was a National Library volunteer for nearly ten years, between 2007 and 2016. She has worked in either secretarial or teaching roles in the United Kingdom, Uganda, Australia, Ghana, Thailand (volunteer), and the Sultanate of Oman. Her interests and hobbies are many and varied, theatre, music, art, travel, reading and tennis. Having trained as a primary school teacher in the UK, she later graduated in Technical Education from UTS Sydney in the early 1980s and taught business administration and communication in TAFE NSW for 18 years. Since moving to the Canberra region in 2000—and supposed retirement—she has worked on a part-time and volunteer basis with migrants and has been fortunate to go to Vietnam, Turkey and New Zealand to present Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL) workshops to trainee teachers.