



**Annual General Meeting  
Thursday 5 November 2015, 5.30pm  
National Library of Australia, Conference Room, Level 4**

## AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and apologies**
- 2. Adoption of the minutes of the 2014 AGM**
- 3. Chair's report**  
Presented by Robyn Oates
- 4. Treasurer's report for 2014-15**  
Presented by James Ferguson
- 5. Presentation by Susan Thomas, recipient of the 2015 Friends Travelling Fellowship**
- 6. Announcement of the 2016 Friends Travelling Fellowship**
- 7. Announcement of the 2016 Friends Creative Arts Fellowship**
- 8. Announcement of the 2015 Friends Medal**
- 9. Other business – invited from the floor**
- 10. Election of the Friends Committee for 2016 – a list of nominees is attached**

**Meeting closure**

**FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA INC.**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
**5.30pm, Thursday 20 November 2014**  
**Conference Room, National Library of Australia**

**Present: Members of the 2014 Committee:**

Joan Kennedy	Chair
Dennis Pearce	Deputy Chair
Bill Geering	Treasurer
Alan Kerr	Member
Robyn Oates	Member
James Sandry	Member
John Seymour	Member
Anne-Marie Schwirtlich	Member
Kathryn Favelle	Member
Cathy Pilgrim	Member
Sharyn O'Brien	Member

**Friends Members Present:**

Don Abey	Frank Mitchell
Margaret Astbury	Dennis Pearce
Kathryn Cole	Diana Pearce
Patricia Denham	James Sandry
Margaret Dent	Andrew Schuller
Debbie Gairns	John Seymour
Bill Geering	Heather Seymour
Margo Geering	Robert Shanks
Elizabeth Gilchrist	Nanette Simmons
Jennifer Higgins	Dallas Stow
Alan Ives	Dierk von Behrens
Joan Kennedy	Tim Walshaw
Gary Kent	Damaris Wilson
Dinny Killen	

**Observers Present:**

Sarah Jaensch
Rachel Romney-Brown
Kate Ross
Susan Thomas
Anthony Wilson

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Joan Kennedy welcomed members.

Apologies were received from Margy Burn, Anne Davis, David Denham, Janet Hadley Williams, Meredith Hinchliffe, Anne Huffam, Paul Larsen, Yvonne Lipscomb, Dianne Parrey, Amanda Pratt, Ros Welch, and John Worcester.

**2. Adoption of minutes of 2013 AGM**

The minutes of the 2013 AGM were examined and no changes were requested. Bill Geering moved that the minutes be accepted, seconded by Dennis Pearce. Members present at the AGM accepted the minutes without dissent.

### **3. Chair's Report for 2014**

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 Chair advised the meeting that 2014 was another very successful year for the Friends, and the Friends have maintained a membership at above 2,000 for the third year in a row. She also advised that 2014 saw a total of 60 functions undertaken under the auspices of the Friends, an average of five per month.

The Chair mentioned highlights of 2014, including a talk by Heather Gascoigne on the Library's *Luminous World* exhibition and an author talk with Hugh Mackay and Alex Sloan. The Friends also celebrated their donation to the Library to digitise the 1975 editions of the *Canberra Times* with a talk by former editor, Ian Mathews.

The Chair advised the Committee that the 2014 Kenneth Myer Lecture was delivered by Professor Brian Schmidt, who spoke on *Science and Society: exploring the roles of research in Australian lives*. This lecture was also repeated to an audience in Melbourne.

The Chair noted that applications had closed for the new *Friends of the National Library Creative Arts Fellowship*, which is open to professional artists, including authors, poets and dramatists, visual artists, musicians, performance artists, dancers, new media artists. Forty-two applications had been received from a strong and very competitive field, with a mix of senior and emerging artists. An announcement of the successful candidate will be made in early 2015.

The Chair acknowledged the Friends Executive Officer Sarah Jaensch 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 Alan Kerr and seconded by Dennis Pearce, with the members present adopting the report without dissent.

### **4. Treasurer's Report for Financial Year 2013-2014**

The Treasurer, Bill Geering, presented the financial statements of the Friends of the National Library for the financial year ended 30 June 2014 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 advised that the auditor, who has audited the Friends' accounts over the past eight years, reports that the Financial Report gives a true and fair view of the Friends financial position as at 30 June 2014 and of its performance for the year ended on that date. The Treasurer noted that the Friends of the National Library has net assets of \$177,201 as at 30 June 2014.

The Treasurer reported there was an operating deficit of \$7,897 for the financial year, with expenses of \$97,156 exceeding income of \$89,260, but also noted that cash-on-hand and at bank had increased to \$173,970. He noted that the year's loss can primarily be attributed to the one-off donation of \$5,000 that the Friends made to the National Library to support the digitisation of the Library's Federation of Australia documents. Other contributing factors included an increase in charges relating to events (eg for security, labourers and audiovisual support), as well as printing costs.

The Treasurer advised the meeting that the Friends have a stable membership base, and overall he considers the Friends of the National Library of Australia to be in a sound financial position.

The Treasurer thanked Joan Kennedy for her hard work during her tenure as Chair, and invited questions about the financial statements.

A member queried why the income from membership had dropped in 2013-14 if there was no substantial change to membership numbers. The Treasurer invited Anthony Wilson, the Friends auditor, to reply to this question. Mr Wilson advised that much of this change is due to a re-profiling in the membership base, where more members are moving to multiyear memberships and therefore an adjustment must be made to the finances to record the payment for the second year as income in advance. Mr Wilson also noted that the key reason for the deficit this year is the donation, and that the soundness of an organisation's financial position is best reflected in their cash in bank income, which is at a very healthy level for the Friends and has increased in the last 12 months.

Acceptance of the financial statements for the 2013-2014 was proposed by Gary Kent and seconded by Alan Ives. Members present at the AGM accepted the statement without dissent.

## **5. Presentation by Kate Ross, recipient of the 2014 Friends Travelling Fellowship**

At the 2013 Friends AGM, Kate Ross was awarded the 2014 Friends Travelling Fellowship. This fellowship enabled Kate to visit four international collecting institutions that are at the forefront of developments in providing access to and exposing historical Indigenous photographic collections onsite and online.

Kate spoke with great enthusiasm about her visits to the Natural History Museum and Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, and the Musee du Quai Branly in Paris. She noted that she has not yet finished her Fellowship as she will be travelling to Wellington in a week's time to complete her final research. She looked forward to presenting this information to the Friends at a later date. She thanked the Friends for providing her with a very special opportunity to expand her knowledge and contribute to the development of the Library's work in relation to improving access to Indigenous photographic collections.

## **6. Presentation of the 2015 Friends Travelling Fellowship**

The Chair announced that the recipient of the 2015 Friends of the National Library Travelling Fellowship is Susan Thomas. This Fellowship will enable Susan to travel to the United Kingdom to research important primary and secondary resource material relating to the history and provenance of the National Library's Clifford Collection. The recipient's work will enhance understanding, description and future access to the Library's medieval collections.

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

## **7. Presentation of the 2014 Friends Medal**

The Chair announced that the recipients of the 2014 Friends Medal are Rachel Romney-Brown and Peter Brown in recognition of their ongoing support for the Friends, both in *bookplate* and *paperplate*, and at the many events over the past 14 years at the Library.

Rachel Romney-Brown accepted the award and thanked the Friends for 14 years of collaboration and success with *bookplate*. She noted that she had always considered it a privilege to operate *bookplate* at the National Library and commended the Friends for the amazing list of speakers that we had hosted over the years that she had the privilege of catering for, including two of her food heroes, Margaret Fulton and Maggie Beer.

## **8. Other Business**

A member raised a query regarding parking at the National Library, advising that he believes the Library owns the small car park at the side of the building, and suggesting the Library add a boom gate to this area to provide regular users with a cheaper parking option.

The Chair advised she would take this question on notice and reply in writing.

### **9. Election of the Friends Committee for 2015**

The Chair advised that a call for nominations for the 12 vacant positions on the 2015 Friends Committee was included in the September issue of the Friends Newsletter and by close of business on 24 October 2014, eight nominations had been received, six from existing Committee members, and two from the Friends membership.

The Chair advised that the following 2014 committee members have nominated to re-join the Committee for another year: John Seymour, Dennis Pearce, Alan Kerr, Robyn Oates, James Sandry and Joan Kennedy.

The Chair advised that there were two new nominees: Dianne Parrey, who was briefly on the Committee in 2014, and Alan Ives who has served on the Committee many times previously.

The Chair advised that two members were retiring from the Committee at this AGM; Bill Geering and Ros Welch. The Chair thanked these members for all their hard work and good humour during their time on the Committee.

The Chair asked for objections to the appointment of any of the aforementioned members to the 2015 Committee. As no objections were received, the Chair requested formal acceptance of the following as members of the 2015 Friends Committee:

Alan Ives  
Alan Kerr  
Joan Kennedy  
Robyn Oates  
Dianne Parrey  
Dennis Pearce  
James Sandry  
John Seymour.

Acceptance of the 2015 Friends Committee was proposed by Bill Geering and seconded by Gary Kent. Members present accepted the 2015 Friends Committee without dissent.

The Chair congratulated the successful nominees for the 2015 Friends Committee.

**Meeting closed at 6.30pm**

## Nominations for the 2016 Committee of the Friends of the National Library of Australia Inc.

### **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 for most of 2015.

### **Alan Ives**

Alan has worked variously as a librarian, archivist and bookseller, working at the National Library of Australia (1971-1973), Australian Archives (1973-1983) and Charles Stuart University (Regional) Archives (1983-1994). He has previously had long term involvement with the Australian Society of Archivists, the International Council on Archives, the Canberra Lifeline Book Fair and the Canberra Antiquarian Book Fair. Alan has been an avid book collector since 1961 and is also an amateur photographer with a special interest in Tasmanian historical buildings. Alan has been a member of the Friends Committee during 2007-2009, 2011-13 and 2015.

### **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). She is now a volunteer guide and guide coordinator (on a voluntary basis) for the National Arboretum's guiding service which is sponsored by the Friends of the Arboretum, and is a member of the Friends of the Arboretum Council. Kathryn has lived in Canberra since 1976 and enjoys reading, walking and travelling. She was a member of the Friends of the National Library Committee in 2015.

### **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. 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".

### **Robyn Oates**

Robyn Oates is a graduate of Sydney University. She taught English Literature and English as a Second Language. In 2002 she returned to Canberra after living in London for some years. There, she held English language classes for diplomatic partners and furthered her studies. Before retirement she was Head of the English Department at Canberra Grammar School. Currently she is the research officer for Legacy Australia. She is an active volunteer with the Library and has been a member of the Friends Committee in 2010-2012 and 2014-15, taking on the role of Chair in 2015

### **John Seymour**

Until the end of 1998, Dr Seymour was a Reader in the Faculty of Law, The Australian National University; on his retirement, he was appointed an Adjunct Professor in the ANU College of Law. In retirement he has undertaken research in two quite different areas: naval history and child protection law. John has been on the Committee of the Friends of the National Library since 2014. He has served on the Communications Sub-Committee, and in 2015 became the editor of Friends' newsletter.