



**Friends of the National Library of Australia Inc.**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
Thursday 22 November 2018, 5.30pm  
Conference Room, National Library of Australia

**AGENDA**

- 1. Welcome and Apologies**
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting**
- 3. Chair's Report**  
Presented by Gary Kent
- 4. Financial Report 2017–2018**  
Presented by Jennefer Nicholson
- 5. Presentation by Kathryn Favelle, recipient of the 2018 Friends Travelling Fellowship**
- 6. Announcement of the 2019 Friends Travelling Fellowship**
- 7. Announcement of the 2019 Creative Arts Fellowship**
- 8. Presentation of the 2018 Friends Medal**
- 9. Other Business**
- 10. Election of the Friends Committee for 2019**
- 11. Closure of Meeting**

**AGENDA ITEM 2**

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

**PRESENT: 2017 Committee Members**

Gary Kent	<i>Chair</i>
Kathryn Cole	<i>Deputy-Chair</i>
James Ferguson	<i>Treasurer</i>
Lyn Adams	<i>Member</i>
Anne Davis	<i>Member</i>
Susan Ford	<i>Member</i>
Geraldine Mackey	<i>Member</i>
Jennefer Nicholson	<i>Member</i>
Jenny Oates	<i>Member</i>
Janice Taylor	<i>Member</i>
Ros Welch	<i>Member</i>
Kathryn Favelle	<i>NLA Representative</i>
Katherine Crane	<i>Acting Executive Officer</i>

**Friends Members**

John Arundel	Lynn Parry
Christine Barnsley	Dennis Pearce
Linette Bone	Diana Pearce
David Denham	Richard Reid
Patricia Denham	Andrew Schuller
Margaret Dent	Heather Seymour
Jennifer Evans	John Seymour
Michael Falk	David Simmonds
David Funnell	Margaret Simmonds
Graham Jackson	Benita Thomas
Sylvia Marchant	Brian Thomas
Robyn Oates	

**Observers**

Sharyn O'Brien  
Carolyn Young

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Gary Kent welcomed members and noted that there were enough members present for a quorum.

Apologies were received from Marion Amies, Marie-Louise Ayres, Sharon Claydon, Meredith Hinchcliff, Ingrid Moses, John Moses, Cathy Pilgrim, Mary Pollard, Valerie Staggs, Elizabeth Storrs, Kevin White and John Worcester.

### **2. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the 2016 AGM were examined and no changes were requested. Dennis Pearce moved that the minutes be accepted, and the motion was seconded by Janice Taylor. Members present at the AGM accepted the minutes without dissent.

### **3. Chair's Report for 2017**

The Chair, Gary Kent, presented his report and noted that 2017 had been another year of significant achievement for the Friends.

The Chair noted the ongoing challenges of maintaining membership. Membership reached a low of 1892 members in July last year but has climbed to 1952 by the end of October 2017. This in part reflects the membership strategy adopted by the Committee on advice from the 2016 Memberships Sub-committee. The Chair thanked James Ferguson for chairing the Sub-Committee. Other factors contributing to the rise in membership include partnerships with other organisations, promotion of the Friends at Library events and the ongoing discounts offered to Friends on National Library events and Bookshop purchases. The Chair also noted this year's launch of the Friends page on Facebook, and encouraged members to follow and promote the page.

The Chair noted that the forthcoming increase in membership fees—decided on this year by the Committee—will be the first increase since 2003. The current fees have not kept up with cost increases. The increase will also allow the Friends to continue supporting the Library, the main objective of the Friends. The Chair then noted the ways in which the Friends support the Library, including two fellowships, and in 2017 the \$10,000 gifted to the Library to support the digitisation of the Papers of Jessie Street in honour of retiring Director-General Anne-Marie Schwirtlich AM.

The Chair thanked Acting Executive Officer Katherine Crane and Administration Officer Belinda Jessup for their work in the Friends Office. He also thanked Library staff Marie-Louise Ayres, Cathy Pilgrim, Kathryn Favelle and Eleanor Hing Fay for their support of the Friends.

The Chair advised that Friends Executive Officer Sharyn O'Brien has received a well-deserved promotion and will be moving after a decade with the Friends. He thanked Sharyn for her unfailing commitment to and passion for the Friends over such a long period and noted what an asset this had been to the Friends.

The Chair thanked his fellow committee members for their hard work and noted that Deputy Chair Kathryn Cole, Treasurer James Ferguson, Jenny Oates and Geraldine Mackey are retiring from the Committee this year. He thanked them for their commitment.

The Chair paid tribute to long-time Friend and Committee member Alan Ives, who died during the year.

The Chair called for questions but none were received.

Lyn Adams moved that the Chair's report be accepted and the motion was seconded by Janice Taylor. Members present accepted the report without dissent.

#### **4. Financial Report 2017–2018**

The Treasurer, James Ferguson, presented the financial statements of the Friends of the National Library for the financial year ending 30 June 2017 and advised the meeting that copies of the financial statement had been made available on entry to the meeting.

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 \$5,344 for the financial year, with expenses of \$86,995 exceeding income of \$81,651. He noted that this was a pleasing result as the expenditure figure included the \$30,000 contributed to the Library for the Creative Arts Fellowship, the Travelling Fellowship, and the digitisation of the Papers of Jessie Street.

The Treasurer noted that these payments are outlined in the 'Detailed Income Statement' on page 16 of the financial report. The Treasurer also noted that one factor of significance is the decline in income from memberships, which prompted a membership drive during the year. Another figure to note is the significant decrease in the cost of postage, reflecting the move to greater use of electronic communication.

The Treasurer noted the Committee's commitment to supporting the Library financially through Fellowships and other activities, as supporting the Library is the Friends' ultimate objective.

The Treasurer thanked the 2017 Finance Sub-Committee for their help throughout the year. He also offered both thanks and congratulations to Sharyn O'Brien on her promotion.

The Treasurer called for questions but none were received.

Jennefer Nicholson moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted and the motion was seconded by Kathryn Cole. Members present at the AGM accepted the statements without dissent.

The Chair offered thanks to the Treasurer for his efforts and noted that he will be missed.

#### **5. Announcement of the 2018 Creative Arts Fellowship**

The Chair announced that the recipient of the 2018 Friends of the National Library Creative Arts Fellowship is Dr Carolyn Young, a visual artist from Wamboin. The Chair noted that Carolyn's photography is held in many public collections, including that of Parliament House. Carolyn will use this fellowship to make new art based on Australian mammals of endangered grassy woodlands, linking colonial and contemporary experiences.

Carolyn told the Friends that she is thrilled to have received this fellowship and looks forward to using Library collections, including John Gould's book of mammals. She advised that she will be in residence for a fortnight from 27 November and then again in February 2018. After that, she will begin making her artwork in preparation for a solo exhibition in Goulburn.

#### **6. Presentation of the 2017 Friends Medal**

The Chair announced that the recipient of the 2016 Friends Medal is Sharyn O'Brien, noting that the Medal was awarded for Sharyn's significant contribution to the Friends as Executive Officer since 2006.

Sharyn has been one of the longest-serving Friends executive officers, if not the longest serving. She has provided sound advice, continuity, and great service to the Friends of the National Library and, through it, to the Library itself. During her tenure, Sharyn has provided strong advocacy for the Friends within the National Library. She has worked to advance the interest of the Friends while assisting the Committee to ensure the Friends remains a strong, financially viable organisation. She has provided outstanding secretariat support to many committees and sub-committees, and delivered an outstanding program of Friends events.

Much of what Sharyn has achieved has not always been visible, although it is no less important. This work includes ensuring the Friends meets all its obligations under the *Associations Incorporation Act* and associated regulations, managing the Friends membership database, and maintaining relationships with Friends partners.

Sharyn thanked the Friends and said that she was honoured to receive the Medal. She noted that she had first started as Friends Executive Officer in 2006, and has had seven years total in the role, around maternity leave and other acting roles. She felt particularly blessed to have had this time with the wonderful people of the Committee and the membership at large, and reminisced about the many fascinating people she had met through Friends events.

## **7. Other Business**

The Chair was asked for an update on the Friends Travelling Fellowship, and reported that there would be news very soon. No decision had been made at the date of the AGM, but the Chair expected that there would be a result in the fortnight following.

## **8. Election of the Friends Committee for 2018**

The Chair advised that a call for nominations for the twelve vacant positions on the 2018 Friends Committee was included in the September issue of the Friends Newsletter. By close of business on 23 October 2017, ten nominations had been received.

The Chair advised that the following members nominated to re-join the Committee for another year: Lyn Adams, Anne Davis, Susan Ford, Gary Kent, Ingrid Moses, Jennefer Nicholson, Janice Taylor and Ros Welch. Nominations have also been received from two new nominees: Jennifer Evans and Richard Reid. He noted that this left two 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 2018 Committee. As no objections were received, the Chair requested formal acceptance of the aforementioned individuals as members of the 2018 Friends Committee.

Acceptance of the 2018 Friends Committee was proposed by Christine Barnsley and seconded by David Pearce. Members present accepted the 2018 Friends Committee without dissent.

The Chair congratulated the successful nominees for the 2018 Friends Committee and noted that the first meeting of the new Committee would be held on 5 December 2017.

**Meeting closed at 6.05pm**

**AGENDA ITEM 10**

**Election of the 2019 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 and 2018. 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.

**Diane Bell**

As a Friend, Diane has enjoyed the special events where library experts have taken us inside the collections and explained special holdings, and has found the presentations of the recipients of travelling and creative arts fellowships sponsored by the Friends to be stimulating and a tribute to the foresight of the Friends. She is currently preparing her own papers for deposit in the NLA and has the greatest respect for the staff and administration who have been uniformly thoughtful and engaged. She has held senior positions in higher education in Australia and the USA, undertaken a range of consultancies for community-based entities and, after retiring as Professor Emerita of Anthropology, The George Washington University, USA returned home to Australia in 2005. She is currently Distinguished Honorary Professor in the College of Asia and the Pacific at the ANU. She has published widely across a number of fields and genres, including *Daughters of the Dreaming*, *Generations: Grandmothers, mothers and daughters*, *Evil: A novel*; *Listen to Ngarrindjeri Women Speaking*, and *Ngarrindjeri Wurruwarrin: A world that is, was and will be*.

**Howard Murray**

Howard Murray is a retired public servant with a working background largely in investigation, security and human services. He has a keen interest in history and is an active member of two historical societies. He regularly attends presentations and events at the National Library and since early 2018 has been an invited member of the Friends Committee, specifically as a member of the Communications Sub-Committee. He seeks election to the Committee to continue to assist in contributing to its important role in support of the National Library.

**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 2017 she joined the NLA Friends as part of her commitment to continue supporting and raising awareness of the significance of library services to our growth as individuals and as a nation.

**Mary Pollard**

Mary joined the Friends of the National Library of Australia Inc. in July 2009. She is a qualified librarian and has worked as a Reference Librarian in university libraries and at the Australian War

Memorial Research Centre. For the last 8 years of her career she worked in collections management at the National Archives of Australia in Canberra. On retirement she joined the Volunteers of the National Library and now enjoy doing research for guest authors for the Publications team, working front of house at the information desk in the weekends and public holidays, and attending the many functions organised at the Library.

### **Grahame Thom**

Grahame moved to Canberra from Sydney in 1963 to take up a position with the Government Printing Office. Not long after he used the Library's reading room at Kings Avenue, Barton. He continued using the Library's facilities when the new building opened in 1968. He was using the library's facilities to such an extent staff thought he must be a professional researcher, which he was not. Mostly his research related to his interest in family history and history generally. All this continued till 1991 when he was transferred to Hobart for work purposes, then to Melbourne up to 2001 when he retired as a senior executive. He now lives in rural Victoria. His qualifications include Bachelor of Economics and FCPA. He is a Fellow of the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra. He holds a reader's card, has been a member of the Friends of NLA since 2008. He is listed 14 times in the NLA's online catalogue and his web site has been archived by Pandora.

### **Ros Welch**

Ros has served on the Friends Committee in 2017 and 2018, 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.