

Friends of the National Library of Australia Inc.

Annual General Meeting

5.30pm Tuesday 10 November 2022

Library Theatre and online via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85762081295?pwd=RGlhVW03QzlwZjQyRG1vM0VESDd0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 857 6208 1295

Passcode: 406381

Agenda

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting
Previous minutes at [APPENDIX A](#)
3. Chair's Report
Presented by Margaret Nichols
4. Financial Report
Presented by Jo Schumann – Financial Statements at [APPENDIX B](#)
5. Friends Creative Arts Fellowship for 2023
6. Presentation of the 2022 Friends Medal
7. Other Business
8. Election of the Friends Committee for 2023
Nominee profiles at [APPENDIX C](#)
9. Closure of Meeting

APPENDIX A

Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

Online, Tuesday 30 November 2021, 5.30pm

1. Welcome & Apologies

Attendees

Friends Members:

Lynette Adams	Howard Murray
Catherine Anderson	Patricia Murray
Kerry Blackburn	Nivarith Nair
Helen Catchatoor	Margaret Nichols
Robyn Cavuoto	Cate Nunan
Nancy Clarke	Karin Oldfield
Sandy Clugston	Michael Pearson
Ann Crewe	Mary Pollard
Anne Davis	Kade Price
Ken Douglas	Anna Robinson
Karen Downing	Jo Schumann
Melanie Drake	Josephine Shanks
Alan Duff	Robert Shanks
Rosemary Everett	Dallas Stow
Jan Febey	Damaris Stow
Susan Ford	Peter Taft
Sue Gage	Janice Taylor
Shirley Gollings	Grahame Thom
Margaret Goode	Peter Wise
Carole Grey	John Worcester
Janet Hadley Williams	
Jenny Hefford	
Peggy Horn	
Christopher Kenna	
Elizabeth Kentwell	
Brigitte Kestermann	
Colleen Kinnane	
Robert Laird	
Victoria Luker	

Apologies:

Marie-Louise Ayres, Director-General
Meredith Hinchliffe
Larissa Karpish
Gary Kent
Coleen Kinnane
Marian Amies
Karin Oldfield
Gillian Bellas
Margaret Dent

Library staff:

Kathryn Favelle
Stuart Baines
Melanie Olde

Chair, Kerry Blackburn opened the meeting with an Acknowledgment of Country; welcomed members and noted the apologies.

2. Acceptance of the Previous Minutes

The previous minutes were circulated with the meeting papers and were found to be an accurate record of the 2020 AGM.

Moved to accept: Howard Murray

Seconded: Margaret Nichols

3. Chair's Report

Kerry outlined the detail of the various events held throughout the year, noting the ongoing challenges with the pandemic which have impacted activity within the Library and for Friends. Fortunately, some onsite Library events were able to be held, however the Friends continued to utilize the Zoom platform to enable remote engagement.

Declining membership continues to be an issue, so memberships were extended for a further 3 months, as in 2020, as a gesture of thanks to members for continuing their support at this time.

Kerry gave a brief insight into upcoming events for 2022, and noted some other areas of development this year including the re-branding of Friends marketing assets featuring Ellis Rowan watercolours; and the signing of MOUs with the Library regarding the Creative Arts Fellowship and the Staff Travelling Fellowship. Further behind-the-scenes work included engagement with regional area Library networks across the country as part of the 'Spotlight on...' series in the quarterly newsletter.

Kerry noted that several Committee members are retiring this year and we say goodbye to Janice Taylor, the Deputy Chair; Graham Thom, our Treasurer; Meredith Hinchliffe, who chaired the Events Subcommittee that still managed to achieve a significant number of events this year; Margo Geering, who telephoned many of the members who had let their membership lapse so we could better understand their reasons; and Colleen Kinnane, who led the small team which produced a comprehensive plan to refresh Friends communications. Kerry gave a vote of thanks to Library representatives on the Committee, Stuart Baines, Helen Wade and Dr Marie-Louise Ayres; and other Library and Friends staff, in particular Melanie Olde, Belinda Jessup and Judith Roga. Kerry noted this is her third and final year on the Committee and gave thanks to all members who contributed in 2021.

4. Financial Report

Treasurer Grahame Thom spoke about the financial results for the 2020-21 financial year, noting the significant impact of the pandemic on Library operations, and therefore on membership income. This is considered likely to continue impacting the Friends activities next year.

This year's activities resulted in a surplus of \$8,776 compared with \$9,772 in 2020. Equity stands at \$101,426 compared with \$92,650 in 2020. Cash reserves remain healthy at \$162,954, compared with \$155,951 the previous year, and complies with the Friends' cash reserves policy that reserves not be less than \$100,000.

This year, the total income was \$77,233, and in the previous year \$92,064. Total expenses for the year were \$68,457, a corresponding drop from \$82,292 in 2020. This last year was \$68,457, and the previous year \$82,292. These figures demonstrate the reduction in financial activity for the Friends this year. The Friends wish to thank a kind member who donated \$2,000 during the year. The Committee will, in conjunction with the member, decide on the best option to use these funds.

Grahame proposed and recommended that the financial statements for the Friends in 2021 be approved.

Moved: Margaret Goode

Seconded: Nivi Nair

5. Fellowships

Kerry confirmed that the Travelling Staff Fellowship was unable to be awarded this year because of the limitations imposed by COVID-19. The previous year's awardee, Ben Pratten, will hopefully be able to submit a revised proposal as opportunities for domestic and perhaps overseas travel open up so that he can realise his fellowship.

Kerry advised that there were 28 very high-quality candidates for the Creative Arts Fellowship this year, across fields such as music, dance, theatre and visual art. The selected candidate was announced as Dr Tanya Lemoh, who gave an introduction on her research into the musical world of Henry Handel Richardson and thanked the Committee for the opportunity.

6. Presentation of the Friends Medal

This year marks the 15th year in which the Friends medal has been awarded to recognise the significant contribution to the work of the Library by Friends members or Library staff or volunteers. Kerry announced that this year's Friends Medal recipient is Margaret Goode. Margaret led the comprehensive review last year of the Friends Rules of Association. The updated rules, which passed unanimously at the special general meeting held in November 2020, ensure the organisation is now compliant with the very latest ACT legislation and that both the role, and the objectives, of the of the Friends is better reflected. Margaret was also part of various subcommittees and has been a key member of the volunteer guides. Margaret developed the concept of the popular art and architecture of the Library tour. Further, Margaret was the initiator of the small group of Library volunteers who contribute to Off Stage, a digital database which is hosted by Flinders University and preserves the history of live performance in Australia from 1789 until the present day. It was recognised earlier this year that the database was in the Australian Memory of the World Register.

Margaret accepted the award and thanked her fellow Committee members, Library staff and volunteers.

7. Other Business

No other business was raised.

8. Election of the Friends Committee for 2022

All nominees have been confirmed as financial members of the Friends and have submitted the required documentation in support of their nomination. The nominees are, Nancy Clarke, Ken Douglas, Sue Gage, Dr Peggy Horne, Larissa Karpish, Christopher Kenna, Gary Kent, Margaret Nichols, Karen Oldfield, Dr Anna Robinson, and Jo Schumann. The Committee was unanimously elected. The Chair congratulated the successful nominees for the 2022 Committee and closed the meeting, with no further business to discuss.

APPENDIX B

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2022

APPENDIX C

COMMITTEE NOMINEE PROFILES

Kerry Blackburn

Kerry was a member Friends Committee from 2019-2021. Kerry's interest in nominating for the Friends Committee has developed over her 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. Kerry is the current Editor of the Friends quarterly newsletter.

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. I served on the Committee and the Events subcommittee in 2022.

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.

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, its role as a cultural caretaker.

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.

Margaret Nichols

I joined the Committee in 2021 and served as Chair during most of 2022. It has been a challenging time. 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 11 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.

Michalina Stawyskyj

Michalina has been a member of the Friends since 2010 and was co-opted to the Committee in 2022. She spent 17 years as a high school history and geography teacher and held several positions in the History Teachers Association of Victoria, including as President. She had an extensive APS career over a 26-year period including as Head of Education and Visitor Services at the Australia War Memorial where she developed programs to enhance the visitor experience. Michalina held various corporate, workplace relations and human resources positions in the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and the Department of Families and Community Services. Michalina received the Public Service Medal for her work at the Australian Public Service Commission.