

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

**Friends of the National Library of
Australia Incorporated**

Financial Statements

30 June 2022

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Friends of the National Library of Australia Incorporated

Committee's Report

Your Committee members submit the financial report of the Friends of the National Library of Australia Incorporated (the Association) for the financial year ended 30 June 2022.

Committee Members

The names of the Committee members during the year or at the date of this statement were:

- Margaret Nichols (Chair)
- Gary Kent (Deputy Chair)
- Josephine Schumann (Treasurer)
- Nancy Clarke
- Ken Douglas
- Sue Gage
- Peggy Horn
- Larissa Karpish
- Nivarith Nair
- Karin Oldfield
- Michalina Stawyskyj
- Christopher Kenna (resigned February)
- Anna Robinson (resigned April)
- Marie-Louise Ayres (Director-General, NLA)
- Stuart Baines (NLA Representative)
- Helen Wade (NLA Representative)
- Melanie Olde (Executive Officer to March)
- Lauren Conron (Executive Officer from June).

Friends of the National Library of Australia Incorporated

Committee's Report (continued)

Objects

The objects of the Association are:

- (i) to promote and support community awareness of the National Library of Australia and the benefit to the community that it provides;
- (ii) to foster among Members of the Association and others a sense of involvement with, and understanding of, the collections, objectives and operations of the National Library of Australia;
- (iii) to raise funds for activities of the Association, consistent with the objects of the Association;
- (iv) to encourage and promote such other purposes of the national library of Australia consistent with the objects of the Association, including through donations of funds to the National Library of Australia;
- (v) to co-operate with other Australian libraries, museums and kindred organisations from time to time for any purposes consistent with these Objects.

Significant changes

No significant change in the nature of these objects occurred during the year.

Operating result

The operating surplus for the year amounted to \$708 [2021 surplus: \$8,776].

Friends of the National Library of Australia Incorporated

Statement by Members of the Committee (Responsible Persons' Declaration)

In the opinion of the Committee, the accompanying financial report is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the results and cash flows of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2022 and the state of affairs of the Association as at that date.


The accompanying financial report of the Association is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the provisions of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* of the Australian Capital Territory, accounting standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.

In the opinion of the Committee, the Association will be able to meet its debts as and when they fall due.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee and subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013.



Margaret Nichols - Chair



Josephine Schumann - Treasurer

Dated this 24th day of October 2022.



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

I have audited the financial report of the Friends of the National Library (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the Statement by Members of the Committee.

In my opinion the financial report of the Friends of the National Library has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. I am independent of the Friends of the National Library in accordance with the ethical requirements of the *Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the *Code*) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the *Code*.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of Committee for the Financial Report

The Committee of the Friends of the National Library is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the ACNC Act, and for such internal control as the Committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Committee is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Committee either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Committee is responsible for the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet the needs of the stakeholders.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located on the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website and forms part of this audit report. Refer http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf

AccountAbility



Anthony Wilson
Registered Company Auditor
Canberra, ACT
24 October 2022

Friends of the National Library of Australia Incorporated

Statement of comprehensive income

For the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
<i>Income</i>		
Memberships	55,080	66,982
Functions	7,136	7,350
Donations	-	2,035
Interest	305	838
Other revenue	93	28
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income	62,614	77,233
<i>Expenses</i>		
Audit	1,650	1,650
Credit card charges	1,031	1,094
Donations and awards:		
<i>FNLA Creative Fellowship</i>	-	10,000
<i>Friends Medal</i>	22	22
Functions and hospitality	4,016	7,652
Insurance	1,634	1,947
Postage	9,362	8,822
Printing and stationery	4,747	6,063
Staff amenities/hire charges	-	52
Sundry expenses	895	1,484
Wages	38,115	29,216
Depreciation	435	455
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenses	61,906	68,457
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Operating surplus	708	8,776
Other comprehensive income	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total comprehensive income	708	8,776

The accompanying notes form part of these accounts

Friends of the National Library of Australia Incorporated

Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2022

	<i>Note</i>	2022 \$	2021 \$
Current assets			
Cash	3	161,880	162,954
Receivables – interest/other		161	611
Prepayments		1,332	1,189
Total current assets		163,373	164,754
Non-current assets			
Equipment		-	435
Total non-current assets		-	435
Total assets		163,373	165,189
Current liabilities			
Creditors		4,573	1,821
Income in advance		57,012	61,942
Total current liabilities		61,239	63,763
Total liabilities		61,239	63,763
Net assets		102,134	101,426
Equity			
Accumulated funds		102,134	101,426

The accompanying notes form part of these accounts

Friends of the National Library of Australia Incorporated

Statement of recognised income and expense

For the year ended 30 June 2022

	Accumulated funds	Total
Balance as at 1 July 2020	92,650	92,650
Result attributable to members	8,776	8,776
Balance as at 30 June 2021	101,426	101,426
Result attributable to members	708	708
Balance as at 30 June 2022	102,134	102,134

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 June 2022

	<i>Note</i>	2022 \$	2021 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from membership		50,150	65,902
Receipts from events and others		7,228	9,413
Payments to suppliers, employees and others		(59,208)	(69,029)
Interest received		756	717
<i>Cash provided/(utilised) by operating activities</i>	4	(1,074)	7,003
<i>Net cash movement for the year</i>		(1,074)	7,003
Cash at beginning of the year		162,954	155,951
Cash at end of the year	3	161,880	162,954

The accompanying notes form part of these accounts

Friends of the National Library of Australia Incorporated

Notes to and forming part of the accounts

1. Statement of significant accounting policies

The financial report covers the Friends of the National Library of Australia Incorporated as an individual entity. The Friends of the National Library of Australia Incorporated is an association incorporated in the ACT under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* and is registered as a charity under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Basis of Preparation

This financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical cost.

Accounting Policies

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Association in the preparation of the financial report. The reporting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

(a) New and amended accounting policies adopted by the Association

The Association has adopted all new, revised or amended accounting standards and interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are mandatory for the current reporting period. For the year ended 30 June 2022, the Association has adopted *AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements - Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities*.

The adoption of AASB 1060 has not had any material impact on the financial performance or position of the company because the company's previous financial statements complied with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements. The adoption of AASB 1060 has resulted in some minor disclosure changes in the financial statements.

(b) Membership subscriptions

Membership subscriptions are recorded in the year for which the subscription relates. Membership subscriptions paid in advance are recognised as a liability to the Association. The Committee deem that the provision of benefits to members over the membership period represents a performance obligation under *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers*.

Friends of the National Library of Australia Incorporated

Notes to and forming part of the accounts

1. Statement of significant accounting policies (continued)

(c) Cash

For the purposes of the Statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand, at banks and on deposit.

(d) Taxation

The Friends of the National Library of Australia Incorporated is exempt from income tax under *Section 50-5* of the *Income Tax Assessment Act*.

The Association is not registered for GST purposes with the Australian Taxation Office and accordingly does not charge GST for its services nor is it entitled to claim any GST credits on its expenses.

(e) Comparative figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

(f) Financial instruments - recognition

When held, financial instruments would be initially measured at cost on trade date, which includes transaction costs, when the related contractual rights or obligations exist. Subsequent to initial recognition these instruments are measured as set out below:

Loans and receivables – these are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Held-to-maturity investments – these investments have fixed maturities, and it is the Association's intention to hold these investments to maturity. Any "held-to-maturity" investments held by the Association are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Financial liabilities – non-derivative financial liabilities are recognised at amortised cost, comprising original debt less principal payments and amortisation.

Friends of the National Library of Australia Incorporated

Notes to and forming part of the accounts

2. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The Committee members evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and other available data, obtained both externally and within the Association.

Key Estimates - Impairment

The Association assesses impairment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the group of assets that may lead to the impairment of those assets. Where an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. Value in use calculations performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number of key estimates.

Critical Judgements – not applicable for 2022.

	2022 \$	2021 \$
3. Cash at bank		
Main operating account	51,438	52,569
Business Optimiser account	37,442	37,385
Term deposit	73,000	73,000
	<u>161,880</u>	<u>162,954</u>

4. Reconciliation of Cash flows from operating activities to operating result

Operating result for the year	708	8,776
Depreciation	435	455
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	450	(94)
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	(143)	236
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	2,406	(1,291)
Increase/(decrease) in income in advance	(4,930)	(1,079)
	<u>1,074</u>	<u>7,003</u>

Friends of the National Library of Australia Incorporated

Notes to and forming part of the accounts

5. Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

There are no contingent assets or contingent liabilities of the Association at 30 June 2022.

6. Related party transactions

All transactions between the members of the Committee and the Association are on normal commercial terms.

7. Events after the reporting date

There have been no events after the reporting date which have had a material impact on the Association but the Committee highlight Note 8 of this financial report.

8. Significant events during the reporting year

The ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic during the financial year once again had a significant effect on the operations of the National Library of Australia and on the Friends; and is considered likely to have had an impact on the level of membership.

Access to the Library was restricted in accordance with COVID-safe requirements, limitations were placed on Friends events on-site and a number of events and meetings were held online. However, the Friends Committee and sub-committees continue to work on both established and new membership acquisition and retention strategies.

9. Resources provided free of charge

The National Library of Australia makes in-kind contributions to the Association through the provision of staff and other corporate type resources. No amounts for these in-kind contributions are included in the Association's financial statements.

Friends of the National Library of Australia Incorporated

Notes to and forming part of the accounts

10. Financial Instruments

(a) Financial risk management

The Association's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, local money market instruments, short term investments, accounts receivable and payable.

The Association does not have any derivative financial instruments at 30 June 2022.

Financial Risk

The main risks the Association is exposed to through its financial instruments are interest rate risk, liquidity risk and credit risk.

Liquidity risk

The Association manages liquidity risk by monitoring forecast cash flows and ensuring that sufficient cash balances are maintained for its continued activities.

Credit Risk

The Association does not have any material credit risk exposure to any single receivable or group of receivables under financial instruments entered into by the Association.

(b) Interest Rate Risk

The Association's exposure to interest rate risk is the risk that investment income associated with a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market interest rates.

Financial Liabilities

The Association has no interest rate risk on any liabilities.

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.