

Friends of the National Library of Australia Inc.

Annual General Meeting

5.45pm Thursday 30 November 2023

Library Theatre and online via Zoom (login via the link below)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87261344587?pwd=ROZKWVRkTjdQSDJ1Y1M0QmIrSWQxdz09>

Agenda

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting -
[APPENDIX A](#)
3. Chair's Report
Presented by Margaret Nichols
4. Financial Report – Audited Financial Statements at [APPENDIX B](#)
Presented by Michalina Stawyskyj
5. Proposed Changes to the Rules of Association - [APPENDIX C](#)
The following resolution will be put to members:
That the Friends of the National Library of Australia Inc adopt by Special Resolution the revised Rules of Association dated August 2023
6. Friends Creative Arts Fellowship for 2024
7. Staff Travelling Fellowship 2020
Presented by Ben Pratten
8. Presentation of the 2023 Friends Medal
9. Address from Dr Marie-Louise Ayres FAHA, Director-General
10. Other Business
11. Election of the Friends Committee for 2024
Nominee profiles at [APPENDIX D](#)

APPENDIX A

Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting

Online and at the Library, Tuesday 10 November 2022, 5.30pm

Attendees

Friends Members:

Marion Amies	Catherine Anderson	Kerry Blackburn
Kay Blue	Peter Boege	Sandy Clugston
Diana Dack	Anne Davis	Ken Douglas
Karen Downing	Alan Duff	Rosemary Everett
Sue Gage	Kate Gordon	Meredith Hinchliffe
Peggy Horn	Joe Johnson	Larissa Karpish
Irene Kaspar	Amanda Lynch	Margaret May
Roberta McRae	Elizabeth Nelson	Margaret Nichols
Nina Pangahas	Pamela Rutland	Jo Schumann
Michalina Stawyskyj	Peter Taft	Grahame Thom
Jean Stewart		

Library Staff:

Lauren Conron	Belinda Jessup	Ben Pratten
Loris Gulliver	Stuart Baines	Grace Blakeley-Carroll

Apologies:

Joan Adler	Marie-Louise Ayres	Sonja Barfoed
Margy Burn	Helen Catchatoor	Nancy Clarke
Patricia Clarke	Lynne Curran	Elizabeth Morrison
Ingrid Moses	John Moses	Robyn Oates
Mary Pollard	Gary Kent	Kevin White

Chair Margaret Nichols opened the meeting with an Acknowledgment of Country; welcomed members and noted the apologies.

1. Acceptance of the Previous Minutes

The previous minutes were circulated with the meeting papers and were found to be an accurate record of the 2021 AGM.

Moved to accept: Peggy Horn

Seconded: Sue Gage

2. Chair's Report

Margaret Nichols provided an overview of the 12 Friends events held so far this year, a mixture of in house, hybrid and online only formats. The White Gloves: Irish Echoes event was particularly well attended and ran smoothly due to the efforts of Library staff, for which the Friends are grateful.

Margaret noted that membership is still in decline, however the Committee's membership working group continues work to rectify the situation. Margaret thanked members who have steadfastly retained their membership.

Margaret thanked all the 2022 Committee members and noted outgoing members Jo Schumann, Ken Douglas, Karin Oldfield, Larissa Karpish and Nivi Nair, whose contributions and commitment are much appreciated. A vote of thanks was also given for Library staff for their support of the Friends - Lauren Conron, Belinda Jessup, Ben Pratten, Stuart Baines, Helen Wade, Luke Hickey and Director-General Dr Marie-Louise Ayres.

Motion to accept the Chair's Report: Meredith Hinchliffe
Seconded: Sue Gage

3. Financial Report

The audited financial statements for 2021-22 were circulated with the meeting papers. Treasurer Jo Schumann presented the financial report, noting the continued negative impact of the pandemic on membership income. The allocation of membership income in advance (and the impact of membership extensions provided during lockdown) has resulted in a small surplus of \$708. The surplus resulted from a total income of \$62,614, compared with \$77,233 in the previous year; and total expenses for the year of \$61,906, compared with \$68,457 in the previous year.

The overall financial position of the organisation remains healthy with cash reserves at \$161,880, similar to last year's result. This complies with the Friends cash reserves policy that reserves not be less than \$100,000.

The Committee at its last meeting discussed the priorities of increasing new memberships and working with the Library on investment/financial support for new library projects such as digitisation or acquisition, to reduce cash reserves.

Jo recommended that the financial statements for the Friends in 2022 be approved.

Moved: Larissa Karpish
Seconded: Margaret Nichols

4. Fellowships

Margaret advised that an announcement will be forthcoming on the Staff Travelling Fellowship, however we are able to announce the 2022 Creative Arts Fellow – Sam Wallman. Sam is a comic journalist whose work will focus on the Green and Pink Bans by unionised workers in the 1970s. Sam sent a thank you video which was played to the audience.

5. Presentation of the Friends Medal

This year marks the 16th 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. Margaret announced that this year's Friends Medal recipient is Kerry Blackburn, recognised for her significant contributions to the Committee and as a Library volunteer for over 10 years.

Kerry accepted the award and thanked the Committee members, Library staff and volunteers.

6. Other Business

No other business was raised.

7. Election of the Friends Committee for 2023

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, Sue Gage, Dr Peggy Horne, Gary Kent, Margaret Nichols and Kerry Blackburn. The Committee was unanimously elected.

The Chair noted that members will be co-opted to the Committee in accordance with the Rules of Association. Margaret congratulated the successful nominees for the 2023 Committee and closed the meeting, with no further business to discuss.

Meeting closed at 6.00pm.

APPENDIX B

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023

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

Financial Statements

30 June 2023

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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 2023.

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)
- Michalina Stawyskyj (Treasurer)
- Catherine Anderson
- Kerry Blackburn
- Nancy Clarke
- Sue Gage
- Peggy Horn
- Amanda Lynch
- Grahame Thom
- Marie-Louise Ayres (Director-General, NLA)
- Stuart Baines (NLA Representative)
- Grace Blakeley-Carroll (NLA Representative)
- Lauren Conron (Executive Officer).

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 deficit for the year amounted to \$14,128 [2022 surplus: \$708].

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 2023 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



Michalina Stawyskyj - Treasurer

Dated this 17th day of October 2023.



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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 2023, 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 2023 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
17 October 2023

Friends of the National Library of Australia Incorporated

Statement of comprehensive income

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<i>Income</i>		
Memberships	70,764	55,080
Functions	12,929	7,136
Donations	1,750	-
Interest	1,415	305
Other revenue	-	93
Total income	86,858	62,614
<i>Expenses</i>		
Audit	1,650	1,650
Credit card charges	271	1,031
Donations and awards:		
<i>FNLA Creative Fellowship</i>	20,000	-
<i>Friends Medal</i>	-	22
<i>NLA donation</i>	2,000	
Functions and hospitality	17,123	4,016
Insurance	1,810	1,634
Postage	10,364	9,362
Printing and stationery	12,276	4,747
Staff amenities/hire charges	34	-
Sundry expenses	1,553	895
Wages	33,905	38,115
Depreciation	-	435
Total expenses	100,986	61,906
Operating surplus/(deficit)	(14,128)	708
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income	(14,128)	708

The accompanying notes form part of these accounts

Friends of the National Library of Australia Incorporated

Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2023

	<i>Note</i>	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current assets			
Cash	3	145,465	161,880
Receivables – interest/other		377	161
Prepayments		<u>1,433</u>	<u>1,332</u>
Total current assets		147,275	163,373
Non-current assets			
Equipment		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total non-current assets		-	-
Total assets		<u>147,275</u>	<u>163,373</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors		8,671	4,573
Income in advance		<u>50,598</u>	<u>57,012</u>
Total current liabilities		59,269	61,239
Total liabilities		<u>59,269</u>	<u>61,239</u>
Net assets		<u>88,006</u>	<u>102,134</u>
Equity			
Accumulated funds		<u>88,006</u>	<u>102,134</u>

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 2023

	Accumulated funds	Total
Balance as at 1 July 2021	101,426	101,426
Result attributable to members	708	708
Balance as at 30 June 2022	102,134	102,134
Result attributable to members	(14,128)	(14,128)
Balance as at 30 June 2023	88,006	88,006

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	<i>Note</i>	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from membership		66,100	50,150
Receipts from events and others		12,929	7,228
Payments to suppliers, employees and others		(96,644)	(59,208)
Interest received		1,199	756
<i>Cash provided/(utilised) by operating activities</i>	4	(16,415)	(1,074)
Net cash movement for the year		16,415	(1,074)
Cash at beginning of the year		161,880	162,954
Cash at end of the year	3	145,465	161,880

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.

(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 2023.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
3. Cash at bank		
Main operating account	95,465	51,438
Business Optimiser account	-	37,442
Term deposit	50,000	73,000
	<u>145,465</u>	<u>161,880</u>

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

Operating result for the year	(14,128)	708
Depreciation	-	435
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(216)	450
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	(101)	(143)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	4,443	2,406
Increase/(decrease) in income in advance	(6,413)	(4,930)
	<u>(16,415)</u>	<u>1,074</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 2023.

6. Related party transactions

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

There are no other related party transactions.

7. Events after the reporting date

There have been no events after the reporting date which have had a material impact on the Association.

8. 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

9. 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 2023.

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

FOR APPROVAL – Proposed Changes to the Rules of Association

Endorsed by the Committee 15 August 2023

Recommendation

That the membership approves minor changes to the Rules of Association ([available on the website](#) for review), highlighted in red below.

The main change is Section 19 where it is proposed to increase Committee Members maximum consecutive term to 4 years from 3 years. It does not mean that 4 years are mandatory, rather that it is a more manageable period for members to provide continuity and a succession plan.

Proposed Changes to the Rules of Association

Section 3 Objects

3 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

Change to:

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

Section 8 Funds

ii) All expenditure above the petty cash limit, should be approved by two of the Treasurer, Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson before expenditure is committed.

Change to:

All **unbudgeted** expenditure above the **delegated** limit, should be approved by two of the Treasurer, Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson before expenditure is committed.

Section 8B Management of Funds

ii) All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments must be signed by any 2 Members of the Committee or The Executive Officer of the Association, being Members of the Committee or employees authorised to do so by the Committee.

Change to:

All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments must be signed by any **two of the Executive Officer, Chair, Deputy Chair and Treasurer**.

Section 14 Membership

(b) households being one or two adults and any dependent children residing in the same residence (referred to as 'Household')

Change to:

(b) households being **up to five persons, regardless of age**, residing in the same residence (referred to as 'Household')

19. Election and Co-option of Ordinary Committee members

viii) Maximum uninterrupted service for Ordinary Members of the Committee shall be three consecutive annual terms. After such period they shall not hold office for the next annual term of the Committee. The term of a co-opted Ordinary Member of the Committee shall be deemed to be an annual term for this purpose, no matter at which point during the year the co-option is made.

Change to:

Maximum uninterrupted service for Ordinary Members of the Committee **shall be four** consecutive annual terms. After such period they shall not hold office for the next annual term of the Committee. The term of a co-opted Ordinary Member of the Committee shall be deemed to be an annual term for this purpose, no matter at which point during the year the co-option is made.

APPENDIX D

COMMITTEE NOMINEE PROFILES

Catherine Anderson

The National Library contributes to Australia's cultural life in many ways and I hope as a member of the Friends Committee to support that. I have been a member of the Friends Committee over the past year, serving on the Finance and Events sub-committees.

Over many years, I have appreciated the importance of the Library, from a recollection of giving a short talk in the theatre when I was in Year 7 to more recently using the reading room when studying Italian and Spanish through the University of New England. I am a lifelong learner which the Library facilitates so well.

I have highly diverse skills, including stakeholder engagement, event management and communication, as well as legal and policy skills developed in the Australian Public Service, and in business in an agricultural industry.

I worked for over 11 years in the wine industry, including two years as the senior industry development officer with the Victorian Wine Industry Association, supporting its governing Council in planning and delivering extension to winemakers and grape growers through newsletters and events. I worked as a viticulturalist at Brown Brothers' vineyards and was in a grower liaison role at Berri Estates winery (Australia's largest) in the Riverland, South Australia working with over 750 grape growers.

Prior to joining the wine industry, I worked in the APS in legal and policy roles with the Attorney-General's Department, the Australian Government Solicitor and the Australian Taxation Office. I returned to Canberra and joined the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment in 2011, retiring in July 2021.

I have experience on voluntary committees, including the King Valley Vignerons, Riverland Musical Society and the Riverland Wine Show, amongst others. I completed Law and Economics degrees at the Australian National University, and a Graduate Diploma of Viticulture from the University of Adelaide.

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 change. 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 joined the Committee in 2022 and Chaired the Events Subcommittee in 2023.

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. 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 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. 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. I joined the Friends Committee in 2022.

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. I joined the Friends Committee in 2022 and serve on the Events Subcommittee.

Larissa Karpish

Larissa was a member of the Friends Committee from 2020 - 2022. Larissa's love of the NLA continues to grow. She feels that it has been a somewhat unrequited love—with the challenges of a hailstorm, closely followed by a pandemic resulting in reduced contact with the NLA. However, like fellow Committee members, she feels these challenges strengthened her resolve to contribute practical and constructive new ideas to supporting the Friends and the Library.

These included: expansion of the membership base whilst investing effort for current members; supporting Friends events; promoting to wide networks; facilitating Friends Poetry Lounge and Meet the Author events; and advocating the many benefits of being a Friend and supporter of one of our most treasured national institutions. She says that it has been a joy and privilege to serve on the Committee and the Events and Communications sub-committees. She seeks another term on the Committee as there is so much more she can offer to ensure that our national heritage, as represented in the Library's collections, is supported, protected and enriched by as many friends as possible.

Amanda Lynch

Amanda has served on the Friends Committee and the Finance Subcommittee for the past 12 months. Amanda is a government relations and communication specialist and has worked for Federal and State Governments, as well as industry and local government. She looks forward to supporting the Library through the Friends once again in 2024.

Jo Schumann

My career includes extensive experience in the public sector having worked in both the ACT and Commonwealth public sectors. My roles have encompassed commonwealth/state funding arrangements, social policy and service delivery in the welfare, housing and community areas. For the latter part of my career, I have held the role of Chief Operations Officer for several Australian Public Service agencies giving me experience and expertise in finance, human resources, information technology, and media and communications.

I currently provide coaching and talent management services for APS officers with my colleague Melanie Fisher to ACT Government and APS agencies. I also hold a number of non-executive director Board positions in the community sector where my roles include Board Chair and Treasurer. I am currently the independent Chair of the Office of Australia Information Commission and the Climate Change Authority.

My interest in again joining the National Library of Australia Friends Committee (I was a member of the 2020, 2021 and 2022 Committees) stems from my passion for National Institutions like the Library and the role they play in the Australian community, psyche and history. I have a range of skill sets based on a solid understanding of governance and an enthusiasm for all things historical and modern Australian that I hope I can again bring to the Friends Committee.

Michalina Stawyskyj

Michalina has been a member of the Friends since 2010 and joined the Committee in 2023. 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. Michalina is currently Treasurer for the Friends and also serves on the Events Subcommittee.

Arnis Stonis

I have been a member of the Friends since relocating to Canberra from Melbourne in 2021. I use the Library regularly for writing and research purposes. I also enjoy viewing the Library's exhibitions and attending events. I would like to further support the Library by joining the Friends Committee. I retired three years ago. During my working years I was a fully qualified accountant, company secretary (10 years), financial adviser (14 years) and professional fundraiser (12 years). I established and built my own business as an investment/financial adviser and therefore had to find clients and build relationships to maintain those clients. Similarly, as a Donor Relationships Manager with two large non-profit organisations, I built relationships with supporters particularly in regard to major gifts and gifts in wills. I anticipate that my knowledge and skills would be useful to the Friends Committee.