

Friends of the National Library of Australia Inc.

Annual General Meeting

5.30pm Wednesday 20 November 2024

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85366567873?pwd=akJpKbJxXL88l0xR9kGmbHbgT0aAMt.1>

Passcode: 841089

Agenda

1. Address from Dr Marie-Louise Ayres FAHA, Director-General
2. Welcome and Apologies
3. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting
- [APPENDIX A](#)
4. Co-Chairs' Report
Presented by Michalina Stawyskyj and Catherine Anderson
5. Financial Report – Audited Financial Statements at [APPENDIX B](#) Presented
by Jo Schumann
6. Presentation of the 2024 Friends Medal
7. Other Business
8. Election of the Friends Committee for 2025
Nominee profiles at [APPENDIX C](#)
9. Guest speaker – Dr Sarah Ryan AM, Women in Science
Enquiry Network (WISENET) Archive Group

APPENDIX A

Draft Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

Library Theatre and online, Thursday 30 November, 5.45pm

1. Welcome & Apologies

Attendees

Friends Members:

Marion Amies	Catherine Anderson	Kerry Blackburn
Peter Boege	David Campbell	Nancy Clarke
Lyn Curran	Anne Davis	Melanie Drake
Alan Duff	Susan Ford	Sue Gage
Alex George	TJ Higgins	Peggy Horn
Gabrielle Hyslop	Larissa Karpish	Irene Kaspar
Amanda Lynch	Margaret May	Elizabeth Morrison
Margaret Nichols	Ian Primrose	Jo Schumann
Margaret Simmonds	Michalina Stawyskyj	Arnis Stonis
Peter Taft	Susan White	Jennifer Wilks
Stephen Wilks		

Library Staff:

Lauren Conron	Belinda Jessup	Stuart Baines
Marie-Louise Ayres	Jane Edmon	Ben Pratten

Apologies:

Max Bourke	Glenn Davidson	Cameron Hazlehurst
Meredith Hinchliffe	Virginia Hole	Claudia Hyles
Gary Kent	Peter McDonald	Robyn Oates
Mike Pearson	Ana Penteado	Marianne Pietersen
Garth Setchell	Jane Smyth	Colin Steele
Elizabeth Teather	David Teather	Kevin White
Helena Zobec		

Chair Margaret Nichols 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 2022 AGM.

Moved to accept: Larissa Karpish

Seconded: Peggy Horn

3. Chair's Report

Margaret Nichols provided an overview of the 11 Friends events held so far this year, a mixture of in house, hybrid and online only formats. The *White Gloves: Food & Drinks with Friends* 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 slowly increasing, currently at 1,521 from a low in April 2023 of 1,422. The Committee continues to work towards expanding the membership base, though declining membership seems to be a common situation for many similar organisations. Margaret thanked members who have steadfastly retained their membership.

2023 has brought challenges to the Committee, requiring several difficult decisions. As previously advised, the fee structure has been altered and is operational. In an effort to be prudent on members' behalf, it was reluctantly decided to change the newsletter to a digital-only format. Margaret thanked outgoing newsletter editor Kerry Blackburn for her hard work and creativity which made each quarterly newsletter a joy to read. The Committee hopes to continue her high standards.

The Friends' support for the Fellowships has been put into obedience until 2025. These changes were undertaken to ensure the finances will be in a robust situation going forward and the Committee will continue to monitor and review the budgetary situation.

Margaret thanked all the 2023 Committee members and noted outgoing members Gary Kent, Kerry Blackburn and Grahame Thom, whose significant contributions and commitment are much appreciated. Margaret noted that she is also stepping down this year. A vote of thanks was also given for Library staff for their support of the Friends - Lauren Conron, Belinda Jessup, Ben Pratten, Grace Blakeley-Carroll, Stuart Baines and Director-General Dr Marie-Louise Ayres.

Motion to accept the Chair's Report: Accepted

4. Financial Report

The audited financial statements for 2022-23 were circulated with the meeting papers. Treasurer Michalina Stawyskyj presented the financial statements prepared by Anthony Wilson of AccountAbility (ACT) Pty Ltd, following an audit of the accounts in accordance with the provisions of the ACT Associations Incorporations Act 1991 and other mandatory reporting requirements. The auditor has issued an unqualified report.

The total cash reserves at 30 June were \$145,503.00 with \$50,000 of that held in a term deposit. The financial position remains stable, though the Committee acknowledges that there have been, and continue to be, a number of challenges to be managed.

These include the lingering impacts of the pandemic which affected membership numbers and hence revenue, including that raised from events. Additionally, the impacts of inflation have meant higher costs for postage, printing, catering and staffing.

As a result, the Committee has taken a number of measures to ensure a sound fiscal position in the future, ensuring the organisation meets its objectives and continues contributing to Library projects.

This has seen a modest increase in membership fees which had not been increased for approximately eight years. The Committee is focusing on restoring membership numbers and has undertaken a membership drive and taken on suggestions from a survey of members. Due to the

considerable and increasing costs of postage and printing, the newsletter has been changed to a digital format.

The Committee thanks the Director-General and NLA management for their ongoing support, including through the funding of the Executive Officer. Michalina thanked Lauren Conron and Belinda Jessup, and members of the Finance Subcommittee – Catherine Anderson, Amanda Lynch and Grahame Thom. A vote of thanks was given for Margaret Nichols for her tireless work on behalf of the Friends, and for providing sound and wise guidance throughout the year to all the Subcommittees.

Michalina recommended that the financial statements for the Friends in 2023 be approved.

Moved: Nancy Clarke

Seconded: Sue Gage

5. Proposed Changes to the Rules of Association

The proposed changes were circulated widely to the membership. Margaret moved that the changes be adopted.

The changes were unanimously approved.

6. Fellowships

Margaret announced Celia Craig as the recipient of the 2024 Friends Creative Arts Fellowship. Celia's Fellowship research is titled Complete Accord: Miriam Hyde, and will focus on creating new work for her Tarrawatta Trio.

Ben Pratten, 2020 Staff Travelling Fellow, gave an overview of his recent trip to the Communicating the Arts conference in Singapore.

7. Presentation of the Friends Medal

This year marks the 17th 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 Susannah Helman, recognised for her significant contributions to the Friends and to the Library over the past 15 years, as a presenter at events and contributor to the Newsletter.

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

8. Presentation from Dr Marie-Louise Ayres

The Library's Director-General thanked the Friends and outgoing Chair Margaret Nichols. Marie-Louise gave updates on Library activities in 2023, noting the strong position of the Library going forward into 2024 with a secure funding base.

9. Other Business

No other business was raised.

10. Election of the Friends Committee for 2024

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, Peggy Horn, Michalina Stawyskyj, Catherine Anderson, Arnis Stonis, Larissa Karpish, Amanda Lynch and Josephine Schumann. The Committee was unanimously elected.

The Chair noted that members may be co-opted to the Committee in accordance with the Rules of Association. Margaret congratulated the successful nominees for the 2024 Committee and closed the meeting, with no further business to discuss.

Meeting closed at 6.30pm

APPENDIX B

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024

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

Financial Statements

30 June 2024

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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 2024.

Committee Members

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

- Catherine Anderson (Co-Chair)
- Michalina Stawyskyj (Co-Chair)
- Josephine Schumann (Treasurer)
- Nancy Clarke
- Susan Gage
- Peggy Horn
- Amanda Lynch
- Larissa Karpish
- Arnis Stonis
- Grahame Thom (to 30 November 2023)
- Kerry Blackburn (to 30 November 2023)
- Gary Kent (to 30 November 2023)
- Marie-Louise Ayres (Director-General, NLA)
- Stuart Baines (NLA Representative) (to 30 November 2023)
- Benjamin Pratten (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 surplus for the year amounted to \$9,595 [2023 deficit: \$14,128].

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 2024 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 2022.

Dated this 15th day of October 2024.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "C. J. Anderson".

Catherine Anderson (Co-Chair)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Stawyskyj".

Michalina Stawyskyj (Co-Chair)



AccountAbility (ACT) Pty Ltd
ACN: 088 095 354

PO Box 776, Mitchell ACT 2911

Telephone: 02 6170 6870

Email: admin@accountability-act.com.au
www.accountability-act.com.au

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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 2024, 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 2024 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 2022.

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
15 October 2024

Friends of the National Library of Australia Incorporated

Statement of comprehensive income

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<i>Income</i>		
Memberships	62,287	70,764
Functions	20,852	12,929
Donations	1,950	1,750
Interest	3,496	1,415
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income	88,585	86,858
<i>Expenses</i>		
Audit	1,870	1,650
Credit card charges	(196)	271
Donations and awards:		
<i>FNLA Creative Fellowship</i>	10,000	20,000
<i>Travelling Fellowship</i>	6,033	-
<i>NLA donation</i>	-	2,000
Functions and hospitality	16,665	17,123
Insurance	1,943	1,810
Postage	2,666	10,364
Printing and stationery	4,229	12,276
Staff amenities/hire charges	-	34
Sundry expenses	2,545	1,553
Wages	33,235	33,905
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenses	78,990	100,986
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Operating surplus/(deficit)	9,595	(14,128)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total comprehensive income	9,595	(14,128)

The accompanying notes form part of these accounts

Friends of the National Library of Australia Incorporated

Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2024

	<i>Note</i>	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current assets			
Cash	3	163,809	145,465
Receivables – interest/other		437	377
Prepayments		1,527	1,433
Total current assets		165,773	147,275
Total assets		165,773	147,275
Current liabilities			
Creditors		2,943	8,671
Income in advance		65,229	50,598
Total current liabilities		68,172	59,269
Total liabilities		68,172	59,269
Net assets		97,601	88,006
Equity			
Accumulated funds		97,601	88,006

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 2024

	Accumulated funds	Total
Balance as at 1 July 2022	102,134	102,134
Result attributable to members	(14,128)	(14,128)
Balance as at 30 June 2023	88,006	88,006
Result attributable to members	9,595	9,595
Balance as at 30 June 2024	97,601	97,601

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from membership		78,867	66,100
Receipts from events and others		20,852	12,929
Payments to suppliers, employees and others		(84,811)	(96,643)
Interest received		3,436	1,199
<i>Cash provided/(utilised) by operating activities</i>	4	18,344	(16,415)
Net cash movement for the year		18,344	16,415
Cash at beginning of the year		145,465	161,880
Cash at end of the year	3	163,809	145,465

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 2024.

	2024 \$	2023 \$
3. Cash at bank		
Main operating account	113,809	95,465
Term deposit	50,000	50,000
	<u>163,809</u>	<u>145,465</u>

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

Operating result for the year	9,595	(14,128)
Depreciation		-
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(60)	(216)
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	(94)	(101)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(5,727)	4,443
Increase/(decrease) in income in advance	14,630	(6,413)
	<u>18,344</u>	<u>(16,415)</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 2024.

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 2024.

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

Catherine Anderson

The National Library contributes to Australia's cultural life in many ways and I hope as a continuing member of the Friends Committee to support that. I have been a member of the Friends Committee since 2023, serving on the Finance and Events sub-committees, and for the past year as Co-Chair.

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 and 2024.

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, and joined again in 2024. 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.

Margaret Nichols

I joined the Committee in 2021 and served as Chair in 2022-2023. 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 16 years I have been a volunteer; 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 the 1990s. I value my Friends membership and would be pleased to serve on the Committee and assist in bringing knowledge of the Library and the wealth of its collections to the Friends.

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.

My interest in again joining the National Library of Australia Friends Committee (I was a member of the 2020-2022 and the 2024 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 again, having served on the 2024 Committee. 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 served on the Memberships & Communications Subcommittee in 2024.