

## State Library of NSW Foundation

Minutes of the 2015-2016 Annual General Meeting  
Thursday, 6 October 2016 at 4.00pm

Gallery Room, State Library of NSW



### 1. Welcome

The AGM meeting opened at 4:00pm when Ms Lucy Milne, Acting State Librarian and Chief Executive welcomed members to the 2015-16 Annual General Meeting of the State Library of NSW Foundation. All attendees were provided with the agenda for the meeting, together with the Annual Report and the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the previous year.

### 2. Attendance and Apologies

Those present, and apologies received, were noted:

Foundation Members		Library Staff & Board members	
Aktar	Azhar	John	Atkin
Josephine	Bastian	Paula	Bray
Rosie	Block	Kate	Curr
Ken	Bloxsom	Susan	Hunt
Helen	Breekveldt	Caroline	Lorentz
Graham	Budd	David	Makinson
Dr Alex	Byrne	Gai	McGrath
Helen	Christian AM	Lucy	Milne
Janet	George	Richard	Neville
Dr Ray	Hyslop OAM RFD	Kay	Payne
Beverley	Johnson	Helena	Poropat
Eugenia	Langley	Susan	Smith
Chris	Maxworthy	George	Souris AM
Anne	Munro	Philippa	Stevens
Janette	Parkinson	Rob	Thomas AM
Howard	Tanner AM	Alice	Tonkinson
Sue	Thomas	Jemima	Whyte
Dr John	Vallance	Kim	Williams AM
John	Wrigley OAM		
Julie	Wrigley		

<b>Apologies</b>			
Rosemary	Allen	Louise	Anemaat
Eve	Bagnall	David	Franco
Colin	Baskerville	Cameron	Morley
John	Bradshaw	Sarah	Morley
Roslyn	Cameron-Salteri	Robin	Phua
Nicholas	Carney		
Michael	Caulfield		
John	Christian AO		
Dr R L	Cope		
Dina	Coppel		
Michael	Crouch AO		
Jim	Dominguez		
Margaret	Evans		
Pauline	Griffin		
Susan	Harvey		
Kevin	Hewitt		
Mary	Holt		
Tom	Keneally		
Alan	Legge		
Dr Clive	Lucas OBE		
Susan	Maple-Brown AM		
Sam	Meers		
James	Minto		
Nicholas	Moore		
Alice	Oppen OAM		
Debra	Pinkerton		
Peter	Poland OAM		
Dr Catherine	Rogers		
Carol	Roussel		
Penelope	Seidler AM		
Joy	Storie		
Ian	Vanderfield		
Jenny	Wheatley		
Julie	Young		

There were no additional apologies noted from the floor.

### **3. Confirmation of Minutes of the Foundation Annual General Meeting 27 August 2015**

There being no business arising from the previous minutes, Mr Williams moved that the minutes of the Foundation Annual General Meeting of **27 August 2015** be accepted.

Minutes were accepted by Ms Anne Munro and seconded by Mr Rob Thomas.

#### 4. Chairman's Report and Financial Summary 2015-2016

Mr Williams welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting and acknowledged the attendance of The Hon. George Souris AM, President of the Library Council and Foundation Board members as well as that of Dr Alex Byrne the previous State Librarian to whom he paid tribute for his outstanding contribution to the Library over the previous five years.

Mr Williams thanked Foundation members for their philanthropic generosity and their public spirit highlighting that their donations and bequests enabled the Foundation to provide an enormous range of programs, exhibitions, literary and educational initiatives, many of them digital.

Referring to the Annual Report, he commented that whilst fundraising pledges were significantly ahead of budget, low investment returns in the market had contributed to a reduction in fundraising revenue against budget for the current year. He reported that the Foundation has \$15.4 million invested with TCorp and the current return is 2.2%. Nevertheless, the Foundation increased its contribution to Library projects to \$2, 511,000, which was a 14.8% increase on the prior year.

Major achievements by the Foundation during the 2015-16 year included:

- Securing more than \$10m in commitments for Stage 2 of the Mitchell Galleries campaign including the Children's Learning Centre
- Support for the Shakespeare 400 celebrations including the Custodian's support of the Shakespeare room restoration and acquisition of a 1564 collection of stories by Italian author Matteo Bandello (the inspiration for *Romeo & Juliet*)
- Support for the development of the Planting Dreams exhibitions – *Shaping Australian Gardens*, a history of garden making developed from the Library's collection; and *Grand Garden Designs*, a contemporary photographic exhibition commissioned by the Foundation with these images being acquired for the Library's collection
- Conservation projects included rehousing of the First World War diary collection; completion of the Macquarie Family Papers project; Wentworth Family Papers; James Cook correspondence; and Sir William Dixon Numismatic collection
- Learning programs – the *FarOut! Treasures to the Bush* program has now reached more than 350 schools and 24,000+ students; WordExpress program in conjunction with HSC English Extension 2 studies; and the bus transportation subsidy
- Digital programs including the annual DX Lab Fellowship to support digital excellence; and the newly designed *Voyages of Discovery*, which is a 10-year program
- The unanimous approval, at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 31 March 2016, for the Trust Deed revisions that brought the Foundation's governance into currency with modern tax laws

#### 5. Trust Deed and Membership classes

Mr Williams advised that the Trust Deed revisions agreed at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 31 March 2016 had been endorsed by The Hon Victor Michael Dominello MP, Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation.

After review by the Board and Foundation staff, Mr Williams advised of the new membership classes.

Membership qualifications will be:

- A person or organisation who has donated a total of AUD \$2,000 or more to the Foundation within the five financial years prior to the date of that year's Annual General Meeting.
- A person or organisation who has donated a total of AUD \$100,000 or more at any time will be acknowledged through Lifetime membership
- A person or organisation who has donated in-kind gifts valued at a total of \$250,000 or more at any time will be acknowledged through Lifetime membership
- A person or organisation approved at the discretion of the Board on the basis of a 75% majority vote of the Board. Discretionary membership will be granted if the person or organisation demonstrates association and long-standing support of the Foundation including our Custodians.

## 6. Year Ahead

Ms Hunt thanked the Chairman, Mr Williams and Acting State Librarian, Ms Milne for their summary of this year's highlights. She thanked Benefactors, Custodians, Library Circle members, sponsors & partners for their ongoing loyalty and support, and acknowledged the hard work of the Foundation Board and Trustees, as well as the Library's Executive Committee for their support in advancing the Foundation's work.

Ms Hunt advised that in the coming year the Foundation will focus on high impact projects that affect the Library's sustainability, effectiveness and community profile. These projects will include:

- Mitchell Galleries Stage 2 as part of our overall Masterplan. This project aims to double our current exhibition space and establish a critical, children's learning centre
- *Painting by Numbers*, an online exhibition together with a hard copy scholarly publication, featuring the works of Ferdinand Bauer is under development in conjunction with leading overseas institutions in Austria and the UK. This project will augment the Library's reputation in the digital sphere
- Work on cataloguing *The Fairfax Archives*, containing the business and management records of Fairfax and its predecessors, amalgamated and subsidiary companies as well as family papers since the 1880s. These records describe Fairfax's engagement with its journalists, political allies and foes, significant political events such as the Petrov affair, and the general media landscape
- Sir Joseph Banks web project will digitise the significant archival material the Library holds on the life and works of Sir Joseph Banks. This project will deliver online access to approximately 10,000 manuscript pages from this collection including correspondence reports, journal accounts, charts, watercolours and some maps
- The inaugural Mona Brand award for outstanding women writers for the stage and screen will be added to the suite of awards offered by the Foundation that includes the Russell prize for Humour Writing; the National Biography Award; and the Ashurst Business Literature Prize. The establishment of this new award was made possible by a bequest from the Estate of the Late Mona Alexis Fox (née Brand). It will be offered in alternate years with a major prize of \$30,000 for an established writer and a second prize of \$10,000 for an emerging female writer in the early stages of their career
- Significant fellowships that enable innovative research including the David Scott Mitchell Fellowship, the Merewether Scholarship, the Australian Religious History Fellowship, and the Coral Thomas Fellowship

Ms Hunt acknowledged the Foundation team for their dedicated work in support of all the Foundation activities: Kay Payne, Helena Poropat, Alice Tonkinson, and Emily Mierisch.

**7. Other Business and Questions from the floor**

Mr Howard Tanner AM rose to express his gratitude to the Foundation for their enthusiastic support and to express that his experience with the Library and Foundation in the development and curation of the *Planting Dreams* exhibitions had been breathtakingly good and professional. He acknowledged and congratulated the Library’s commitment to research and the development of exhibitions in NSW.

**8. Meeting closure**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 4.40pm for refreshments and viewing of original materials.

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Confirmed

**Chair:** .....

**Date:** .....