

**State Library of NSW Foundation**  
**Minutes of the 2018-19 Annual General Meeting**

Wednesday, 20 November 2019 5.00pm

John B Fairfax Learning Centre, State Library of NSW



## 1. Welcome

Dr John Vallance, State Librarian and Chief Executive, opened the AGM with an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed members to the 2018-19 State Library of NSW Foundation Annual General Meeting. All attendees were provided with the agenda for the meeting, together with the Annual Report and the minutes of the 2017-18 Annual General Meeting.

## 2. Opening of Meeting - Attendance and Apologies

**Mr Kim Williams AM, Co-Chair Foundation Board**

Those present, and apologies received, were noted for the Minutes:

<b>FOUNDATION MEMBERS</b>	<b>BOARD MEMBERS &amp; STAFF LIBRARY</b>
Rosemary Block	Mary-Liz Andrews
Ken Bloxsom	Louise Anemaat
Jennifer Crivelli	Kathy Bail
Peter Hack	Phil Barter
Margery Hertzberg	Vanessa Bond
Patricia Jacobsen	Jerelynn Brown
Samantha Meers AO	Sarah Crouch
Wendy Michaels	Kate Curr
Anne Munro	Pauline Fitzgerald
Janette Parkinson	David Franco
Joy Storie	Rachel Franks
John Wrigley OAM	Jane Garling
Julie Wrigley	Samantha Hagan
	Christine Holman
	Susan Hunt
	Melissa Jackson
	Jonathan London
	Patrick McAlary
	Sarah Miller
	Richard Neville
	Maggie Patton
	Helena Poropat
	Robin Phua
	Darren Rudd
	Lars Rutz
	Phillipa Stevens
	Rob Thomas AO
	Alice Tonkinson
	Dr John Vallance

	Avryl Whitnall Jemima Whyte Kim Williams AM
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**APOLOGIES:**

Dr Raji Ambikairajah Graham Bradley AM Philip Carey Nicholas Carney Suzanne Fitzhardinge Kathleen McCredie AM Gwenneth Pearson	Jenny Priestley Patricia Rankin Darren Rudd Penelope Seidler AM Kathy Shand The Hon George Souris AM
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There were no additional apologies noted from the floor.

**Confirmation of Minutes of the Foundation Annual General Meeting 1 November 2018**

Mr Williams moved that the minutes of the Foundation Annual General Meeting of **1 November 2018** be accepted. The minutes were accepted by Rob Thomas AO.

**3. Chairman’s Report and Financial Summary 2018-19**

Mr Williams reported that the Foundation received total revenue for the period of \$5.6 million. This follows the extraordinary support for the galleries in the last financial year which resulted in the enhanced figure of \$10.7 million.

Importantly the Foundation maintained its significant contribution towards Library projects by giving \$7.5 million this year compared with \$7.5 million in 2017-18. The areas of this support were as follows: 78% for the Galleries and Learning Centre; 11% for collection acquisitions; 3% for awards and prizes; 3% for digital projects; 2% for exhibitions; 1% for education programs; and 2% for fellowships.

The Foundation has \$15.9 million invested this year as compared with \$20.3 million in the previous year. These investments are held with the NSW Treasury corporation in T Corp Hour-Glass investment facilities. The annual rate of return on our investments through T Corp was 6.38% compared with last year’s rate of 5.07%. However, of the \$15.9 million preserved at end of June 2019 \$11.1 million or 70% of investments held in T Corp is restricted and must be acquitted with particular conditions.

**4. Major achievements by the Foundation during the 2018-19 year**

As the State Library of NSW Foundation celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Mr Williams acknowledged the strong tradition of benefaction from our donors, friends and supporters.

This year has been characterised by significant achievement in further expanding our audiences and increasing access to our collections, both onsite and online. Mr Williams acknowledged the leadership of State Librarian, Dr John Vallance and President of the Library Council, The Hon George Souris AM. Mr Williams also acknowledged Co-Chair of

the Foundation Board, Rob Thomas AO. Mr Williams thanked retiring Board members John Atkin, Gai McGrath, Samantha Meers AO and Tony O’Sullivan for their work. He acknowledged fellow Board members, Graham Bradley AM, Nicholas Carney, Michael Caulfield, Christine Holman, Darren Rudd and Jemima Whyte and new Board members, Dr Raji Ambikairajah, Sarah Crouch, Jane Garling and Kathy Shand and new trustees Robert Cameron AO and Jane Garling.

### **New Galleries**

Mr Williams noted that the major achievement this year has been the completion of the landmark infrastructure project to redevelop the galleries in the Mitchell building. The renovated Picture Gallery in the west wing of the Mitchell exhibits over 300 oil paintings from the Library’s painting collection, many of which were sponsored by our donors. The new Michael Crouch Family Galleries and Collectors’ Gallery showcase aspects of our collection in a series of changing exhibitions. The Foundation was delighted to support this landmark transformation of our galleries.

Mr Williams extended his sincere thanks to the Crouch family for their extraordinary benefaction and commitment to the Library. In particular, he thanked Shanny Crouch, George Crouch, Sarah Crouch and Charlotte Warner. Mr Williams also extended his thanks to Rob Thomas and Sam Meers, who joined him in supporting the Collectors’ Gallery.

### **Supporting Learning**

Another major highlight was the opening of the John B Fairfax Learning Centre, a contemporary learning environment enabling the Library’s learning team to engage and deliver programs to school groups and families. Purpose-built by architectural firm BVN this innovative space reflects the voices of young people and educators who were consulted extensively on its design. Since opening, over 5,000 students and teachers have benefited from our curriculum linked learning programs, viewing original materials and learning about Australia’s rich history and literary heritage.

Mr Williams acknowledged John B Fairfax AO, who so generously supported this project.

### **Annual Appeal**

Mr Williams outlined one of the key successes of the financial year, the 2019 Annual Appeal which supported the new Children’s Library. Donors, including long standing Foundation members and first-time supporters contributed over \$480,000 to this project. For the first time, the Foundation reached members of the general public and Library readers with our appeal, furthering our engagement with the community.

The Children’s Library, which opened on 12 October 2019, is the first area at the Library dedicated for children and young people to browse the best of Australian and international children’s literature.

### **Acquisitions**

Mr Williams highlighted three major acquisitions supported in part by the Foundation:

- *Lettera di Andrea Corsali* which includes a rare early printed depiction of the southern cross constellation
- *Panoramic view of Sydney Harbour and the city skyline, 1894*, an oil painting by Arthur Streeton
- Pedro Fernandez de Quiros' Memorial no. 1, 14 Dec 1607, Madrid, the first in a series of 14 known memorials printed by Quiros to petition King Philip III of Spain to support his next expedition to the Southern Hemisphere

## **Exhibitions**

Mr Williams reported on *Living Language: Country, culture, community*, an exhibition in support of the UNESCO International Year of Indigenous Languages, which the Foundation was delighted to provide support towards. As part of the development of the exhibition, the Library's Indigenous Engagement team spent six months working with dozens of language groups to open up our collection & build relationships with Aboriginal language speakers and knowledge holders.

A highlight of the exhibition was the Dawes' notebook which was loaned to the Library by SOAS Library, University of London.

## **Digitisation**

Mr Williams reported on the completion of a project to digitise microfilm copies of the Henry Parkes collection, an extensive collection of over 180 volumes. Mr Williams thanked the Henry Parkes Foundation for supporting this project.

## **5. The Year Ahead**

### **Mr Rob Thomas AO, Co-Chair Foundation Board**

Mr Thomas thanked The Hon. George Souris AM, President of the Library Council, Dr John Vallance, State Librarian, his fellow Board members and the Foundation Trustees.

Mr Thomas noted that in 2020 the Library will continue the transformation of its physical infrastructure with some very exciting plans to improve accessibility and provide better access to all parts of the Library. Some key projects mentioned included:

#### **The Conservation Lab**

Mr Thomas reported that one of the major projects of 2020 would be the construction of the new state-of-the-art conservation laboratory. The new facility will improve capacity for staff to undertake complex conservation work, utilising the latest technological developments.

Mr Thomas acknowledged Len Ainsworth AM who has generously supported this project.

#### **The Map Rooms**

Mr Thomas reported that in September 2020, the Library would be unveiling a dedicated area for the display of maps.

## **Fellowships**

Mr Thomas noted that the Foundation will continue to support the Library's prestigious fellowship program, which supports the research, writing and teaching of Australian history and culture.

The 2020 fellows are:

- Professor Sally Young – The Coral Thomas Fellow
- Associate Professor Clare Monagle – The Australian Religious History Fellow
- Dr James Boyce – The Merewether Fellow
- Dr Jarrod Hore – The David Scott Mitchell Memorial Fellow
- Ben Huf – The Dr AM Hertzberg Fellow
- Dr David Hansen – The Ross Steele Fellow

Mr Thomas expressed his delight in the establishment of two new fellowships: the Dr AM Hertzberg Fellowship and the Ross Steele fellowship. He thanked Margery Hertzberg, who was in the audience, who in conjunction with her brother John Hertzberg have established the Dr AM Hertzberg Fellowship.

## **Learning Programs**

Mr Thomas commented that one of the most important services that the State Library delivers with the support of the Foundation is educational initiatives for children and families. Key activities in the coming year will include curriculum-based school programs, an on-site program for children with special needs; children's engagement workshops; family days on Sundays; teacher training workshops; an expanded school holiday program; and a history extension project.

In 2020 the Library would continue to present WordeXpress, the annual HSC English Extension program and will also be continuing the Far OUT regional outreach program, with further visits to schools in regional NSW.

## **Awards**

Mr Thomas noted that in 2020 the Library would be presenting a suite of awards supported by the Foundation including:

- The Mona Brand Award
- The National Biography Award

Mr Thomas thanked the Nelson Meers Foundation for supporting the National Biography Award. Through this support the value of the prize for shortlisted authors has increased to \$2,000 each, and a new prize, in memory of the late Michael Crouch AC, has been established. This additional prize will celebrate the first published biography by an Australian writer, valued at \$5,000.

## **Mitchell Reading Room Project**

Mr Thomas concluded by previewing the major forthcoming Foundation fundraising which would support restoring the Mitchell Reading Room. This will involve reinstating the original floor and filling in the Dalgety Walkway.

## **6. Other Business and Special Thanks**

### **Susan Hunt, Director, State Library of NSW Foundation**

Ms Hunt thanked the meeting's attendees for their support for the Foundation. She acknowledged the Library's Executive team: Richard Neville, Louise Anemaat, Phil Barter, Robin Phua and the talented teams that they lead. She also thanked the Foundation staff: Sarah Miller, Partnerships Manager, Helena Poropat, Membership Coordinator and Alice Tonkinson, Executive Assistant.

## **7. Meeting Closure**

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 5.40pm.

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**Confirmed:**

**Chair:** .....

**Date:** .....