

State Library of NSW Foundation

Minutes of the 2017-2018 Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 1 November 2018 at 4.00pm

Gallery Room, State Library of NSW



1. Welcome

Dr John Vallance, State Librarian, opened the AGM with an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed members to the 2017-2018 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 2016-2017 Annual General Meeting. Dr Vallance emphasised that the Foundation is at the forefront of promoting the mission of the Library: collection, preservation and access and thanked the Foundation Board and all supporters for what has been achieved this financial year.

2. Opening of Meeting - Attendance and Apologies

Mr Rob Thomas AM Co-Chair Foundation Board

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

FOUNDATION MEMBERS	BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF LIBRARY
Professor Christopher Adam	Louise Anemaat
Rosemary Block	John Atkin
Vicki Brooke	Phil Barter
Jerelynn Brown	Christine Holman
Paul Brunton OAM	Susan Hunt
John Christian AO	Jonathan London
Helen Christian AM	Gai McGrath
Peter Crossing AM	Samantha Meers AO
Kate Curr	Sarah Miller
Margaret Evans	Richard Neville
Jane Garling	Maggie Patton
Peter Hack	The Hon. George Souris AM
Patricia Jacobsen	Antonella Sterrantino
Vincent Jewell	Philippa Stevens
Beverley Johnson	Rob Thomas AM
Peter Poland OAM	Alice Tonkinson
Vassy Souris	Dr John Vallance

APOLOGIES:

Graham Bradley AM	Belinda Hutchinson AM
John Bradshaw	Kenneth Kenrick
Helen Breekveldt	Anne Munro
Ann Brown	Maurice Newman AC
Paula Cameron	Gavin Pettigrew
Robert Cameron AO	Debra Pinkerton
Nicholas Carney	Peter Poland OAM
Michael Caulfield	Jenny Priestley
Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy AM	Patricia Rankin
Wendy Clarke	Carole Roussel
Pauline Conolly	Penelope Seidler
Jennifer Crivelli	Russell Stewart
Shanny Crouch	Damien Webb
Professor Richard Day AM	Jemima Whyte
Doug Dean	Caroline Wilkinson
John B Fairfax AO	Kim Williams AM
Susan Gabriel	Dr Don Wright
Pauline Griffin AM	John Wylie AM
Mary Holt	

There were no additional apologies noted from the floor.

Confirmation of Minutes of the Foundation Annual General Meeting 2 November 2017

Mr Thomas moved that the minutes of the Foundation Annual General Meeting of **2 November 2017** be accepted. The minutes were accepted by Christine Holman.

3. Chairman's Report and Financial Summary 2017-2018 - Mr Rob Thomas AM, Co-Chair Foundation Board

Mr Thomas noted that 2017-2018 was a record year for the State Library of NSW Foundation.

Total revenue for the period was \$10,674,000 compared with \$4,356,000 last year. The Foundation received revenue from various sources including: \$900,000 from investment income; \$5,887,000 from fundraising activities and \$3,737,000 from bequests.

In commenting on the significance of bequest income this year, Mr Thomas acknowledged the enormous generosity of the late Robert White AO, banking pioneer and longstanding donor as well as friend and volunteer, the late Ruby Faris.

This year the Foundation provided \$7,545,000 to the Library in comparison with \$1,657,000 last year. 90% of this total supported the Michael Crouch Family Galleries and the John B Fairfax Learning Centre. The remaining 10% supported the following areas: conservation and support for the collection; digital projects; awards and prizes; publications; education and indigenous programs and fellowships and scholarships.

The Foundation has \$20.3 million in total investments as compared with \$16.9 in the previous year. These investments are held with the NSW Treasury corporation in T Corp

Hour-Glass investment facilities. It is important to note, however, that over \$13.3 million in T Corp is restricted funds and needs to be acquitted with conditions. The annual rate of return on our investments through T Corp was 5.1% compared with last year's rate of 5.9%.

4. Major achievements of the Foundation during the 2017-2018 year

Mr Thomas thanked all donors, partners and benefactors for their support and thanked Kim Williams AM, Co-Chair of the Board and their fellow Board members. Mr Thomas commented that a highlight of the year had been the appointment of Dr John Vallance as State Librarian.

The key highlights of the year included:

- **The Michael Crouch Family Galleries**

The major highlight was the landmark infrastructure project to redevelop the galleries in the Mitchell building. This project has meant that the Library has nearly doubled the footprint of our galleries and can offer unique gallery experiences to reach new audiences.

Mr Thomas paid tribute to the late Michael Crouch AC- a remarkable man who left a significant impact on many areas of public life. The Library is indebted to Michael for the realisation of this extraordinary project. Mr Thomas thanked the Crouch family for their extraordinary benefaction and commitment for our work.

- **The Collectors' Gallery**

Complementing the first-floor galleries is the Collectors Gallery on the ground floor of the new complex, featuring important realia from our collection. Over 2,000 items, have now been displayed - many for the first time. Mr Thomas commented that he was delighted to join Kim Williams AM and Sam Meers AO from the Nelson Meers Foundation to support this project.

- **John B Fairfax Learning Centre**

In addition to the galleries we were delighted to deliver on the John B Fairfax Learning Centre and family space on the ground floor of the Mitchell building. This very exciting new space provides enhanced opportunities for our learning team to engage and deliver innovative programs to school groups and families. Mr Thomas acknowledged John B Fairfax AO who so generously supported this project.

- **Sponsor a Painting Campaign**

Mr Thomas reported on the *Sponsor a Painting* campaign which was launched to support the conservation, display and interpretation of our picture gallery. More than \$380,000 raised.

- **Digital projects**

Mr Thomas reported on *The Bridge: The Arch that Cut the Sky*, one of the most exciting digital projects of the year. Generously and enthusiastically supported by our Custodian donors, it explores the history of the Sydney Harbour Bridge through five web episodes and podcasts. Each episode features artworks, photographs, oral histories, drawings and ephemera from the Library's extensive Harbour Bridge collection.

Another major highlight was the launch of the digital project 'Painting by Numbers' in November 2017, that brought together online, for the first time, 300 works by the botanical artist Ferdinand Bauer from cultural institutions in Europe, the United Kingdom and Australia. Designed and built by the Library's DX Lab, this project was accompanied by a scholarly publication. Special thanks to Peter Crossing AM and Belalberi Foundation.

5. The Year Ahead

Mr Thomas thanked The Hon. George Souris AM, President of the Library Council, Dr John Vallance and fellow Board members for all their work over the past year.

Mr Thomas noted some key projects for the future:

- The cementing of the Library's role as a centre of intellectual excellence and scholarship and to that end the Royal Society of NSW, Australia's oldest society, will now establish its base here
- The new Children's Library
- The expansion of the bookshop and the café on the ground floor of the Macquarie building
- Realising opportunities for additional public space
- Enhancing the accessibility of catalogue records for items on display in the galleries

Collection Care Lab

Mr Thomas announced that in 2018-2019 the Library will continue the transformation of our physical infrastructure through the development of a multi-million-dollar state-of-the-art Collection Care laboratory. This will provide world-class conservation treatment of the Library's irreplaceable and highly valued collection.

Mr Thomas announced that philanthropist and businessman Len Ainsworth AM has generously committed significant funds for this project.

The new facility, will improve capacity for staff to undertake complex conservation work, utilising the latest technological developments.

Fellowship Program

The Foundation continues to be a critical supporter of the Library's Fellowship program managed by the Mitchell Librarian's office. The program provides funding for the research, writing and teaching of Australian history and culture. In 2018-2019, we look forward to distributing over \$120,000 to worthy recipients, including:

- Australian Religious History Fellow - Dr Stephen Jackson

- Merewether Fellow - Dr Rebecca Hamilton
- David Scott Mitchell Memorial Fellow - Dr Isobelle Barrett Meyering

We are very pleased to deliver on the inaugural Dr AM Hertzberg Fellowship which examines the impact of globalisation on Australian industry. This Fellowship has been established by John and Margery Hertzberg, the children of the late Dr Mark Hertzberg who was a former President of the Library Council. The inaugural Dr AM Hertzberg fellow will be Dr Elizabeth Humphrys. Mr Thomas reported on the progress of the biennial Coral Thomas Fellowship and the exciting work of the current fellow Professor Grace Karskens.

Mr Thomas announced that the value of the Coral Thomas Fellowship in 2019 will be increased in future to \$100,000.

Learning Programs

Mr Thomas commented that one of the most vital roles played by the Foundation is our support for educational projects for children, families and lifelong learners. With the new John B Fairfax Learning Centre, our learning team will now have greater capacity to deliver learning programs. These include an on-site program for children with special needs; Childrens' engagement workshops; family events on Sundays; an expanded school holiday program; and a history extension project. In 2018-2019 we look forward to presenting WordeXpress, the annual HSC English Extension program and we will also be continuing with our Far-OUT regional outreach program, with further visits to schools in regional NSW.

Awards

Mr Thomas reported on exciting suite of awards for 2018-2019 including:

- The *Mona Brand Award* which was awarded this week on the 30 October to Patricia Cornelius. The emerging writer award went to Lucy Knox
- The *Ashurst Business Literature Prize* which will occur in May next year
- The *Russell Prize for Humour Writing* which will occur in June next year
- The *National Biography Award* which has been awarded in August to Judith Brett

The Nelson Meers Foundation will support the award for the first time in 2018, increasing the overall prize value and establishing a new prize for a debut biography or memoir by an Australian writer, beginning in 2019, in recognition of the longstanding support by the late Michael Crouch AC.

Henry Parkes Collection Digitisation

Mr Thomas reported on the Sir Henry Parkes collection Digitisation project. The Henry Parkes Foundation will build upon its earlier support for the Library, by supporting the digitisation of microfilmed copies of the Henry Parkes collection of papers. Significant progress will be made this year.

Mr Thomas thanked supporters, Friends and Volunteers. He also thanked the staff of the Foundation.

6. Other Business and special thanks - Susan Hunt, Director, State Library of NSW Foundation

Ms Hunt thanked everyone for their support and passion for the Library. She noted that it has been a transformational year for the Library and 2018-2019 will be another exciting period.

Ms Hunt thanked Dr John Vallance, The Hon. George Souris AM and the Foundation Board. Ms Hunt acknowledged the work of the Library Executive: Richard Neville, Louise Anemaat, Phil Barter, Robin Phua and the talented teams that they lead. Ms Hunt thanked members of staff present and the Foundation team.

7. Meeting closure

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 4:30pm.

Confirmed:

Chair:

Date: