

State Library of NSW Foundation
Minutes of the 2021-22 Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, 15 November 2022 at 4.00pm
Online Zoom



1. Welcome & Opening of Meeting

Mr Rob Thomas AO, Co-Chair, Foundation Board

Mr Thomas declared the 2021-22 State Library of NSW Foundation Annual General Meeting open.

2. Attendance and Apologies

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

Attendees	
Christopher Adam	Wendy Michaels OAM
Raji Ambikairajah	Don Munro
Louise Anemaat	Linda Papas
Phil Barter	Maggie Patton
Ken Bloxsom	Peter Poland OAM
Graham Bradley AM	Helena Poropat
Robert Cameron AO	Lars Rutz
Jennifer Crivelli	Stella Shen
Peter Crossing AM	George Souris AM
Sarah Crouch	Emily Standen
Pauline Fitzgerald	Joy Storie
Marcelo Flaksbard	Lydia Tasker
Rachel Franks	Rob Thomas AO
Jane Garling	Alice Tonkinson
Susan Hunt	John Vallance
Rawiya Jenkins	Jan Vecchio
Beverly Johnson	Miaowen Wang
Jonathon London	Caroline Wilkinson
Patrick McAlary	Kim Williams AM
Roy MacLeod	

Apologies	
Franca Arena AM	Christina Kennedy
Rosie Block	John Levi
Geoffrey Cains	Samantha Meers AO
Helen Christian AM	Alice Oppen OAM
John Christian AO	Janette Parkinson
Wendy E Clarke	Robert Pittorino
Robert Clifton-Steele	Carole Roussel
Rowena Danziger AM	Ross Steele AM
Marie de Lepervanche	Jemima Whyte

John B Fairfax AO Margery Hertzberg Kevin Hewitt Christine Holman Judy Hunt Belinda Hutchinson AC	
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3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2020-21

Mr Thomas moved that the minutes of the Foundation Annual General Meeting of **18 November 2021** be accepted. The minutes were accepted by Jane Garling.

4. Financial Summary 2021-22

Mr Phil Barter, Chief Operating Officer

Mr Barter advised that the Foundation received total revenue for the period of \$1.8 million, compared with \$4.3 million in the last financial year. Income from donations, partnerships and bequests this year was increased to \$3.1 million from \$2.9 million.

The Foundation provided \$700,000 towards Library Projects this year, compared with \$3.9 million for the year before, due to disruption of COVID.

The Foundation had \$20.8 million invested this year compared with \$20.3 million in the previous year. Mr Barter noted that it has been a volatile year for global financial markets, and this has had an impact on the Library's investments, held with the NSW Treasury Corporation in T Corp Hour-Glass investment facilities. The T Corp Medium Term growth fund and the short-Term Growth fund produced negative returns of – 6.43% and -0.69% respectively. This compared with last year's return of 8.69% and 0.98% respectively.

5. Major achievements of 2021-22

Mr Rob Thomas AO, Co-Chair, Foundation Board

Mr Thomas thanked the Foundation's donors, Friends and supporters during the past year, noting that it was the strong tradition of giving from the Friends and donors which has allowed the Foundation to deliver so many important projects. He acknowledged the leadership of the State Librarian, Dr John Vallance and the President of the Library Council, the Hon George Souris AM.

Mr Thomas acknowledged Foundation Board Co-Chair, Kim Williams AM and the commitment of the Foundation Board: Dr Raji Ambikairajah, Graham Bradley AM, Sarah Crouch, Jane Garling, Christine Holman, Kathy Shand, the Hon George Souris AM and Jemima Whyte. Mr Thomas thanked Nicholas Carney and Michael Caulfield, whose terms concluded in December 2021 on the Board. He also thanked the Trustees: Robert Cameron AO, Jane Garling and the Hon George Souris AM.

Mr Thomas acknowledged the Foundation team led by the Director, Susan Hunt.

Mr Thomas gave an overview of the highlights of the year:

The Learning Program

The past year saw an extraordinary increase in the number of participants in onsite and online programs from 32,000 last year to 96,000 this year. The Learning Services team built on the reputation of earlier online programs developed during lockdowns and they were able to attract an entirely new audience from around the state and beyond. Highlights of these programs include the record-breaking Book Week in August 2021 which saw 28,646 participants joining online for virtual excursions. A joint program with The Story Factory and National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy (NASCA) brought 125 Aboriginal students from eight secondary schools for a full day writing program developed by the Library's Learning and Indigenous Engagement teams.

The *Maps of the Pacific* Exhibition

The *Maps of the Pacific* exhibition, supported by the Foundation ran from November 2021 to April 2022 and featured more than 100 of the Library's collection of maps, charts, atlases and globes. The Foundation funded a major acquisition, *Charte Universelle De Tout Le Monde*. This extremely rare, printed map captures a pivotal moment in the history of Dutch mapping of the Australian coastline.

The 2022 Annual Appeal

The Annual Appeal raised almost \$400,000 in support of a permanent exhibition space for the Drawings, Watercolours and Prints gallery at the Library. The first exhibition, *Grand Vistas* opened in May 2022 and highlighted some of the Library's panoramas including Edward Close's *Panorama of Newcastle (1821)* and Jacob Janssen's 1832 *Panorama of Calcutta from the Ochterlony Monument to the Meydan*.

Mr Thomas introduced Co-Chair of the Board Kim Williams AM.

Mr Kim Williams AM, Co-Chair, Foundation Board

Mr Williams warmly acknowledged Foundation Board Co-Chair, Rob Thomas AO. He thanked the President of the Library Council, the Hon. George Souris AM and State Librarian, Dr John Vallance for their leadership of the Library during the past year. Mr Williams acknowledged the contributions of the Foundation Board and the Trustees.

Mr Williams gave an overview of several highlights of 2021-22, including:

The Australian Music Collections

Completed this year, the Library catalogued a backlog of complex multi-format music collections, including the papers of Australian composers, musicians, and music organisations, more than 1400 original music scores, and several rare original recordings. Significant work was completed on the collections of composers such as Albert Keats and Camille Gheysens, performing arts organisation Musica Viva Australia, and musician and educator Nancy Salas. Mr Williams thanked all the donors who had joined with him to support this important initiative.

The Mona Brand Award

The 2022 Mona Brand Award for Women Stage and Screen Writers was awarded to Andrea James for her exceptional body of work dedicated to sharing historical and

contemporary First Nations stories on stage. This award was established in 2016 through the bequest of the late Mona Alexis Fox nee Brand. The Early Career Writer Award went to Sukhjit Khalsa, for her debut coming-of-age work *Fully Sikh* (Barking Gecko and Black Swan Theatre Companies, 2019).

The National Biography Award

Celebrating excellence in biographical autobiography and memoir writing, this award has a prize value of \$42,000 and been made possible with the generous support of the late Michael Crouch AC and the Nelson Meers Foundation. This year's National Biography Award was presented to Cassandra Pybus for *Truganini: Journey through the Apocalypse* and the Michael Crouch Award for a debut biography which was presented to Andrew Kwong for his memoir *One Bright Moon*.

Fellowships

The Foundation continued its support of annual Fellowships which provide critical funding into the research writing and teaching of Australian history and culture. The 2022 fellowships were:

- The Coral Thomas Fellowship, awarded to Professor Sean Scalmer.
- The Ross Steele AM Fellowship, awarded to Ms Johanna Ellersdorfer.
- Dr AM Hertzberg AO Fellowship, awarded to Dr Paolo Stracchi.
- The Australian Religious History Fellowship, awarded to Dr Damian Gleeson.
- The David Scott Mitchell Memorial Fellowship, awarded to Dr Shuxia Chen.
- The Merewether Fellowship, awarded to Dr Molly Duggins.

Mr Williams introduced the State Librarian, Dr John Vallance.

6. The Year Ahead

Dr John Vallance, State Librarian

On behalf of the Hon George Souris AM, President of the Library Council, and his fellow Library Council members, Dr Vallance thanked the Co-Chairs and the Board members for their work this year.

Dr Vallance began by advising the meeting of the recent deaths of key figures associated with the Foundation: Mr Jim Bain AM, who was responsible for setting up the Library Foundation and Mr Nelson Meers AO and Mr Ken Coles AM, both of whom were long term supporters.

Dr Vallance gave an overview of the Library's Master Plan which will greatly enhance the accessibility of the Library, featuring a new 350 seat underground Auditorium and a Photography Gallery.

Dr Vallance advised the meeting of the State Government's recently announced significant investment in funding for public libraries to be administered by the State Library over the next four years.

Important pledged donations over the past year have included a two million dollar donation from Mr Len Ainsworth AM and a generous grant from the JIBB Foundation to establish a youth membership program for children across NSW.

Dr Vallance drew special attention to a recent bequest from the late Neville Brian Halse. This bequest is one of the largest the Library has received and will be used to improve the Macquarie Street Reading rooms.

Dr Vallance thanked the Foundation for underwriting the appointment of Dr. Karen Attar who started at the Library in August, on secondment from the Senate House Library, University of London. He spoke of enriching the Library's collection of early printed books, published outside Australia. A special campaign, called *Out of Print*, will look at acquiring significant printed books, tracing the origins of printing.

Dr Vallance concluded by thanking the Foundation Board and donors for all the support the Library receives. He also thanked Phil Barter, Chief Operating Officer and the Foundation team, Susan Hunt, Helena Poropat, Alice Tonkinson and Emily Standen.

7. Other Business and Close of Meeting

Ms Susan Hunt, Director, State Library of NSW Foundation

Ms Hunt thanked the many loyal Foundation donors and supporters for their generous contributions to the Library this year.

She also thanked the State Librarian, the Foundation Co-Chairs and the Foundation Board for all their support throughout the year. She also acknowledged the support of the Library Executive, including Phil Barter and the finance team and other colleagues for their work in successfully delivering so many Foundation funded projects. Finally, she thanked the Foundation team who had worked very hard despite the disrupted year.

As there were no questions from the floor and the meeting concluded at 4.40pm.

Confirmed:

Chair:

Date: