

Friends

STATE LIBRARY
South Australia

DECEMBER 2019



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shoes to fill!

Stephen Mark Gilbert has left the building – well not quite! He is still very active with our Publications Committee, the book binding group, and in an advisory capacity as Immediate Past President. His other love, the clipper ship *City of Adelaide* has lured him away from some of the prodigious amount of time he has been able to spend on the Friends of the State Library, in recent years as our President, and prior to that on the committee and as a member since 1975. Thank you Mark, for all your guidance and leadership, and looking forward to your ongoing involvement with the Friends.

A couple of years ago I received an email from the Friends announcing a new venture. I'd always wanted to learn more about book binding, and this was a great opportunity to join a newly formed group of like-minded people with the same interest. Little did I know that Mark would soon rope me in to help with the Bumper Book Sale. Later I was flattered into accepting the role of a Vice-President. Fast forward to last month, and here I am in the role of President! How can this be?

To say that heading up an august and long-lived organisation such as the Friends is daunting would be an understatement. Since 1932 this group has been supporting the State Library at a level which is not really understood by the general public. Members and past members of the committee have decades of wisdom and experience behind them in the realm of books and writing, academia, fund-raising, publishing and libraries.

I hope over the next couple of years we can build on the strong foundations which have been laid down. I am looking forward to working with our committee and membership to keep up the traditional events and functions - such as Wednesdays at One, the book clubs, and our AGM Dinner. The Inaugural Deane Miller Oration set the bar high for subsequent iterations; Paul Brunton's wit and wisdom was very much enjoyed by all who heard him.

Our outings and other events are an important part of the Friends' social fabric, and the committee has some stimulating new ideas for 2020. Our little bookshop in the Institute Building is going well, and second-hand book sales will be quite an important part of our fundraising.

There will be some good books coming out in the new year from our Australiana Publications arm. They include Colson's *First Across the Simpson Desert*, and *Adelaide, Queen City of the South*, lavishly illustrated with historical photogravure.

We hope to have an 'in-house' bindery operating next year, to bind some new books and repair old ones. We will be participating in the Fringe in February, the History Festival in May, and look out for one or two other exciting social events later in the year!

I hope our interaction with our sister organisations will develop further over the coming years. We have much in common with our near neighbours The Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Society for the Arts, and this can be to our mutual advantage I believe.

Sincere thanks must go to all our committee members and volunteers - many of them working quietly away behind the scenes. And of course, we would be nowhere without Leah Cronin, our Executive Officer.

Very best wishes to all members and their families at Christmas. Let's look forward to a busy and fruitful New Year!

Angela Bannon

December 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 20th Dec 2019 to

Friday 3rd Jan 2020

OFFICE CLOSED

January 2020

Wednesday at One

No Speaker Scheduled

5 February 2020 @ 1pm

Wednesday at One

Speaker: Alan Brissenden

**Make sure you support
the following Friends
events in 2020!**

- Tours
- Events
- Wednesdays at One
- Volunteering

FRIENDS OFFICE HOURS

Monday and Wednesday

10.00am to 2.00pm

Tuesday and Thursday

10.00am to 3.30pm

VISIT TO MOSQUE

Elizabeth Hambly

On Wednesday September 18th a group of Friends, and some of their friends, visited the Adelaide City Mosque in Little Gilbert Street.



Our guide was the Imam, Sheikh Helmi Bakhour. We spent a most interesting hour hearing about the history of the Adelaide Mosque which was the first to be built in an Australian city and is reputedly the oldest mosque in Australia still being used. Erected in 1888–89, it was designed to meet the spiritual needs of Muslim cameleers and traders coming from work in South Australia's northern regions. The four minarets were added to the mosque in 1903, two being slightly lower than the others. There have been additions and restorations since then.



After a tour of the outside we went into the mosque itself where we were told a little about Islam and the architecture of the building and were invited to ask questions.

It was fascinating to hear the Imam's chant resounding from the tiled niche at the front of the mosque and to see the board where the daily times for prayer are marked with the months of the Islamic year. The Imam showed us copies of the Koran and we heard him and his assistants reciting some of the text from memory.

AGM & DINNER

St Marks College, North Adelaide

After a wonderful evening at our most recent AGM & Dinner we would like to share the news of our newly elected Committee Members for 2020:

President - Angela Bannon

Co-Vice President - Patricia Michell

Co-Vice President - Rick Sarre

Secretary - Trevor Grant

Treasurer - Anthony Milton

Member - Mark Gilbert

Member - Elizabeth Hambly

Member - Anthony Hurl

Member - Roger Andre

Member - Jane Walkley

Member - Alan Brissenden

Member - Bernard Whimpress

Member - Pauline McCarthy

Member - Emma McEwin

Member - Vini Ciccarello



*Back row: (L-R) E McEwin, J Walkley, A Milton, V Ciccarello, A Brissenden, R Andre, P McCarthy, E Hambly
Front row: (L-R) T Grant, R Sarre, P Michell, M Gilbert, A Bannon, B Whimpress*



VISIT TO ARTLAB

Pauline McCarthy

Twenty four participants thoroughly enjoyed a tour of Artlab on Wednesday 3rd October. No doubt there were many fans of 'Fake of Fortune?' and 'Antiques Roadshow' in the group who were delighted by what they saw and learnt.

Two friendly and engaging guides, Val and Vonnie, took us around the five conservation areas; large objects, objects, paper, paintings and textiles. The conservators outlined how they worked and explained their processes of meticulous investigations and discoveries that they use to conserve and occasionally restore art works.



The stories behind the objects were fascinating. There was a cast iron stove rescued from a wreck near Ardrossan which has taken four years to remove the salt water; a most gloriously ornate cupboard which was carved by Maud Bailie (nee Golley) who lived on Wedge Island; a 18th century Bible which is still used by a school; a Robert Dowling oil painting located in a Scottish church; and a 1910's outfit being prepared for the Ross Smith Exhibition. Mind you, not all of their work is inside, as the conservator of large objects explained; much that they do involves removing guano from public artworks around Adelaide!

Artlab is a recognised leader in the conservation of cultural collections with a national and international reputation for excellence, in fact, the only such facility in the southern hemisphere. Free consultation days are held on the first and third Thursday of each month (bookings essential). The conservators can advise on the care and condition of artworks, historical items and family treasures.

They assess paintings, prints, drawings, books, photographs, ceramics, glass or wooden objects, textiles and all forms of decorative arts. How lucky we are to be able to access this wonderful organisation.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Wanting to get to know more about the Friends?

Meet some amazing people?

Well here is your opportunity!

The Friends are looking for volunteers for 2020...

Your skills can be used in many ways:

- Membership Reminders
- Pricing and sorting of any donated books for our ongoing pop-up bookshop
- Flyer distribution throughout the State Library
- Various small and large mailouts
- Australiana Publications Committee
- Programs/Events Committee

Please contact the office to register your interest in this exciting opportunity.

Email: slsafriends@sa.gov.au

Phone: 08 8207 7255

FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER...

With 2019 coming to a close I would like to thank you all for your continued support throughout another busy year at the Friends. I look forward to the coming year and all that it will bring to the Friends.

Wishing you and your families a safe and happy Christmas.

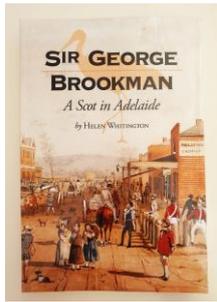
– Leah Cronin

Friday 20th Dec 2019 to Friday 3rd Jan 2020

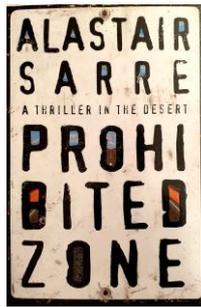
OFFICE CLOSED

AUTHORS WE SUPPORT

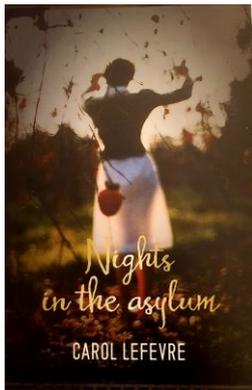
Below is a sample of the books we have available from some of our local authors:



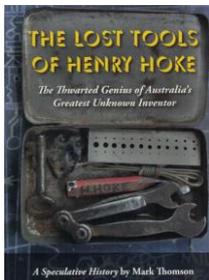
Members \$33



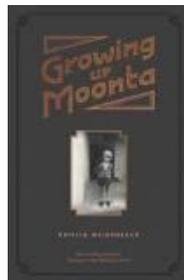
Members \$25



Members \$24.95



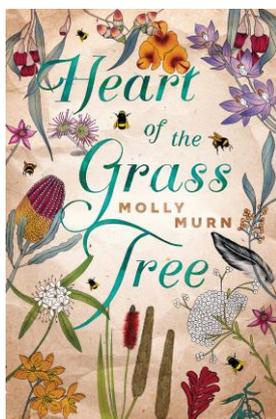
Members \$15



Members \$30

All of these books are available from our office or our online store

www.australianpublications.org.au



Members \$33

NEW DESIGNS!



Have you seen our latest range of Friends merchandise?

We have our own greeting cards, tote bags, mugs and notebooks all emblazoned with illustrations from our Australiana Publications. Come in and see examples in the Rooms, and you might get some good Christmas Gift ideas too!



Greeting Cards are available from the office. \$10 for pack of 5 cards including envelopes.

Tote bags, mugs and many other variations available at <https://www.redbubble.com/people/FriendsSLSA/shop>

