

## Friends of NERAM Chairman's Report for 2018

I hereby submit my report as chairman of the Friends of NERAM committee.

The AGM is a time to look back on the year just passed, to remember the fun and the challenges and to account for the responsibilities which befall a committee.

The committee met 11 times in 2018.

Position	Name	Meetings attended (11 meetings held)	Total Years on Committee
Chair	Carol Mackerras	10	4 years; 1 as Vice Chair; 2 as Chair
Vice Chair	Martha Saw	8	8 years; 4 as Chair; 2 as Vice Chair
Secretary	Ady Hallam	9	5 years; 4 as Secretary
Treasurer	Kim Taylor	10	3 years; 3 as Treasurer
Committee member	Ro Randall	7	12 years; 7 as Secretary
Committee member	Lucinda Wright	9	9 years
Committee member	Helen Templeton	6	6 years
Committee member	Sally Hardaker	7	4 years
Committee member	David Hallam	9	4 years

### Highlights of the year:

A major event at the beginning of last year was the opening of the Hinton Gallery. The significance of having a permanent exhibition space for NERAM's most wondrous collection, cannot be overstated. The Gallery has not only attracted many people to view the collection, but has been a superb venue for hosting a variety of events including concerts and dinners.

In June last year we farewelled Robert Heather as the director of NERAM and welcomed Rachael Parsons as our new director. In the interim between Robert's departure and Rachael's appointment Friends were most appreciative of the extra effort put in by staff, especially Rachael and Jen Taylor, to ensure the gallery kept running smoothly.

Other recent staff appointments include Leah Gilby as the finance and administration officer and Belinda Hungerford as curator.

Last year also saw the leasing of the cafe to Vio and Aisha Nedianu who have come to Armidale from Inverell.

It was the end of an era when Andrew Murray stepped down as chairman of the board of NERAM last December and I'm sure we are all grateful for his many years of service. Thankfully he hasn't left town and we look forward to having him join in the Friends' activities, particularly when we need another pair of hands.

#### Fundraising:

As usual, Friends were involved in many Fundraising activities last year.

Along with the annual highly successful NERAMble garden and sculpture event in April, our catering, bar and set-up queens and kings organised:

- the monthly exhibition openings including the Hinton gallery opening,
- three wakes,
- a NEGS lunch,
- an 'At Home'
- a Rotary lunch,
- an artist talk by Jenny Gowan
- Halal BBQ lunch for International students' day
- a Creative Ageing morning tea
- Robert Heather's farewell
- a private cocktail party
- a High Tea and
- a stall for the Black Gully festival.

As you know, NERAMble is our major event for fundraising and showcasing large sculptural art works. We rely on the generous support of landowners to open their gardens to the public and allow us to set up our catering and market stalls. Last year's event was held at the beautiful garden 'Orchard Cottage' Arding, home of the Julia and Don Hardman.

Last year also saw the generous support of Geoff Fox and Gorm Kirsch in opening their house to Friends for an 'At Home' and sharing their love of art, wine and social gatherings.

#### Expenditure:

Our focus is always on how we can help the gallery to have the events and facilities which we all come to enjoy.

Last year we supported the gallery with:

- \$11,500.00 in uncommitted funds for operational needs
- \$10,000.00 to sponsor the 'Adventures of AECAP' exhibition
- an additional \$225 to provide prizes for a children's art competition based on the AECAP exhibition
- \$6,550.00 to 'Adopt an Artwork' for the preservation of 'Still Life' by Nora Heysen. Most of the funds were generated at the High Tea but additional generosity from 4 individuals enabled the full cost of preserving the painting and the frame to be donated.

#### Acknowledgements:

I would like to acknowledge and thank the local businesses who support Friends of NERAM by offering members a 10% discount on purchases.

My heartfelt thanks to the staff of NERAM who had a particularly challenging year with the many disruptions and staff changes, but came through with a smile. In particular my thanks to Rachael for rising to all the challenges of her new role and bringing her own brand of style and innovation.

I don't know how to adequately pay tribute to the Fun-raising committee who are an absolute powerhouse of enthusiastic volunteers. Thank you on behalf of all the Friends - you are all shining stars.

Thank you to the Board for overseeing the important governance and operation of NERAM.

Finally, thank you to the rest of the Friends committee. To Kim, Martha, Lucinda, Helen, Ady, David, Rosemary and Sally, many thanks for once again rising to the challenges, sharing your wisdom and being generous with your support and humour.

Carol Mackerras  
Chairman, Friends of NERAM