

## **Chairperson's Report for Friends of NERAM Inc 2020-2021 AGM**

On behalf of the Friends of NERAM Committee, I submit my report on the activities undertaken by the organisation during 2020/2021. As you are aware it was a difficult year, the lockdown & restrictions on social interactions to combat the Covid 19 pandemic, severely curtailed our activities throughout the year.

The Committee met 10 times from July 2020 - March 2021 despite the Covid 19 restrictions. This included a General Meeting on 5 December 2020, to consider constitutional changes. Three changes were approved by the membership and submitted to Fair Trading for approval. A 4<sup>th</sup> amendment relating to Committee Members' maximum terms was defeated and referred for further consideration and presentation at the 2021 AGM. Once completed the amendments will be reflected in the Constitution and available on the website.

### **Committee**

In November 2020, Genevieve Noone resigned as Treasurer. Her unstinting support and guidance continued until February 2021 when Robyn McCarthy agreed to take on the role of Treasurer. In 2021 we also welcomed new Committee members, Debra Kelliher and Deb McKern.

In December 2020, Carol Mackerras and Sarah Johnstone suddenly resigned from the Committee. At issue were fundamental differences of opinions about the sponsoring of the White Rhino Film Club by Friends of NERAM Inc. The Committee acknowledges and appreciates the many years of commitment by Carol and Sarah to the organisation.

### **Current Committee members**

Julia McCosker	Chairperson	David Hallam	Deputy Chairperson
Lynne Walker	Secretary	Robyn McCarthy	Treasurer
Merran Pearson	Membership Secretary	Richard Purssey	Member
Lucinda Wright	Member	Debra Kelliher	Member
Deb McKern	Member.		

### **Financial**

Despite the impact of the COVID 19 restrictions on our activities the Friends donated \$10,270 in membership fees to NERAM. In addition, Friends donated \$11,270 towards exhibitions and refurbishment of the shop.

The operating result for the year ended 31 December 2020 was a deficit of (\$7,441) compared with the 2019 deficit of (\$4,648).

### **Oars Awards**

In December 2020, the following Friends were recognised for their outstanding voluntary contributions over many years. Their dedication and uncomplaining service to the organisation is an inspiration to all.

Helen & Graham Wilson  
Moirra & Peter Lloyd, and  
Rosemary Randall.

## **Membership**

As of the 28 February 2021 membership of the Friends stood at 254, slightly down on April 2020 numbers of 274.

## **Activities**

Many events were cancelled in 2020 including our major fundraiser the Neramble, hosting the Australian Federation of Friends of Museums (AFFM) Conference and catering for Exhibitions.

In September 2020, Mahalith Halperin & Jock Coventry hosted an At Home which was well received by members. There were several exhibitions at the end of 2020 that were catered for by Friends.

In January 2021, the White Rhino Film Club commenced. It was a resounding success with subscriptions sold out. The Committee applauds the dedication of John & Wendy Wearne and Belinda Hungerford for proceeding with the initiative and we look forward to many sociable Sunday afternoons throughout 2021.

Friends are sponsoring several workshops facilitated by Julie McCarthy (Paper Conservator). The first workshop held on 28 February 2021 on *Bookbinding* was received very enthusiastically by the participants. The Committee is delighted to support this collaboration and we see it as an expansion of our activities.

## **Acknowledgements**

The work of Friends is built upon our voluntary members willing to give their time, advice and share their skills to promote the organisation. The Catering Queens provided a variety of culinary delights at Exhibition Openings. Their continued goodwill and support are the foundations of the organisation.

We thank the NERAM team for their professionalism, assistance and good humour throughout a very trying year. Rachael and her staff provided invaluable support to the Friends, from front of office enquiries to financial advice and setting up for a variety of events. We look forward to continuing the respectful and collaborative relationship in 2021.

A big thank you to NERAM Committee members for your diligence and commitment over the past 12 months. Our heartfelt thanks to Lucinda Wright who has given 10 years of service to the Friends. Lucinda will not seek re-election in 2021.

We will continue our work as Friends and look forward to numerous activities in 2021 to benefit NERAM and provide a warm and friendly organisation for our membership.

Julia McCosker  
Chairperson  
Friends of NERAM Inc.