



Annual  
Report  
Library  
Board of  
Queensland

2017-18





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29 August 2018

The Honourable LEEANNE ENOCH MP  
Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts  
GPO Box 5078  
Brisbane QLD 4001

Dear Minister

I am pleased to submit for presentation to the Parliament the Annual Report 2017–18 and financial statements for the Library Board of Queensland.

I certify that this Annual Report complies with:

- the prescribed requirements of the *Financial Accountability Act 2009* and the *Financial and Performance Management Standard 2009*, and
- the detailed requirements set out in the *Annual report requirements for Queensland Government agencies*.

A checklist outlining the annual reporting requirements can be found at page 90 of this annual report.

Yours sincerely



**Professor Andrew Griffiths**  
Chairperson  
Library Board of Queensland

**Right:** State Library hosts a wide variety of events to help showcase collection ideas and get conversations started. Photo by Joe Ruckli.



# State Library of Queensland

## Government's objectives for the community

The Library Board of Queensland contributes to the achievement of the Queensland Government's objectives for the community which are:

- Building safe, caring and connected communities:  
Providing welcoming places for everyone, free access to a wide range of information and opportunities for the open exchange of ideas and exposure to different perspectives.
- Creating jobs and a diverse economy:  
Supporting entrepreneurs to create new businesses and enabling current small businesses to transform into digital business. Providing assistance for job seekers, from lifelong learning programs, assistance with job hunting and submitting applications online.
- Protecting the environment:  
Collecting and preserving Queensland's documentary culture and heritage.

## Vision

We enable the growth of knowledge, innovation and enterprise in Queensland

## Purpose

State Library of Queensland is governed by the Library Board of Queensland. It draws its powers from the *Libraries Act 1988*. The object of this Act is to contribute to the cultural, social and intellectual development of all Queenslanders.

## Key objectives

- Enable access
- Engage community
- Build capability

## Our values

- We provide free and equitable access
- We seek diverse voices
- We share
- We belong to the community

## About us

State Library of Queensland is the custodian of the state's unique stories. Our historic and contemporary collections inform our programming, public engagement and partnerships. We are a place of experimentation, possibility and inclusion, where knowledge empowers and diversity is celebrated.

State Library is part of a vibrant network of more than 320 public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres (IKCs) throughout Queensland.

## 2017–18 priorities:

- Digital Strategy
- Engagement Strategy
- Building a better online presence
- Leverage major projects: First 5 Forever and Q ANZAC 100: *Memories for a New Generation*
- Engaging with public libraries

## State Library's services include:

- collecting and preserving a trusted record of Queensland
- encouraging research to deepen the knowledge of Queensland past and present
- interpreting Queensland stories through exhibitions, events, discussion and debate
- developing an inclusive library service, addressing diverse needs, strengthening opportunities for the expression of ideas and fostering the appreciation of difference
- providing access to collections and services in a range of formats and channels, so they are available to all, regardless of geographical location
- recognising the unique knowledge and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and working with communities to ensure their history and culture is preserved, and
- advocating for public libraries and partnering with local government to provide Queenslanders with the opportunities to participate fully in the economic, social, political and cultural dimensions of society.

**36,852** new items  
ADDED TO THE  
John Oxley Library  
collection

over **14 million**  
uses of State Library content

over **30,000**

**VISITS** **1.4** NEW members  
onsite

**MILLION**  
online

 **97%** **2.2** customer satisfaction

# Chairperson's overview

## 2017–18



I am delighted to present my second report as Chairperson of the Library Board of Queensland.

The Library Board is committed to improving access to information and knowledge for all Queenslanders.

This is a bold aspiration in a state that is home to some of the nation's most remote and vulnerable communities.

To better understand the needs of communities across the state, the Library Board had the privilege of travelling to Far North Queensland in May 2018 to meet with local government representatives, library staff and visitors.

The visit included Cairns, Gordonvale, Yarrabah and Mossman where board members saw first-hand the impact of innovative State Library programs such as First 5 Forever, STEM.I.AM coding and robotics and Tech Savvy Seniors Queensland. It also provided an opportunity to further understand the challenges with connectivity along with the knowledge and stories locals wanted to discover and share.

It was gratifying to see the professional and financial support provided by State Library is having a meaningful, grassroots impact on all those who use the network of more than 320 public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres (IKCs) throughout Queensland. From young families to tourists, local libraries are vital community hubs.

First 5 Forever, which is delivered in partnership with libraries and IKCs, is one of State Library's many success stories.

This popular early literacy initiative was allocated \$5 million in ongoing annual funding in the 2018–19 State Budget. This is a massive vote of confidence in a program that encourages and supports parents and carers to play an active role in their child's language and literacy development in a social and inclusive environment. The boost comes on the back of a successful start for First 5 Forever, with almost two million attendances recorded at free activities across the state in its first three years.

Queensland Library Foundation also continues to support State Library's diverse and exciting work. Through the generosity of valued donors we can continue to develop our collections, conservation and projects beyond government funding.

We are grateful to all our corporate sponsors and individual donors, many of whom have supported the Foundation's work since it was established in 1988.

I also acknowledge the significant contribution of outgoing Foundation President Max Walters OAM who served on the council for 14 years, the last three as president.

Helen Brodie has been appointed as new Foundation President and Courtney Talbot as Foundation Vice-President. I congratulate them both and look forward to working with them to continue the important work of the Foundation to secure ongoing support for the State Library.

I would like to thank the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts, the Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP, for her continued, energetic support of State Library in 2017–18.

I also acknowledge State Librarian and CEO Vicki McDonald, the leadership team and staff who have again shown outstanding dedication over the past 12 months.

Sincere thanks also to outgoing Library Board Deputy Chairperson Linda Apelt for her invaluable contribution.

Congratulations to board member Professor Tom Cochrane AM who will take over as Deputy Chairperson and welcome Tamara O'Shea to the Library Board.

I look forward to another successful year ahead.

**Professor Andrew Griffiths**  
Chairperson  
Library Board of Queensland



# State Librarian's year in review

## 2017–18

Discovering unknown stories of First World War Indigenous servicemen and marking the 10th anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generations were emblematic of our activities and aspirations as a leading Australian cultural institution this financial year.

Stories discovered helped us remember the past while looking to the future, and reflect our commitment to providing a platform to share Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories and knowledge.

This is a key focus of State Library: honouring and discovering the past while preserving it for future generations. It has also shaped our 2018–19 vision: inspiring possibilities through knowledge, stories and creativity. The world of possibility takes many forms, but central to it is access and partnership.

This year, we launched our Digital Strategy, ensuring digital experiences are intrinsic to the life of State Library and the people who visit, collaborate and create with us. We want to lead digital collecting, engagement and empowerment for Queenslanders. The strategy maps our intention to increase online access to our collections, to embed rich digital experiences in all we do and to strengthen digital literacy in our communities.

Partnerships help us to achieve these goals, and I acknowledge Telstra's continued support of two key initiatives: Deadly Digital Communities and Tech Savvy Seniors Queensland (TSSQ). The Deadly Digital Communities program, delivered in partnership with IKCs and local councils encourages Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to dream big through digital literacy and to create and unlock new opportunities and possibilities for themselves and their community.

The TSSQ program gives older people, across Queensland, the opportunity to develop skills and confidence to use technology for socialising, accessing important services or conducting personal business. The former Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services provided \$85,000 in funding to help deliver the program through public libraries across the state in 2017–18 and the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors committed the same amount to support the program next financial year.

Important legacy projects such as *Q ANZAC 100: Memories for a New Generation*, now in its fourth and penultimate year, also continued to flourish with community participation; Historypin, blogs and conservation workshops all helped Queenslanders add to and discover their local wartime history. We are also thrilled to have been chosen to provide content and curatorial oversight of the Anzac Square galleries as part of the stage four restoration of this important state memorial.

Our own programming continued to attract onsite and online visitors. *Lifestyle: a sunshine state of mind* and the *Magnificent Makers: Queensland inventors and their curious creations* exhibitions delighted diverse audiences with the exploration of the quirky and curious stories that live within our extensive collections.

The excitement of the 2018 Commonwealth Games extended to State Library with the *Bright Bold Boundless: Designing the Queen's Baton* display, exploring the fascinating story behind the iconic Queen's Baton.

kuril dhagun's showcase, *Our Sporting Greats: Murri and Ailan athletes in the spotlight*, celebrated the profound and inspiring stories of some unsung Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sporting heroes including the Cherbourg Marching Girls and Uncle Charlie King, President of the Brisbane Natives Rugby League team.

In 2017–18, I was privileged to visit a number of IKCs in the Torres Strait, Cherbourg and Yarrabah. These centres are owned and operated by Indigenous Shire Councils — with State Library helping with the cost of staffing, library material and professional development. It is humbling to see how a passion for libraries can help enhance a community.

As an organisation, our staff actively participated in reconciliation activities; everything from BlackCard Cultural Awareness workshops to bush food cooking demonstrations. They provided an invaluable opportunity to learn more from our nation's first people.

Finally, I would like to thank Professor Andrew Griffiths for his enthusiastic and thoughtful leadership of the Library Board, and the executive team and staff who have supported me through an organisation-wide realignment that has helped reprioritise our future goals and aspirations. It has been a privilege to work with you all, as together we deliver outstanding library services to Queenslanders.



**Vicki McDonald**  
State Librarian and CEO  
State Library of Queensland

# Library Board of Queensland



The Library Board of Queensland (the Library Board), established in 1943, is the governing body of State Library of Queensland and draws its powers from the *Libraries Act 1988 (Libraries Act)*. The object of the *Libraries Act* is to contribute to the cultural, social and intellectual development of all Queenslanders.

The legislated guiding principles for achieving this are:

- (a) leadership and excellence should be demonstrated in providing library and information services
- (b) there should be responsiveness to the needs of communities in regional and outer metropolitan areas
- (c) respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures should be affirmed
- (d) children and young people should be supported in their understanding and use of library and information services
- (e) diverse audiences should be developed
- (f) capabilities for lifelong learning about library and information services should be developed
- (g) opportunities should be developed for international collaboration and for cultural exports, especially to the Asia Pacific region
- (h) content relevant to Queensland should be collected, preserved, promoted and made accessible.

The functions and powers of the Library Board are listed in Appendix A.

In addition to regular meetings of the Library Board, members represented State Library at conferences, library openings and other official functions throughout 2017–18.

One committee and two advisory groups advise and inform the Library Board on issues that arise within their brief. These bodies also act as important consultative mechanisms with the broader community. The members of the Library Board committee and advisory groups are listed in Appendix C.

The Library Board periodically meets outside Brisbane to stay informed about regional issues and to strengthen its relationship with local government and the community.

Under section 7 of the *Libraries Act*, in appointing a Library Board member, regard must be given to the person's ability to contribute to the Library Board's performance and the implementation of its strategic and operational plans.

Under section 9 of the *Libraries Act*, a person is not eligible for appointment as a member if the person is not able to manage a corporation because of the *Corporations Act 2001, Part 2D.6*.



(Left to right)  
Professor Marek Kowalkiewicz, Mr Bob Shead, Mr Malcolm McMillan, Mrs Tamara O'Shea, Ms Vicki McDonald, Professor Andrew Griffiths, Emeritus Professor Tom Cochrane AM, Dr Anita Heiss and Dr Sandra Phillips.

## Board members and attendance

In 2017–18 there were six Library Board meetings. The table below outlines appointment terms and meeting attendance in 2017–18.

All current Library Board members are appointed until 28 February 2020 except for Mrs Tamara O'Shea, who is appointed until 20 May 2021. Biographies of Library Board members are detailed in Appendix B.

### Observers

The State Librarian and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) attends all meetings of the Library Board as an observer unless excused or precluded by the Library Board as per section 15 of the *Libraries Act*.

**Ms Vicki McDonald**, State Librarian and CEO

**Mr Andrew Spina**, Assistant Director-General, Digital Productivity and Services Division, Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation (observer) (until December 2017)

**Mr Scott Martin**, Executive Director, Arts Queensland, Department of Environment and Science (from December 2017)

### Secretariat

**Ms Jennifer Genrich**, Manager, Office of State Librarian

	Member from:	Member to:	2017–18 meetings	
			Eligible:	Attended:
Professor Andrew Griffiths (Chairperson from Mar 2017)	Mar 2014	Feb 2020	6	5
Ms Linda Apelt (Deputy Chairperson until Aug 2017)	Mar 2017	Aug 2017	2	2
Emeritus Professor Tom Cochrane AM (Deputy Chairperson from Oct 2017)	Mar 2017	Feb 2020	6	5
Dr Anita Heiss	Mar 2017	Feb 2020	6	5
Professor Marek Kowalkiewicz	Mar 2017	Feb 2020	6	5
Cr Julia Leu	Aug 2016	Feb 2020	6	6
Mr Malcolm McMillan	Mar 2017	Feb 2020	6	6
Mrs Tamara O'Shea	May 2018	May 2021	0	0
Dr Sandra Phillips	Mar 2017	Feb 2020	6	5
Mr Bob Shead	Mar 2017	Feb 2020	6	5

# Queensland Library Foundation

Queensland Library Foundation (the Foundation) supports State Library's fundraising endeavours, specifically in the philanthropic and corporate sectors. It was established by the Library Board under the powers defined by the *Libraries Act 1988*.

The Foundation is a not-for-profit company, Limited by Guarantee, registered under the *Corporations Act 2001*. In keeping with the Act, the Foundation produces its own annual report and associated audited financial statements, which are available online at [slq.qld.gov.au/about-us/queensland-library-foundation/annual-report](http://slq.qld.gov.au/about-us/queensland-library-foundation/annual-report) or from the Foundation office.

Since 2002–03, the Foundation's financial statements have been consolidated into those of the parent entity, the Library Board, in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

This year, the Foundation celebrated 30 years since its launch on 5 May 1988. Through the generosity of sponsors and donors, the Foundation supported and enabled a range of projects in 2017–18, including:

- the prestigious John Oxley Library Fellowship, awarded to Dr Jennifer Moffatt for her project *The story of Queensland's selectors: how those who won land in a ballot contributed to Queensland's social, economic and political development*
- the John Oxley Library Community History Award, presented to the Yugambah Museum, Language and Heritage Research Centre for their continued focus on cultural and educational exchange so that generations today and in the future can embrace traditional language, stories and heritage
- the biennial Letty Katts Award presented to Professor Peter Roennfeldt for research into *Brisbane's Albert Hall 1901–1968: celebrating memory and heritage of a major performance venue*
- the Queensland Business Leaders Hall of Fame Fellowship presented to Hilary Davies to help her uncover the *History of the Canada Cycle and Motor Agency Ltd – one of Queensland's major motor businesses*
- inclusion of six new inductees into the Queensland Business Leaders Hall of Fame, and related activities in partnership with QUT Business School
- induction of new recipients of the Mittelheuser Scholar-in-Residence and Student Internship Program, supported by Dr Cathryn Mittelheuser AM

- new interviews added to *The James C Sourris AM Collection*, which captures the voice of contemporary Australian artists for current and future generations. This collection was also showcased in three Portrait of an Artist free public events featuring Luke Roberts and Doug Hall AM, and remembering the legacy of gallery owner Ray Hughes.
- launch of the Siganto Foundation Digital Learning Workshops for newly arrived communities at The Edge, State Library's community makerspace and resource hub for all things art, science, technology and enterprise
- the *Magnificent Makers* exhibition exploring innovation and invention in Queensland from the late 1800s to the present day in the Philip Bacon Heritage Gallery
- the Reel Rescue fundraising campaign supporting the digitisation of State Library's motion picture collection, and
- the funding to create a replica of the R.F. Tunley Braille globe in a revolutionary 3D printed format so sight-impaired Queenslanders can experience this unique collection item as it was intended when it was first manufactured in the 1950s.

Continuing programs include:

- the popular Heritage Talk series for annual donors which enables in-depth engagement with State Library collections and librarians
- President's 100 Circle, a committed group of multi-year donors
- Sir Leo Hielscher Bequest Program, which creates a permanent source of income for vital programs that enrich the lives of Queenslanders.

The Queensland Library Foundation and State Library are grateful to all donors — individual, philanthropic and corporate — for their support during the past financial year.

## Foundation Council members 2017–18:

Mr Max Walters OAM (President) (until 31 December 2018)  
 Ms Helen Brodie (President) (from 15 May 2018)  
 Mr Malcolm Grierson AM (until 3 May 2018)  
 Mr Michael Hawkins  
 Ms Julie Mannion  
 Mr Neil Summerson AM  
 Ms Courtney Talbot (Vice-President from 15 May 2018)  
 Professor Andrew Griffiths (Chairperson of the Library Board of Queensland)  
 Ms Vicki McDonald (State Librarian and CEO)

# Organisational structure

AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

