

30 August 2016

The Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP  
Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small  
Business  
Level 26, 111 George Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Minister

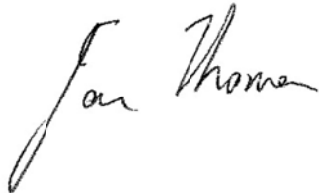
I am pleased to present the Annual Report 2015–16 and financial statements for the  
Library Board of Queensland.

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 accessed at  
[www.slq.qld.gov.au/about-us/corporate/publications/corporate-reporting/annual-report-2015-16](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/about-us/corporate/publications/corporate-reporting/annual-report-2015-16)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline for the letter 'J'.

Professor Jan Thomas  
Chairperson  
Library Board of Queensland

# Part 1: Introduction

## State Library of Queensland

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<b>Purpose</b>	Inspiring Queensland's creativity — <i>forever</i>	
<b>Enduring values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We provide free and equitable access</li> <li>• We seek diverse voices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We share</li> <li>• We belong to the community</li> </ul>

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State Library of Queensland (SLQ) is a vital and innovative community resource — a physical and virtual space for sharing, learning, collaborating and creating. This vibrant 21st century library is an inclusive and welcoming place for all, a trusted source for information, a place for intellectual freedom and creativity, and the primary custodian of Queensland's memory. SLQ meets the Library Board of Queensland's legislative priorities of contributing to the cultural, social and intellectual development of all Queenslanders. Its main campus at Brisbane's South Bank incorporates John Oxley Library (JOL), vast repositories of heritage and information collections, Asia Pacific Design Library (APDL), Australian Library of Art, The Corner, The Edge, kuril dhagun, a new Business Studio, exhibition spaces and venues for hire. From its Cannon Hill office, it delivers vital services in public library development and collection preservation, and through its Cairns regional office it delivers services in partnership with Indigenous Knowledge Centres (IKCs). This is complemented by an expanding online offer.

SLQ's services include:

- onsite and online services including information/research services, venue hire, café, Library Shop and fabrication lab
- supporting public library and IKC development through grants, collection services and professional development
- promoting research and understanding of Queensland's unique history, and capturing and documenting the State's story for current and future generations
- managing State collection assets through acquisition, description, preservation, access and discovery
- creative and culturally engaging programs for all Queenslanders including children and families, youth, Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and people with disability
- support and advocacy for public library services for all Queenslanders
- centres of engagement with children and young people (The Corner); Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (kuril dhagun and IKCs); arts, science and technology (The Edge); design (APDL) and enterprise (Business Studio).

SLQ serves regional Queensland by providing direct funding and support to a network of more than 320 public libraries and IKCs, and statewide electronic access to a range of information resources, including a rapidly growing range of digitised unique Queensland material. Visitation to public libraries is growing, and 45% of Queenslanders are members. SLQ plays a particular leadership role to support the sustainability of small rural and remote libraries and IKCs, including the purchase of bulk collections, shared across the network.

SLQ and Queensland public libraries support the State Government's Advance Queensland policy agenda and the objectives for the community by providing informal education and training options, access to resources to aid lifelong learning, and supporting disadvantaged Queenslanders through a range of free or subsidised services. These institutions provide spaces which help develop safe, caring and connected communities, and through which regional residents can access a world of resources. By providing skills development programs, and services for entrepreneurs, they help increase workforce participation and stimulate economic growth and innovation. SLQ and public libraries help conserve Queensland's documentary heritage and stories, and encourage people to create their own.

As the State's population grows, its cultural heritage and communities become increasingly diverse. SLQ's century-long established role as a trusted collector and preserver of Queensland memory now includes the key strategic challenge of negotiating the risks and opportunities of the ongoing digital revolution. SLQ's services support Queensland's reputation as a thriving arts and cultural centre, and a place for collaboration and innovation. Its Government Research and Information Library (GRAIL) offers cost-effective professional research to government agencies.

## Chairperson's overview 2015–16

This has been another year rich with programming and new thinking at State Library of Queensland, as the organisation continues to examine what it means to be a library in the rapid change of the 21st century.

SLQ is a networking hub in Queensland, creating partnerships across business, government, education providers and community to further our mutual goals. These goals are aligned with State Government initiatives such as the Advance Queensland policy.

Advance Queensland aims to harness innovation to strengthen and diversify the State's economy and create jobs for the future. SLQ supports this with a range of offers from our new Business Studio to our skills programs. The Business Studio provides services, resources and a dedicated space for entrepreneurs and start-up companies, while our skill programs introduce people to computing, science and robotics, and allow them to explore their creativity in those fields. Our work also builds capability and connectivity in the regions, enabling inclusion of more Queenslanders' participation in the digital economy by increasing digital literacy skills, and providing resources and professional development to help public libraries support their communities.

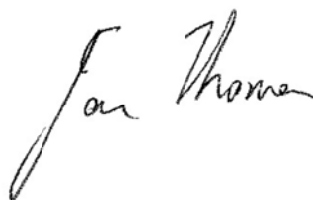
SLQ also supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander initiatives through the ever-growing network of Indigenous Knowledge Centres across Queensland. These centres provide access to internet services and digital literacy training, collection material specific to the community, and act as an invaluable community hub for learning and knowledge sharing.

Many of the projects that take place at SLQ are supported by the Queensland Library

Foundation, its fabulous members and donors. The Foundation plays an integral role in the work we do, strengthening our ability to acquire important historical collections, and to support some of the ongoing work in the spaces of keeping Queensland's memories alive, and learning from the work of our business pioneers in the Business Leaders Hall of Fame.

This year, Ms Janette Wright's appointment to the role of State Librarian and CEO expired on 26 November 2015 after more than four years in the role. Mrs Sonia Cooper was appointed as an interim State Librarian and CEO on 20 October 2015, while an open merit recruitment process for the State Librarian role was underway. Mrs Cooper has ensured that SLQ continues to deliver its vast and valuable array of services to communities during this time of change, and has been an asset to the team. The recruitment process was completed in June 2016, with the newly appointed State Librarian, Ms Vicki McDonald, to begin in early September 2016.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the important work of SLQ in 2015–16, ensuring we continue as a vital and vibrant resource for the people and communities of Queensland.



**Professor Jan Thomas**  
Chairperson  
Library Board of Queensland

## State Librarian's year in review 2015–16

It has been an absolute pleasure and a privilege to be part of the SLQ team in 2015–16, as we provided services to an ever increasing number of onsite and online visitors, and grew and expanded our services to new interest groups.

The *Q ANZAC 100* program delivered the highly successful *Distant Lines* and *Peace and Quiet* exhibitions, A State of War interactive timeline, growth in the Historypin Hub, more than 11,000 Soldier portraits and 25 White Gloves experiences across Queensland.

The First 5 Forever program supported public libraries across Queensland in delivering outreach and programming to support family literacy. Some of the public libraries that have taken part in this initiative previously had no such programming, and their engagement has greatly enriched their offering to the community.

While SLQ is physically situated across three locations, Brisbane's South Bank, in Cairns and in Cannon Hill, our work reaches across Queensland and of course beyond. An increasing proportion of our content and collections can be readily accessed online, with some out-of-copyright collection items available digitally through sites such as Historypin and Flickr.

We also support public libraries to deliver programs to their local communities. The term "public libraries" includes Rural Libraries Queensland (RLQ) libraries (a collaboration of 29 local government areas), Independent libraries and 25 Indigenous Knowledge Centres across Queensland.

SLQ prides itself in working "for, with and by" the community. That ethos reflects an organisational commitment to co-creation, getting the community involved in creating our activities, and in collecting and interpreting Queensland's memories.

It's inspiring to see the projects that have come out of the various fellowships that

SLQ provides over the year: the John Oxley Library Fellowship, the Queensland Business Leaders Hall of Fame Fellowship, Siganto Artist Books Fellowships, black&write! Indigenous Writing Fellowships and *Q ANZAC 100* Fellowships. Along with the recipient of the new Letty Katts Award, the 2016 Fellows will have created new knowledge, stories or artworks by this time next year.

It's not been a year without challenges, but SLQ has consolidated and grown its worth as a cultural institution that reduces barriers to access, builds capability in the regions, enables new enterprise and future-proofs our digital library of Queensland's memory and knowledge.

It's always a challenge to highlight all of the services and activities SLQ provides for the people of Queensland in one publication. Please read our website, blogs, social media and various subscriber newsletters for the latest information on our ongoing programs, events and workshops, including hosting the Brisbane Writers Festival, providing practical skills workshops at The Edge, and running a national Summer Reading Club program for children.

Thank you so much to all of the very talented and dedicated staff, volunteers, partners and stakeholders who make all of these services and activities possible. Without them, we wouldn't be able to achieve our goal of *Inspiring Queensland's creativity — forever*.



**Sonia Cooper**  
State Librarian and CEO  
State Library of Queensland

## Part 2: Corporate Library Board of Queensland

The Library Board of Queensland (The Board), established in 1943, is the governing body of SLQ 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 Board are listed in Appendix A.

In addition to regular meetings of the Board, members represented SLQ at conferences, library openings and other official functions throughout 2015–16.

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

The 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 Board member, regard must be given to the person's ability to contribute to the 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.

### **Board members and attendance:**

In 2015–16 there were seven Board meetings. The table on the following page outlines appointment terms and meeting attendance in 2015–16.

All Board members are appointed until 28 February 2017. Biographies of Board members are detailed in Appendix B.

### **Observers**

The State Librarian attends all meetings of the Board as an observer unless excused or precluded by the Board as per section 15 of the *Libraries Act*.

Janette Wright, State Librarian (until October 2015)

Sonia Cooper, State Librarian (from October 2015)

Mr Andrew Spina, Assistant Director General Digital Productivity and Services Division, (Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation (DSITI) observer)

Councillor Carolyn Tillman, Western Downs Regional Council (Local Government observer from February 2016)

Members of SLQ's Executive Team:

Prashant Pandey, Director Content Development

Rita McLucas, Director Corporate Services  
Jane Cowell, Director Engagement and Partnerships

Ross Duncan, Director Regional Access and Public Libraries (until May 2016)

Louise Denoon, Director Regional Access and Public Libraries (from June 2016)

### **Secretariat**

Maree Jenner, Executive Advisor (until March 2016)

Vanessa McCormack, Acting Manager Office of State Librarian (from April 2016)

	<b>Member from:</b>	<b>Member to:</b>	<b>Eligible meetings 2015–16:</b>	<b>Attended meetings 2015–16:</b>
Professor Jan Thomas (Chairperson)	March 2014	—	7	6
Professor Emeritus Roland Sussex OAM (Deputy Chairperson)	November 2009	—	7	6
Professor Andrew Griffiths	March 2014	—	7	6
Ms Heather Linaker	March 2014	—	7	7
Mr Matthew McDonnell	April 2008	—	7	6
Mr Scott Reid	February 2011	—	7	6
Associate Professor Grace Sarra	February 2008	—	7	6
Adjunct Professor Joan Sheldon AM	March 2014	—	7	6

## Queensland Library Foundation

*Queensland Library Foundation (the Foundation) supports SLQ's fundraising endeavours, specifically in the philanthropic and corporate sectors. It was established by the Library Board under the powers as 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 [www.slq.qld.gov.au/about-us/queensland-library-foundation/annual-report](http://www.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.

Through the generosity of sponsors and donors, the Foundation supported and enabled a range of projects in 2015–16, including:

- introducing a new *Mittelheuser Scholar in Residence and Student Internship Program*, supported by Dr Cathryn Mittelheuser AM (p21)
- establishing the *Letty Katts Award*, supporting the research, documenting and performance of Queensland's music history (p21)
- employing and training two Indigenous *Ideas Box* Coordinators in Mapoon and Kowanyama for a six-month period, thanks to grant funding from the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation. The Coordinators oversaw the programming and delivery of the Libraries without Borders and Puma Trafigura Foundation sponsored *Ideas Box*, providing an alternative to IKCs for these two communities where there is currently no such infrastructure
- *Philip Bacon Regional Touring Exhibitions* afforded 186,688 regional Queenslanders the opportunity to experience SLQ's exhibitions on their doorsteps
- five interviews were added to *The James C Sourris AM Collection*, which captures the voice of contemporary Australian artists for current and future generations
- repairing and digitising four bound albums of original photographs documenting the construction of the

Story Bridge, Brisbane's great infrastructure initiative of the Depression Years, 1936–41, thanks to a donation from the Curavis Fund

- Queensland Business Leaders Hall of Fame, including a series of entrepreneur talks, in partnership with QUT Business School
- Siganto Foundation Artists' Books Fellowships were awarded to Dr Lyn Ashby for *An inquiry into the nature of the stories that can be told with the unique qualities of the artists' book*, and Marian Crawford for *Banaba/Ocean: picturing the island*.

Continuing programs included the very popular Behind the Scenes series for annual donors, through which donors are offered in-depth engagement with selected aspects of SLQ collections and events.

The Sir Leo Hielscher Bequest Program continued, aiming to create a permanent source of income for vital programs that enrich the lives of Queenslanders.

Additionally, the Foundation secured a grant from John T Reid Charitable Trusts for the purchase of a CNC Machine (part of the development of a Fab Lab at The Edge).

The Foundation and SLQ are grateful to all donors for their support during the past financial year.

### Foundation Council members 2015–16:

Mr Max Walters OAM (President)

Mr David Little (Vice President) (until May 2016)

Mr Malcolm Grierson AM

Mr Michael Hawkins

Ms Julie Mannion

Mr Neil Summerson AM

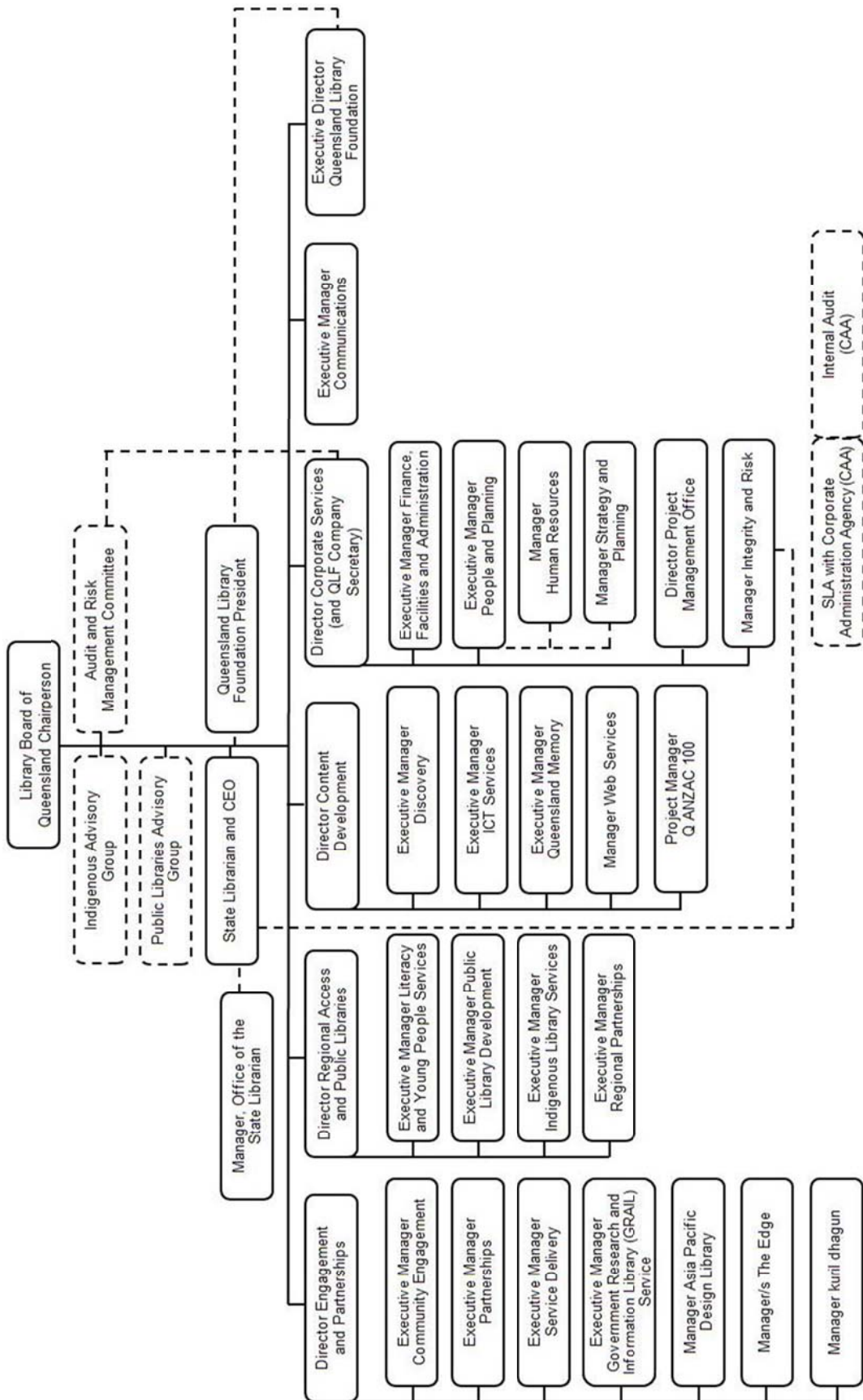
Ms Courtney Talbot

Professor Jan Thomas (Chairperson of the Library Board of Queensland)

Ms Janette Wright (State Librarian, SLQ, until October 2015)

Mrs Sonia Cooper (State Librarian, SLQ, from October 2015)

# Organisational structure as at 30 June 2016



Note: Dotted lines represent informal reporting structures