



**Annual Report
2016–17**

Library Board of Queensland

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Please be aware that this document may contain images or names of people who have passed away.

29 August 2017

The Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP
Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small
Business
1 William Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Minister

I am pleased to submit for presentation to the Parliament the Annual Report 2016–17
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-2016-17

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Griffiths', written in a cursive style.

Professor Andrew Griffiths
Chairperson
Library Board of Queensland



Aviatrix Lores Bonney boarding her Gypsy Moth at Charleville, c 1933, photographer unknown, John Oxley Library, SLQ.

Part 1: Introduction

State Library of Queensland

Vision	We enable the growth of knowledge, innovation and enterprise in Queensland	
Enduring values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We provide free and equitable access• We seek diverse voices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We share• We belong to the community

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, SLQ 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 serves regional Queensland by providing direct funding and support to a network of more than 320 public libraries and IKCs, and state-wide electronic access to a range of information resources, including a rapidly growing range of unique digitised 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 state-wide 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) service offers cost-effective professional research to government agencies.

SLQ's services include:

- onsite and online services including information/research services, venue hire, café, SLQ 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).

Chairperson's overview 2016–17

This year State Library of Queensland gained a new State Librarian and CEO, and a new Library Board. But for all of that change, it continued to deliver fantastic services to people across Queensland and model what it means to be a library in the 21st century.

Vicki McDonald started as State Librarian and CEO in September 2016, bringing with her extensive experience in, and passion for, the important work of libraries. Thanks to Sonia Cooper, who served as State Librarian and CEO for the first few months of 2016–17 and prepared the organisation for a smooth transition to new leadership.

In February 2017 I was honoured to become Chair of the Library Board of Queensland, which I have been part of since 2014. In March 2017 a new cohort of members was inducted to the Library Board. Thank you to the previous Library Board members, some of whom had served up to nine years, for their work in providing guidance and direction to SLQ. And welcome to the seven new members, who have spent several months learning about how SLQ operates.

Thanks also to the Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP, Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy, for her support in 2016–17, and to the State Librarian and CEO, Vicki McDonald, for her help and guidance.

One of the important roles SLQ plays is as a networking hub in Queensland, creating partnerships across business, government, education providers and community. These partnerships further our mutual goals, which are aligned with the State Government priorities and the Advance Queensland initiative.

Advance Queensland aims to harness innovation to strengthen and diversify the State's economy and create jobs for the future. The SLQ Business Studio is just one way SLQ supports this agenda. The Business Studio is a dedicated space for entrepreneurs and start-up companies, providing resources and support. However, it's not just enterprise — SLQ provides a host of skills programs to people of all ages, allowing them to creatively explore computing and robotics, science and design, among other topics.

Another aspect of our work is building capability and connectivity in the regions, to enable Queenslanders to participate in the digital economy. Our courses and grants aim to increase digital literacy skills for individuals, and support public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres (IKCs) through resources and professional development.

IKCs provide library services and internet access to some of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, while also acting as a community hub for learning and sharing local knowledge and language. SLQ provides funding, advice and professional development to IKCs, ensuring some of the State's more remote communities have equitable opportunities for digital participation. One of the new initiatives this financial year that supported this vision is the STEM.I.AM coding and robotics grant, which aims to bring robotics opportunities to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students (page 20). This initiative is delivered in partnership with government and business, through which we deliver many of our biggest programs, but there's another important area of contribution to our work.

The Queensland Library Foundation supports many projects at SLQ by managing and developing relationships with our donors. The Foundation's work strengthens our ability to acquire important historical collections, supports ongoing work to preserve Queensland's documentary culture and heritage, and helps us learn from and engage with the work of our business pioneers through the Business Leaders Hall of Fame.

It's only with the support of our partners from state and local government, business and not-for-profit organisations, and our donors, that SLQ can achieve its goals. Thank you to everyone who has supported this important work in 2016–17, helping to enable the growth of knowledge, innovation and enterprise in Queensland.



Professor Andrew Griffiths
Chairperson
Library Board of Queensland

State Librarian's year in review 2016–17

In 2016–17, I was thrilled to come back to State Library of Queensland after seven years, this time as State Librarian and CEO. During this time SLQ has maintained its standing as a leader in innovative library services and programs. Since starting in the role in September 2016, I've been reacquainting myself with the extensive work the organisation does, and discovering some of the newer offerings.

SLQ's offer is so extensive that this report contains only a sample of what has taken place this year. I encourage anyone interested in finding out more to visit the SLQ website (slq.qld.gov.au) and our range of blogs, social media and subscriber e-newsletters that serve to keep the public up to date on our activities and achievements.

Change is a constant, and in this reporting period we've also welcomed a new Library Board. Thanks to all of the members of the Library Board, old and new, who have served SLQ over the past 12 months. Congratulations to Professor Andrew Griffiths, who is providing strong leadership as the new Chairperson.

One of the incoming Library Board's first tasks was endorsing the *State Library of Queensland Strategic Plan 2017–21*. This plan documents how we will achieve our Vision to "enable the growth of knowledge, innovation and enterprise in Queensland". This Vision is made reality by very talented and dedicated staff, volunteers, partners and stakeholders, and I thank them for their ongoing commitment and passion.

My first week, in September 2016, coincided with our biggest onsite partner event of the year, the Brisbane Writers Festival. It's just one of the many vibrant events that take place in our building in Brisbane's Cultural Centre Precinct, South Bank. SLQ spaces are also used creatively to help people engage with the collections, for instance through the exhibitions *Freedom Then, Freedom Now*

and *Don't Just Count Us, Let Us Count*. These exhibitions, running May to October 2017, draw together collection items to tell the stories of how our life has changed in Queensland's recent past, both since the 1967 Referendum which allowed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to be counted in the Australian census, and for other Queenslanders as cultural norms have changed over time. Exhibitions such as these are an excellent way to give meaning and context to our collection, and raise awareness of the diversity of SLQ's holdings.

One of the organisation's greatest strengths is its ability to overcome physical boundaries to provide services to people across Queensland. Much of this work is undertaken through our partnership with a network of more than 320 public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres across the State, supported by SLQ's satellite offices at Cairns and Cannon Hill. It has been a pleasure to travel across the State to see some of the work we are helping to do in the regions.

An increasing proportion of our content and collections is also readily accessible online, to help provide access to all. Some out-of-copyright collection items are available digitally through sites such as Historypin and Flickr, and our local history items are increasingly being digitised to increase the aspects of Queensland's story currently available online.

Through our networks, partnerships and online presence, SLQ serves all of Queensland, from South East Queensland to the Torres Strait.



Vicki McDonald
State Librarian and CEO
State Library of Queensland

SLQ is a welcoming creative place of ideas and a trusted source for information.

The community is at the heart of its public programming — engaging exhibitions, workshops and events created to appeal to diverse audiences.



Joe Platen, foreman for M R Hornibrook Pty Ltd, c 1950, photographer unknown, John Oxley Library, SLQ.

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 Library Board are listed in Appendix A.

In addition to regular meetings of the Library Board, members represented SLQ at conferences, library openings and other official functions throughout 2016–17.

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.

Board members and attendance:

In 2016–17 there were four Library Board meetings. The table on the following page outlines appointment terms and meeting attendance in 2016–17.

All current Library Board members are appointed until 9 February 2020. Biographies of Library Board members are detailed in Appendix B.

Observers

The State Librarian 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 Sonia Cooper, State Librarian (until September 2016)

Ms Vicki McDonald, State Librarian (from September 2016)

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

Secretariat

Vanessa McCormack, Acting Manager Office of State Librarian (until August 2016)

Ms Jennifer Genrich, Manager Office of State Librarian (from August 2016)

	Member from:	Member to:	Eligible meetings 2016–17:	Attended meetings 2016–17:
Professor Jan Thomas (Chairperson until February 2017)	March 2014	February 2017	3	2
Professor Andrew Griffiths (Chairperson from February 2017)	March 2014	—	4	1
Professor Emeritus Roland Sussex OAM (Deputy Chairperson)	November 2009	February 2017	3	3
Ms Linda Apelt (Deputy Chairperson)	March 2017	—	1	1
Emeritus Professor Tom Cochrane AM	March 2017	—	1	1
Dr Anita Heiss	March 2017	—	1	1
Professor Marek Kowalkiewicz	March 2017	—	1	1
Cr Julia Leu	August 2016	—	4	3
Ms Heather Linaker	March 2014	February 2017	3	3
Mr Matthew McDonnell	April 2008	February 2017	3	3
Mr Malcolm McMillan	March 2017	—	1	1
Dr Sandra Phillips	March 2017	—	1	0
Mr Scott Reid	February 2011	February 2017	3	2
Associate Professor Grace Sarra	February 2008	February 2017	3	1
Mr Bob Shead	March 2017	—	1	1
Adjunct Professor Joan Sheldon AM	March 2014	February 2017	3	3

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 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 2016–17, including:

- the prestigious John Oxley Fellowship, awarded to Dr Lauren Istvandy for her project *Reminiscing about jazz in Queensland: Preserving pre-1965 oral histories for the Queensland Jazz Archive Collection* (page 26)
- the John Oxley Library Community History Award, presented to the Annerley-Stephens History Group for their continued and highly successful community project: *The Frank Corley House Photo Project*
- music research entitled *Street life: posters and their role in the Brisbane music scene 1975–1995* by Queensland musician John Willsteed, inaugural winner of the *Letty Katts Award*
- the acquisition of Australia's largest and most comprehensive Bee Gees collection of Australian recordings, enabled by the generosity of the Dowling Family
- 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
- inclusion of new inductees into the Queensland Business Leaders Hall of

Fame, and related activities in partnership with QUT Business School

- the 2016 Siganto Foundation Artists' Books Fellowship, awarded to Peter Charuk and culminating in the Siganto Lecture Series and Workshop led by esteemed book artist Helen Douglas
- the Siganto Foundation also pledged support for digital literacy programs for newly arrived communities which will be implemented at The Edge, SLQ's community makerspace and resource hub for all things art, science, technology and enterprise in 2017 and beyond.

Continuing programs included:

- the very popular Heritage Talk series for annual donors which enables in-depth engagement with SLQ collections and librarians
- *President's 100 Circle*, a committed group of multi-year donors (page 30)
- 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 SLQ are grateful to all donors — individual, philanthropic and corporate — for their support during the past financial year.

Foundation Council members 2016–17:

Mr Max Walters OAM (President)

Ms Helen Brodie (from March 2017)

Mr Malcolm Grierson AM

Mr Michael Hawkins

Ms Julie Mannion

Mr Neil Summerson AM

Ms Courtney Talbot

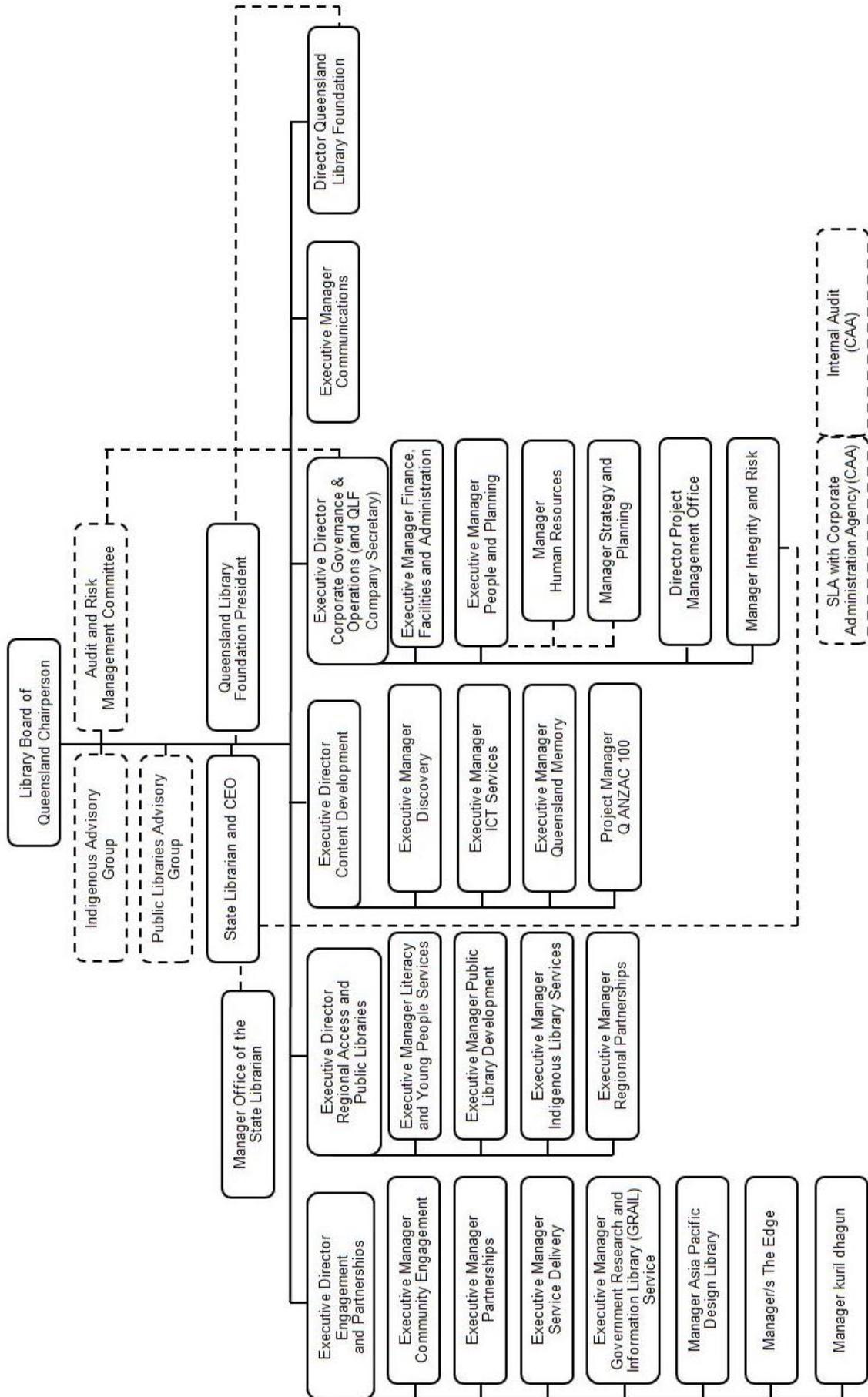
Professor Jan Thomas (Chairperson of the Library Board of Queensland until February 2017)

Professor Andrew Griffiths (Chairperson of the Library Board of Queensland from March 2017)

Mrs Sonia Cooper (State Librarian and CEO, SLQ, until September 2016)

Ms Vicki McDonald (State Librarian and CEO, SLQ, from September 2016)

Organisational structure as at 30 June 2017



Note: Dotted lines represent informal reporting structures

SLQ is committed to capturing, preserving, promoting and making accessible Queensland content across diverse formats, recognising that the value of the content is in its use.