Friends of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

Annual General Meeting 2019

President’s Report

While the poet T.S. Eliot wrote that “Humankind can not bear very much reality”, the Friends made a giant leap into augmented reality this year by donating to TMAG the funds to invest in the app that was such a huge hit in the Dinosaur rEvolution exhibition. Young and old were mesmerised by this Tasmanian creation, especially at our hugely successful family event to meet the dinosaurs.

This is just one example of how the Friends are able to support the great ideas of the museum, especially for those opportunities which are outside its normal operating budgets. In summary, our donations for the year include:

Fossil toolkit: $1 000

Dinosaur augmented reality app design: $12 000

Discovery backpacks: $2 600

Taxidermy for penguins: $1 300

Expedition of discovery: $3 000

ningina tunapri refurbishment: $8 650

Conservation equipment: $11 602

Don Squires Research Fund: $2 000

We closed the year with 746 active members, with a healthy mix of businesses, families, couples and individuals.

Our popular evening events continue to go from strength to strength, and we have also had three very successful away events. A repeat visit to the Antarctic Division was enlightening and fascinating. A fundraiser in the Hobart Omnipod gave members a bird’s eye view of the city, and the Christmas barbecue looks like becoming a popular fixture again. This past year has also seen five well supported morning floor talks, free and open to the public, which covered a variety of topics from rare plants to coral reefs and Lily Allport.

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In a new departure for the Friends we organised three sketch noting workshops for members at TMAG, run by Suzy Cooper, which were popular for their fun and learning opportunities.

This year the committee will farewell Gabrielle Balon, who has served on the committee for four years, bringing welcome expertise in organising scientific speakers and fabulous food for our events. Gabrielle’s fresh ideas and dedication are much appreciated.

Friends fixture David Coleman is also stepping down from the committee. The Friends, the TMAGgots, the Foundation and TMAG itself owe David a debt that can never be repaid, and we sincerely thank him for all the time and energy he has put in over twenty-five years of service. We look forward to David’s continuing involvement with the Friends on an informal basis.

All this activity happens in the real world, and the real people on the Friends committee are the ones who give their time and energy to make the events such a success. Our thanks also to the wonderful TMAG people whose friendly assistance and support enable us to present so many choices of activities to our members.

From the perspective of the non-augmented reality of the years to date, the future of the Friends of TMAG looks very positive and encouraging.

John Sexton

President, Friends of TMAG