



# Friends of the Library Annual General Meeting 2024

## President's Report

A successful year came to an unforgettable and spectacular close with the production and staging in the renovated Barr Smith Library Reading Room of **Musical fusion: East meets West** on Saturday 14 October by Elder Conservatorium Intern Thomas Long Yin Cheung. This celebration of cultural diversity through music brought us a unique musical experience of contrasting repertoires from the Baroque, performed by the Elder Conservatorium Baroque Ensemble, and Chinese pieces performed by the Fenghua Guzheng Ensemble, and the Elder Conservatorium Chinese Orchestra. The event was sold out with an attendance of just over 100 attendees and a profit of \$517.

Our Author and Discovery events, highlighted below, were wide ranging. They included: internationally published authors, and University of Adelaide alumni, Sophie Gonzales and Sean Williams, in literary conversation; Alison Reid, 2022 Hugh Martin Weir Prize winner, on "Band-aids in a Battlefield": The Anthropology of Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support in Australia. Professor Oliver Mayo, a Past President of the Friends, gave insights into his intellectual history and how, through his mentors, he became familiar with the work of William Harvey (1578 – 1657) discoverer of the circulation of the blood and how this motivated him to adopt for conservation the Barr Smith Library's copy of Harvey's collected works, *Opera omnia* 1761.

Considerable Committee work was dedicated to a review of the Friends Terms of Reference. Some of our purposes were to increase focus on our global membership, make the role of Committee more participative, and the introduction of a Vice President position.

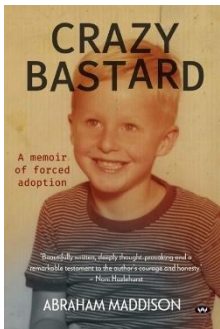
Thanks to members who responded to our member survey in December which will help us with programming. Among key findings: highest motivation for membership – FOTL activities; highest topics of interest: history, politics and current affairs, creativity and culture. Library tours were a new interest.

Thanks are due to your 2023 Committee which has met regularly throughout the year. Thanks also to University Librarian Sian Woolcock for her continuing support. Thanks also to Library Communications staff who maintain our webpage, and to Alumni Relations of which we are a network, for their support. Finally a big thank you to our sponsors: Wakefield Press; The University of Adelaide Theatre Guild; and Coriole Vineyards for their generous and long standing wine sponsorship.

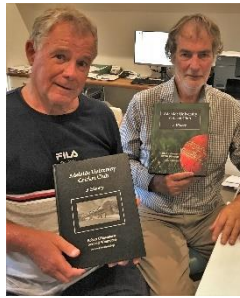
Dr Rachel Spencer



## Author Events 2023



29 March Abraham Maddison  
*Crazy Bastard*  
Wakefield Press 2023



26 April Rob O'Shanassay & Bernard Whimpress  
Adelaide University Cricket Club: a history 2022.



31 May Sophie Gonzales  
in Q&A with Sean Willians

## Discovery Events 2023



31 July Alison Reid  
"Band-aids in a Battlefield":  
The Anthropology of Refugee  
and Asylum Seeker Support in  
Australia



28 August Oliver Mayo  
On William Harvey (1578 – 1657)  
discoverer of the circulation of the blood



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