



COMMITTEE PROFILES, 2023

KEVIN BUTTON - Chair

Each year around this time, I have the same two questions that pop into my head. Firstly, is it time for another AGM, and where's the time gone? Secondly, how can we raise more funds for an increasing number of students? The answer is that we have always managed to find ways to increase our available funding. It's always a challenge, but we manage to make it!

When WAAPA moves to the CBD in 2025/26, there will be an even more significant and additional challenge. Our presence at Mt Lawley is fast drawing to a close.

The Friend's method of operation will inevitably change. Our goals will still be to support WAAPA students but with an even greater demand for our resources because there'll be a dramatic increase in the number of students and much less opportunity to fundraise on campus.

To meet the challenge, the association must find different ways to raise funds at different locations off campus.

So, in addition to an increase in student numbers, there will be an anticipated decrease in membership. The decrease will be because older members living around Mt Lawley have made it clear that they won't travel to Perth City to attend performances. This is a sad outcome when a superior facility will dramatically enhance the WAAPA experience.

Therefore, capturing people's attention and increasing membership will be at the forefront of our efforts for the next two years. We intend to advertise and find new methods of gaining members.

I'm confident that the Committee can rise to the challenge and continue to support students as we have for the past forty years. I hope that you'll join us for the experience of a lifetime!

ANGELA BROMFIELD - Secretary

As an existing committee member, I offer myself for re-election to the Friends of the Academy committee for 2024.

Over many years, I gained considerable administrative experience as the Librarian for the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA and Secretary for the Friends of the Academy.

As the Friends of the Academy Secretary, I work daily with Kevin Button, the Friends Chair. Over time, my role has developed to include increased involvement with administrative tasks due to the broader involvement and bureaucracy of the Western Australian Government with Incorporated Associations.

I have been closely involved with the application for a Charitable Organisation. We engaged Gilbert+Tobin pro-bono to restructure the Rules so that the FoA could have a charity basis with tax-deductible donations. This involved many extra meetings with them and the Committee as we negotiated and accepted their advice on amending Rules that needed ATO compliance. Thanks to their staff, who graciously answered all the questions we had asked them and finally provided us with the document you now see. We are very hopeful that you will accept the revised Rules so that we can move forward with charity status and provide tax-deductible donations. This application has entered its final phase but still requires considerable work, including establishing a separate Committee and creating a bank account solely for the donations, and I would like to be involved.

It has been a challenging year for the Committee, the consequence of that being we have lost five members (Sue Scrutton, Tanya Tsirigotis, Ron Magerl, Linley Harris and Cassey Smith.) who

had to stand down from their positions due to personal issues. However, I am delighted to see two new applicants whom I hope you will endorse. (Di Collins and Richard Hyde)

A spin-off from that meant that the Chair and I took over the payment to 33 students with their Showreel grant—a grant of \$600 each. This was a very lengthy and demanding process, as we were pressured to make payment before the students left the Academy.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Committee and acknowledge your hard work over the past few months, particularly with your contribution to revising the Rules. Your dedication enabled us to achieve our goal. Each of you prioritises the welfare of the students and contributes by managing the Tours, dealing with the grant applications, overseeing the finances, fundraising, and more. Along with your opinions while attending monthly meetings. Thank you.

All of our in-house documentation requires an annual audit that I oversee. Whether it's the material on the web page or the Standing Orders for Grants, Tours information, or something similar, I produce it and defer it to the Committee for ratification.

As Secretary, I prepare the notices of meetings, the business to be conducted, and the minutes.

The FoA has a very rich and rewarding relationship with WAAPA's media department, and I would like to thank Anton Maz and Kathy Wheatly for their passion, assistance, and willingness to advise us. They liaise with the various departments and provide speakers for the Tours, often David Shirley, the Executive Dean of WAAPA, and heads of departments who arrange a Q+A session post-show at each of our 6 Friends Events.

To you the Members, a special 'thank you' for your continued support. The raison d'être of the FoA Committee is to raise sufficient funds via your membership fee to provide the students with grants and, in doing so, offer you priority bookings and discounted tickets. We understand the economic pressures and commend you for staying with us. With a superb program for 2024, there is something for everyone. Invite a friend to join – if you all do that, we will double our membership and will be in a position allocate more grants.

The Committee is committed to a sausage sizzle fundraiser on Open Day, the 28 April, between 10 am - 3.00 pm. Spread the word – Bring your grandchildren and slip into a short concert to see the talent.

Thank you!

DONNA McFETRIDGE – Vice Chair & Grants Coordinator

I would like to nominate as a general member of The Friends of The Academy to offer what support I can to this volunteer group. I very much appreciate being able to enjoy live theatre

and music so it is great to work with a committee with a primary goal of supporting young people undertaking a career in the arts.

I have been a member of the Friends of the Academy for many years, enjoying the benefits that the membership brings. Over the last few years I have also been a committee member and this has given me a greater appreciation of what it takes to keep a volunteer organisation operational.

My roles on the Committee have included Grants Administrator, helper for the Tours and Deputy Chairperson.

My working background is within the tertiary education sector, primarily as a senior administrator. I also covered the role of School Manager for WAAPA between 2014 to 2017. This experience helped me appreciate the passion and hard work that students and staff show every day. I know that the Friends of The Academy are very much appreciated by students and staff so I am happy to nominate to be on the Committee to assist in any way I can.

JACQUI MACLIVER – WAAPA Tours Coordinator

My name is Jacqui Macliver, and I am responsible for ensuring that the Academy tour runs smoothly on the day of the tour. I send out parking vouchers and maps as requested prior to the day. I liaise with the Grindhouse Café and let them know that we have 20 people who will be having lunch. They look after the patrons very well, including delivering each meal so that people do not have to stand and wait or get up to collect their orders, which is what the students and staff do.

On the day I ensure that the morning tea is ready on time and that everyone is catered for. I also assist with cleaning up and then helping with the tours, especially those patrons who are a little less mobile.

Peter Cowan leads the tours and is an excellent ambassador. Judging by the feedback we receive those who do the tours also think so.

Last year, we catered for 110 patrons and raised \$3800.

It is a pleasure to meet people and to be able to showcase the wonderful work of the WAAPA students and staff.

I could not do what I do without the wonderful support of those silent helpers who came along each time and supported me, so a very big thank you to them.

LYN CUTHBERT: Committee Member

I have been passionate about theatre since I was ‘knee-high to a grasshopper’, so when I was approached to join the Friends Committee, I jumped at the opportunity to support WAAPA students.

Over the past sixteen years, I have had the privilege of becoming friends with hundreds of WAAPA graduates, and I burst with pride when I see them on the Melbourne and Sydney stages. Just last May, I saw Alex Duffy in Harry Potter.

The students and staff have had a very challenging few years, especially with Covid and the skyrocketing cost of living. During the challenging times of isolation, the students have worked so hard, and I admire their commitment and resilience.

In conclusion, I feel honoured to continue supporting the students and especially their families, who have sacrificed so much financially for their children.

DI COLLINS – Committee Member

My name is Di Collins, and I have been a supporter of the arts, including WAAPA, for much of my adult life.

I have been a ‘Friend of the Academy’ for a number of years and attended performances regularly until my husband became ill a few years back, ultimately passing away.

My interest in the arts is broad and I enjoyed some six years as a member of the Government House Foundation where I worked closely with Mark Coughlan with the annual Concert on the Terrace concert series.

WA Youth ballet is another area I have been involved in for many years.

For over 50 years, first with my husband and then as a member in my own right, I have been involved with

Rotary International at all levels, from club to district to national to international. I have been involved with fundraising, administration, events, and projects locally and internationally.

For the past four years, I have organised an annual fundraising concert, with the vast majority of artists involved have been WAAPA graduates.

Since the passing of my husband, I have continued my significant involvement with Rotary; however, I now want a new direction in my life, with that direction being to support the incredible young talent we have here in WA, which I hope to do through the Friends of the Academy Committee.

RICHARD HYDE – Committee Member

The last performance slot confirmed what I’ve known for quite some time - WAAPA is one of the jewels in the Western Australian arts scene. Not only were the productions sensational, as they always are, but talking with students, staff, and proud parents afterwards is a real joy.

There is an energy and excitement in the hallways and lobby during performance week that is hard to replicate.

Watching the students grow and develop in their chosen discipline is inspiring. As someone who is pursuing a creative dream myself as a screenwriter I’m in awe of not only the talent on display but how genuine, lovely, and committed the students are. These interactions have reinforced my desire to provide support in any way I can. Therefore, I have decided to throw my hat in the ring to join the Committee and see how I might help.

I have 30 years of experience in various roles, including managerial, in the telecommunications industry. I have been a Life Member of the Friends of the Academy since the end of 2016 and an avid supporter of WAAPA, even writing many reviews on my Perth Theatre Reviews blog and the Perth Theatregoer Facebook page. I believe WAAPA is a truly special place, and I would like to contribute to ensuring the students receive the support and recognition they deserve.

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 3.59 pm.

Signature: Kevin Button

Date: