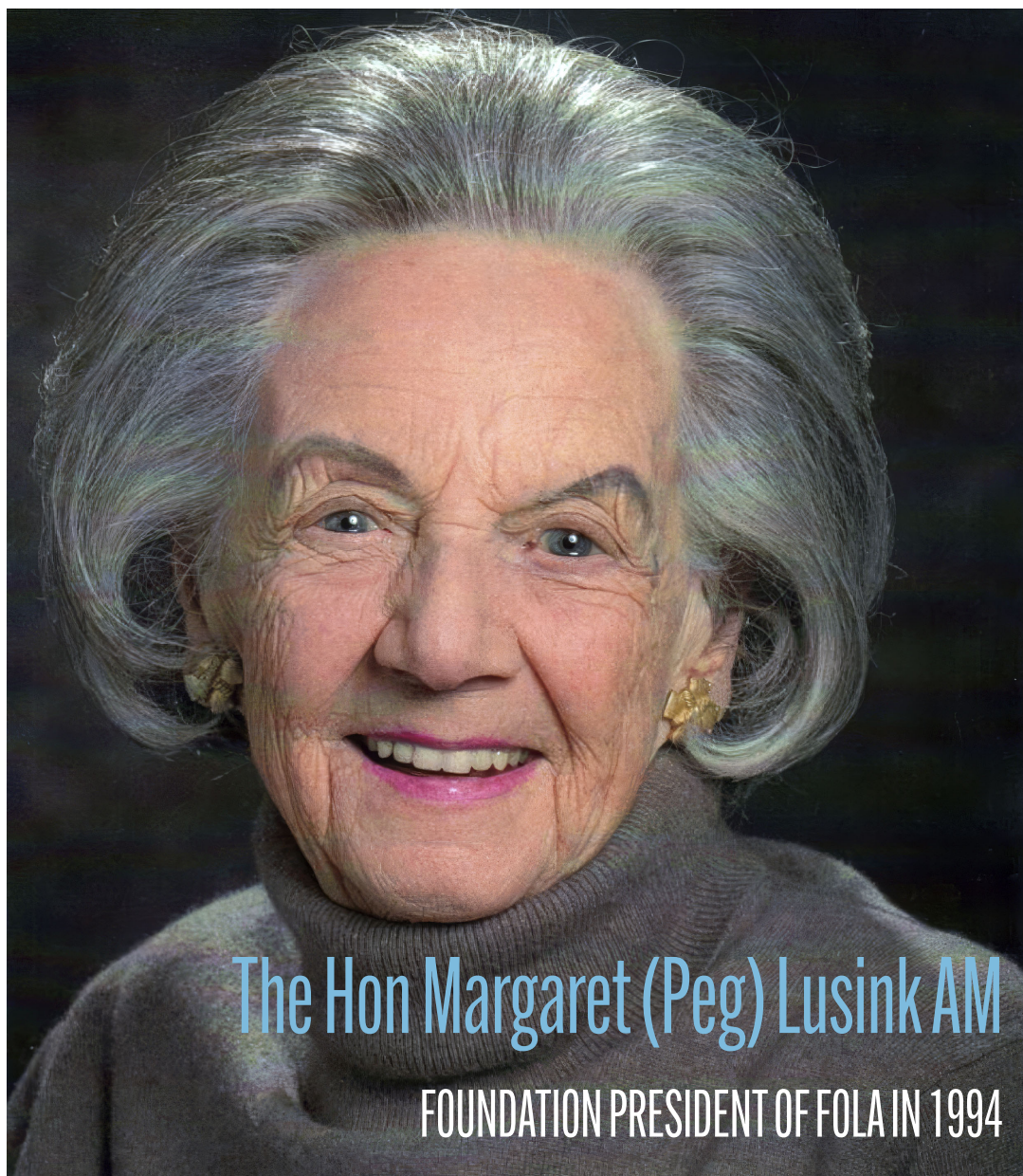


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The Hon Margaret (Peg) Lusink AM

FOUNDATION PRESIDENT OF FOLA IN 1994

The national voice for 13 million Public Library Members

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Inspirational Leadership

In 1993 a woman walked into my office as Chief Librarian of the former City of Altona (Vic) and stated: “I need your help”. Who was this person. Little did I know at the time, I was about to be introduced to one of the most remarkable individuals one is likely to meet in a lifetime. She stated she understood I was the convenor of a committee relating to Friends of Library groups, and she was helping to establish such a group in the central Victorian township of Euroa. How could I help?

I was not aware at the time I had encountered a remarkable woman. Later I understood her to be the Honourable Mrs Margaret (Peg) Lusink AM, academic, judge, lawyer and professor.

Apart from assisting Peg to be the president of the newly established Friends of Euroa Library, this person appeared overwhelmingly able to assist what would become FOLA. And so, Peg became our foundation president of FOLA at a memorable event on 4 December 1994 in Queen’s Hall of the State Library of Victoria, in the presence of the Hon Michael Kirby AC, CMG who became our patron, the State Librarian, Minister for the Arts and former State Premier, along with the Walshe family who would become our major benefactor.

With passion and gusto, along with organizing skills beyond most, Peg put her mind to the task in hand of developing this fledgling body, who within the first twelve months had a committee of 12 persons, meeting every second month in the office of the former premier, the Hon John Cain, who Peg had enlisted to be our Vice-president. Over the next two years Friends bodies developed in every state of Australia and by 1996 numbered around 120. This was a time of both interest in what community groups could achieve and were something new. And so, FOLA set about spreading the word in what Friends could achieve. It was not that difficult, as much



Daniel Ferguson and The Hon Margaret (Peg) Lusink AM in December 2025

disruption was occurring throughout the nation in local and state government, in both funding of public libraries in particular, but changes to local government structures, particularly in Victoria.

FOLA established links with similar bodies around the world – USA, Canada, UK and New Zealand. A very inspiring time of growth for the Friends movement.

Peg was always in demand, to give more of her personal and professional time to other activities. Therefore, it was not a surprise that after two years as president, Peg regretfully had to retire as our leader.

This early beginning could not have been more successful for any organization. Therefore, the role Peg played in the early leadership of FOLA was indeed, inspirational.

Just prior to Christmas last, I visited Peg aged 103 years, who was still living independently in her Melbourne apartment.

On June 3rd, FOLA recognized another inspirational leader in our organization, when Dr Mariella Totaro-Genevois received a Life Membership from FOLA at a function at Balmain Library (NSW). This shall be reported in our next newsletter.

Daniel Ferguson

“Peg became our foundation president of FOLA at a memorable event on 4 December 1994 in Queen’s Hall of the State Library of Victoria.”

“This early beginning could not have been more successful for any organization. Therefore, the role Peg played in the early leadership of FOLA was indeed, inspirational.”



FOUNDATION PRESIDENT OF FOLA IN 1994

Margaret (Peg) Lusink AM

FOLEY'S LIST

"Appointed in 1976 as a foundation judge of the Family Court of Australia, her Honour became the first Victorian woman appointed to a superior court of record."

It is with great sadness that Foley's List acknowledges the passing of the Honourable Margaret Lusink AM at the age of 103. Justice Lusink was a longstanding member of Foley's List, and remained a member of the Victorian Bar for 51 years.

Her Honour was a pioneer of the profession, continuing a distinguished family legacy as the daughter of Joan Rosanove QC, Victoria's first woman to sign the Bar Roll. Prior to coming to the Bar, she was among the first women to hold partnership in a Melbourne commercial law firm.

Appointed in 1976 as a foundation judge of the Family Court of Australia, her Honour became the first Victorian woman appointed to a superior court of record.

A portrait of Justice Lusink, woven by the Australian Tapestry Workshop, now hangs in the National Portrait Gallery, fitting tribute to a woman who, in her own words, was privileged to observe "tremendous social change and developments in the law" across nine decades.



"She later became a judge, an educator, a community servant, and an example of what purpose, grit and passion look like over the long arc of a life."

Listen to Peg discuss her journey on the Podcast 100 Not Out, on Spotify.

100 NOT OUT

Today on 100 Not Out we have the rare privilege of speaking with an extraordinary Australian whose life spans more than a century of history, change and contribution.

The Honourable Margaret Lusink AM — born Margaret Rosanove in 1922 — is 103 years young and still carries the sharpness, clarity and humour that have defined her life and career. Peg — as she is affectionately known — is the daughter of the pioneering barrister Joan Rosanove QC, and went on to become a trailblazer in her own right: the first Victorian woman appointed to a Superior Court of Record when she joined the Family Court of Australia in 1976.

Her journey is remarkable not only for her achievements, but for the resilience behind them — from being widowed with three young sons, to returning to study law as a mature-age student, to forging a legal career at a time when women in the profession were still fighting for basic recognition. She later became a judge, an educator, a community servant, and an example of what purpose, grit and passion look like over the long arc of a life.

Today we get to explore that life: her family story, her career milestones, her perspectives on longevity, and what she has learned across 103 extraordinary years. It is truly an honour to welcome the Honourable Peg Lusink AM to 100 Not Out.



Image: (from left) Peg Lusink and Mary Crooks in April, 2022, Australian Women's Trust.

THE HONOURABLE MARGARET (PEG) LUSINK AM

Justice of the Family Court of Australia



Peg Lusink was the first woman from the State of Victoria to be appointed to the Judiciary of a Superior Court of Record and also the second woman appointed to the Family Court of Australia, when it began operations in 1976. Prior to her judicial appointment Peg was a partner in Corr and Corr, Solicitors, working principally in the area of family law under the then Matrimonial Causes Act. She signed the Roll of Counsel and worked as a barrister for a brief period until taking up her appointment in February 1976 on then newly established Family Court of Australia, which was created within the newly introduced Commonwealth legislation, the Family Law Act 1975.

In 1984, upon opening the new Dandenong Registry she became the Judge Administrator where she was given the opportunity by the Chief Justice of the Court, Justice Elizabeth Evatt to pioneer a more progressive approach to family disputes. Upon resignation of her commission in 1990 she became one of the foundation professors in the Law Faculty of the newly established Bond University and in 1996 accepted another judicial appointment as

President of the Commonwealth Professional Services Review Tribunal. In that year Peg received the honor of an AM for law, services to the Family Court and to the community.

Early years – family and law

Peg Lusink was born in 1922 in Tocumwal, New South Wales. Her mother was Joan Rosanove QC, the renowned trailblazing female barrister at the Victorian Bar. Her father, Edward Rosanove, was a General Practitioner in Tocumwal at the time of Peg's birth, before the family relocated to Westgarth, in the inner northern suburb of Melbourne. Peg was raised by parents who had a 'remarkable' relationship being 'absolutely devoted to each other' in their support of each other's professional careers (Interview Rubenstein). For a significant period of time Joan Rosanove was the only woman at the Victorian Bar and was unusual in pursuing a career in law at that time. Peg particularly adored her father who she says 'allowed her mother to work and was ahead of his time' (Interview Rubenstein).

Peg's father relocated the family to London, England in 1932 to further his studies in dermatology. Peg's younger sister Judy was born in London, and when the family returned

"She was given the opportunity by the Chief Justice of the Court, Justice Elizabeth Evatt to pioneer a more progressive approach to family disputes."

"Peg Lusink was born in 1922 in Tocumwal, New South Wales. Her mother was Joan Rosanove QC, the renowned trailblazing female barrister."

to Melbourne they lived in Toorak. Peg was enrolled first at Lorento Mandeville Hall and then later at Merton Hall. In 1939 Peg enrolled at the University of Melbourne to study law. This event was recorded by The Daily Mail in Perth as 'legal history' in the making with Peg articulated, aged just 16, to her mother Joan Rosanove (Daily Mail).

However, this period of time at the University of Melbourne and undertaking articles with her mother was short lived,

she studied for six months and in 1940 married 'the love of her life' Dr Graeme Larkins (Rubenstein). Peg went on to have three sons with Graeme and enjoyed many happy years

living in Corryong, where life as a doctor's wife in the country guaranteed much community work and a good social life. Peg returned to England, again living in London, as Graeme pursued his medical career. Graeme's early death in 1959 left Peg bereft but nonetheless a widowed mother with the responsibility for raising three sons. While law was never high on her list of priorities, and grieving the loss of her dearest companion and husband, Peg realized she had to provide an income for her family. Supported by her son John Larkins, who was already a law student at the University of Melbourne, in 1960 she returned to her studies in law.

Completing her degree at the University of Melbourne as a mature aged student, Peg found support from then Dean Harold Ford and from lecturers such as Sir Zelman Cowen and Professor Robin Sharwood. Peg was one of only four female mature aged students at the Law School.

Life - moving on

In this environment she met another mature aged law student, Theo Lusink, a Dutch national who had re-located to Australia after World War 2 and joined the Royal Australian Air Force. In November 1964 she and Theo married. Soon after, at the beginning of 1965, Peg's admission to practice was moved in the Supreme Court of Victoria by her mother Joan Rosanove QC with her son John Larkins as her Junior. As a solicitor, she commenced articles with the law

firm of Corr and Corr (as it was then). Almost immediately she was asked to run the then small matrimonial practice which was conducted under the existing State legislation, the Matrimonial Causes Act. At this time Peg quickly found support and friendship with members of the legal fraternity and was inspired by many including the Hon. Esler Barber who was in the Supreme Court sitting mainly on family disputes. In the

late sixties Peg was made a partner in the firm, becoming the first woman to do so in a large prestigious commercial law firm in Melbourne.

In June 1974 Peg was called to the Bar reading with Bill

Gillard, who would later become Justice Gillard of the Supreme Court. However, her time as a Barrister was short lived, as in February 1976 she was appointed a Justice of the Family Court of Australia becoming the first woman in Victoria to be appointed under the newly introduced Commonwealth Family Law Act 1975 and the first Victorian woman to be appointed to a Superior Court of Record. Peg was mentioned among others by Chief Justice Elizabeth Evatt who she describes as "a woman of great intellect" (Rubenstein). Peg further states that she was a woman of compassion and vision.

However, the Family Court was in its infancy at a time of great excitement and anticipation, the

radical reform legislation having been led and introduced by the Whitlam government. Peg recalls "being thrown in at the deep end being given a whole new meaning" as a judge of a new and unexpectedly popular Court.

A court "without any mentors

or experienced judges to tell us how to do it, no precedents to follow or assist, a brand-new law to interpret and rule upon behavioral scientists who had had no training in the law and lawyers who had had no training in counselling. Having done a brief year of psychology – I was marginally better equipped – if you call it that and we were plopped in this commercial building and told to be a "nice friendly helping Court" (Interview Brodsky). In the early months Peg was operating in this environment with three male judges enjoying with them the stimulation and challenge of riding

"she was appointed a Justice of the Family Court of Australia becoming the first woman in Victoria to be appointed."

"Peg recalls "being thrown in at the deep end being given a whole new meaning" as a judge of a new and unexpectedly popular Court."

a steep learning curve in the shaping of this new court and its law.

In 1984 Peg was appointed to be judge Administrator of the new Registry of the Family Court, which was established at Dandenong. It was an initiative of Chief Justice Evatt who provided five counsellors to one Judge, an unheard of ratio, and a more formalized Court setting with the idea of pioneering less adversarial solutions. This proved popular and very successful leading to Judges visiting at first from Melbourne, and later a second Judge being appointed by the Attorney General Mr. Bowen. During these years Peg was also invited by the Premier of Victoria to become Foundation President of the newly established Victorian Womens' Trust.

Until her retirement, aged 66 in 1988, Peg shared the Family Court bench in Australia with only a handful of women with whom she was on very friendly terms. These included Chief Justice Elizabeth Evatt and Justice Josephine Hemsley-Maxwell both from Sydney and Justice Kemer Murray from Adelaide. Of this time historian Shurlee Swain observed "Justice Peg Lusink's excitement at the prospect of change which the Family Law Act provided is shared by many of those with whom she worked during the early years of the Family Court. However much of the dream faded over subsequent years, they remain proud of the contribution they made to reforming the way in which the breakdown of relationships was managed in Australia. Hailed as the 'fulfilment of possibly the most humane and enlightened social reform to be enacted in Australia since the Second World War'. (Swain)

Retirement from the law was to be a brief interlude. In 1990 Peg was approached by Bond University to join its newly created Law School. In these "exciting times" Peg taught Family Law and was instrumental in developing the Law School's Moot Court program (Interview Rubenstein). In 1992 Peg and her husband returned to Victoria where she and some like-minded Solicitors provided mediation for matrimonial disputes as an alternative to the adversarial alternative. Although "mediation"

was in its infancy this proved successful. This was in Benalla in the northeast of the State and was conducted whilst her husband Theo continued his passion for farming.

Further appointments followed in 1996 with Peg becoming the President of the Commonwealth

Professional Services Review Tribunal investigating medical professional and Medicare fraud. Peg was also appointed a Member of the Adult Parole Board of Victoria and was awarded an AM for law for services to the Family Court and the community. In 2004, Peg was honoured with induction into the Victorian Women's Hall of Fame as a leader in law, women's health and education.

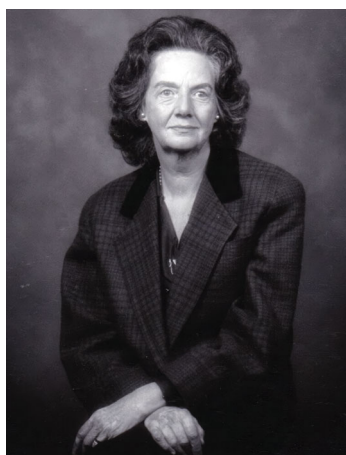
Having spent significant periods of her life in regional Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, Peg has contributed enormously to the cultural fabric of rural communities, forming many lasting friendships. In 1992

she convened the Friends of the Library in Euroa and in 1994 became Chairperson and Honorary Life Member of Friends of Libraries Australia (FOLA) Inc. She has also been a board member of a number of local hospitals and was the representative of the Euroa Bush Nursing Hospital on the Victorian Bush Nursing Hospitals Association.

Principally considered a trailblazer for her appointment as Victoria's first female Judicial Officer of the Family Court and first female Partner in a Melbourne commercial law firm, Peg has been privileged, over a century of life, to observe tremendous social change and developments in the law. However, Peg's greatest achievements must also be noted to include the deep and enduring relationships with her two adored husbands and three sons. As Peg observes of her life both inside and outside the law: 'It's a great history and an extraordinary journey'. (Interview Rubenstein)

In 2014, she donated the portrait of Joan Rosanove (c. 1952) by Flora Lion and her own portrait (c. 1975) by Dudley Drew, which hang together in the Peter O'Callaghan QC Gallery (Owen Dixon Chambers).

"Retirement from the law was to be a brief interlude. In 1990 Peg was approached by Bond University to join its newly created Law School."



"Peg was also appointed a Member of the Adult Parole Board of Victoria and was awarded an AM for law for services to the Family Court."

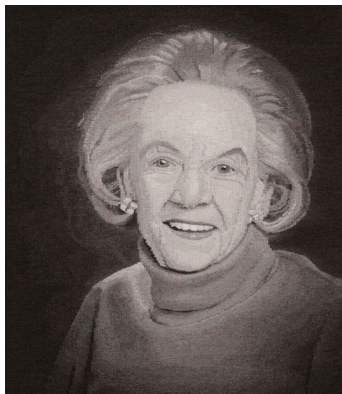
"Peg has contributed enormously to the cultural fabric of rural communities, forming many lasting friendships."



Peg Lusink with Head of Responsible Business Dr Phoebe Wynn-Pope, Head of Arbitration Nastasja Suhadolnik, Head of Tax Controversy Angelina Lagana and Partners Heidi Roberts, Rosie Syme, Frances Wheelahan, Jennee Chan, Lucy Terracall, Ruth Hart and Alicia Salvo. (Corrs Chambers Westgarth)

“A portrait of Justice Lusink, woven by the Australian Tapestry Workshop, now hangs in the National Portrait Gallery.”

A portrait of Justice Lusink, woven by the Australian Tapestry Workshop, now hangs in the National Portrait Gallery, a fitting tribute to a woman who, in her own words, was privileged to observe “tremendous social change and developments in the law” across nine decades. She lived and travelled independently well into her 90s and died just short of her 104th birthday on 3 April 2026.



The Honourable Margaret Lusink AM 2019, Pamela Joyce and Australian Tapestry Workshop, wool and cotton tapestry (overall: 89.0 cm x 72.0 cm depth 1.0 cm)

“A service to honour and remember the life of The Honorable Margaret (Peg) Lusink AM was held at the RACV Club in Melbourne.”

A service to honour and remember the life of The Honorable Margaret (Peg) Lusink AM was held at the RACV Club in Melbourne on Wednesday 22 April 2026. FOLA was represented by its Founder and Executive Director, Daniel Ferguson. The welcome was given by her son, John Larkins KC and the family tribute by son, Richard Larkins

AC, along with a legal tribute by the Honourable Diana Bryant AO, KC.

**THE HONOURABLE
MARGARET
(PEG) LUSINK AM
27/05/1922 – 3/04/2026**

Daughter of Edward and Joan Rosanove (decd).

Sister of Judith (decd).

Beloved wife of Graeme Larkins (decd) and Theo Lusink (decd).

Loving mother and mother-in-law of John and Meryl (decd) and Pandora, Richard and Caroline, Stephen (decd) and Wanda (decd) and Angela,

Grandmother of Prudence, Sarah, Fiona, Kate, Melissa (decd), Adam, Georgie, David and Joseph and their partners.

Great-Grandmother of Charlotte, William, Sam, Max, Tom, Jack, Lucy, Nicholas, Harry, Jasper, Finn, Samson, Elliott, Zac, Mia, Ella, Ava and Max.

A distinguished foundation judge of the Family Court, legal teacher, mentor and friend of many.

Foundation president of Friends of Libraries Australia (FOLA) Inc.

**A life lived full of love,
resilience and positivity.**

OODI LIBRARY HELSINKI

ONE OF THE GREAT PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF THE WORLD

INSPIRATIONAL



In March I had the opportunity to visit Oodi Library in Helsinki and was given a tour of the building by Mr Severi Hirvi from Helsinki Central Library Oodi, International Unit. During the 2 hour tour covering four floors of the building, I was given the opportunity to see behind the scenes of the public areas, and understand how this creative library now delivers a range of specialized services, beyond the realm of most libraries in Australia.

What was most striking, was the variety of services being offered to the public, and most of them free-of-charge. Also, the range of people of every age using the library for a variety of functions – reading, robotics and design, study, professional areas for conferencing, a movie theatre, café, pop-up areas, recording music booths and much more. Certainly, an amazing offering of new technologies, but also, creating a space for the citizens of Helsinki to feel it was a normal place to visit in daily life.

Daniel Ferguson

Some facts:

- Opened in December 2018
- 17,250 sqm
- Designed by Finnish firm ALA Architects
- Cost 98 million euro
- Library opening hours: Mon-Fri 8 am-9 pm, Sat-Sun 10 am-8 pm
- 2016 Finland ranked the world's most literate nation
- 2017 public libraries act updated to mandate for libraries to promote lifelong learning, active citizenship, democracy and freedom of expression. Oodi is located opposite the Finnish Parliament, a site chosen to symbolize the relationship between the government and the populace
- 2019 Oodi was awarded by IFLA the world's best Public Library of the Year

"Oodi is located opposite the Finnish Parliament, a site chosen to symbolize the relationship between the government and the populace."

"What was most striking, was the variety of services being offered to the public, and most of them free-of-charge."



“Specially designed robots transport books to the third floor that has an 17,200-square-metre (185,000 sq ft) area designated for books. The rest of the space is designed for meetings and events.



Oodi is a Finnish word that means “ode”: a poetic song of praise or tribute.



HOW PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD VIEW AI

Concerns about AI are especially common in the United States, Italy, Australia, Brazil and Greece, where half of adults say they are more concerned than excited. But as few as 16% in South Korea are mainly concerned about the prospect of AI in their lives.

As the use of artificial intelligence (AI) increases rapidly, most people across 25 countries surveyed say they have heard or read at least a little about the technology. And on balance, people are more concerned than excited about its growing presence in daily life.

A median of 34% of adults across these countries have heard or read a lot about AI, while 47% have heard a little and 14% say they've heard nothing at all, according to a spring 2025 Pew Research Centre survey.

https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2025/10/15/how-people-around-the-world-view-ai/pg_2025-10-15_ai_0_02/

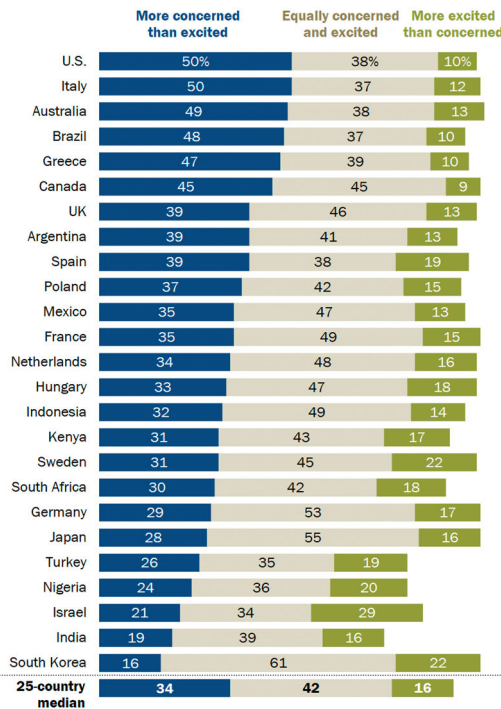
Many people are worried about AI's effects on daily life. A median of 34% of adults say they are more concerned than excited about the increased use of AI, while 42% are equally concerned and excited. A median of 16% are more excited than concerned.

Generally, people who are more enthusiastic about AI are more likely to trust their country to regulate the technology. And in many countries, views on this question are related to party affiliation or support for the governing coalition.

There is also a connection between internet use and views of AI. People who say they use the internet almost constantly are more likely than others to be mainly excited about the growing use of AI in everyday life.

How do people around the world feel about the rise of AI in daily life?

% who say the increased use of artificial intelligence in daily life makes them feel ...



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.
Source: Spring 2025 Global Attitudes Survey.
"How People Around the World View AI"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

"A median of 34% of adults say they are more concerned than excited about the increased use of AI."

Most people in surveyed countries have heard or read at least a little about AI ...

Median % who say they have heard or read ___ about artificial intelligence



... and public concern about its increased use outweighs excitement

Median % who say the increased use of artificial intelligence in daily life makes them feel ...



"Generally, people who are more enthusiastic about AI are more likely to trust their country to regulate the technology."

Diagrams reproduced from the 2025 Pew Research Centre survey.

Friends Around Australia



BENALLA (VIC)



Very good Friends of the Benalla Library
– Betty, Christine, Geraldine and Corrie

“Even if you missed out on a prize, you helped fund future programs and events here at the library.”

VICTOR HARBOR (SA)



The Friends of the VH Library Autumn Book Sale starts today!

There are plenty of bargains for everyone, from fiction and non fiction books for adults and kids, to DVDs, jigsaws, and more. Plus, grab yourself a ticket for a chance to win The Friends of the Library raffle!

Monday 13 April - Friday 17 April,
9.30am - 4.30pm each day.

STATE LIBRARY (SA)

Dr John Mayo

Two Lives in Adelaide in the 1840s



“Books in My Life” a Tuesday Talk
– Dr John Mayo

“There are plenty of bargains for everyone, from fiction and non fiction books for adults and kids, to DVDs, jigsaws, and more.”

MOUNT GAMBIER (SA)



The Friends of the Library Mother's Day Raffle has been drawn, and the winners have been contacted. There were two prizes up for grabs, our runner up prize goes to Cheryl! And first prize goes to Nicole! Even if you missed out on a prize, you helped fund future programs and events here at the library.

WINGECARRIBEE (NSW)

MARCH AUTHOR TALK

Paula McLean

The One Remaining is a compelling debut novel about the silences that shape us and the power of reclaiming our back stories. Initially conceived as a memoir, this is the story of a novelist in her fifties, Hilary who comes across her teenage diaries and decides to confront decades of grief and denial since her sister left home and never returned.

Paula McLean is a Patron and the Immediate past Deputy Chair of the Stella Prize. Paula's career has spanned writing, cultural advocacy and philanthropy. She is a trustee of the McLean Foundation, Patron of the local domestic violence centre, Pop In, Founder of the Nature Writing Prize and member of the She Gives Advisory Group.

Tuesday 17 March @ 10am

LAUNCESTON (TAS)



Choir of High Hopes,
performing at Launceston Library

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0-25 Members \$25 ☐

FOL Group—
25+ Members \$50 ☐

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- Latest and best ideas and much more...

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Friends of Library groups in Australasia*

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Australia Inc
Locked Bag 1315 Tullamarine Victoria 3043 Australia
Phone + 61 3 9338 0666
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www.facebook.com/FOLAFriends/
friendsoflibrariesau (Instagram)
Editor: Daniel Ferguson
Email: daniel@fola.org.au
Production/Design: WorkingType Books

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