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LIBRARIES BRING US TOGETHER



The main Christchurch
Public Library — Tūranga.
Opened in 2018



The national voice for 15 million Public Library Members

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Libraries *Bring Us Together*

During this time of worldwide pandemic, let us remember the importance libraries play in our community and culture and in fact our lives. Even in isolation from the physical building, we can as a consequence of technology connect with the vast and limitless resources our local library plays out in our lives.

This *NewsUpdate* offers an insight into some outstanding people, friends and library buildings, and how they ‘bring us together’.

In 2004 I made a tour of libraries in New Zealand, conducting workshops for Friends and librarians, stretching from the East Coast Bays Library in the north, to Dunedin in the South Island. What may surprise many people in Australia, is the contribution New Zealand has played in the worldwide development of the Friends movement. Commencing with the Dunedin Public Library Association (Friends) in 1890, making them the oldest Friends body in Australasia, some forty years before the State Library of South Australia Friends. And still today, New Zealand is marked by leadership, with some outstanding library buildings, a particular community spirit and the diligence of many Friends groups.

New Zealand has an outstanding new central library in Christchurch, a wonderful contribution to rebuilding a community after the earthquakes of 2011. They continue to be well supported by an active Friends group and support from library management, a crucial ingredient for long-term success.

Our president, Jack Goodman has discussed the contribution the City of Sydney is making to



“New Zealand has an outstanding new central library in Christchurch, a wonderful contribution to rebuilding a community.”

building a new environment with library buildings in that city. This is about leadership, providing today four distinctive library environments which are transforming the city and creating new opportunities for the community.

Both these cities indicate how relevant public library buildings are to our way of life, perhaps more so today than ever. As ‘Libraries Bring Us Together’.

Finally, a personal and sad note for all Friends in the death of a respected leader and friend – Dr Alan Brissenden AM. I had the great joy of getting to know Alan when FOLA held its second national conference in Adelaide in 1998. Such ‘Friends’ certainly make a difference in our lives, and to our communities.

Daniel Ferguson
Executive Director & Founder

“This is about leadership, providing today four distinctive library environments which are transforming the city and creating new opportunities for the community.”



Remembering Friends

Dr Alan Brissenden AM



“He and I were born in the same year and I can still hear his voice saying, ‘1932 was a vintage year.’”

Alan Brissenden was born 13 October 1932 at Griffith NSW and died on 9 September 2020 Adelaide.

The son of a school teacher, Alan attended Sydney University where he gained a BA Hon and a Diploma of Education. He moved to the UK to undertake postgraduate study at the University of London. He was joined there by Libby King and they were married in Chelsea in 1960. In 1963 they returned to Australia where Alan was appointed lecturer in the English department at the University of Adelaide.

Alan was interested in the various collections of rare books available in South Australia, and so became a supporter of the Friends of the State Library of South Australia, and later became the President of the Friends from 1994-2000.

During this time he introduced the monthly meetings of *Wednesdays at One*, where people spoke about the part books played in their life. He was instrumental in acquiring rare books and items for the State Library collection. As Past President he continued on the Friends Committee and was influential in the selection of rare items for purchase. As a chairman he was always firm and fair and allowed Committee members to have their say.

“As a chairman he was always firm and fair and allowed Committee members to have their say.”

“He and I were born in the same year and I can still hear his voice saying, ‘1932 was a vintage year.’”

Gerrit Stafford (past Vice-President, Friends of the State Library of South Australia)

From 1968 to 1976 he was Chairman and Vice President of the SA division of the Arts Council of Australia. From 1970 to 1992 he served on the University’s Committee for the Performing Arts, and 1981 to 1994 on the board of the Governors of the Adelaide Festival of Arts. He also reviewed dance for ‘The Advertiser’ and ‘The Australian’ for nearly thirty years. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia for his services to the Arts in 1996.



The Most Beautiful Public Libraries in Australia?

In Conversation with City of Sydney Deputy Lord Mayor Jess Scully

by Jack Goodman

There are close to 1,600 public libraries in Australia -- covering every local government area -- meaning there's a local branch within a few kilometres of nearly every Australian. The vast majority of these facilities are practical, utilitarian council buildings, sometimes repurposed storefronts, or incorporated into shopping centres. Even when they are purpose built, they are rarely visually noteworthy. It's safe to say that the phrase "architectural masterpiece" isn't often used to describe our nation's public libraries.

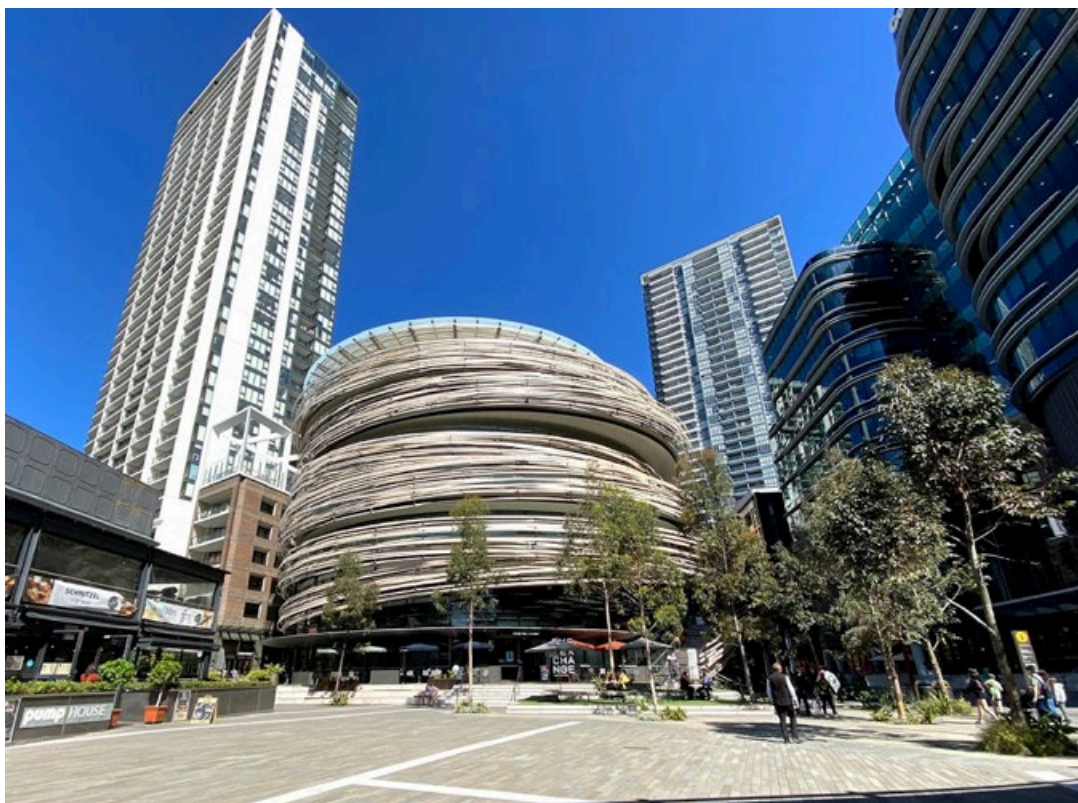
But that's not to say that there aren't plenty of public libraries around the world that *are* architectural masterpieces. Countries like Finland build them because they have a vision

for community public spaces and the place of learning and education at the centre of their societies. Countries like the United States have built them because they have had billionaire philanthropists like Andrew Carnegie in the 19th Century, and Friends groups in the 20th Century, who have believed that a public library is a pathway to self improvement and an essential part of a functioning democracy.

And if you happen to live in or near the City of Sydney, then you have seen, over the last decade or so, a number of public libraries emerge that have set a new standard in terms of form and function. The renovation and modernisation of the Customs House Library at Circular Quay in 2005, the remarkable eco-friendly Surry Hills Library in 2009, the Green

"The vast majority of these facilities are practical, utilitarian council buildings, sometimes repurposed storefronts, or incorporated into shopping centres."

"a public library is a pathway to self improvement and an essential part of a functioning democracy."





Square Library in 2019, and this year the new Darling Square Library have sprung up around the city and transformed their surroundings.

What's behind this investment in big, bold, and beautiful public libraries in the City of Sydney? To find out I recently caught up with Jess Scully, the energetic deputy lord mayor, for an hour-long discussion about the city's vision for its public libraries. Cr Scully isn't your typical local government politician. Her background is in the arts, as the founding curator of Vivid Ideas, the festival that attracts huge numbers of tourists into the city every year for, among other things, its displays of light on iconic city buildings.

We sat at an outdoor table in the shade of the magnificent Darling Square Library, with its light, timber-wrapped, circular exterior setting a sharp contrast to the angular buildings around it. Sadly, the library itself was closed, as was the rest of the City of Sydney's network, a casualty of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. While frustrated that she hasn't been able to prevail upon the city's bureaucrats to reverse that decision, Jess was happy to elaborate on her and her fellow councilors' views about the importance of public libraries in the city.

"A public library is such key social infrastructure," Jess told me. "It's an embodiment of democracy. It's about participation. [Democracy is] not just voting or politics." She went further, describing libraries as "lighthouses on the landscape." It's a beautiful metaphor, and it works particularly well when you consider how visually spectacular the Darling Square library is. It's something of an oasis in what is otherwise a precinct — Darling Harbour — that's squarely committed

to commerce (including a casino, lots of glitz and glamour, and the new Sydney Convention Centre).

Jess sees the nine libraries in the network as a counterpoint to the consumerism of the surrounding streets. Buildings like the Darling Square Library are "cathedrals to creativity and knowledge creation." They're both "symbolically indicating our priorities as a city," and they're also tangibly about "investing in people as citizens."

As we head into the final few months of what has been a year of cataclysmic societal disruption, Jess is conscious of the role the City's libraries can play in the process of recovery. "Most local governments are starved for resources. We can show the benefit of investing in libraries and being an exemplar," she says. The City of Sydney's library strategy is "building on the success of the Renew Our Libraries campaign," a NSW initiative which achieved a breakthrough by getting the state government to commit \$60-million over four years to rebuild the state's aging public library infrastructure.

"What role can libraries play in pandemic recovery," Jess asks rhetorically?

It turns out she's given this question a lot of thought, much of which is contained in her just-published book, *Glimpses of Utopia: Real Ideas for a Fairer World*. It's the work of someone who has a reformer's mindset, who believes that change can come from the ground up and is best brought about by grassroots initiatives and activist citizens. Where did these ideas come from?

(Continued overleaf)

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The Most Beautiful Public Libraries in Australia?

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Jess's background is like that of so many who have grown up in western Sydney over the last four decades. Her mother's family arrived in 1975 as refugees from the Pinochet dictatorship in Chile and her father's family arrived from Bangalore, India in 1973 and settled in Canley Vale in Fairfield. A product of Sydney's selective school system and a beneficiary of a very low-cost university degree, Jess was able to make her own way through a non-traditional career-path in the arts before building a second career as part of Lord Mayor Clover Moore's Independent Team.

Her new book takes an optimistic approach to resolving problems that many have seen as dark, intransigent, even grim. What should we do about our increasingly unequal society, and the struggles of so many "have nots" who are missing out on the benefits that should be flowing from Australia's wealth? Jess canvasses various utopian thinkers from the 19th and 20th centuries, and her summary of their views is powerful and enlightening. I won't go into the details of her discussion, except to say that it would be wrong to think that the social, economic and political turmoil we are experiencing today in Australia, and around the world, is unprecedented. In fact, the late 19th century and the mid 20th century were both periods when smart people were struggling to find ways to cope with societal upheaval and to imagine how a better world might emerge from the unhappy circumstances of their day.

In Jess's view, Sydney — and Australia more broadly — needs to find ways to help people realise their potential to participate fully in society. The key to participation is education, and we need to help people start and continue their

learning journeys outside of formal schooling and tertiary study. Libraries are key to building a culture of lifelong learning, whether that's for infants and young children through rhyme time and story time, or teens, adults, and retirees looking to explore ideas and develop new skills.

How does Jess see this happening? Through raising our collective voices to advocate on behalf of the libraries that will form the backbone of our lifelong learning communities. She points out that the state library "doesn't have the capacity to be a fearless advocate for public libraries." Indeed, "people are worried about being too political, but in reality, you don't get anywhere without being political. It's the only way you get things done."

And this explains why Jess Scully has taken on a second career as a politician in her beloved city. If you want to see change happen, then you need to be part of it. And it also explains why she challenges me — and FOLA — to figure out how we can best advocate for better libraries for all in Australia. Because it is plainly evident that the libraries that are appearing across the City of Sydney are categorically different in the quality of the experiences they deliver to their residents compared to what most Australians have in their suburbs.

Plainly, that shouldn't be the case. When we look outward to nations like Finland and Denmark, or, closer to home, New Zealand, we should all ask ourselves why Australia hasn't set a national goal to improve our public libraries. As Jess Scully reminds us, "public libraries are essential infrastructure of the 21st century." It makes sense that we invest in them to ensure they are built and staffed to be up to the task.

"In Jess's view, Sydney — and Australia more broadly — needs to find ways to help people realise their potential to participate fully in society."

"It is plainly evident that the libraries that are appearing across the City of Sydney are categorically different in the quality of the experiences they deliver to their residents compared to what most Australians have in their suburbs."

Library Friends *in New Zealand today*

by Daniel Ferguson

"Public Libraries in New Zealand are thriving, with some outstanding new buildings in recent years."



"Friends in New Zealand have some distinctive features, which distinguish them from the development which took place in Australia."

Public Libraries in New Zealand are thriving, with some outstanding new buildings in recent years. At the same time, Friends groups are supporting this development and providing valuable community input.

It is now 16 years since I made an historic tour of libraries and Friends in New Zealand, travelling from Auckland to Dunedin in a lecture tour arranged by my friend and colleague Bernie Hawke, Library Manager at the Dunedin Public Library.

So, how have Friends been travelling over this period, considering they have a history which commenced for Friends back in 1890 with the formation of the Dunedin Public Library Association. This group was the forerunner of the present Friends group at the Dunedin Public Library, and therefore can take the title of the oldest established Friends group in Australasia.

Friends in New Zealand have some distinctive features, which distinguish them from the development which took place in Australia, this was outlined in an article 'Friends in New Zealand' in the FOLA *NewUpdate* 2004 (12:37).

However, in comparing with today, the Friends movement remains largely similar in Australia and New Zealand. In 2004, around 25 Friends groups were operating in both islands of New Zealand, with a number of notable groups, two such were at Christchurch and Dunedin. These groups remain today leaders in the Friends movement.

Many of the activities and roles of Friends in New Zealand and Australia are similar – Lobbying, Fundraising, Booksales, Author Talks and supporting the library service as agreed upon with the library manager. Likewise, some of the issues for the future are the same also – how to engage with a younger audience and sustain an active committee membership. How do we develop and maintain Friends groups into the future?

National Library New Zealand

The library has connections with many groups as a contributor to the work of the National Library of New Zealand. Friends of the Turnbull, Friends of the Dorothy Neal While Collection, The Alexander Turnbull Library Endowment Trust, along with other support bodies.

Turnbull

The 2020 Smart Alex creative writing competition is sponsored by The Friends of the Turnbull Library Nga Hoa o te Whare Pukapuka Turnbull and organised in conjunction with Services to Schools, National Library of New Zealand. There are two age group categories: Years 9-10 and Years 11-13. When entries closed on 19 July, they had received nearly 120, from more than 50 schools throughout New Zealand and from a number of home-schooled students.

The competition winners were announced on 14 September 2020, the date of Alexander Turnbull’s birthday (152 years ago).

<https://turnbullfriends.org.nz/>

<https://turnbullfriends.org.nz/schools-competition/2020-competition-results/>

<https://turnbullfriends.org.nz/schools-competition/smart-alex-competition-details/>



Napier

As a Friend, you will receive regular email news and a 10% discount on books purchased at Beattie Forbes book shop. Look for “Eko the Pukeko” our friendly mascot on our library display board.

<https://www.napierlibrary.co.nz/my-library/become-a-friend/napier-friends/>



Taradale

Friends aim to: Provide volunteer support; assist library projects; serve on the committee; assist with social events; assist with campaigns to promote libraries.

<https://www.napierlibrary.co.nz/my-library/become-a-friend/taradale-friends/>



Otago

Plans to re-establish a Friends of the Library group for the Waitaki district are firming up. The original group that had served Oamaru for several years was wound up in 2017.

<https://www.odt.co.nz/regions/north-otago/progress-friends-library-group>



Christchurch

Friends of the Library – Nga Hoahoa o Ngā Kete Wananga-o-Otautahi. Friends of the Christchurch City Libraries support the libraries with advocacy and fund raising. Items such as digital cameras, iPods, wheelchairs and special book trolleys have been donated to the library.

<https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/friends/>

Friends of the Library – Ngā Hoahoa o Ngā Kete Wānanga-o-Ōtautahi

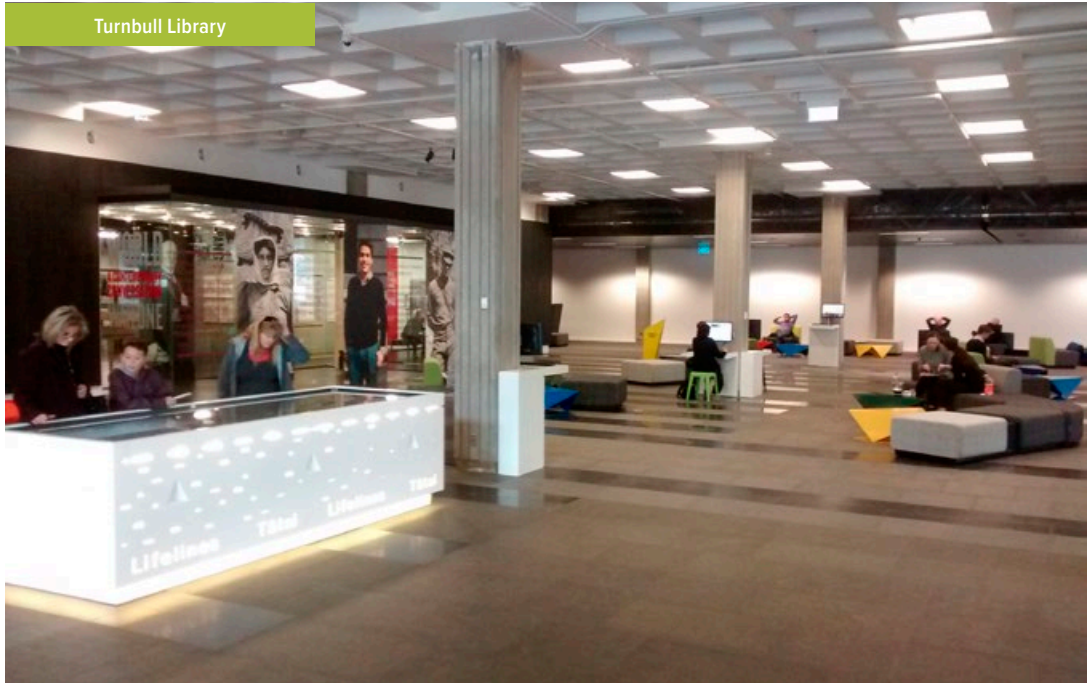
Friends of the Christchurch City Libraries support the libraries with advocacy and fund raising. Over the years their efforts have seen a range of useful things added to libraries such as digital cameras, iPods, wheelchairs and special book trolleys.

[Read the November 2020 newsletter.](#)

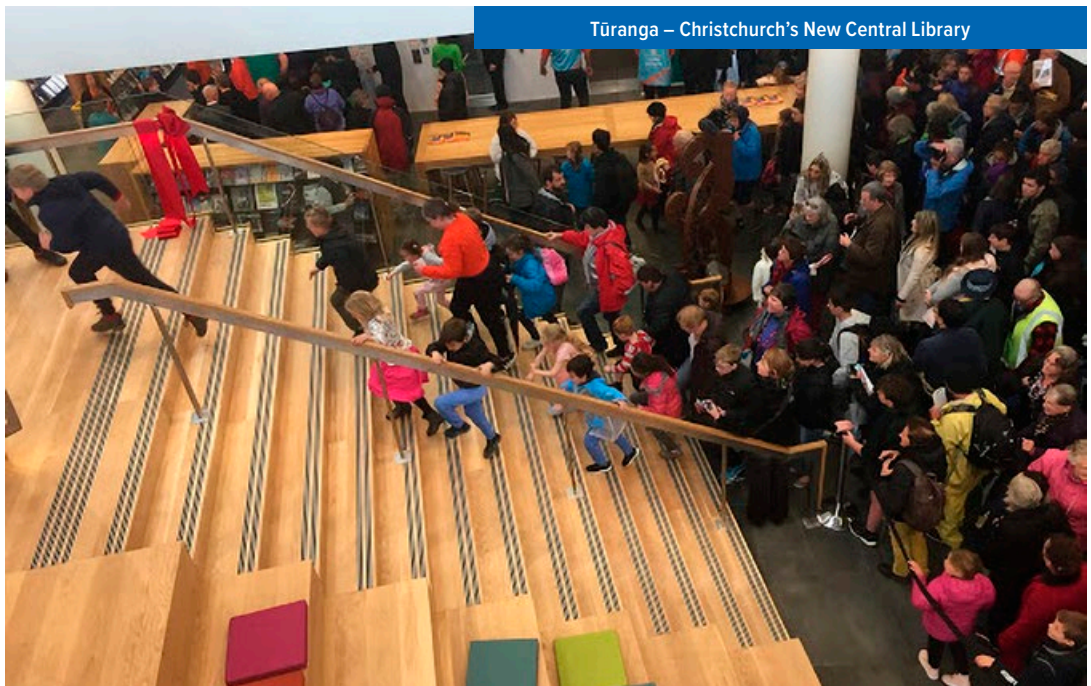


“As a Friend, you will receive regular email news and a 10% discount on books purchased at Beattie Forbes book shop”

Turnbull Library

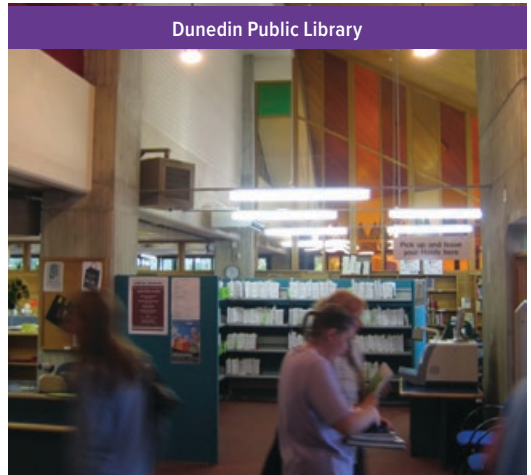


Tūranga – Christchurch’s New Central Library



“Friends of the Library – Nga Hoahoa o Nga Kete Wananga-o-Otautahi. Friends of the Christchurch City Libraries support the libraries with advocacy and fund raising”

Dunedin Public Library



Nelson Public Libraries Ngā Whare Mātauranga o Whakatū

Library Friends *in New Zealand today*

(continued)

Nelson

The Friends of the Nelson Library was formed in 1991, and are a group of people who are interested in supporting and promoting their library and strengthening its links with the community.

<http://www.nelsonpubliclibraries.co.nz/library/friends-of-the-library>

Dunedin

Supporting the Dunedin Public Library since 1890. This group is the oldest Friends of Library group in Australasia, and one of the oldest 'modern' Friends groups in the world. A unique heritage and contribution to the worldwide Friends movement.

<https://www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/about/dpla>

Waitaki

The purpose of the Friends of the Library is to support the libraries throughout the Waitaki District, to advocate for them and institute new initiatives and activities to serve their diverse communities.

<https://culturewaitaki.org.nz/waitaki-district-libraries/friends-library>



Oamaru Public Library

Rotorua

“Rotorua Library is very lucky to have the support of an active Friends of the Library group. The Friends of the Library are a group of hard working volunteers.” Amongst their aims are: To promote and support the library; To lobby on behalf of the library; To encourage involvement of the community in the activities, needs and progress of the library.

<https://www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz/about-your-library/get-involved/Pages/Friends-of-the-Library.aspx>

Devonport

The Devonport Library Associates were founded in 1970. The aims and objects were generally to assist the Devonport Library to expand its facilities and to hold at least four public meetings a year. It was quite unusual for a Borough as small as Devonport to provide a public library service. Today Devonport is a branch library of the Auckland Council Libraries.

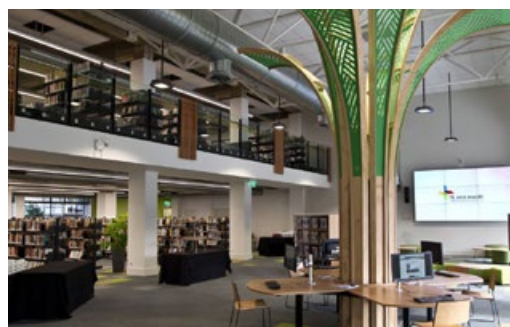
<http://devonportlibraryassociates.org.nz/>

<https://www.facebook.com/DevonportLibraryAssociatesNZ/>

Kapiti

The Friends of the Kapiti Coast District Libraries was formed in 1979, and amongst its many aims, were to ensure that the library service remain free, support local writers and make submissions to local and central government.

<https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/libraries/my-library/friends-of-the-library/>



Rotorua Public Library

“Rotorua Library is very lucky to have the support of an active Friends of the Library group. The Friends of the Library are a group of hard working volunteers”

CHRISTCHURCH

NEW ZEALAND

THE FRIENDS



“As a result of a public meeting, they established The Friends of the Library to advocate for the value of public library services in Christchurch”

“new central library is a visually stunning symbol of hope, unity, and rebirth that will fundamentally change the way residents and visitors experience Christchurch’s city centre”

Everybody needs a friend and Christchurch City Libraries has a dedicated group of Friends of the Library who support and promote its services and host a lively programme of local author events.

Ruby Fowler, a long-standing library supporter was involved in the group’s formation in 1988. She remembers how the threat of funding cuts to the library led to the formation of The Friends. When some city councillors questioned the continued funding of libraries and suggested implementing a “user-pays” system, Ruby and Judge Bill Brown approached the then library manager, Dorothea Brown, to see whether there was something they could do to retain freely available library services. As a result of a public meeting, they established The Friends of the Library to advocate for the value of public library services in Christchurch and provide practical and financial support.

The group remains passionate about the role of public libraries in the community and realise libraries are not something that should be taken for granted.

Ruby stated in 2009, “We, the Friends can look ahead with anticipation and follow the advances in technology as applies to the library in the next 150 years”.

In 2009 Christchurch City Libraries celebrated 150 years of library service.

Rebuilding Christchurch

Over the course of 15 months in 2010 and 2011 Christchurch, the largest city in New Zealand’s South Island, was devastated from major earthquakes that toppled a city known for its arts, culture and surrounding natural beauty.

In 2018 Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects, completed Turanga, a new central library project that is one of nine anchor projects identified as vital to the redevelopment of the city. The architects state that the “new central library is a visually stunning symbol of hope, unity, and rebirth that will fundamentally change the way residents and visitors experience Christchurch’s city centre”.

<https://www.shl.dk/christchurch-central-library/>

The previous Christchurch Library being demolished in the wake of the 2011 earthquakes.



FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The resilience and creativity of libraries, cultural institutions and Friends groups around Australia during this challenging year has been remarkable. At the National Library of Australia, the Friends Committee took the opportunity to look at how we continue to support the Library, engage more innovatively with members and extend our outreach.

The NLA was closed for some time during the tightest community restrictions—study and research facilities and exhibition spaces could not be accessed onsite until recently. The popular Friends' events held at the Library have not yet resumed. However, the Library continued to provide valuable services to its users: there has been a 60 percent increase in enquiries to the 'Ask a Librarian' facility and a 160 percent increase in the use of online services. School was always open at the Library's Digital Classroom, a boon for teachers, students and parents alike.

The Friends Committee of the NLA continued to meet online, focussing on reviewing our role to ensure its ongoing relevance in a changing world and developing ways to reach more communities throughout Australia. Friends' members are not only committed to supporting the Library and its pivotal role in collecting, preserving and making accessible the nation's history; they also are curious to learn more about the NLA's vast collections and the many treasures that are housed therein. How could we best provide opportunities for members this year?

Our major initiative was to introduce Online Book Club events, chatting with Australian authors about their recent publications. Who better to feature in the very first in June than FOLA patron, Thomas Keneally AO?

Tom brought to life *The Dickens Boy*, the story of 'Plorn' Dickens, the youngest son of Charles Dickens, who worked in the Wilcannia area of New South Wales in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Next was Cassandra Pybus

and her compelling story *Truganini: Journey through the Apocalypse*. Another wonderful author followed: Kate Grenville providing fascinating insights with her historical fiction (or was it?) of Elizabeth Macarthur in *A Room Made of Leaves*. In October, we were joined by author and well-known actor John Wood for his amusing *How I Clawed My Way to the Middle*. The final Online Book Club for this year will be on 25 November with Professor Helen Ennis discussing her landmark biography, *Olive Cotton: A Life in Photography*.



Friends Online Book Club: *Olive Cotton: A Life in Photography* with award-winning author Professor Helen Ennis. Wednesday 25 November, 4pm AEDT

While these Zoom events were designed as Friends' members exclusives, special invitations to participate have been extended to regional libraries, particularly where the region has an association with the story. Feedback is that members and these guests have enjoyed the relaxed format, with participants able to sit back in their homes and listen to the chat and to raise questions if they so wished of the authors.

"The NLA was closed for some time during the tightest community restrictions—study and research facilities and exhibition spaces could not be accessed onsite until recently."

"Friends' members are not only committed to supporting the Library and its pivotal role in collecting, preserving and making accessible the nation's history; they also are curious to learn more about the NLA's vast collections."

“Volunteer guides at the Library shared their knowledge in another ‘Curious Collections’ of the architecture and artworks of our beautiful building.”

Given their popularity, the Friends Committee plans to continue these events as ‘Meet the Author’ in 2021. Australia has so many wonderful authors and for many the NLA is an important source of material for their non-fiction and fiction works. Our initiative will support these authors and bring them in to the homes of Friends’ members across the country.

A second initiative has been ‘Curious Collections’. While the onsite ‘Coffee with the Curator’ events that showcase new exhibitions in the Library’s Treasures Gallery and special exhibitions spaces have been paused, and in any case have been accessible only for Canberra region residents and visitors, curators have walked members through the exhibition areas virtually, talking about the fascinating stories behind the treasures on display. Volunteer guides at the Library shared their knowledge in another ‘Curious Collections’ of the architecture and artworks of our beautiful building. Again, we plan to continue these activities in 2021 for members throughout Australia, showing some of the precious historical, maps and art treasures that are in the 11-million strong collections.

These and other activities for Friends’ members are publicised in our quarterly Friends magazine and weekly eNews.



Edward Bulwer Lytton Dickens in 1868

Our Summer 2020 newsletter features the first of the ‘Spotlight on ...’ series we are planning to showcase the NLA’s and regional libraries. Drawing on ‘Plorn’ Dickens’ links to the Wilcannia area, we focused on Wagga Wagga and the Riverina Regional Library (RRL). A simple search of the NLA’s catalogue and Trove

brings up an amazing array of books, images, maps, aural recordings, manuscripts and music scores for Wagga Wagga alone as well as local newspapers dating back to the 1850s. Combined with the RRL’s holdings and digitisation initiatives, we can all explore fascinating aspects of the region’s past and present. The National Library’s Friends Committee is keen to establish more links with regional library services so that we are truly national.

Our world has changed dramatically this year but the NLA and the Friends Committee have used the opportunity to look to the future. The Library’s investment in recent years in digitisation for its public programs, collections, learning and education initiatives has provided Friends with a great platform to engage with more people and across the widest geographic area. We’re very happy to hear from friends of libraries around Australia on your ideas on what else we could do. And of course we welcome new Friends, not just to support the wonderful institution that houses Australia’s historical and cultural stories but also to enjoy the many benefits that membership offers, including special offers and discounts (such as in the NLA Bookshop, for cultural activities and hotel accommodation). Access the NLA’s website and search ‘Become a Friend’ for more information.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-138748560>;

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-138746118>

In the meantime, enjoy a virtual tour of one of the Library’s current exhibitions *Birds of Paradise: Ellis Rowan in New Guinea* at <https://www.nla.gov.au/stories/video/online-tour-birds-of-paradise-ellis-rowan-in-new-guinea> or Connect with Friends of the Library on Facebook.



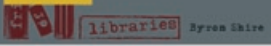



“Our world has changed dramatically this year but the NLA and the Friends Committee have used the opportunity to look to the future..”

Friends Around Australia

FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES BYRON SHIRE
ABOUT FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES BYRON SHIRE | JOIN FOILS | OUR LIBRARIES | CONTACT US

Connect. Discover. Escape.

LEARN MORE

WHAT'S ON @ FOIL

FOIL hosts regular speaker events with a wide range of renowned authors, journalists, actors, academics and local identities. The funds raised are utilised both to enhance the library's services and to enrich its book collection.

We gather in the Balmuir Town Hall Small Meeting room. A light supper is served after each event and audience questions. FOIL greatly appreciates the time generously given by our speakers to entertain and enlighten us as well as supporting our fund raising efforts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In view of the current Corona virus situation the FOIL committee decided to postpone the talk by Michelle Balogh. We appreciate that this was disappointing and it had been a matter of some discussion, but we felt that the most responsible action was to err on the side of caution in order to minimise the risk of contagion. We contacted those of you who bought tickets to organise a refund. There are some copies of Michelle's book available at Hill of Content if you'd like to read it in the meantime!

Michelle Balogh has kindly agreed to give her talk later this year. The currently proposed date is Friday October 16th.



Michelle's book, *The Kind of Luck*, a work of imaginative biographical memoir is subtitled *A slim poetry. A Dublin-Hired-Hand's widow. A suspected spy. A grandmother...* - anyone can see that Michelle had an intriguing subject to write about. Meticulously researched and told with great heart, this is the story of Sean-Ty's unrequited life and the inspiration it afforded Michelle - exactly when she needed it the most.



Michelle Balogh is a freelance writer, illustrator and author. Her work has been shortlisted for the Children's Book Council of Australia Aspiring Writers' Mentorship and the Scrib Non-Fiction Prize. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English and Music from UNSW and in 2014 completed a Master of Arts in Creative Writing at UTS. Following graduation, she pursued a brief career in beauty and lifestyle writing before discovering that the stories she wanted to tell were closer to home.



2020 August

Friends of the Alexandra Library Newsletter.

Something To Live For by Richard Roper: A book review by Sally Dean.

This is one of those books in where the main character has real problems, in interacting with other people. Andrew works for the Council, finding the next of kin for those who have died seemingly alone. In his job interview, he doesn't hear a question correctly, but answers yes, which leads to him being about his home life. This could come unstuck, when Cameron, his boss, wants to have monthly dinner parties with the staff to help with "bonding", rotating where they meet. A new character is introduced, Peggy, whom Andrew shows how to perform the inspections of the homes where the people have died, and a friendship develops between them. This book, which features death in its subtle and knifed form, is actually uplifting, poignant and funny in a gentle manner. The twist at the end, is not really a twist, but puts out Andrew's history, which is where hope for a better life begins for him.



WOLLONGONG CITY LIBRARIES
Your Library | Borrow

Home / Join / Friends of the Library



Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Wollongong City Library are an independent group who support and promote our libraries. They also arrange regular events that anyone can take part in.

Friends of the Library



WINGECARRIBEE PUBLIC LIBRARY
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Friends of the Library

Tomorrow's (17 March 2020) planned author talk with Sean O'Beirne has been cancelled as a precaution to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the wider community. Refunds will be processed shortly.

All future FOIL author events are on hold until further notice.

The FOIL AGM Tuesday, 17 March 2020 has been postponed, members will be advised of the new date when it is organised.

The Library Book Sale for April 17 2020 has been cancelled. This has been a difficult decision and we apologise for any inconvenience.

The Friends of Wingecarribee Libraries (FOWL) work to support Wingecarribee Public Libraries and to promote its services to the community.



Sunshine Coast COUNCIL | Libraries

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Authors

Friends of the Library

Friends of the Library support and promote the library service and are non-profit. Friends encourage community awareness of library resources and activities and raise funds for agreed library projects.

Share Print

Great Libraries with Great Friends

FRIENDS OF THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

“We have inherited this incredible institution because people who came before us cared enough to invest in our collective life and our public life.”

— Eric Klinenberg, speaking at Jefferson Market Library 1999

The New York Public Library is the third largest library system in the world. Its mission is to inspire lifelong learning, advance knowledge, and strengthen communities.

Government funding pays only a portion of the Library’s operating expenses. The 1999 revenue of \$325.4 million came from: 56% City of New York, 17% Investments, 13% Contributions, 7% State and Federal government, 4% Other support, and 3% Utilities and rent. The Friends contributed most of the 4% Other support (\$13 million).

Support from generous individuals and Friends help with collections, job search resources, access the internet, literacy classes, children’s story hours and much more.

One new program has been the Young Lion’s who are donors in their 20s and 30s who are committed to lifelong learning and advancing the work of the NYPL. Such an institution has to always be creative in supporting the 92 branch locations, 16 million visitors, 21 million items circulated, over 100,000 programs per annum, and much more. With a net library asset of \$1.59 billion, this institution hopes to see another 125 years. With a little help from Friends.



Membership Application

CATEGORIES

Membership fee incorporating News Update		
Individual	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>
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FOLA Inc.
FOLA Treasurer,
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Phone: (03) 9338 0666
Fax: (03) 9335 1903

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FOLA Treasurer,
Dr David Parker, PO Box 32
Burnside SA 5068

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Friends Resource Book | Daniel Ferguson

- Establishing a successful Friends group
- Keeping your Friends active
- Incorporation
- Public liability
- Library management issues
- How to
- Latest and best ideas and much more...

The authoritative guide and source book for Friends of Library groups in Australasia

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Burnside SA 5068
www.fola.org.au

About Us

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Locked Bag 1315 Tullamarine Victoria 3043 Australia
Phone + 61 3 9338 0666
Fax + 61 3 9335 1903
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Editor: Daniel Ferguson
Email: folafriends@gmail.com
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