FR\ENDS OF L/BRAR\ES AUSTRAL/A

NEWS UPDATE

SPRING 2021

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Here at The LBW Trust, we're proud to be supporting Australian country libraries in 2021.



With the success of our inaugural National Backyard Cricket campaign this year - a campaign designed to support disadvantaged students in cricket-playing nations - we were able to raise nearly \$70,000 for rural, regional and remote libraries and give out 54 grants!



In 2020, The LBW Trust partnered with Friends of Libraries Australia (FOLA) to identify the best way to support better educational outcomes in Australia as part of the National Backyard cricket program.

The national voice for 13 million Public Library Members

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Message from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Beyond a COVID world

As Australians live through a global pandemic, the experience may even create opportunities to learn and grow.

For libraries, the Health and Safety environment focused on, how we can use our libraries when we could not visit. What resources could be accessed, and was it all on-line. A contactless 'Click & Collect' service developed from many libraries, virtual meetings and programmes allowed the public to maintain contact at a distance.

The New York Public Library provided specialised programs of interest, such as 'Community Conversations about COVID-19: Three Hour Training on Mental Health, Equity and Resilience, and at the National Library of Australia, 'COVID-19: Preserving the stories of Australia'.

Covid-19 Collection Guide

Find selected public health information and research publications that are freely available to support the public, researchers and policymakers during the current Covid-19 anademic.

Friends of the Balmain Library Open Book Group

The Friends of the Balmain Library Open Book Group meetings were held by Zoom, instead of the group meeting on site and then socialising over light refreshments.

COVID has provided the National Library of Australia the chance to make sure stories and experiences during the global pandemic are preserved for future generations. In today's society, cultural, social, political information – which, ultimately, has enormous historical significance - originates online.

Many experts say public online spaces will significantly improve by 2035 if reformers, big technology firms, governments and activists tackle the problems created by misinformation, disinformation and toxic discourse. Others expect continuing troubles as digital tools and forums are used to exploit people's frailties

And finally, we remember and acknowledge a dear friend to FOLA, Gerritt Stafford who recently passed away. A person to whom building collections and advancing knowledge to students had a personal touch, so distant from our online transactional world.

Daniel Ferguson
Executive Director & Founder



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Feedback from some of our winners

"And the last three
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Harvey Public Library, WA

lintergenerational activities, running once a week for an hour, and open to everyone. The first three were gardening tips and discussion, delivered by local gardening experts. The next three were making paper craft items, by a library staff member with exceptional skills. The next three were editing, organising and using digital photos, taught by a staff member. And the last three were talks by a library staff member about overseas volunteer adventures in Haiti, Ecuador, Nepal, Cambodia, Vanuatu and Madagascar. Funds were used to provide materials and refreshments at all sessions.

We are using topics of the 'Three In a Row' sessions as springboards for a new set of regular events next year. Using feedback about the most popular activities, we are planning ongoing once-a-month sessions, such as gardening, craft, technical topics, and talks/



presentations. We are also thinking of topics for another series of 'Three In a Row' sessions, such as natural health tips, munch lunch lunchbox ideas, and interesting hobbies.

Many new friendships have been made during the sessions, and participants have loved learning new information, or trying their hand at new things in a low-key, short, and easy way.

https://www.facebook.com/ Shireofharvevlibraries/

Inverell Public Library, NSW

The funds were used to purchase additional resources for the "Baby book bags" program, which sees each child born in the Inverell area presented with a handmade library bag, filled with books and information about the importance of reading. With the additional funds a book went into 250 bags.



"The funds were used to purchase additional resources for the "Baby book bags" program, which sees each child born in the Inverell area presented with a handmade library bag."



Feedback from some of our winners (cont'd)



This is an ongoing project, and provides new parents with resources and information to help them read to their baby, to improve early literacy attainment, and to build connection with the library and community. Each book bag is handmade by volunteers, and each is unique, just as each child is unique. Early childhood nurses present the bags to each child on their first visit, to ensure that all children are reached.

https://inverell.nsw.gov.au/services-andfacilities/public-library/

Cunnamulla Library, Qld

We received 2 gift vouchers from Harvey Norman to purchase a Photo Printer and consumables. The printer has only just been purchased in October. This printer is yet to be set up ready for our Glamour Photos. This program is based on good behaviour at school and students are picked to be dressed up and photographed.



Having this printer will produce a commercial quality photo whereas in the past we were printing our photos out on a basic office printer. We will also utilize this printer for Patrons that require photos to be printed as there is no availability for this service in our community.

https://www.paroo.qld.gov.au/community/ libraries

Australind Public Library, WA

The positive impact this grant had on our coding kids was instant! We used the grant to buy laptops so our coding students could progress from using a iPad version to a desktop version of Scratch, the coding program we use. Every Wednesday, we have a group who come to the library to code. We had to cap numbers that could attend because of the number of laptops available. Thanks to this grant, every student can now use the desktop version. The program is so successful, we just started a second class for home school students.



"The positive impact this grant had on our coding kids was instant!."

"Thanks to this grant, every student can now use the desktop version. The program is so successful, we just started a second class for home school students."

Gerritt Stafford

A TRUE FRIEND OF LIBRARIES

errit Stafford arrived in Western Australia in the early 1960s from England in response to the great lack of qualified Australian librarians to foster the much needed development of the public library systems in that State. Before his move to a senior position in the Flinders University Library in Adelaide in 1969 Gerritt made an invaluable contribution to the development of the State Library of WA, and also to the development of the library profession as a highly regarded innovative and mentor in librarianship studies.

"Gerritt made an invaluable contribution to the development of the State Library of WA, and also to the development of the library profession."

Gerritt contributed much to Flinders University during his working life on campus from 1969 to 1995. Liz Hall, Associate Librarian, Engagement and Scholarly Communications, remembers Gerrie and his pride in the work he did throughout the University. "Gerrie was the best sort of academic librarian — erudite, astute and keenly interested in the academic work of the University, from first-year undergraduates to the most experienced of researchers."

Prior to his retirement in 1995, Gerrie was awarded the Distinguished Service Award medal for outstanding service to the University, an award that is only granted as a rare honour.

Gerritt was an exceptional mentor to many librarians at Flinders and beyond, and had a huge impact on the careers of many people. He was an active member of the Australian Library and Information Assocation, contributing as an examiner for 28 years, delivering papers and convening the program committee for the 1982 Biennial Library conference held in Adelaide.

In retirement, Gerritt became involved in the Friends of the State Library of South Australia and Friends of Libraries Australia (FOLA), where he served both organisations as an office bearer, and as Vice-President to the Friends of the State Library of SA. He was also an avid collector of minature books of which he made a significant donation to the National Library of Australia in 2017.



Daniel Ferguson (FOLA Executive Director) remembers him also for a personal tour of bookshops and wineries in the Langhorne Creek area some years back. Gerritt was passionate and enthusiastic to discover on the day trip, a couple of new minature books, adding to his already extensive collection.

Gerrit made a significant contribution to the organisation of two FOLA conferences held in Adelaide in 1998 and 2005, arranging venues and speakers along with personal tours of the State Library.

Gerrit Stafford was an exceptionally kind and generous person, and a true friend to all who knew him.

FOLA is indebted to Flinders University of SA for some of the above content, and to past president Dr Alan Bundy AM.



"In retirement,
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President's

REPORT

Dear FOLA Members.

t's commonplace to talk about how fast the world is changing and how hard it is for humans to keep up with the pace of it all.

And yet as I re-read the letter I wrote to FOLA's members last year, I'm struck by how little has changed in the last 12 months.

We are now more than a year-and-a-half into the current pandemic and it feels a bit like groundhog day. If you've seen the movie, you'll

recall the protagonist is struck in an endless loop where he wakes every morning to a repeat of the events of the previous day. It's an experience that rapidly proves to be maddening.

For those of us in the southwestern corner of the country, we've been living through pulsating lockdowns, shuttered schools, shops and

libraries, and endless press conferences about tests, cases, hospitalizations, and more hopefully, vaccination rates. When we are effectively locked in our homes and blocked from seeing family and friends, our world closes in an literally slows down, largely because there is so much less activity to stimulate our minds.

Now, as we head closer to the end of 2021 and lockdowns are lifting, I'm hopeful Australia's state borders will begin loosening and we will see the emergence of a post-COVID world. What will that look like?

It's safe to say that for libraries, more of their services and interactions with us, their members and the public, will be mediated by technology.

Of course the physical library will remain essential, but residents will also expect to be able to access more services and experiences via technology, both for convenience and because of lingering fears about the risks of face-to-face contact.

For Friends groups this represents an ongoing, and in many cases, existential, threat. Part of what holds Friends groups together is the relationships that are formed through regular

> gatherings over morning tea or lunch. As a result, the last 18 months, which have largely shut down many Friends groups' activities, may see that a significant number fail to restart. That's a worrying future for all of us to consider.

> Which is why, as I've written before, FOLA has been exploring new ways to

reinvent the Friends movement in Australia. And I am pleased to report that, while we continue to experiment, we are finding some wonderful successes in new activities that are bringing awareness of public libraries to a broader audience than ever before.

Central to our work, as readers of our newsletter would know, is our association with the fundraising initiative National Backyard Cricket. This event was established in 2021 by the LBW Trust, a cricket-themed charity that traditionally has raise funds for suction programs in cricketplaying nations.

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Geelong Library and Heritage Centre



Geelong Library interior

The LBW Trust approached FOLA because it was implementing National Backyard Cricket Day and it wanted some of the funds to support a worthy educational cause in Australia. FOLA set about educating the executive of the LBW Trust about the role public libraries play in their communities, and together we agreed that Australia's country public libraries would be worthy recipients of donations.

The concept behind National Backyard Cricket is simple: Literally anyone can log onto the website (www.nationalbackyardcricket.com), register to play a game, invite friends along, have some fun and raise funds to support a range of educational initiatives. In 2021, our inaugural year and under the shadow of the pandemic, National Backyard Cricket raised close to \$70,000 for country public libraries, including substantial matching funds from the retailer Harvey Norman. We supported 54 country public libraries across every state and the Northern Territory with gifts ranging from \$500 to \$1.500.

I encourage you to click on the "Impact" link on the National Backyard Cricket website (https://www.nationalbackyardcricket.com/your-impact) to read more about what we achieved. I can also report that the feedback from libraries that participated in the fundraising campaign and in the grant application process had been universally positive. Among the projects we have funded have been computers, tablets and date projectors to increase access to technology, programmable robots and workshops for school children and employment workshops for adults.

This is just the beginning. Planning is well underway for National Backyard Cricket '22 and we are expanding far more support and engagement across the country, which will result in more funds raised in support of many more country public libraries. Already we have met with the Australian Public Libraries Alliance, who are strongly supportive and will be helping

us encourage libraries and their communities to participate in the fundraiser. In addition, 36 Harvey Norman stores across Regional Australia will be holding events and promoting National Backyard Cricket in their communities. There will be hundreds of games played, including at the Governor General's residence in Sydney.

You may be wondering about FOLA's partnership with the LBW Trust. You can read about all the partners (https://www.nationalbackyardcricket.com/ourpartners) and it is important to know that there is no formal or legal relationship between our organizations. We have simply been pleased to have been asked to assist with the project and to begin building relationships between on of Australia's great charities and country public libraries.

Going forward, we will be working with Friends groups across the country to encourage them to join in the National Backyard Cricket campaign. We believe this is a wonderful way to broaden and reinvigorate the Friends movement as we finally come out of the pandemic. As I wrote twelve months ago.

"If libraries and Friends can embrace it, and perhaps put their own local spin on the event, then we may be able to bring together Australians' love for both sport and lifelong learning.

The possibilities are enormous. If we are brave enough to let our imaginations loose and embrace the uncertainty of trying something new."

I hope 2022 sees all of us embracing bravery as we emerge from the pandemic and find new ways to reconnect and support our mutual love of public libraries.

Jack Goodman President, FOLA

"In 2021, our inaugural year and under the shadow of the pandemic, National Backyard Cricket raised close to \$70,000 for country public libraries."

"We are expanding far more support and engagement across the country, which will result in more funds raised in support of many more country public libraries."



Cobram Library



Katoomba Library

FOLA PRESENTATION AT SWITCH CONFERENCE, NSW



NSW Public Library Association presented its first SWITCH Online Conference on 18 November 2021, at which FOLA President, Jack Goodman spoke about National Backyard Cricket.

2021 INAUGURAL CAMPAIGN ACHIEVEMENTS

- 132 games played
- \$125,000 raised
- High profile games at Governor General's Canberra & Tasmania
- 50/50 split country libraries and LBW overseas education initiatives









THE VISION:

Raise awareness of critical and oft overlooked role of public libraries, and Raise funds to support better learning, social and employment outcomes in rural and regional Australia. "50/50 split

— country

libraries and

LBW oversease

education

initiatives."

"We're delighted to accept your generous grant and look forward to running the classes." Kim Colbourne Northam





Library

Leveraging the nation's love of cricket and public libraries to improve learning outcomes across regional **Australia**



"I am very happy that you supported our proposal – the kids of Cob coming months!" *Jane Siermans, Manager Library Services*

"That's wonderful news! We're ready to get stuck into planning our proposed IT classes and getting the essential help to those in our community that need the support and connection this program will provide." Meaghan Brown, Library Services Co-Ordinator, City of Wodonga

"We're delighted to accept your generous grant and look forward to running the classes." Kim Colbourne, Northam Library

"Thank you so much – this is indeed wonderful news. Funding will assist our reading program to reach out to our Hilltops region!" Janice Ottey, Hilltops Council

"Thanks very much! We're delighted to receive this grant. It will really enable us to offer more services outside the libraries." Gill Westera, Senior Librarian, Port Hedland

Thank you so much for this exciting news, we are tremendously grateful for this opportunity, but we are mostly excited that there is a group who supports and recognises public libraries and the work that they do!" Kelly Pitt-Lancaster, Southern Grampians Shire Library

news. We're ready to get stuck into planning our proposed IT classes and getting the essential help to those in our community that need the support and connection this program will

"That's wonderful

Meaghan Brown, Library Services Co-Ordinator, City of Wodonga

provide."

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR COUNTRY LIBRARIES

- 54 grants of \$500-\$1,500
- Libraries in every state and the NT
- Funding for education resources and activities.
- Matched by gift cards from Harvey Norman.
- Libraries encouraged to publicise their events and activites
- Learn more at: https://nationalbackyardcricket.com
- Register your library: https://tinyurl.com/y8reha5b
- Follow the fun at Facebook: @nationalbackyardcricket
- Instagram @nationalbackyardcricket
- Twitter: @national bye

Questions?

- email: igoodman@betterlibraries.org.au
- FOLA on Facebook: www/facebook.com/FOLAfriends

APPLICANTS AND **GRANT WINNERS** SPREAD ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Key NBYC activities 2021/22

Now

Fundraising website is live. Cricket NSW backyard cricket campaign underway.

Dec 1st:

· campaign Promotion BEGINS, Competition opens, Social Media intensifies.

Dec 26th:

• Triple M promotion nationally

Jan 1st:

Nexba promotion in Woolworths stores and Online.

Jan 17th:

Regional Harvey Norman Stores will hold NBYC events

Feb 1st:

Governor General's Game, Sydney with Cricket Australia

Feb 5th:

• One Day Int. Aust vs NZ@ SCG will be a NBYC event with Cricket Aust.

Feb 6th:

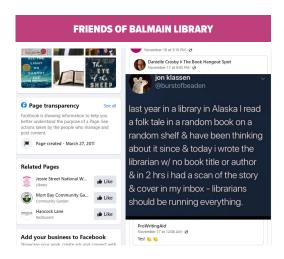
NATIONAL BACKYARD CRICKET DAY

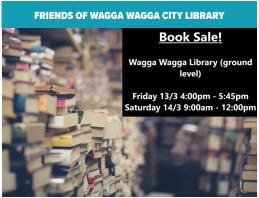
LOOKING FORWARD TO SUMMER OF NATIONAL BACKVARD CRICKET

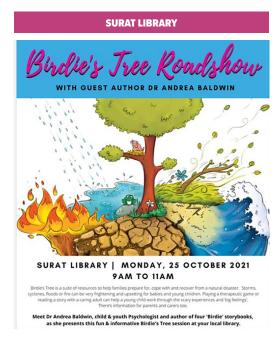


Friends Around Australia



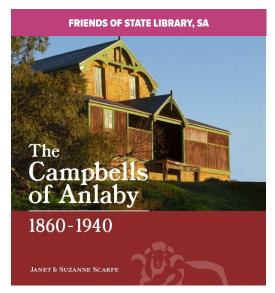












ST ARNAUD LIBRARY



"Here's some wonderful news from St Arnaud Library (part of the Northern Grampians Libraries) and their wonderful Friends group.

As part of #nationalbackyardcricket, St Arnaud received a grant to purchase Sphero programmable robotic balls. These amazing devices can be used to introduce learners of all ages to the wonders of computer programming." "It's been a while but we're just about ready to hold another Friends of the Library book sale! We have books for the young and books for the old: romance books. adventure books, mystery books and cookbooks; small books and large books; true books and imaginary books! Whatever you feel you need we're sure to have the perfect book for you, your friend, your parents, your neighbour and even your pet dog."

"St Arnaud received a grant to purchase Sphero programmable robotic balls. These amazing devices can be used to introduce learners of all ages to the wonders of computer programming."

Friends in the UK MARSDEN LIBRARY

"Losing our library would reduce the quality of life and well-being of the people who live here, and close down the resources and opportunities that our population, young and old, need to develop, grow and live well."

arsden is a large village in the Metropolitan Borough of Kirklees, West Yorkshire, population 3,499.

Friends of Marsden Library is a community organisation begun in late 2015 to support Marsden Library, "We are committed to the view that Libraries are not a luxury, but an essential part of our community. Losing our library would reduce the quality of life and well-being of the people who live here, and close down the resources and opportunities that our population, young and old, need to develop, grow and live well. We are determined to do all we can to prevent this so we have summed up our purpose as 'Keeping Marsden Library Open'."

Marsden sees the importance of volunteering in the library as vital to keeping the library open. Volunteers perform a range of activities such as: helping customers with self-issue, helping customer get online, serving tea and coffee, returning books to shelves, moving furniture for events, organising events, helping customers with family and local history, telling stories and helping with craft activities.

"Unlike many public libraries in Australia, in the UK over the past 25 years, many libraries have become governed by community trusts and large parts of service delivery and library operations either outsourced or requiring extensive use of volunteer labour."





Volunteers are invited to an induction session and the training they receive will depend on the role they choose. Volunteers supporting with frontline enquiries are required to attend a number of classroom based training sessions followed by a period of time shadowing existing staff.

In 2019 the Local Government Association produced a report for the Kirklees Council titled: Library Services Peer Challenge, Kirklees Council Final Report, with Recommendation 8 being: "Through training, support and marketing, change the narrative of volunteers and Friends Groups from 'saving libraries' to supporting delivery."

Unlike many public libraries in Australia, in the UK over the past 25 years, many libraries have become governed by community trusts and large parts of service delivery and library operations either outsourced or requiring extensive use of volunteer labour. The organisation – *The Library Campaign*, acts as a support organisation to Friends and communities that face cuts to service delivery and closure of libraries. The UK library scene of today, is very different to what was operating some 30 years ago, with massive library closures and reduction in service delivery.





Membership Application

CATEGORIES Membership fee incorporating **News Update** 0 FOL Group -0-25 Members FOL Group -25+ Members \$50 Libraries \$105 Institutions incl. Libraries with multiple Friends groups \$105 Corporations \$105 Extra copies of **News Update** \$10 per annum

FOLA Inc. FOLA Treasurer, Dr David Parker, PO Box 32 Burnside SA 5068 Phone: (03) 9338 0666 Amount ADDRE Name: Name: Addres

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	www.fola.org.au			

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