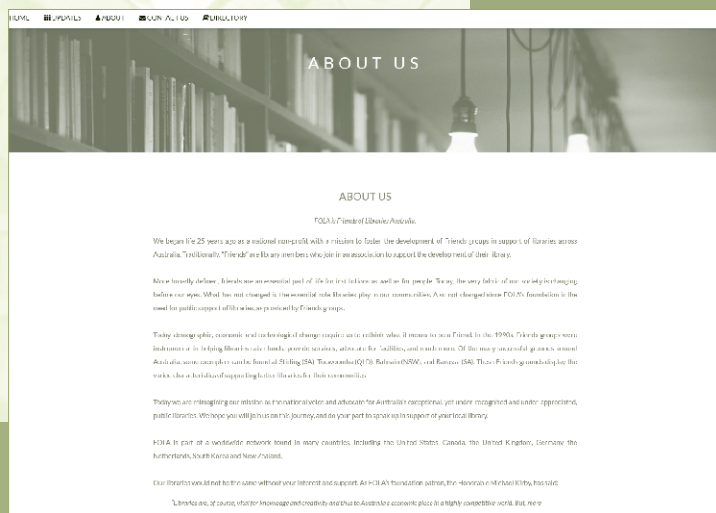


New Directions for FOLA

*The national voice
for 13 million
Public Library Members*

www.foia.org.au



We are currently updating the FOLA website to better reflect our expanded mission. We want to advocate for better libraries by connecting library friend groups with the rest of Australia.

Updates to the FOLA site will hopefully build awareness of the role of public libraries in Australian society, their contributions to the public and the benefits they bring to local communities.

IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>The Path Ahead: FOLA rebranding</i>	2	<i>Building Better Friends</i>	6
<i>President's Letter — FOLA AGM</i>	3	<i>Friends of National Libraries (UK)</i>	7
<i>Friends Around Australia</i>	4	<i>Membership Form; Resource Book order form</i>	8

THE PATH *Ahead*

FOLA is undertaking a rebranding of its mission and focus

As with many organisations today, FOLA is about to meet its greatest challenge to date. How we remain relevant in a rapidly changing environment. FOLA President, Jack Goodman has taken up the challenge. With support from his own business and staff he is helping FOLA develop both a new web site and a Facebook page. This is only part of the 'package' of change, that we as an organisation must confront. FOLA invites Friends groups and libraries around Australia to embark on this challenge with us. And give us your thoughts and feedback.

The political, social and technological environment worldwide, is a challenge to communities and public libraries alike. As with many Friends groups worldwide, we have seen increasing uncertainty as to how we meet this challenge. In the UK, the state of public libraries has never been so stressed, particularly in terms of funding. A colleague in the Friends movement recently wrote: "The UK no longer has a national public library system." Since 2010, hundreds of local libraries have been handed over from councils to be run by the local community. One

estimate is that 500 of the UK's 3,850 libraries are now being run by local volunteers.

However, on a recent visit to the UK, I was reminded of the legacy that history provides us in this challenge. A visit to the Manchester Public Library and the Rylands Library of the University of Manchester gives us an understanding of the rich legacy of past generations. Manchester and Liverpool Public Libraries were two of the great public institutions that shaped the development of public libraries in this country. The Rylands Library is associated with the work of the Friends of the National Libraries UK, a body established in 1931 with the aim of supporting libraries.

Shaping the present can provide lasting benefits to future generations.



Daniel Ferguson
Executive Director FOLA



The rich historical legacy of the great Mancunian libraries...

President's Letter

FOLA 2017 AGM

BY JACK GOODMAN

Dear FOLA Friends,

Since we last gathered for our annual meeting at the Coventry Library in the Adelaide Hills in September of 2016, a lot has happened in the world as it pertains to libraries, and to FOLA in particular. I'd like to take this moment to update you on some of our organisation's activities and the work we continue to undertake to reimagine what FOLA can become as it moves further into its third decade.

"I would like to encourage you to open a free account and begin to follow FOLA's new Facebook page."



"we want our website to do will be to provide a single source of information about every public library in Australia."

The starting point for our work is the following premise: Australia's public libraries have no "voice" or visibility in our national conversation about the future of education, communities, and lifelong learning. Why should it be that we read daily about our nation's schools, TAFE's and universities, and the critical role they play enabling our population to develop the skills, capacities, and knowledge necessary for employment and to live fulfilling lives? And yet public libraries, due to their inherently local nature and low community profiles, remain largely overlooked in this context.

This is not just a shame; it is also an important factor in the ever-continuing struggle public libraries face to secure their places in Australia's communities. This is not to say that Australia

does not have many wonderful public libraries, and Friends Groups across the country provide a tremendous amount of support for their local institutions. But we would be wrong to say every community provides equal access to its residents to a local library that represents "best practice" when it comes to facilities, services, and materials for the learning and diversionary intellectual needs of all, from infants to the elderly.

This is where we see FOLA playing a role over the next decade. We want to help give public libraries – *and more importantly, the millions of Australians who are members and users of them* – a voice in the national conversation.



How will we do this? First, will use today's technology – the networking effects of social media – to leverage our existing audience and reach out to library users and lovers across Australia. We intend to build a vibrant community by connecting everyone in Australia who cares about their local library with the cause of libraries generally.

(Continued on Page 5)

Friends Around Australia



Great Lakes (NSW)

Library Manager, Chris Jones invites FOGLLS to contribute for community consultation for the new Forster Library. This will be part of the community consultation process establishing a community reference group. Design work is expected to commence in early 2018. Community consultation is also taking place as regards refurbishment of the Gloucester Library. Chris Jones continues to be one of the exceptional library leaders and Friends supporters.

Serpentine Jarrahdale (WA)

Committee member, Kay McBroom reported on an overseas visit to the Netherlands. They visited a Little Library in a café that had some shelves near the dining area, which had newspapers, magazines and books. The Dutch love their libraries. But they also love the Friends, being one of the first countries outside the United States to establish and support Friends of Library groups.



Castlemaine (Vic)

"Books for Babies" is a book gifting program for all the newborns in the Mount Alexander Shire and has been running since 2008. The Friends of Castlemaine have been supporters of the program since inception and have distributed over 1500 bags containing board books and information about children's services at the Castlemaine Library.

Goulburn Valley (Vic)

The library service has 5 Friends groups operating within the library corporation, Euroa, Mooropna, Numurkah, Shepparton and Yarrawonga. The oldest group being at Euroa, established in 1993.

Wollongong (NSW)

A Literary Lunch with Judy Nunn was held recently. The author spoke about her latest book, 'Sanctuary'. Of the stated aims of the Friends, one is "To promote an appreciation and awareness of the library's services and its collections."



Ballina (NSW)

Recently held a very successful children's book sale. Books sold for 50cents or less!

Byron (NSW)

At the recent AGM, the Friends decided to update the FOL Constitution. The Library Manager, Jo Carmody reported on a range of topics, which included an 'Acknowledgement of the valuable role the FOL plays for Byron Shire libraries.' The Presidents Report mentioned the \$14,000 raised from the Book Fair and raffle.

Grenfell (NSW)

The Friends AGM reported on the tireless efforts in support of the Library. And Weddin Shire Councillor, Phillip Diprose recently launched BorrowBox at the Library.



"The Dutch love their libraries. But they also love the Friends, being one of the first countries outside the United States to establish and support Friends of Library groups."

"Chris Jones continues to be one of the exceptional library leaders and Friends supporters."

Griffith University (NSW)

The Friends web page reminds those joining that of the benefits of membership are: enjoying a range of national and international speakers, 'Friends' only cocktail receptions, an e-newsletter, 20% discount of the Griffith REVIEW and a discount on University library borrowing.

"Launceston Friends Facebook page alerted people to the upcoming Book Fair of the Friends."

Launceston (Tas)

The Friends facebook page alerted people to the upcoming Book Fair of the Friends. And, mentioned highly sought-after out-of-print books which were available. As in the past, the bookfair was held at the Albert Hall in Launceston.

Wingecarribee (NSW)

At the end of 2017 the Friends newsletter outline the coming year's events. Something happening every months, speakers, booksale and a Writers' Workshop.

"The Friends were not only financial supporters of the event but also attended with staff, selling superhero masks and helping with the event."

Toowoomba (Qld)

20th anniversary celebration for the Friends were held in November. The latest newsletter reported on the TooCon pop culture festival held in 2017 which attracted over 5,500 people. The Friends were not only financial supporters of the event but also attended with staff, selling superhero masks and helping with the event.

Altona (Vic)

Due to hot and stormy weather, the December Booksale was cancelled. However, they managed to hold the event in January, despite a temperature of 42 degrees. The Friends are currently working on a digital project to archive the history of the group. They have been in existence for 31 years.



President's Letter **FOLA 2017 AGM**

(continued)

If you haven't done so already, I would like to encourage you to open a free account and begin to follow FOLA's new Facebook page. We're sharing news, information and insights about libraries in Australia and around the world. In the search bar on the Facebook website, just type in "Friends of Libraries Australia" or you can go to this webpage: www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Libraries-Australia-1051071371689983/

If you are already a Facebook user, or, better yet, if you have family members who are Facebook aficionados, please encourage them to "like" our page and to share it with their friends. It is via this "network effect" that we will build our audience of supporters.

Our Facebook page will be supported by a new FOLA website which is currently in development. Among the jobs we want our website to do will be to provide a single source of information about every public library in Australia, including photos and links to its website and social media feeds. (Most public libraries now have Facebook pages as well as Twitter feeds.) To accomplish this we will be making use of former FOLA president Alan Bundy's remarkable database of Australian libraries, which he published for many years.

I am hopeful that by following this path and taking the most inclusive view possible of what it means to be a "friend" of libraries that we will succeed in building a large and vibrant community. With hard work and a bit of good fortune, this will also form the basis for advocacy work which will help promote public libraries as essential public institutions.

Before closing I would like to publicly acknowledge the work FOLA's treasurer, David Parker, who continues to provide essential support in maintaining and updating the FOLA membership and ensuring all members are current. FOLA runs on a minimal budget, and while we have plans to develop additional revenue streams, this will need to wait until our social media networking efforts begin to bear fruit.

Thank you for your interest, and patience, while we pursue these reforms. I look forward to 2018 being a productive and exciting year for FOLA. I also look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas. Please feel free to contact me at any time at the email address below. I am always happy to have a conversation.

**Kind regards,
Jack Goodman, President, FOLA
jack@betterlibraries.org.au**

Building Better Friends

A Memorandum of Understanding

Successful Friends understand the foundation is built on a partnership. A partnership between the library, the community and the governing authority. A good example of such a partnership can be found in a 'Memorandum of Understanding' which many Friends groups have in place. The Friends of Latrobe City Libraries (Vic) have such a document. Some of the key aspects are outlined:

- Latrobe City Council acknowledges that the Friends of Latrobe City Libraries has significant knowledge and interest in Latrobe City Libraries and thus has a valued role to play in the ongoing support and advocacy of and for Latrobe City Libraries.
- FOLCL means current paid members of Friends of Latrobe City Libraries while subscribed with Friends of Libraries Australia.
- This MOU shall commence on the date on which it is signed by both parties and shall be reviewed at least biennially.
- Latrobe City Council recognises that the aims and purposes of the Friends of Latrobe City Libraries and the FOLCL recognises the responsibilities with which Latrobe City Council is charged; and the aim of both parties is to respect each other in the pursuit of their aims, purposes, functions and responsibilities.
- Latrobe City Council agrees to: (lists...) involve the FOLCL in the long-term strategic

planning process during the development of the Library Plan; Provide the FOCCL with a suitable meeting space in the library for the purpose of conducting a monthly meeting; present the FOLCL with a wish list of potential sponsorship opportunities for consideration at the beginning of each financial year; provide a space for book storage pending book sales...

- FOLCL agrees to: (lists...) publicly support and promote the Library and its long term strategic direction and policies; engage in advocacy efforts on behalf of, and for the benefit of the library community, in consultation with library management; recognise that library management has the final say in accepting or declining any and all gifts made to the library...
- In the event of an unresolved disagreement between the two parties the following procedure shall be initiated...
- Latrobe City Council agrees to provide limited insurance cover for all registered volunteers, aged 16 years and less than 90 years, in accordance with its Personal Accident cover against injury and/or illness directly arising from work carried out whilst acting in a volunteer role with Council.
- Latrobe City Council agrees to insure all registered Latrobe City Council volunteers... against public liability claims for occasions while undertaking programmed activities.

"The aim of both parties is to respect each other in the pursuit of their aims, purposes, functions and responsibilities."

"Latrobe City Council agrees to insure all registered Latrobe City Council volunteers... against public liability claims for occasions while undertaking programmed activities."



FRIENDS WORLD - WIDE



Friends of the National Libraries (UK)

ANOTHER TYPE OF FRIEND...

Since 1931 The Friends of the National Libraries has supported national institutions throughout the UK. These libraries include Universities, Public Records, the British Library and National Libraries of Scotland and Wales, Museums and Galleries and Local Authority Libraries. In particular its focus has been on collection development in these institutions. Unlike the focus of FOLA and Friends bodies in the USA, FNL has not seen its role in lobbying or community building from the 'grassroots', but more by assisting these institutions with capital grants.

"In particular its focus has been on collection development."



Perhaps this country's greatest contribution to western European civilisation is its literature. Rare books and manuscripts are the origin, the fount, of this. Estate and family papers provide records of our national past — of its turbulence and its continuity. It is because of this that the Friends of the National Libraries exist.

Friends of the National Libraries | www.friendsofnationallibraries.org.uk
Saving the nation's written and printed heritage

giftaid it

I wish all Donations I make to Friends of the National Libraries (FNL) on or after the date of this declaration, to be treated as Gift Aid Donations and would like the Trust to reclaim the tax I have paid on all donations.

I confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year 30th April to 5th April; that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or community amateur sports clubs that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that FNL will reclaim 20p of tax on every £1 that I give from now until further notice.

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Address _____

tel: _____ email: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please notify Friends of the National Libraries if you:

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- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income or capital gains
- if you pay income tax at the higher rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HMRC to adjust your tax code.

Thank you for your support.
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FOL Group — 0-25 Members	\$35	<input type="checkbox"/>
FOL Group — 25+ Members	\$70	<input type="checkbox"/>
Libraries	\$140	<input type="checkbox"/>
Institutions incl. Libraries with multiple Friends groups		
Corporations	\$140	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extra copies of News Update	\$10 per annum	<input type="checkbox"/>

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