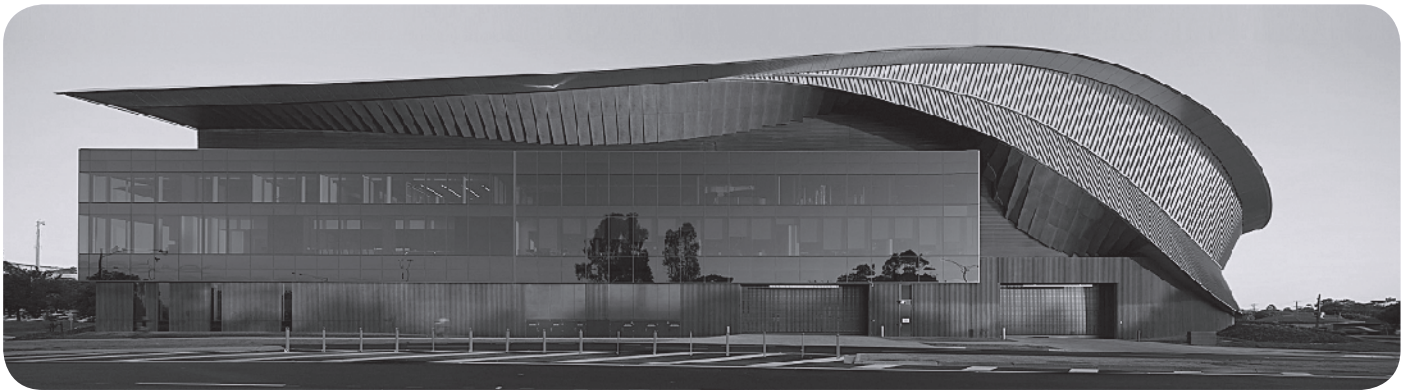


SUMMER/AUTUMN 2019

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Bunjil Place Library

Narre Warren, Victoria



The national voice for 15 million Public Library Members

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Letter from the *FOLA President*

JACK GOODMAN

Dear FOLA Members and Friends,

Fifteen years ago (which simultaneously sounds like a long time and the wink of an eye) the world was a very different place. My point is not to rehash how much technology has changed since then. We all know that mobile phones, wireless communications and social media have transformed our world - and not always for the better.

Rather, I want to highlight an important change in thinking that seems to have occurred across Australia in the last decade and a half. It seems to me (and this is an entirely unscientific opinion) that there is a growing consensus across councils of all shapes, sizes and demographics, that a great public library must sit at the heart of every community.

The New Generation of Australian Libraries

Back in the early 2000s, I recall the biggest and best investments in public libraries in Australia tended to be in large outer-suburban, metropolitan councils with large populations of non-English speaking residents. Whether it was Blacktown in Sydney, Wyndham in Melbourne, or Joondalup in Perth, the big, ambitious projects seemed to have this common thread.

At the other end of the spectrum, I would often hear from councils in the wealthiest suburbs that

there was no need for better library facilities because residents could afford to buy plenty of books. And in rural and regional areas, there were often so many other competing priorities, libraries often got overlooked.

How the Australian public library landscape is changing. Whether you are in inner-city Sydney, where the Surry Hills, Double Bay and Green Square libraries are shining destinations, or regional Victoria where the Geelong Library and Heritage Centre is arguably the best public library in the nation, we are seeing some fabulous examples of great new public library spaces. And much of this is the result of citizens - and Friends groups - lobbying for the cause.

I came across a great article from a website called *The Design Files* which features some of the best recent examples of wonderful public libraries. Have a look at: <https://thedesigntfiles.net/2019/04/architecture-best-libraries-australia/>

The photographs of these buildings are remarkable, and they underscore just how iconic many of our nation's newest libraries are. The fact is that architecture firms increasingly see the design of libraries as opportunities to make statements and to showcase the best thinking and engineering in public space design.

Continued on page 4

“there is a growing consensus across councils of all shapes, sizes and demographics, that a great public library must sit at the heart of every community.”

“Whether you are in inner-city Sydney, where the Surry Hills, Double Bay and Green Square libraries are shining destinations.”



Geelong Library and Heritage Centre

FOLA

Celebrating 25 Years 1994–2019

Friends of Libraries Australia (FOLA) will celebrate our 25th Anniversary on Thursday 5 December 2019, 5 pm at a function in the Institute Building, State Library of South Australia, North Terrace, Adelaide.

“The State Library of South Australia is home to Australia’s first Library Friends group, established in 1932.”



GUEST SPEAKER: MEM FOX
Acclaimed Australian Author

Celebrate with us, as we commemorate our achievements since establishment on the 5 December 1994, when FOLA was launched by our foundation patron, the Hon Justice Michael Kirby, AC, CMG at a function at the State Library of Victoria.

Further details of speakers and program for the evening will follow. Mark this date in your calendar now.

The State Library of South Australia is home to Australia’s first Library Friends group, established in 1932. FOLA is pleased to return to this location, thanks to Geoff Stempel, Director of the State Library of South Australia.



**FRIENDS OF
LIBRARIES
AUSTRALIA**

Letter from the
FOLA President

JACK GOODMAN



Bankstown Library



Cobram Library

Continued from page 2

FOLA and Book Feasts

If you have been following FOLA on Facebook, you already know about a partnership we've developed with Sunshine Coast young adult author Taryn Bashford to promote Taryn's Book Feast concept at public libraries across Australia. Book Feasts are a new and wonderfully clever take on the age-old idea of author-reader engagement, with the library as the facilitating public space. Taryn has written about Book Feasts for this issue (see page 5), and FOLA is looking forward to working together to put together a handbook that makes it easy for any friend of public libraries to start a Book Feast chapter in their own community. If you are keen to learn more, please contact us and we will happily get you started.

Speaking of social media, I also want to thank the wonderful Gaby Meares, who has taken on the endless challenge of keeping FOLA's Facebook page a vibrant hive of all things library and Friends-related. All Friends are grateful to you, Gaby, for your diligent attention and warmth and kindness with which you draw our growing audience's attention to wonderful stories about libraries.

25 Years of FOLA

FOLA's 25th anniversary is just around the corner, and we are looking forward to celebrating in style at the State Library of South Australia on the 5th of December. We will have a guest of honour, and we will be also recognising some of the most important people in the history of the organisation. There will be food and drink, and we hope you can attend.



Farewell, Christobel

Last, I was deeply saddened to read of the passing of South Australian author and long-time FOLA friend Christobel Mattingley. I recall hearing Christobel give a talk at a FOLA function in Adelaide several years ago, and then purchasing a selection of her books for my family to enjoy. I still think about her biography of Deny King — *King of the Wilderness* — as one of the most evocative stories I have ever read about the Tasmanian wilderness. You can read about Christobel's life here:

<https://www.booksandpublishing.com.au/articles/2019/06/05/134349/rip-christobel-mattingley/>

Christobel was a genuine Australian treasure, and a wonderful advocate for public libraries, as well.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter, and for being a Friend of libraries. Enjoy this issue and please share it with your family and friends.

**Warmest wishes,
Jack Goodman
FOLA president**

jgoodman@betterlibraries.org.au



"Book Feasts are a new and wonderfully clever take on the age-old idea of author-reader engagement, with the library as the facilitating public space."

"FOLA's 25th anniversary is just around the corner, and we are looking forward to celebrating in style at the State Library of South Australia."



Come Feast on Books

Taryn Bashford

"I came up with the concept of Book Feasts in which the focus was to erase the line between local authors and book lovers while also supporting public libraries."

"To get Book Feasts up and running, I put out a call on Facebook to local authors."

Writers often talk about their muse when writing a novel, but sometimes the muse strikes in other ways. Book Feasts was the result of a moment of enthused conversation with my muse.

Last year, I created an initiative with America's *Every Library* (a non-profit Political Action Committee chartered to work exclusively on local library ballot initiatives to protect public funding). As part of my USA book tour, I travelled from California to New York promoting *Every Library's* 'Stop the Summer Slide' in reading campaign in the form of free children's author panels across America. On the month-long road trip, I also collected new and used books to be distributed to those in need by Friends of Libraries New Orleans during the American Library Association annual conference. It was such a fun and successful campaign that when I returned to Australia, I wondered how I could make a difference for libraries in the country in which I lived.



Noosa Book Feast event



I came up with the concept of Book Feasts in which the focus was to erase the line between local authors and book lovers while also supporting public libraries. Book Feasts would be like a book club, except you didn't have to read the set book, and at least eight local authors would be there to mingle with. And given everyone was there 'for the love of books' I'd then share information about our public libraries, passing on news about budget cuts, closures, and more, in the hope of conjuring support against such actions.

Continued overleaf



Noosa Book Feast event



Caloundra Book Feast event

Continued from Page 5

I approached FOLA with the concept. The President, Jack Goodman, talked about creating ‘one voice’ through Book Feasts, such that if we needed to speak up for our public libraries, we’d have ready-made Book Feasts communities of booklovers across Australia. He also spoke of attracting different age groups to Book Feasts, from young mums upwards.

FOLA successfully contacted Sunshine Coast Libraries to discuss the concept and secure a venue for the free community Book Feasts. Now their events team put the events on their website and in their events calendar, and they also create posters and leaflets that are distributed through the libraries. The authors and I market the event through our social media, local community boards and bookshops.

To get Book Feasts up and running, I put out a call on Facebook to local authors. Authors of many varied genres responded and we discussed the bi-monthly concept and format. There are 17 authors in the Sunshine Coast chapter and they’re obligated to attend three Book Feasts out of the six annual events. Two or three authors per meeting are featured and ‘in conversation’ with each other about their books and writing in the ‘formal’ half hour slot at the start of the event. I act as the MC and pass on news or issues affecting libraries, information that’s supplied by FOLA.

I believe the concept works because the presence of multiple authors attracts booklovers to the event. Given that both authors and readers are library lovers, the idea of spending a couple of hours socialising over book talk at

the local library is enticing to all parties. These attendees are then clearly open to supporting their libraries, both locally and nationally. Book Feasts can be run anywhere there are authors and booklovers who want to socialise at their local library. The emphasis is unique – it’s all about the love of reading and libraries and is not a commercial opportunity for authors, though book sales may be a happy side-effect.

To date, we’ve run four successful Book Feasts on the Sunshine Coast. The format includes collecting email addresses to notify people of the next Book Feasts event (or inform about a petition they might like to sign to stop a budget cut). After the formal half hour, the next 90 minutes are devoted to mingling and chatting (booklovers and authors and librarians) over wine and nibbles. Refreshments are sometimes organised by local Friends of Libraries groups, and sometimes BYO.

We’ve had a Saturday afternoon Women’s V Men’s Fiction with Cass Moriarty and Terence J. Quinn, a Saturday morning Kid’s Book Feasts in which T.M. Clark, Emma Middleton and Elaine

“I believe the concept works because the presence of multiple authors attracts booklovers to the event.”

“After the formal half hour, the next 90 minutes are devoted to mingling and chatting (booklovers and authors and librarians) over wine and nibbles.”



Kawana Book Feast event

“FOLA and I are looking to roll out Book Feasts across Australia”



Maroochydore Book Feast event

Ouston entertained the kids, a ‘Memoir Evening’ with Shelley Davidow and Deborah Carlyon, and a Romance v Literary Fiction v YA Fiction chat with Sarah Williams, Annah Faulkner and me. Whether we mix up the genres or keep like with like, everyone has a lovely social and bookish event. I know it’s all worthwhile when people leave with faces lit up, enthused by books.

Book Feasts has expanded to a second chapter in the Moreton Bay region. Their first Book Feasts event will take place in September. Thanks to this easy concept and format, FOLA and I are looking to roll out Book Feasts across Australia by connecting authors with libraries and then attracting booklovers into the Book Feasts ‘one voice’ community.

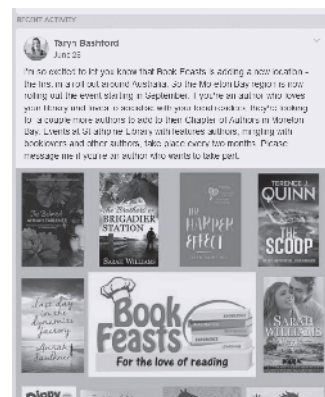
*Taryn Bashford is the author of young adult novels **The Harper Effect** and **The Astrid Notes** (July 2019). She currently lives on the Sunshine Coast with a family that includes teen children and a highly-strung dog. Taryn’s lived on four continents, meaning her job experience has been varied: an advertising sales rep, a ski chalet chef, a late night news reader and the CEO of an internet company, but writing and Australia are her true love. Taryn is currently working on her PhD in Creative Writing while tutoring undergraduates and writing more novels. When she’s not writing or teaching, she’s training for triathlons in the hope they will compensate for the fact she spends ten hours a day sat on her tushie.*

To find out more about Book Feasts, you can visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/434236493649815/>

“Whether we mix up the genres or keep like with like, everyone has a lovely social and bookish event.”



Sunshine Coast Chapter of Authors event



New Darling Square Library

to take flight in 2019



"The Darling Square Library will be part of the City of Sydney's library network of 9 branches."

A modern library to support ideas and creativity

The new library in the heart of Darling Square (Sydney) will be housed on 2 floors of The Exchange building. Designed by Japanese Architects Kengo Kuma & Associates (who designed the stadium for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games).

An Ideas Lab, a 200sqm makerspace workshop will be one of the features. The lab will host hands-on workshops for kids, teens and adults, from coding, robotics and virtual reality to school holiday maker sessions.

The Darling Square Library will be part of the City of Sydney's library network of 9 branches.



From the City of Sydney website:

"Our brand new library in the heart of Darling Square is fast taking shape. Darling Square is one of Sydney's newest neighbourhoods, transforming an area next to Haymarket and Darling Harbour. Set to open in spring 2019, the library will be housed on 2 floors of The Exchange building, overlooking a public plaza.

The spiral-like building wrapped in timber ribbons is designed by Japanese Architects Kengo Kuma & Associates. Well known for his signature timber cladding, Kengo Kuma designed the stadium for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games and brings his vision to Australia for the first time.

More than 23 kilometres of sustainably sourced timber panels curve around the outside of the circular building. Creating a unique façade with a playful likeness to a birds nest, the handcrafted panels also filter natural light into the building.

Sydney Architects Bligh Voller Nield designed the modern interiors of the library to create welcoming and flexible spaces."

Friends of South Carolina Libraries (USA)



"The Oconee Friends have installed another Little Free Library, this one at High Falls County Park. They maintain this LFL with books from the donations they receive every year."

FOSCL, a statewide organisation, created in the late 1980's to help foster, create and support local Friends of the Library groups, and to provide networking opportunities for these groups to work together for the support of library services throughout the State of South Carolina. Two of the most active groups among the 36 members are:

Friends of Lexington Main Library

Currently support the Library by:

- Financially supporting the annual Summer Reading Program for children
- Sponsoring the annual Summer Reading Kick Off Party
- Sponsoring the annual Historic Heros
- Funding many of the Youth Services programs for children and teens
- Sponsoring the professional librarians participation in the South Carolina Library Association
- Staffing the Friends Corner Gift Shop
- Holding fund-raising events throughout the year

In the past the Friends have supported the Library by:

- Expanding the Youth Services Computer Area
- Commissioning and funding the "Circle of Friends" statue in front of the library
- Purchasing a photocopier and two microfilm reader/printers
- Establishing the Friends Corner Gift Shop
- Designing and installing the "Hand Print Tiles" in the library foyer

Friends of Oconee County Public Library

Little Free Libraries

The Oconee Friends have installed another Little Free Library, this one at High Falls County Park. They maintain this LFL with books from the donations they receive every year. The unit itself was created by students at West-Oak High School. Little Free Libraries are a nationwide phenomenon where users can take a book (or books), and are encouraged to leave a book, all free of charge. No library card is needed.




BOOK SALE

We offer the best deal on used books! Please check out our table inside the library for used books of all kinds. We accept donations of used books, CDs, and movies.

EVENTS

Fun events for adults and children, including every season of the year including our Father Daughter Dance and Summer Reading Program!

BECOME A FRIEND

Membership dues help the Friends of the Main Library in its mission to support the library. Members are entitled to a 10% discount at the Friends Corner Gift Shop!

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Friends of the Lexington Main Library are offering about 5,000 scholarships. These may be used for their post-secondary education.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Read to Me



The Oconee County Friends of the Library launched a program in 2011 in co-operation with Oconee Medical Center and the Booksmith called READ TO ME. READ TO ME (still ongoing) is designed to encourage parents to begin to read early to their infants and very small children. Pictured above (l) is one of the tote bags that are being presented to all new mothers and their babies. The bag also contains brochures explaining to the parents why it is so important to begin reading early in a child's life. A "first library card" to be valicated at any branch of the Oconee County Public Library system and a "book bank" for use at the Friends' book sale. A growth chart marked with appropriate books for children as they grow is included in each bag. Friends believe that, begun early, reading can become a very special part of a baby's and child's experience and can extend into a lifetime of pleasure and learning.

For further information contact Su Hannon at jhsu2@charter.net

Citizens Save Libraries *Power Guide*

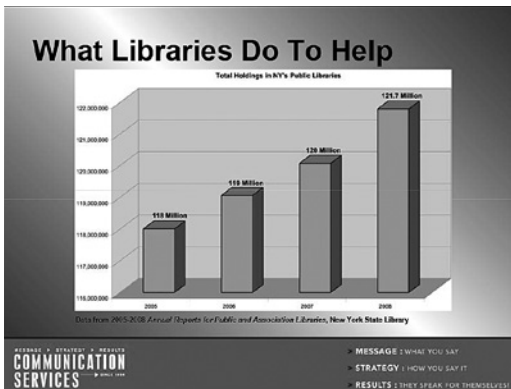
UNITED FOR LIBRARIES

United for Libraries is the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations. The former body (FOLUSA) Friends of Libraries USA are now part of United for Libraries.



The Citizens-Save-Libraries Power Guide has been created to give strong support and direction to assist library advocacy. Friends groups, even within Australia can gain inspiration from some of the messages and examples. Take a look at www.ala.org/united/powerguide

“The Citizens-Save-Libraries Power Guide has been created to give strong support and direction to assist library advocacy.”



“United for Libraries is a national network of enthusiastic library supporters who believe in the importance of libraries as the social and intellectual centers of communities and campuses. No one has a stronger voice for libraries than those who use them, raise money for them, and govern them. By uniting these voices, library supporters everywhere will become a real force to be reckoned with at the local, state, and national levels.”

What Do They Help Me Do?

- Establish the library as an “essential service” in the community
- Market the library using emotional branding methods
- Have the library be a reflection of your community
- Advocate for library while building community support

MESSAGE | WHAT YOU SAY
STRATEGY | HOW YOU SAY IT
RESULTS | THEY SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

What Today Is All About

- Discussion of how to position your library as an essential service
- Your library's relationship between marketing and public relations
- Why staff and trustees must be advocates for their library
- Making the Library a political plus for your local elected officials and being more effective

MESSAGE | WHAT YOU SAY
STRATEGY | HOW YOU SAY IT
RESULTS | THEY SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

Friends Around Australia



“The 2018 Friends Medal was awarded to Shirley Gollings, recognising 20 years of service to the Friends. The Friends will be celebrating 30 years in 2020, and presently have a membership of over 2,000, making it the largest library Friends in the country.”



Balmain (NSW)

Fiona Mitchell, Chair of the FOBL committee has outlined another very successful year for the Friends in Balmain, read her report at: <https://fobl.org.au/2019/04/30/fobl-agm-2019-chairs-report/>

Toowoomba (Qld)

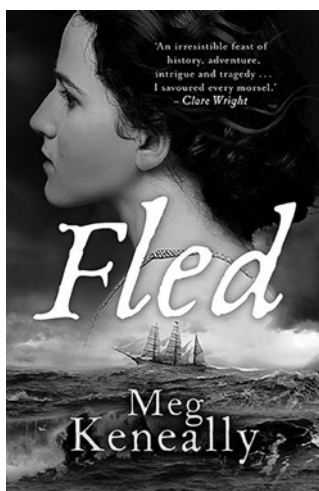
A full calendar of events outlined on the Friends facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/events/953748905000017/>

Wollongong (NSW)

Literary Lunch with author Meg Keneally.

<http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/library/activities/Pages/friendsofthelibrary.aspx#gref>



Wingecarribee (NSW)

August author event with Candice Fox. www.library.wsc.nsw.gov.au/news-and-events/events/fowl-august-author-event-with-candice-fox



“Australian writer Candice Fox is a New York Times

No.1 best selling crime fiction author whose own and collaborative works are published globally. She has written ten novels, the latest being Gone By Midnight. She has twice won the Ned Nelly Award For Crime writing. In 2016 Candice started collaborating on a series of novels with best selling author James Patterson and their first book Never Never hit the best seller list immediately. We look forward to hearing Candice talk about her fast-paced novels and her complex, likeable characters. Do join us.”

Murrindindi (Vic)

Operates 2 Friends Bookshops, one at Alexandra and the other at Yea. It also has one of the oldest Junior Friends groups in the country at Alexandra. And a third FOL group at Kinglake. www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Our-Community/Libraries/Friends-of-the-Library

National Library of Australia (ACT)

The 2018 Friends Medal was awarded to Shirley Gollings, recognising 20 years of service to the Friends. The Friends will be celebrating 30 years in 2020, and presently have a membership of over 2,000, making it the largest library Friends in the country. https://www.nla.gov.au/sites/default/files/blogs/friends_newsletter_summer2018_online_incl_insert.pdf



Advance notice - Friends Forum 2020 @ Mount Gambier

Our next Friends Forum to be held in South Australia will take place at Mount Gambier Library in September 2020.

Membership Application

CATEGORIES

Membership fee incorporating News Update		
Individual	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>

RETURN ADDRESS

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Dr David Parker, PO Box 32
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Fax:(03) 9335 1903

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My cheque/money order is made payable to:
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Dr David Parker, PO Box 32
Burnside SA 5068

Amount enclosed \$

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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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