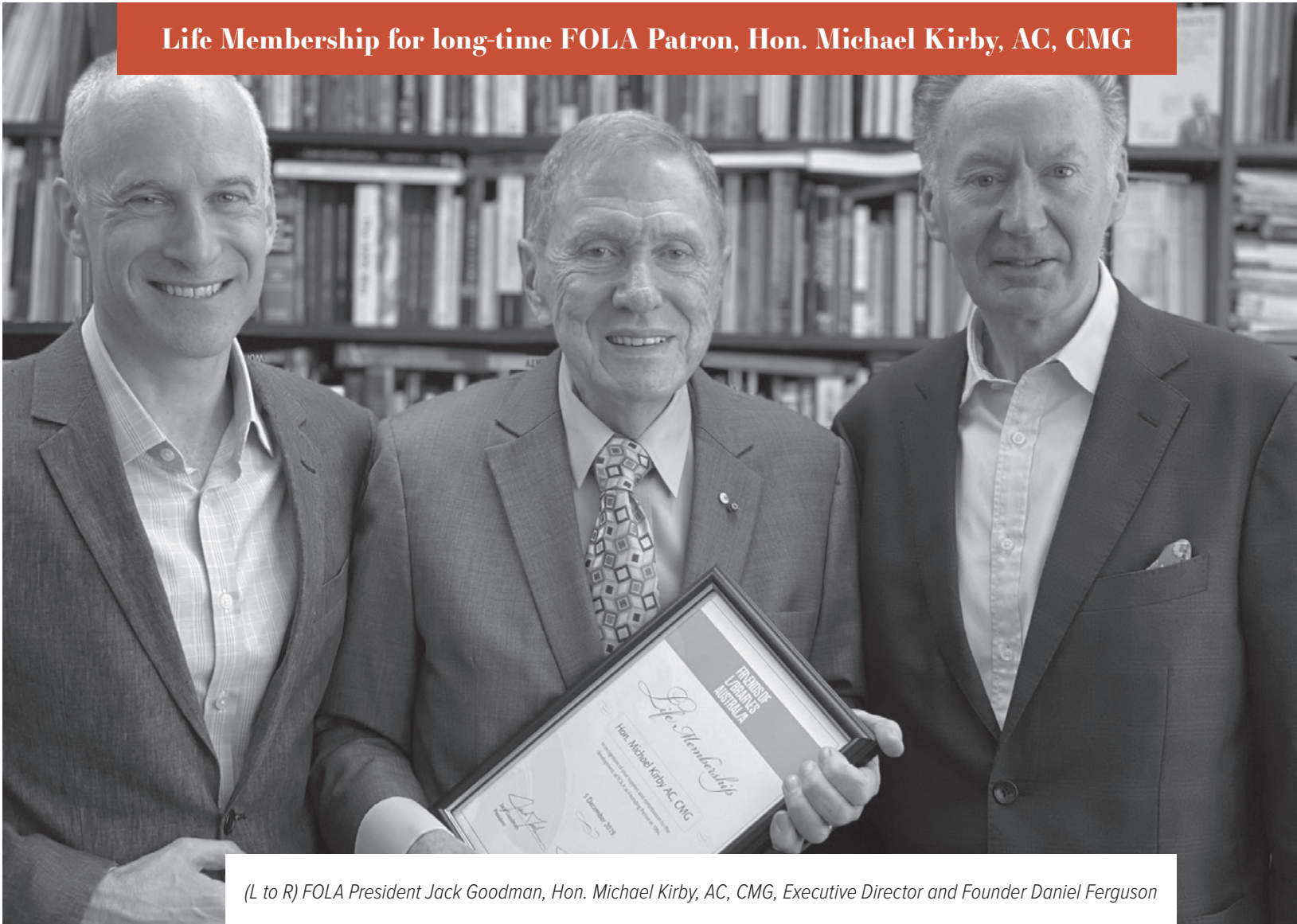


Life Membership for long-time FOLA Patron, Hon. Michael Kirby, AC, CMG



(L to R) FOLA President Jack Goodman, Hon. Michael Kirby, AC, CMG, Executive Director and Founder Daniel Ferguson

The national voice for 15 million Public Library Members

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Public Libraries *in the Time of a Pandemic*

JACK GOODMAN



“the current crisis is different in that it has rapidly created a situation where substantially the entire world is going through a single experience”

As I write these words in late March, 2020, It has been nearly 102 years since humanity experienced a pandemic on the scale of COVID-19. The last century has been peppered with global events, of course — mostly disasters, crises and wars. World Wars I and II, the Great Depression, and the Global Financial Crisis, to name a few. And of course there are also events much of the world partakes in and enjoys, including the Olympics and World Cup.

But in many ways the current crisis is different in that it has rapidly created a situation where substantially the entire world is going through a single experience. Whether you live in Mumbai, or Mallacoota, San Francisco or Sydney, Wuhan or Western Australia, we are all getting “locked down” in our homes, forced to “self-isolate,” meaning minimal contact with anyone other than immediate family members, and to only venture outside to walk the dog or buy groceries or medicines.

In this age of the 24-hour news cycle, it’s also worth remembering that just a few months

ago we were facing a catastrophic national drought, followed by the worst bushfire season in Australia’s history. These sequential crises were followed by equally torrential rains and flooding along the eastern seaboard of Australia (which thankfully addressed the fires and also mitigated the drought). Drought, fire, flood and disease; we would all be forgiven for feeling more than a bit like Job in the Old Testament.

Today, as I write these words, I am receiving emails from local library services that their doors are closing “temporarily,” yet with no indication regarding when they might open again. This is the world we suddenly find ourselves in. Anything that involves human contact is verboten, and so our beloved libraries, their physical collections, reading lounges, cafes, and myriad events, including story times, book clubs, author readings, and more, are all gone.

What does this feel like? Looking at the mobile app that my local library uses shows a series of “suspended” events — much like finding oneself at the airport during a severe weather event, when all the status screens show every flight “delayed” or “cancelled” It’s unnerving to see

“our beloved libraries, their physical collections, reading lounges, cafes, and myriad events, including story times, book clubs, author readings, and more, are all gone”

“for all our talk about being a connected society, there is still a substantial segment of the population that has limited access to the technology required to make use of these services”

how our world can so suddenly collapse inward, all due to a silent, invisible nemesis.

How are libraries responding, and what about Friends groups? It’s obvious that this is a watershed moment for our libraries’ electronic offerings. From ebooks to subscription film services, online learning services, music streaming, and more, our libraries’ websites are no doubt witnessing surges in demand. But for many people in the community, being unable to visit their local library means they will have limited or no access to a range of these digital services. That’s because, for all our talk about being a connected society, there is still a substantial segment of the population that has limited access to the technology required to make use of these services. Australians from low socio-economic backgrounds, from non-English speaking families, those in rural and regional areas, and older Australians are those most likely to have diminished access to information technology.

That’s why I am so pleased to see some libraries are experimenting with “click and collect” services, and even additional library delivery services to meet the needs of people who are self-isolating, in quarantine, or otherwise restricted to their homes. Of course, they still rely on people having access to a level of technology, even if only to email their library to make arrangements.

More broadly, the COVID-19 crisis is revealing other fissures in our society. Without the ability to socialise, we are all more dependent on digital communications. Our universities and schools are closing, and students are being

told to log in to online classrooms from home. Office workers are using video conferencing technologies to run meetings remotely. And now we are starting to discover that the technologies our government chose to build the NBN are inadequate when the population is under lockdown. We can all expect to see our connections slow down and drop out more frequently as residential internet traffic skyrockets.

What else can our libraries do in our new world of self-isolation? I have read of some libraries offering story-time via video streaming services. Others are trying to offer online lessons in video conferencing — using free technologies that make it possible for anyone with a smartphone, tablet or computer to have a chat, or even run a book club online. Indeed, earlier this week I caught up with our executive director for a pre-dinner drink — while sitting in our respective living rooms. It wasn’t the same as sitting in the same space, but it was better than drinking alone.

What comes after COVID-19? In my view, every aspect of our society — including our libraries — will be deeply and permanently changed by this event. We will simultaneously have a deeper appreciation for physical spaces and human contact, while also recognising the essential value of safe, reliable and enduring digital spaces. And we will invest more, as a nation, to ensure everyone has equitable access to the digital technologies that make it possible for us to live, learn, earn, and socialise — anywhere and anytime.

“I am so pleased to see some libraries are experimenting with “click and collect” services, and even additional library delivery services to meet the needs of people who are self-isolating”



Margaret Broeks (1931–2020)

delivering friendship

Margaret Broeks commenced her interest with Friends at Altona Library (Vic) in 1987 at the time I was the City Librarian. She held the position of president of the group from 1989 until July 2017, a period of 28 years.

Her dedication to the Friends of Altona Library (FOAL), saw it become in the early 1990s the group with the largest Friends membership in Australia — 340. Through her talent of organising teams of dedicated helpers, events such as booksales and later the Bookroom, delivered great success for the Friends, in marketing, financial income and Council acknowledgement. Following library managers knew, they had an asset in library development, which needed to be within their remit. A quiet word to a councillor delivered more clout than sustained confrontation.

Margaret's role in the development of FOLA was also significant. She became treasurer of FOLA at our establishment in 1994 and continued in that role until 2008. During these 14 years she undertook the voluntary role with complete professionalism and dedication. She was an instrumental part in organising our early FOLA conferences around Australia, including our most successful conference in Canberra in 2000, held over three days at the National Library of Australia.

Born in the UK, Margaret came to Australia in 1961, supposedly on a working holiday. However her training as a District Nurse and Health Visitor became much needed, and she later settled in Tasmania with a position at the Bush Nursing Service. She undertook work for the Nestle company, advising on Infant Feeding



Margaret Broeks being presented with Life Membership by FOLA President, Dr Alan Bundy AM at the University of Melbourne, 9 December 2009.

“She became treasurer of FOLA at our establishment in 1994 and continued in that role until 2008. During these 14 years she undertook the voluntary role with complete professionalism and dedication”

programs and finally moved to Melbourne, and settled in the bayside suburb of Altona.

Margaret's dedication to the Friends, both in the local community and to the national body FOLA, can only be described as remarkable. In December 2009 she was awarded Life Membership of FOLA at a presentation by our president, Dr Alan Bundy AM. She never sought the limelight, just wanted to deliver. And it was through this type of dedication that local Friends groups succeed, and our national organisation has continued. Well done Margaret.

Daniel Ferguson, friend

Celebrating *FOLA 25th Anniversary*

ADELAIDE



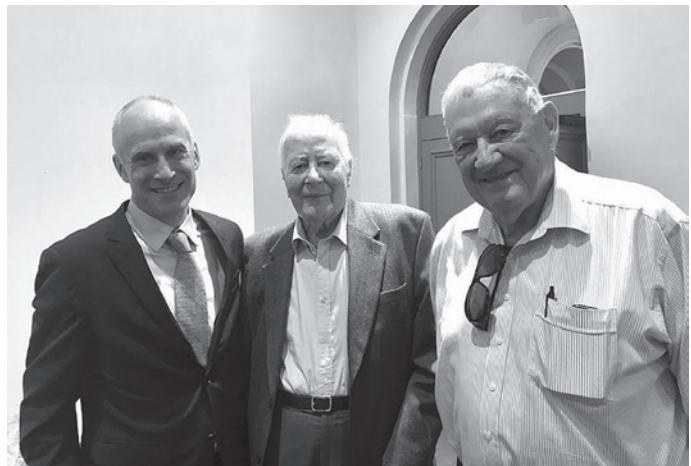
l-r Lyn Walshe, Angie & Peter Herzenroeder, Helena Hughes, Phil Walshe, Dee O'Loughlin, Daniel Ferguson



Mem Fox (Author)



Daniel Ferguson & Dr Alan Bundy



Jack Goodman, Gerrit Stafford, Bill Biscoe

Friends Around Australia



Alexandra

Tom Farrell, in his president's report for 2019/20 mentioned that together with membership fees and bookshop profit they have given the sum of \$16,235 to improve, enhance, promote the Alexandra Library for the benefit of the community. And in March, the extensions to the Bookshop were formally opened, doubling the floor space available for stock. The owner of the Bookshop property saw the development as an investment opportunity and has worked closely with the bookshop co-ordinator, Ron Cooper.

Ballina

Recently Council offered a council-owned building in Centre Arcade to the Friends of Ballina Shire Libraries. Friends have been operating their second-hand book shop in the building since April, and president David Humphry said in December, it had already raised \$7,000, a figure expected to reach \$9,000 by the end of the year. The shop is open Wednesdays to Fridays from 9 am to 2 pm.

Balmain

Long time FOBL member Pam Dingle, passed away late 2019. Pam served as Chair and Membership Secretary. Former Chair, Jan Aitkin wrote "Pam was universally popular with our Committee members. She was always cheerful and positive and got on with whatever work was to hand".

Fiona Mitchell, Chair of FOBL outlined in her 2019 Report some of the outstanding achievements during the past year, including the Open Book Group, Writing Competition for Schools and a wide variety of speakers. A very active year once again for the Friends.

Barossa

Meet the Author, John Strehlow — *The Tale of Frieda Keysser* was held at the Barossa Library, Nuriootpa on 13 March.



Castlemaine

Friends of Castlemaine Library (FOCAL) are helping to support 'Read-Along Dads'. This body was founded by a group of local residents in Castlemaine, which is near the Loddon Prison, home to low and medium security prisoners. The Friends wanted to help men keep in touch with their children. The project connects dads in prison with their kids, by creating a recording of them reading a book for their child.

Euroa

There are currently five 'Friends' groups affiliated with the Goulburn Valley Libraries. New members are always welcome. Each 'Friends' group holds regular meetings and events. Friends groups located at: Euroa, Mooroopna, Numurkah, Shepparton and Yarrawonga.

Great Lakes

"Most of all, on behalf of all the Library staff, to the best Library friends group in the world, have a wonderful and safe Christmas" — Chris Jones, Library Manager

Inverell

Inverell Library Juniors take on reading challenge.



Friends of the Library president Bev Parlevliet drew the winner of the \$100 voucher, Kurt Gavin-Taylor, who collected it from Sonya Lange. Leanne Schuhmacher was also present.

"The project connects dads in prison with their kids, by creating a recording of them reading a book for their child."

"There are currently five 'Friends' groups affiliated with the Goulburn Valley Libraries. New members are always welcome. Each 'Friends' group holds regular meetings and events."



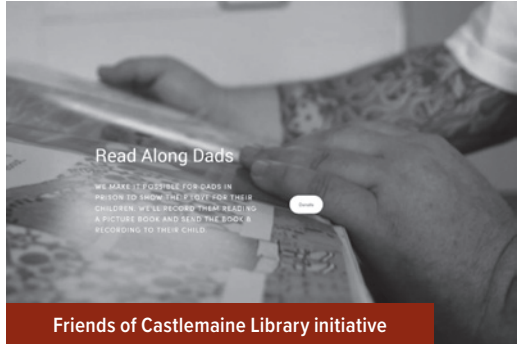
Great Lakes new library



Great Lakes new library



Great Lakes new library plans

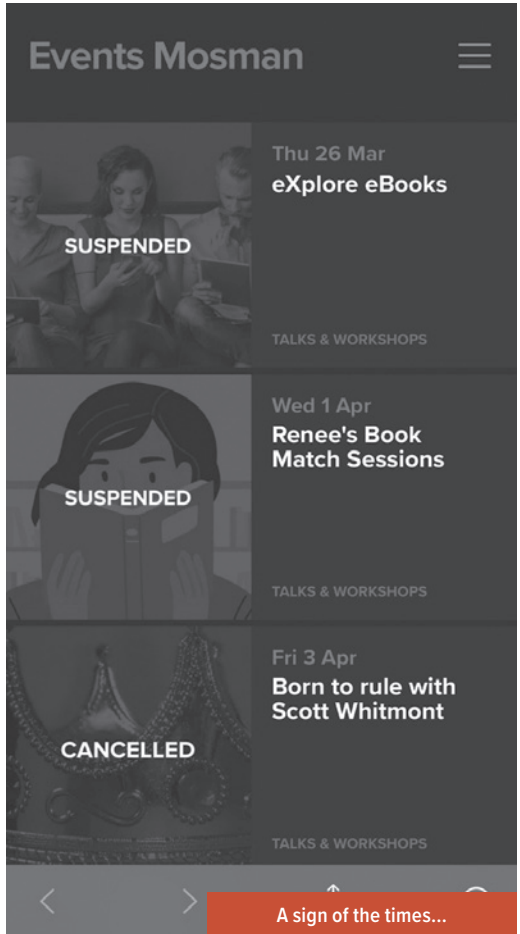


Read Along Dads
WE MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR DADS IN PRISON TO SHOW THE LOVE FOR THEIR CHILDREN. WE RECORD THEM READING A PICTURE BOOK AND SEND THE BOOK & RECORDING TO THEIR CHILD.

Friends of Castlemaine Library initiative



Launceston Friends booksale



Paynesville Library



Author Mark Brandi

Friends Around Australia



Ipswich

The Friends group was formed in October 2001. It is now more than 100 members strong and still growing. The patron is Ipswich born, influential poet and novelist, Thomas Shapcott

Kiama

Kiama Friends have three co-presidents. Certainly a good way of keeping people, sharing the workload and inducting new office-holders.



Some interesting and diverse author talks were given during 2019, including Jacqueline Kent, Tessa Lunney, Ken Methold and Angela Wales and finished with a Christmas Party in the library on 6 December.

Launceston

Saturday 14 March Annual Booksale in Albert Hall, Launceston.



Maitland

Become a member of the Friends of Maitland City Libraries Committee.

Some of the benefits of Friends membership include: 10% discount on ticketed events, Friends deal on coffee and cake at the Readers Café and Larder, Free family history consultations.

Maroochydore

Donation of Funds

The Friends of Maroochydore Library generously provided financial support during the recent Maroochydore Library refresh. The donated funds were used to refurbish the children's area with engaging furniture and age appropriate shelving.

Because of the Friends kind donation, children visiting Maroochydore Library can now share the joy of reading in beautiful reading nooks that are styled like 1960's Kombi vans.

Mount Gambier

Grab yourself a bargain book. This is the Friends of the Library's major fundraiser, with proceeds going towards supporting Library resources, programs, events and services.

National Library

A useful guide as an Application form for Friends Volunteers:

<https://www.nla.gov.au/volunteers/volunteers-application>

Oberon


2 day GIANT book sale held at the Community Centre, Oberon on 28-29 February. All items were sold for \$1.



"Kiama Friends have three co-presidents. Certainly a good way of keeping people, sharing the workload and inducting new office-holders."

"Some of the benefits of Friends membership include: 10% discount on ticketed events, Friends deal on coffee and cake at the Readers Café and Larder."

returning soon, hopefully ...



20

MAY 20 AT 11 AM – MAY 21 AT 11 AM UTC -09:30

Storytime at Prospect Library
Prospect Library

Wed, May 13 Wed, May 20 Wed, May 27 +36

This event was canceled.
You cannot share this event, but you can still post.

About Discussion

FRIENDS OF THE VICTOR HARBOR LIBRARY


BOOK SALE

Sneak Peek Sale

Special Pre-Sale for Friends of the Library Members

Wednesday 15 Jan, 4 pm - 5.30 pm

Join the 'Friends' on the night to take advantage of the Sneak Peek Sale



Nomination Form

Please return to:
The General Manager
Maitland City Council
PO Box 220
Maitland NSW 2320

S355 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

COMMITTEE NAME

APPLICANTS DETAILS

TITLE FIRST NAME SURNAME

ADDRESS

CONTACT DETAILS

HOME PHONE WORK PHONE

MOBILE FAX

EMAIL

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

LOCAL RESIDENT (Please tick a box and state name of your club/organisation/group)

SPORTS CLUB/ORGANISATION NAME: _____

COMMUNITY GROUP NAME: _____

Position held in this club/organisation/group e.g. Treasurer/Member.

What are the reasons for wishing to be a Board Member?

Outline your background/experience that you will bring to the Board. (Please feel free to attach additional information).

SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE

DATE: / /

Nomination Form - S355 Committee Membership

Community Hub, Library & Innovation Centre, Prospect



HOME / SUPPORT US / BECOME A VOLUNTEER / VOLUNTEERS APPLICATION

Volunteers application

We appreciate and support the contributions of volunteers. To make volunteering a satisfying experience we aim to match skills and interests to available tasks. Please complete this form with this in mind.

After you have submitted this form we will only contact you if we have a suitable project. When a project has been identified you will be interviewed and you will need to complete the following:

- Statutory Declaration
- AFP National Police Check

Your application will be kept on the Volunteer Register for 12 months from date of receipt.

We take your privacy seriously for information on how we deal with your personal information see our Privacy Statement and or Privacy Policy.

Step 1 of 4

Contact information

call to volunteers

Friends Around Australia



Paynesville

Short Story Competition 2019 winning entries: First prize \$400 to Doug Wallace for “Territory”, Second \$150 to Beverley Lello for “One hundred and eight stairs”, Third \$100 to Jan Wallis for “Flying high”.

Prospect

An exciting new Community Hub, Library & Innovation Centre (CLIC) has recently opened.

Shepparton

There are currently five ‘Friends’ groups affiliated with the Goulburn Valley Libraries. New members are always welcome. Each ‘Friends’ group holds regular meetings and events. Friends groups located at: Euroa, Mooroopna, Numurkah, Shepparton and Yarrawonga.

Tamworth

4th Saturday of each month 10 am to 1 pm hundreds of fabulous books for all ages at 20c each. All proceeds supporting the libraries collection development and events.

Toowoomba

Why Friends are Special — “One of the biggest bonuses of my job is having the opportunity to work with volunteers and Friends of the Library. While I work closely with several FOL who also volunteer with the Home Library, it’s always a pleasure to see all of our FOL members — especially when they come down to my basement abode (aka the HLS office) and have a quick chat while they are in for withdrawing or book sales.

I would like to thank the FOL for all the support that you give the City Library and especially Home Library Service” — Katie Fullerton, Supervisor — Home Library Services

Victor Harbor

Provides community support, promotion and fundraising for the City of Victor Harbor Public Library — Booksale.

Wagga Wagga

Friends of the Library, (FOTL) is a group which forms a link between the Library and the community. FOTL is a member of Friends of Libraries Australia(external site) (FOLA).

Members meet to undertake activities which focus on their interest in libraries, books and reading. Support is provided for projects that improve services offered by the library, including delivery to house-bound borrowers.

Regular book sales are held and much-needed funds are raised. This money is used for library programming and the purchase of resources.

Wingecarribee

The Friends host a number of author talks, guest speakers and workshops throughout the year, as well as the very popular Annual Book Sale.

You can collect a FOWL membership and renewal form from any branch of the library or download the form below. Gift memberships are also available.

West Gippsland

Mark Brandi talks about his recent novel.

Wollongong

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. New members are always welcome!



“Support is provided for projects that improve services offered by the library, including delivery to house-bound borrowers.”

“While I work closely with several FOL who also volunteer with the Home Library, it’s always a pleasure to see all of our FOL members ”

Federation Square home to new \$15 million Public Library

“the existing City Library in Flinders Lane would be relocated, a move the council says will ‘attract one million more visitors to the Square per year’”



The City of Melbourne has announced its proposal for a new public library at Federation Square. As part of the \$15 million project, not only would the new site be erected, but the existing City Library in Flinders Lane would be relocated, a move the council says will “attract one million more visitors to the Square per year”.

More than 20 years ago, FOLA was lobbying the City of Melbourne Council to develop a major public library building for the centre of the city. Two our Board Members, Colin Watson and Dr Alan Bundy had presented submissions to council on the need to have a major facility in the CBD.



Membership Application

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>CATEGORIES</p> <p>Membership fee incorporating News Update</p> <p>Individual \$20 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>FOL Group— 0-25 Members \$35 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>FOL Group— 25+ Members \$70 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Libraries \$140 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Institutions incl. Libraries with multiple Friends groups \$140 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Corporations \$140 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Extra copies of News Update \$10 per annum <input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>RETURN ADDRESS</p> <p>FOLA Inc. FOLA Treasurer, Dr David Parker, PO Box 32 Burnside SA 5068 Phone: (03) 9338 0666 Fax:(03) 9335 1903</p> <p>PAYMENT DETAILS</p> <p>My cheque/money order is made payable to: Friends of Libraries Australia Inc. FOLA Treasurer, Dr David Parker, PO Box 32 Burnside SA 5068</p> | <p>Amount enclosed \$</p> <p>ADDRESS DETAILS</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Postcode:</p> <p>Phone:</p> <p>Email:</p> |
|---|--|--|

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

Order Form

Name

Address

Postcode

Please send me a copy of Friends of Libraries Resource Book (2005)
Enclosed is my cheque for \$59.95 plus \$10 postage & handling
(cheque payable to — Friends of Libraries Australia Inc.)

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

www.foia.org.au

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