

FRIENDS OF
LIBRARIES
AUSTRALIA

NEWS UPDATE

SUMMER/AUTUMN 2021/2022

VOL XXVIII ISSUE 100 ISSN: 1323-0190

Celebrating the 100TH EDITION of FOLA NewsUpdate



FRIENDS OF
LIBRARIES
AUSTRALIA

The national voice for 13 million Public Library Members

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Message from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



Almost 28 years since the founding of FOLA on 9 December 1994, we have published our 100th edition of our newsletter — *NewsUpdate*.

Personally, it can be described as a ‘labour of love’. Over this period, I have witnessed the changing face of libraries around Australia and the impact the Friends organisation has made to each and every community. It has also been a time to witness the development of library services across the nation. Significant has been the use of technology, a facet of our daily life. But also, the tremendous growth in library buildings and how libraries are very much the centre of many communities — much more than the ‘village green.’

One of the stated objectives of FOLA, described on page 1 of our first newsletter, was — ‘protecting and encouraging sources of funding.’ Early in the work of FOLA we were confronted with Council Amalgamations and a new model of servicing with the introduction of — Compulsory Competitive Tendering in Victoria. FOLA took up the challenge and organised a seminar on the issues at the Baillieu Library, Melbourne. Some twenty years later, funding of library services still remain below international standards and the use of outsourcing of Services, remains as challenging as the CCT issue was back in the mid 1990s.

Community representation and Friends in partnership with other forms of engagement, have certainly benefited many libraries across

the nation. And FOLA is thankful for the activism of numerous communities, in particular, in country regions. Again, a reason for FOLA’s initiative with The LBW Trust and National Backyard Cricket.

While technology, the internet and social media have changed communication for many, including libraries, the challenge for print products have been to adapt as an adjunct. And we have seen fewer FOL groups producing a printed newsletter, compared to 28 years ago. FOLA for now, will continue to explore how we can best combine these areas of media. For the individual Friends group, Facebook may inform your membership along with a physical visit to the library.

A few pages of this edition will highlight some of the stories and events in the course of 100 editions of the newsletter — Great Events, Great Friends, Great Stories.

However, none of this would have been possible without the support of some key people. Firstly, for more than twenty years — Luke Harris who has undertaken the Production/Design for *NewsUpdate*, and who has become extremely skilled and knowledgeable about the work of Friends. And secondly, Phil Walshe and now daughter Rebecca with the team at Bolinda who have funded the production since day one. A magnificent contribution to the development of FOLA. Surely, this is true Friendship.

“While technology, the internet and social media have changed communication for many, including libraries, the challenge for print products have been to adapt as an adjunct.”

“A few pages of this edition will highlight some of the stories and events in the course of 100 editions of the newsletter — Great Events, Great Friends, Great Stories.”

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THE NEW ZEALAND experience
small is beautiful

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 Narre Warren, Victoria

The national voice for 15 million Public Library Members

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Supporting our community

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Fantastic Friends!

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Balmain Friends celebrate Writing Competition

Mackenzie, winner of the Year 6 Writing Competition sponsored by Bendigo

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Great EVENTS

(A selection of items published in NewsUpdate from 1994–2022)

- 1994** FOLA published the 1st edition of *NewsUpdate* Vol 1 Issue 1 Summer 1994. It featured on the cover the pending launch of FOLA on 9 December 1994 at the State Library of Victoria, by FOLA patron, the Hon Justice Michael Kirby AC, CMG.
- 1996** FOLA's 1st national conference held at Centra Hotel, Melbourne on 7 October.
- 1996** FOLA announces inaugural Library Week Awards.
- 1997** FOLA Mission Statement published.
- 1997** FOLA Library Week Awards presented to Alexandra (Vic) and Byron Bay (NSW).
- 1998** FOLA Resource Book launched at Kay Craddock's Antiquarian Bookshop, Melbourne.
- 1998** 2nd biennial conference of FOLA held at the State Library of South Australia, Hugh Stretton, keynote speaker.
- 1999** FOLA celebrates 5 years with Gala Dinner in Melbourne with the Hon Michael Kirby present.
- 1999** CCT Workshop held at Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne.
- 1999** FOLA Best of Friends Awards held at Kay Craddock's Antiquarian Bookshop, Melbourne.
- 2000** 3rd biennial conference of FOLA held at the National Library of Australia, Canberra. Jan Fullerton, Director-General keynote speaker.
- 2000** Colin S Watson Oration given by the Hon Barry Jones AO.
- 2001** FOLA launches web site: www.fola.org.au on 6 August in Melbourne.

- 2001** Queensland Regional Friends Meeting held at Cooloola (Qld).
- 2002** 4th biennial conference of FOLA held in Sydney on 17-19 May with Hugh Mackay as keynote speaker.
- 2002** FOLA publishes Strategic Plan 2002-2006.
- 2004** Friends Forum held in South Australia 16 March.
- 2004** Dr Alan Bundy AO, President, reports on 10th Anniversary of FOLA at a function at the National Library of Australia, Canberra.
- 2005** 5th biennial conference of FOLA held Adelaide 14-15 October.
- 2007** FOLA AGM held at Coventry Memorial Library, Stirling (SA).
- 2009** 15th AGM of FOLA held at Port Macquarie (NSW).
- 2010** Friends Seminar held at the State Library of NSW.
- 2011** Friends Forum held at the State Library of SA and reported by Glenys Beckwith (Friends of the State Library of SA).
- 2014** FOLA celebrates 20 years with a function at the State Library of Victoria, guest FOLA patron Thomas Keneally AO.
- 2014** FOLA AGM and presentation of Life Membership to Christl Markovic at Coventry Library, Stirling (SA) on 20 August.
- 2018** Book Feasts with Taryn Bashford.
- 2020** Lifelong Learning in the Regions FOLA teams up with LBW Trust.
- 2021** \$70,000 of Grants presented to 54 Country Public Libraries.

"1999. FOLA Best of Friends Awards held at Kay Craddock's Antiquarian Bookshop, Melbourne."

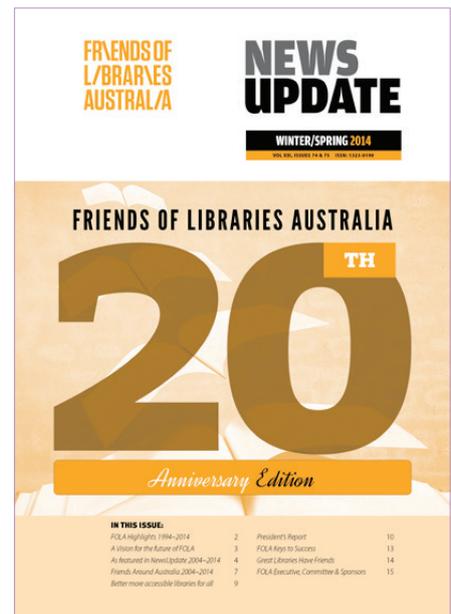
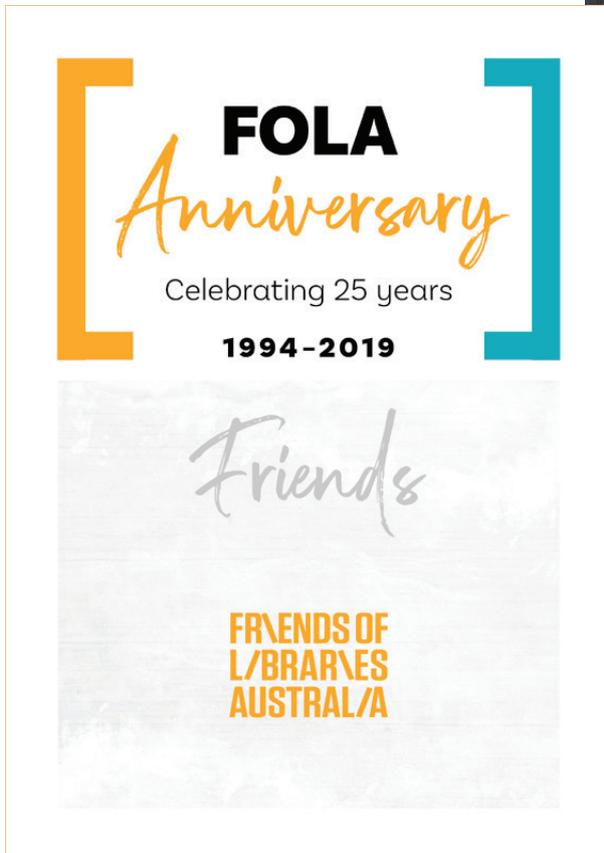
"Dr Alan Bundy AO, President, reports on 10th Anniversary of FOLA at a function at the National Library of Australia, Canberra."



FOLA 20th Anniversary, State Library of Victoria 2014



Jack Goodman (FOLA President), Hon Michael Kirby (Foundation Patron), Daniel Ferguson (Executive Director & Founder)



Great FRIENDS

1995 FOLA thanks inaugural sponsors Australian Large Print, Ulverscroft Large Print, Southern Scene, Baker & Taylor, Masons Book Centre, James Bennett, Eastend Booksellers, BH Walshe & Son, Auslib Press, Dynix Australia, ISIS Publishing.

1998 Spotlight on Friends Nunawadding (Vic), Stirling (SA) and Barossa (SA).

1999 Focus on Friends delivers stories from FOL groups at: Altona (Vic), Liverpool (NSW), SLSA (SA), Willunga & Aldinga (SA), NLA (ACT), State Library NSW (NSW), Geraldton (WA), Stirling (SA), Port Phillip (Vic), Baillieu (Vic), Barossa (SA), East Gippsland (Vic).

1999 Spotlight on Great Friends, Kew (Vic) established 1985.

2000 Libby Kotschet reports on Alexandra Junior Friends (Vic).

2001 25 Friends groups across Australia report news and events.

2003 15 Friends groups from South Australia report on a Statewide Meeting 20 February.

2003 Daniel Ferguson reports on Eric Flynn, foundation president of Kew Friends and member of FOLA inaugural committee.

2003 Friends of Great Lakes Library attracts a grant of \$31,000 from Department of Ageing.

2004 47 FOL groups around Australia report for FOLA Celebrating 1994-2004.

2006 FOLA Baker & Taylor Best of Friends Winners: Castlemaine (Vic), Hastings (NSW), Wollongong (NSW).

2007 Friends of the State Library of SA celebrates 75 years.

2007 Launceston Friends are the winners of the Peter McInnes Award for Library Services to Children and Young People.

2008 Article on the contribution of FOLA patron, the Hon Michael Kirby AC,CMG.

2010 Article on Great Ideas from Friends around Australia.

2011 Colin S Watson Award for Library Advocacy presented to Byron Friends of the Library.

2012 Friends of Balmain Library A community partnership in action.

2012 Friends of the State Library of SA celebrates 80 years.

2014 Christl Markovic presented Life Membership of FOLA.

2016 26 Friends groups report from around Australia.

2018 Strengthening Friends, Lessons from Balmain Friends.

2021 Remembering Friends, Dr Alan Brissenden AM.

2021 Christchurch New Zealand, The Friends.

2021 Outstanding Friends Leadership Friends of the Library Alexandra and District Inc.

2021 Gerrit Stafford, A True Friend of Libraries.

“47 FOL groups around Australia report for FOLA Celebrating 1994-2004.”

“Launceston Friends are the winners of the Peter McInnes Award for Library Services to Children and Young People.”



Photographs from FOLA



2003 FOLA Annual General Meeting

5th BIENNIAL FOLA CONFERENCE REPORT 2005

FOLA's 5th biennial national conference was held in Adelaide on 14-15 October 2005. During the two day conference, Life Membership was presented to our past president, Peter McInnes, recognising his almost 9 years as President of FOLA and for his involvement on the committee and as President with the Friends of the Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne. The annual FOLA Baker & Taylor Best of Friends Awards were also presented, and Dr Peter Goldsworthy presented the 3rd Colin Watson Oration in the presence of Colin's widow, Marie Dowling.



Dr Peter Goldsworthy who delivered the 2005 Colin Watson Oration, with Marie Dowling and Dr Alan Bundy.



Herma Steper and Jan Aitkin (Friends of Balmain Library) with Patricia Chigwidden and Margaret Warming (Friends of Unley Library), both winners of the FOLA Baker & Taylor Best of Friends Awards.



Dr Alan Bundy (FOLA, President) with Daniel Ferguson (FOLA, Executive Director) at the launch of the new FOLA Friends of Libraries Resource Book.



Peter McInnes (FOLA, Past President) receiving FOLA Life membership from Dr Alan Bundy.



Alan Smith (Director, SLSA), Dr Peter Goldsworthy, Gerrit Stafford (FOLA, SA), Dr Alan Bundy (FOLA, President)

Christl Markovic

A remarkable woman and an inspiration to all Friends



Baker and Taylor Awards, Sydney, 2000

FOLA Baker & Taylor Best of Friends WINNERS

BAKER & TAYLOR
Equipment and E-Information Services



Debbie Sommers (Friends of Hastings) with Dr Alan Bundy.

WINNERS

- Friends of Castlemaine Library, Vic (Small Library entry)
- Friends of Hastings Library, NSW (Medium Library entry)
- Friends of Wollongong Library, NSW (Large Library entry)

HIGHLY COMMENDED

- Friends of Ipswich Library, Qld
- Friends of the Unley Libraries, SA
- Friends of Willunga and Airding Libraries, SA



Patricia Chigwidden (Friends of Unley) with Dr Bundy.

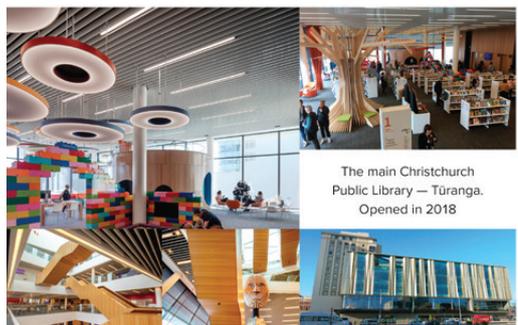


Daniel Ferguson with Joan Sivar (Friends of Willunga & Airding).



Elaine Chippendale (Friends of Toowoomba, receiving for the Friends of Ipswich) with Dr Bundy

LIBRARIES BRING US TOGETHER



The main Christchurch Public Library — Tūranga. Opened in 2018

Great STORIES

- 1996 'Save Our Library' Ascot Vale Library (Vic) closed.
- 1996 Fifty delegates and supporters from over 20 Friends groups met at Port Melbourne on 27 August to discuss campaigns being waged in defence of their libraries.
- 1997 The formation of ACT Friends (FACTLS).
- 1997 Forming a Junior Friends Group by Libby Kotschet.
- 1997 Friends of Altona Library (Vic) celebrates 10 years.
- 1998 Former Monash University Librarian, Brian Southwell, gives 8 years strong leadership to the Friends of Nunawading Libraries (Vic).
- 1998 Colin Watson (FOIA Vice-President) delivers paper 'Developing the National Organisation.
- 1999 FOIA reports on 1994–1999.
- 2001 Daniel Ferguson reports on a visit to the UK and meeting with Library and Friends bodies.
- 2004 Daniel Ferguson report on Friends in New Zealand following upon a lecture tour.
- 2004 Celebrating Past, Present and Future of FOIA 1994-2004.
- 2005 'Libraries build communities' by Dr Alan Bundy AM
- 2005 Sharing Ideas That Worked from Friends of Canadian Libraries.
- 2007 'Giving Support: Dunedin Public Library Association by Bernie Hawke, Library Manager, Dunedin, New Zealand.
- 2008 Showcasing the best: Murrindindi Junior Friends.

- 2008 FOIA Keys to Success — 6 documents published by FOIA.
- 2008 'Reaching out to Young People: Junior Friends'.
- 2009 'Successful Friends' by Daniel Ferguson.
- 2009 The Keys to Success: The Friends Perspective by Debbie Sommers.
- 2009 Case Study: Recruitment on the Web.
- 2012 New FOIA Keys to Success When Friends Aren't Friendly and Creating a Memorandum of Understanding.
- 2013 Advocate on YouTube — Friends of San Francisco Public Library.
- 2014 Who Your Friends Are — Friends of the Free Public Library of Philadelphia.
- 2014 A Vision for the Future by Jack Goodman, President FOIA.
- 2014 'Better, more accessible libraries for all in Australia' by Dr Alan Bundy AM.
- 2015 'Worth the investment: Community and civic engagement through Friends' by Daniel Ferguson.
- 2015 love public libraries by the Hon Michael Kirby AC, CMG.
- 2019 Public Libraries in the Time of a Pandemic by Jack Goodman.
- 2020 How to use Social Media to promote your Friends Group by Gaby Meares.
- 2021 The Most Beautiful Public Libraries in Australia Jack Goodman in conversation with Jess Scully, Deputy Lord Mayor of Sydney.
- 2021 Friends of the National Library of Australia: New Opportunities.
- 2021 National Backyard Cricket: A New Vision for Philanthropy in Public Libraries.

"National Backyard Cricket: A New Vision for Philanthropy in Public Libraries."

"Former Monash University Librarian, Brian Southwell, gives 8 years strong leadership to the Friends of Nunawading Libraries (Vic)."

The Future is IN OUR HANDS

By Jack Goodman | President, FOLA

“And what a job they’ve done. We’ve seen games played across the country, and substantially more funds raised this year over last.”

“The budding success of National Backyard Cricket is a reminder of the power of grassroots action by people who share a common set of values.”

The Australian Summer of ‘22 will be remembered for a few things. The Omicron variant swept through our Christmas and New Year’s celebrations like a grass fire, turning the holidays into a chaos of cancelled celebrations and endless queues for tests. The world’s most famous unvaccinated tennis player snuck into Melbourne and proceeded to act as if all was normal until the day before the tournament started, when he was lobbed out of the country by the Federal Police. And the “la niña” weather cycle turned on its taps and crushed parts of New South Wales and southeastern Queensland with upwards of half a metre of rain.

In the midst of all this FOLA and the LBW Trust went about our business of encouraging participation in Year 2 of National Backyard Cricket. Unfortunately, many of the big ticket items — sponsorship of test matches and the Governor General’s game — got postponed or cancelled. Yet across the country fans of education, public libraries and cricket gathered in parks, at beaches, and in backyards to have some fun with a bat and ball, all for a good cause.

And what a job they’ve done. We’ve seen games played across the country, and substantially more funds raised this year over last, even in what has been ostensibly a more challenging macro environment. As of late February, more than \$125,000 has been contributed, and there is likely more to come before official fundraising wraps up.



FOLA’s president held our second annual game one recent Sunday afternoon, bringing together four families for an hour of fun, followed by a picnic in the park. It was a lovely reminder how a game can bring people together, all in the name of a wonderful cause. And it was gratifying to see so many libraries across the country join in, promoting National Backyard Cricket to their communities, organising fundraisers, and showing their gratitude for a campaign that recognises the critical role of country public libraries.

The budding success of National Backyard Cricket is a reminder of the power of grassroots action by people who share a common set of values. That’s why it meshes so well with the mission of FOLA and the work of public libraries and Friends generally. As I have written many times, in our highly politicised world, public libraries represent the best of local, “small ‘d’” democracy. Anyone can join, everyone can attend, and there’s something for everyone.

But that wasn’t always the case.

Free public libraries are a relatively recent addition to Australia, as my predecessor, Alan Bundy, has often noted. It wasn’t until 1939 that

the largest state, New South Wales, passed legislation supporting the establishment of free local libraries. And it wasn’t until nearly the end of the last century that the last incorporated councils — in regional and remote areas of Queensland — invested in modest public libraries.

Continued overleaf



Fans of National Backyard Cricket gathered in Sydney to raise funds for National Backyard Cricket. Photo by Jack Goodman

The Future is **IN OUR HANDS**

By Jack Goodman | President, FOLA

(continued from previous page)

And that's not all. As FOLA executive director Daniel Ferguson has recalled, it wasn't too many decades ago that councils took a punitive approach to collection of library fines, in some cases sending council officers to residents' homes to retrieve overdue books and associated fines. It's hard to think of a more effective way to discourage library usage.

Thankfully, we live in more enlightened times, at least in terms of the voice we give to local residents to decide how their local councils are run. There have even been instances during FOLA's history where Friends groups have had a meaningful impact on council decisions to build new libraries for underserved communities. Yet these success stories are the exceptions that punctuate an otherwise unremarkable record of underinvestment in our country libraries.

The vast majority of Australia's rural, regional and remote communities would benefit from major investments in upgraded if not brand new libraries. And while we are a long way from that lofty goal, National Backyard Cricket is already showing what grassroots organising, awareness-building, and fundraising can achieve.



Concept design of Broken Hill City Council's planned new library and cultural precinct for the city.

"The vast majority of Australia's rural, regional and remote communities would benefit from major investments in upgraded if not brand new libraries."

"There have even been instances during FOLA's history where Friends groups have had a meaningful impact on council decisions to build new libraries for underserved communities."



Above: Albury Public Library and Museum

Left: Cobram Library



Wagga Wagga

CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING FRIENDS LEADERSHIP

Speech made by Gretchen Sleeman on the 25th anniversary of Wagga Wagga Friends in 2016.

Welcome everyone.

We all know that time passes faster each year, the older we get. So it was quite a surprise to realize that the Friends of the Wagga Wagga City Library have reached the milestone of a quarter of a century.

“Soft” community services such as the library and art gallery were typical targets to make potential financial savings.”

In early 1991 the City Council was searching for cost cutting opportunities due to budget restraints. “Soft” community services such as the library and art gallery were typical targets to make potential financial savings. To a certain extent, in that era, such community services were perceived as somewhat “bothersome obligations” that had to be tolerated, but did not rate highly in the public eye.

If you look at the memorabilia display of some of the media releases, editorials and Letters to the Editor that followed the announcement of the planned cuts in services, the public response was instant and sustained in support of the library.

The inaugural meeting of the Friends of the Library established a group of people who were strong supporters of the importance of a public library in the community, in the development of literacy and reading, and the opportunities for learning that such a service provides.

“The inaugural meeting of the Friends of the Library established a group of people who were strong supporters of the importance of a public library in the community.”

In the intervening 25 years, the Friends have raised funds by many means, starting with a Gala Night in the old library building in Gurwood St, with a jungle theme. Money was raised from regular book sales, starting with “Cook and Book” sales, stocked with generous donations of home cooking.

At times, donations from funds raised were used to supplement, in particular, the children’s collection. In recent years, the funds have been regularly allocated to specific projects where the library could see a community need, internally and externally, and requested our support to bring them to fruition.



The partnership between the Friends and the management and staff of the Wagga Wagga City Library has been a credit to all involved, we work together with one aim in mind. That is to provide the City of Wagga Wagga with a great library service, one that recently received a 99% approval rating in a survey. That is a feather in all our caps.

However, the problems of funding the services are still haunted by the lack of financial support from the State government, a situation that has spiralled into causing huge pressure on staffing and materials, for local government authorities.

So the Friends still have every reason to continue the work that prompted the organization’s origin. Recently I was looking at the new Friends “logo”, which incorporates the ubiquitous Wagga Wagga crow. My comment was that the crow is a “crow with attitude”. Very fitting for the past and the future of the Friends of the Library. A toast to our past, present and future Friends.

Reflections on the Friends of the Wagga City Library

OVER 30 YEARS



Formed in June 1991, in response to severe budget cuts proposed for the public library service. There was a very active public/media campaign to have the cuts overturned. Not closing all day Monday was the only victory as a result. There was no “book vote”, no subscriptions, and no staff replacement permitted for the year.

From its initial formal establishment, the first focus was fundraising to improve the children’s collection, due to the lack of a materials budget.

Also, from the start, the Friends and the library team have been a true partnership, with the same goal: to provide the best possible library service to the public.

In 1994, a new civic cultural centre was proposed in the same area, but not the same physical space. The library and the art gallery shared an ex-supermarket space at the time. Part of our campaign was that a rehabilitated commercial building would never meet the needs of the public as a library, despite the technology advances.

The City Council built an entirely new Civic Centre, opened in 1999, with a purpose built library as part of the complex. We now had a new focus, to promote and support all aspects of service the library could provide. Whilst fundraising remained a large part of the Friends efforts, especially book sales and our drinks machine income, attention turned to assisting with projects as the needs arose.

Service to housebound residents was an early scheme that still grows with the ageing of the population.

Focusing on early literacy has included “Babies like books” for newborns and parents whilst in hospital being presented with a book bag with a board picture book, and information on what the library can offer new parents.



New residents from diverse backgrounds has turned our attention to providing funding for the Language Café, where volunteers spend time in “daily English” conversations to assist the newcomers settling into the community.

The physical changes to library services never seems to pause, as technology has changed the world. From lumpy cassettes to CDs to e-books for home downloading, the physical space needed would perhaps be expected to reduce. But to visit the library today, the space is fully occupied by users as the population grows.

I have always had the view that a library is an information supermarket, whether for a brief visit or longer stay, and people are always the focus of the service.

Perhaps the most enduring comment I can make is that the management and staff of the Wagga Wagga City Library has been supportive at every turn, over all that time. The library has had brilliant Managers leading their team. The Friends have only to be asked if we will promote or provide funds for areas needing developing or projects, and we do so knowing that our money is always going to be well spent.

“New residents from diverse backgrounds has turned our attention to providing funding for the Language Café, where volunteers spend time in “daily English” conversations.”

“I have always had the view that a library is an information supermarket, whether for a brief visit or longer stay, and people are always the focus of the service.”

Gretchen Sleeman

(PRESENTATION SPEECH TO GRETCHEN BY PRESIDENT DR ANNEMAREE LLOYD)

Life Membership 9 December 2021

“She led the group’s strong advocacy for more State government funding in the form of letters to politicians and supported initiatives like the very successful Renew Our Libraries campaign.”

We are here today to celebrate Gretchen Sleeman’s significant contribution and support for the Wagga Wagga City Library.

Gretchen has been a passionate supporter of Wagga Wagga City Library since the Friends of the Library group commenced. She was the President for many years and is currently Vice President. Over the years she has combined her professional knowledge as a librarian at CSU and her commitment to her local community. She led the group’s strong advocacy for more State government funding in the form of letters to politicians and supported initiatives like the very successful Renew Our Libraries campaign, that resulted in a funding increase over 4 successive years for public libraries in NSW.

History is made by those who participate. Gretchen has worked at many many Book Sales and helped pack up hundreds of boxes of leftovers at the end of the day. The Friends and Library Staff, appreciate Gretchen’s leadership and commitment to hard work. Over the years the funds raised have supported library programs like One Book One Wagga, the Language Cafe, school holiday programs, author talks and collection purchases.

“The staff have always appreciated the acknowledgment and recognition by the Friends over the years.”

The staff have always appreciated the acknowledgment and recognition by the Friends over the years, for the programs and services the library provides every day. These celebrations included annual get togethers for dinner or morning tea. Wagga Library has one of the most enduring Friends groups in NSW public libraries.

It is fitting that we celebrate that achievement in this thirtieth year and mark the Life Membership awarded to Gretchen.



Dr Annemaree Lloyd on left and Gretchen Sleeman



Gretchen Sleeman on her seat with plaque acknowledging her 30 years of service

Friends Around Australia



This new Public Forum provides an opportunity for the public to speak on any item on Council’s agenda.

The Council will hold a Public Forum at 3pm on the day of the Ordinary Meeting of Council. Public forums may also be held prior to extraordinary council meetings and meetings of committees of the Council.

How can the public address the Forum?

Members of the public can apply to address Council on any item that is on the agenda of the Ordinary Council Meeting.



The development of a new Fraser Coast Regional Council library and administration building in the Hervey Bay City Centre has taken a step forward with the project now moving to the detailed design phase.

“The current Hervey Bay library has a floor space of 1685 square metres, which is too small for our population now and doesn’t meet Australian and Queensland library building standards,” he said.



This will be a rather brief report due to the restrictions put on everyone by Covid 19. But at least we did manage to get together and hold 5 meetings. But better than previous year!

I think it makes us realize how important our library is to all users when we are faced with shutdowns and closures. But our dedicated staff managed to cope with the many difficulties thrown upon them, with their usual efficient and cheerful manner.



Hello Friends! Recently we had the pleasure of holding our first onsite event of 2022 — Marion Mahony Griffin: In Her Own Right.

Author Glenda Korporaal <https://bit.ly/3v7JtAq> spoke passionately about the American woman who changed Australian history.

“I think it makes us realize how important our library is to all users when we are faced with shutdowns and closures.”

“This new Public Forum provides an opportunity for the public to speak on any item on Council’s agenda.”

www.foia.org.au

FOIA 2007 Annual Meeting held at the Coventry Memorial Library, Stirling, South Australia

At the AGM on 23 August, FOIA launched its **2007 Report to the Nation** – Looking ever forward: Australia's public libraries serving children and young people, which can be downloaded from the FOIA website www.foia.org.au



Attendees at the launch of the FOIA 2007 Report to the Nation
 1: Dr Bundy with Mayor Bill Cookley
 2: Ruth Giles, President Stirling FOI



FOIA Workshop, Melbourne, 1996



FOIA's Canberra Biennial Conference at the National Library



FOIA's 50th Anniversary Dinner in Melbourne

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