

ISSN 1323-0190

VOLUME 8

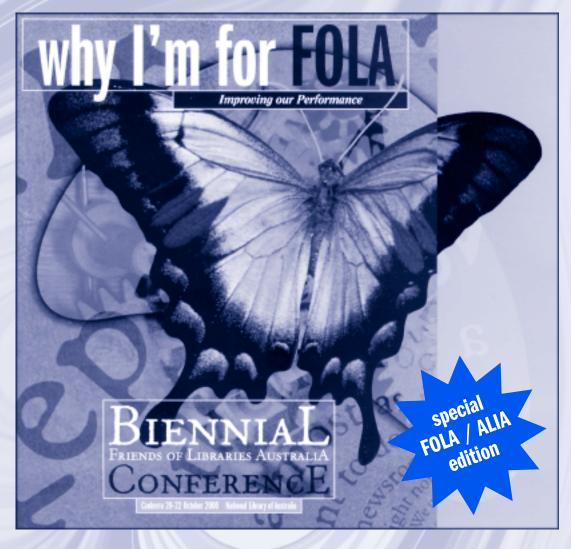
ISSUE 23

SPRING 2000

Friends of Libraries

Australia Inc. Locked Bag 1315 Tullamarine Vic 3043

FOLA Welcomes Conference Delegates to Canberra



IN THIS ISSUE

From the Executive Officer	:
Friends: an untapped resource	
Focus on Friends	
FOLA Highlights	
End of Innocence: utilising voluntee	rs

FOLA Program	9
International Friends	10
Establishing a Friends Group	П
Membership Application	
E Important Dates	12

FOLA NEWSUPDATE

1

FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

anberra 2000 marks an important milestone in the FOLA campaign. For the first time, FOLA will have a Stand at the Australian Library & Information Association's national conference trade exhibition.



Such events for our colleagues in

the US are common. Friends of Libraries USA have been connecting with the American Library Association for more than 20 years. And why? Well, promotion of the Friends role to the professional association representing librarians is of prime importance in getting the message across.

FOLUSA recognised some time ago, they cannot work alone, and they need the support of the professional library association. And the American Library Association recognised the contribution Friends make in strengthening libraries throughout America.

Such partnerships widen the horizon and create new opportunities. We all grow.

At the recent AGM, FOLA farewelled a long-time contributor to the Friends movement.

Jellie Wyckelsma, a retired teacher-librarian, foundation member of the Friends of Doveton Library in Victoria and a foundation member to our FOLA executive. Jellie joined me more than 20 years ago in beginning the campaign for Friends, firstly with the Library Promotion Committee in Victoria, then at the national level. Her knowledge, dedication and enthusiasm for FOL groups will be greatly missed.

And finally, FOLA thanks our three major sponsors to our Conference - Bolinda Publishing, Ulverscroft Large Print and Masons Book Centre.

Daniel Ferguson



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Friends Groups Luke Harris Rae Webb



Daniel Ferguson, Friends of Libraries Australia (FOLA) Executive Officer

Friends of libraries (FOL) groups across the country remain under-utilised: however this is changing.

Despite the suspicion, lack of awareness and misguided notions held by many in the library profession, FOL groups around the country are continuing to grow, despite the cool response from many within the library sector. Friends groups just won't go away. Friends are here to stay.

The development of FOL groups across the nation has been growing since the establishment of FOLA in December 1994. And today, some 8000 people across the nation are involved in a library Friends group. The purpose of FOLA remains to develop, strengthen and support the growth of Friends groups and to lobby for the recognition of library users throughout Australia.

With changes over the past five years, particularly in local government restructuring, economic rationalism, emerging new technologies and market forces, grassroots activism and community consciousness is on the increase.

The Federal and State government's thrust in passing greater responsibility onto the service provider and in challenging the corporate sector to rethink their responsibility in the community, has given a new focus to many public utilities, such as libraries. "The Federal and State government's thrust in passing greater responsibility onto the service provider and in challenging the corporate sector to rethink their responsibility in the community, has given a new focus to many public utilities, such as libraries."

In South Australia, the new Local Government Act seeks community input into decision-making. This may be something new for Australia, however, it has been happening in the United States for 200 years, and is a significant reason for the success of FOL groups in the US and of the close collaboration with the American Library Association.

Across the border, in Canada, Friends have started to provide support and service to libraries and the library profession. Today, 180 groups are scattered throughout Canada, after only four years.

In the UK, the Blair government recognised the changing information scene and demanded a new approach to library direction and funding. A recommendation of the newly established Library and Information Commission was to initiate a report on the role of Friends of Library groups and the impact they could have on the development of libraries across the country. As a consequence, a body similar to FOLA, is now being established. The internationalisation of a community of friends, working towards common goals and objectives, is likely to see over the next few years, a world-wide body liaising on FOL issues. Already, IFLA has a working group on this issue. It is likely that the countries which already have FOL structures in place will take a leading position - Australia, New Zealand, United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands and South Africa, to name a few.

Naturally, it would be appropriate to have the involvement of the Australian library profession in these exciting new directions. However, given the lack lustre performance to date of library educators, local government, the library profession, and the general library industry, Australia may lag well behind.

Fortunately, a few, and only a few, recognise the opportunity we have to embrace our communities in new partnerships that will strengthen our library services. The new President of the Australian Library Association, Dr Alan Bundy, has long recognised the role of FOL groups.

The entire library community has an opportunity to tap into a community of goodwill. A resource that will strengthen our libraries, strengthen the library profession, and strengthen our democracy. Let's move ahead.

Visit the FOLA Stand -No. 49, at the ALIA Conference, Monday 23 - Thursday 26 October, National Convention Centre, Canberra.



State Library of NSW

The Library Society recently presented a series of Australian nonfiction writer speaking on a variety of controversial subjects - "Fact of Fiction?". Among the writers were, Margaret Wertheim, John Dale, John Birmingham, Margo Kingston, Ghassan Hage, Mary Zournazi, Mark Davis and Timothy Garton-Ash.



State Library of SA

The Friends are organising a three day guided pilgrimage to the South-East sites associated with writers from the area - Adam Lindsay Gordon, Will Ogilvie, John Shaw Neilson, Julian Tenison Woods and Max Harris. Date - 1/3 March 2001.



The Friends of the State Library of South Australia Inc.

National Library (ACT)

The National Library and Friends recently held the Kenneth Myer Lecture. The lecture was given by the Australian of the Year, Sir Gustav Nossal, and was presented this year in Melbourne.



Sir Gustav Nossal



Liverpool (NSW)

Meeting Room I at the library has been renamed The Friends of Liverpool Library Room in recognition of the ongoing support the library receives from this association. The Friends of Liverpool Library also plans in the future to support student-oriented programs in the library.

Sailisbury (SA)

At the August AGM members were joined by the newly formed Noel Coward Appreciation Society, who extolled the talent and works of this great actor, player and songsmith in words and music. During the past year, funds from the Shop and Sidewalk booksales have raised \$15,000 towards relocation and furnishings of the Shop area.

Willunga and Aldinga (SA)

At the end of September, the Spring Dinner Dance was held at the Alma Hotel with Kanga Bentley's Dixieland Band.

Wollongong (NSW)

Bastille Day celebrations were held in July with Wolfgang Brodesser's Bastille Day History. From L'Alliance Francaise Illawarra.

Kiama (NSW)

A Literary Luncheon was held in July with Tim Bowden, writer and ABC broadcaster as the guest speaker.

Wingecarribee (NSW)

In August a preview of the film of the book *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt was held at the Empire Theatre and was attended by 160 filmgoers. Friends recently agreed to give funds to the library for the purchase of a video camera.



Wingecarribee Library

Geraldton (WA)

The FOGL celebrated 10 years recently. 12,000 books were sold at Geraldton's recent major booksale. The next big sale is in 2002.

Barossa (SA)

A quiz night raised enough money to purchase a Hewlett Packard Scan Jet 5200C for computers at Nuriootpa Library.

Liverpool (NSW)

Renowned author Edgar Penzig, an authority on colonial history, especially the bushranger period, presented a talk in May. He also displayed samples of his weapon collection.

Stirling (SA)

Friends donated \$500 towards a new public access computer.

Altona (Vic)

Since the recent launch of the Friends Book Room, interest and patronage and increased for the Friends booksales, now held on a regular basis on Saturday. The 2nd Big Booksale for 2000 was a great success, held as usual over two days.



Launceston (TAS)

The Friends of the Library Launceston, has recently published a set of 6 notelet cards using photos owned by the Launceston Library. The set of 6 consists of different maritime scenes from early Launceston, in particular one that will be the main image for the *On the Tide* website, currently under development.



On the Tide is a series of articles about life on the Tamar River published first in *The Examiner* newspaper and soon to be available on the website. The Friends group hopes its notelets will capitalise on the interest shown in the early history of the river.

Two hundred sets have been printed and will be sold at \$6.00 a set. If successful, a set depicting early buildings of Launceston is planned. The money to finance the notelets has been loaned by members of Friends.

Hervey Bay (Qld)

Membership and activities a increasing as indicated with 31 attending a recent Friends meeting - amazing!





Eleanor Scott-Dawson receives award for design of logo for Friends of Unley Library

Unley (SA)

The Mayor of Unley, Cr Michael Keenan recently presented 1st prize in the new logo competition for the

Friends of Unley Library to Eleanor Scott-Dawson (aged 12).The logo will be used on a new Friends Bookmark, which includes a membership form.



Balmain (NSW)

The FOBL donated a CD/cassette player with headphones to the library recently.

Walkely Award-winning journalist and Balmain resident, Tony Stephens recently presented a talk before a large audience of Friends at the Balmain Town Hall. Tony is senior writer for the Sydney Morning Herald.

Kew (Vic)

At the AGM in September, Jean McCaughey, AO, distinguished social academic and wife of the former Victorian Governor, Dr Davis McCaughey, presented a talk, The People Together Project: Shaping Victoria's Future. Jean McCaughey worked for 10 years with professor Ronald Henderson in his research into poverty in Australia, now regarded as the classic text on the subject. The August booksale raised \$980.

Portland (Vic)

Friends of Portland Library embarked on a Centenary of Federation Project to which they raised \$2300 from sponsorship and donations. The ambitious project raised funds for a Historic Portland Calendar, which was launched by the Mayor of Glenelg Shire on 6 September. The calendar is a limited edition and is available for \$12 incl GST. 95% of the proceeds from the sale of this calendar go to the Portland Library.



Baillieu (Vic)

This year's program of the Friends of the Baillieu Library is reflecting the affiliation between the Friends of Melbourne University Press and the Friends of the Baillieu Library. To date, the affiliation has been a great success. In July we were treated to a talk about the new MUP publication of *The Correspondence of Henry Handel Richardson*, jointly edited by Clive Probyn and Bruce Steele.

More Focus on Friends News p7

5



FOLA highlights 2000

In December 1999 FOLA celebrated our 5th anniversary at a gala dinner in Melbourne, which was addressed by our patron, the Hon Justice Michael Kirby, AC, CMG.



Daniel Ferguson, Justice Michael Kirby, Peter McInnes



Dick Mills, Sandra Lavender, Phil Walshe and Justice Michael Kirby



Chris Awcock, Colin Dunnett, Phil Walshe. Peter McInnes, Sandra Lavender, Margaret Broeks, Dick Mills, Daniel Ferguson

The number of Friends groups around Australia continues to increase, particularly in NSW and Queensland.

The country's oldest FOL group,

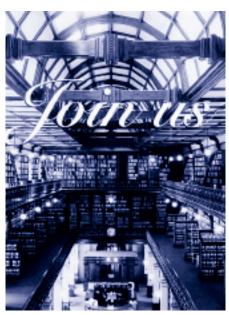
the Friends of the State Library of South Australia continues to embark on a dynamic program of activities, under the leadership of Dr Alan Brissenden AO.

Best of Friends and Library Week Awards were presented at a FOLA function held in February at Kay Craddock's Antiquarian Bookshop in Melbourne. Recipients of the 1999 Awards were: Willunga & Aldinga (SA), Unley (SA), Euroa (Vic), Wingecarribee (NSW) and Marion (SA).



Fola Executive Officer receiving awards on behalf of Unley Friends and Marion Friends

In May, the Hon Barry Jones AO, presented the inaugural Colin S. Watson Oration at a well attended function in Melbourne. FOLA established this Oration to recognise the outstanding contribution and involvement of Colin Watson in the field of public librarianship, library



Recruitment poster for the Friends of the State Library of South Australia

promotion and Friends development, over a period of 40 years. Colin, who was Vice President of FOLA died in August 1999. Colin Watson established the first Friends of a Library group in an Australian public library in 1971, during his time as foundation Regional Librarian at the Dandenong Valley Regional Library in Victoria.



Barry Jones AO



Daniel Ferguson, Marie Dowling (widow of Colin Watson)



(L to R) Mrs Hayton (Bayside), Daniel Ferguson (FOLA), Mr & Mrs Roberts (Altona)

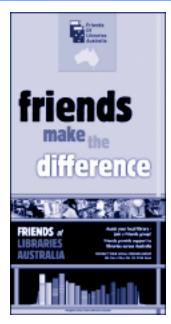
Following the resignation of Agnes Gregory from the FOLA executive in December, FOLA President, Peter McInnes presented to Agnes a Certificate of Life Membership of FOLA at a meeting of the Friends of Kew Library in Melbourne, early in the year. Agnes, a retired senior librarian at Swinburne University, had been an executive member of FOLA since inception and involved in the Friends of the Gallery, Friends of the State Library and Friends of Kew Library.

As at June 2000, 101 FOL groups were active around Australia, with a membership ranging between 8 and over 1000. The combined membership of all FOL groups across Australia is over 8,000 members.

The 3rd biennial conference of FOLA, this year in Canberra, has attracted delegates to the National Library of Australia from across Australia. The conference was opened on Friday evening with a reception at the NLA, followed by a full program with 17 speakers over two days. FOLA will for the first time have a Stand at the Australian Library & Information Association Trade Exhibition that commences on Monday 23 October.



National Library of Australia, Canberra



Free poster, contact FOLA -03 9338 0666



Kew (VIC)

Eric Flynn reported at the AGM on the 15th year of the group's activities. Membership stands at 87. Donations made or committed to the Library over the past year amounted to \$3,257. Over the 15 years, the Friends have contributed over \$80,000 to the Library. The principal source of income has been from the use-book sales which are held on the third Sunday afternoon of each month. Takings average around \$750 each month. Once again, some outstanding speakers have attended meetings of the Friends. Book Reviews continued to be published bi-monthly and help is given to the Library each Monday morning for around 2 hours.

Liverpool (NSW)

The AGM of the Friends was held on 10 October and was followed by a talk by author Don Hocking.

Willunga and Aldinga (SA)

Friends have organised Internet classes to be held at local High School. These courses are designed to help anybody use the computer and the Internet over a period of 4-5 sessions at a cost of \$3 to pay for the school hire. Any excess funds will go to the Friends.

7



End of Innocence

Rae Webb, President, Friends of Cooloola Shire Libraries (Qld)

Operating a modern library is very intensive. Obviously paid library staff does the largest proportion of the work with volunteers helping and providing those extras, which the public expects but which, for financial reasons, the council cannot fund.

The aim of this article is to show how both groups of workers have undergone changes and are continuing to change.

The staff of our library originally consisted of permanents and one or two teenagers who worked as permanent casuals on Saturday mornings.

In addition we now have:

- A person working permanently under the "job-match" scheme.
- A professional historian who works one day a week to answer local history queries.
- Four teenagers who shelve books after school.
- Casuals who replace library staff who are absent (Leave, training, illness etc.).
- A grant to employ two indigenous people part time for a year to work on specific indigenous projects.
- We also had people working on "community service orders"; however this was discontinued because it didn't work.

As I am sure most of you are aware, the expectations of library members has had a dramatic effect on the duties demanded of library staff and the skills they need to carry them out.

In much the same way the role of our FOL members has also changed and we also have had to acquire new work practices and skills. Our philosophy has always had two main themes: We should never put at risk the possibility of paid employment of more library staff.

Although we provide our services voluntarily they must always be provided in a fully professional manner.

Our workload has increased but we do not actively recruit. We only accept new members on personal recommendation or after an interview. This might seem exclusive but our responsibility to our "customers" and the Chief Librarian is paramount. It goes without saying that all our members are now, to varying degrees, computer literate. We have also had to develop protocols for situations encountered in our house-bound service.

"It goes without saying that all our members are now, to varying degrees, computer literate."

One new development, which we have to consider is that volunteering as a concept is changing. Volunteering Queensland (VQ) is this state's peak co-ordinating body for volunteers. Our group does not use this service because we do not need it and because we believe it would diminish our freedom of choice. The statistics are extremely revealing. Last year 53% of the 5692 people referred to VQ to help volunteer organizations where unemployed job-seekers looking for experience to improve their CV's. Another 11% were students wanting to add to their CV's or to "taste-test" possible careers. Centrelink was the source of 43% of all referrals but private employment agencies were also involved. Such volunteers present problems for us.

Many want several hours a week on a regular basis.

- How long will they stay? Hopefully they will soon find employment.
- How will our members feel about what might be called "professional volunteers".
- How will library staff view these people?

We currently have one such volunteer who, whilst a member of our group for insurance purposes, works exclusively for the Chief Librarian. (He wanted to do sixteen hours a week, which was not possible under our organization).

If the employment situation does not improve or deteriorates even further we may see more of these "professional volunteers". A Chief Librarian faced with ever increasing work loads and no increase in staff will find it hard to turn them away although in terms of training and how long they will stay it may not be practical to "employ" them. Please understand I am not being judgmental about such schemes. I am mostly concerned about the effect on the library and its administration.

As with so many other aspects of life the age of innocence for volunteer organizations is over. Our FOL members regret its passing but we have learned to adapt and I am sure there will be more changes to come.

Essential Reading for Friends groups

The Library's contribution to your community: A Resource Manual

This unique Canadian manual is to help you compile, analyse and present data and information that substantiates your library's contribution to the community.

It will help you demonstrate the value of the library in your community and, in so doing, secure resources from municipal funders. Elected members and senior municipal administrators are the primary target for your message. A secondary target is those who influence the elected funders - taxpayers, library users, Friends of the Library and influential nonusers who understand the need for; and value of, the local public library.

Price \$36.00 plus \$4.00 p&h add 10% GST

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Invitation from FOLA President May Lestend to you a warm invitation to the Bard Biennial Friends of Libraries Australia Genterence. The program is an exciting one, in which friends of libraries will share both ideas and experiences with an audience which is devoted to the development and maintenance of excellent library services. Please join us, and thus help to make our conference an outstanding success. Peter Mclimes Conference Program Peter Mclimes President, FOLA Preside

Director-General Official opening - Hon Peter McGauran MP, Minister for the Arts in the presence of Hon Justice Michael Kirby, Patron, FOLA Presentation of FOLA Best of Friends Awards for 2010

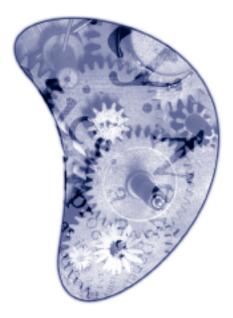
Saturday 21 October

8.30 em Conference registration Session 1) REPORTS IN 2000

9.00 em Chair: Chris Awcock Welcome Peter McInnes, President, FOLA Conference Agenda Daniel Ferguson, Executive Officer, FOLA 9.15 and Issues from 2nd Biennial Conference 9.45 am Friends Resource Book & Publicity 10.09em Friends in 2000 Daniel Ferguson, Executive Officer, FOLA 10.30em- Morning tea 10.45em Session 2) DISCUSSION: Working Together 10.45em Chair: Bill Tully Keynote speaker Mary Porter, Executive Director, Volunteering ACT 11.15em Library - Edgar Crook 'Public Libraries and Political Ideologies'

11.35an	Management - Elaine Kennedy	
	'Keeping Everybody Happy'	
11.55am		
	'Pushing the Envelope'	
12.15pm	Questions	
12.30pm	Lunch	
-1.30pm		
	Session 3) KEYS TO SUCCESS: Friends	
	Groups around Australia	
	Chair: John Brudenall	
1.30pm	Keynote speaker	
	Dr Alan Brissenden AM,	
	President, FSLSA	
2.15pm	Peter McInnes, Baillieu Library Friends	
2.30pm	Bill Tully, ACTLS Friends	
2.40pm	Yoonne Cramer, NLA Friends	
3.60pm	Friends and their priorities - discussion	
	Afternoon tea	
-3.30pm		
	Session 4) FRIENDS & THE GLOBAL VILLAGE	
	Chain: Phil Walshe	
3.39pm	Colin Dunnett,	
	Friends of Willunga & Aldinga SA	
4.00pm	Erica Ryan, ALG Manager, Co-ordination	
	Support, National Library of Australia	
4.30pm	Daniel Ferguson USA/UK/Canada	
	(Continued at right)	







FOLA NEWSUPDATE

9



NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS GROUPS

FOLUSA NEWS

- When Barbara Kingsolver agreed to be associated with the Harper Collins publishers Award she had no idea how much this would change the face of many small communities. To date Friends of Library USA and HarperCollins have awarded \$40,000 to four small libraries. These libraries have community seen support increase dramatically as a result of this recognition. The annual HarperCollins Award offers libraries with an annual budget of less than \$750,000 the opportunity to win \$10,000 to be spent on books.
- The year 2000 marks the 20th anniversary of the Honour and Memorial Books program initiated and developed by the Friends of Norristown District Library Center. The beginning was simple. In 1980 a Friends board member and local businessman purchased a full-page ad in the local newspaper that included an intriguing offer. Simply cut out the coupon in the ad and mail it to the library with a \$10 donation, and a book would be purchased for the Children's Library in honour of (or in memory of) a person designated by the donor, and a bookplate placed in the book.

- To celebrate National library Week, Friends of the Brown County Library prepared reading kits that were distributed to parents of more than 100 newborn at three local hospitals.
- For the fourth year, Friends of the San Antonio Public Library have given \$30,000 to pay for T-shirts given to children who read 50 books during the summer reading program.



San Antonio Public Library

 The Alliance for Justice, a national association of advocacy groups has the following web site: http://www.afj.org - check it out.





FOCAL NEWS

- Friends of Canadian Libraries are developing into a very active organization. FOCAL have recently elected a new executive, with Jami Van Haaften as President, who succeeds foundation President Val Marshall.
- The Friends of the Yarmouth Public Library are working on the establishment of a permanent book sale area to be positioned in the Main Library. The Friends will maintain the area and split the proceeds with the library. (Sounds familiar -Friends of Altona Library (Vic) established a similar venture some 2 years ago)
- Are you using Booksale Finder to promote your booksales? Visit www.BookSaleFinder.com, click through to the "tell us about your booksale" link and enter your dates.
- At their June meeting Friends of the Library, at Peterborough, gave the library \$12,000 raised from their biannual booksale in April.

UK NEWS

 The Friends of the British Library have revamped all publicity material to establish a new direction. A new computer system has been installed to assist the 2,500 members.



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"Encourage people to offer suggestions for improving libraries"

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Talk to friends about the advantages of co-operation between library staff and users of the library, to promote and protect the library resources in your community.

- Arrange a meeting with library administrators, to identify mutual aims and to establish a working (and workable) relationship.
 - Establish a Working Group of interested persons.
 - Prepare a draft constitution, statement of aims and objectives, and procedural guidelines.
 - Arrange an inaugural meeting at which the constitution will be confirmed: send invitations for this meeting to local councillors, community leaders, business leaders, library patrons, educational representatives and the press.
 - Arrange for an experienced member of a Friends of the Library group to give a short talk and allow time for questions. Friends of Libraries Australia can provide speakers.

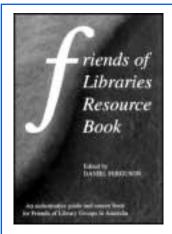
 Distribute handbills inviting membership, and advising of meeting date and place, including in the library, advertising as widely as possible.

 Encourage people to offer suggestions for improving libraries. Acknowledge and consider every suggestion, even if not immediately practicable: feedback will encourage continuing contact.

Contact FOLA for help and publicity material -FOLA National Office, Locked Bag 1315, Tullamarine, Victoria 3043. Freecall: 1800 335 364.







Friends of Libraries Resource Book

edited by Daniel Ferguson

FOLA Inc. 1997 ISBN 0 646 34486 2

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Saturday 24 October 1998

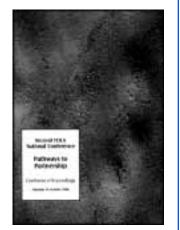
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Fola News Update

is published four times a year by Friends of Libraries Australia.

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FOLA Committee meetings for 2000 are as follows:

Committee meets on April 19, June 21, August 16, October 18, December 20.

Executive meets on March 15, May 17, July 19, September 20, November 15. Committee meetings are held in the Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne, Parkville.

Membership Application

Categories

Membership fee includes News Update

	-	
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