

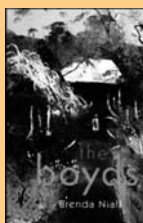
FOCUS ON FRIENDS

FOCUS ON FRIENDS

Following the activities and achievements of Friends of Library groups across Australia.

KEW (VIC)

Another successful Christmas luncheon was held at the Beaumont Motel in Kew in December. At the November meeting, the guest speaker was Brenda Niall who spoke on her book – *The Boyds: A Family Biography*. The November booksale provided a good selection of art books and the total of \$1275. Members were reminded of the 10% discount to FOKL members when purchasing at Page's Bookshop in Kew



In the Annual Report, the President, Dr Mary Parkin made mention of booksales for the year totalling \$8977 and that this money had helped purchase materials and equipment such as videos, CDs, talking books and the microfiche cabinet. It also allowed the payment of a two branch staff members to attend conferences. Membership stood at 99.



Brenda Niall

BALLINA (NSW)

In October the group celebrated 20 years. Since the formation in 1982 they have raised the impressive total of \$101,489.93 to improve Ballina's library services. This achievement brought a resolution from Ballina Shire Council acknowledging "... the enormous financial contribution made to the Ballina Shire Library and the cultural enhancement of this shire during the last twenty years".

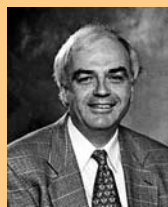
BRIGHTON (SA)

A full-house were present for the Coffee & Cake morning in September when guest speaker was local author, Mem Fox.

The Christmas Party in December provided an opportunity for Friends, library staff and members of the Holdfast Bay Council to come together informally.

WINGECARRIBEE (NSW)

In November, Friends of Wollongong City Library invited us to join them to hear Paul Brunton speak on the letters and voyages of Matthew Flinders.



Paul Brunton

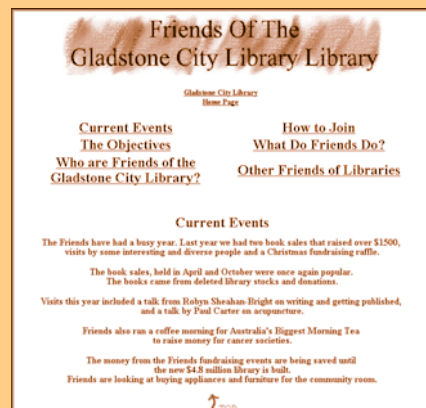
End of the year function in December heard popular south coast speaker, Tandy Cockram give a talk titled "Was Jane Austen the Barbara Cartland or Germaine Greer of her time?"



Jane Austen

GLADSTONE (QLD)

A recent newsletter listed 'Internet Sites About Gladstone' – an entire A4 page. Great idea for other Friends groups. The latest booksale raised over \$700.



BAROSSA (SA)

Barossa Council has announced exciting new plans for an upgraded library. The Council has issued a discussion paper about the changes and public consultations are taking place in various locations. Friends of the Barossa Library are anxious that all members have their say about the proposed changes to library services.

The Annual Report mentioned 190 members and many successful activities during the year; due know doubt to the work of the committee, who were elected unopposed!

WILLUNGA & ALDINGA (SA)

A special edition of the newsletter reported on the pending official opening of the Willunga Library in November and on the contribution the Friends are making to celebrate the event.



Willunga Library



FOCUS ON FRIENDS

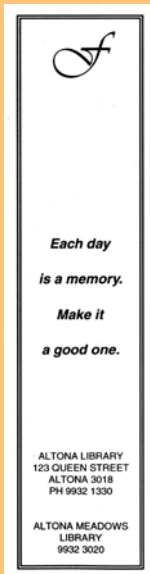
MURRAY BRIDGE (SA)

Free gift vouchers were given as prizes at the Library's 35th Birthday Raffle. Large cardboard cut outs of Trevor (Friends Pelican logo) were made to sue during School Holiday Activities. A banner was erected opposite Woolworths car park, advertising the November booksale.

ALTONA (VIC)

AGM reported that the Friends had donated items to the value of \$5,951.33 to the library during the year.

Margaret Broeks (FOLA Treasurer) was re-elected as President, so too were a number of members from the very first Friends of Altona Library committee in 1987 – *that's dedication!*



GREAT LAKES (NSW)

Care for Country Libraries Morning Tea was held in December at Forster Library. The Friends invited local candidates in the forthcoming State election. They offered candidates the opportunity to speak about their personal policy and personal views about State funding for public libraries in New South Wales. Each candidate was invited to speak for 5 minutes – speaking in alphabetical order – **another great idea from FOGLESS**



Myall River, Great Lakes Region

COWRA (NSW)

FOCL have been active – 600 entries in a Book Week competition, several functions promoting the library, a "Great Detectives" murder mystery and quiz, a Meet the Author luncheon with local writer Mary Moody, a book launch for local writer Lucy Lehmann, Poetry in the Park. A seminar for parents with Rhonda Brain, founder of a literacy program in Parkes. And, in 2003 plans for Books for Bablies where every new baby in Cowra will be given a story book. FOCL also donated funds to the library to strengthen the collection of books in Aboriginal Studies and teenage fiction.

A busy program for a group who started in 2000!

DOVETON (VIC)

Friends of Doveton recently held their Children's Poetry & Writing Competition and the awards were presented in November at the Doveton Library. Winners were: Junior Poetry – Meyvan Hettige (*The story of the gnat, cat and dog*), Ben Jeffrey (*Bugs*), Rebecca Beilharz (*Cold*); Junior Short Story – Alicia Jeffrey (*Stacie and the Tooth Fairy*), Nicole Banko (*The hairy truth*), Virgil Tau'a (*Going to Sydney on holidays*); Honorable mention: Megan Webber (*The mysterious pond*), Rasa Seng (*The golden key*). Senior Poetry – Jay Tucker (*Thoughts of them*), Nicole Out (*Hide*), Jessica Beilharz (*Meer Nebel*). Senior Short Story – Jessica Whitby (*A million dollar smile*), Vineeth Rajan (*Super Galactic Man*), Hannah Whitby (*A voice in the darkness*); Honourable mention: Natasha Guszich (*Space encounter*), Elizabeth Garnett (*The challenge for supremacy*).

This competition has been in existence almost as long as FODL, 1984.



Casey-Cardinia Library Corporation

ACT (ACT)

5th AGM held with Bill Tully as President. Enjoyable trip to Bunanoon provided opportunity to also focus members and friends efforts on a number of lobbying issues relating to ACT Public Library Service, which seem to be ongoing.



Gunghalin Library



A donation of \$1200 was made to the library for holiday program activities.



Frankston Library Booksale

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

FOCUS ON FRIENDS

GERALDTON (WA)

2002 AGM saw Pricilla Clayton elected as new President. Geraldton Friends are also celebrating the 12th anniversary of the group and we are reminded that they are the only WA regional library FOL group.



Life membership was recently awarded to three hard working members of the committee: Mary Glass, almost a founding member and former president, Yvonne Harrod, minutes secretary, president and dedicated worker and Veda Wann, a quiet lady always working in the background with great dedication.

– *Well done Friends of Libraries*

SALISBURY (SA)

The Popular Sidewalk Book Sale raised \$800. New Library Manager, Bernie McSwain spoke about literacy amongst children at the November meeting.

STIRLING (SA)

The November meeting was a combined event with the Mt Lofty Districts Historical Society, when Robert Martin, Historian and Dr David Jones, Garden Historian were guest speakers giving a talk on the Heritage Homes and Gardens of Stirling District.



Mount Lofty Botanic Garden

WAGGA WAGGA (NSW)

The final Bargain Book Sale in November raised \$865. In conjunction with the booksale, they raffled a bottle of single malt wisky, won by Andrew Callender – *sounds very Scottish!*

The Friends are joining with the Wagga Wagga District Historical Society to help the Local Studies collection of the library cover costs of purchasing some valuable contemporary newspapers cuttings coming from England, for the Tichborne collection.



COOLOOLA (QLD)

The Friends held a successful morning tea at the library for Housebound members, who were bussed to the library by community busses.

Chief Librarian, Moria Maclachlan decided to leave the library. During her 12 years as chief, she has supported the Friends in all endeavours and raised the library service to one of the best in Queensland, given a population of 32,000.

STATE LIBRARY SA

President, Tony Shinkfield reported in the December newsletter on some of the many benefits in belonging to the FLSA. He mentioned – six issues of the *Newsletter*, annual *Bibliofile*, *Extra Extra* from the State Library, special discounts for facsimiles editions, admission to *Wednesdays at One* and other events, visits, lunches, functions, private viewings of exhibitions and reciprocal benefits with other bodies. *Certainly value for your membership dollar!*

NATIONAL LIBRARY (ACT)

James Halligan, new Executive Officer at the FNLA reported in *National* on the AGM and Christmas Party on 10 December at the National Library of Australia and the new committee will meet to elect office bearers and implement plans for 2003 on 17 December.



Celebrating the life and work of Mem Fox at the National Library

LIBRARY SOCIETY (NSW)

The Summer edition of *Upfront* gave an account of the history of the Library Society.

Early in 1983, a public meeting was called to canvas support for the establishment of a Friends' group for the State Library of New South Wales. Although not the first State Library group in Australia (that's SA), the Friends at the State Library of New South Wales are certainly one of the most successful groups – worldwide. The contribution of the late Dulcie Stretton CBE and the first Executive Director, Rosemary Block to the formation of this most successful group cannot be overemphasised.

There are now 1500 valued members of The Library Society.

FEATURE

POWER POINT TO POWERHOUSE — A QUEENSLAND PERSPECTIVE

Rae Webb (FOLA Committee, Qld)

Not all that long ago many rural communities had their own power station, owned privately or by the local council. Their arrival changed forever the lives of country people, especially women. As well as the obvious benefits of electric light and refrigeration electricity created many a local industry. In Streaky Bay S.A. for example the power station made the ice, which enabled the fishermen to get their catch to Adelaide.

These power stations existed from about 1920's to 1970's when the spread of a statewide grid made power cheaper and more reliable.

Every library has the potential to be a powerhouse in its own community and this potential would, in my opinion, be greatly increased if our libraries were part of a 'library grid'.

Virtually every town and city in Queensland has a public library. There are 326 of them and it wouldn't be overstating the case to assess the total value of their physical assets at close to one billion dollars together with hundreds of highly trained staff.

These figures suggest an efficient, statewide service. Nothing is further from the truth. What we have is well over 100 locally owned, small businesses each doing its own thing. The State Library Board stipulates levels of performance but because they don't also stipulate levels of funding any direction is, in my opinion, an illusion. There is only a vestige of



“Every library has the potential to be a powerhouse in its own community and this potential would, in my opinion, be greatly increased if our libraries were part of a ‘library grid’”

state-regulation and co-operation, fragmented vision, little equity. So here, as I see it, the situation today. The citizens of Queensland own a multi-million dollar asset being run as dozens of corner stores. As an example, periodically each local library goes through the expensive and time-consuming task of assessing and selecting the best computer operating system to adopt.

HOW DID WE GET INTO THIS SITUATION?

Mainly because the legislation was never designed to run a state library service. In 100 pages 'The Libraries Act 1988' only refers to local government. The State Library Board is primarily concerned with the running of the State Library, a building in Brisbane not an administrative concept.

THE METHOD OF FUNDING. Broadly, the State Library makes a grant to each participating Council to cover the cost of resources for loan (books etc). The local council pays for all the rest. (In our case, in a recent year: State 15% and Council 85%). This leads to most councilors seeing their library as a liability, not an asset, something they fund grudgingly. Also the level of funding, if any, is entirely at the discretion of each council. In the face of rising costs and no increase in State funding, some Councils are supplementing the book grant whilst others seek to reduce overall library budgets. In this situation equity becomes even more unachievable.

Because a free public library service is a relatively new idea in Queensland most of the people who control the money didn't grow up with a library 'habit'. In many cases they don't use the library and have very little idea of what a properly funded library can deliver to the whole community.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

FEATURE

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What our 326 libraries should be is our knowledge, information empowerment grid. Federal MP Mark Latham recently referred to libraries as “street corner universities”. Our “library university” could have 326 campuses. Hugh Mackay, the noted social commentator has called libraries “the modern village green”. I believe the concept of ‘life-long learning’ is meaningless unless it is library driven.

All the libraries in our state should be part of a true ‘State Library Service’ not just fringe-dwellers as we are now. Local Councils would retain ownership of their library but there would be uniform funding and standards statewide. Councils would have to give up some of their authority but would have a say in the operations of the State Library Board. The State Government, through the State Library Board, should accept responsibility and show leadership, which is conspicuously lacking now.

WHAT WOULD WE GAIN FROM THIS CHANGE?

- ❑ Equity. Every Queenslander would be guaranteed a standard level of service.
- ❑ Economies of scale in purchasing and provision of services.
- ❑ Optimisation of individual libraries expertise throughout the system. For example: Our library has invested a lot of effort into setting up a local history collection).
- ❑ Avoiding duplication of effort For example: Several libraries share the expense of selecting a computer system).
- ❑ Groups of libraries could run courses, do consultancies etc. With their unique ability to include all socio-economic, ethnic and age groups our libraries are not only a major provider of ‘education’ but for many people their only chance.
- ❑ Above all political clout. At present the President of the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) is a signatory of the protocols between State and Local Government on library matters. The LGAQ is a very influential body but I imagine it sees libraries as a minor issue in its many dealings with State Government. Our power grid should, through representation on the State Library Board, have access to the minister.

Our Premier wants us to be the “smart state”. We need to be much smarter about our libraries.

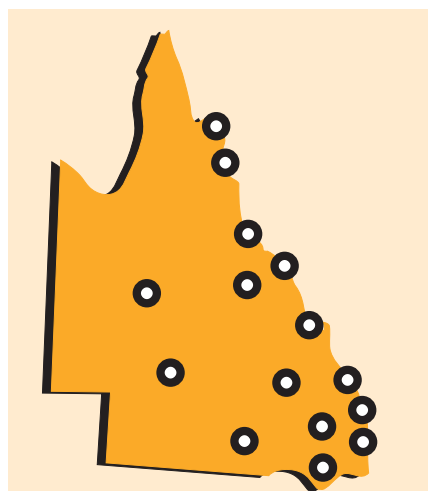
We must get the direction of our ‘powerhouse’ out of the hands of unqualified, often disinterested people and into the hands of people who not only know but also care.



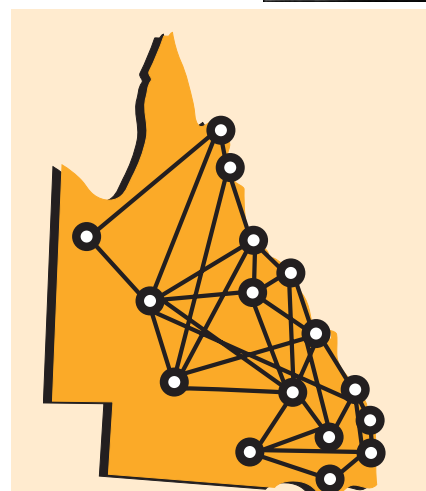
Mr Mark Latham MP,
Member for Werriwa



Hugh Mackay,
psychologist and
author



“What we have is well over 100 locally owned, small businesses each doing its own thing”



“All the libraries in our state should be part of a true ‘State Library Service’ not just fringe-dwellers as we are now”

NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS



FOLUSA NEWS

- ★ *Friends of the Macon County Public Library* recently revamped its web site and launched a new logo to enhance the Friends efforts to raise funds. They also have a bookstore which sells a wide variety of donated used books, records, puzzles and other items. They raised \$90,000 last year. The Friends' web site is maintained at no charge as a community service by a local Internet service provider.
- ★ *Friends of Jefferson* and *Friends of the Austin Public Library* recently advertised collectable books for sale in their newsletters. Among the 13 titles ranging in price from \$25 to \$500.
- ★ **I THOUGHT THAT WAS MY JOB** – discussions arranged by Vikki Jo Stewart at Kansas State Library to help Friends groups and the library develop stronger communications.

Vignette 1: How Funds Raised by the Friends Should Be Spent. Scene: Board Room in small rural community discuss the \$6,000 raised by the Friends. How should it be spent?

Library Director: Wants to replace an Apple2E computer. Board president: Has two nieces and a nephew who use the dated encyclopedias to do homework

Friends President: Signage on the library's entrance does not properly identify the building.

Questions: Was there prior understanding of who decides how money raised by the Friends is spent. It is the responsibility of the Friends to raise money for reference books, or should this come from the annual budget. How can this situation be avoided in the future?



CANADA

- ★ *Friends of Canadian Libraries* are heading into the 7th year of operations.
- ★ **Junior Friends @ your library** – Mississauga Library System, the only library with a Junior Friends group boasting 586 children ranging in age from 3 years to 14 years, shares their expertise and delivers a how-to-tool kit.
- ★ This year the Canadian Library Conference is being held jointly with the American Library Association in Toronto. FOCAL and FOLUSA are jointly organising sessions.
- ★ Last year the Chesley Challenge was organised, to participate in CBC's Canada reads promotion. *Chesley Area Friends of the Library* issued a challenge to other Friends groups and libraries across Canada. The challenge asked Friends groups and libraries to monitor how many of their patrons read *In the Skin of a Lion* by Michael Ondaatje, the book to read for the 2002 Canada Reads initiative. The winning community was featured on CBC Radio. Wolseley Branch Library emerged the winner, with 5% of readership.
- ★ Fundraising idea – Indigo/Chapters group offer a great way to raise funds for resources in an environment which promotes literacy and culture. The Friends host a fundraising event in a local store, and have the opportunity to showcase your activities and programs, while raising money for your library or association activities. Your group receives a percentage of all purchases made by members and guests during the event.



UK NEWS

- ★ Making a difference – *Sandwich Library Guild* founded in 1997 when the Kent County Council decided to reduce library opening hours. Thanks to community support and campaigning, the KCC decided to retain the original hours of opening. But the fight continues as changes to library premises are now on the agenda.
- ★ *Friends of Seaford Library* have been campaigning for a new library building and have gained the support of local MP, Norman Baker.
- ★ Action by the *Friends of Charlbury Library* in West Oxfordshire saved libraries from cuts in opening hours and book vote. In the end, a member of the group was elected as a Town Councillor. Relations between Council, Library and Friends have become very co-operative.
- ★ In the Annual Report of the *Friends of the British Library*, it was reported that, membership stood at 2816 and £25,000 was donated to the Library by the Friends for particular projects.



British Library

FOLA PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

	\$	Qty
Friends of Libraries Resource Book		
Ed Daniel Ferguson ISBN 0 646 34486 2	69.95	<input type="text"/>
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FOLA Facts Sheets (free to FOLA members) (includes GST, postage & handling)	4.50	<input type="text"/>

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FOLA Committee meetings for 2003:

12 March, 14 May, tba August AGM,
8 October, 10 December.



Committee meetings are held at the Baillieu Library,
University of Melbourne, Parkville.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



CATEGORIES

Membership fee (includes GST)
incorporating News Update

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