

FOLA DELIVERS RESULTS!

CPLA Conference Tweed Heads, New South Wales

FOLA participated at the Country Public Libraries Association Conference held at Tweed Heads, New South Wales on 2-4 July 2003, with a Stand at the Trade Exhibition and also held a full-day workshop for local Friends of Library groups.

The entire event was considered an outstanding success. Thanks in particular to Judith Field (FOLA Committee) and her husband, Martin Field, Library Manager for Richmond-Tweed, who organized the entire CPLA conference.

2002 WINNERS

Baker & Taylor

Best of Friends Awards:

Alexandra (Vic)

Hastings (NSW)

Toowoomba (Qld)



Friends at Tweed Heads



*Daniel Ferguson & Shane Clancey
(Bolinda Publishing)*



Australia

Friends of Libraries

*Judith Field and friend
at Tweed Heads*



Friends at Tweed Heads



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ALIVE AND ACTIVE

Working with Library Management, Workshops, Junior Friends Groups...

Friends are alive and active around Australia. FOLA can report on a wide variety of activities and the enthusiastic participation from many groups, both large and small groups around the country. It's a slow process to success. But determination, planning and staying power brings results in the long term with many groups. So continue to consolidate your support base.

The success of some notable groups provides the message we need to consider.

Toowoomba (Qld) – a Baker & Taylor Best of Friends winner for 2002, has great encouragement and support from the library manager – *that does make a difference.*

Altona (Vic), recently conducted a series of workshops for Friends, an important element in the strategic success of the library service – *providing vision and goals for both the Friends and the Library.* The partnership of co-operation and support has been evident at Unley (SA) and the Friends of the State Library (SA) for many years, and this was evident at the recent Unley Workshop held in April.

But, one of the most pleasing and encouraging aspects of Friends growth and development, is what continues to happen at Alexandra in Victoria. A small rural library service, that has both adult and junior FOL groups. Junior Friends provide great stimulation and encouragement to the library and the community, and

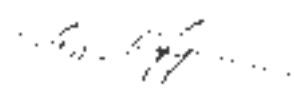


are often recognized in particular ways not afforded to adult groups, especially by governing authorities.

“FOLA would urge all established FOL groups to consider a Junior Friends group.”

Australia still has a paucity of junior FOL groups. We need more people like Libby Kotschet in our libraries. Librarians who act as mentors to the young. Encouraging and stimulating an involvement in public library services. FOLA would urge all established FOL groups to consider a Junior Friends group. Yes, it's hard work, but the results can be great, and remember, FOLA is here to help with advice, support and material.

As was evident at the recent CPLA Conference in Tweed Heads (NSW), Friends have much to celebrate and can be seen to be – *Alive and Active!*



DANIEL FERGUSON

FEATURE

ALEXANDRA JUNIOR FOL

Alive & Active!

The Junior Friends of the Library, Alexandra (Vic) are still going strong – reports Libby Kotschet, Convenor, Junior Friends and a librarian at Murrindindi Shire in Alexandra.

She reports that “the JFOL remain the underpinning element in our programs for children.”

The JFOL have been very busy over the past few years. We still meet once a month and have a tight program. We have very brief meetings and an activity or huge plan to work on each meeting. There are usually short and long range projects on the go.

We have attracted grants from the Shire a few times and run a few family friendly programs each year, which really showcase the library and our philosophy. We have run another Mystery history tour around our area and the past 2 years we have produced *Macbeth* (in an hour) and *Romeo and Juliet*. We had a mini Melbourne Cup and everyone got dolled up and a Murder in the Library party. Each year the JFOL decorate the library for Halloween and sponsor this family night. However, the perennial favourite is a video and pizza night.

Our membership is around 30 and we have an enthusiastic new committee.

The JFOL have continued to sponsor the Summer Reading Scheme prize night each year, purchase videos, computer games, audio, magazines and books for the library. The main fund rais-



“In 2002 we ran a hugely successful Youth Art Show —Artrageous, we had over 250 entries”

ing projects have been selling our postcards, home-made library bags, second hand books, author visits and donations. Each year we run a family Trivia night, the theme last year was Science, this was great fun,

also raising money and gaining members.

In 2002 we ran a hugely successful Youth Art Show—Artrageous, we had over 250 entries, an award winning judge, lavish art prizes and unexpectedly made a load of money. We intend to have a Calendar making workshop later this year and a formal dinner for the members and friends and a youth cinema event. Also, the JFOL took part in a community plan to decorate the walls of the local adult education center with murals that would showcase local talent. The Friends painted a huge

mural of all the characters you can meet through books, the mural was later photographed (see main image on this page) and is currently used as postcards, display centerpiece and recently appeared on the cover of the Shire annual report.

“We remain enthusiastic” – Libby Kotschet.

FOCUS ON FRIENDS

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

ALTONA (VIC)

Giving a helping hand – The Friends and the local RSL Club have helped furnish the Altona Library more appropriately for teenagers with a couch, bean bags, communal study table, close to teenage books, DVDs, videos and CDs.



In service training day for Friends of Altona Library

KEW (VIC)

A great bookshop deal for the Friends of Kew Library is offered to members. They can receive 10% discount on purchases over \$20 at Page's Bookshop on production of a current membership card. This means they can get books virtually GST-free, and save money on their membership donations. The bookshop will order in books not in stock, gift wrap items and post books if required. *What a great deal for the Friends!*



WILLUNGA & ALDINGA (SA)

A Book character dressing up parade was held with some local primary schools students in years 3,4,5 in the area. The Friends donated book voucher prizes to the children and the school.

STATE LIBRARY (SA)

Report given to members on a recent survey, concluded that, 62% of members found the Newsletter – very useful, and the *Wednesdays at One* – 40% stated – very useful. Of the 455 Questionnaires sent to members, there were 173 returns



(38%). In summary the report concluded that *“there is a predominant mood of support for the work of the Committee.”*

Eight areas were categorized as requiring consideration/attention. A useful exercise for all FOL groups – seeking your members views!

SALISBURY (SA)

The Great Aussie Tea party raised \$383 for the Anti Cancer research programme. Thirty four Friends and guests attend the annual Literary Luncheon with guest speaker, Rosanne Hawke who spoke about her life as a writer for young adults.



BRIGHTON (SA)

In renewing your membership, some good deals are being offered – two local bookshops are offering 10% off cash purchases, a local café is offer 10% off all meals!, and a garden center is giving members a one-off gift of selected products. *Have you considered asking your local suppliers?*

BAROSSA (SA)

Once again a large number of students from primary schools in the Barossa region participated in the Poetry Competition. This year the theme was – Vintage Time, and poems were judged by Jude Aquillina. Langmeil Winery donated the first prizes and the Friends of the Barossa Library donated second prizes once again. Great encouragement to local young talent.

FOCUS ON FRIENDS

GERALDTON (WA)

Australian writer – Gabrielle Lord made a recent visit to Geraldton to continue to inspire local writers of the region. The Friends have supported the Randolph Stow and Nestle writing competitions in the areas for some time, therefore encouraging writers, readers and library users in Geraldton.



Gabrielle Lord

WAGGA WAGGA (NSW)

The Friends at their May meeting decided to purchase a self-service drink machine to be installed in the loans area of the library. It is a major investment for the Friends, but the regular income will provide funds to assist library needs in the future.

WINGECARRIBEE (NSW)

Most successful ever – the May booksale raised \$3000 and the raffle \$165.60. And the Friends donated \$100 to the Australian Cancer Research Foundation, in memory of long-time Friends member and Treasurer Yvonne Thiessen, and \$400 to the Families in Focus project, a Library initiative to promote books and reading to young children.

They celebrated Bastille Day on July 14 with champagne and a two-course lunch with speaker, Bron McKillop on *Beckett, bins and other things*.

TOOWOOMBA (QLD)

50 people attended an informative afternoon with Jennifer Bacia, popular fiction writer. Jennifer has completed 8 novels, two of which have been optioned for films. She is also the author of two works on the writing of fiction. Jennifer donated some of her books for a raffle on the day.

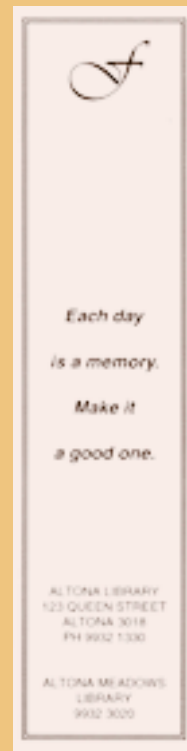


NATIONAL LIBRARY (ACT)

On Thursday 24 July, Prof Fiona Stanley, Australian of the Year, presented the Kenneth Myer Lecture to a large audience in the National Library Theatre.



Willunga Library



**calling
WWW
friends...**

FOLA is compiling a list of Friends groups who have a web site or have a link to their Friends group or are mentioned on the library's web address. Send us details (URL and name of FOL Group).

**FOLA Locked Bag 1315
Tullamarine VIC 3043**

FOLA @ CPLA

C O U N T R Y P U B L I C L I B R A R I E S A S S O C I A T I O N

One of the busiest stands at the CPLA trade exhibition was the FOLA stand, with its prime position in the centre of the exhibition space and close to morning and afternoon teas – always a catch for delegates!

One of the features of the Country Public Libraries Association in New South Wales, is the large number of delegates who are councillors and other stakeholders in the library service who attend.

Margaret Broeks (FOLA Treasurer) was kept busy for two days answering questions from interested councillors, librarians and other local government officials, along with joining up some new members as well! Help from a few local FOL groups made the exercise very productive for Friends.

In the workshop on Thursday, nine local FOL groups attended to hear contributions from:

FOLA Executive Director, Daniel Ferguson, Rae Webb from Cooloola FOL, spoke on *Diversity and Volunteering*, Judith Field (FOLA) on *Publicity & Future Strategies*, Audrey Semon from Great Lakes FOL on *Fundraising with Results* and then a Forum on *Issues of the Day* which included Lobbying, Public Liability, Fundraising, Relations with Library Management.

“One of the features of the Country Public Libraries Association in New South Wales, is the large number of delegates who are councillors and other stakeholders in the library service who attend.”



Membership of the CPLA is open to each country council directly providing or contributing funds towards a public library service, and to each country public library service that is jointly provided by several councils.

ROLE STATEMENT of the CPLA

1. The purpose of the Association shall be to enable those councils and public library services which are members to meet on a regular basis for common purposes and to undertake united action.
2. These purposes and actions may include but are not limited to:
 - 2.1. Unified and strong representation to all levels of government, members of Parliament and other bodies on matters of common interest and concern for public libraries in country New South Wales.
 - 2.2. Specifically to represent the public library interests of members to relevant Ministers, the Local Government and Shires Associations, The Australian Library and Information Association, the Association of Local Government Librarians and other professional and administrative bodies.
 - 2.3. To support the particular community roles played by country libraries, to promote understanding of the value of public libraries and to promote their use in country districts.
 - 2.4. To encourage mutual assistance in the development of library services, to share experience of service provision and co-operatively to undertake suitable review of services and standards.
 - 2.5. To demonstrate solidarity and self-help amongst country councils and libraries, thereby fostering confidence and mutual support amongst country libraries, both large and small.
 - 2.6. To undertake and encourage research and development on matters of interest to public libraries in New South Wales.
 - 2.7. CPLA has the ability to apply for grants and raise finance for specific purposes. CPLA will operate as a partnership between Councillors, Council staff and public libraries staff. The CPLA will recognise the outstanding contributions of individuals to the Association through the presentation at the AGM of appropriate awards for service.