



UPDATE

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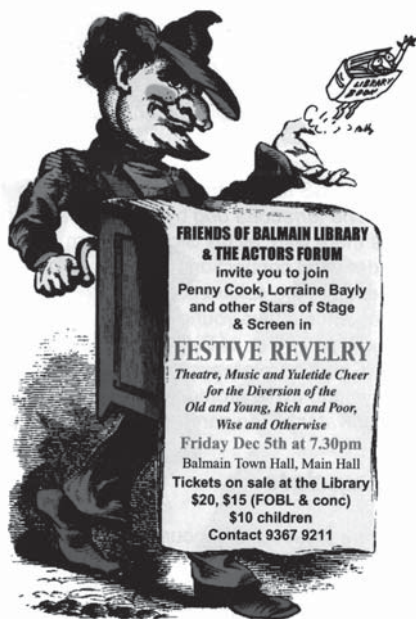
BALMAIN

Festive Revelry

DECEMBER 2003

Prominent Sydney Friends group – Friends of Balmain Library have concluded another very successful year. On Friday 5 December 2003 the group celebrated the end of year with an evening in the Balmain Town Hall. Among the guests were notable Australian actors, Lorraine Bayly and Penny Cook together with Gerard Carroll, Edward Lansdowne and Alan Tobin, artists of The Actors Forum. They were delighted to welcome this troupe of fine performers for the final event of 2003. Drinks and a very good supper were provided with a distinctly Christmas theme.

The Actors Forum, co-sponsors of the evening with the Friends,



provided a subscription for two people to attend their 2004 Balmain season of plays. Simone Logue Fine Food in Darling Street provided a Christmas pudding and David Wilsher, a local artist and loyal supporter of FOBL donated one of his fine drawings of Balmain.

Jan Aitkin, President of FOBL reported in the Christmas newsletter *Balmain Bookworm*, that Leichhardt Council is at last making preliminary moves for the long awaited renovations to the Balmain Library. The Friends, with community support, have raised over \$30,000 to assist in the budgeted \$300,000 plus renovations.

A talented and hardworking group – FOLA salutes FOBL.



Balmain
Bookworm

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**Friends of Libraries
Australia Inc.**
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Tullamarine Vic 3043

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THANKS TO OUR PATRON

Our esteemed patron, Justice Michael Kirby, while in Perth at the end of 2003, addressed the Friends of the Library of the University of Western Australia. The occasion took place in University House, University of Western Australia, and was hosted by Professor David Tunley AM, Emeritus Professor of Music of the University.

We are indebted again to our Patron, who despite his demanding schedule both in Australia and internationally, finds time to pass on the word about the value of *Friends*.



Justice Michael Kirby at the University of Western Australia

Our Vice-President, Dr Alan Bundy has also been busy. In addition to speaking at the FOLA AGM in Altona in 2003, he had the pleasure of addressing FOL groups in Mitcham, SA, Castlemaine, Victoria and Nambour and Gympie in Qld about why public libraries are such an outstanding public investment, their important contribution to the development of much needed social capital, and how FOL groups can be very effective advocates for better libraries for all.

In his role as University Librarian of the University of South Australia, Alan is likely to be visiting several parts of Australia during 2004 and is happy to speak to other FOL



groups and library staff, email him on – alan.bundy@unisa.edu.au.

At the final meeting of the FOLA executive for 2003, members endorsed the Senate Committee Report by the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee on *Libraries in the online environment*. Further more, FOLA endorsed action by writing to the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, leaders of other political parties and State Premiers. It sought a response from the government for discussion at our 10 March meeting in Melbourne.

“We are indebted again to our Patron, who despite his demanding schedule both in Australia and internationally, finds time to pass on the word about the value of Friends.”

All FOL groups would be urged to obtain a copy of the report and respond accordingly.

And finally, to all our members, compliments of the season and may 2004 bring great success to your Friends group and library.

DANIEL FERGUSON

FOCUS ON FRIENDS

FOCUS
ON
FRIENDS

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

WEST GIPPSLAND (VIC)

The West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation will be sponsoring a joint Community Advisory Committee and 'Friends Day' on 24 February 2004 to continue the support of those volunteering their time to support the development of library services in West Gippsland.

The day will be the third annual event organized by the Corporation and presents a unique opportunity for members supporting the service to participate in a day of talks, presentations, and networking. Last year (2003) 45 representatives attended a day held at the Gables Tearooms in Warragul.



Each year a different venue is selected within the region that promotes a local tourism service and the 2004 day will be hosted by the Lyre Bird Hill Winery at Koonwarra, in South Gippsland.

WILLUNGA & ALDINGA (SA)

Already a busy year is planned for this group. Activities include, a speaker from VOLT Youth Centre, a speaker from the Adelaide Zoo and hosting school students from the area to write animal books for third world countries, the AGM in April and a picnic in May.



GERALDTON (WA)

The latest issue of *Bookends* reported on the visit of Dr Alan Bundy (FOLA Vice President). It listed the 12 ways Dr Bundy suggested that libraries are good for the community. The newsletter also mentioned that if you think your voice is not powerful enough, join the Friends group.

WAGGA WAGGA (NSW)

Reported on the outstanding success at the Farmers Market Day in November when the booksale raised \$651. After 11.30 am they offered a box of books for \$1 – *what a bargain!* The Friends are looking into preparing a good quality brochure to introduce new members of the Friends to the group. They hope to launch the brochure with a musical evening in February.



Wollundry Lagoon, near site for the Wagga Wagga Farmers Market Day. Photo by Angus McGeoch.

ALTONA (VIC)

In the latest newsletter, the President, Margaret Broeks reported on the recent successful booksale of \$1377 and listed items which were donated to the library from the funds of the Friends in the past year - \$400 for baby change table in toilets, microwave oven for Altona Meadows Library \$300, a contribution of \$1250 for calico bags for library members, \$1000 for DVDs at Altona Meadows Library and \$250 for a chair stacker in the meeting room at Altona. The grand total given to the library was \$3200 for the year.

KEW (VIC)

Interesting speakers were in evidence once again at Kew. During the past months speakers have ranged from Jim Lowden talking on the history of Mechanics' Institutes, Wally Ashton a retired watch maker and professor Christine Williamson, who was in charge of the archeological research of Casselden Place excavations in Melbourne.

Members were reminded of the 10% discount at Page's Bookshop in Kew.



Casselden Place Excavations

WINGECARRIBEE (NSW)

2004 calendars are now on sale. The calendar depicts member Peter Cox's drawings of Southern Highlands' scenes. Proceeds from sales are being directed towards building improvements in the Library Annexe. The cost is \$10.

FOCUS ON FRIENDS

SALISBURY (SA)

The committee will be having discussions with Library Manager Bernie McSwain regarding a list of 'want' for the coming year, and how the Friends can assist. For example, the Home Library van needs attention. 520 people use the services of this vehicle. All four libraries will have a collection of DVDs for borrowing in the future.

STATE LIBRARY (SA)

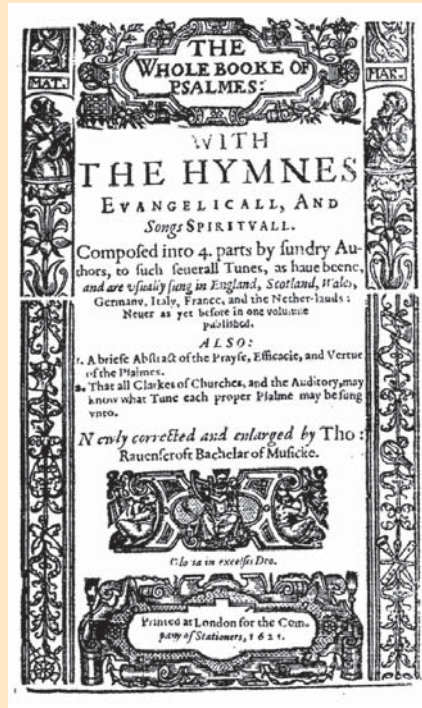
A successful year for the Friends and the State Library of SA with the opening of the new library extensions in October. Friends now have new accommodation in the Mortlock wing.

President Tony Shinkfield also reported in the December newsletter of the extraordinary contributions made by the Friends during 2003 to the library. The Lindisfarne Gospels (\$18,000), the painting by J.S. Ostojka-Kotkowski (\$4,500), a half share in the Mortlock Bay (\$37,000) and the most recent book purchased from the UK (\$9,000).



Bought to the attention by Dr Alan Brissenden, the latest gift of the Friends is *The Whole Book of Davids Psalmes* printed in 1621. Only three copies of this edition are recorded.

It has been suggested that this item should honour Jean Whyte who recently died. Jean, a highly respected librarian with the State Library later become a Professor at Monash University.

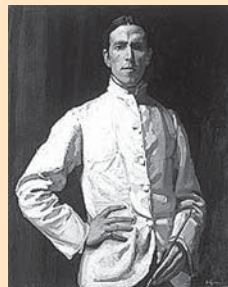


Frontispiece of a 1621 Whole Book of Psalmes

NATIONAL LIBRARY (ACT)

Each year the Friends hold a celebration to commemorate the contribution that a distinguished individual has made to the Australian book world. This year they commemorate the playwright David Williamson. A celebration afternoon was held on 23 November at the National Library to mark this years recipient.

At the Friends Committee meeting on 18 November, Jan Fullerton, Director-General of the NLA, thanked the Friends for their generous gifts throughout the year, in particular the \$10,000 donated by the Friends this year is a self-portrait by one of Australia's leading artists of a century ago, Hugh Ramsay, who died in 1906 at the age of 28.



Hugh Ramsay



CELEBRATING FRIENDS & FOLA

The first 10 years

Tell us in less than 100 words your greatest FOL achievement in the last 10 years. How have you made a difference to your library.

A booklet recording success stories of FOL groups around Australia will be launched at FOLA's 10 anniversary function at the National Library of Australia, Canberra, on Friday 3 December 2004.

SEND YOUR ENTRY TO:

Celebrating Friends & FOLA
FOLA

Locked Bag 1315
Tullamarine Vic 3043

Your entry should reach us by 3 September 2004



FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS: A FRIENDS FEATURE



COOLOOLA FRIENDS

Gympie's first professional librarian and a woman ahead of her time, the late Jean Kesteven was honoured at a recent function at the Gympie Library in 2003 by Friends of the Library Cooloola at which books were donated in her memory to the library.

On hand at the donation were Jean and Dr Herry Kesteven's six children, partners and grandchildren.

Jean Kesteven began work as a librarian in 1977 when the library was situated in the old School of Arts building, now home to the Cooloola Shire Public Gallery.



"The Friends hope to continue their strong partnership with library management"

It was Jean Kesteven who had the foresight to establish the Friends of the Library group. At that time there was a Library Committee and Joyce Lilley (FOLA) suggested forming Friends of the Library, while someone else suggested a music collection and a history collection. Jean could see the value in a Friends group, says Joyce Lilley, who became the first President of the group, and continues to be a committee member some 27 years on. Joyce has stated that Jean was very, very clever at explaining to council why things should happen.



Moria Maclachlan continued the success established by Jean in building a partnership with the community and giving strong support to the Friends. Moria departed as Chief Librarian at Cooloola Shire, after 12 years in 2003. Moria stated when she departed that "I feel I can leave ... with a good collection, excellent staff and lots of support from the community and Friends of the Library."

The new Chief at Cooloola is Leonie Day Wilson. The Friends hope to continue their strong partnership with library management, began back in 1977 when Jean Kesteven and Joyce Lilley began the Friends of the Library group at Cooloola Shire.

Recently, FOLA's Vice President Dr Alan Bundy visited Cooloola Shire Library at Gympie as guest speaker at a Friends function. The Mayoress was so impressed that the Friends are to receive a donation from her Gold Rush Fund!



Cooloola – another inspiring Friends group.

BARRIERS TO SUCCESS

courtesy Southern Ontario Library Service

Sometimes Friends groups do not get off the ground or fail to flourish once established. The following are some barriers that have face Friends groups in the past and some ideas on how to avoid them.

❑ Lack of communication

Probably the most common pitfall.

Friends requests to staff should be channelled through a particular staff member who will coordinate Friends project needs with staff resources so that Friends are not approaching staff directly

Managers should be notified in advance of Friends events and strategies so they can plan to offer assistance when possible

Regularly distribute a newsletter describing Friends activities to the membership as well as to your library authority

❑ Personality conflicts

When personality conflicts arise, these conflicts must be dealt with as they do not go away on their own unless one or other of the “personalities” leaves

❑ Roles not clear

It is important to clearly establish the roles of the library authority, staff and Friends from the outset, preferably in writing

Develop a *partnership agreement* with very specific statements regarding roles and responsibilities

❑ Lack of structure, purpose and goals

Develop a mission statement
Review and evaluate purpose, goals and objectives to see if they are being met on a regular basis

❑ Lack of commitment

The library authority, staff and Friends must want the Friends group to succeed

They must be willing to spend time actively supporting the Friends group in its initial stages

❑ Lack of focus

Some groups try to be all things to all people with the result that little gets accomplished and the group gets discouraged and frustrated

Try to focus on just one project in each of the stated mandate areas, for example, fundraising for renovations or lobbying council candidates in the upcoming election

❑ Lack of recognition and support

Friends efforts need to be recognized and acknowledged
Library and Council need to show their support
Friends group needs to have fun!

❑ Lack of membership

Membership drives must be conducted regularly
Recruit influential members of the community who are well-known and respected
People may be dropped from the mailing list if they don't make a contribution with a certain period of time – keeping the list up to date is important



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**

NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS

FRIENDS OF THE DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

a truly great American FOL group

For over 50 years, the Friends of the Dallas Public Library has been one of the truly great American Friends of Library groups, setting standards and goals for others to achieve, establishing a public focus that has helped build the Dallas Public Library into one of the great libraries in the United States.

**Some key achievements:**

- ❑ Establishing a staff scholarship
- ❑ Setting standards for participation
- ❑ Funding grants for workshops, seminars and conferences
- ❑ Collaborative activities with civic and cultural organizations have played a large role in giving city-wide visibility to the Friends
- ❑ Civic leaders luncheon has been hosted annually – the public relations value is inestimable
- ❑ New library building development
- ❑ Giving support to advocacy, children's activities, library staff support, special collections and programs

What we can learn:

- ❑ Recording the story, how, why, when it happened
- ❑ Numbers count, they influence decision-makers
- ❑ Working together achieves shared success for the city

For more than fifty years, the objectives of the Friends have been simple: listening, advising, helping, giving to the library, but never demanding or restricting.



Dallas Public Library, 1982-present



Dallas Public Library, 1955-1982



Dallas Public Library, 1901-1955

Established on 13 March, 1950, Lon Tinkle, author and newspaper columnist, said, "The idea of an organization was simply to be the Library's friends, without meddling into its business and operations."

Recently, Mayor Robert L. Thornton stated that "No civic group has worked more effectively towards the library than the Friends of the Dallas Public Library."

One year after establishment, the friends were ready to begin an all-out campaign for a new Central Library building. Having increased their original membership to one thousand members, the Friends requested the Library Trustees to seek a place on the next bond program to vote on the issue.

The Friends provided money for a comprehensive library survey – The Martin Survey (Branch Library Services for Dallas) became a model for other cities and a landmark in library development.

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FOLA Facts Sheets (free to FOLA members)	4.50	<input type="text"/>

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

FOLA Committee meetings for 2004:

10 March – Melbourne

12 May – Melbourne

11 August – Adelaide

13 October – Melbourne

3 December – Canberra

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



CATEGORIES

Membership fee (includes GST)
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