



UPDATE

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Celebrating

TEN YEARS

10



Friends of Libraries



Australia

TEN YEARS

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FRIENDS of LIBRARIES AUSTRALIA

FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES AUSTRALIA

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Friends of Libraries
Australia Inc.
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FOLA REPORT

from the president

PETER McINNES

As this will be my last formal report at a FOLA function, I will not attempt a review of a decade of FOLA achievement.

I am well aware that the growth of Friends groups has been well reported elsewhere. For that reason, I choose to be selective; to reflect on issues and highlights of the last eight years.

Eight years rather than ten, because my first involvement with FOLA was at its first biennial national conference, held in Melbourne in December 1996. At that time, I had been involved for ten years with a library Friends group. I admit now, with some embarrassment, that, until I received an invitation to attend, I did not know that FOLA existed.

I enjoyed the conference. The speakers were interesting, and it was pleasant to meet members of the FOLA committee.

However, the highlight for me was a three or four informal meeting at morning tea time with a member from a small municipal library in a Melbourne suburb. We did nothing more than exchange basic information about our respective Friends groups, but the encounter made a lasting impression. Later, I realised why this was so.

I had been a committee member of a Friends group for ten years, but I had never spoken with a member from another Friends group. This, I realise later, was one of FOLA'S

strengths. Through its meetings and publications it allows a network of information to cross the country via Friends groups.

The second biennial conference was held in the beautiful State Library of South Australia, where Australia's first Friends group was formed in 1932.

“my personal highlight was meeting with four representatives from a Junior Friends group from Alexandra”

This time, my personal highlight was meeting with four representatives from a Junior Friends group from Alexandra (population 1900) in central Victoria. They were senior high school students who had arranged fund raising activities and solicited funds from local organizations to allow them to travel by train to Adelaide to attend the conference.

Their President was a keynote speaker at the conference; a speaker who made a significant impression on the participants.

Since then, I have, when talking to Friends groups, recommended the establishment of Junior Friends groups.

This magnificent institution, the National Library in Canberra was the venue for the conference of the year 2000. I recall the splendid hospitality provided by this wonderful

facility, and the papers presented by Doctor Alan Bundy, the then President of ALIA (Australian library and Information Association) and Jennifer Nicholson, the executive officer of that organization.

ALIA is the professional organization for librarians and their libraries. I was at this conference that I first realised the potential for co-operation between ALIA and FOLA, the one representing the providers of library services, and the other the users of those services.

The conference in 2002 was held in Sydney. This too, was a highly successful event. Speakers included Eva Cox, from the Sydney University of Technology, Hugh Mackay, writer for the Sydney Morning Herald, and Mark Latham, whose advocacy for libraries is well known.

The feature common to these four conferences was the obvious enjoyment and benefit derived by members from the informal exchange of ideas, just as I enjoyed my first encounter with a Friends group member in 1996.

I have, so far, allowed myself the luxury of personal reflection on my involvement with FOLA. I would like to conclude this rambling anecdote with a comment about FOLA'S operation and some observations about its future.

All that FOLA has achieved has been achieved by a committee of volunteers. The committee operates in exactly the same way as its member groups: all are volunteers.

FOLA PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Volunteer committees everywhere share the necessity to seek funding, and FOLA would not operate without the subscriptions of its member groups and the support of sponsors.

What then, of the future? In the next decade, I would hope that FOLA is able to establish a funding base which would allow the secure and salaried appointment of a full time executive officer. If

FOLA continues to grow it will become eventually impossible for our present operating structure to provide the services which member groups deserve.

The committee itself should, in my view, remain a voluntary organization, so that FOLA will eventually mirror the structure of ALIA.

Finally, I see the development of a sophisticated website as crucial

to FOLA'S future. The informal exchange of information which characterised our four biennial conferences could be enhanced and extended through information technology.

It remains only to express my thanks for the opportunity to contribute over eight years to a wonderful nation-wide endeavour.

Peter McInnes.
President.



FOLA's Canberra Biennial Conference at the National Library

FOLA's Fifth Anniversary Dinner in Melbourne



Celebrating PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF FOLA 1994 – 2004

📖 FOLA launched by the Honourable Justice Michael Kirby AC, CMG on 9 December 1994 at a function in Queen's Hall, State Library of Victoria.

⑩” Local Council forced amalgamations in Victoria causes growth of Friends of Library groups throughout the State.

⑦” FOLA provides Statement on Compulsory Competitive Tendering process.

🌐 Inaugural Library Week Awards established – Friends of Cooloola Shire Libraries – winner.

📖 1st FOLA national conference held in Melbourne, 7 October 1996.

⑩” Junior Friends of Alexandra Library winner of FOLA Library Week Award in 1997.

⑦ FOLA publishes Mission Statement to assist in growth of Friends nationally.

🌐 2nd FOLA national conference held in Adelaide, 24 October 1998 with keynote speakers: Hugh Stretton AO, Jan Ruff-Oherne, Junior Friends of Alexandra library, Dr Alan Bundy.

➔ FOLA Resource Book (edited Daniel Ferguson) launched at a function at Kay Craddock's Antiquarian Bookshop in Melbourne.

📖 CCT Workshop held at Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne attended by librarians, consultants, government stakeholders. FOLA commissions report on the impact of Compulsory Competitive Tendering in Victoria.

⑩” Honourable Barry Jones AO delivers the Colin S. Watson Oration on 16 May 2000 in Melbourne.

⑦ 3rd FOLA national conference held in Canberra, 20-22 October 2000.

🌐 FOLA establishes a web site – www.fola.org.au that is launched on 8 August 2001.

➔ FOLA initiates and published a 'Friends of Library Group Charter'.

📖 4th FOLA national conference held in Sydney 17-18 May 2002. Keynote speakers include: Eva Cox AO, Hugh Mackay, Mark Latham MP and Penelope Toltz.



Dr Norman Curry with Hugh Mackay

⑩” Baker & Taylor Awards presented by George Coe, President, Baker & Taylor Institutional, to 9 winning entries at the Sydney

Conference.

🌐 FOLA publishes 'FOLA Strategic Plan 2002-2006'.

🌐 FOLA participates in the NSW Country public Libraries Conference in Tweed Heads, 2-4 July 2003.

⑦ Australia's oldest FOL group – Friends of the State Library of South Australia celebrates seven decades.

🌐 FOLA holds a Networking meeting for FOL groups in South Australia, convened by Gerrit Stafford, February 2003 at the State Library of South Australia.

📖 FOLA holds a Workshop at Unley Civic Centre, SA on 'Successful Friends: Creating Partnerships' April 2003.

⑩” FOLA provides a submission to the Senate Committee Report – Libraries in the online environment.

⑦ Executive Director, Daniel Ferguson undertakes extensive tour of New Zealand conducting 5 workshops on 'Developing Successful Friends' in April 2004.

🌐 FOLA agrees to provide funding for a major upgrade of its web site.

🌐 3 December 2004, FOLA celebrates 10 years at a function held at the National Library of Australia, Canberra.

*Baker and Taylor Awards,
Sydney, 2002*



*FOLA Workshop,
Melbourne, 1996*



*2003 FOLA Annual
General Meeting*



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**

Celebrating FRIENDS 1994 – 2004

Euroa (Vic) The active campaign by the Friends of Euroa library attracted increased support from Council for an upgrade of the library, with an additional expenditure of \$48,000.

Woorayl (Vic) Published 'South Gippsland Country Fare' cookbook and sold over 600 copies with 3 months.

Kew (Vic) Celebrated the 10th year in 1995 having contributed over \$35,000 to the library and won a campaign for a new library building. They actively sponsor prominent speakers at monthly meetings, along with monthly booksales.

Cooloola (Qld) have produced an excellent induction Booklet for new members of the Friends, containing information on Council, Library, a Who's Who and How to Do It.

Brighton (SA) Raised in 1996 \$4,425 from their annual booksale. Calico bags and chocolates sold in the library are popular.

Willunga & Aldinga (SA) The Friends computer classes proved successful in both adding to the membership, but in making technology accessible to people of all ages.

Baillieu (Vic) At the annual dinner, cartoonist Peter Nicholson drew cartoons that were auctioned and raised \$450 on the night.

Alexandra (Vic) The Junior Friends raised over \$2,000 for the purchase of a Science and Technology Encyclopedia from a hamper raffle that was supplied with donations from local business and the Rotary Club.

Nunawading (Vic) Collected 1500 signatures in 3 days to halt a branch library closure.



Scenes from Cooloola Shire Libraries

Gladstone (Qld) Friends are offered a discount on the use of the Internet terminals and printing from PC's.

Barossa (SA) Sponsor a local history project, with prizes for local secondary school students.

Stirling (SA) Joined with the library service in the design and issue of bookmarks that double as date due slips.

Tamworth (NSW) Held a 'Paperback, Plonk & Plate' afternoon when local councilors, MPs and local identities were invited to supply a book title important to them. They were then invited to attend an afternoon in which they briefly spoke about books.



Daniel Ferguson presenting FOLA Resource Book to Murray Bridge Friends

Doveton (Vic) Presents an annual Childrens Writing and Poetry Competition for school children, commenced in 1984.

Frankston (Vic) have produced 'A memorandum of understanding' between the library and the Friends, creating goodwill and an understanding of each others roles.

Altona (Vic) Launched a permanent Booksale Room in a disused library garage. The Bookroom is open to the public for sales each week. The room has customized shelving to allow for easy browsing and selection.



In service training day for Friends of Altona Library

Balmain (NSW) Held a Balmain bookworm Christmas Bash in the local Town Hall with a number of high profile local celebrities – a huge fundraising success.

Wollongong (NSW) Attracted over 100 people to a Literary Lunch at a local restaurant with Nancy Bird Walton – Australian intrepid aviatrix.

Geraldton (WA) Assisted the library in having a dedicated seniors PC and established a Seniors Net.

Launceston (Tas) Produced a limited edition of 1000 posters of Stephen Spurling's 'Panorama of Launceston 1881' providing an outstanding promotional and fundraising event.

CELEBRATING FRIENDS 1994 – 2004 (CONTINUED)

Wingecarribee (NSW) Campaigned vigorously for a new library building and were rewarded in 1999 with a new Library and Health Centre complex costing \$5.2 million.

National Library of Australia (ACT) Hold annually the Kenneth Myer Lecture with some of Australia's most eminent citizens being invited to speak.

Stirling (SA) Embarked on a high profile campaign during the local government elections to bring to the public notice the vital role played by public libraries. Letters were sent to all Council candidates.

Portland (Vic) As part of the Centenary of Federation Project raised \$2,300 for a Historical Calendar of Portland.

Hub (SA) Between 1988 and 2000 raised \$120,000 to assist the extension of the library building and its equipment. One fundraising measure was conducting computer courses with the aid of 9 skilled volunteer tutors, raising \$6,000 in 12 months.

State Library of SA (SA) Doubled membership between 1994 and 2001 and contributed to achieving the \$41 million redevelopment of the library building, opened by Rupert Murdoch AC, in October 2003.

Tumbarumba (NSW) presented a Theatre Restaurant Evening and raised \$5,000 with a profit of \$1,000. local newspapers, regional radio and television provided advertising free of charge.

Thuringowa (Qld) Conduct talks and seminars bi-monthly on a variety of subjects – Snakes, Family History, Modern Banking Practices.

Inverloch (Vic) Organised 'Books on Wheels' to the emergency housebound residents. The President is also a member of the Library Advisory Committee on the regional library corporation.



Poster: Junior Friends of Alexandra Library

Gladstone (Qld) Local bookstore agreed to donate deleted stock towards the next Friends booksale.

Inverell (NSW) Produced a Centenary of Federation 2001 calendar of local building with past and present photographs.

Brighton (SA) Members receive a 10% discount from local bookshops – Dymocks and Mary Martin.

Taminmin (NT) Active campaigning for this small group has resulted in an additional \$5,000 for the purchase of new library materials.

Wentworth Falls (NSW) Organised a Literary Winter's Lunch in June and July, that provided for local people and Friends to come together.

Wingecarribee (NSW) Organised a tentative agreement with local FOL groups at Wollongong and Kiama to co-operate in selected activities.

Great Lakes (NSW) Successfully attracted funding of \$31,000 from the Department of Disability Ageing and home care to provide courses for seniors in IT and the Internet.

Ballina (NSW) Provide local merchants with advertising space on date due slips. Also mounted a 'Thousand Books' campaign and received donations of books from publishers.

Murray Bridge (SA) Gift vouchers were given as prizes at the Library's 35th birthday raffle.

Cowra (NSW) Every new baby born in Cowra is given a storybook – Books for Babies.

West Gippsland (Vic) The library corporation sponsored a joint Community Advisory Committee and Friends Day.

Hastings (NSW) Friends conducted a campaign amongst candidates for the local council elections to draw attention to the importance of the library. 24 candidates were written to and responses reviewed prior to the election.

Unley (SA) A new fundraising venture is to have local businesses sponsor magazines in the library.

Maitland (NSW) Produced a calendar depicting drawings of local buildings and landmarks by local artist, and gained local business sponsorship.

Alexandra (Vic) Fundraising of \$40,000 to assist with the purchase of land for a new library building.

Leongatha (Vic) 'Seconds' for a 12 hours period were sold at a cent per second. A wind-up watch is fully wound after all seconds are sold and the winner is the person who purchased the final wound down time.

Heywood (Vic) New people entering the library are invited to join themselves or a friend for \$2. A certificate of membership is then sent.

Unley (SA) positive partnering with the Friends, Library and Council brings winning results — even overturning a first Council motion not to refurbish the library.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A SURVEY OF FOLA AND ITS PROSPECTS

FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS, FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES AUSTRALIA (FOLA) HAS ENCOURAGED AND SUPPORTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY.

Libraries are changing dramatically in the services they provide to the community, Friends groups – the citizens who support libraries with their time, money and talents – are establishing an important niche in this changing market. In the past ten years, many libraries have endured budget restraints and changes to funding levels that place restrictions on ever developing community expectations for provision of new services. Numerous Friends groups have made a significant impact in meeting the challenges encountered by their library authority. In fact, one library authority in Victoria, has 12 FOL groups under its umbrella, and a structure in place that allows for input into policy development. This may well become the model for successful community partnering.

“Numerous Friends groups have made a significant impact in meeting the challenges encountered by their library authority.”



FIRST FRIENDS

Before FOLA became a reality in 1994, the few scattered Friends groups around the country knew very little about each other. Although the first Friends group was at the State Library of South Australia in 1932, it was not until the mid 1980s that Friends groups became a reality in the context we recognize them today. FOLA's work was built upon the foundation laid by the Library Promotion Committee of Victoria. Many of the pioneers here were key players in the formation of FOLA – Eric Flynn, Helen Hayes, Jellie Wyckelsma, Colin Watson and myself. The formation of FOLA came from a working party I established in 1993 with the aim of forming a national body similar to FOLUSA in the United States.

On 9 December 1994, Friends of Libraries Australia Incorporated was formed, with the Hon Mrs Margaret Lusink AM the first president. A retired Family Court Judge, Peg was a most enthusiastic foundation president, and also president of the Friends of Euroa Library in north central Victoria.

FOLA has also been fortunate to have as its patron during the past ten years, the Hon Justice Michael Kirby, Judge of the High Court of Australia, a passionate advocate for libraries and democracy.

GROWING 10 YEARS

This year, FOLA, now represents some 4,000 individual Friends and indirectly representing some 6 million library users associated with those Friends groups. Surely, a remarkable feat from small beginnings. In 1993, meeting in a backroom of the State Library of Victoria, thanks to Jane La Scala, then State Librarian.

“Fortunately, thanks to Bolinda Publishing, FOLA continues after 10 years and is given confidence for the challenges of the next decade”

FOLA's first steps were built on the foundation of one particular sponsor, Phil Walshe, managing director of Australian Large Print Audio & Video (now Bolinda Publishing). Unlike the United States, and Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA), Australia is not imbued with philanthropy in the library sector, something that assisted significantly the development of FOLUSA in the past 27 years. Fortunately, thanks to Bolinda Publishing, FOLA continues after 10 years and is given confidence for the challenges of the next decade.

In 10 years, FOLA has been able to witness the growth of FOL groups from 64 in 1994 to over 160 today. FOLA has been able to provide guidance and support in the establishment of new FOL groups, provide consulting services and information in dealing with difficult issues, disseminate practical advice through the *Friends of Libraries Resource Book*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

(edited Daniel Ferguson), a quarterly newsletter *NewsUpdate*, and will shortly provide further information on a much improved web site at www.fola.org.au.

Significant to success has been bringing people together at our national conferences – Melbourne 1996, Adelaide 1998, Canberra 2000 and Sydney 2002. We have also been fortunate in securing some outstanding speakers, Australians who are also passionate about libraries – Hon Barry Jones, Hugh Stretton, Hugh Mackay, Mark Latham MP, Dr Alan Bundy and Eva Cox.

In the past five years the awarding of the Baker & Taylor Best of Friends Awards has provided a market-window and recognition of the range of activities and development of Friends groups around Australia. Groups such as – Great Lakes, Cooloola, Toowoomba, Unley, Salisbury, West Gippsland, Kew, Altona, Launceston and large institutional groups such as the State Library of South Australia and the National Library of Australia.

PARTNERING THE FUTURE

One of the most exciting developments on the Friends scene has been the growth in partnering opportunities between the library and the Friends group. The harnessing of resources, strategic planning and a willingness to co-operate, each with a particular role to play, has brought about some significant achievements – a disused garage at Altona (Vic) is now a booksale room that contributes to weekly booksales bringing with it 'PR', goodwill and a steady income stream for the Friends. At West Gippsland (Vic), the CEO John Murrell recognizes the value of having 12 FOL groups, and has arranged for representation of Friends interests on the Regional Library Board. At Great Lakes (NSW) a successful \$31,000 Department of Disability

Ageing and Home Care grant for seniors IT training. And at our oldest FOL group – Friends of the State Library of South Australia, close working relations with the library over more than 70 years, contributes to goodwill and understanding, bringing a much needed \$41 million library redevelopment.

FOLA plans to focus on and strengthen its Australia-wide and world-wide partnerships in the coming decade. Recent discussions in New Zealand makes one aware that many groups face the same issues and problems.

Also, raising the political profile for libraries and to help Friends use the powers of their voices to ensure that libraries are supported, is most important. And this was recognized when FOLA made a submission to the Senate Committee Report – *Libraries in the online environment*.

FOLA could not have accomplished much of its present work without some notable individuals and support. For the past seven years our President, Peter McInnes, a consummate chairman and facilitator who has molded much of our success, documented in our plan of action 2002-2006. Our



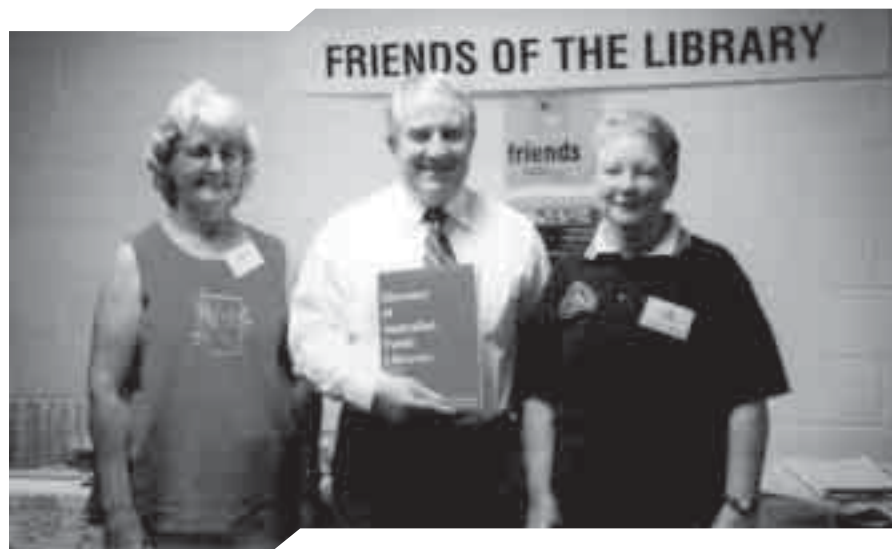
(l-r) Daniel Ferguson, Gerrit Stafford, Jim Mason

Treasurer, and a most able backstop to my own operations, Margaret Broeks, who like Peter, has reigned also as President of their own Friends organizations – Baillieu Library and Altona Library. And notable sponsors and committee members, thank you.

In the end, it will be those who love and are librarians that ensure a safe and secure future for our libraries.

As library needs become more complex and more acute, our supporters will need to become more vocal and more united. For just 10 years FOLA has been a uniting force for Friends in Australia, today and in the future, this organization can only be sustained by the effectiveness and resolve of our members, citizens who use libraries – Friends.

DANIEL FERGUSON



Dr Alan Bundy speaks to the Friends of Cooloola Shire Library, Gympie

FOLA EXECUTIVE, COMMITTEE AND SPONSORS

FOLA patron:
Hon. Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG

Presidents:
Hon Margaret Lusink AM
Peter McInnes

Vice Presidents:
Hon. John Cain
Colin Watson
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Dr Alan Bundy

Treasurer:
Margaret Broeks

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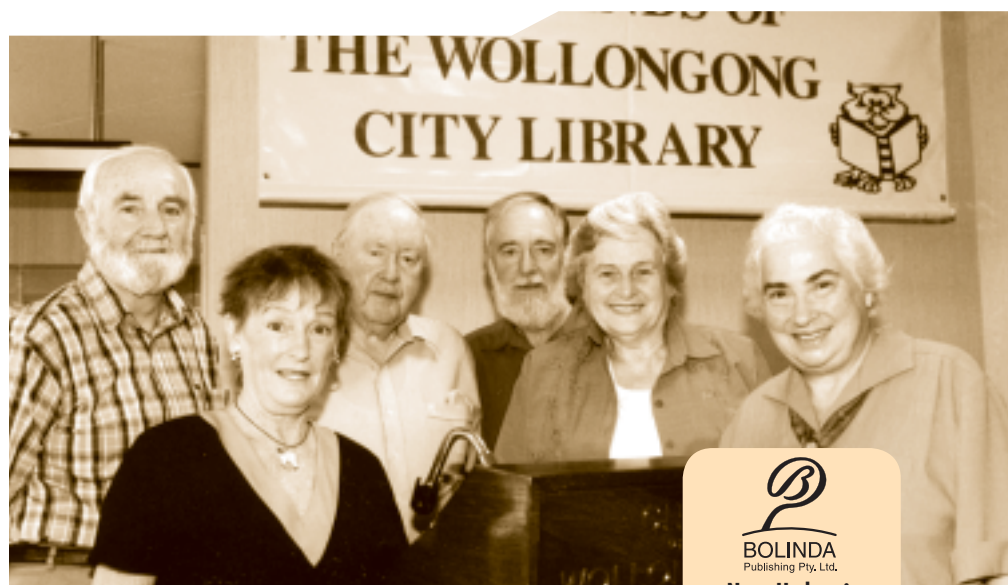
*David Williamson
at the National Library*



Peter McInness with Kay Craddock



Dr Alan Bundy



Friends of City of Wollongong Library: l-r Ron Pretty, Vivienne Sawyer, Fred Moore, Terry Fox, Ada Rayner, Dorothy Jones Photo: courtesy Mark Newsham



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NEW RESOURCE BOOK COMING SOON!

Friends of Libraries Resource Book (2004)

Edited by Daniel Ferguson

New format and updated including new information on: establishing a Friends group, incorporation, insurance and public liability, library management issues, how to, and much more...

The authoritative guide and source book for Friends of Library Groups in Australasia and beyond.

FURTHER DETAILS:

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Freecall 1800 335 364

Please send me details of cost and availability of Friends of Libraries Resource Book (2004):

Name/Organisation/FOL group:

Address:

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

FOLA Committee meetings for 2004:

3 December – Canberra

FOLA Committee meetings for 2005:

16 March – Melbourne
11 May – Melbourne
25 August – Toowoomba
12 October – Adelaide

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



CATEGORIES

Membership fee (includes GST)
incorporating News Update

Individual	\$18	➔
FOL Group – 0-25 Members	\$30	➔
FOL Group – 25+ Members	\$60	➔
Libraries	\$120	➔
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Extra copies of News Update	\$10 per annum	➔

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