

## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events



*(l-r Dr Alan Bundy, Daniel Ferguson, Judith Hansen, President Friends of Hastings Library, Peter McInnes – presentation of Baker & Taylor Award at the 10th anniversary function National Library of Australia, 3 December 2004)*

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# Dear Library Friends...

From Dr Alan Bundy,  
Fola President

In December 2004 Friends of Libraries Australia (FOLA) celebrated, at the National Library of Australia, its first ten years as only the world's second national association for Friends of Libraries groups. At the end of the occasion I had the privilege of succeeding the FOLA President Peter McInnes and of acknowledging his great contribution to FOLA's development in that capacity for the past seven years. I am grateful that Peter had agreed to remain a member of the FOLA national committee.

Also acknowledged at the occasion, for outstanding voluntary contribution to FOLA in its first ten years were Margaret Broeks (Treasurer), Phil Walshe (major sponsor) and Daniel Ferguson, the FOLA Executive Director and the inspiration behind the foundation of FOLA.

FOLA launched at the occasion its first Report to the nation. It has been widely circulated to federal and state government ministers, to appropriate associations, and to public libraries. FOLA has already received very positive feedback about it. The report is also accessible on the new FOLA website [www.fola.org.au](http://www.fola.org.au).

At its Melbourne meeting on 16 March your national committee will be considering topics for further reports, for example children's services, youth services, services to multicultural communities, services to seniors and library buildings.

During my FOLA presidency I would be very pleased to have the opportunity of meeting with your FOL group, whether it is small or large, and possibly speaking to a public meeting in your community about the importance of Australia improving its investment in its public libraries. FOL groups are effectively often the



only voice that local library users have. FOLA is thus effectively the only national voice of at least 12 million Australian library users. In that sense it represents more Australians than any other national organization.

If you would like me to visit you, or I can assist you in any other way, please let me know by email [alan.bundy@auslib.com.au](mailto:alan.bundy@auslib.com.au), fax 08 8278 4000, phone 08 8278 4363, or mail PO Box 622 Blackwood SA 5051.

With best wishes for your library support and advocacy activities in 2005

Yours sincerely

**Dr Alan Bundy**  
President

*"During my FOLA presidency I would be very pleased to have the opportunity of meeting with your FOL group, whether it is small or large"*

# AUSTRALIAN BOOKSTART

Australian Bookstart: a national issue, a compelling case prepared by Dr Alan Bundy, FOLA 2004.



On 3 December 2004 Friends of Libraries Australia (FOLA) celebrated, at the National Library of Australia, Canberra, its first ten years. FOLA launched at the occasion its first Report to the Nation. It has been widely circulated to federal and state government ministers, to appropriate associations, and to public libraries. FOLA has already received very positive feedback about it. The report is also accessible on the new FOLA website [www.fola.org.au](http://www.fola.org.au).

And staff time, were major constraints on them doing so. From research and British, US and other international experience, a nationally inclusive, systematic and evaluated Australian *Bookstart* program provided through public libraries in association with early childhood health agencies, would provide an outstanding national literacy development return for a low overall investment of \$2 million pa. Such a program will require leadership from the Australian government and cooperation between it, state/territory, and local governments.

The *Report* outlines the following issues: Beginning with *Bookstart*, the UK *Bookstart* scheme, *Bookstart* research, *Bookstart* in Australia and New Zealand, the survey, Libraries involved in a *Bookstart* program, Libraries not involved in a *Bookstart* program,

Building a literate nation: the key role of public libraries, Survey conclusions, A matter of quality, Potential partnerships, How much would a national *Bookstart* program cost?, What form could a national *Bookstart* consultation take?

Feedback to FOLA about the report through its author, Dr Alan Bundy, is encouraged [info@auslib.com.au](mailto:info@auslib.com.au) or PO Box 622 Blackwood SA 5051 fax 08 8278 4000.

*"The report is intended as the first of a series of annual FOLA Reports to the Nation to highlight the unique place and importance of libraries in Australia"*

The report is intended as the first of a series of annual *FOLA Reports to the Nation* to highlight the unique place and importance of libraries in Australia, in so many people's lives, from 'cradle to grave'. The reports will also emphasise the investment-return of much greater expenditure on public libraries, beyond the present low 7c per Australian per day.

*Bookstart, Born to read, Books for babies, read with me* or *Let's read* programs generally endeavour to ensure that all babies, through their parents or caregivers, receive a free kit from their local public library containing at least one quality board book, information on the critical importance of developing the literacy of children by reading to them as babies, and information on library membership and storytimes. A 2004 survey of Australian public libraries showed that a number of libraries were involved in forms of *Bookstart* programs, and that many others wished to provide *Bookstart*. Lack of funding

# FOLA 10TH

## 10TH ANNIVERSARY



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# @ NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

Photographs from the celebration of FOLA's 10th Anniversary, December 2004

1. Jenny Gleeson welcoming Friends
2. Daniel Ferguson, Peter McInnes, Lauren Donald
3. Daniel Ferguson (in The Ferguson Room)
4. Dr Alan Bundy, FOLA President
5. Daniel Ferguson & Peter McInnes, retiring FOLA President
6. Jenny Gleeson, Chair FNLA
7. Dr Alan Bundy and Peter McInnes, launching web site
8. Phil Walshe, FOLA sponsor
9. Murray Drinnan, web site designer
10. Daniel Ferguson & Phil Walshe



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# Friends around Australia



## News, Events & Ideas...

### Baulkham Hills (NSW)

Having moved into a magnificent new library building in 2004, the Friends have more than 220 members across the Shire and have raised more than \$50,000 since inception in 1994. The library building has become a major drawcard to librarians across the State.

### Marion (SA)

This newly formed group is developing many activities to attract members and raise money. They hold quiz evenings, film mornings and barbecues, and also have a Book reading discussion group. The Friends meet monthly at the Marion Cultural Centre Library's café.

### Wagga Wagga (NSW)

\$500 was recently presented to the Library by the Friends to supply a core collection of reading material to the Riverina Juvenile Justice Centre. The material is vitally important to inmates of the Centre. The Friends see this as very much a part of their charter to promote the library in the community.

### Balmain (NSW)

The Friends annual Christmas Party was addressed by Dorothy McRae-Mahon, who spoke about her book – *Memoirs of Moving On*. Chair of the Friends, Jan Aitkin also gave an update of recent negotiations with Council on improvements to the Balmain Library – a major, and on-going campaign for the Friends.

### Taminmin (NT)

This small school community library FOL group in the Northern Territory recently achieved a major boost. They were the recipients of a grant submission from the Territory Government of \$750 for Seniors month. Local bush poets were invited along with members of the public who read poetry, which contributed to a booklet being published.

### Cooloola (Qld)

Friends recently celebrated 25 years of service. Council treated 110 members of the Friends to a sumptuous buffet. The Mayor said they needed to show their appreciation for volunteers working on behalf of the community.

### Willunga & Aldinga (SA)

FOWAL has a project to have primary school students write animal books for children in developing countries. Over sixty lovely books are being sent to East Timor. Just one of many community projects undertaken by the Friends!

### Salisbury (SA)

In 2004, Olive Snuggs received the Mayoral Achievements Awards for Seniors. Olive was an inaugural member of the Friends as Publicity Officer and later became President in 2001.

### Drouin (Vic)

Friends of Drouin Library are a small dedicated group formed only in August 2004. Already they have lobbied the Library to have a rear entry for wheel chair access to be available at the library, following several minor accidents. They have also lobbied local Council and Vic Roads for a controlled pedestrian crossing next to the library. At present they are raising funds for updated shelving and improvements to the library building and in February held a Ficcifolia Festival.

### Inverloch (Vic)

The Friends held their 3rd annual writing competition for young residents in the district. This type of project again received the full support of the local primary schools. The winners were rewarded with a book voucher from the local bookshop and a calico FOIL Library Bag. Winners read their work at a function in the library, with parents and many proud grandparents attending.

*"FOWAL has a project to have primary school students write animal books for children in developing countries. Over sixty lovely books are being sent to East Timor."*

**Friends around Australia**  
(continued)

**National Library (ACT)**

In December, the retiring Chair of the Friends, Jenny Gleeson concluded her term, with a function on the 7 December. The Director-General, Jan Fullerton accepted a \$10,000 cheque from the Friends, to help fund the new Treasures Gallery. The new Chair in 2005 is Warwick Bradney, who has been a member of the Friends since 1996.

**IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S  
STORYTELLING PROGRAM**

**Friends of the Toowoomba City  
Library (Qld)**

After the arrival in the area of many immigrant and refugee people, the Friends decided to arrange the Immigrant Women's Storytelling Program. To enable these women to fully partake of library activities and facilities, a scheme was developed by the librarians, supported by the Friends to encourage these new people and their children into the library.

The project will run over eight weeks in November-December and continued in February 2005. The first sessions held at the Toowoomba Refugee and Migrant Services Centre, followed by a further two sessions at Toowoomba TAFE conducted by library staff.

Tours of the Library and displays of materials helped women to appreciate the scope of the library and learn how they and their families can benefit. Many joined the library immediately and borrowed material to assist literacy.

The Friends made an initial donation of \$2,000 to cover cost of the program, money they believe will bring immediate and lasting benefits. (Full details of the program on the FOLA web site [www.foia.org.au](http://www.foia.org.au))

*"The Friends made an initial donation of \$2,000 to cover cost of the program, money they believe will bring immediate and lasting benefits"*

**Celebrating**  
**Just the beginning!**

FOLA celebrated a significant event in Canberra on the 3rd December 2004. Not only 10 years as a national organization representing Friends groups across the nation, but also, the second umbrella group worldwide. Although our Friends membership spans over 70 years, commencing with the Friends of the State Library of SA, formed in 1932 and our most recent member group, the Friends of the Prospect Library in South Australia formed just a few months ago, the Friends of Libraries movement and the development of Friends in Australia is very, very recent.



However, when we look at the worldwide library scene, at United Kingdom, New Zealand, Singapore, Denmark, the United States and Australia, common features emerge, despite some local variations. And while many of us may think that what happens in another country has little or nothing to do with our own 'local' Friends groups, in fact, over time trends emerge and a commonality of 'interest' becomes the defining characteristic for Friends of Library groups.

The lesson to emerge after only 10 years for FOLA, is, we are young, growing and important in the development of our library culture. Friends in Australia can be as successful as any in the world.

Friends across our nation have contributed to the growth and development of our library infrastructure. FOLA congratulates the individuals and groups that have made our libraries stronger and looks forward to sustained growth over the next 10 years for us all.

Daniel Ferguson

Friends of Libraries  Australia

# FOLA

**5<sup>th</sup> biennial national conference**  
Adelaide 13-15 October 2005

**State Library of South Australia**  
(Location of Australia's first Friends group in 1932)

**5**

**Issues**  
Report to the Nation, Developing a Friends web site, Producing 'quality' newsletters, Membership – it's No. 1, Let's get 'political', Nuts & bolts – a practical how to, National issues – a national concern, plus Keynote speakers.

**Details soon**  
[www.fola.org.au](http://www.fola.org.au)

**Registration commences**  
July 2005

**Further information**  
Daniel Ferguson, Executive Director  
[dferguson@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dferguson@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au)

### 2005 FOLA Executive, Committee and Sponsors

**FOLA Patron** Hon Justice Michael Kirby AC, CMG

**President** Dr Alan Bundy (SA)

**Vice President** Peter McInnes (Vic)

**Secretary/Treasurer** Margaret Broeks (Vic)

#### Committee

Chris Awcock (Vic), Elaine Chippendale (Qld)

Dr Peter Chippendale (Qld), Judith Field (NSW)

Joyce Lilley (Qld), Jim Lowden (Vic)

Gerrit Stafford (SA), Rae Webb (Qld)

#### Liaison Members

Patricia Chigwidden (SA), Prue McCausland (Tas)

Kerrie Mott (NT), Bill Tully (ACT)

**Executive Director** Daniel Ferguson

#### Sponsors

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#### Honorary Life Members

Agnes Gregory, Hon Margaret Lusink AM

Peter McInnes, Jellie Wyckelsma

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



### CATEGORIES

Membership fee (includes GST) incorporating News Update

Individual	\$18	<input type="checkbox"/>
FOL Group – 0-25 Members	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/>
FOL Group – 25+ Members	\$60	<input type="checkbox"/>
Libraries	\$120	<input type="checkbox"/>
Institutions	\$120	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corporations	\$120	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extra copies of News Update	\$10 per annum	<input type="checkbox"/>

### RETURN ADDRESS

#### FOLA Inc.

Locked Bag 1315,  
Tullamarine, Vic. 3043  
Phone: (03) 9338 0666  
Fax:(03) 9335 1903

### PAYMENT DETAILS

My cheque/money order is made payable to:

Friends of Libraries Australia Inc.  
Locked Bag 1315,  
Tullamarine,  
Vic. 3043

**Amount enclosed \$** \_\_\_

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### FOLA COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2005

11 May – Melbourne

25 August

Toowoomba (AGM)

12 October – Adelaide

14 December – Melbourne