

## 40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



*Friends of Altona Library (Vic) presented the birthday cake for the 40th celebration of the first library building in Altona. The Friends group was established in 1987 and has been a driving force in library development in the area. The group was founded by Daniel Ferguson (Executive Director, FOLA) during his time as Library Manager.*

*Photo l-r: Cr Renee Caruana (Mayor, City of Hobsons Bay), Cr Leigh Hardinge (City of Hobsons Bay), Peter Hunt (Director Community Services), Anne-Marie Schwirtlich (State Librarian and CEO), Daniel Ferguson (FOLA) Suzanne Gately (Libraries Co-ordinator, Hobsons Bay Libraries).*

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# Libraries build

In the last ten years there has been increasing research aimed at demonstrating how public libraries—the 'new village green' as social researcher Hugh Mackay describes them—uniquely help build communities and that social capital which is so greatly needed in many parts of Australia. Much of this research has come from the UK, the US and Canada. There have been, however, some noteworthy examples from Australia. These include Eva Cox's 2000 *A safe place to go: libraries and social capital* [http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/pls/publications/pdf/safe\\_place.pdf](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/pls/publications/pdf/safe_place.pdf) and in 2004 Candy Hillenbrand's MA thesis *Public libraries as developers of social capital* (University of South Australia), parts of which have been published in March and June 2005 issues of the journal *Australasian public libraries and information services*.

Adding to the evidence about the great value of public libraries — and to the need to fund them much better than the current 7c per Australian per day — are the outcomes of a two year Victorian study which is the first comprehensive Australian study looking at the value public libraries bring to their communities. *Libraries building communities* confirms that no other agency has such a wide role, a broad and diverse range of users, and actual and potential impact on the community and the quality of lives.

The study sought the views and ideas of almost 10,000 people via online and telephone surveys, focus groups and interviews and aimed to increase community awareness of the scope of public library services and show how public libraries can help achieve government policy goals. For library staff and Friends of Libraries groups it:



- presents clear new data on the contribution libraries make to their communities
- provides case studies that show how Victorian public libraries lead in innovation
- identifies groups that are not currently well served by their libraries, and offers solutions
- builds awareness of the critical social capital and community role of public libraries.

*"Libraries ... uniquely help build communities and that social capital which is so greatly needed in many parts of Australia"*

The findings of the study are presented in four reports, and are reviewed in an executive summary.

## Report one: Setting the scene

Covers the concept of community building, the Victorian government's policy agenda, the Victorian public library network, project methodology, and relevant research.

## Report two: Logging the benefits

Outlines community views on the role and benefits of public libraries.

# COMMUNITIES

## DEVELOPING SOCIAL CAPITAL

### Report three: Bridging the gaps

Provides socioeconomic demographic profiles of library users and nonusers, as well as strategies for bridging the perceived gaps in public library service delivery.

individual parts from the State Library of Victoria's Online Shop (libraryshop@slv.vic.gov.au.) However check with your library as it may already have ordered its copy.

### Report four: Showcasing the best

Gives over 30 examples of innovation and excellence in Victorian public libraries.

Here's a suggestion. When you have access to the four reports, ask four members of your FOL group to read through one of the reports each, and review at your next meeting what information and evidence can be used for advocacy for improvements to your library service, or in publicity about your library's value to the community you represent. If you take up this suggestion your summary (up to 250 words) for the next FOLA Newsletter of what you gained from it would be most welcome.

*"Libraries building communities is an outstanding example of research which should be read and used for local advocacy by every Friends of Library group in Australia."*

*Libraries building communities* is an outstanding example of research which should be read and used for local advocacy by every Friends of Library group in Australia. You can download your copy free at [http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/about/information/publications/policies\\_report/plu\\_lbc.html](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/about/information/publications/policies_report/plu_lbc.html). *Libraries building communities* is a big report and it is really worth investing \$38.50 + \$7.00 p&h in Australia to buy a boxed set of the five

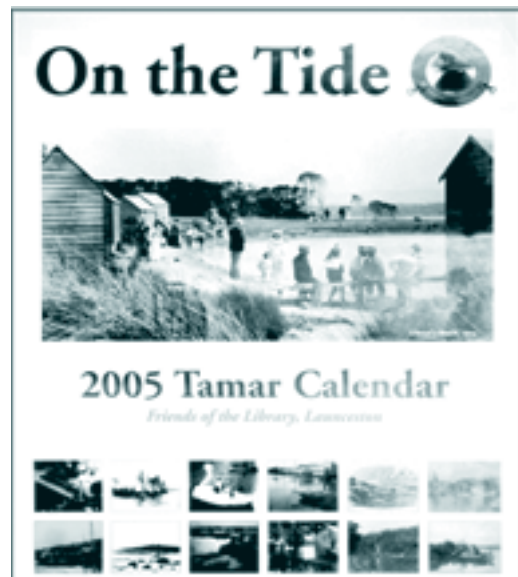
**Dr Alan Bundy AM**  
President

## On the Tide

### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY, LAUNCESTON

Once again, this Friends groups have established themselves as leaders in producing high quality calendars. The 'porthole' photograph at the top right of the calendar has become a marketing logo for 'On the Tide' books, postcards and now calendars. The photo is of an unnamed Norwegian sailor and is held in the Library's Local Studies Collection. Sales to date have exceeded 500.

As another mark of success for the Friends, they are undertaking a project for the bicentenary of Launceston, and have received a \$16,000 grant for the project.



# Friends around Australia



## News, Events & Ideas...

### Balmain (NSW)

Another well-attended AGM for FOBL at which Tony Stephens, Walkley Award journalist, long-time member of FOBL, library supporter and local resident addressed the meeting. His title was – *Obituaries (Et Other Bits Et Pieces)*. He spoke of his 45 years in journalism, his many books and articles from Politics to Sport and his present work to celebrate the 175th birthday of the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

### State Library (SA)

Work of the Friends was acknowledged in the recent Annual Report. Former Director of the State Library of SA stated: "Friends' volunteers have served an essential part in the Library's redevelopment; their patience, perseverance, helpfulness and dedication have played a major part during the transition period from the old Library to the new".

### Salisbury (SA)

Friends Committee endorsed providing \$12,000 for library projects, including, PC chairs for Salisbury West and Ingle Farm; language kits for all branches; Salisbury Reading Programme and equipment for the Sports Library (mainly Mawson Lakes).

### Willunga & Aldinga (SA)

'Chocolate Dark and Crunchy' was the poetry session held with local poet David Cookson, together with wine and chocolate – all for a gold coin! FOWAL recently presented the library with a \$2,000 computer for the children's area.

### Thuringowa (Qld)

2005 marks 10 years for the Friends of Thuringowa City Libraries. Booksales since 1998 have raised \$8,935. 1997 Friends bought the first item for the library, a printer, and last year they purchased 6 easy chairs for the magazine section, valued at \$1647.

### Launceston (Tas)

Children's programs received \$500 from a Trivia Night going towards board books and big books for the children's area. A number of Friends help each week in the song and rhyme sessions for toddlers. Friends also provided 'baby bundles' for all children born locally during Library Week.

The annual Book sale in March raised over \$6,000 for purchase of recorded books, large print and DVDs. The sale, organized and run in cooperation with Riverside Lions Club, was the most successful ever.

### National Library (ACT)

Author! Author! – Literary Sundays with Contemporary Writers have included, Louis Nowra, Peter Goldsworthy, Kate Grenville, John Birmingham and David Malouf.

Lauren Donald, acting Executive Officer of the Friends, has accepted a position as the Events Coordinator of the National Library. Lauren was instrumental in helping to organize FOLA's 10th anniversary celebrations at the NLA last December. The new Executive Officer is Jillian Edwards who comes from a background at the National Film and Sound Archive and National Botanic Gardens.

### Wagga Wagga (NSW)

Friends recently organized a trip to the wineries of the Rutherglen region and an afternoon tea for the volunteers who assist with housebound readers, and other voluntary work during the year.

### Bendigo (Vic)

This newly established group have been busy producing brochures, newsletters and membership cards that include a 10% discount at the local Collins Bookshop, thanks to Mandy and Trevor at Collins. In May they held an evening "Trials & Tribulations of Collecting Antiquarian Books" with Darren Wright.

*"This newly established group have been busy producing brochures, newsletters and membership cards that include a 10% discount at the local Collins Bookshop"*

## Friends around Australia (continued)

### Euroa (Vic)

*Writers on the Road* held in February was presented by Maureen McCarthy, with many students from the local Euroa Secondary College attending. The group will have FOLA President, Dr Alan Bundy in July for the Mid Winter Lunch. Literary Afternoons with Friends are held at 2 pm each month.

### Kew (Vic)

Outstanding speakers and a high return from book sales – two of the hallmarks at Kew. April speaker was Anne Scott, City of Boroondara Citizen of the Year and world president of the Olave Baden-Powell Society, and in May the guest was Dr Frank Heckes, Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of California. Funds raised from recent monthly book sales were: \$858 and \$717.

### Barossa (SA)

The Friends recently awarded prizes in the 2004 Local History Competition, an annual event that encourages local students to write essays and produce models. The two-day bumper book sale raised over \$1,000

### Stirling (SA)

Many Friends attended a recent Council meeting of the Adelaide Hills Council, obviously a great help to seeing a motion for a new library development that was passed by Council. The recent book sale was described as outstanding, with \$2400 being raised.

### Wingecarribee (NSW)

Friends made a presentation to Nancy Shearer of the Brown Bookshop, the owner for the past nine plus years. Nancy decided to sell and have a rest. New Owners have joined the Friends, so the association with the Bookshop continues – *an important relationship for all FOL groups!*

*The recent book sale was described as outstanding, with \$2400 being raised*



## Regional Friends Get Together

*Report by Jellie Wyckelsma  
(Honorary Life Member FOLA)*

In March, West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation invited three representatives of the 12 FOL groups in its region for the 4th annual 'Get Together'. This year's venue was another Winery, in the Gurdies, in the Bass Coast Shire.

The Friends were addressed by the Chairman of the Board, Cr David Taylor (Bass Coast Shire) and by the Chairman of the Community Advisory Committee, Janet Cram, who is also a member of the Friends of the Cowes (Phillip Island) Library.

Cr Taylor suggested that during the next twelve months all FOL groups should try to double their membership and also that FOL Groups should contact their Council representative and "use" him or her if needed to.

The CEO of the WGR.Library Corp., John Murrell, spoke of regional issues, eg. Opening hours, promotion and publicity, finances and grants etc. and last and not least gave all Friends present the opportunity to raise, sometimes candid questions. Of course he praised the work Friends do for the libraries and was also very aware of some of the concerns raised by them. All discussions were open and fruitful. The meeting included a wine tasting from the Gurdies Winery and a fruit and sandwich lunch.

The guest speaker after lunch was the TV Script and Drama Writer, Alan Cram, who disclosed the challenges and pleasures of writing for TV. His talk was most informative and entertaining. Everyone is looking forward to another success year and... the next Get Together for the interaction and exchange of ideas amongst friends.

# MEETING *of* FOLA GROUPS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Report by **Gerrit Stafford**  
(FOLA committee member, SA)

The 3rd annual meeting of FOLA groups in South Australia took place in the Lecture Theatre at the State Library on 22 March. Representatives came from: Barossa, Campbelltown, The Hub Library, Marion, Norwood, Playford, Stirling, University of Adelaide Library, Unley, Willunga & Aldinga and Woodside. Apologies were received from the Murray Bridge group and the meeting was chaired by Gerrit Stafford. An address of welcome was given by Dr Tony Shinkfield AO, President of the Friends of the State Library of SA.

The chairman then introduced Alan Smith, Director of the State Library of SA, who spoke to the meeting about the value of friends. Speaking from twenty-five years experience with museums, art museums and libraries he described "Friends" as the heart of the library. They build the link between the library and the community and play a vital role in converting non-users to users. He maintained that any library without a friends group is a sad library and those with friends groups are more active. His talk was received enthusiastically.

After a tea break, members of the groups reported on their recent activities. Paul Wilkins of the Friends of the University of Adelaide Library spoke of the recent water damage to some 3,000 books, the message being, have a good disaster plan prepared.

Michael Rowney from the Friends of Unley Library, reported that the new library had been refurbished and a new librarian appointed. A change had been made to their constitution so that they became a volunteer group, and therefore came under the Council's insurance cover. In August they acted as host of the FOLA, annual general meeting, which was well attended. From the funds raised, \$500 has been given for the Goodwood easy reading set and \$1,000 provided for the home services.

Jay Allen of the Friends of the Hub Library, informed us that the group, formed in 1991, had a committee of 7 and a membership of 80. They raise \$8,000 a year from computer classes together with another \$1,000 from other sources such as quiz nights and book sales. Each year they give the library \$1,000 and have provide funds for furniture and blinds.

Joan Lewin of the Friends of Playford Library reported that they had held four book sales during the year and had provided eight hundred green bags for the home library service. They intend to buy some outdoor furniture for the Elizabeth Library. The Christmas raffle raised \$1,000.

Christyl Markovic from the Friends of Stirling Library was pleased to report on a new library. The building will also house the toy library and Historical Society. Fund raising has been limited to book sales, the last raising \$2,500. The group was fortunate to receive a bequest of \$30,000 from a women who had been home bound.

Jill Stevens of the Friends of the Barossa Library reported that during the year they had supported the library's "Big Book Club". At these evenings they provide catering. This is not only a source of income but also a means of getting new members. Support during the year has been given to the Faith Lutheran School History Project. The Chief Librarian is very supportive of the Friends and they are represented on the Library Strategy Committee. Membership is 150.

Those present expressed the desire that another meeting should take place next year in the same location. The Chairman thanked Helen Williams, Executive Officer, Friends of the State Library SA for making arrangements and a tour of the Mortlock Wing followed the meeting.

*"Speaking from twenty-five years experience with museums, art museums and libraries he described "Friends" as the heart of the library."*

# FOLA 5TH

## 5TH BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

13-15 October 2005

**VENUE:** State Library of South Australia, Adelaide

**Keynote speakers:**

**Peter Goldsworthy** – Author & Chair of the Literature Board of the Australia Council

**Dr Alan Bundy AM** – President, FOLA & recently retired University Librarian, University of South Australia

**Murray Drinnan** – Managing Director, Forward Compatible

**Dr Tony Shinkfield AO** – President, Friends of the State Library of South Australia

**Jan Aitkin** – President, Friends of Balmain Library & former Arts executive



## Recognition – it counts!

**F**OLA President, Dr Alan Bundy has been recognized in the Queen's Birthday Honour's List by receiving the Medal (AM) in the General Division Order of



Australia. This award for service to university, school and public libraries, professional development, promoting the role of librarians in educating use of information resources is a thoroughly deserved acknowledgement for one of our greatest supporters. Alan has, since and prior to the establishment of FOLA been a passionate acknowledger of the value and role of Friends in the community. All members of FOLA throughout Australia wish him well.

Also, recognized for her contribution to library services, was Jan Fullerton, Director General of the National Library of Australia. Jan has during her period at the National Library been both supportive of FOLA and enhanced the development of the Friends of the National Library of Australia.

Recognition in a different form was recently given by the Friends of Altona Library, by presenting a magnificent cake to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the first library building in the City of Altona.

Friends can recognize the library on various occasions by saying *thankyou* – it makes a difference. Similarly, the library can celebrate and thank the work of the Friends with an annual event. Building relationships enhance the social fabric and develop the *social capital* – the intangible resources of community, shared values and trust upon which successful Friends group operate. Just look at the most successful groups in our community.

Daniel Ferguson  
Executive Director

*Friends can recognize the library on various occasions by saying thankyou – it makes a difference*

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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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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### FOLA NEWS UPDATE

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### FOLA COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2005

25 August  
Toowoomba (AGM)  
12 October – Adelaide  
14 December – Melbourne