

SUMMER  
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# FOLA

NEWS UPDATE

## WINNERS! BEST OF FRIENDS 2005



*Photo: Pat Lakey (Librarian, Castlemaine Library, Vic), Denise Jepson (President, Friends of Castlemaine Library, Vic), with Cr Dave Gittus (Mayor of Castlemaine). Winner of FOLA Baker & Taylor Best of Friends Award, Small Library category 2005.*

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Daniel Ferguson  
Executive Director



# Clouds on the Horizon

Succession planning is not strong within Friends groups. What will happen next, is rarely given thought. Most groups are busy arranging the next activity, meeting, booksale, campaign. Simply put – ‘just surviving’.

The recent closure to one of our most successful groups in the country – Friends of Kew Library in Victoria, after some 20 years of stirring commitment and service to the library community, begs the question. How do we keep going? How do we survive?

Most FOL groups are by nature, individuals who have time to donate to the library, voluntarily giving many hours of committed service. When those individuals can no longer, physically commit this time, groups often struggle – rarely do we have a ‘succession plan’. Business, industry, trade unions, and libraries face this reality – a disappearing ‘corporate culture of experience’, perhaps one of the most valuable assets to an organisation, including Friends groups.

Very often, well-established Friends groups have difficulty in recruiting new members because they are perceived by the community as a closed organisation – in other words that the officers are always the same and the programs and book sales are always the same. You can say you are interested in new membership or you can show that you are by handing the reins over to someone new to try something new.

One of the most important ingredients for membership is promotion, opportunity for participation, and follow-through. Your goal should be to ensure that every single person in your library community knows that there is an effort underway to increase support to the library

through Friends membership. Every member in your community should be invited to join and once they do, they should hear back from your organisation right away thanking them for their support. Some good examples of this ‘PR’ can be found at Great Lakes and Balmain in New South Wales and West Gippsland in Victoria. In other words – the ‘PR’ machine is well-oiled.



Perhaps the most effective mechanism for succession planning is to see the establishment and growth of junior Friends. Our past-president, Peter McInnes has stated – it would be my

wish to see every library in Australia having a Friends group, but also, that many should support the establishment of a junior Friends group.

The continuing efforts of librarians such as Libby Koeschet at Alexandra in Victoria is but one direction. Supporting the establishment of successive children to take an active role in library affairs can only enhance our long term survival. Have a talk to your library manager and children’s librarian about initiating a group for young people. Ask yourself – why does our library not have a Junior Friends of the Library group?

**“Start by doing what’s necessary: Then do what’s possible; And suddenly you are doing the impossible”. – St Francis of Assisi**

Daniel Ferguson  
Executive Director

*“One of the most important ingredients for membership is promotion, opportunity for participation, and follow-through.”*

FOLA Baker & Taylor

Best of Friends  
**WINNERS**



*Debbie Sommers (Friends of Hastings)  
with Dr Alan Bundy.*



*Patricia Chigwidden (Friends of Unley)  
with Dr Bundy.*

*Elaine Chippendale (Friends of  
Toowoomba, receiving for the  
Friends of Ipswich) with Dr Bundy*

**WINNERS**

- Friends of Castlemaine Library, Vic (Small Library entry)
- Friends of Hastings Library, NSW (Medium Library entry)
- Friends of Wollongong Library, NSW (Large Library entry)

**HIGHLY COMMENDED**

- Friends of Ipswich Library, Qld
- Friends of the Unley Libraries, SA
- Friends of Willunga and Aldinga Libraries, SA



*Daniel Ferguson  
with Joan  
Siviour (Friends  
of Willunga &  
Aldinga).*



# TIPS FOR SUCCESS

The Committee of the Friends of the National Library of Australia have been considering methods that could increase the Friends membership and encourage a broader age group to get involved in the Library's Activities. With this in mind, two members of the Friends committee and two members of Library staff met with twelve young people from the public service graduate intake program to talk about their perceptions of the National Library, the Friends of the NLA and what, if anything, would encourage them to join the program. After two hours of lively discussion, the main outcomes were:

- All knew of the NLA and had a respect and admiration for it
- All knew its purpose
- Some had used the NLA frequently for study, and appreciated the availability of up-to-date books and the peace
- Others used only the café and bookshop
- Others never came in, but admired the building as they walked past
- Almost no-one knew about the Friends of the NLA

By the end of the meeting, after National Library staff had shared some of the joys of the library and extolled the benefits of the Friends of the NLA, several people joined, and all offered good ideas for expanded Friends activities. A sub-committee of the Friends will continue to work on this topic and report back in future newsletters.

All Friends groups should undertake a study in the local area similar to the above. The strategy could take the form of:

- Two members of the Friends committee and two members of the library undertake the project
- Survey the public who use your library and survey a local secondary school at senior level

- If you have time and resources, also survey those who do not enter your library, for example, take the survey to the local senior citizens club or community group

The outcomes may surprise you. FOLA will publish any findings in *NewsUpdate*.

## Take a look

Other Friends newsletters and web sites are a constant source of encouragement, ideas and stimulation for all Friends groups. Here are a few overseas examples, take a look.

*Friends of the Paloalto Library*

[www.friendspaloalto.org/news.htm](http://www.friendspaloalto.org/news.htm)

Outstanding library news – keeping members well informed of activities and programs at the library.

*Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries*

<http://www.fscpl.org/>

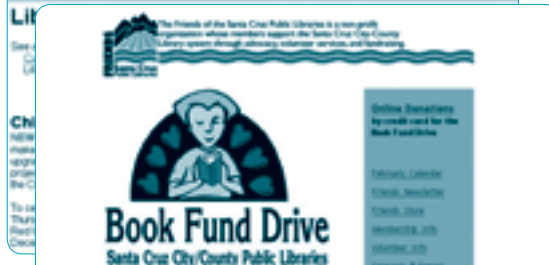
A great newsletter with the title – *Check It Out*.

*Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library*

[www.thefriends.org/about\\_the\\_friends.htm](http://www.thefriends.org/about_the_friends.htm)

Outlines a clear Mission Statement from an award winning FOL group.

*“By the end of the meeting ... several people joined, and all offered good ideas for expanded Friends activities.”*



# 5th BIENNIAL **FOLA** CONFERENCE **REPORT** 2005



FOLA's 5th biennial national conference was held in Adelaide on 14-15 October 2005. During the two day conference, Life Membership was presented to our past president, Peter McInnes, recognising his almost 9 years as President of FOLA and for his involvement on the committee and as President with the Friends of the Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne. The annual FOLA Baker & Taylor *Best of Friends Awards* were also presented, and Dr Peter Goldsworthy presented the 3rd Colin Watson Oration in the presence of Colin's widow, Marie Dowling.



*Dr Peter Goldsworthy who delivered the 2005 Colin Watson Oration, with Marie Dowling and Dr Alan Bundy.*



*Herma Sieper and Jan Aitkin (Friends of Balmain Library) with Patricia Chigwidden and Margaret Warming (Friends of Unley Library), both winners of the FOLA Baker & Taylor Best of Friends Award.*



*Dr Alan Bundy (FOLA, President) with Daniel Ferguson (FOLA, Executive Director) at the launch of the new FOLA Friends of Libraries Resource Book.*



*Peter McInnes (FOLA, Past President) receiving FOLA Life membership from Dr Alan Bundy.*



*Alan Smith (Director, SLSA), Dr Peter Goldsworthy, Gerrit Stafford (FOLA, SA), Dr Alan Bundy (FOLA, President)*

# Friends around Australia



## News, Events & Ideas...

### Geraldton (WA)



The Library, with the assistance of FOGL, hosted a number of author visits and book launches. These functions provide a great opportunity to showcase the library, attract new library users and add

a literary element to the cultural life of the City. A 'Big Sky Literary Festival' was held in September as a fringe event of the Sunshine Festival when Nick Earls was special guest

### Port Macquarie-Hastings (NSW)

Two very successful events recently were the "Remember When" writing workshop and "Souper Stories" evening. Both events attracted 50 people. Story tellers John Hockney and Morgan Schatz Blackrose entertained with stories and the soups, desserts and refreshments were amply supplied by the Friends. These events raised over \$350.

### Barossa (SA)

Jill Stevens, President recently reported on a busy year for the Friends. During the year the Friends have purchased two energy audit kits, provided library bags, a new Friends information board, supported the year 9 local history competition, purchased facsimile editions of items from the State Library and Meet the Author visits along with regular booksales.



Mary Moody visits the Lehman Wines Cellar Door in 2004, organised by the Barossa Council Public Library and catered for by the Friends of the Barossa Library

### Thuringowa (Qld)

The October booksale made \$1445. Books not sold have been donated to Lifeline and the Women's Shelter. The council celebrated its 126th birthday and during this event the Friends were awarded a 'Spirit of Thuringowa Award' for services given to the library after 10 year.

### Toowoomba (Qld)



The November Newsletter captures much information for Friends. It includes "A Report to the Nation" profile from Dr Alan Bundy, interesting trivia, 'If you would like to Write', "A word from Alexander McCall Smith (author)", "Michale's Website Discovery", "A few books you may

enjoy", "Who's reading what?" (committee members and library staff), "FOLA Conference Report", "President's Websites", "FOL Youth Group" and much more. – a good newsletter for Friends!

*"Thuringowa: The October booksale made \$1445. Books not sold have been donated to Lifeline and the Women's Shelter."*

### Wagga Wagga (NSW)

"Christmas Meeting and Launch of Level Zero opening" In December the Friends held the last meeting for the year and celebrated the opening of the new automatic door allowing entry and exit on the lagoon side of the building. Champagne helped celebrate the evening.

### Wingecarribee (NSW)

Friends announced the purchase of a new addition for the Bowral Library. A textile panel called "Spring" by local artist Jean Collyer. The panel took 7 months of work and the inspiration for it came from the artist's garden and rosella parrots who feed there.

*"Friends were represented at Government House when a morning tea was held for volunteer groups around Victoria."*

## Salisbury (SA)

About 30 Friends attended the Christmas meeting in November and were entertained by 'DJ' Gary Lockyer and Father Christmas who dispensed gifts to everyone. Local councillor Betty Gill also attended. A Christmas Dinner was held in December at the Salisbury North Football Club.

## Stirling (SA)

"Mayor's casting vote gives new library to Adelaide Hills", so reported President Ruth Giles in the latest newsletter. The Friends of the Library, Stirling and the Mt Lofty Districts Historical Society are jointly planning a community-building and fund raising program to support the development of the new library for Adelaide Hills. The member for Mayo, the Hon Alexander Downer, launched the program on 14 December at the Coventry Library.  
– *Friends making the difference!*



## Euroa (Vic)

FOLA President, Dr Bundy recently spoke at a meeting of the Euroa Friends. The talk inspired the Friends to continue working to improve library services and funding they receive from local authorities. Local Shepparton bookseller gave a talk at a recent meeting, mentioning his best sellers at present: *Total Well-being Diet* and *French Women Don't Get Fat?*

## Kew (Vic)

At the AGM in September, the members present voted to close Friends of Kew Library Inc. as of 30 December 2005 and give assets to the Kew Branch Library.

This is a sad close to a most remarkable group who have for more than 20 years raised the profile of FOL groups in Victoria and been a contributing force in the development of Friends nation wide. One of the main factors for closure has been the age of the membership and the work falling to fewer people.

## Willunga & Aldinga (SA)

Several Friends groups in the Onkarpargina area are debating the worth of adopting a new constitution and slightly altered status. The advantages would be mainly in the possibility of lessening the burden of insurance. The Friends committee are reviewing some drafts.

## Altona (Vic)

Friends were represented at Government House when a morning tea was held for volunteer groups around Victoria. The 'Big booksale' held recently raised over \$1,645. Help in setting up for the sale came from the Altona Meadows Lions Club – *Friends helping friends!*

The Friends excellent bookmark, with dates of booksales for 2006 was recently released (certainly helps with 'PR' for a FOL group that achieves big \$\$).

## Balmain (NSW)

Friends held another very successful Christmas



Party in December with guest speaker, Alison Pressley, editor of *Good Reading* magazine. The magazine, launched 5 years ago is produced in Balmain.

## National Library of Australia (ACT)

Friends have elected a new committee with Terry Birtles as Chair. A number of new members were elected to the 2006 committee. A new members evening was held in January. Friends are inviting Friends from around Australia to visit the NLA for the National Treasures exhibition with an incentive of a special accommodation package of \$70pp at the Forrest Inn and Apartments, close to the library.

**Bookmark:**  
"One machine can do the work of 50 ordinary men. No machine can do the work of one extraordinary man."  
ELBERT HUBBARD  
ALTONA LIBRARY  
122 QUEEN STREET  
ALTONA 3018  
PH 8622 1335

**BIG BOOKS:**  
Friday, November 24 10.00am - 11.00am  
Saturday, November 25 10.00am - 11.00am  
Friday, October 6 10.00am - 1.00pm  
Saturday, October 7 10.00am - 1.00pm  
Friday, November 10 10.00am - 1.00pm  
Saturday, November 11 10.00am - 1.00pm  
Friday, December 1 10.00am - 1.00pm  
Saturday, December 2 10.00am - 1.00pm

**FOR MEMBERSHIP DETAILS CONTACT:**  
MARGARET BROOKS  
President  
PH 2006 2815

# Friends of Libraries RESOURCE BOOK (2005)

**Daniel Ferguson, Friends of Libraries Australia (FOLA)**

*New format with updated and new information including:*

- Establishing a successful Friends group
- Keeping your Friends 'active'
- Incorporation
- Public liability
- Library management issues
- How to
- Latest and best ideas and much more

*The authoritative guide and source book for Friends of Library groups in Australasia*

## ORDER FORM

Name .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

Please send me a copy of Friends of Libraries Resource Book (2005)

Enclosed is my cheque for \$65.95 plus \$10 postage & handling (cheque payable to – Friends of Libraries Australia Inc.)

Mail to: FOLA Locked Bag 1315 Tullamarine Victoria 3043 Australia

www.fola.org.au

## 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 \$ \_\_

### ADDRESS DETAILS

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Friends of Libraries Australia Inc.  
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### FOLA NEWS UPDATE

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### FOLA COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2006

- 8 March – Melbourne
- 10 May – Adelaide
- 24 August AGM – Sydney (Balmain)
- 11 October – Melbourne
- 6 December – Melbourne

### 2006 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) Gerrit Stafford (SA)

**Liaison Members**  
Patricia Chigwidden (SA), Prue McCausland (Tas)  
Kerrie Mott (NT), Bill Tully (ACT)

**Executive Director** Daniel Ferguson

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