

WINTER
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FOLA

NEWS UPDATE

'Friendship is essentially
a partnership'

Aristotle

A fine partnership

The Friends and the State Library of South Australia have been in a mutually rewarding partnership for over 70 years. As a result, the State Library has gained immeasurably with enriched collections, support for programs and the work of volunteers. The Friends benefit from knowing their efforts are part of a seven-decade tradition of cultural philanthropy — helping to build a better community now and in the future.



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Daniel Ferguson
Executive Director



Innovation & persistence

Our big picture is all about the detail.

Over the past 13 years, FOLA has grown from a support agency encouraging the development of Friends groups in Victoria and South Australia to a recognised contributor to the Australian library scene. The story is one of innovation, persistence and growing community contribution. This success, and our reputation are due in no small part to the passion and dedication of our members and the community of Friends for whom no detail is too small.

The Friends of the State Library of South Australia share more than 70 years of innovation, persistence and community contribution. Friends of Mackay have 25 years of service. Countless groups around the country, be it one year or many more, believe in encouraging the development of libraries and the tenants they uphold in our society.

Did you know that in 1975 there were 45 active Friends of Libraries groups in Germany. The only country to have more groups at that time, was the United States. In the past 10 years, Friends groups have developed

and grown in the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, other European countries and Australia. And today, more than 300 groups exist in Germany, the second largest network of Friends of Library groups in the world.

Friends of Library groups worldwide are extremely valuable, not only promoting public libraries, but also in the way they are effective supporters in helping to influence decision makers. Fostering these groups is an important and effective assignment for Library Associations worldwide, *i.e.* Australian Library & Information Association (ALIA).

Building a platform for the next decade will be one of the many discussion points facing FOLA in October, when we review our strategic plan for the coming five years.

Our next *NewsUpdate* will focus on some of these issues worldwide. For the 'detail' for successful Friends is often surprisingly similar from where ever you look.

Daniel Ferguson
Executive Director

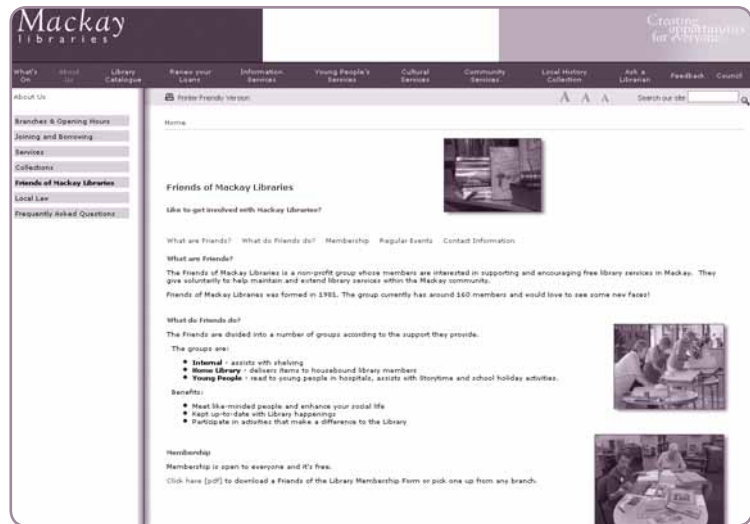
"Friends of Library groups worldwide are extremely valuable, not only promoting public libraries, but also in the way they are effective supporters in helping to influence decision makers."

Inspirational and Uplifting

Friends of Mackay Library (Qld) recently celebrated 25 years. Carmel Baretta, President of the Friends of Mackay Library recently wrote to FOLA President expressing the following:

May I take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks for the publication of an inspirational and uplifting magazine, FOLA (Update) Winter/Spring 2005 was particularly helpful to our committee. Many of the ideas shared on page 10 have already been implemented.

- We are sponsoring first prizes in all categories of Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Awards.
- A guest author has been invited to attend a Cheese and Wine Evening hosted by the Committee.
- Membership certificates of 5, 10, 15 and 25 years are presented to our members in recognition of their contribution to 'Friends'.
- Silver label for library card identifying 'Friends'.
- Bus tour of neighbouring libraries and museums planned.
- Profiles in local newspapers of members who have recently been honoured with life membership.



The Mackay Friends web site www.mackaylibraries.com.au/about_us/friends_of_mackay_libraries offers a simple and effective promotion of – *What are Friends, What do Friends do, Membership, Regular events and Contact information.*

Friends of Mackay Library are an **inspirational and uplifting** group.

In recognition of their service to the community and FOLA, our President, Dr Alan Bundy recently presented the group with a FOLA certificate of 25 years service.

Congratulations.

www.mackaylibraries.com.au/about_us/friends_of_mackay_libraries

HIGHLIGHTS *from* 4th annual meeting of FOLA groups in South Australia

Gerrit Stafford (FSLSA & FOLA) chaired the annual meeting of Friends groups in South Australia in April at the State Library of SA. Alan Smith, Director of the State Library addressed and welcomed members then the President of FOLA, Dr Alan Bundy AM spoke to the meeting. Groups represented included: Barossa, Campbelltown, Glenelg, The Hub Library, Murray Bridge, Playford, Stirling, Marion and Willunga & Aldinga.

Barossa – Jill Stevens reported that visits from authors had been very successful; William McInnes and Peter Goldsworthy both spoke at meetings. Money received from these events was used in purchasing a disc resurfacer for the library. Currently the Friends are being trained on the new library management system. Friends have offered various prizes for a writing competition .

Playford – Joan Lewin told us they had held various successful book sales and raffles. A day was organised for visitors from the Friends' groups of other libraries, and was a great success. About 140 people who use the home bound service and some attended an afternoon tea in the library recently. Friends recently visited the West Torrens Library and in May held their next book sale. Funds will go towards work on the library courtyard. Joan again stressed the good relationship that the Friends have with Jacki Stretton, the Librarian.

Stirling – Ruth Giles reported on the new building project, which depends on the sale of \$2million of Council assets. \$1,500 was raised for the little book club, which provides books for the youngest readers. A recent book sale raised \$2,000. The group is looking for some fund raising sponsorships.

The Hub – Don Webster informed us that the Library, a joint use between Council and the Education Department, has been operating for

over 5 years. Two book sales are held each year during school holidays and runs for a fortnight during which Council staff help. The last sale raised \$800. Funds are also raised by computer classes than range over three to five sessions, and the money raised is spent on computer equipment. Insurance has been a problem, but now the four libraries of the Onkaparinga Council are combining to form a blanket body with one insurance policy. Solomon the python at the Hub Library is now thirty two years old and thriving!

Campbelltown Library – Kevin Day reported that they are going to have a new library and their group had visited the Goolwa and Victor Harbor Libraries. They have been involved with Council in the consultation process. They have a good Friends committee and having just returned from overseas, he was pleased to find that Friends of Libraries groups were everywhere in the world.

Willunga and Aldinga – Joan Siviour told us that apart from raffles they hold a two day book sale which raises over \$1,000. They have organised a puppetry session for children based on the stories of Hans Christian Andersen. A fun night was held for Halloween and a children's colouring competition. Last year she gained a senior award from the Council. Each year the Friends create a Christmas tree for a competition held at the Uniting Church, and last Christmas they won a prize with their tree made from CDs.

Murray Bridge – Susanne Job reported that as member of the Library Facilities Committee she is concerned to get a new library building. The present library is on the third floor of a building and the toy library two streets away. The Council is looking towards a new library as part of a shopping centre. Friends membership fluctuates between ten and forty members.

"A day was organised for visitors from the Friends' groups of other libraries, and was a great success."

"Raffles, chocolate sales, quiz night and a film morning have raised \$2,000".

Glenelg – Wendy Edwards said that the Holdfast Bay Council provides two libraries – Glenelg and Brighton. For tis 10th birthday in 2005 the Council had a mural put on the wall of the Children’s section, produced by two local artists. A fashion parade from local boutiques was recently organised along with a wine tour to the McLaren Vale. In April, Nancy and Ian Flannery read letters of Sir Douglas Mawson, who lived in Brighton. They are looking to establish a book club, for which members with be offered a discount. At present they hope to amalgamate two groups, there are fifty members in the Glenelg group and ninety in the Brighton group.

Marion – Shirley Strain reported that during the year they had received a request to provide funds for the upgrade of the Library’s foreign language collections, and they provided \$3,000 for nine languages. Raffles, chocolate sales, quiz night and a film morning have raised \$2,000. There are 430 children enrolled in the “Reading Rules” programme which they support. In the coming year they intend to produce a cookery book for sale to the public.

The 4th successful Friends gathering concluded. Thanks to Gerrit Stafford who chaired the meeting and to Helen Williams, Executive Officer of the Friends of the State Library of SA, who made all the arrangements.

AGM AT BALMAIN (SYDNEY)

The 12th Annual General Meeting of FOLA was held on Thursday 24 August 2006 at Balmain Town Hall in Sydney.

FOLA were the guests of the Friends of the Balmain Library. At the meeting, FOLA’s 3rd *Report to the Nation: Supporting students: the educational contribution of Australia’s public libraries* was launched by FOBL President, Pam Dingle.

New members elected to the FOLA executive for 2006/07 were: John Murrell, CEO of the West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation (Vic) and Dr Mariella Totaro-Genevois, from the Friends of Balmain Library (NSW).

The evening concluded with a wonderful supper provided by FOBL.



NOT HAPPY AT HEYWOOD

"Council was using volunteers in breach of Australian Library and Information Association policies."

Heywood Library will be moved to its new location in the former council chambers following renovations that are due to be completed soon. The library is moving into another portion of the building it currently occupies despite the opposition expressed by the Friends of Heywood Library (Vic) last year.

Friends of Heywood Library secretary, Colin Brown said the current library was adequate and the money would be better spent on

library staff. The Friends, with a membership of over 80 are refusing to volunteer in the library after the group claimed the volunteers were being exploited, said Mr Brown.

FOLA President, Dr Alan Bundy, who has visited the group, said council was using volunteers in breach of Australian Library and Information Association policies.

—The Heywood Herald, 26 May 2006

Friends around Australia

News, Events & Ideas...



Salisbury (SA)

A Meet the Author function was held in June with Carol Altmann, author of *After Port Arthur: Personal stories of courage and resilience ten years on from the tragedy that shocked the nation*. Australian test cricketer and author Ashley Mallet was another Literary Luncheon speaker and Artist Kim Van Dokken was the AGM guest speaker in August. Friends are helping to promote the 'one Book One Salisbury 2006' during the writer festival in October.

Wilunga & Aldinga (SA)

Friends donated to the 'Cool Poetry Competition' event in schools, where the winners were: Elle Kwok from Reynella East High, Sarah Timmins from Woodcroft College and Sarah Allen from Tabor Christian College. FOWL has been a very active supporter of local artists for many years.

Thuringowa (Qld)

The mini Booksales held each month are continuing to be successful, with promotion coming from all local radio stations. Three tenders had been received for renovations of the library, which go before Council shortly.

Wagga Wagga (NSW)

Microfilming of the Wagga Council Rates Books is proceeding in Sydney, thanks to special funding from the Friends. Successful booksales continue at the Farmer's Markets morning. The 2006 Drop in Stitches campaign which knits squares and the Knit-In in July contributed to the Wrap with Love campaign which provides wraps for warmth in disaster areas overseas.

Wentworth Falls (NSW)

FOWFL organised an 'Art, Books and Collectables' auction together with a Writers' Forum 'From Pen to Publishing and Beyond-a Patchwork of Stories'. The resulting \$4,000 will fund 'Book Start' in the Upper Mountains. A community booksale was held resulting in over \$900 which was sent to the library to buy audio books. Stories in the Park and 'Bunny Sing-a-long' for pre-schoolers to celebrate Beatrix Potter's 140 birthday was held with Morning Tea. A major problem facing Wentworth Fall (along with other groups) is how they can reduce the \$700 public liability insurance costs the council is unable to cover. 2005/06 still, has been an active year for FOWFL.

Wingecarribee (NSW)

October saw the renowned author – Holly Kerr Forsyth talking on *Remembered Gardens – Eight women and their visions of an Australian Landscape*. The function took place at the Henrietta Rose Room in the Bowral Library Complex.

Port Macquarie-Hastings (NSW)

83 people attended the Souper Travel Stories in June and the evening raised \$560 toward the *Bookstart* packs. The menu was in keeping with the travel theme. Soups ranged from traditional Pumpkin, Aussie Stock Pot and Pea & Ham to exotic Mulligatawny, Moroccan Carrot and Hungarian Chicken. Breads from France and Turkey and deserts from Italy and France. All speakers provided themselves free of charge.

Geraldton (WA)

Book signing of *The Buccaneer's Bell* by Hugh Edwards was held on Sunday 4 June at the Theatre WA Museum Geraldton. This event was followed by an Oral History Morning with Stan Gratte, local historian.

Balmain (NSW)

'What Men Don't Talk About' with author Maggie Hamilton was the event held by the Balmain Friends on 29 September. This year's Sydney Writers' Festival described Maggie Hamilton's session as looking "at how the stereotyping of men locks them into a very narrow definition of what being male is, which in turn imprisons men and women".

Jan Aitkin, retiring Chair of FOBL took over the organisation with assets of \$20,000, she left the group with almost \$50,000 in the bank by the end of the year – targeted for assisting with the library redevelopment.

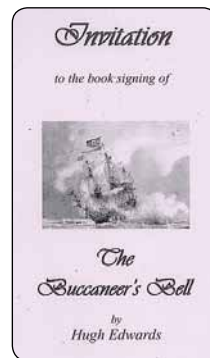
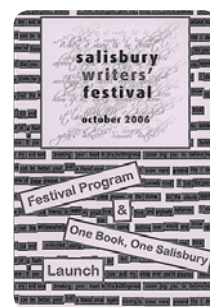
National Library (ACT)

Friends bookclub meets in the Friends Lounge at the NLA one evening a month. The latest book reading is – *Gothic Passion in Wuthering Heights*.

In October the Friends celebrated the literary achievement of author – Thomas Keneally AO and for the launch by Professor Peter Pierce of the Friends' publication 'Thomas Keneally: A Celebration'.

Another popular author for October was, Holly Kerr Forsyth, well known through her weekly garden column in the *Weekend Australian*,

"A community booksale was held resulting in over \$900 which was sent to the library to buy audio books."



discussed important figures in Australian garden design and her book *Remembered Gardens*.

Gallery NGV (Vic)

Prior to the AGM in August, Dr Ted Gott, Senior Curator, International Art, spoke on 'An Amazon's work: Lady Butler and the painting of the 28th Regiment at Quatre Bras, 1875', third in a series of annual lectures.

Altona (Vic)

Friends assisted financially to the National Science Week in the library in August – the theme being "Science and our local environment". In fact the library at Altona was selected by Council to have solar panels placed on the roof. The Friends continue to support schools in East Africa by sending another 8 boxes of books suitable to Primary and Secondary age children.

Castlemaine (Vic)

An air-conditioning system has now been finally installed in the recently renovated library. The Mt Alexander Shire Council backed by a considerable community effort led by FOCAL jointly funded the project. The total cost of the project was \$44,000 of which the Mr Alexander community contributed \$10,000 through donations and proceeds from the ever popular biannual book sales organised by FOCAL.

Bendigo (Vic)

The Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser held in February and August raised over \$1150. The Friends Committee thanks Bunnings Warehouse at Kangaroo Flat and the City of Greater Bendigo Council and the Library staff for the opportunity to support the Library. Friends are reminded that they get a 10% discount from Collins Booksellers when they renew their membership, which is only \$5!

Clare (SA)

The three annual raffles – Mother's Day, Father's Day and Christmas brought in around \$1600 and the annual booksale about \$1200. Colourful stick-on badges made over \$600 in just a day and a half. Recent purchases for the library have included, a digital camera, two sofas, a PA system and books and DVD's, as well as hosting guest authors – not bad for a membership of 18.

Barossa (SA)

The AGM held in August had the pleasure of meeting David Morcom, the new CEO of the Barossa Council. Quite a few Friends recently responded to the appeal in the *Newsletter* for volunteers to train to assist borrowers find their way round the new library computer system.

Making a difference

Castlemaine—Verey Project & Stirling

Friends of Castlemaine Libraries recently announced the completion of the Verey Project. This project was made possible through a grant of \$11,500 from the Department of Victorian Communities. Under the project a CD ROM was produced featuring the work of Castlemaine photographer Adolphus Verey. The Verey company operated in Castlemaine from 1883 to 1950. Some 4500 glass negative plates, mainly named portraits of individuals, were saved from destruction by local identity Ashley Tracey who copied them on to the CD ROM. A FOCAL subcommittee, coordinated by historian Heather Holst oversaw the project.

Adelaide Hills Library

'What does a new library achieve for our community?' Improved and more spacious facilities that will enable improved services for the 15,700 members who visit the Coventry Memorial Library. The new building will see the library continue and further expand its role as a vital hub for the community — for learning, leisure, information — and for simply coming together as a community.

Our first fund-raising event held recently was a great success. David and Janet Rice opened 'Beechwood' for Australia's Open Garden Scheme. As a result over 800 garden lovers enjoyed the autumn colours in the heritage garden and old fashioned Devonshire Teas in the conservatory. The Library fund will gain \$3,700 as a result.

Designs for the Library are proceeding. President of the Stirling Friends, Ruth Giles has spearheaded a campaign for a new library and has achieved Tax Deductibility for the fundraising campaign.

Recognition – Margaret Allen, CEO & State Librarian, Western Australia

Dr Alan Bundy, FOLA President recently presented Margaret Allen with a *FOLA Certificate of Recognition* for her outstanding support and encouragement in the development of Friends of Library groups in Western Australia.



"Another popular author for October was, Holly Kerr Forsyth, well known through her weekly garden column in the *Weekend Australian*."

Friends of Libraries RESOURCE BOOK (2005)

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

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FOLA COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2006

11 October – Melbourne

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