

AUTUMN
2007

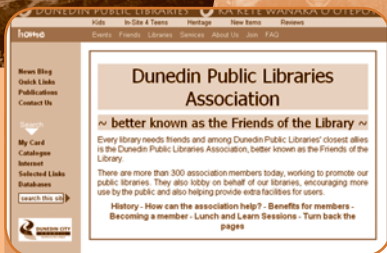
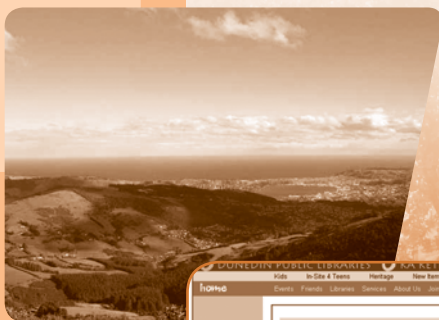
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FOLA

NEWS UPDATE

Remarkable Friends

*Dunedin Friends &
State Library of South Australia Friends*



A Richness of Gifts



AN ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF GIFTS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE STATE LIBRARY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
1933-1992



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Daniel Ferguson
Executive Director



Remarkable Friends

2007 is certainly a moment to celebrate the remarkable achievements of many Friends of Library groups around Australia and New Zealand. 100 years at Dunedin in New Zealand being the first Friends group in Australasia. In Australia, the State Library of South Australia, celebrate 75 outstanding years of achievement. And at the heart of the community, in our public libraries, in Victoria - Altona celebrates 20 years and in Queensland - Toowoomba 10 years.

And why is this so remarkable?

After such outstanding achievements and success, as outlined by Bernie Hawke, Library Manager at Dunedin Public Library, still, we have in our midst, many librarians who are unwilling to allow community support for libraries and *Friends* to develop.

The Friends of the State Library of South Australia have 75,000 reasons to celebrate. Over the years they have donated hundreds of treasures to the Library's collections: rare and important works impossible to purchase from within normal Library budgets. In fact, the latest edition of *extraextra*, newsletter of the State Library of SA, reported that the Friends Committee will spend \$75,000 on donations during this anniversary year along with publishing a history of their first 75 years.

In the 'home' of FOL groups - America, a recent report from Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA) has indicated that in 2006, 754 Friends groups donated over \$50 million to libraries in that year. Some were by small FOL groups, donating \$100-\$200 to Minneapolis Friends who donated \$14 million.

Although Friends are raising more dollars, the more important fact is that they are increasing the profile of the library and stating on behalf of the community - that libraries do matter - they make a difference. This is the message from Dunedin, the State Library of SA, Altona and Toowoomba.

We are indeed fortunate to have some 'remarkable' Friends.

A handwritten signature in orange ink that reads "Daniel Ferguson".

"The Friends of the State Library of South Australia have 75,000 reasons to celebrate. Over the years they have donated hundreds of treasures to the Library's collections: rare and important works impossible to purchase from within normal Library budgets."

Giving Support

Dunedin Public Library Association

by Bernie Hawke, Library Services Manager, Dunedin Public Libraries

I have heard it said that some Library Managers are a little wary of supporting the establishment of a Friends of the Library group and are equally dubious about their benefit to the library. Nothing could be further from my own experience.

While the Dunedin Public Library Association is now over a hundred years old and was a driving force in the establishment of the Dunedin Public Library in 1908, its support is as strong if not stronger now than at any time in its glorious past. The Dunedin Public Library Association is a thriving organisation with over 300 members, coordinates an active series of Lunch and Learn presentations by prominent and interesting local speakers, runs the annual book sales and supports the Dunedin Public Libraries in a multitude of ways.

In 2005, the Dunedin Public Library Association contributed \$25,000 to a project which raised a total of \$162,000 from community funding agencies for the establishment of an international standard exhibition area within the Dunedin City Library to display treasures from the Library's Heritage Collections. These collections include medieval manuscripts, a diverse Bibles Collection, an extensive hymnology collection as well as specialist collections of original works and criticism relating to Charles Dickens, Walt Whitman and many others which would in Australia only be found in the State and National Libraries. The new exhibition area was officially launched in March 2006.

In New Zealand, the Local Government Act 2002, requires that local authorities submit their draft Annual Plan and Budget to a one-month period of consultation during which the community can make submissions on any aspect of the plan. The community also have the opportunity to speak to their submissions which are considered by Council before finalising their Annual Plan and Budget for the forthcoming year.

"The Dunedin Public Library Association is a thriving organisation with over 300 members."



In 2007, the Dunedin City Council Annual Plan and Budget for 2007/08 included a \$26.7M Library Redevelopment Proposal, including the establishment of a new South Dunedin Library and a major redevelopment of the existing Dunedin City Library. In support of this proposal, members of the Dunedin Public Library Association wrote letters to Councillors, wrote letters to the local newspaper, made individual and group submissions, which collectively contributed to a 400% increase in the number of favourable submissions relating to the Library received by Council and contributed significantly to the eventual adoption of the Library Redevelopment Proposal by Council.

Furthermore, as the Dunedin Public Libraries prepares to celebrate its Centenary in 2008, the Dunedin Public Library Association has generously agreed to provide \$25,000 to fund the salary of part time Library Centenary Coordinator, who will not only coordinate the events, activities and promotion for the centenary, but will also actively seek additional funding and sponsorship to support the Library and the centenary programme.

Words are insufficient to express my appreciation for the invaluable support provided by the Dunedin Public Library Association. I would urge any Library Manager uncertain about the benefits flowing from a strong and vital Friends of the Library group to reflect on the support provided by the Dunedin Public Library Association and to embrace this direction of a deep and fulfilling partnership with their community.

A campaign to improve Library Funding in NSW

*from Pam Dingle and Jan Aitkin,
Friends of Balmain Library*

Dear Editor

Libraries starve in NSW.

Bob Carr and Morris Iemma pound the drum for reading and literacy, but the libraries which should underpin access to books and information have been absolutely starved by successive state governments. The NSW government gives less money to library services than any state in the Commonwealth.

It contributes JUST 7% to costs of NSW public libraries WHILE COUNCILS PROVIDE THE 93% balance. This is far from the promise of ongoing support that persuaded many councils to invest in public libraries after the 1950s.

In 2002 the NSW Government spending on libraries was a laughable 0.039% of the State budget while Tasmania managed 0.308%.

Local Councils, which now foot the bill for libraries, are already very hard pressed to provide services. There are a few tiny library grants available but they are very hard to access.

If the government is really serious about reading and literacy it should put some serious money into libraries as well as being major centres for information and internet-based resources.

If we were talking about a new sports arena in a marginal seat there would be no doubt of the outcome. The money would be there.

Let us see NSW become the State that puts the most money into libraries, not the least.

"If the government is really serious about reading and literacy it should put some serious money into libraries."

(Copy of a letter to the Editor, Sydney Morning Herald)

The NSW State Budget 2007/08 decreased Library expenditure by \$1.2m from approximately \$24m to \$23m.

Volunteering

at the Minneapolis Public Library

Why does the library want me to volunteer?

We want you to volunteer at the library so that we can have a great library. Volunteers help us run programs, answer questions and make people feel welcome.

Who are the Friends of the Minneapolis Public Library?

The Friends are an organisation that supports the library. They raise money to support library programs, host special events, advocate for the Library throughout the community and run the volunteer program at the library.

I don't know anything about the library. Can you train me?

We will train you so that you can do the volunteer work you are interested in.

Do I get paid to volunteer?

No, you can not get paid to volunteer at the library, but we can provide a certificate when you volunteer at least 40 hours that you can use on job applications.

I cannot stand for a long time. Can I still volunteer?

We have a lot of volunteer opportunities where you can sit. Let us know about any special needs that you have so that we can try to find you a good volunteer opportunity.

Can I bring my children?

Children over the age of 6 who are independent are welcome to use the library on their own while you are volunteering. It is very hard to watch young children and volunteer at the same time.

Are there volunteer opportunities for my children?

Teens ages 12-18 can volunteer at the library over the summer as a part of Team Read. They can sign up at www.mplib.org/teens.asp. During the school year, teens can volunteer as part of Teen Services Learning. Ask at any library for more information.

How long does a volunteer work?

If depends on the volunteer opportunity. Some opportunities are one day a week for two hours, some are two times a month. There is a volunteer job for almost every time of day.

Who do I call for more information about being a volunteer?

(Give a name and contact phone number, perhaps an email address also)

What library can I volunteer at?

You can volunteer at any library. Call or visit your local library or call – name, phone, email).

Get started:

Visit the Friends of MPL at www.friendsofmpl.org to get an application and further information.

"we can provide a certificate when you volunteer at least 40 hours that you can use on job applications"

WELCOME TO
MALF
MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION
OF LIBRARY FRIENDS

The screenshot shows the Minneapolis Public Library website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the library logo and a search bar. Below the search bar, there is a sidebar with various links like 'my account', 'catalog', 'books, DVDs and more', etc. The main content area features a 'TALK OF THE STACKS' event titled 'Steven Pinker: The Stuff of Thought: Language as a Window into Human Nature'. The event is scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 7 PM. There are also other featured items like 'Hollywood Favorites and More' and 'Sounds of Blackness CD Celebration'.

Friends around Australia



News, Events & Ideas...

Blue Mountains (NSW)

Wentworth Falls library is now lighter and brighter after a recent upgrade provided fresh paintwork, new carpets and air conditioning.

Councillors thanked the Friends of Blue Mountains Library for their support. "The Friends contributed to the purchase of new furniture and fixtures for the branch library and we want to acknowledge their generosity," Cr Hamilton said. "We also want to thank them for supplying the afternoon tea to celebrate the reopening. Foundation Friends member of Wentworth, Jean Nicholson was one of the many Friends present.



Altona (Vic)

The June Friends newsletter reported on Council boosting library funding by \$1 million. The Mayor, Cr Leigh Hardinge (a Friends supporter) stated "Libraries are the backbone of knowledge and understanding, so its really important that councils invest in these vital community services".

The newsletter also reported on another successful Big Book Sale in April, when **\$1,925.00** was raised.

And celebrating success – the Friends of Altona Library turns 20 this year!

Bendigo (Vic)

The Friends are presenting the Goldfields Literary Awards 2007, where the written word is GOLD! With cash and book voucher prizes supplied by sponsors. The latest newsletter listed a number of Book Club and discussion groups, blogs and webs sites of interest.

And another very successful book sale was held in May when over \$1,000 was raised.

Salisbury (SA)

Recent speakers have talked about Fire Safety and the National Toy Museum. In June local radio presenter Peter Goers presented his radio Programme for 891 ABC Radio from Salisbury Library, with many Friends present.



"There are currently 2 book clubs with plans for a third to be started soon. The original book club was started in 2004 and was an initiative of the Friends."

Barossa (SA)

A special general meeting was held in August to make changes to the 1991 constitution. One of the changes was: *On dissolution any funds shall be paid into a trust account of the Barossa Council to be held for six months before being expended by the Barossa Council Public Library.*

Thuringowa (Qld)

There are currently 2 book clubs with plans for a third to be started soon. The original book club was started in 2004 and was an initiative of the Friends.

To coincide with the Library Reopening it was decided to engage in a membership drive, conducted from July 3-6th.

Friends around Australia



"Friends provided food and wine at the launch of the historic microfilmed Wagga Wagga City Council rate books."

Wagga Wagga (NSW)

In July, well-known garden author, Holly Kerr Forsyth returned to give a talk and powerpoint demonstration of many exquisite gardens that featured in her new book – *Remembered gardens*. Friends provided food and wine at the launch of the historic microfilmed Wagga Wagga City Council rate books at a function in May.



Wingecarribee (NSW)

In August, Ian Bickerton, who lives locally, discussed his own history as an academic and lover of music, literature and gardens as well as his recent book about America's wars – *Unintended Consequences*, with Ruth Wilson.

Stirling (SA)

President, Ruth Giles report on exciting developments in Stirling. Watching the rapid progress of our new library, to be completed in January 2008. In July they had as guest speaker, Birgit Stroehrer, architect of the new library building.

Friends welcomed in August, the national committee of FOLA who held their Annual General Meeting on the 23 August at Stirling.

Willunga & Aldinga (SA)

FOWAL contributed to the prize goods for the lucky draws in all library branches during national Library and Information Week. Friends have a Notice Board in the Aldinga Shopping Centre which is updated regularly.

Port Macquarie (NSW)

'Souper Sonnets' was held in June. This is a fund raiser for *Bookstart* a major project of the Friends. Contributions of soups, breads, desserts and fruit juices was appreciated. Poetry was presented by Gill Goater, Bessie Jennings and Rod Worthing.

National Library (ACT)

This year's Kenneth Myer lecture with Michelle Grattan was extremely popular, in fact the lecture theatre was booked out, so in order to accommodate an extra 100 guests, the library ran a live video link to the conference room.

State Library (SA)

In celebrating 75 years of Friends at the State Library of South Australia, some very special events are being held: 23 July – 75th Birthday Party, November – Lectures by John Bannon and Anthony Steel, AGM and Dinner on 21 November and later November - Lectures by Eva Sallis and Mem Fox.



FRIENDS OF THE TOOWOOMBA CITY LIBRARY
NEWSLETTER
ANNIVERSARY YEAR EDITION
Volume 19, Issue 2
May 2007

10th Anniversary of the Friends of the Toowoomba City Library

Ten years ago the Library Manager, Roslyn Cousins, approached some of us with the view of forming a Friends Group.

Since that time the Friends of the Toowoomba City Library has had a floating membership of some 100 to 150 members. Their annual subscriptions together with various fund raising activities have provided the Library with substantial financial support for a variety of projects and undertakings which the Library staff from time to time have deemed desirable.

In addition the Committee organises a number of social functions, book launches, guest speakers and combine the Annual General Meeting in December with a Christmas Party. Not only members, but all Library users are welcome to attend.

Over the past 18 months FOL (Friends of the Library) has supported various projects and purchased various items which were outside of the Library's normal budget to a total amount of \$18,124.87.

This amount of money was raised by means of the proceeds of our monthly Booksales, various raffles and successfully obtaining Government Grants for major items.

As 2007 will see our Tenth Anniversary, we will be holding a celebratory function on Saturday, 28th July. Dr Alan Bundy A.M., President of Friends of Libraries Australia has kindly accepted our invitation to address our gathering. His address will be followed by a party during which our anniversary cake will be cut and distributed.

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Congratulations!

EASTER RAFFLE

WINNER:
K Westwood

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

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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.)

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Individual	\$18	<input type="checkbox"/>
FOL Group – 0-25 Members	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/>
FOL Group – 25+ Members	\$60	<input type="checkbox"/>
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FOLA COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2007

10 October – Sydney
5 December – Melbourne

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