

**AUTUMN**  
**2009**

VOL XVII, ISSUE 55  
ISSN: 1323-0190

# FOLA

NEWS UPDATE

## BALMAIN

Success at last!



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Daniel Ferguson  
Executive Director FOLA



## Volunteer needs of Friends

An organisation that involves volunteers, as with Friends of Library groups, should ensure that all volunteers obtain the knowledge, skills, feedback on work and recognition needed to effectively undertake their responsibilities. *Volunteering Australia*, through the National Volunteer Skills Centre project makes available a variety of materials for use by volunteers and volunteering organisations. These materials, at no cost to the user, are in the form of information sheets, training documents, 'how to' subject guides and toolkits, with modifiable templates for download.

The value and necessity of training for volunteers is widely accepted. The 2006 *National Survey of Volunteering Issues* showed 81% of volunteers surveyed stated that they would personally appreciate having their work recognised by being given opportunities to develop and learn.

Issues that volunteers routinely value are: Face to face training workshops and seminars, Self-paced interactive programs, Education – based on research evidence.

A review of volunteer training has mentioned the following issues: For Volunteers – Improved personal well-being and morale; greater appreciation of the value of volunteering; improved skills that will enhance employment prospects; and increased interest in learning. For the organisation – Increased loyalty of volunteers; enhanced organisational profile; increased organisational accountability; and increased ability to work with different volunteer cohorts. And, for the community – Improved communication and relationships; and societal benefits resulting from improvements in service delivery and OH&S.

With 34% of Australian adults volunteering annually (ABS 2007) it is necessary to explore and implement methods that will enhance volunteer learning and training needs.

The evolution of virtual education has challenged our understanding of the teaching delivery. Where once we would have on the job, face to face, and one to one training, the present environment offers a much more complex mix.

As Bowman and Kearns (2007) state: ... we believe these attributes set important parameters for the evolving role of e-learning in education, training, industry and communities, and for future directions. More *social Learning* together in networks and communities with people connected to each other for learning enhances the quality of learning.

Defined in its simplest form, social networking is a way of linking people to each other. According to a recent US survey, 59% of students aged 9-17 years use social networking. In fact, MySpace have launched Impact – a website that offers social networking to not for profit organisations.

As social networking is still very new, it would appear that it has the potential to offer organisations and volunteers the opportunity to raise awareness of volunteering, volunteering opportunities (ie. Friends of Library groups) and possibly raise the 'volunteering literacy'. *Facebook* and *MySpace* may not be just for the student, but for the senior and all supporters of libraries. It may well be a mechanism to build skills amongst the senior but welcome in a new audience of Friends.

Knowledge, skills and feedback are only a few of the issues for volunteering members of Friends groups. The issue of volunteer literacy also raises important questions of building an 'ongoing' framework for the development of Friends groups, both locally and nationally. Increasing, releasing and valuing the potential of each individual volunteer supporter of libraries.

How are you developing this potential?

*"As social networking is still very new, it would appear that it has the potential to offer organisations and volunteers the opportunity to raise awareness of volunteering."*

# Bilby Program



## @ Wingecarribee



Over the past five years the library has focussed on developing a strong library service for babies, children and young adults. During this time the Friends of Wingecarribee Libraries Inc. has given continuous support.

During 2007-2008 they have provided over \$1000 to enable the purchase of equipment and books to enhance the Bilby Program.

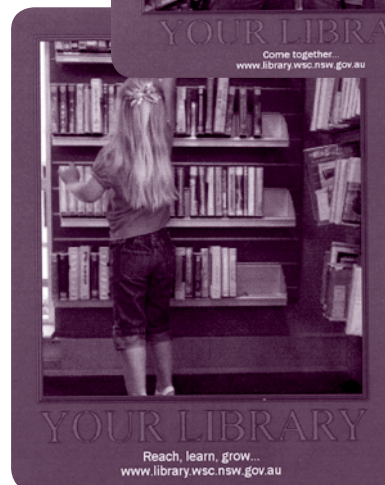
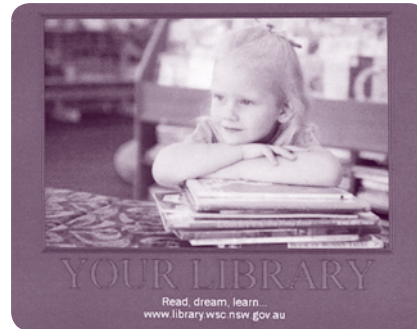
The Bilby Book Club caters for the 0-5 age group. The Program has proved to be enormously successful with the number of Bilby Book Club members continuing to grow. By targeting this age group Wingecarribee Library hopes to establish life long reading habits in very young children.

The ongoing support of the Friends has helped to assure the success of this program.

Friends of Wingecarribee Library donate Mini Treasures for those Bilby Club members who complete a reward booklet.



Friends of Wingecarribee Library recently purchased a Flip Chart Literacy Centre specifically for Baby Storytime



Bilby Book Club members and Friends



Baby Storytime for babies 0-24 months is held every Thursday at 11 am. It consists of songs, rhymes, music and parent-child book sharing. Each session runs for 20-30 minutes.

# Balmain Renewed

**O**n Thursday 19 March, Mayor of Leichhardt, Jamie Parker cut the ribbon to the official opening on the new Balmain Library (NSW). After years of controversy and campaigning, the Friends of Balmain Library witnessed the culmination of years of lobbying on behalf of the Balmain community. A new library was opened to the public. The old Town Hall library had been totally gutted and refurbished, to display a project to which all Friends can be justifiably proud. Years of fundraising and concerted lobbying by a success of FOBL presidents came to end.

Apart from time, effort and dollars, the Friends also contributed to a \$6,000 Glass Window Competition, open to students at the Sydney University College of the Arts, to design a panel of glass windows in the children's section of the library. The winner of



the competition was Danielle Sellers, a young artist and student of the Sydney College of the Arts. These windows, along with the modern refurbished library are a wonderful achievement to the tireless efforts of the Friends of Balmain Library.

**Friends – achieving remarkable outcomes for their communities.**

Friends President (and FOLA committee member), Dr Mariella Totaro-Genevois, stated that “FOBL, our lively association, has special reasons to celebrate this occasion.”



*“After years of controversy and campaigning, the Friends of Balmain Library witnessed the culmination of years of lobbying on behalf of the Balmain community.”*

# Friends around Australia



## News, Events & Ideas...

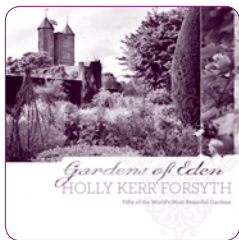


### Port Macquarie (NSW)

The April book sale raised \$1212 for *Bookstart*. And, the Mad Hatter's Tea Party raised \$261 for Australia's Biggest Morning Tea in support of cancer research. The Friends are writing a history of the group, which is expected to be launched in August, during FOLA's visit to Port Macquarie for the FOLA Annual General Meeting.

### Wingecarribee (NSW)

Functions for 2009 include some well-known speakers such as: Holly Kerr Forsyth (*Gardens of Eden: among the world's most beautiful gardens*), Brendan Shanahan (*In Turkey I am beautiful*), Cecile Yazbek (*Olive trees around my table*), Richard O'Brien on American author John Updike and Susannah Fullerton (*Christmas with the Brontes*), as well as usual book sale functions.



### Wagga Wagga (NSW)

Visiting the library in May was Tristan Banks, who had a role in the series *Home and Away*, but has been writing for young readers, notably "Mac Slater: Coolhunter 2" a follow up on his "Rules of Cool". A recent series of novels in the Macmillan's Kid's range, about kids setting up their own businesses and ventures, is intended to interest reluctant readers, especially boys.

### Salisbury (SA)

In March a booksale was held at Mawson Lakes Library, raising \$284 in just a few hours. The Biggest Morning Tea event was held in May to raise funds for the Cancer Council, this followed the March meeting when a Cancer Council Community Educator was speaker.

#### Port Macquarie:

"At the recent AGM it was reported that book trolley sales and book sales had raised \$10,474 in the past year."

### State Library (SA)

Popular lunch hour talks on Wednesdays at One continue throughout 2009 with speakers such as Keith Conlon, Elizabeth Raupach, Gay Bilson, Richard Harris, Karen Grogan, Graham Abbott, Maggie Beer, Rick Hosking, Gillian Rubinstein and the Hon Justice Bruce DeBelle.



Gillian Rubinstein

### Barossa (SA)

A reminder from a recent newsletter as to the aims of an impending function – *the purpose of this event is to raise funds to help our libraries build up useful and exciting facilities for the Barossa community.*

A good example being the \$10,000 contributed by the Friends for the self-check machine at Nuriootpa Library.

Some recent activities have included: a Quiz Night, Meet the Author event, Easter Raffle, Book Sale, a visit from Friends of the State Library of SA, and assistance to a free service teaching basic computer skills.

### Thuringowa (Qld)

At a recent meeting Jean D. Paterson was awarded Life Membership of the group for her long standing membership and work for the Friends.

### Altona (Vic)

Following the demise of the Friends 'Big Book Sales' which had raised many thousand's of dollars over 3 days, a survey was conducted with library customers to ask if they would like an additional book sale day during the year, and received 100% support for the idea. Consequently, a further book sale on the first Tuesday of each month from 9 am -1 pm will be held from July.

# CHALLENGE:

**to find the oldest active Friends of the Library member!**



## Friends of Ipswich Library Service (FOILS) member celebrates his 100th birthday in style.

The 3rd of February marked a huge milestone in FOILS member, Tom Spowart's life. On this day Tom, who has been a member of the Friends group since 2004, and regularly attends FOILS events, celebrated his 100th birthday. Not to be out-done by local media attention, a week of celebrations, and a letter from the Queen, the Friends of Ipswich Library Service set out to show Tom how much he means to them.

First on the agenda was a surprise limousine ride around the City of Ipswich. Tom may have been a little surprised to see a 13 seater stretch limousine pull up in front of the library, however this soon turned to astonishment when he recognised all of the people who stepped out of the limo to greet him – his visiting niece from the USA, four of his very special friends, and FOILS President, Yvonne van de Wiel. Tom was then lured into the limo along with Chair of Tourism & Libraries, Cr David Pahlke, who had been in the process of presenting Tom with a special certificate – all part of the master plan.

The limo toured the city streets with an obviously delighted, though somewhat stunned Tom, whom for the first time ever appeared lost for words. As Tom sat in the back, singing happily to all, the limo headed to the outer suburbs and his home at Ipswich Gardens. Here fellow residents and staff were waiting at

the kerb with banners and balloons to cheer, wave and share in this special occasion. After pulling up for a quick chat, Tom and guests were again on the move, heading back to the Library where *Friday Films with Friends*, the regular movie session organised by the Friends group, was almost underway.

There was, however, more in store for Tom. As the limo pulled up in front of the library, Tom was greeted by fellow Friends and moviegoers who spread along the footpath holding up a birthday banner, popping streamers and blowing whistles. In amongst the group was Ipswich's well known Mayor, Cr Paul Pisasale. Mayor Pisasale then presented Tom with a bottle of port complete with a personalised label, *Tom Spowart Port. Aged for 100 years to smooth perfection*, which was signed by the Mayor and Councillor Pahlke, and included a personal message of congratulations. Next followed the cutting of the cake ceremony.

As Tom sat down to enjoy his 4th birthday cake of the week, Friends and staff pondered whether this recently turned centenarian might be the oldest active Friends member in Australia. Is it so?

***We look forward to hearing from other Friends groups around the country who can answer this challenge.***

*"Tom was greeted by fellow Friends and moviegoers who spread along the footpath holding up a birthday banner, popping streamers and blowing whistles."*

# Case Study:

## Recruitment on the Web



### Recruitment on the Web

Many larger Friends groups have their own Web site but Friends don't have to be large or even computer savvy to host their own web site. By exchanging links with your library's Web page, you can give a well-targeted audience (library users) the opportunity to join and support the Friends.

### How It Works

- Talk to your librarian and find out who manages the library's Web site. Ask if you can work with that person to mount a page for the Friends.
- Keep the page very simple but also fun and exciting by using photos (that change regularly). The library's webmaster can easily scan them in for you.
- Put the mission of your Friend's group at the top.
- Include a category for programs – to show the world all that you do.
- Be clear about how the person looking at the site can participate in the Friends, including, for example:
  - \* How to join
  - \* The types of volunteer opportunities:

- \* Book sales
- \* Book shop
- \* Donation of good used books for the sale (how and when)
- \* Program volunteers
- \* Special project volunteers
- \* When and where the Friends meet
- \* What kinds of officer and chair positions might be available
- \* Include a hyperlink to an e-mail form following each of the opportunities you list so that you can capture someone's interest right away before they forget!
- \* Be sure potential volunteers are contacted right away.

(from FOLUSA's 101 Great Ideas, 2004)

[www.cabq.gov](http://www.cabq.gov)

*"Talk to your librarian and find out who manages the library's Web site. Ask if you can work with that person to mount a page for the Friends."*

**Friends For The Public Library**  
Supporting the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System

**Friends Sponsor 2009 Summer Reading Program**  
Be Creative @ Your Library-May 29-July 25

A free 8 week program @ your library that encourages children, teens and adults to read throughout the summer. Everyone can register, read, and be eligible for fun incentives (prizes). Free programs and workshops in our libraries all summer long!  
Learn more about SRE 2009 | Tell us how you like it-- take our online survey!

**Next Used Book Sale**  
Saturday, July 11: 10 AM-4 PM @ Main Library. Busy that day? Stop by the Main Library Bookshop. Learn more about our book sales.

In addition to the Main Library Bookshop and the Monthly Used Book Sale, you can now purchase gently used fiction @ Juan Tabo Library and @ Lomas Trasmexy Library.

- Libraries Change Lives, but they need Friends like you!
- Read the Spring 2009 issue of *Between Friends*

Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System  
505-768-5167  
Last updated 6/15/09

Email comments to Melina Carlisle: [info@friendsfortheibrary.org](mailto:info@friendsfortheibrary.org)  
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# Friends RESOURCE BOOK

**Daniel Ferguson**

*Due to demand – reprinted with new reduced price!*

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

## ORDER FORM





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

Enclosed is my cheque for \$59.95 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**

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#### Amount enclosed \$

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Locked Bag 1315  
Tullamarine Vic 3043  
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### FOLA NEWS UPDATE

Published four times a year by Friends of Libraries Australia Inc  
Locked Bag 1315  
Tullamarine Victoria 3043 Australia  
Phone + 61 3 9338 0666  
Fax + 61 3 9335 1903  
www.fola.org.au  
Editor: Daniel Ferguson  
dferguson@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au  
Production/Design: Chameleon Print Design  
Printing: Aberdeen Press

### FOLA COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2009

11 March – Melbourne  
7 May – Adelaide (Executive)  
27 August – Port Macquarie (AGM)  
9 December – Melbourne

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