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FOLA

NEWS UPDATE



DEVELOPING FRIENDS @ Mt Gambier Library SOUTH AUSTRALIA



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Daniel Ferguson
Executive Director FOLA



Developing Friends

Friends of the British Library have established two internship positions for book conservators in the Library's Centre for Conservation. Not only does this highlight the critical importance of legacies to the Friends, but how Friends can assist in developing projects that the library may be unable to fund. It also establishes a new link with younger professionals entering the library market and highlights the contribution of Friends of Library groups. Another critical area of development for the British Friends group has been in undertaking a survey of members – 'Telling us what you really want'. The survey designed by a professional market researcher. Many Friends raised specific issues in their responses to the survey – timing of events, location of events, nature of social activities, discounts provided to Friends, use of Friends Lounge, information awareness and how funds are spent.

Has your Friends group ever considered developing internship positions at your library for library students or young people in the community? This is funding the library for the future.

Dr Bundy and I recently visited the new Mount Gambier Library in South Australia to assist in the establishment of a Friends group. Success is virtually guaranteed. Already, they have the unquestioned support of their library manager, Cathryn Harris, but they also have one of the best new library facilities in the country.



Departure of Jan Fullerton AO

With the retirement of Jan Fullerton, Director-General of the National Library of Australia, Friends and FOLA have lost a wonderful supporter. Jan has acknowledged the contribution Friends make to an organization by her encouragement and support in developing the Friends of the National Library of Australia. She exemplifies the best spirit of library management – support from the top. It has clearly made a difference, as the Friends of the NLA are one of the most active Friends groups in Australia.



Jan Fullerton, Director-General of the National Library of Australia

"Has your Friends group ever considered developing internship positions at your library for library students or young people in the community?"

"With the retirement of Jan Fullerton, Director-General of the National Library of Australia, Friends and FOLA have lost a wonderful supporter."

Statewide Friends Workshop - NSW

Friday 29 October 2010,
9.30 am to 1 pm

State Library of New South Wales,
Macquarie Street, Sydney

Dr Alan Bundy AM
President FOLA



FOLA's Vision

Better, more accessible, libraries for all in Australia

But who should pay for them?

"although Australia now has a national public library system of some 1520 public libraries, at only 9c per Australian per day it still invests sparingly and very unevenly in that system."

The vision of Friends of Libraries Australia is *Better, more accessible, libraries for all in Australia*. It is a vision implicitly shared by a number of other library-support organizations around Australia, such as the Australian Library and Information Association and Public Libraries Australia.

The need for that vision is because, as the latest edition of the *Directory of Australian Public Libraries*¹ shows, although Australia now has a national public library system of some 1520 public libraries, at only 9c per Australian per day it still invests sparingly and very unevenly in that system. This is despite its very high existence value, use by 60% of people of all ages, and its demonstrable return on investment in meeting a wide range of educational, literacy, cultural, community engagement, social agendas and government policies. Countries such as Denmark invest three times as much per capita in their public library systems.

Australia should now be setting as a target an investment in its public library system to at least match that of best practice countries such as Denmark. This would be a total of about \$2.4billion, rather than the current meagre \$800million. If that seems a very hard 'ask', bear in mind that in national fiscal terms it is 'a drop in the ocean'. It would be the equivalent of 2% of the national, sometimes wasted, expenditure on education.

FOLA will continue to assert that the main reason for the underinvestment in the Australian public library system has been the failure of the states to maintain the funding partnership with local government which has underpinned the achievement of a comprehensive national public library system in not much more than 30 years. It has raised this point in recent correspondence with the State Government of Western Australia urging it to increase its public library funding, which it is now doing.

If state governments had maintained their partnership with local government, the annual investment in public libraries would now be \$1.5billion. But they have not, with most now contributing only about 10% of library funding, and local government 90%. Just as two examples, in 1975 the State of Victoria contributed 0.21% of its operating expenses to its public library system. In 2009 that percentage had shrunk to 0.09%. In Queensland in 2000 the percentage was only 0.173%, but by 2006 it was much less, at 0.06%.

The real issue behind the failure of the state governments to invest in their public library systems is not lack of funds to do so – governments always find money for what they consider important, and the amounts needed for much better library-investment would require a very small shift in state budgets. Rather it is their lack of recognition of their constitutional responsibility for the performance of their public library systems. They recognize that responsibility in other community-critical systems such as health, education, aged care, family and community services. Why not their public library systems, the performance of which impact on all of those areas, and more? It is this which needs to be the focus of advocacy for better, more accessible, libraries for all in Australia.

Although councils usually have local operational and part-funding responsibility for the public library system, they do not have responsibility for the system. Nor do they usually have much capacity to increase their investment in public libraries to the levels needed, although some can certainly do better than at present. Similarly, the federal government does not constitutionally

"Australia should now be setting as a target an investment in its public library system to at least match that of best practice countries such as Denmark."

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FOLA AWARDS 2010



Peter McInnes Award

FOR LIBRARY SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Oberon Mayor, Keith Sullivan, Daniel Ferguson, Kathy Sajowitz, President FOOLs, Jenny Hansen, Oberon Library Manager



Daniel Ferguson, Brian McCarney, President Mid-Western Friends, Mudgee visitor, Eilagh Rurenga, Mid-Western Library Manager, Jenny Hansen

Oberon (NSW) Winner

Friends and library organized a READeo in conjunction with local schools, council, community groups, businesses and volunteers. The aim was to raise awareness of children's literacy and bring the community (pop. 3500) together in a fun way.

Children from babies to school groups dressed as cowboys/cowgirls and moved up and down the main street listening to stories read by shopkeepers and volunteers. Afterwards, 600 participants gathered at the local sports oval for a photograph and activities. Council, Rotary Club and High School volunteers participated in an activity which embraced the entire community and increased awareness of the library and its programs.

Hobsons Bay (Vic)

Library and Council Youth Services engaged with youth in the area for a Playstation Playoff program where young people aged 12-18 are encouraged to test their gaming abilities at Altona Meadows Library. The project managers were two 18 year olds. The program has empowered young people to make decisions about how they can make a difference in their communities. The program

has been supported by other library resources and raises awareness of the library as a safe, supportive facility for young people.

Mid-Western Regional (NSW)

Headspace, Winter Seminar Series provided local HSC support to students at the three local high schools. Seminars were provided throughout the year by two HSC authors who came to Mudgee. The series enhanced the profile of the library, strengthened relationships between the library and schools and gave the Friends a special focus for support.

East Maitland (NSW)

Kids Book Club is conducted on the first Saturday of each month. Four coordinators (all with educational expertise from a local primary school and Newcastle University), arranged the program for the year. Information and activities were regularly loaded onto the library's website.

Mount Gambier (SA)

Libraries and Beyond is a fun, motivated and receptive program designed to promote both literacy and the attractions of the library to preschoolers and their families. The program builds partnerships between local government, businesses, government agencies, church groups, childrens services and the wider community.

"Council, Rotary Club and High School volunteers participated in an activity which embraced the entire community and increased awareness of the library and its programs"

FOLA AWARDS 2010

"The program has been supported by other library resources and raises awareness of the library as a safe, supportive facility for young people."

Mackay (Qld)

MIX'09 Mackay Improvisation Experience – young people aged 12-25 were invited to join a series of workshops where they can learn skills such as caricature drawing, theatre improvisation and other skills.

Nhulunbuy (NT)

Given the remote nature of the township and to inspire teenagers to enjoy a library environment, discussion with them decided upon a wide range of activities from the Anime Club, Twilight Prom Night, Jeans for Genes, Harry Potter Night, Facebook and Teen Blog activities.

Maitland (NSW)

Write Now! A children's literacy award in partnership with the library and University of

Newcastle. The award funded by the Friends, is open to K-6 students and emphasizes creative writing on specified themes and included a poster/diary which maps the development of the submitted writing piece.

Hobsons Bay (Vic)

Earth Hour Exhibition (Art in public places) focused on young people's commitment to climate change. They created artwork to illustrate their view of what 'working together to impact climate change' means to them.

Hobsons Bay (Vic)

Read it. Imagine it. Draw it – an illustration competition connecting literature, art and libraries which aims to connect literature with art and open to children from prep to year 12.

National Year of Reading



**National
Year of
Reading
2012**

Website: <http://www.love2read.org.au>

Company Overview:

Led by Australian public libraries, the National Year of Reading 2012 is about people discovering and rediscovering the magic of books and stories.

Who's behind it? The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), ACT public libraries, Public Libraries South Australia, Public Libraries Western Australia, Public Libraries Victoria Network, public libraries in other States and Territories; school libraries and partners in the book trade.

Mission:

It's about libraries and their partners helping to lift literacy rates and Australia becoming a nation of readers.

Products:

Coming soon, a whole heap of amazing, fun activities in libraries, schools, book stores and places you wouldn't normally associate with books and reading.

Libraries are already talking with publishers, authors, booksellers, reading agencies and that's just the beginning. For more information, call Sue on 0404 456749 (sue@thelibraryagency.org.au) or Donna on 0406 575321 (donna@thelibraryagency.org.au) - we're working on behalf of libraries around Australia to make 2012 our National Year of Reading.

Website launches 12 July 2010.

"It's about libraries and their partners helping to lift literacy rates and Australia becoming a nation of readers.."

FOLA's Vision: Better, more accessible, libraries for all in Australia

(continued from page 3)

have the primary responsibility for each state/territory public library system. It does, however - as it accepts with health, education, aged care and other areas - have a key responsibility to hold the states and territories to account for their investment in,

and performance, of their parts of Australia's public library system. It is time it did so.

1. *Directory of Australian Public Libraries 8th edition 2010-2012* Adelaide, Auslib Press 2010

Friends around Australia

News, Events & Ideas...

Toowoomba (Qld)

\$\$\$ - \$1,800 from a recent booksale, \$1,000 allocated to purchase DVDs for retirement and nursing home readers and \$1,300 raised at the Easter Raffle, plus a grant from the Toowoomba City Golf Club, when 16 local organizations received a share of \$31,000 from the Club.

Willunga & Aldinga (SA)

In May the AGM was held and Lorna Hayward elected President. Most recent purchases presented by the Friends to the library were laptop computers. An Anzac Day writing competition, the subject was Memories of Conflict and Service. The competition received many entries from Willunga High and Primary School children.

Local members of parliament, John Hill and Amanda Rishworth and Councillor Wenham made presentations to winning students.

Barossa (SA)

The Story-Book Picnic was held in April in the grounds of Seppeltsfield Winery. Pupils at all Barossa primary schools were invited to enter the writing competition. Children were invited to dress up as story book characters and prizes given for the best costume.

National Library (ACT)



This year's Kenneth Myer Lecture, will be delivered by Maggie Beer, Senior Australian of the Year 2010. The Kenneth Myer Lecture commenced in 1990 as a major annual event at the NLA, and is named for Kenneth Myer who was Chariman of the National Library Council from 1972 to 1982, a friend and philanthropist.

National Gallery of Victoria

In May, Sophie Matthiesson, Curator, International Art gave a lecture on Drawing a Long Bow? Boccherini and the Madrid Visit.

Wagga Wagga (NSW)

The March booksale raised an amazing \$1952. The Friends are looking to purchase some lighter folding tables for the booksales, replacing the old heavy trestle tables.

State Library SA

FOLA Patron, the Hon Michael Kirby AC, CMG was guest speaker for the Friends on 19 May at the Art Gallery of South Australia. In June the Friends launched *The Adelie Blizzard* Mawson's forgotten newspaper, 1913.

Gladesville (NSW)

Have created a blog:
<http://friendsofgladesvillelibrary.blogspot.com>

and a social network blog:
<http://friendsofgladesvillelibrary.ning.com>

Balmain (NSW)

Jack Munday and the 'Green Bans' was the special speaker at the AGM held on 18 June in the Meeting Room of Balmain Town Hall. He celebrated his 80th birthday last year but has the demeanor and intellect of a much younger man.



Barossa:

"Pupils at all Barossa primary schools were invited to enter the writing competition. Children were invited to dress up as story book characters and prizes given for the best costume."

FOCUS ON FRIENDS: Friends of Great Lakes Library Service



Dr Newman, Chris Jones, Library Manager



Malcolm Thompson & Audrey Semon

Dr Romney Newman, Patron

*Dr Newman said
“Our library is a
great asset to the
community and
it is good to know
that plans are being
made to keep up
with population
growth”.*

Dr Romney Newman, Patron of the Friends of Great Lakes Library Service (FOGLLS), launched the Friends’ new website at the Forster Library on Tuesday March 23. An interactive web page is usually a costly process, but thanks to Malcolm Thompson, there were no development cost at all for FOGLLS. Malcolm, a retired executive who lives at Green Point, was in his third year of a TAFE Web Development Diploma and generously agreed to create FOGLLS’ Web page as part of his course requirements. Malcolm, with Audrey Semon who is the Website Coordinator for FOGLL, worked tirelessly to see this Website come to fruition. The Home page banner displays Craig Mason’s brilliant photograph of the Forster/Tuncurry bridge, entitled “Blue Bridge”, and there are many other photographs taken by Noni Pratt of Forster Digital Photography Club, and Kim Tattam, Great Lakes Outreach Services Librarian, featured on the site.

Hon Bob Baldwin MP, paid an early visit to the library as he was attending a citizenship ceremony at Council at the same time as the launch.

FOGLLS’ members are dedicated to providing community support for the library as well as lobbying for improved funding for public libraries. Only last month, the Great Lakes Council announced that a modern library facility will be incorporated into the proposed

Civic Precinct in Little Street, so FOGLLS’ new web page appeared at just the right time to provide information about the benefits and possibilities of a new library.

Very valuable contributors in the development team for the Website were Sue Buls, and Amita Krautloher, whose experience and knowledge also helped in the planning of the intricate design and detail of the web pages.

Dr Newman said “Our library is a great asset to the community and it is good to know that plans are being made to keep up with population growth”. On the same morning, on ABC Radio National, Richard Aedy described libraries as “the jewel in the crown of civic life”.

Great Lakes Library is also celebrating the news that it has been successful in another application for grant funding. Mr Chris Jones, Manager, Library Services said “Staff at the Library are delighted with recent grant funding for the relocation of Stroud Library and the acquisition of Playaway Talking Books”.

For the record, the library has been successful with 15 out of its last 17 grant applications to the State Library – representing over \$900,000 of funding brought into the region.

FOGLLS welcomes new members. Information about membership is available at <http://www.foglls.org.au>

Friends RESOURCE BOOK

Daniel Ferguson

Due to demand – reprinted with new reduced price!

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- Establishing a successful Friends group
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FOLA COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2009/2010

26 August – AGM, Launceston
8 December - Melbourne

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