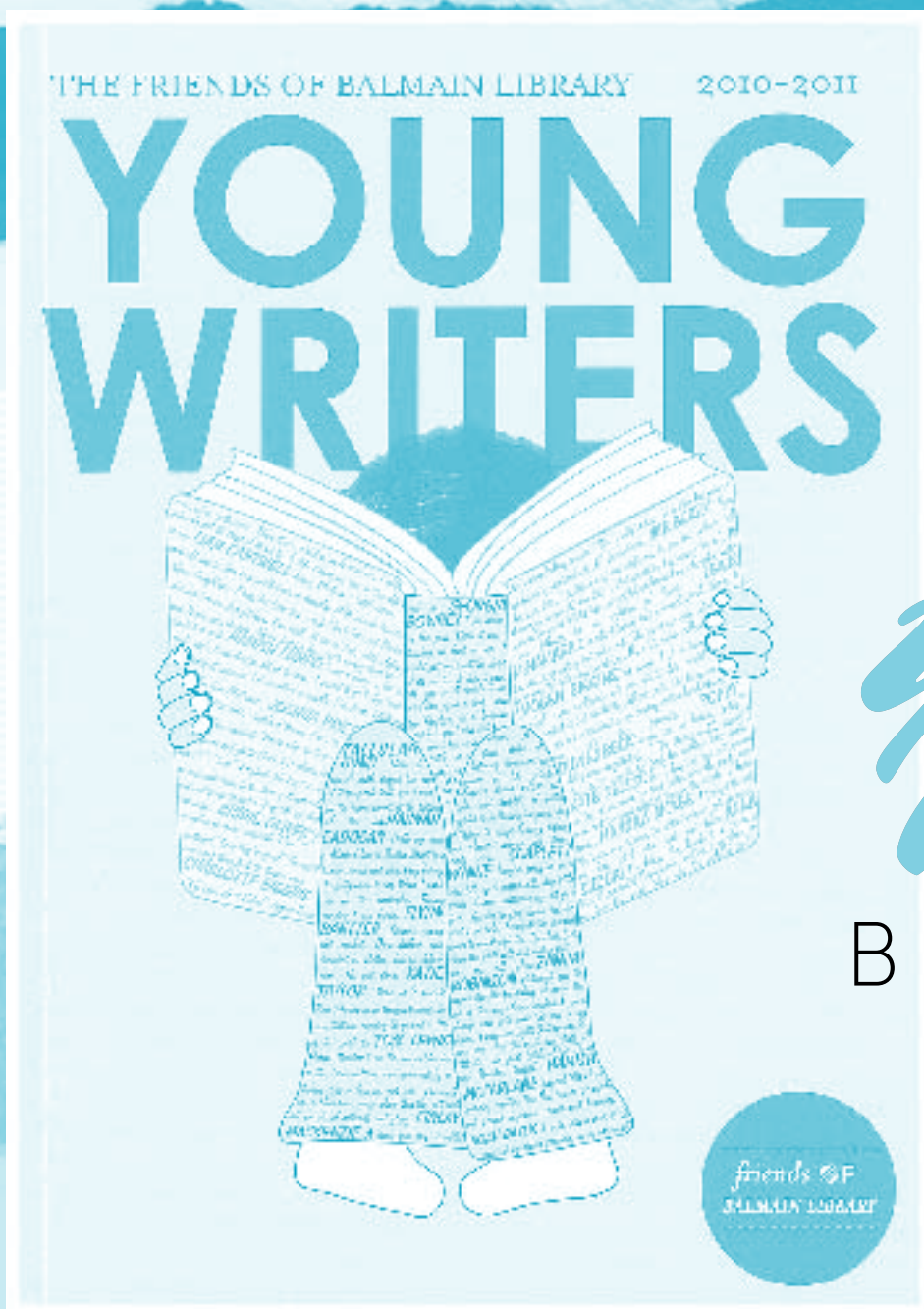


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FOLA

NEWS UPDATE



Young Writers

BALMAIN

IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>From the Executive Director</i>	2	<i>Recycling @ Friends of Oberon Library</i>	6
<i>2011 Colin Watson Award</i>	3	<i>Community Engagement</i>	7
<i>Friends of Balmain Library</i>	4	<i>How Friends Make Better Libraries</i>	9
<i>Spotlight on Stirling</i>	5	<i>Friends Around Australia</i>	10

Daniel Ferguson
Executive Director FOLA



Engaging Friends

Operating an agreement between Friends and the Library authority is a practical way of seeking a better engagement with your Library.

Libraries that have put in place a *Memorandum of Understanding*, offer another foundation, or further practical link between the more formal Constitution, which already exists to connect Friends and the Library authority. The Friends mission is to support quality library services in the community, to raise funds, to volunteer, and to serve as advocates for the library and its programs.

A library or Friends group that is interested in establishing a *Memorandum of Understanding* should be aware that there are a number of key points that could be considered in any understanding, that can enhance such engagement.

For example: the library agrees to include the Friends in the long-term planning process; the library agrees to provide public space for the Friends and promotional materials. The library agrees to provide promotional materials and public space for book sales. Also, the Friends will agree to publicly support the Library and its policies; will include a member from the library's administration as a non-voting presence at all Friends' meetings; and allow space in the library to conduct meetings. Friends agree that the library has the final say in accepting or declining gifts made to the library.

While the American situation on Memoranda may not be an exact 'match' with Australasian needs, it does represent a practical way of building a more constructive engagement between the Library and the Friends group. If requiring a simple example to follow, see the Friends of the Kimberly-Little Chute Public Library (USA).



And, welcome to one of our latest new Friends groups – Quirindi (NSW).

Finally, let us think of the Friends of Christchurch City Library in New Zealand, who continue to be challenged by the consequences of last year's earthquake in that city.



Christchurch Central City Library after the 2010 earthquake

"The Friends mission is to support quality library services in the community."

"The library agrees to provide promotional materials and public space for book sales."

2011 FOLA Colin Watson Award for Library Advocacy — *Byron Friends of the Library*

"Libraries are easy prey when economics bite. However, it is in hard times that libraries are used more and it is essential that advocates exist to make sure they are always available."

Address by Judith Field at the 2011 FOLA Award presentation

My name is Judith Field and I am a member of the executive committee of FOLA (Friends of Libraries Australia), I would like to thank Candida Baker for giving me the opportunity to present an award to the Byron Friends of the Library at such a prestigious gathering.

A volunteer organisation — FOLA was launched at the State Library of Victoria in December 1994, by FOLA's patron, the Hon Michael Kirby, who has a long-standing concern for libraries. After his retirement from the High Court of Australia, Tom Keneally, once described as "a colossus on the Australian and world literary scene... and a passionate man of causes, became FOLA's new patron.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates that 60% (12 million) Australians use libraries, so we like to say that FOLA represents over half the population of Australia and surveys tell us that the other half, although they may not use libraries, wholeheartedly support them.

FOLA has two main aims:

- To establish, promote and support Friends of Library groups throughout Australia
- To undertake lobbying at the state and national levels of government on behalf of library users and *Friends*

One of the ways we do this is through awards which recognise and support excellence and innovation in Australian library services. Here I must acknowledge that we are only able to offer substantial financial awards because of the generous support of our sponsors.

A new award for Library Advocacy was announced in 2010, names for FOLA's foundation vice-president, Colin Watson. Colin was foundation regional librarian at Dandenong Valley Regional Library in



Members of the Byron Friends of the Library campaign for the new Byron Bay Library

Victoria, vice-president of the Australian Library Promotion Council and made a significant contribution to the development of library promotion in Australia over more than 40 years. This award acknowledges his contribution as a librarian, promoter, innovator and humanist.

The award I am presenting today is an award of Advocacy. Library services cannot be taken for granted. They are easy prey when economics bite. However, it is in hard times that libraries are used more and it is essential that advocates exist to make sure they are always available.

Our distinguished visitor from England, Louis de Bernieres could tell you that many library services in the UK have been threatened with closure in recent months and if you Google "Pullman (and) Libraries" you will find a passionate and powerful speech by author Philip Pullman in support of libraries. Go and read it and I hope it will inspire every one of you here today to become library advocates too.

Continued overleaf.



National Year of Reading 2012

Our children are tomorrow's people, their brains – as predicted by scientist, are adapting to a generational change from linear reading to non linear skimming, especially as the internet bestows unlimited information but does not foster their ability to focus on a single task.

With this in mind the Friends of Balmain Library committee in 2010 initiated a writing competition to encourage very young students to put their minds at work by focussing on a creative and challenging exercise, and of course, rewarding them for their effort.

– Dr Mariella Totaro Genevois Chair, Friends of Balmain Library

A book published with the assistance of the Balmain/Rozelle Community Bank (Branch of the Bendigo Bank) captured the writings of Year 5 and Year 6 primary school students.

The winners in each category received a \$100 bank account and a \$100 book voucher. Eight highly commended entries were awarded, a \$50 book voucher. Each participating school was given, a \$250 book voucher.

Soon after the conclusion of the competition, all short listed candidates attended a writing workshop with local author Maggie Hamilton.



2011 FOLA Colin Watson Award for Library Advocacy (continued from p3)

My husband Martin Field was Director of Richmond Tweed Regional Library for 15 years and spent most of that time trying to get a proper library built here, and I know that continuous advocacy over many years by the Byron Friends has played a great part in eventually securing the 'about to be built' new Byron Bay Library. Today their efforts are being recognised by declaring them winners

of the inaugural Colin Watson Award for Library Advocacy.

I ask Bob Levett (President of Byron Friends) and Isabel Edward Moon (Librarian who wrote the winning submission) to come forward and accept this certificate and a cheque for \$1,000, with congratulations from the FOLA Committee.

"Continuous advocacy over many years by the Byron Friends has played a great part in eventually securing the 'about to be built' new Byron Bay Library."



Spotlight on Stirling

"In the previous year \$29,805 was donated to the library, a much larger sum than normal as it included more than \$18,000 paid to Council to half fund the solar array on the Coventry Library."

Where does the money go?

One of the Friends' roles is to raise funds to support the Library. This is done through book sales, raffles, wine offers and admission to FOLS sponsored talks and events.

But how are the funds allocated? What programmes does it support?

In allocating funds to particular projects, and in determining when funds should be made over, the Friends Committee is guided by the advice of the Library Manager.

Over the past 12 months the Friends donated \$10,000 for the following projects: sponsorship of the *Meet Me in the Library* photographic competition (\$500); Kindles, the first e-readers the Library has purchased, and magazines (\$2,500); Story Time for Children (\$1,000); DVD purchases (\$500); Lego and chess programmes (\$1,000); the summer reading programme (\$3,000); the Library's 30th anniversary celebrations (\$500); and the Ian Robinson collection (\$1,000). In the previous year \$29,805 was donated to the library, a much larger sum than normal as it included more than \$18,000 paid to Council to half fund the solar array on the Coventry Library roof, a community project the committee supported.

Solar Power Display

Two years ago the Friends funded half of the capital cost involved in positioning a solar array on the roof of the Coventry Library. By agreement with Council the Library's capital budget will be supplemented annually by \$2,000 in recognition of the power savings generated by the Friends contribution to the solar array. This arrangement will last for 10 years.

The solar panels are out of sight on the roof, a vast, almost flat expanse which is not the most visible place in Stirling. With this in mind, the Friends and Council came to an agreement that Council's engineers create a visual display that shows the power generated by these panels.

Membership Form at

http://www.ahc.sa.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/FOLS_new_joining_website.pdf

Recycling @ Friends of Oberon Library Inc

How does a small Friends of the Library group end up running a successful local Waste to Art Competition? It began with a reluctance to throw out faded paperbacks, either donated or no longer in good enough condition to loan out. They were recycled at Oberon Library Kids' vacation workshops into mice and angels!

As a result of that small beginning, earlier this year the whole community got behind the 2011 Sims Metal Waste to Art project, producing not only inventive and challenging but beautiful and functional pieces. At the local exhibition the entries filled the new Robert Hooper Community Centre Hall in Oberon. The competition, showing off very innovative approaches to the reduction and reuse of waste. All ages within the community carried off awards. The most inspirational works, selected as section winners by local judges Victoria Theyers of Potters Needs and John Smillie of the Wood Guys, went on to Grenfell Art Gallery for the Regional NetWaste, Waste to Art Exhibition in June. The eight selected included the Library Crafty Kids' Christmas Tree made mostly from recycled books and brochures. At Grenfell despite very strong competition Tom Buckland from Oberon managed to take a first place in the Open 3D category and in the Primary School Sections, Oberon took out two Highly Commended Awards, one by the Library Crafty Kids who collectively made their entry at the school holiday workshops.

The generous adoption of the competition by Oberon Council, curated by Friends of Oberon Library Inc.(FOOLs) and sponsorship from Oberon Arts Council Inc.and Oberon Rotary People's Choice Award enabled this first wave of 'Waste To Artists' to prove that they could 'Reduce Reuse and Recycle' and have fun doing it.' FOOLs look forward to facilitating a bigger and better community event in 2012.



"The whole community got behind the 2011 Sims Metal Waste to Art project, producing not only inventive and challenging but beautiful and functional pieces."



Community Engagement

"You need new ideas, and more information, from citizens to help make government more effective and/or efficient.."

Community engagement has been an important factor in the growth and development of the Friends movement in the United States. Significantly, it represents the 'glue' which has enhanced community structures and local government, including public libraries in New Zealand, over the past 20 years. Australia, and its Friends bodies can gain much in a clearer understanding of the term – *community engagement*.

- *Community Engagement Resources for Local Government (August 2011)*
- *Local Government and Community Engagement in Australia (November 2011)*

These documents from the Australian Centre for Excellence for Local Government, Institute for Sustainable Future and the University of Technology Sydney, provide a valuable resource for Friends of Library groups, willing to learn more about community engagement.

Some key areas of interest to Friends groups are:

Active Democracy Website at www.actedemocracy.net

Involving People and Participation Guide at www.involve.org.uk

The Best of Practice – Community Engagement in Australasia 2005-2009 at www.iap2.org.au/news/id/54

"You are trying to encourage citizens to take shared ownership of an issue and participate in addressing it."



Using Online Tools to Engage

http://www.businessofgovernment.org/sites/default/files/Using%20Online%20Tools%20to%20Engage%20The%20Public_0.pdf

This guide considers a range of specific situations that public managers might face:

- You want to know the immediate citizen reaction to a particular, well-known issue or decision.
- You are in the midst of a high-profile situation in which different sets of people do not agree about what should be done.
- You need new ideas, and more information, from citizens to help make government more effective and/or efficient.
- You are trying to encourage citizens to take shared ownership of an issue and participate in addressing it.

Continued overleaf.

Community Engagement

(continued from p7)

- You are trying to educate citizens about a particular issue or decision.

On-line Presentation on the use of Social Media Tools www.egov.vic.gov.au/

It provides a wide range of social media tools, in particular twitter and face book.

The UK Audit Commission has identified the following principles for successful community engagement:

- Commitment to user focus underpinned by core values such as honesty, inclusiveness, fairness and realism.
- Clarity of purpose (i.e. encouraging involvement in decisions, etc).
- Understanding your communities: Careful consideration of the best ways of working with diverse communities of place, population and interest.
- Delivering change. Ensuring that the outcomes of engagement strategies have a genuine impact on relevant decisions and outcomes.

The book *The Best of Practice – Community Engagement in Australasia 2005-2009* contains case studies of twenty-one award winning processes or policy frameworks. For the

period 2007-2011, some of the award winning entries from Australian councils were:

- City of Onkaparinga (SA) – Community Engagement strategy, awarded 2007 best Public Participation Policy Framework
- City of Gosnells (WA) – Engage Not Enrage; involving young people in the City of Gosnells public participation, awarded 2008 Robust Public Participation Process.
- Surf Coast Shire (Vic) – Aireys Inlet Citizens’ Jury, awarded 2008 Public Participation Enhanced Decision-making winner.

Emerging from this research has been, that the bigger questions of how to embed engagement at the heart of decision making needs to be reflected further in future training and guidance. Some elected councillors are still coming to grips with what this means for their roles in decision making.

Consultation and public engagement can be a major challenge in councils that are under-resourced.

Further information – *Stefanie Pillora, Program Manager Research, Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government. [Stefanie.pillora@acelg.org.au](mailto:stefanie.pillora@acelg.org.au)*

"Consultation and public engagement can be a major challenge in councils that are under-resourced."

"Ensuring that the outcomes of engagement strategies have a genuine impact on relevant decisions and outcomes.."



How Friends Make *Better Libraries*

NLA (Australia)

The Friends of the National Library of Australia held its AGM in November and highlighted during the evening were some of the outstanding features, that make this group a model for others to follow.

Some key highlights:

Friends Medal

The 2011 Friends Medal was awarded to Allan Rice for his significant contribution to the NLA over many years. Allan has generously given his time as a volunteer at the Library since June 1998, working variously as an Exhibition guide, editing Oral History Interviews, and with the Australian Newspaper Plan. For the Newspaper Plan, Alan researched newspapers from 100 years ago, unearthing stories and historical interest. Alan was also a member of the Friends Committee in 2000 and 2001.

2012 Friends Travelling Fellowship

The 2012 Friends Travelling Fellowship has been awarded to Anne Xu from the Library Document Supply area. Anne will travel to California and Ohio in June to investigate e-book lending models adopted by US libraries.

In September 2011, Jennifer Lloyd used the Fellowship to attend the International Council of Museums Committee of Cultural Conservation 5 day Cultural heritage Conference held in Lisbon, and then visited the British Library and Victoria and Albert Museum to discuss a range of preservation issues relating to Library collections.

While not all Friends groups can emulate the work of the NLA, smaller Friends groups can gain inspiration from some of the ideas – such as rewarding volunteers and encouraging library staff with scholarships or research funds. It's about making – better libraries for all.

"Allan has generously given his time as a volunteer at the Library since June 1998, working variously as an Exhibition guide, editing Oral History Interviews, and with the Australian Newspaper Plan."

"Anne Xu will travel to California and Ohio in June to investigate e-book lending models adopted by US libraries."

St Thomas Public Libraries (USA)

On the other side of the world – The Friends of St Thomas Public Library, Virgin Islands (USA) outlined four particular projects at the AGM.

Key project highlights:

Day Care Literacy Program

A cadre of volunteers provide hours of entertaining reading activities to youngsters at day care centres around the island.

Hospital Book Cart

A group of volunteers spend a few hours 3 days a week distributing books to patients in the Roy Lester Schneider Hospital.

EyeQ

A computer based reading program that increases students speed and reading comprehension.

Books for Babies

A project that reaches out to parents of newborns and toddlers to empower them with tips, knowledge and strategies.

Support our Libraries

A promotional strategy that uses Facebook and other social media.

<http://www.facebook.com/friends.of.stt.public.libraries>



The Friends of St Thomas Public Library protesting for increased library services

Friends around *Australia*

News, Events & Ideas...

Toowoomba (Qld)

On 14 September the Friends organised a seminar – *Public Libraries: A Community's Best Investment*. The speaker for FOLA president, Dr Alan Bundy AM, who flew from Adelaide to be with us. More than 50 people packed the children's area of the library to hear Dr Bundy inform us of the need for a new library in Toowoomba. Dr Bundy stated that the best libraries have been characterised by visible, transparent, and spacious buildings of at least 2000sqm, generous parking. Dr Bundy stressed that "The last ten years had seen a growing number of new and redeveloped libraries nationally and internationally which are able to provide the 'right' combination.



Dr Alan Bundy, AM

Wingecarribee (NSW)

The President's Report for 2011 names the top ten reasons why we should have a public library. Among them: Strengthen our community, Protect our right to know by providing access, Promote lifelong reading, provide access to information not on the Internet, Hubs for preserving the past. They asked if you have other reasons why libraries are certainly good value and a great reason to be part of the friends.

Around 75% of the community are library members in Wingecarribee.

Wagga Wagga (NSW)

The AGM was held on 9 August, with all office-bearers returned for the coming year. Gretchen Sleeman is President again. The report states that the Friends are in good financial position and will continue to support catering and incidental costs for events in the library such as the Book Club and visiting speakers. Booksales brought in over \$3,500 and the drink machine a profit of over \$2,300. Left over items from the book sales go to Rotary for their huge 2 day book sale in May each year.

Port Macquarie (NSW)

Karen Brown became President at the AGM, when Judith Hansen stepped down after 8 years as President. At the same time, Deb Sommers retired as Secretary after countless years of valuable work. The booksale trolleys raised \$10,268, *Bookstart* continued in providing valuable bags of books for baby boomers and the successful reading project with schools continued.

Judith Hansen commented on the importance of having very supportive Library Managers, (Robyn Hardman and Jim Maguire) during her time as President, seen as a key to *Friends* success.

Waverley (NSW)

The Nib:CAL Waverley Library Award for Literature 2011 was held on 23 November at Nicks Bondi Beach Restaurant, Bondi Pavillon. The event was compared by Richard Glover, 702 ABC Radio. Friends of Waverley Library are one of the sponsors of this very successful annual literary event.

Wagga Wagga:

"Booksales brought in over \$3,500 and the drink machine a profit of over \$2,300. Left over items from the book sales go to Rotary for their huge 2 day book sale in May each year."

Willunga & Aldinga (SA)

A booksale was held on 21 January during the 'Tour Down Under'. In February, the Friends visited the new Woodcroft Library and Community Centre. This is a new ecologically sustainable building. Lunch after at the Woodcroft Tavern. In March the speaker will be from the Aged Rights Advocacy Service.

Seaford (SA)

Seaford is part of the library network of the City of Onkaparinga. It is a joint facility with Seaford 6-12 School. The Friends are a small but enthusiastic band whose aim is to increase awareness of the library as something more than just somewhere to borrow books. To this end they: hold various Information Nights, publish a free bi-monthly newsletter, provide fresh flowers weekly for the front desk, run 'Down Memory Lane', a local history group, donate money and prizes for various literary based youth events, organise giant book sales and then assist in purchasing items for the library. Small in number but they believe that quality is more important than quantity and that their future is bright.

Salisbury (SA)

The October Literary Lunch speaker was Allayne Webster, with the venue being the Salisbury North Football Club. The Book Shop continues under the management eye of Derrick Verringer.

Barossa (SA)

In October the library welcomed new library manager, Tania Paull. The much needed microfiche/microfilm reader is being purchased and the Friends donated \$6,000 towards the cost, and provided \$4,000 towards large print books.



The new Woodcroft Library

State Library (SA)

Friends were invited to a reception at Government House in October, by the Friends Patron, His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC, Governor of South Australia.

Unfortunately, the Friends have been advised of a decrease in funding, previously provided by the State Library for assisting with the salary of the Executive Officer of the Friends. The Friends Committee is considering the implications of this cut-back.

National Library (ACT)

At a special General Meeting of the Friends in July, Cathy Pilgrim, Director of Digitisation and Photography at the Library, introduced members to the Library's new *Canberra Times* Digitisation Project. The Friends have agreed to donate \$15,000 to pay for the digitisation of a year's worth of issues of the *Canberra Times*.

Inverloch (Vic)

On 13 October the Friends of Inverloch Library organised another successful *Meet the Author* event, when more than 40 people



soaked up every word of the two guest speakers – Dr Liz Rushen and Neil Everitt. Liz, who gained her PhD from Monash, undertook a thesis on the work of the London Emigration Committee. Her interest lie with the female migration to Australia in the 1830s, and has authored four books – *Single and Free*, *The Merchants Women*, *Fair Game and Quarantined!* Neil Everitt researched the early history of Port Franklin (Vic) in his book *They Fished in Wooden Boats*. The morning finished with a healthy, delicious light lunch provided by the Friends.



Inverloch Library

Barossa:

"The much needed microfiche/microfilm reader is being purchased and the Friends donated \$6,000 towards the cost, and provided \$4,000 towards large print books."

Friends RESOURCE BOOK

Daniel Ferguson

Due to demand – reprinted with new reduced price!

New format with updated and new information including:

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FOLA COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2011

9 May - Melbourne
August (AGM) - Adelaide
5 December - Melbourne

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