

# *Life Membership*

**Christl Markovic**



## **Stirling Friends of the Library**

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Coventry Library, Stirling (Photo, Lucas Hobbs)

FOLA recently announced, that it has awarded Honorary Life Membership to Christl Markovic. Christl has been an outstanding leader for Friends of Libraries in South Australia, for a period of more than 30 years. Her tenacious and professional zeal, has contributed to the Friends of the Library, Stirling (South Australia) being one of the most outstanding Friends groups in the country. This thoroughly deserved award to a most gracious and charismatic lady, who with passion, has been one of our best ambassadors for the Friends of Library movement in Australia. Congratulations Christl.

Jack Goodman (FOLA Vice-president), recently led us on a strategic review of the organisation. Critical, has been to ask the question — How can FOLA survive in the new digital environment? Jack brings a wealth of experience in the world of marketing, business and technology as the founder and CEO of Tutoring Australasia.

NSW receives the lowest per-capita funding for public libraries from the State Government of all states in Australia. The campaign initiative of the NSW Public Libraries Associations is being fully endorsed and supported by FOLA. We encourage all Friends groups in NSW to back this campaign, and make a difference to the future of our libraries.

Congratulations to Judith Hansen on the publication and launch of her history book, *Friends for Twenty Years: The History of the Friends of Port Macquarie Library*. The history shows that the Friends have adapted to technological changes, program flexibility and maintained a vision for growth with strong leadership and a partnership with library management — all the virtues for a successful Friends group.

20th AGM — Wednesday 20 August 2014, Len Beadell Library, 55 John Street, Salisbury, South Australia. Please join us.

And for the future, please note our 20th year anniversary celebrations which will be held at the State Library of Victoria on Tuesday 9 December 2014 at 1.30 pm. As the second Friends organisation world-wide, we have something to celebrate!



Daniel Ferguson  
**Executive Director FOLA**

*“NSW receives the lowest per-capita funding for public libraries from the State Government of all states in Australia.”*

**Front cover photographs:**

*Dr Alan Bundy, Christl Markovic and Dr David Parker  
OAM, President Friends of the Library Stirling Inc*

# Christl Markovic

## FOLA Life Membership

*“her passion for our library has marked her as an integral part of the Coventry Memorial Library and the Community”*



*Christl presented with Honorary Life Membership by Dr Alan Bundy*

Christl Markovic retired from the Committee of The Friends of the Library, Stirling Incorporated (FOLS) on February 17th this year. She had been 34 years a Member of FOLS, 28 years on the Committee, 12 of those years as President.

Committee members come and go, remembered for events and achievements but in Christl's case, the influence she has had in our district because of her passion for our library has marked her as an integral part of the Coventry Memorial Library and the Community.

A new library for Stirling was opened in 1980. Using the model set by the Public Library of South Australia, preparations under the direction of Dr. Donald Horne, to establish a Friends of the Library Committee had been thorough. Christl was part of that group and FOLS was launched a month before the Library opening.

In 1986 Christl joined the Committee.

After the initial euphoria, the committee had only six members, who were becoming dispirited and disillusioned, fund raising was difficult and the community was not really aware of the Friends, or its role.

In 1989 Christl became President. She loved the library and was proud of it. With genuine care for its needs and the needs of all the staff, and with a natural gift for organising and seeing the big picture, she set out to show that the Coventry Library was for everyone, and making it a place for Community activity and enjoyment.

To achieve this, the Friends, under Christl's determined direction, focussed on gaining recognition in the district. The fundraising would follow. There were regular Friday night guest speakers, with delicious suppers, which drew enormous crowds, a community-made quilt was hung in the library, there were Artists' exhibitions, and a huge Exhibition of local artists' work, too large for the building, so that it was accommodated in a large marquee on Stirling Oval.

It wasn't long before the library was too small to meet the community needs, and by the 1990's some small extensions were achieved, excitement for further expansion built up in the community and a Building Fund was established. Council Amalgamations at that time ended the dream of extensions, but Christl's Committee ensured that the Building fund was separately invested and safe.



This, in 2002 became the foundation of the successful fundraising for the present “new” Coventry Library. At this time, although not the President but a committee Member, her support, advice and active encouragement were invaluable, and we must remember that it was the effort she invested over so many years that laid such a good foundation for such a fine outcome.

Christl worked and lobbied for the first Computer, believing that to ignore the need for technology in our library was negating our hopes of being a “clever country”, and has always been open to the fresh ideas of a young and committed Library staff. They felt valued and encouraged, and the Public always recognised the positive atmosphere in our Library.

She was instrumental in achieving proper status for the “Head Librarian”, the Council claiming that it could not afford a Chief Librarian. It was a battle until eventually they would settle for “Library Manager” with appropriate remuneration. Now, all managers are “Library Manager”

She led a vocal, and successful protest in the Council, to preserve our Library space against a threat by The Tourist Association to establish itself in the Library.

She knew that to enhance our strength and influence, a uniting of Friends Groups and particularly support of the Australian FOL organisation must become a force to influence Governments. She kept very close and positive bonds with FOLA and encouraged others to do the same.

She was an expert in engaging with Local Council, and with anyone who might keep our library growing and thriving. She has a natural gift for networking and engaging warmly with people, so became almost Family with the Staff, acknowledging their work and effort, providing treats, hearing their hopes and needs, and tirelessly working to improve their comfort, and so bringing benefits to the Library for the sake of the Community.

Her guiding principle is that there must be a good relationship between the Library Manager and

The Friends. Firstly that we should have a Library Manager who is friendly to, and values FOLS, particularly for its advocacy and fund-raising. Secondly, she always insisted that the Friends must work and advocate only in consultation and cooperation with the Library Manager, to provide the best, because the people of our district deserve it.

It is not hard to connect Christl’s drive and energy to the fact that she and her husband were migrants in the 1950’s and during their time in the Woodside camp and after, were determined that they would be positive and useful members of the Community. Facing challenges with cheerful resourcefulness, they both pursued work that took them into new situations, and joined local groups so that they would get to know the people of the district.

The first “proper” coffee stall in Adelaide, on the ramp of the Adelaide Railway station was theirs, and they later opened one in the Market. It was long and hard work, starting the day at 7 am. Quickly, regular customers became their friends.

When their daughter was small, Christl, at 22 years of age, took a job at the Morialta Childrens’ Home, where she was in charge of the Boys’ Section. Christl contrived to have her small child with her as she worked, because she had dressed Elvira as a boy! She is delighted that to this day there are some boys from the Home, now in their 60’s who still keep in touch.

She was even given a volunteer job for five years in the ‘60’s, by the Chair of the Immigration Department, to help local non-English speakers with English, at the newly established Heathfield High School; not because her English was good, but no doubt because of her strength and resourcefulness.

#### **Ruth Giles, Friends of the Library, Stirling**



*“She was instrumental in achieving proper status for the “Head Librarian”, the Council claiming that it could not afford a Chief Librarian.”*

*“ She was an expert in engaging with Local Council, and with anyone who might keep our library growing and thriving.”*

# Better funding for NSW public libraries

Supporting the campaign initiative of the NSW Public Libraries Association



*“The NSW public library funding situation is clearly an historic issue that has been ignored by successive NSW governments.”*

At the recent meeting of the FOLA executive, held in Sydney on 17 March, it was agreed that we support the campaign initiative of the NSW Public Libraries Associations in seeking additional funding for public libraries.

## Background

The NSW public library funding situation is clearly an historic issue that has been ignored by successive NSW governments. There is currently a high degree of uncertainty as to the level of ongoing funding for public libraries in NSW from the State Government. The intent of the NSW Library Act in 1939 was for equal funding from state and local governments to provide library services. Since that time local government has increasingly carried the funding burden and the situation has deteriorated significantly over the past few decades.

The funding demise has now reached a crisis point. The key issues are:

- NSW receives the lowest per-capita funding for public libraries from the State Government of all states in Australia;
- State Government expenditure on public libraries has decreased as a proportion of total public library expenditure from **23% in 1980 to 7% in 2013**.
- **NSW Local Government councils are currently paying 93% of the costs to operate public libraries in NSW** (which are governed by state legislation);

- The current NSW Public Library Funding Strategy includes three components:
  - ▶ Per capita subsidy (legislated at \$1.85 per NSW resident) — \$13,503,243 in 2012-13,
  - ▶ Disability & Geographic Adjustment (DGA) — includes a component of population-based payments and a proportion of payments based on five disability factors developed by the NSW Local Government Grants Commission (pre-school children; people over 65; people from a NESB; population distribution; isolation ) — \$6,551,966;
  - ▶ Library Development Grants — \$549,996 (this amount has reduced from \$3.3m in 2005-06)
- The NSW Public Library Funding Strategy is not indexed to population growth or CPI. This means that:
  - ▶ Funds have been taken from the Library Development Grant pool over a number of years to meet the increased per capita subsidy costs (and the per-capita component of the Disability and Geographic Adjustment fund) as the NSW population increases each year. If the government had not provided an “additional” \$2m to maintain the Country Public Libraries fund contribution in 2013-14, there would be no funding left for Library Development Grants; and
  - ▶ If the current funding situation is not addressed urgently, NSW councils will suffer a reduction in their Disability and Geographic Adjustment payments to meet the increase in legislated per-capita subsidy costs for additional NSW population.

## Better funding for NSW public libraries (continued)

### Action to date...

The NSW State Government made a pre-election commitment to undertake a comprehensive review of the quantum and allocation of funding for NSW public libraries when it was in Opposition during the election campaign prior to the 2011 elections. There has been no significant action by the government to meet this commitment to date.

In the absence of any government action, the Library Council of NSW used the government's pre-election commitment as a trigger to convene a committee of representatives from the Public Libraries NSW association (representing regional and rural councils and libraries), the NSW Metropolitan Public Libraries Association (representing metropolitan councils and libraries), and the State Library of NSW to develop an evidence-based submission about public library funding.

The Library Council of NSW then provided a submission to the State Government called *Reforming Public Library Funding* in October 2012. The evidence-based submission recommended a fairer, simplified and more transparent method for the distribution of funds.



Albury Library exterior and interior



The following principles for a new approach were recommended:

- Establish a base level of funding for councils with populations below 20,000 people (a safety net for small councils);
- Grant a modest increase in per capita allocations for all councils to recognise cost movements since 1994;
- Address disadvantage transparently through the application of appropriate disability factors;
- Phase out anomalies in current allocations due to former council amalgamations;
- Ensure sustainability by providing that no council receives less recurrent funding than 2012/13; and
- Build and maintain infrastructure via a substantial capital fund, entitled the Building Library Infrastructure Program.

The Library Council recommended that recurrent public library funding to councils be modestly adjusted from the current \$26.5M to \$30M per annum from 2013/14 and indexed from the following year. This would be allocated as follows: 68% (\$20.4M in 2013/14) to councils by population with a base level of funding for councils with fewer than 20,000 residents, 17% (\$5.1M) to councils by NSW Local Government Grants Commission (LGGC) disability factors to explicitly address disadvantage and 15% (\$4.5M) applied to Statewide Programs.

In addition, a *Building Library Infrastructure Program* of \$30M per annum for building and maintaining infrastructure was recommended to replace the now defunct provision of grants from operating funds. This program would enable councils to

*“Ensure sustainability by providing that no council receives less recurrent funding than 2012/13.”*

*“a Building Library Infrastructure Program of \$30M per annum for building and maintaining infrastructure was recommended.”*

renew library buildings, systems, collections and equipment in regional, urban and growth areas. It was proposed that this be phased in, rising to \$30M over the 4 years from 2013/14 and indexed thereafter.

Many NSW councils wrote to Hon. George Souris, Minister for the Arts during 2012, urging the State Government to adopt *the Reforming Public Library Funding* strategy. Despite a high level of expectation that the State Government would fulfil its pre-election undertaking to review and increase its funding allocation to NSW public libraries, this did not eventuate in the 2013 state budget.

**Campaign**

*"Many NSW councils wrote to Hon. George Souris, Minister for the Arts during 2012, urging the State Government to adopt the Reforming Public Library Funding strategy."*

The NSW Public Library Associations (NSWPLA), representing country and metropolitan libraries, are now co-ordinating a targeted campaign to bring the situation to the attention of politicians and funding decision makers to address the problem.

Local Government NSW (LGNSW) and the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) are assisting NSWPLA in this campaign and information will be provided to councils and public libraries on an ongoing basis throughout the campaign. In addition, local supporters of public libraries and library users will be engaged in the campaign to lobby State Members.

The campaign is directly targeted at State politicians with the tag *Library Lovers Vote Too*.

Given that 43% of the state's population are library users and the majority of these are voters, it is anticipated that there will be strong support for the campaign in the community. Research also highlights the high value placed on public libraries by users and non-users alike. There will be high level media engagement and local and national champions of public libraries will be advocating for funding reform.

**How we see that FOLA might assist**

NSWPLA has contracted AECgroup to develop and deliver the campaign strategy. As part of this strategy a government lobbyist has been engaged who has provided us with some valuable advice. A critical success factor of the campaign will be a strong and unified approach and a consistent

*"The NSW Public Library Associations (NSWPLA), representing country and metropolitan libraries, are now co-ordinating a targeted campaign to bring the situation to the attention of politicians".*



*Katoomba Library*



*Wallsend Library*

message from NSWPLA as the recognised spokesperson for the campaign. Councillors Graham Smith and Veronique Marchandean (who represent country and metropolitan public libraries in NSW) are the nominated spokespersons for the campaign at the state level and will make representation at this level to the Minister.

The campaign will rely very much on our ability to generate interest and action at the grass roots level and we need to identify local library supporters who can work with library managers and local councils to make representation to local members. It would be appreciated if FOLA could distribute information to members through your network and ask them to talk with their local library managers about how they can assist with the campaign.

Further information will be available for distribution.

Councillor Graham Smith  
Councillor Veronique Marchandean

**NSW Public Libraries Associations**

# KEEPING LIBRARIES OPEN



Friends of the Free Library (FFL) are the volunteers who keep libraries open, vital, and relevant. They have a great web site that can be found at: <http://libraryfriends.info/>

## *Our Mission is What We Do*

For 40 years Friends of the Free Library of Philadelphia (FFL) has been an independent, charitable organization supporting and safeguarding the 54-branch Free Library of Philadelphia system. By establishing and assisting a network of neighbourhood-based volunteer Friends Groups, FFL connects residents to their libraries. Our 48 Friends Groups strengthen their neighbourhoods by serving as leaders, advocating for stable and equitable library services for all of the city's children and adults, and helping keep their libraries relevant through special programs and book collections.

At the bottom of the web page are Links to other documents, one of particular interest is -

*The Library in the City: Changing Demands and a Challenging Future*, found at:

[www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Philadelphia\\_Research\\_Initiative/Philadelphia-Library-City.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Philadelphia_Research_Initiative/Philadelphia-Library-City.pdf)

This document gives an insight into a large, vibrant and resourceful American Public Library, and how they are facing the challenges ahead.

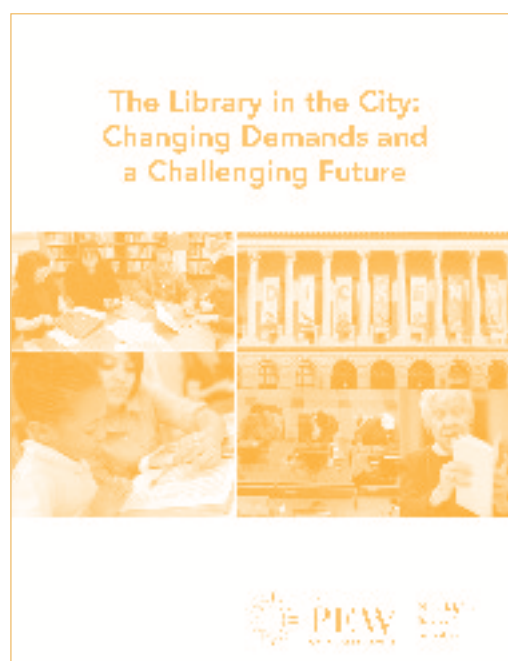
Chapter 5, gives an analysis of 'The Future of the Free Library: Challenges and Options' and provides some conclusions that Friends in Australia may care to look into.

*The proposed plan to support the new mission revolves around six broad themes:*

- a commitment to new technology
- a redesign of the library Web site to increase virtual access to library resources
- a reorganization of staff to increase accountability for discrete initiatives
- greater branch specialization to respond to specific community needs
- a focus on intra-staff communication and staff training
- increased marketing and promotion of library services

Friends Groups around Australia could have a discussion with their Library Manager about the issues identified above.

*"Our 48 Friends Groups strengthen their neighbourhoods by serving as leaders."*



*"This document gives an insight into a large, vibrant and resourceful American Public Library, and how they are facing the challenges ahead."*



# WHO YOUR FRIENDS ARE

## Friends of the Free Library of Philadelphia

### Why Friends are Important

- Because library services — all day, six-days per week, staffed by accredited librarians at all branches — are vital to life-long learning for all residents, to closing the digital divide, and to neighbourhood stability and revitalization
- Because our branch libraries are a rich but often overlooked community resource
- Because the library operating budget does not cover all the needs of our diverse neighbourhoods

### What Friends Do

- Promote the library and its educational, informational, and cultural resources
- Promote literacy
- Promote library programs
- Increase the number of library card holders
- Increase patronage and circulation
- Produce relevant community arts, cultural, and educational programs
- Communicate community interests and concerns to library staff and administration
- Educate local and state policymakers on issues facing the branch and entire system
- Promote civic awareness, neighbourhood pride and citizen engagement
- Raise funds to augment libraries' budgets for collections and programs that meet the needs of diverse communities

### What Friends Provide

- Community strengthening: serving as a conduit for people from a variety of ethnic and social groups to enrich each other and the neighbourhood as a whole
- Programs: reading and computer literacy, book clubs, career strategies, English as a second language, gardening, health, arts and culture, and more

*“Library services — all day, six-days per week, staffed by accredited librarians at all branches — are vital to life-long learning for all residents.”*

*“Serving as a conduit for people from a variety of ethnic and social groups to enrich each other.”*



- Collection Development: raise funds for books, CDs, videos, periodicals, and other materials that serve neighbourhood and its needs
- Volunteer Opportunities: augment library staff and gain valuable work experience
- Advocacy: increase the visibility of the branch as a vital part of stable communities

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

— Margaret Mead



Northeast Regional Library, Free Library of Philadelphia

# Friends Around Australia



## **Port Macquarie (NSW)**

A great new look newsletter for March, has interesting reading on: News from the president, School Reading Awards, Bookstart program, new Looks for old books, Books sales, Recent reads, library news from Jim. Money raised from booksales since September has been \$5,176.05.

## **Wingecarribee (NSW)**

High profile speakers in 2014 include: Susannah Fullerton, Slavitz Zivkovic, Hugh Mackay, Margaret Ruckert, Vicky Humphrey and Rob Ennever. Author Judy Nunn launched her new book — *Elianne*, and Isoble Tuck spoke on her book — *Hope Junction* in December.

## **Balmain (NSW)**

Another very successful Christmas function for the Friends was held in December with Roslyn Dunlop and Timor Ambassador Abel Guterres. Ros already an activist for the East Timorese cause through *Tekee Media*, a group of artists interested in human rights and social justice, took on the task of collecting and recording the musical history of the Timorese before it disappeared.

## **Salisbury (SA)**

Friends Bookshop is located just inside the Salisbury Len Beadell Library. Most of the books for sale are 'cancelled' library books from the 5 Salisbury Libraries, other books have been generously donated. The proceeds from the Bookshop are used for Library projects.

*This is one of the most successful 'Friends enterprises' in Australia — something ALL Friends could note!*

## **Barossa (SA)**

Friends of the Barossa Library held their 2014 Story Book Picnic at Seppeltsfield on April 13. The Story Book Picnic is a free entry event for a family-oriented day of fun, to acknowledge the support which Barossa families give to the libraries and the Friends of the Library.

Friends president Bill Biscoe said, "Our sincere thanks to all the sponsors from the community who have helped us fund this great event. We acknowledge the help of the Barossa Herald, Seppeltsfield Wines, Rockford Wines, Peter Lehmann Wines, Magnus Industries, Ravens Parlour Book Shop, Margaret Lehmann and the Barossa Council Libraries. A highlight of the day was the announcement of the winners of the Young Writers Competition, which fits in with our aims of encouraging literacy and a love of literature among our young people."

## **Willunga & Aldinga (SA)**

A special meeting of the Friends was held to discuss the merger with other branches of the City of Onkaparinga Libraries under the banner of Friends of the City of Onkaparinga Libraries (FOTCOOL). The motion was passed unanimously.

## **Inverloch (Vic)**

Long time FOLA member, Jellie Wyckelsma has launched another book — *Once upon a ... night*. This is her 3rd novel. Rachel Lucas, a film producer with the ABC launched her book. The story is about a woman's relationship with her daughters and it involves three different stories on non-consensual sex. "it's a difficult topic and I haven't written it in an overly descriptive style; imply attempted to show the emotions around it."

## **Toowoomba (Qld)**

Forty four people attended the AGM last December when library manager Carmel Stuart welcomed Cr Nancy Somerfield and guests. Outgoing president Warren Tracey presented a very comprehensive report. November booksale raised \$1892. The library is moving to a 'transition library' in the first week of March, and during the new phase the booksales will be suspended during the temporary stay. New Friends president is Taisoo Kim Watson, a former library manager, both in Victoria and Queensland.

*"Another very successful Christmas function for the Friends was held in December with Roslyn Dunlop and Timor Ambassador Abel Guterres."*

*"A highlight of the day was the announcement of the winners of the Young Writers Competition, which fits in with our aims of encouraging literacy and a love of literature among our young people."*

# May We Help **Your Friends of The Library or Your Library?**

Since its foundation in 1994 the volunteer committee of Friends of Libraries Australia (FOLA) has freely and effectively provided information, advice and advocacy on a wide range of Library Friends and library funding and other issues.

*This has included*

- why and how to develop a Friends of the Library group
- revitalising an established Friends group committee
- membership and funding options
- negotiating and maintaining the partnership with your local council and library manager
- as a long established national body, drawing attention to local council or state/territory government proposals or actions which threaten the wellbeing of the public library as the community's most heavily used and valued service and resource.

If any of the above sounds like you, do let us know below. There's *no* cost, and you *do not* need to be a member of Friends of Libraries Australia — our concern is helping to achieve *Better, more accessible, libraries for all in Australia.*

*"If any of the above sounds like you, do let us know below. There's no cost, and you do not need to be a member of Friends of Libraries Australia."*



**Your name**

**Address**

**Telephone number**

**Email**

**The issue about which you need information, advice or support ...**

**Please send to:**

Daniel Ferguson, Executive Director,  
FOLA,  
Locked Bag 1315  
Tullamarine, Vic 3043

Email: [dferguson@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dferguson@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au)  
fax 03 93351903

## Membership Application

### CATEGORIES

Membership fee (includes GST) incorporating News Update

Individual	\$18	<input type="checkbox"/>
FOL Group — 0-25 Members	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/>
FOL Group — 25+ Members	\$60	<input type="checkbox"/>
Libraries	\$120	<input type="checkbox"/>
Institutions	\$120	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corporations	\$120	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extra copies of News Update	\$10 per annum	<input type="checkbox"/>

### RETURN ADDRESS

#### FOLA Inc.

Locked Bag 1315,  
Tullamarine, Vic. 3043  
Phone: (03) 9338 0666  
Fax: (03) 9335 1903

### PAYMENT DETAILS

My cheque/money order  
is made payable to:  
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Locked Bag 1315,  
Tullamarine, Vic. 3043

**Amount enclosed \$**

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## Friends Resource Book | Daniel Ferguson

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Mail to: FOLA Locked Bag 1315 Tullamarine Victoria 3043 Australia

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## About Us

### FOLA NEWS UPDATE

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### FOLA COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2014

20 August — Adelaide

9 December — Melbourne

### 2013/2014 FOLA Executive, Committee and Sponsors

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Dr Alan Bundy AM (SA)

#### Vice President

Jack Goodman (NSW)

#### Secretary/Treasurer

Kristina Barnett (SA)

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### Executive Director

Daniel Ferguson

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Christl Markovic

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