



FOLA *Anniversary*

Celebrating 25 years

1994-2019

Friends

**FR\ENDS OF
L\BRAR\ES
AUSTRAL\A**

FRIENDS OF
LIBRARIES
AUSTRALIA

NEWS UPDATE

WINTER / SPRING 2016

Facebook reaching your community

Friends of Castlemaine Library (Vic)



FRIENDS OF
LIBRARIES
AUSTRALIA

NEWS UPDATE

SUMMER / AUTUMN 2016

FRIENDS WORLD-WIDE



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*“The Friends movement is
growing, developing and
continually adapting to the
challenges of our society.”*







A short history

The genesis of FOLA

Friends of Libraries Australia started in 1987 with the formation of a Friends sub-committee of the Library Promotion Committee of Victoria (LPCV). Daniel Ferguson became the convenor of this committee, along with the following members — Eric Flynn (President of the Friends of Kew Library), Helen Hayes (then Deputy University Librarian, University of Melbourne), Brian Southwell (former University Librarian, Monash University and President of the Friends of Nunawading Library) and Jellie Wyckelsma (Secretary of the Friends of Doveton Library).

During the 1980s, work was being undertaken in South Australia by the Public Libraries Branch, under the leadership of Dr Christine Henderson to further the development of Friends of Library groups in every public library in the State. Further



liaison took place between LPCV in Victoria and the Public Libraries Branch to explore opportunities of mutual interest that would assist in Friends of Library group development.

In 1990, Daniel Ferguson visited the United States, and following a meeting with Sandy Dolnick, the Executive Director of Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA) and other Friends groups, concluded that a national body should be established in Australia.

On the 9th December 1994, Friends of Libraries Australia (FOLA) was officially launched by the Honourable Justice Michael Kirby AC, CMG, at a function in Queen's Hall, State Library of Victoria. Michael Kirby, a Judge of the High Court of Australia, became FOLA foundation patron.

At the official launch of the new organisation, Daniel Ferguson outlined the aims of FOLA as follows:

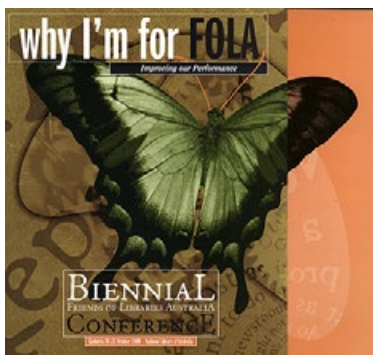
- (i) To encourage and assist the formation and development of Friends of Library groups in Australia;
- (ii) To promote the development of excellent library services for all Australians;
- (iii) To provide a representative voice for Friends of Library groups; and
- (iv) To promote public awareness of the existence of Friends of Library groups and the services and support they provide.



The members of the new executive of FOLA were: the Hon. Mrs Margaret Lusink AM, Colin Watson, Margaret Broeks, Hon. John Cain, Elly Cameron, Agnes Gregory, Helen Hayes, Jock Murphy, Brian Southwell, Philip Walshe and Daniel Ferguson, who became the Executive Officer. The foundation president, the Hon. Margaret Lusink was a retired Family Court Judge, and president of the Friends of Euroa Library in Victoria.

“To promote the development of excellent library services for all Australians”

The number of FOL groups in Australia at the time was around 120, the majority being in South Australia. By 2004, the number was around 168, believed to be the peak period of development of FOL groups.







Networking

Growing Friends


1995 — 2005

During the late 1990s Friends groups were being developed in other countries, notably, Canada and the United Kingdom. FOLA was contacted and asked for our experience, and with a view to establishing some liaison that may further assist the Friends cause internationally.


Daniel Ferguson established close contact with those in Canada, who had now an organisation similar in purpose to that of FOLA. Its name was FOCAL — Friends of Canadian Libraries, established in 1997. FOLA corresponded with representatives of FOCAL, and a partnership of mutual understanding developed. Canada felt it had more in common with the Australian body than with FOLUSA in America.



Around the same time, public libraries in the United Kingdom were under savage funding cuts and closures. A group in England, in particular, with links to the library profession and the union representing library staff, began campaigning, on issues related to library closures. FOLA was contacted for information and insights into, particularly, the changes which had taken place in Victoria as a consequence of Compulsory Competitive Tendering and the amalgamation of Local Government Councils. At the invitation of a number of library bodies, Daniel Ferguson visited the UK in 2001 and conducted a number of Friends workshops and consultations with agencies, including the Friends of the British Library and the Library Association (CLIP). FOLA's *Friends of Libraries Resource Book* was also sold throughout the UK, more than 150 copies.



*FOLA was contacted
for information
and insights into,
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taken place in Victoria*



In April 2004, the Chief Librarians Council of New Zealand invited Daniel Ferguson to visit and undertake a series of workshops on Friends. He delivered 8 workshops, covering the length of the two islands, from Auckland to Dunedin. The interest was most encouraging and the success of the venture was in part due to the library manager at Dunedin Public Library, Bernie Hawke.

Dunedin has a significant place in the history of the Friends



movement, in that it established the first group associated with a Friends of the Library body, back in 1890, forty-two years before the first group was established in Australia, at the State Library of South Australia. Once again, FOLA's presence was identified with its *Friends of Libraries Resource Book*, selling at every venue on the tour.

After numerous editions, both under the auspicious of LPCV and FOLA, the most definitive production of the *Friends of Libraries Resource Book* edited by Daniel Ferguson, was published in 2005. It has become the authoritative guide and source book for Friends Groups in Australasia.



“Friends groups expanded around Australia, and became established in every State and Territory.”



During this period, Friends groups expanded around Australia, and became established in every State and Territory. Reaching a peak in 2005 with almost 170 groups. Much of the reason was that during this period, economic, political and structural changes were taking place in most local government areas of Australia, and the public became involved in a “grassroots” level of activity around the issues of the community, in particular, the importance of the local public library.



Sustaining Friends

2005 — 2015

FOLA and its president, Dr Alan Bundy in particular, were spreading the word around Australia, visiting numerous local councils, public libraries, professional organisations, and delivering conference papers on Friends. Another important opportunity came in 2006 to travel to Western Australia, this time at the invitation of the State Librarian, Margaret Allen.

Dr Bundy was publishing and delivering a wide range of conference papers, and drawing attention to the need for adequate funding for public libraries.

Providing adequate resources for Friends to develop has always been important for FOLA. *FOLA Keys to Success* was documentation on: Friends and Library Management; Working



with Volunteers; Membership; Moving into the Community; Incorporation; and Growing Friends in the next decade.

While the Friends scene was developing in Australia and other western countries, a most unlikely invitation came in 2014, from the library association in South Korea. Professor Young-seok Kim from Myongji University, arranged for Daniel Ferguson to undertake a week tour, during November, visiting different parts of the country, along with presenting two conference papers for professional library bodies. One of the key features of the tour was conducting workshops for library students at Myongji University. Delivering a message to future generations has always been a key issue for FOLA. Inspiring new leaders in the mission of Friends development.

“*Delivering a message to future generations has always been a key issue for FOLA.*”

The future for Friends groups rests upon our visionaries, just as in the past. Friends at Alexandra (Vic) and Balmain (NSW) understand just how critical this is for the future of our libraries, by the support they give to young people and involving them in the Friends movement.





Innovation

Future Friends 2015 — and beyond

Unlike the early years of FOLA, much has changed in this short journey for Friends of Library groups. The membership age of Friends groups, in particular, committee members has become critical in terms of survival for many groups. Many have undertaken leadership roles for ten, twenty and more years. It is one of the key reasons why many FOL groups have folded.

FOLA president, Jack Goodman has undertaken extensive research and comes with considerable expertise in the area of technology. FOLA believes that for our libraries to be supported and sustained by Friends, we must seek both a new mandate and a new approach.



The way Friends operated in the 1990s, is no longer viable in the 2020s. An indication of this has been the folding of the Canadian body FOCAL and the amalgamation of FOLUSA in the United States, now incorporated into one Friends advocate and philanthropic body. FOLA is the only worldwide body today, representing the interests of Friends groups in a single country.

FOLA's Board has given considerable deliberation in the past two years to the many changes affecting both community organisations and libraries. To this end, FOLA is broadening the ways in which it can deliver a message and respond to the pace of change, particularly in a global world of information.



“FOLA is the only worldwide body today, representing the interests of Friends groups in a single country.”



While patterns for successful Friends groups are likely to remain, the sustaining ‘drivers’ that delivered success in the past no longer operate. Libraries have changed, communities respond in different ways than in the past. How we respond to the new needs of our library communities will be the hallmark of the success for Friends of Library groups in this country in the future.



Better Libraries

The Best of Friends Award Winners

Port Macquarie
Ipswich
Toowoomba
Coventry
Christl Markovic
Margaret Broeks
Balmain





Office Bearers

Patron

Honourable Michael Kirby

AC, CMG

Thomas Keneally AO

President

Honourable Margaret Lusink

AM

Peter McInnes

Dr Alan Bundy AM

Jack Goodman

Vice President

Honourable John Cain

Colin Watson

Chris Awcock

Kristina Barnett

Treasurer

Margaret Broeks

Kristina Barnett

Dr David Parker OAM

Committee

Ely Cameron

Agnes Gregory

Helen Hayes


Jock Murphy

Brian Southwell

Philip Walshe

Sandie Grocock

Sandra Lavender



Ray Osborne
Alison Aprhys
Kylie McKinley
Jill Newton
Jellie Wyckelsma
Richard Crago
Rae Webb
Colin Dunnett
Kay Craddock AM
Michael Skeldon
Elaine Chippendale
Dr Norman Curry AM
Judith Field
Denise Jepson
Joyce Lilley
Jim Lowden
Victoria Quinton
Merete Smith
Dr Peter Chippendale
Gerrit Stafford
John Murrell
Dr Mariella Totaro-Genevois
Graham Dudley
Kay McLoughlin
Michael Proctor

Mike McCausland
Prue McCausland
Bill Biscoe
Jill Stevens

Liaison Members

Patricia Chigwidden
Kerrie Mott
Bill Tully
Prue McCausland
Pamela Rohner
Glynis Beckwith

Honorary Life Members

Honourable Margaret Lusink
AM
Agnes Gregory
Jellie Wyckelsma
Margaret Broeks
Peter McInnes
Christl Markovic
Honourable Michael Kirby
AC, CMG
Dr Alan Bundy AM

Executive Director & Founder

Daniel Ferguson

Awards

Baker & Taylor Awards

FOLA Best of Friends

Awards

Eric Flynn Award

Peter McInnes Award

Colin Watson Award

and Oration





Sponsors

Foundation & Continuing Sponsor

Bolinda

Sponsors

BH Walshe & Sons P/L

Ulverscroft Large Print P/L

Baker & Taylor

Auslib Press P/L

James Bennett P/L

Southern Scene P/L

Eastend Booksellers P/L

Kay Craddock Antiquarian

Bookshop

Baillieu Library, University of
Melbourne

Keith Ainsworth P/L

Isis Publishing

Ebsco Information Services

Nova Library Products P/L

Dynix Australia P/L

Masons Book Centre

LJ Cullen Bookbinders

Tutoring Australasia P/L

Libraries Alive P/L

Thomson Learning Australia

DA Information Services

Syba Signs P/L

RAECO

CAVAL

Studiosity



Chronology

- 1987** Library Promotion Committee of Victoria formed the Friends sub-committee.
- 1988** Article in Australian Library & Information Association newsletter InCite Vol 9(5) April 1988 *Friends of the Library: A National Concern* by Daniel Ferguson.
- Dr Christine Henderson published an article *Friends of the Library: A Future Role* in Friends of the Library Newsletter No 5 July 1988, Public Libraries Branch SLSA.
- 1994** FOLA launched at a function in Queen's Hall, State Library of Victoria, by the Honourable Justice Michael Kirby AC, CMG on 9 December 1994.



The Honourable Mrs Margaret (Peg) Lusink AM elected the first president of the FOLA committee, along with the Hon John Cain and Colin Watson as Vice-presidents.

Daniel Ferguson formally appointed as Executive Officer of FOLA Incorporated.

- 1995** The issue of Compulsory Competitive Tendering in Public Libraries in Victoria becomes a matter of attention for FOLA and the community.


FOLA sends material to all public libraries in Australia relating to the Friends movement.

- 1996** Community groups and Friends groups seek FOLA support as a number of libraries face closure as a result of Council Amalgamations in the State of Victoria.

1st FOLA national conference held in Melbourne on 7 October.

- 1997** FOLA Library Week Awards presented to Alexandra (Vic), Byron Bay (NSW), Hastings (NSW), Warragul (Vic), Willunga & Aldinga (SA) and Unley (SA).





1998 The 2nd biennial conference of FOLA is held in Adelaide at the State Library of South Australia on 24 October. FOLA publishes proceedings in a 68 page booklet, *Pathways to Partnership*.


1999 FOLA launches its website at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/fola.main.html>

Executive Officer records an obituary in the journal *Aplis 12(3) September* of the death of Colin Watson, Vice-president of FOLA, former Foundation Library Manager at DVRLS and lifetime supporter and advocate for the development of Friends of Libraries in Australia.

FOLA sponsored a CCT Workshop held at the Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne on 26 February.

2000 Honourable Barry Jones AO delivers the Colin S. Watson Oration on 16 May in Melbourne.

The 3rd biennial conference of FOLA held at the National Library of Australia, Canberra on 20-22 October, with thirteen speakers participating.



2001 FOLA president, Dr Alan Bundy launches new website and domain www.fola.org.au at a function held at Kay Craddock's Antiquarian Bookshop, Melbourne on 8 August.


In December, Daniel Ferguson is invited to the UK to deliver a number of workshops on Friends, arranged by Geoffrey Newman, Friends of the British Library and Geoffrey Smith, Library Consultant.

2002 Helen Hayes, University Librarian at the University of Melbourne, undertook a workshop which assisted in the development of the FOLA Strategic Plan for 2002-2006.

FOLA biennial conference held in Sydney at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts on 17-19 May.

2003 FOLA Baker & Taylor Best of Friends Awards established. Awarded to Friends of Alexandra Library, Friends of Hastings Library and Friends of the Toowoomba City Library.

Successful Friends: Creating Partnerships, A workshop for Friends of Libraries held at Unley Civic Centre, Unley, South Australia on 12 April.



2004 In April, Daniel Ferguson undertakes a tour of New Zealand, conducting workshops on *Developing Successful Friends*.

FOLA celebrated 10 years with a function at the National Library of Australia on 3 December.

2005 5th biennial conference held in Adelaide at the State Library of South Australia on 14-15 October.

164 Friends of Library groups are listed in *Directory of Public Libraries (Auslib Press)*.

2006 Daniel Ferguson presented a paper at the 2006 ALIA Biennial Conference, Perth, Western Australia, 19-22 September: *Growing Friends: Building Social Capital of a Nation*.

Daniel Ferguson delivers workshops for the State Library of Western Australia. *Why Our Public Libraries Need Friends: Report on Workshops presented by Daniel Ferguson, FOLA, March 2006 by Lucia Ravi, PLS Customised Services, State Library of WA, May 2006.*

2007 Friends of the State Library of South Australia celebrated 75 years.



2008 FOLA Peter McInnes Award presented to Hurstville Library, NSW and the FOLA Eric Flynn Award presented to Campaspe Library, Victoria.

FOLA workshops and events held around Australia including Warragul (Vic), Grenfell (NSW) and overseas in the UK and in Japan at the National Diet Library, Tokyo on 2 December.

In December, Margaret Broeks, foundation treasurer of FOLA, retires on 10 December, after 16 years of service. Margaret continued as President of the Friends of Altona Library in Victoria.

2009 Dr Alan Bundy and Daniel Ferguson presented a workshop at Geelong Regional Library Corporation on 10 December: *Successful Friends the New Library Partnership: Community Engagement*.

FOLA signed with FOCAL (Friends of Canadian Libraries) a document to present to IFLA in support of commencing a Friends group within the sections of the International Federation of Library Associations.





FOLA participated in the National Libraries Summit organised by ALIA held at the National Library of Australia, Canberra on 26 March.

- 2010** The FOLA Colin Watson Award for Library Advocacy was presented to Byron Bay Friends of the Library. The FOLA Eric Flynn Award was presented to Friends of the Murray Bridge Library.

A Friends Seminar was held at the State Library of New South Wales on 29 October.

- 2011** FOLA Friends Awards were presented to the Friends of Adelaide Hills Library, Friends of Port Macquarie Library and Rockhampton City Library.

AGM was held at Campbelltown Public Library, South Australia on 1 September, at which a soft-launch of FOLA's redeveloped web site was presented.

- 2012** FOLA publishes a series of information sheets titled *Keys to Success*, relating to Friends and library management issues.





2013 One of the most successful Friends groups in the country publishes: *Friends for Twenty Years: The Friends of Port Macquarie Library* by Judith Hansen. This was a model FOL group where the Friends, library management and civic community worked together to achieve outcomes.

2014 On Tuesday 9 December, FOLA celebrated 20 years with a function in Queen's Hall, State Library of Victoria (location of the launch of FOLA in December 1994). Guest speaker was FOLA patron, Tom Keneally AO.

Life Membership was presented to Christl Markovic a leader in the Friends movement in South Australia, including 34 years a member of the Friends of the Stirling Library and 12 years as president.

2015 FOLA Forum and AGM held at the Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Victor Harbor, South Australia on 11 September 2015.

2016 West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation reported they have 9 FOL groups operating with the service with over 300 members. Much of the success for this was due to the inaugural CEO of the library corporation, John Murrell, a member also of the FOLA Board.





2017 FOLA launches a new Facebook page www.facebook.com/FOLA.friends

AGM held at Nuriootpa Library in September. Friends of Barossa Library are one of the oldest and most successful groups in South Australia.

2018 FOLA website www.fola.org.au upgraded, thanks to the work of FOLA president, Jack Goodman.

Book Feasts launched with Taryn Bashford, a Queensland author who has gathered authors and readers together for discussion in public libraries.

FOLA held four Friends Forums during the year at Inverloch (Vic), Murray Bridge (SA), Balmain (NSW) and Geelong (Vic).

AGM and Forum held on 25 November at Geelong Regional Library (Vic). Patti Manolis, CEO gave a talk *Reimagining Friends: Friends of Geelong Regional Libraries Initiative* and Debra Rosenfeldt (State Library of Victoria) *Libraries Change Lives Campaign*.



2019 Jack Goodman, president and Daniel Ferguson, executive director meet with the Australian Library and Information Association executive director, Sue McKerracher at ALIA House, Canberra on 8 August.

FOLA celebrated its 25th anniversary on 5 December 2019 at a function in the Institute Building, State Library of South Australia.

The State Library of South Australia was home to the first Friends of Library group in Australia, launched in 1932.





*“A modern library to support ideas
and creativity — New Darling
Square Library, Sydney”*





Friends of Libraries Australia Inc (FOLA)

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