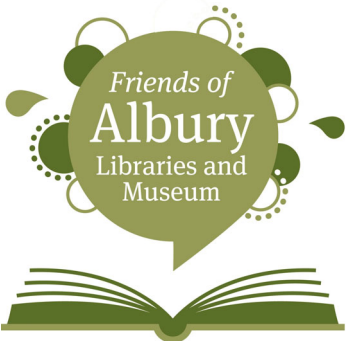


WINTER 2022

VOL XXVIII ISSUE 101 ISSN: 1323-0190



Friends of Albury Libraries & Museum

Albury hosts for the SWITCH 2022 Conference



The national voice for 15 million Public Library Members

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Message from the PRESIDENT



FOLA'S NEW FOCUS

The world has always been evolving, though few would disagree that it is changing faster now than at any time in history. Technology is a primary instigator of our altered cultural, environmental and social landscapes, and it is up to us as individuals and organisations to adapt or find ourselves left behind. Obsolete. Extinct.

For more than a quarter century FOLA has pursued its mission of better public libraries for all in Australia. Our primary strategy has been to assist thousands of citizen advocates to establish their own local Friends groups. Hundreds of these groups have raised funds for their libraries and built stronger community connections in the process. In some instances — for example Toowoomba, QLD, Port Macquarie, NSW, and Echuca, VIC — Friends groups have even helped get new libraries funded and built.

As we look ahead to 2023 and beyond, our mission will not change, but our methods surely will, as they must.

Historically, the vast majority of FOLA's members and friends groups have been in regional Australia. Our close ties and work with these groups has helped us understand that Australia's country libraries are substantially overlooked and underfunded, particularly compared to the majority of their metropolitan counterparts. We believe FOLA can have the greatest impact by directing its energy toward addressing this inequity.

In 2021 we partnered with the LBW Trust to launch National Backyard Cricket, an annual fundraising event that in its first two years has raised more than \$100,000 in support of educational initiatives and materials at country libraries.

"Historically, the vast majority of FOLA's members and friends groups have been in regional Australia."

"For more than a quarter century FOLA has pursued its mission of better public libraries for all in Australia."

"Australia's country libraries are substantially overlooked and underfunded."



*Echuca Library
at dusk*

“Gathering feedback and input from friends and country libraries to reflect the needs of local communities.”

Now we want to expand our advocacy for Australia’s country libraries. Our plans include:

- Continuing our work with the LBW Trust to expand National Backyard Cricket, increase participation in the event, and raise sufficient funds to benefit every country library in Australia
- Promoting and advocating for regional, rural and remote libraries — at the state and federal levels.
- Supporting research into the value and impact of country libraries and drawing attention to global best practices.
- Continuing to publish our newsletter about our activities on behalf of public libraries, sharing success stories and building awareness and participation.
- Gathering feedback and input from friends and country libraries to reflect the needs of local communities in the issues we seek to address.

To pursue this work, we are asking all country libraries to join FOLA. We have created a new membership category that is affordable for country libraries of every size. By joining FOLA, country libraries will stay informed about our work, maintain their voice in guiding our advocacy and they will also receive support for participation in the annual National Backyard Cricket campaign.

“Continuing to publish our newsletter about our activities on behalf of public libraries, sharing success stories and building awareness and participation.”

“To pursue this work, we are asking all country libraries to join FOLA.”

Advocacy in Action

Recently the Friends of Paynesville Library in East Gippsland informed FOLA about a proposal from their local council to reduce by up to 44% the opening hours of several country libraries.

FOLA responded immediately by writing a letter to all local councillors, in support of the libraries and opposing the reduction in funding. We followed this up by participating in a local ABC news radio story about the issue, offering facts and evidence regarding the value of investment in public libraries, especially in rural and regional areas.

We will remain vigilant regarding any local funding issues and are happy to provide our voice to support better-funded libraries everywhere in Australia.

Jack Goodman, president



Toowoomba Library



*Cobram Library
And Learning
Centre*

Hon Margaret Lusink AM

A remarkable friend celebrates 100 years

(FOLA 1st president in 1994)

Peg Lusink was the first Victorian woman appointed to the Judiciary and also the second woman appointed to the Family Court, when it began operations in 1976.

Peg was a partner at Corr and Corr, working principally in the areas of matrimonial causes and family law. She briefly practiced at the Melbourne Bar before becoming a Family Court Judge. Upon retirement from the Family Court in 1990, Peg became one of the foundational Professors in the Law Faculty at Bond University. In 1996, Peg accepted another judicial appointment, becoming the President of the Commonwealth Professional Services Review Tribunal. In that same year she was appointed AM for law for services to the Family Court and the community.

Margaret (Peg) Lusink was born in Tocumwal, New South Wales to Joan Rosanove QC and Dr Edward Rosanove. First educated at Loreto Mandeville Hall and then later Merton Hall. In 1939 Peg enrolled at the University of Melbourne to study law. At age 16, she also made history by being articled to her mother, Joan Rosanove. Six months later, in 1940 she married Dr Graeme Larkins and went on to have three sons. Upon Graeme's early death in 1959, Peg returned to the University of Melbourne in 1960, as a mature age student, and completed a Bachelor of Laws degree. In this environment she met another mature aged law student, Theo Lusink, a Dutch national who had re-located to Australia after World War 2 and joined the Royal Australian Air Force. In November 1964 she and Theo married. Soon after, the beginning of 1965, Peg's admission to practice was moved in the Supreme Court of Victoria by her mother Joan Rosanove QC with her son John Larkins as her Junior.



"Peg Lusink was the first Victorian woman appointed to the Judiciary and also the second woman appointed to the Family Court."

In 1992 Peg and her husband returned to Victoria and settled in Benalla, whilst her husband Theo continued his passion for farming. It was into this environment that Peg became involved in the newly formed Friends of Euroa Library and became its president. And in 1994, Peg became the first president of FOLA, along with her colleague the Hon Michael Kirby becoming FOLA's patron. A remarkable combination for the foundation of FOLA.

See <https://www.womenaustralia.info/biogs/AWE5660b.htm>

"Peg became involved in the newly formed Friends of Euroa Library and became its president."

Celebrating 60th Anniversary

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY,
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY



“
May it continue for ever as the source of light and learning to the inhabitants of Australia. This generation will soon pass away but the torch of learning will be handed down by the influence of this great library to generation after generation of Australian scholars.
”

University Chancellor, Sir Henry Normand MacLaurin, on the opening of Fisher Library in 1909 (Radford & Fletcher, 1984).

“To coincide with the evening, guests were invited downstairs to the Rare Books and Special Collections to enjoy refreshments”

The 60th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the University of Sydney Library was held on 22 September at 5 pm. To mark this auspicious occasion guest speakers were Friends Patron and former University Librarian, Dr Neil Radford, and Dr John Gagne, Director of the Medieval and Early Modern Centre at the University of Sydney.

To coincide with the evening, guests were invited downstairs to the Rare Books and Special Collections to enjoy refreshments along with an exhibition commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Friends of the Library.

The Friends are the oldest University Friends group in Australia.



How to join

Complete and return the [application form](#).

Address Friends of the Library
Fisher Library
University of Sydney
NSW 2006

Email admin.library@sydney.edu.au

“The Friends are the oldest University Friends group in Australia.”

A reduction in Opening Hours at East Gippsland Shire Libraries

FOLA PRESIDENT RESPONDS...

**FRIENDS OF
LIBRARIES
AUSTRALIA**

Friends of Libraries Australia Incorporated
ABN 89 065 165 086
Locked Bag 1315
Tullamarine Victoria 3043
Australia
Phone +61 3 9338 0666

19 August 2022

The Mayor and Councillors
East Gippsland Shire Council
273 Main Street
PO Box 1618
Bairnsdale, VIC 3875

Dear Cr Reeves:

RE: Reduction of Opening Hours - East Gippsland Shire Libraries

I am the president of Friends of Libraries Australia (FOLA), the peak body and voice for the 12-million Australians who are members of their public libraries.

I have recently learned from the Friends of East Gippsland Libraries that the East Gippsland Shire Council is proposing to reduce opening hours across your library network by a total of 49 hours each week. These reductions include:

- 44% reduction in opening hours at the Paynesville Service Centre
- 27% reduction in opening hours at the Lakes Entrance Service Centre
- 18% reduction in opening hours at the Omeo Service Centre
- 27% reduction in opening hours at the Orbost Service Centre

FOLA has been in contact with the Friends of Paynesville Library, one of many community groups across East Gippsland and regional Victoria that bring together volunteers to support the essential services that country public libraries provide.

On behalf of FOLA and our members, I write to alert you and your fellow councillors to the harm that would be done by implementing such a short-sighted "savings."

1. Public libraries play an essential role supporting lifelong learning and community engagement. Every demographic of the community benefits from the library, including babies and infants, school children, teenagers (studying and conducting research), those in the workforce and those who want to be employed, and older and retired members of the community.

"I have recently learned from the Friends of East Gippsland Libraries that the East Gippsland Shire Council is proposing to reduce opening hours across your library network by a total of 49 hours each week."

"Public libraries play an essential role supporting lifelong learning and community engagement."

A reduction in Opening Hours at East Gippsland Shire Libraries

CONTINUED...

"In country areas libraries are of additional importance because they are often the only cultural institution in the community."

2. In country areas libraries are of additional importance because they are often the only cultural institution in the community. Unlike in urban areas, where residents have access to nearby libraries, as well as museums, galleries, and other public spaces, in regional areas these are often few and far between.
3. In the case of East Gippsland, the distance to travel to the next town is great, and it would appear that Council is ignoring the fact that many residents are unable to travel upwards of an hour to visit another library. This is the case for parents of infants, school children, residents looking for employment and retirees.
4. Multiple studies conducted in Australia and overseas, including by the State Library of Victoria, have measured the *economic impact of public libraries being worth between \$4 dollars and \$7 dollars for every \$1 dollar invested*. This is an extraordinary return on investment and highly relevant to rural communities such as East Gippsland. Once the investment in building, infrastructure and collection is complete, the cost of keeping a country library staffed is modest compared to the return it delivers to the community, in both social and economic capital.

"Surely you would agree that your constituents deserve a good library service and not a 'second class service' merely based on 'what we believe' we can afford."

Surely you would agree that your constituents deserve a good library service and not a "second class service" merely based on "what we believe" we can afford. While it may seem that the library budget is an easy place to find savings, the impact of these cuts in terms of the direct economic harm they will do will be 4x – 7x greater. The degradation of the affected communities of Paynesville, Omeo, Orbost and Lakes Entrance will be even more profound. The residents of the affected communities will miss one of the few places they can gather for socialising, reading, and learning, out of the cold, heat and rain, and which doesn't cost money to attend.

On behalf of FOLA, I urge you to discard this short-sighted proposal and instead reaffirm your council's commitment to providing the best library service possible to the nearly 50,000 residents of East Gippsland Shire.

Yours faithfully,



Jack Goodman
President, FOLA
jgoodman@betterlibraries.org.au
0422 386 508



**SUPPORTING AUSTRALIA'S RURAL, REGIONAL
AND REMOTE PUBLIC LIBRARIES**



Wagga Wagga City Library

“Extensive research in Australia and overseas has shown that every dollar invested in public libraries delivers a return of 4x to 8x, making public libraries one of the most economic ways to deliver community benefits.”

In 2020, The LBW Trust partnered with *Friends of Libraries Australia* (FOLA) to identify the best way to support better educational outcomes in Australia as part of the National Backyard cricket program. With FOLA’s insight, the partners settled on country public libraries.

Extensive research in Australia and overseas has shown that every dollar invested in public libraries delivers a return of **4x to 8x**, making public libraries one of the most economic

ways to deliver community benefits. Australian libraries provide essential community educational experiences. These include research assistance, language classes, and career and employment support for culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

There is **no national fundraising campaign** that seeks to address the economic inequities that our rural, regional and remote libraries face. Until now.

**SUPPORTING AUSTRALIA'S
RURAL, REGIONAL AND REMOTE
PUBLIC LIBRARIES**
(continued)



Congratulations to our 2022 Winners

Coffs Harbour, NSW	Two Wells, SA
Ballina, NSW	Port Lincoln, SA
Cootamundra, NSW	Bordertown, SA
Byron Bay, NSW	Yankalilla, SA
Temora, NSW	Naracoorte, SA
Grenfell, NSW	Yarriambiack, Vic
Glen Innes, NSW	Swan Hill, Vic
Cowra, NSW	Bairnsdale, Vic
Singleton, NSW	Ballarat, Vic
Bega, NSW	Bendigo, Vic
Moree, NSW	Barham, NSW
Coolamon, NSW	Gundagai, NSW
Dubbo, NSW	Nowra, NSW
Cessnock, NSW	Tweed Heads, NSW
Lismore, NSW	Wellington, NSW
Young, NSW	Esk, Qld
Kingscliff, NSW	Balonne, Qld
Werris Creek, NSW	Lucindale, SA
Richmond Valley, NSW	George Town, Tas
Stuart, Qld	Broome, WA
Dalby, Qld	Murwillumbah, NSW
Woodford, Qld	
Mount Gambier, SA	

**A selection of the programs
from the winning entries**

- Lego Club and Baby Bounce
- Makerspace programs
- Training for adult literacy
- STEM activity kits
- Get Work Ready Program
- Anime/manga club for teens
- Sensory kits
- Bilingual Picture Books
- Food and Friends program
- SA Patch Theatre – Spark program
- Art workshops
- Coding Club
- Technology for older adults
- Memories on the move – Dementia program
- Being Digital
- Skills for Work
- Blue Bot Robots for Early Learning
- Musical Literacy for Kids
- Adult Literacy One-on-One



*Children from Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council Library
with ipads in the STEM school holiday program*



Babies Bounce to Backyard Cricket Grant

Media Release from Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

24 August 2022:

BABIES BOUNCE TO BACKYARD CRICKET GRANT

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council's (CGRC) library in Cootamundra has been a recipient of a National Backyard Cricket grant to the tune of \$800. Money that has been spent on special musical instruments for the Baby Bounce and Storytimes programs, held regularly in the library.

National Backyard Cricket (NBC) is a community event to raise funds to level the global playing field in education. NBC was launched with a backyard cricket game at Government House, Canberra in February 2021 where the Governor General hosted a fun day out to raise the profile of NBC and some much needed funds. 56 libraries across Australia (including 5 RRL libraries) were beneficiaries of the resulting NBC grants program, enabled by various NBC fundraisers across the country.

The musical instruments purchased with the NBC grant have special appeal for the very young and are suitable for babies and toddlers to experiment with music and sound.

Cootamundra Librarian Penny Howse said the grant enabled the library to enhance the popular programs.

"The NBC grant was very welcome and has been put to good use, we all recognise that music and sound are important to children's development. These instruments are robust and safe for the children to experiment and play it's a delight to watch them making their own forms of music," Mrs Howse said.

CGRC mayor Cr Charlie Sheahan said Council appreciated the NBC initiative.

"These instruments will make a difference to the programs offered at Cootamundra library for our very young residents. Initiatives like the NBC make a huge contribution to furthering education at all ages and development. I'd really like to thank them for including our library in this round of grant funding," Cr Sheahan said.

Photo and caption:

Cootamundra Library Services Officer Lynne Thorburn is conducting a special music lesson at Storytime in Cootamundra with musical instruments purchased with the NBC grant.



-END-

"The musical instruments purchased with the NBC grant have special appeal for the very young and are suitable for babies and toddlers to experiment with music and sound."

"These instruments will make a difference to the programs offered at Cootamundra library for our very young residents. Initiatives like the NBC make a huge contribution to furthering education at all ages and development. I'd really like to thank them for including our library in this round of grant funding."

Launceston

FRIENDS FOR THIRTY YEARS



The Friends of the Library Launceston 30th birthday party held at the Launceston Library was well attended and enjoyed by all. Mayor and Patron Albert van Zetten cut the cake while free coffee, tea, and scones were on offer. Brief speeches were made celebrating the achievements of the last 30 years. Joanne Mitchelson played her harp while old and new friends chatted.

“FoLL, the first Friends group in Tasmania, was formed at a public meeting in March 1992.”

“FoLL ignored the rules, but the message was clear: the most productive course was going to be through fundraising and volunteer work.”

This year is the 30th anniversary of the founding of Friends of the Library, Launceston. It was marked on 24 June 2022 with a gathering of members, library staff, supporters and any patrons in the Launceston Library at the time, who were all invited to share in refreshments and the celebratory cake. Guests of honour included the State Director of Library Services, Sue McKerracher, and our Patron, Mayor Albert Van Zetten.

FoLL, the first Friends group in Tasmania, was formed at a public meeting in March 1992. It was a time when there was a significant funding cut to the Department of Education and Arts, and the Friends’ goal was to provide support for public libraries in general, and to advocate for Launceston Library in particular.

The group began with a whirl of meetings with the then Director of Library Services, the Mayor, and Education Minister John Beswick. However senior staff of the State Library of Tasmania (Tasmania has a state-wide Library system), somewhat alarmed by the possibility that the Friends might be an independent ‘loose cannon’ interfering with their management of the sector, immediately introduced rules for such groups. FoLL ignored the rules, but the message was clear: the most productive course was going to be through fundraising and volunteer work that complemented staff duties rather than political agitation.

(continued next page)



Launceston FRIENDS FOR THIRTY YEARS

(continued from previous page)

The group flourished, gaining greater and more varied community membership in the following decade. They joined in programs for children and the Hear-a-Book service for sight-impaired library users, started a program of monthly coffee morning speakers and helped with the sale of library books withdrawn from stock.

Friends continued to broaden their activities: gathering programs and posters for the ephemera collection, helping to form the Victorian & Edwardian Collection comprised of books from the Launceston Mechanics' Institute (1842-1945), and participating in a community project to knit jumpers for penguins affected by oil spills like that from the *Iron Baron*, wrecked at the mouth of the Tamar.

In their next decade the Friends focused on the children's area, bought colourful furniture, carpet and equipment, participated in Rock & Rhyme for toddlers, and collaborated with Launceston Library to win the FOLA's 2007 Peter McInnes Award for services to children and young people.

This collaboration extended into publishing: three volumes on maritime history, *On the Tide*, a fine book of photographs and drawings resulting from an early Camera Club excursion titled *Voyages in a Caravan*, a 3-volume Local History Series, and the Launceston Family Album project. This last resulted in over 100 articles in the *Examiner* newspaper from 2005 to 2007, a book and CD compilation of stories, a history of the *Tasmanian Exhibition 1891-92* and a website still visited by 7,500 users a year.

In 2008 Friends took over the annual sale of books, which were now entirely donated by a generous public keen to support their local library. This became the largest contributor to Friends' funds, and a much-anticipated event in early March for readers seeking bargains and booksellers still able to make a profit from the low prices.



FoLL member Catherine gave children attending today's Launceston Library Rock & Rhyme session environmentally friendly balloons to help celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Friends of the Library.

With increased revenue the Friends have more recently been able to buy significant library equipment such as two microfilm readers (at \$15,000 each), two large screen television monitors, MP3 players, four large archival quality display cases, as well as setting aside \$5,000 annually for the Library to purchase smaller items as needed.

The Library has an active program hosting children's authors, speakers and artists, many of which are funded and arranged by the Friends. Most recently the Friends have initiated 'Live at the Library', hosting a range of musicians performing on Saturday mornings. Alongside this, members involve themselves in the many volunteer programs run by Launceston Library, including digitizing records, delivering books to homebound clients, and mounting displays.

Despite the misgivings of State Library management in the past, the Launceston Library itself has had a wonderfully productive relationship with the Friends. Together we are exploring new possibilities for collaboration on innovative projects for the coming years. The 30th anniversary has prompted a review of what has been achieved over that time, and set us looking for what most needs tackling in the future.

This celebration has caused us, also, to think of the contribution FOLA has made to our group, to Friends all over Australia, and through them to libraries nationally. We had great support from Alan Bundy over many years, and of course lots of practical advice and affirmation from Daniel Ferguson.

Thank you FOLA!

"The Library has an active program hosting children's authors, speakers and artists, many of which are funded and arranged by the Friends."

"the Launceston Library itself has had a wonderfully productive relationship with the Friends."

Friends Around Australia

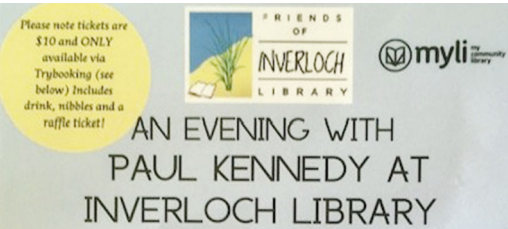


NATIONAL LIBRARY (ACT)

The Friends of the National Library has a new Executive Officer — Lauren Conron. Lauren grew up in Canberra and has a background in business operations management having recently worked at UN Women Australia, a fundraising and advocacy organisation promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment. The Friends AGM is being held on 10 November at 5.30 pm in the Theatre of the NLA and also via Zoom.

INVERLOCH (VIC)

July was a successful month for the Friends as we had 90 guests to hear Paul Kennedy speak. The committee is contacting writers for a very successful 2023 program, that helps bring in funds for the wonderful Inverloch Library.



BYRON BAY (NSW)

In February 2023 the Friends will celebrate 10 years since the new library building was opened. The Friends were key participants in lobbying for this new building and raised significant funds to

FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES BYRON SHIRE
ABOUT FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES BYRON SHIRE JOIN FOLDS OUR LIBRARIES CONTACT US

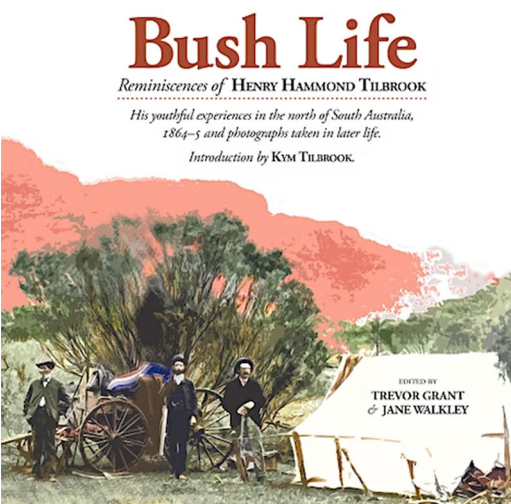


LAKES ENTRANCE (VIC)



Friends of the Library Lakes Entrance (FOLLE)

STATE LIBRARY (SA)



Launch of *Bush Life* in September 2022

Henry Hammond Tilbrook’s (1848-1937) youthful experiences in the north of South Australia 1864-5, with photographs taken in later life.

Bush Life celebrates the youthful diaries of South Australian pioneering photographer Henry Hammond Tilbrook (1848-1937), recording his adventures in South Australia’s mid north in 1864 and 1865. The book features a selection of his remarkable images of the mid north including Burra, Mount Bryan, the Flinders Ranges, and beyond.

Kym Tilbrook, the great-great-grandson of Henry Hammond Tilbrook, will launch the book with our President, Professor Rick Sarre. Refreshments will be served.

BALMAIN (NSW)

Dr Fiona Mitchell, Chair of Friends of Balmain Library recently presented the Chair’s Report for 2022 at the AGM. Highlights mentioned were: support from an outstanding committee, maintenance of the website, support from Hill of Content Bookshop, activities of the Open Book Group and difficulties in holding the Writing Competition. However, some very successful author events were held, including author, John Doyle.

Balmain: “Highlights mentioned were: support from an outstanding committee, maintenance of the website, support from Hill of Content Bookshop, activities of the Open Book Group and difficulties in holding the Writing Competition.”

SLSA: “*Bush Life* celebrates the youthful diaries of South Australian pioneering photographer Henry Hammond Tilbrook (1848-1937), recording his adventures in South Australia’s mid north in 1864 and 1865.”

FOCUS ON A FRIENDS GROUP

Victor Harbor (SA)



The Victor Harbor Friends of the Library has 15 enthusiastic committee members who meet once a month in the library. As part of each meeting we have a report from our library manager updating us on the latest library news and planned activities. We also have a much valued Victor Harbor councillor as a council representative who attends our meetings and both have been invaluable in assisting the committee liaison with the Council during COVID and helping us facilitate our book sales which we hold at the library which is part of the Council building.

We hold 4 book sales a year in the school holidays and these are our main fundraisers with all proceeds going to the library. Due to COVID we have had to reinvent ourselves and instead of filling the large Council chambers with tables we have been lucky to have instead some tables in the foyer. FOL also have a bookcase in the library with books, puzzles DVD's for purchase and this has been very popular and supplements our fundraising. We hold a small raffle with each book sale with a larger one in January when we often have extra tourists visiting as we are a very popular tourist destination especially in summer. We average \$1,600 a quarter with our book sales and bookcase. 2 members of

our committee have also held a number of specialised craft mornings which have been popular and valuable fundraisers. Since 1992 we have raised in excess of \$100,000 — some events and resources contributed to have been books, audio books, computers and software, a 3D printer, library programs and events library refurbishments and equipment.

Pre COVID we have also held other events such as quiz nights and high teas and have similar events we are waiting to hopefully have in 2022.

Every year FOL donates prize money for The Mayor's Short Story challenge which sees great participation from all our local schools. Some of our committee members have also helped with the judging.

Victor Harbor is very proud and supportive of its library, its fantastic staff and the many services it provides. We are very aware of the important role it has played in the community especially in the last 2 years. As a committee we have been thrown like everyone lots of challenges with COVID and are pleased at how we have been able to adapt. We greatly appreciate the assistance of the library staff, the Victor Harbor Council and our wonderful volunteers that help us with our book sales.

"We hold 4 book sales a year in the school holidays and these are our main fundraisers with all proceeds going to the library."

"Every year FOL donates prize money for The Mayor's Short Story challenge which sees great participation from all our local schools."

Message from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



"it was a joy for me to catch up the other day with our first president, on her 100th birthday. The remarkable Peg Lusink. Her vitality and commitment were still in evidence."

For twenty-eight years, FOLA has been confronting our role and challenge to support communities to build better library services. In fact, one of our earliest stated goals was campaigning against closure of libraries and advocating for local government councils to maintain both funding and support. Ascot Vale Library (Vic) was one of the first campaign initiatives. This challenge is seen today, at Lakes Entrance (Vic) where the Friends are campaigning against a reduction in services. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1476402472448590>

In later years, FOLA focused on the necessity for better library buildings and better funding, showcasing what was regarded as 'best practice' around Australia. Many outstanding new libraries were commissioned as a result of Friends campaigns – Stirling (SA), Toowoomba (Qld), Echuca (Vic).

The challenges remain. But we are confronted with a more complex library and societal

environment in a new digital age. While FOLA has been changing to identify and support some of these needs, as outlined in the 100th edition of *NewsUpdate*, the path ahead is challenging.

Our president, Jack Goodman has identified some new options, for both FOLA and Friends groups, and these are even now being outlined at the *Switch2022* Conference at Albury in November.

However, one thing remains a vital ingredient for successful Friends groups, that is leadership. From this comes a committed group of individuals supporting the direction of the Friends. Some outstanding examples spring to mind – Gretchen Sleeman (Wagga Wagga), Christl Markovic (Stirling). And for FOLA our presidents from 1994 onward – Hon Margaret Lusink, Peter McInnes, Dr Alan Bundy and Jack Goodman.

Therefore, it was a joy for me to catch up the other day with our first president, on her 100th birthday. The remarkable Peg Lusink. Her vitality and commitment were still in evidence.

Friends must still find committed leadership, as that makes for successful Friends.

"it was a joy for me to catch up the other day with our first president, on her 100th birthday. The remarkable Peg Lusink. Her vitality and commitment were still in evidence."



Membership Application

CATEGORIES Membership fee incorporating News Update Individual \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> FOL Group — 0-25 Members \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> FOL Group — 25+ Members \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Libraries \$105 <input type="checkbox"/> Institutions incl. Libraries with multiple Friends groups \$105 <input type="checkbox"/> Corporations \$105 <input type="checkbox"/> Extra copies of News Update \$10 per annum <input type="checkbox"/>	RETURN ADDRESS FOLA Inc. FOLA Treasurer, Dr David Parker, PO Box 32 Burnside SA 5068 Phone: (03) 9338 0666 Fax:(03) 9335 1903 PAYMENT DETAILS My cheque/money order is made payable to: Friends of Libraries Australia Inc. FOLA Treasurer, Dr David Parker, PO Box 32 Burnside SA 5068	Amount enclosed \$ ADDRESS DETAILS Name: Address: Postcode: Phone: Email:
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Friends Resource Book | Daniel Ferguson

- Establishing a successful Friends group
- Keeping your Friends active
- Incorporation
- Public liability
- Library management issues
- How to
- Latest and best ideas and much more...

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

Order Form

Name <input type="text"/>	
Address <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	
Postcode <input type="text"/>	Please send me a copy of Friends of Libraries Resource Book (2005) Enclosed is my cheque for \$59.95 plus \$10 postage & handling (cheque payable to — Friends of Libraries Australia Inc.) Mail to: FOLA Treasurer, Dr David Parker, PO Box 32 Burnside SA 5068 www.fola.org.au

About Us

FOLA NEWS UPDATE

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