4TH BIENNIAL FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE
17-19 MAY 2002
Sydney

Our 4th biennial conference will be held in Sydney on Friday 17 May until Sunday 19 May 2002. It promises to be the most comprehensive and demanding conference to date.

We are indeed fortunate to have as two keynote speakers - Hugh Mackay, noted social commentator and researcher, along with Mark Latham MP, Federal Member for the seat of Werriwa, a widely published author on libraries and the impact of new information technologies.

The venue for our conference is the Sydney Mechanics’ School of Arts, Pitt Street, in the centre of Sydney, and convenient to public transport routes. All plenary sessions will be held in the Mitchell Theatre and workshops in adjacent conference rooms - an excellent, modern facility.

Hugh Mackay

Hugh Mackay is a psychologist, social researcher and writer. He has made a life-long study of the attitudes and behaviour of the Australian community and, for the past 23 years, has been publishing his findings in the quarterly research series, The Mackay Report. He has also written four bestsellers in the field of social psychology.

He has been a weekly newspaper columnist for the past eight years and is a frequent commentator on radio and television.

Mark Latham

Mark Latham was elected to the House of Representatives for Werriwa, NSW in 1994. He has held numerous Opposition Shadow Ministry portfolios and House of Representative Committee positions. He is the author of numerous books and is also a regular newspaper columnist.

Economics, education, technology and the new learning society are areas of particular interest and regular commentary.

Full conference details and brochure will be available shortly, along with an extensive review in the next NewsUpdate.
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Visit to the UK – The opportunity to visit a wide range of Friends groups in the United Kingdom gave me the opportunity to benchmark our situation in Australia. Some of the most active and interesting groups are found outside of libraries - something we should take a look at, even here in Australia. We can be proud of our achievements in a short period of time, and with very limited funding. On the downside, we are missing many opportunities to highlight the importance of Friends, to our many stakeholders - council, public and government. We can only do better.

FOLUSA – A new executive director of Friends of Libraries USA has been named – Sally G Reed, Director of Libraries for the City of Norfolk. Sally commenced duties on January 14 and succeeds FOLUSA founding Director of 20 years, Sandy Dolnick.

Barossa – This South Australian Friends group provides much that is good in Friends of Libraries. The annual report is a detailed account of what can be achieved with dedication, focus, fun and the co-operation of many stakeholders. They now have 190 members. Well done, Barossa.

Corresponding Committee members - At the December meeting of the executive it was decided to offer ‘corresponding’ status to individuals in Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory to become associated with the national committee of FOLA. This will ensure a more dynamic structure, taking into account the concerns and interests of our membership across the nation. These ‘corresponding’ members will not have a vote at meetings.

FOLA Conference – I urge you to consider attending our forthcoming conference to be held in Sydney in May. Distance and cost of travel is an issue. Consider assistance from a sponsor or your library. The benefits in attending, meeting other Friends, exchanging ideas, and having your say in our affairs, can considerably benefit your Friends group, but also your library.

Daniel Ferguson

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A recent visit to the United Kingdom highlighted developments in Friends of Library groups throughout the country. Friends are contributing significantly to the national resurgence in cultural activities, in particular, libraries, art galleries, museums, but also cathedrals and concert venues.

A wide range of institutions have active and successful Friends. Those visited included, Friends of the Victoria and Albert Museum, Tate Modern & Britain, Wigmore Hall, Ashmolean Museum, Royal Academy, Royal Opera House, St James Church Piccadilly, Bath Abbey, Norwich and Lincoln Cathedral, the British Museum and the British Library.

Some of these Friends have in recent years made a significant contribution in marketing their institution to a previously untapped public. They have become a vital part of the institutions strategic planning, and have contributed significantly to the business development and revenue base of the institution. Friends of Norwich Cathedral, for example, established in 1930, have raised over £2.5 million in the past ten years and are undertaking a computerised digital monitoring system in the Cathedral.

Convent Garden Friends publicity states … “The Royal Opera House can only continue to provide world-class opera and ballet with the support and altruism of The Friends.” One may suspect that such support negates government and other forms of ‘base’ funding. Not so, both these institutions have undertaken considerable building projects in the past five years, funding coming from the government. The Friends have added to government funding with, and not at the expense of such support.

Key stakeholders in library service provision also recognise the contribution being made by Friends groups throughout the country, which only ten years ago had fewer than 50 groups, and today number over 300 library Friends groups.

A meeting with Jill Wright, Director, The Library Campaign and Andrew Coburn, Secretary, at the Library Association headquarters, provided an update on the nationwide development with Friends of Library groups. The Library Campaign is an umbrella organization representing the interests of Friends of Library groups in the U.K. Together with Libraries for Life for Londoners; these two organizations provide a similar function to FOLA in Australia.

The most high profile group is the Friends of the British Library, where I had the opportunity to meet with the Deputy Chairman, Dr Colin Tite and the Administrator of the Friends, Geoffrey Newman. The Friends Room, is a large well-furnished room situated on the third floor and overlooking the impressive King’s Library (the collection of George III) housed in a six-story (17-metre) glass walled tower.

Earlier in the year, at a meeting held at the House of Commons, plans were put in place to form an umbrella group representing all FOL groups in the U.K. Much of the impetus for this development and the awakening of Friends in the U.K. is the result of a report undertaken by Capital Planning Information Ltd, headed by Geoffrey Smith, a former County Chief Librarian.

Continued Overleaf
Continued from previous Page

This report was one of many undertaken by the Library and Information Commission on behalf of the government, and is having a significant impact on future directions of library and information services in the U.K.

"If public libraries are to achieve their potential as community assets, both well funded and community supported, Friends of Library groups can help"

Some of the outcomes of this visit and implications for FOLA and Friends groups in Australia, have been - a closer liaison established with peak bodies representing Friends in the U.K., a commitment to pursue the Friends movement with bodies such as IFLA, thus strengthening the relationship between the United States, Canada, the U.K. and Australian Friends of Library bodies, and continuing the liaison with the Library Association and library educators across the U.K.

If public libraries are to achieve their potential as community assets, both well funded and community supported, Friends of Library groups can help – a fact appreciated by stakeholders in the cultural sector in the U.K. today.

The opportunity to visit again a variety of Friends groups both in libraries and other cultural institutions has given FOLA and myself an understanding of trends in another country and some of the challenges for the development of Friends groups in Australia.
Launceston (Tas)

Friends have just completed the mammoth task of compiling a list of 100 well-known Tasmanian books - one for every year from 1901.

The Federation Booklist: 100 Important Tasmanian Books was compiled to mark Australia’s 100th year as a nation. The diverse list includes the 1901 Cyclopaedia Of Tasmania, 1916’s The Tasmanian Motorist's Comprehensive Road Guide, 1929’s Martin Cash The Bushranger Of Van Dieman’s Land.

Friends President, Prue McCausland said all the books listed had a strong Tasmanian connection through, author/illustrator or subject matter and all the books are held in the State library system.

FRIENDS of the LIBRARY
Launceston

Friends of the Library Launceston
Penguin jumpers win special International Year of Volunteers community award

The Friends of the Library Launceston and the Tasmanian Conservation Trust were recently given the National Community Link Volunteer Award for their Woollen Jumpers for Fairy Penguins project.

The penguin project was the Tasmanian winner in a special newly created award category to mark the International Year of Volunteers. It will receive $5,000 from the National Bank to further its work as well as a framed certificate.

The project sought to involve Launceston Library users in knitting jumpers for Fairy Penguins. The jumpers are used during oil spills to help penguins that have been exposed to oil to keep warm and survive. The initial target was a stockpile of 100 jumpers. However as a result of a magnificent response from volunteer knitters throughout Australia, 2600 jumpers have been made so far. As well as involving individuals, the project has attracted institutional support from schools, retirement villages, service organisations and aged care facilities.

Mike Pratt, the National’s CEO, Australian Financial Services, congratulated the Friends of the Library and the Conservation Trust for their contribution to the community and excellence in volunteer management.

The Minister for Family and Community Services, Senator Amanda Vanstone, congratulated all of the entrants in this year’s National CommunityLink Volunteer Awards. “Australia’s volunteers make an extraordinary difference to the quality of Australian life”.

President of the Friends of the Library, Launceston, Mrs Prue McCausland, said, “Winning this award is wonderful recognition of the efforts of so many volunteers and also recognises the dedication and effort of all those involved at the Launceston Library in promoting and managing the project.”
### Frankston (Vic)
A most valuable survey was undertaken at the August Booksale. Of the 100 questionnaires handed out, 94 were returned. The major question was - How did you find out about the booksale and is this your first time here?
21 responded to “first time” here. 53 of the respondents said they found out about the sale from bookmarks handed out in the library, 18 cited notices in the library, 17 saw notices in the newspaper and 12 from “someone else”.
The heritage bookmark project was launched on 16 October. The bookmark shows historical scenes of early Frankston produced from the library’s own photo collection.

### Wollongong (NSW)
The November meeting had author, Mare Carter former owner of Wild Country Park at Foxground. Her recent book is called A Wild Life. This was also the AGM.
Presentation of the book display cabinet purchased by the Friends for the new Depto Library took place on 7 February, followed by refreshments.

### Wagga Wagga (NSW)
The November booksale raised over $800 to go towards new book stock for library shelves. A very popular Harry Potter Movie Night was held in late November.
The end of the year meeting was held at Romano’s with drinks and dinner.

### State Library of NSW
Volunteers Make a Difference - was a library display at the State Library of NSW celebrating the work of volunteers everywhere. Australia has 2.7 million volunteers - 700,000 in NSW.

### Altona (Vic)
The Big Book Sale held at the end of 2001 resulted in $1,890 and the November monthly sale also achieved a record of over $300.
The Friends Bookroom now has a new roller door and new sign!

### Kew (Vic)
The guest speaker at the November meeting was Judy Maddigan MP, Deputy Speaker of the Victorian Parliament, who is also a librarian. Her topic was “Do you want to take your e-book to bed?”
Judy has been a strong supporter of free public libraries and was leading the campaign against privatisation of libraries in Victoria, when in opposition. She has been a long-time supporter of Friends and FOLA.
The November booksale raised $831, and was helped by Trinity College fete, which was on the same day.
Willunga & Aldinga (SA)
A publicity table was set up in January in the shopping centre Mall to hand to people information on the Friends and the library. A successful Christmas party was held on 6 December with drinks and entertainment. Two Scarecrows made by the Friends for the recent competition during the Bushing Festival are now on display in the Aldinga Library.

Salisbury (SA)
Forty Friends joined the Fun and Frivolity at the last meeting for 2001. Pam Ayers poems, ‘celebrity heads’ and singing were enjoyed by all. The first meeting for 2002 will hear Terry Lavender, Trailmaster on the Heysen Trail.

Barossa (SA)
President, Jill Stevens reported a very successful year for the Friends in her AGM Report... book stalls, Vintage Festival, Peter Lehmann’s cellar door (raising over $700), the purchase of a set of custom shelves for the local history collection, a bookplate for the Friends donations designed by Melanie Hibbert, press releases, radio publicity, local history competition, students poetry competition and afternoon tea for volunteers during Australian Library Week, were just a few of the activities for the past year.

Cooloola (Qld)
Following the very successful regional conference organised by Cooloola in 2001, another regional get together is being organised for Hervey Bay in 2002.

Gladstone (Qld)
The book sale raised $446.85, a significant sum that can be used to purchase special facilities for the new building.

FOLA is compiling a list of Friends groups who have a web site or have a link to their Friends group or are mentioned on the library’s web address. Send us details.

Name of FOL group

www address

Post to: FOLA Locked Bag 1315 Tullamarine Vic 3043
Fax to: FOLA 03 9335 1903
Email to: dferguson@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au
The tone of any meeting is, in my experience, set by the hosts. The right tone tells those attending that they are well-received, that their participation is important and that they are amongst friends.

Our hosts at the Friends of the Library in Queensland Conference (20-21 September), the Chief Librarian and staff of the Bundaberg Library and the President and members of the Bundaberg Friends of the Library set the tone perfectly.

For me, that the Queensland Minister of Local Government, the Hon Nita Cunningham MLA opened the conference and stayed for the initial session showed the importance she attached to the conference and to Friends Groups.

The aims of the conference were: To provide an overview of how existing Friends groups operate; to provide practical advice for the formation of new groups; to discuss and initiate the formation of a statewide FOL organization; and to investigate the creation of a website for the statewide organization.

The subjects discussed covered the skeleton of a potential Friends Group with the flesh and muscle to enable it to work efficiently, getting volunteers, writing a constitution, group human relations, incorporation and fundraising, applying for grants, promotion and the possible future of such groups.

The subjects were chosen after wide consultation.

The social side was not neglected, the highlight was a dinner at the Rosegarden Restaurant complete with a steam train ride and a wonderful talk by local author, Sandy Curtis.

The conference was largely made possible by the generosity of the Bundaberg Council, local businesses and library suppliers and FOLA’s own Phil Walshe (Bolinda Publishing).

At the final session it was decided to set up an informal working party to study the concept of a statewide group. Anyone who has any thoughts on this should contact Ray McInnerney.

The reinforcement that what Friends do is important and is appreciated.

The value to library users of the goodwill between library staff and FOL members.

The knowledge that we are not “alone”. We have lots of Friends out there.

That although each group has its own way of doing things we have enough in common to be mutually supportive and to speak with one voice.

There is a need for a statewide organization and of the value of a get together of this type.

It is tentatively planned to hold another conference, probably in 2003. Where do I sign up? Thank you Bundaberg.
FOLUSA NEWS

- Sally G Reed, Director of Libraries for the City of Norfolk, Virginia since 1995, will become the new Executive Director of Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA) in Philadelphia, PA, effective January 14, 2002. Reed succeeds Founder/Director Sandy Dolnick who started the organization over 20 years ago as a committee of the Library Administration and Management Association of ALA. “Sandy has done an outstanding job in building a solid foundation for FOLUSA,” said Reed. “Thanks to her it is a nationally recognised and respected organization. I look forward to building on this foundation to provide support for Friends groups across the country as they work to improve their own libraries”.

- Reed is an active member of the American Library Association. She recently completed a term on its executive board and continues to be involved in advocacy and library promotion through various committees and task forces. She has written numerous articles and books for the field of librarianship, the most recent of which is Making the Case for Your Library (Neal-Schuman, 2000). In 2000, Reed was the recipient of the Herbert and Virginia White award given annually by the American Library Association to recognise success in the promotion of libraries and librarianship.

- Friends of Bruton Memorial Library organised “Hijinx on the High Seas”, a mystery dinner. Two sponsors generously subsidised the cost of meals. Ticket sales grossed $4125 and $592 was earned from the sale of one-dollar clues as the audience tried to determine the identity of the killer.

- Friends of Austin Public Library received a newly created membership card that can be used at a variety of businesses and organizations for a discount on products and services. Participating businesses will be listed in the newsletter and on the Friends website: www.main.org/friends.


- Lillian’s most recent 8 hour sale at Glastonbury raised $18,300 ($A40,000).

UK NEWS

- Friends of Cheam Library are one of the Sutton Library Friends’ Groups (eight branch library and one main library - all with FOL groups). Once a year Sutton Library arranges an outing for Library Friends groups, last year; a visit to the new reading room at the British Museum and this year; to London’s Living Library Festival in Covent Garden. Sutton also arranges an annual evening get-together for all the Friends groups, to hear what each has been doing. - A great UK Friends success story supported by a visionary Chief Librarian (editor visited Sutton in 1999)

- The head of Dorset Libraries sent out a letter inviting library users and other to become a member of the Friends of Dorset Libraries. The subscription was £5. in return they would enjoy some free reservations and concessions on video loans. Some 1200 people signed up!

FOCAL
Advocacy Tips from Jan Dalymyn

- Be vigilant. Threats can appear at any time.
- Enjoy the benefits of building a coalition.
- Children can be eloquent speakers, and they are entitled to be heard.
- Build a reputation for credibility. Do your research. Be accurate.
- Be vocal in good times as well as bad. Trumpet your values.
- Stick to the issue.
- Do your homework.
- Get to know library staff.
- Work in all legislative levels - federal, provincial and municipal.
- Be personal. Use charm to help make your case.
- Seal the deal. Know what you want and ask for a commitment.
- Don’t be misinformed. If you don’t know, find out.
- Support and gain the confidence of the Chief Executive Officer.
- Use media coverage to reveal politicians’ bias, and work on the people not on your side.
- Find advocacy partners. Use the phone book, newspaper clippings, networks and e-mail.
Better library services for Australians won't just happen...

Paper presented at ALIA SEQ Public Librarians advocacy seminar Brisbane Qld
24 October 2001
Dr Alan Bundy
President Australian Library and Information Association

(full text of paper may be found at www.library.unisa.edu.au/papers/betterlibrary.htm)

Abstract: After a very slow start, particularly in Queensland and South Australia, Australia now has one of the most accessible, technologically progressive, and heavily used public library networks in the world. However to achieve that network’s full societal potential much needs to be done in the 21st century to address issues such as poorly located and unattractive buildings, space, hours, resources and technology and specialist librarians to develop services. This requires local government to increase its current modest investment in what is by far its most heavily used and appreciated community service. State governments also need to truly maintain their funding partnership with local government in the provision of public libraries. This requires local government to increase its current modest investment in what is by far its most heavily used and appreciated community service. State governments also need to truly maintain their funding partnership with local government in the provision of public libraries. Evidence based advocacy for these outcomes will be needed at the local, state and national levels.

FOLA and Friends of Library groups around Australia can be a major focus for citizen advocacy for better libraries, but such groups cannot really exist unless public librarians understand their roles and potential, perhaps initiate them, and certainly nurture them.

National Survey of Reading....

A National Survey of Reading, Buying and Borrowing Books has been conducted by ACNielsen on behalf of Books Alive and the Australia Council for the Arts.

Full copies of the report are available via a pdf version:
or email m.joel@ozco.gov.au

Where to the Books Come From?

Those who had read in the previous week were asked about the source of each book read.

The origins of all the books read were as follows:

- 29% bought new
- 20% borrowed from the library
- 19% been in house for a long time
- 13% borrowed from a friend
- 10% received as a gift
- 5% bought second-hand
- 2% borrowed from someone in the house
- 2% other sources

Is Internet Purchasing Likely to Increase?

One in five ruled out this option as they have no access to the internet. Most readers (59%) consider the internet purchasing in the future to be unlikely; only one in five (21%) consider it a possibility. Interest is stronger among males, under 30, university educated and living in capital cities.
Inaugural Keith Murdoch Oration

Delivered by Rupert Murdoch, 11 October 2001 in honour of his father - one of the Library's most significant Presidents.

State Library of Victoria

Keith Murdoch had several principles in common with the State Library of Victoria and with public libraries across the nation, principles that are fundamental to any modern democracy. Dedication to the cause of knowledge and its fair distribution. A faith in the permanent value of the written word. And the determination to provide each and every curious citizen with access to the information that empowers us all. The role of public libraries is more vital today than ever before, as information has become the world's most valuable currency. It is a role that will only become more imperative in the future.

(full text can be found at - http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/slv/events/keithmurdoch/)

State Library of Victoria

From the President of the State Library of South Australia

Tony Shinkfield writes in the FLSA Newsletter …

“Research has shown that public libraries are popular regardless of their quality; but oddly enough most people find it difficult to state what constitutes a successful library. Citizen advocacy, however, should eventually help considerably to define merit and worth.

Dr Alan Bundy, ALIA President, outlined (in 1999 at the Public Libraries National Conference in Perth) the usefulness of citizen advocacy for the benefit of US public libraries, pointing out the similar role of Friends of Libraries (FOLA) and, indeed, of the various State Friends' groups. To enable our libraries to flourish (based on citizen advocacy) there must exist a symbiotic relationship between such groups and librarians.

Our New Library (SLSA) must be innovative, one which ostensibly influences our community. In this regard, the Friends of the State Library of SA, it seems to me, will have a greater role to play in the future.”

Marketing Tips

Check the web site of Foundations and Friends of Caliofnrnia Libraries (www.friendcalib.org) for two articles on marketing your bookshop or gift shop - tips that apply to your booksales as well!
Committee meetings are held at the Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne, Parkville.

is published four times a year by Friends of Libraries Australia.

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Coming Events:
Colin Watson Oration
4th FOLA biennial conference
Australian Library & Information Association biennial conference
Library & Information Week

Friday 17 May 2002, 6 pm
Saturday - Sunday 18-19 May 2002, 9.30 am - 4.30 pm
19-22 May 2002, Sydney
20-26 May 2002

Venue: Sydney Mechanics’ School of Arts, Pitt Street, Sydney

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Friends of Libraries
Resource Book

edited by
Daniel Ferguson

FOLA Inc. 1997
ISBN 0 646 34486 2

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includes GST, postage & handling
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“the most authoritative resource on Friends of Library
groups in Australia - a necessary resource for all FOL
groups and libraries”

Contains information on:
Why we need Friends
History of Friends
Establishing a successful Friends group
Examples of constitutions
Public relations
Programming
Fundraising
Lobbying
Successful FOL groups
The role of FOLA
An extensive bibliography
And much more …

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FOLA Committee meetings for 2002:
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13 March, 12 June, 14 August, 9 October,
11 December.
Special General Meeting: 18 May - Sydney
Annual General Meeting: 14 August - Melbourne

Committee meetings are held at the Baillieu Library,
University of Melbourne, Parkville.