

Friends of the Library Byron Shire
Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting

Marvell Hall 21 October 2020, 10.00am

Attendance:

Beryl Main, Richard Hodgson, Janene Jarvis, Anne Gilmore, Mary Nelson, Sue Ash, Barbara Barrett, Geoff Meers, Lee Rogers, Margaret Wills, Margot Wright, Samantha McGrath, Sue Hart, Sally Bunyan, Brenda Anderson, Gerda Roche, Sandy Allan, Rose Fox

Apologies:

Caroline Adams, Cathy Short, Gulcin Cribb, Anna Middleton

Proxies: None

1. Election of Office Bearers

All positions were declared vacant and nominations were sought. Barbara Barrett chaired and asked for the nomination of President.

- President: Beryl Main accepted the nomination for President by Anne Gilmore. Beryl Main was elected unopposed for the year 2020/21 and then Chaired the remainder of the meeting.
- Vice President: Janene Jarvis accepted the nomination for Vice president by Anne Gilmore. Janene Jarvis was elected unopposed for the year 2020/21.
- Treasurer: Richard Hodgson accepted the nomination for Treasurer by Mary Nelson. Richard Hodgson was elected unopposed for the year 2020/21.
- Secretary: Anne Gilmore accepted the nomination for secretary by Samantha McGrath, Anne Gilmore was elected unopposed for the year 2020/21.
- Assistant Secretary: Geoff Meers accepted the nomination for assistant secretary by Anne Gilmore. Geoff Meers was elected unopposed for the year 2020/21
- Membership Officer: Sue Ash accepted the nomination for membership secretary by Beryl Main, Sue Ash was elected unopposed for the year 2020/21.
- Events Coordinator: Mary Nelson accepted the nomination for events coordinator by Richard Hodgson. Mary Nelson was elected unopposed for the year 2020/21
- Publicity Coordinator: Margot Wright accepted the nomination for publicity coordinator by Beryl Main. Margot Wright was elected unopposed for the year 2020/21.
- Web Coordinator: Samantha McGrath accepted the nomination for web coordinator by Anne Gilmore, Samantha McGrath was elected unopposed for the year 2020/21.

2. Welcome by President

Beryl welcomed attendees, particularly new members and gave her report (see below).

3. Minutes AGM 2019

Moved Anne that they are a true record of the meeting, seconded by Geoff.

4. Business arising from the minutes: Nil

5. Presidents annual report: Attached below

6. Treasurers 2019/20 financial statement

- Working account balance: 1 July 2019 \$19,015, balance 30 June 2020 \$9,932
- Cash reserve account: balance: 1 July 2019 \$14,411, balance 30 June 2020 \$14,471
- Term deposit: balance: 1 July 2019 \$18,770, balance 30 June 2019 \$19,211
- Petty cash: balance: 1 July 2019 \$204, balance 30 June 2020 \$191

- Total funds at year end \$43,806
- We received a donation from the 'Seachange' production group of \$2000 for the Brunswick Heads library and donated to the Byron Shire libraries a total of \$15,400.
- Richard will complete the reports to Fair Trading and Charities Commission. It was noted that charities are now only required to do the one lodgment to cover the Fair Trading and Charities requirements.
Moved Richard: that the report be accepted, seconded Mary

7. Guest speaker: Paul Byrnes

Award winning film critic, journalist and film programmer. Paul worked for Sydney Morning herald for 25 years and is the author of The Lost Boys – the untold stories of under-age soldiers who fought in The First World War. Paul is currently researching his next book about the boys of the Second World War.

Meeting closed 10.20am

President's Report for Annual General Meeting 2020

What a year this has been and one that, in our wildest of dreams, would never have been anticipated 12 months ago. Are we coming out the other end? Who knows? But what I do know is that the FOL committee has worked diligently to keep communication and operations at the forefront as best as possible during these adverse times. Our first response in April was to transfer our monthly meetings to Zoom online committee meetings and later to open this to all FOL members. These successfully allowed us to keep our team spirit alive and work on a few selected projects. The advent of a Newsletter kept members informed. The 'work from home' approach answered our needs but is no substitute for the social interaction and warmth of our group in person meetings.

As I read through the reports for the first half of our financial year in 2019, I was reassured that we have a very dedicated, hard-working and enthusiastic committee and membership team. The year opened with our Annual Book Fair and raffle at the Byron Bay Surf Club. Many hours of preparation was needed to bring the event to the fore. I particularly thank Janene Jarvis for her remarkable commitment, enthusiasm and methodical work in bringing so many volunteers and friends together. This is our major fundraiser and draws large crowds over the weekend. With book sales reaching a record \$10,977 and the raffle \$5,680 - a record grand total of \$16,657- we should all feel well rewarded for the time and commitment donated.

Whilst promoting the love of literature and enjoying meeting published writers, our author events also add to funds that can be distributed to our Area Librarian. Several of these were hosted during 2019 including working with Byron Writers Festival for what has become an annual event. We were also fortunate this year to receive a \$2000 donation from Every Cloud Productions – Seachange- for the Brunswick Library.

Friends of Libraries Byron was nominated for the NSW Volunteer of the Year Award 2019 by Brenda Anderson. Whilst not a winner, it was nice recognition. Friends of Libraries Byron also initiated the E-Resources expansion and with the support of Jo Carmody, Regional Manager RTRL, all FOL groups in the Northern Rivers donated equally. These donations were matched by the libraries of the region adding about \$20,000 to the e-resources budget. This was planned to be ongoing but the current Covid 19 circumstances and restricted fundraising opportunities may see to put on hold for 2020/2021. We have been able to continue funding the 'Quick Reads' programme at the Byron Bay Library which is proving very popular with those who manage to read a book in one week. Available space does not allow this programme to be extended to Mullumbimby or Brunswick Heads at this stage.

Furniture in the Byron Library has been refurbished with material that will be more durable. Discussions have been held with Brenda Anderson in relation to projects at Brunswick Heads and Mullumbimby. Until we step beyond Covid restrictions, developments cannot proceed. With staff changes at the Byron Shire Council and unavailable funds, an application for a grant for the Brunswick Heads library renovation is not underway. This is a project for 2021.

The first half of 2020 resulted in a rather quiet time for our group. With much regret we cancelled our Book Fair and raffle. We continued our monthly meetings online and now look forward to future live meetings in a safe place. We made online author events available via Youtube and Zoom and supported a book launch for Alice Achan 'The School of Restoration' at the Moller Pavilion for girls' education in Uganda. As always we are grateful to the Bangalow CWA for their generosity and exquisite catering. It was with much sadness and a great sense of loss that we saw our respected local author Jessie Blackadder die. Jessie was most committed to the writing process, supporting many projects especially for children and young writers.

In concluding, I would like to thank everyone for their support of Friends of Libraries Byron Shire. Where would we be without volunteers! Even more, where would we be without volunteers that work together so cooperatively. Beryl Main, President.