

Friends of the Library Byron Shire
Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting
Marvell Hall 10 am Wednesday, October 19, 2022

Attendance:

Beryl Main, Richard Hodgson, Janene Jarvis, Anne Gilmore, Mary Nelson, Barbara Barrett, Geoff Meers, Gulcin Cribb, Margot Wright, Samantha McGrath, Gerda Roche, Anna Middleton, Felicity Watsford, Fauna Devitt, Chris Chaseling, Catherine White, Margie Wills, Sandra Vickers, Cate Bailey, Lyn Parche, Sally Warriner, Caroline Charles, Ona Winter-Irving

Apologies:

Cathy Short, Caroline Adams, Sue Hart, Jed Hart, Kathy Pickles, Brenda Anderson, Natalia Standfield, Sue Ash, Veronica Crowther, Monique McElhiney, Annette Lyons, Maryanne Mackie, Peter Spearritt, Sandy Allan

1. Welcome by President

Beryl welcomed attendees, particularly new members, and our guest speaker Sally Warriner.

2. Election of Office Bearers

Geoff Meers chaired the election of office bearers. All positions were declared vacant, and nominations were sought. The following positions were filled:

- **President:** Geoff Meers nominated Beryl Main for President. Beryl accepted the nomination which was seconded by Anne Gilmore. Beryl was elected unopposed for the year 2022/23 and then Chaired the remainder of the meeting.
- **Vice President:** Anne Gilmore nominated Janene Jarvis for Vice President. Janene accepted the nomination which was seconded Margot Wright. Janene was elected unopposed for the year 2022/23.
- **Treasurer:** Anne Gilmore nominated Richard Hodgson for Treasurer. Richard accepted the nomination which was seconded by Janene Jarvis. Richard was elected unopposed for the year 2022/23.
- **Secretary:** Janene Jarvis nominated Anne Gilmore for Secretary. Anne accepted the nomination which was seconded by Beryl Main. Anne was elected unopposed for the year 2022/23.
- **Assistant Secretary:** Anne Gilmore nominated Catherine Short for Assistant Secretary. Catherine accepted the nomination which was seconded by Samantha McGrath. Catherine was elected unopposed for the year 2022/23.
- **Membership Officer:** Janene Jarvis nominated Samantha McGrath for Membership Officer. Samantha accepted the nomination which was seconded by Richard Hodgson. Samantha was elected unopposed for the year 2022/23
- **Events Coordinator:** Has been left vacant as no one nominated for this position. The position can be filled at any point during the year if anyone is interested in this role.
- **Publicity Coordinator:** Janene Jarvis nominated Margot Wright for Publicity Coordinator. Margot accepted the nomination which was seconded by Anne Gilmore. Margot was elected unopposed for the year 2022/23.
- **Web & Social Media Coordinator:** Janene Jarvis nominated Samantha McGrath for Web Coordinator. Samantha accepted the nomination which was seconded by Richard. Samantha was elected unopposed for the year 2022/23. Samantha will take on the social media aspects of the Events Co-Ordinator role.
- Beryl thanked Gerda for her hard work in organizing a series of wonderful events this year as Events Coordinator.

3. Minutes AGM 2021

Anne Gilmore moved that the minutes from 2021 AGM are a true record of the meeting, seconded by Anna Middleton.

4. Business arising from the minutes: No items

5. Presidents annual report: As at the 19 October 2022 FOL Byron Shire has 67 members which is very positive. See President's report at the end of the minutes.

6. Treasurers 2021/2022 Financial Statement

Working account balance: 1 July 2021 \$19,383, balance 30 June 2022 \$19,117

Cash reserve account: balance: 1 July 2021 \$14,481, balance 30 June 2022 \$14,485

Term deposit: balance: 1 July 2021 \$19,442, balance 30 June 2022 \$19,559

Petty cash: balance: 1 July 2021 \$200, balance 30 June 2022 \$148

End the Year with a balance year end 2021-22 \$53,309

Richard Hodgson moved that the Financial Statements for 2021/2022 be accepted as a true record, seconded by Gulcin Cribb.

7. Other Business

Our guest speaker was Sally Warriner was interviewed by Mary Nelson. Sally is a person who has embraced life as an adventure, a very inspirational interview. She recently published the book *Not Just the Wife of the General Manager* a fascinating insight into life on a large outback station Newcastle Waters, in the Northern Territory.

Meeting to closed 11.15 am and was followed by morning tea before the October 2022 General Meeting.

President's Report Annual General Meeting October 19, 2022

It is always a pleasure to round up the activities of our financial year and review what we have achieved. Despite the considerable restraints of pandemic and floods, we accomplished a significant number of achievements.

I thank everyone who nominated to become a committee member during the 2021-2022. I am most appreciative of your generous volunteering over the year. Along with this, just where would we be without our regular FOL members who step up to give their time to make our events successful.

The cancellation of the 2021 Book Fair was met with disappointment and concerns about storing our well sorted collection for another year arose. However, we managed to refuel our spirits and secure a reservation at the Byron Surf Club for 2022. We are most grateful for their support. Byron Bay Self Storage continues to be a generous donor with storage sheds. Through Barbara Barrett's enduring efforts, a significant number of book sales continued through online sites. Our successful raffle, raising \$9,300, was good compensation for the cancelled Book Fair. Despite their adverse trading circumstances, we were generously supported by our donors.

Our sponsorship of the Quick Reads program in the library is a new venture, is well received by library users and has now been extended to the Mullumbimby and Brunswick Heads libraries. Friends of Libraries bookplates are placed in these books.

Some of our projects included reupholstery of furniture for Byron Bay and Mullumbimby, and the purchase of Writers Festival books.

In keeping with the times, we managed two online events, a Zoom interview with Tanya Heaslip and Mary Nelson and one streamed event by joining the Bangalow CWA for a feature crime writers discussion from the State Library of NSW raising funds for Lismore Library. Belinda Jeffrey was enjoyed by many members and friends, supported by Bangalow CWA. We hosted Marcus Pearce, local author and motivational speaker, with Your Exceptional Life.

FOL also supported Marvell Hall with their book sale for Lismore Library and ran this event for them, raising \$6,300. Some members assisted with the Front Up for The Frontline project making treats for the emergency doctors, nursing staff and ambulance staff and also prepared meals for Lismore flood victims. The colorful FOL bookmarks were created and are used to promote FOL through libraries and at events. Working groups reviewed the role descriptions of the Committee positions and reviewed and prepared for adoption a new Constitution. I thank those involved as this has been a most arduous task.

Tamara Smith MP sent a transcript of a Community Recognition Statement formally acknowledging the contribution of FOL Byron Shire to the community. This recognition officially stands on the NSW parliamentary record and is a wonderful accolade to all members who generously and tirelessly assist with our projects. It is displayed in the Shire libraries.

We received a request from Social Habitat to meet with this group in relation to the possible expansion of the Brunswick Heads Library. A meeting was arranged with six FOL representatives and 3 Social Habitat representatives to share ideas and proposals, assisting them with the gathering of information to present to Byron Council enabling the Council to prepare feasibility documents.

Whilst our financial situation is looking good, it was moved that we keep funds reserved for the potential refurbishment of the Brunswick Heads Library.

Our membership continues to grow with exiting members being replaced by new members. At the end of June, we had 63 members, increasing to 67 by September 2022.

Since the end of the financial year we have:

- Held a Book Fair, increased to 3 days, with a small raffle raising a total of \$17,000
- Hosted the Writers Festival event with Nikki Gemmell and Mandy Nolan, supported by the Bangalow CWA.
- Assisted with the commissioning of the new Mobile Library at Heritage House.
- Hosted Hugh Mackay with over 100 guests with The Kindness Revolution
- Hosted Chris Hammer launching The Tilt

In concluding, I would like to thank the library staff for their assistance in helping us implement our projects. I always feel privileged to lead this very enthusiastic, dedicated and high performing group of volunteers who work tirelessly to help make our libraries the best places they can be for all members of our community. I encourage all members to consider nominating for a committee position in the future. It is a most rewarding group of volunteers with which to work.

I thank you all for your support throughout the year.

Beryl Main

President Friends of Libraries Byron Shire 2022