

# Friends of Libraries Byron Shire

## President's Report for Annual General Meeting 2017/2018

Wednesday 17 October, 2018

Our mission statement remains our focus as our libraries continue to be places that provide a comfortable space for our large and varied demographic, some of whom seek refuge in these beautiful spaces. Along with providing opportunities to host book events, we pursue our objectives of raising funds to enhance existing library services, supporting and assisting in the promotion and development of library services in our region and assisting in strengthening the role of the library as a community hub, connecting people with information, collections, programs and resources.

Reflection upon the activities of the 2017/2018 year, confirms that Friends of Libraries continues to be an enthusiastic, committed and high achieving group. As always, I feel privileged to be a part of this organisation which seems to raise the bar on achievement each year. I commend this group for their willingness to step in and take on extra duties during times of adversity. Volunteers are an integral part of our communities, generously giving many selfless hours and FOL is privileged to have many such volunteers. Of course, the personal rewards are immeasurable which drive the volunteer. Byron Shire is extremely fortunate to have such a group supporting their local libraries and to continue helping to make them the best places they can be for the benefit of the local community and the many visitors who come to Byron Shire.

### **A chronological synopsis of achievements and events for 2017/2018 financial year:**

- In July 2017, \$11,000 from the Book Fair of June 2017 was given to the library and allocated to the purchase of fiction.
- In conjunction with the Byron Writers Festival, we hosted Michael Robotham, interviewed by Mick O'Regan, at the Moller Pavilion.
- Mark Holden event with Byron Writers Festival at the library. Proceeds to FOL.
- Assisted with the Writers Festival Poetry Slam. Generous donations to FOL.
- Supported the Bangalow CWA Spring garden party.
- Book launch by Anna Middleton 'Anna' at Heritage House.
- Support Byron Youth Service and YAC with a book stall at their market day, October and November.
- Book launch at Byron library in November by Fiona McIntosh 'The Tea Gardens'.
- Renegotiated the use of the Byron Surf Club for the Book Fair in July 2018. A very generous response.
- The addition of Trybooking working well for reservations for FOL events.
- FOL letter of support for the first grant application for the Brunswick Heads library extension.
- Mobile Library Promotion event at Heritage House Bangalow and Bangalow Designers Market gold coin collection.
- Sunday Market Day, Byron Bay. FOL was selected to be the charity of the day for January 2018
- Successfully held a monthly meeting at Brunswick Heads Bowls Club. Jodie Frawley, Byron Shire Council Grants Coordinator updated grant application for BH library and the grant application resubmission. FOL agreed to send a new letter of support.
- Continue Byron Writers Festival membership. Not only supports the BWF but gives FOL 5 discounted tickets to events.
- Book launch for Mandy Nolan 'Women Like Us' at Heritage House in May with a champagne and high tea function.
- Many hours of preparation for the major raffle and Book Fair in July 2018 much of which took place in the 2017/2018 financial year.

I express my thanks to the staff of all three libraries for their support in helping us to reach our goals. It is also time to express gratitude to the Byron Shire businesses that so generously support Friends of Libraries.

Above all else, I say 'thank you' to the dedicated executive and committee and the many FOL members who assist with our fundraising activities and events. To our members, I say that none of our achievements would be possible with you. I urge everyone to consider standing for a position on the committee at some stage as it is a most rewarding group of volunteers with which to work.

The bereavements of Hester Maughan, an original FOL member and treasurer and Judy Lynch, an active FOL member always ready to give a hand, left our team with a great sense of sadness. Their commitment to Friends of Libraries and community service will be remembered.

Finally, I thank the Arakwal community for allowing us to use their room at the Byron Bay library for our meetings. It is always appreciated that we can share and support one another where needed.

Beryl Main  
President  
Friends of Libraries Byron Shire.