

## **President's Report for Annual General Meeting 2019**

Our mission 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 people and with information, collections, programs and resources.

This past year has seen continued successful performance by Friends of Libraries Byron Shire with author events, fundraising, supporting library events, surveys and the allocation of money to our libraries being the highlights.

Financially we have made significant contribution to our libraries with over \$16,000 being distributed to the Area Librarian to increase her resources budget, purchase furniture and book storage facilities and implement the 'Quick Reads' programme in Byron Bay library. I am grateful for the support offered to us by the staff of all three libraries in our Shire. Such cooperation and collaboration is the secret to our success.

Our major fundraiser, The Book Fair and raffle, reached new heights, and left all those concerned feeling a great sense of satisfaction. This does not happen without much effort from the strong leadership of the Book Fair Convenor, FOL committee and members alike. It is always impressive to see friends of our members come along to help. The rewards are huge. Our sponsors have readily continued their support with generous donations for our raffle. Holding our Book Fair on the same weekend as the Beachside Markets has drawn unexpected crowds and we plan to continue this relationship with the Byron Community Centre, already set in motion for 2020.

Our special event with Di Morrissy in conjunction with the Writers Festival was also a great success, attracting a large crowd of 110 guests to a most enjoyable afternoon. The Bangalow CWA generously provided and served their usual sumptuous afternoon tea and everyone enjoyed a chat with Di. Our continuing relationship with the Writers Festival is becoming an important part of our identity.

Being the President of this enthusiastic group is such a pleasure and I find that each year I fall back on my usual words of gratitude to those who have taken on committee positions over the past year. I say 'thank you' to this dedicated executive and committee and also to 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 without 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. Our membership currently stands at around 60. The committee is always dependent on those members to assist with our events and fundraisers. I ask all members to continue giving generously of their time when called upon. Your support is vital to the efficiencies of our projects.

Once again, I feel privileged to lead this enthusiastic, dedicated and high performing group of volunteers.

Beryl Main, President Friends of Libraries Byron Shire.