

**Friends of the Library Byron Shire  
Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting  
Wednesday 15 August 2018  
Arakwal Room, Byron Bay Library**

1. Attendance: Beryl Main (Chair), Geoff Meers, Janene Jarvis, Carolyn Adams, Sue Ash, Barbara Barrett, Richard Hodgson, Samantha McGrath, Anna Middleton, Mary Nelson, Fred Schack, Brenda Anderson, Lee Rogers, Pam Hughes, Annie Millic, Jo Carmody (RTRL)

Apologies: Trisha Bleakley, Margaret Wills, Anne Gilmore, Margot Wright, Bette Beresford, Cathy Short

2. Librarian's Report:

- Jo Carmody thanked FOL for their ongoing support for our libraries. Jo explained the "Renew Our Libraries" campaign, organized by the NSW Public Library Association and the NSW Local Government Association. She encouraged people to sign the petition ([www.renewourlibraries.com.au](http://www.renewourlibraries.com.au)). RTRL are working on a strategic plan for library services. Currently a community survey has been undertaken and a phone survey will follow.
- Brenda thanked FOL for offering financial assistance again this year and outlined the priorities for our funds:
  - \$4,000 for "Quick Reads", 4 copies of 4 bestsellers each month, one week loans, no reserves, higher late fees (already working in Tweed Library).
  - \$11,000 for additional junior non-fiction and talking books

3. Minutes from June Meeting:

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

4. Business Arising from June Meeting:

- Most actions had been completed.
- Active member list still to be confirmed by Executive
- Next year's Book Fair will be held mid-July, date to be confirmed once the Beachside market confirm their date. Two weekends set aside by Surf Club for us (subsequent confirmation of 13-14 July for next year's Fair)
- **ACTION:** Geoff to arrange cloud storage for FOL documents including raffle guidelines and attachments

5. Presidents Report June 2018: Attached

6. Correspondence Incoming: letters of response to our thank you letters to raffle donors, BSN invoice

7. Correspondence Outgoing: Letters of thanks to raffle donors, Surf Club, Byron Bay Self Storage

- **ACTION:** Beryl to write letters of thanks to Jan Hulbert for use of Moller crockery, CWA for catering, Dennis Cummings for his work for the Book Fair (plus honorary membership of FOL and a bottle of shiraz)

#### 8. Treasurers Report:

- Balance from June \$55,466. Total income, \$2,263. Total expenditure, \$1,393. Accumulated balance as of August \$56,336.
- Invoice from Byron Shire News paid and will appear in next month's statement
- Richard moved that the report be accepted, seconded Mary.
- Discussion of funds for library. Moved Beryl that we provide \$15,000 for expenditure as outlined by Brenda, noting potential for further funds at a later stage if needed, seconded Richard.
- Agreed for photos and publicity with cheque and Quick Reads

#### 9. Membership report: None

- **ACTION:** Executive to review active member list

#### General Business

- Review of Ailsa Piper and Tony Doherty event:
  - Mixed review but mostly positive.
- Feed back for BWF. **ACTION:** Mary to write to BWF noting: late notice for handsfree mics, questioning our need to fund an extra night for Ailsa when she had 6 performances while she was here, note our extensive costs for the event, address Carolyn's feedback.
- Allocation of money to Byron Shire Libraries – see discussion in Treasurers report
- Book Launch Peter Spearitt
  - Confirm Thursday 1 November at Ewingsdale Hall
  - Costs – wait for Anne's return but FOL probably responsible for wine and cheese/bics
  - Finalise next meeting
- AGM
  - Confirm AGM will be held at October meeting
  - Discussed possible catering, for further discussion next meeting.
  - **ACTION:** any members interested in a Committee position to send nomination form to Geoff. Forms will be circulated shortly.
- Housebound deliveries
  - Barbara asked for volunteers as a back-up for her, first Wednesday of the month, written instructions and introductions provided, need police check (free).
  - Pam volunteered, any other interested members to contact Barbara or Brenda.
- Drought relief: Geoff noted involvement of Bangalow CWA in assistance being organised by Bangalow farmers for area out west. FOL may be asked to assist by selling raffle tickets. To be advised.

Meeting closed at 11.35 am

## President's Report August 18, 2018

With the Book Fair and the Byron Writers Festival behind us, there may be some breathing space for our industrious team and their band of helpers. A good response was recorded for Ailsa Piper and Tony Doherty with the raffle donated by The Farm and a sumptuous afternoon tea generously provided by the Bangalow CWA. This duo was definitely was a pleasing performance.

This week I met with Brenda Anderson, Shire librarian, to discuss how best Friends of Libraries can support the shire libraries and the contribution we can make, specifically considering budget and budget shortfalls. She is most appreciative and complimentary of our group, the excellent operating environment that we engender and our harmonious relationships. This is a nice compliment to everyone.

Brenda asked us to consider assistance with the housebound program. They would like a substitute to be 'on call' for when Barbara Barrett is not available. Barbara is very committed to this program doing a remarkable job but does need to take a holiday occasionally. The process of registration is now more streamlined and simplified but a 'working with children' check is still required. This is free of charge to volunteers. If you would like to assist with this program or find out more about it, contact Kate Crisp at the Byron library.

I agreed that we would update our membership and active membership list and forward it to Brenda and Kate to enable the staff to update their records.

Any assistance we can give with lobbying for 'Renew Our Libraries' and State government funding would be appreciated. If you can still access the online surveys, please consider completing these petitions. Forward the Renew Our Libraries petition to your friends and interest groups. There is serious concern that our libraries in New South Wales could lose funding as the grants are put into a consolidated fund covering all cultural events and spaces.

Letters of thanks were forwarded to all our donors with some kind responses returned. 'Thanks for our thanks' suggests that we are truly recognized and appreciated in the community.

*Byron Surf Club "It was great to be able to support the Friends of the Library. Your group does a fantastic job. Sorry that this year we were in the middle of a facelift at the surf club. Your team was great and worked around and through it. Like you, we are a volunteer organization so value your community effort and money raised. I will table you letter at our next meeting. Please pass on our congratulations to your team. Kind regards on behalf of the surf club" Paul.*

*Sanctum – 'wow! That's wonderful that you raised so much money. Congratulations! Take care'*

*Byron Writers Festival – "Thank you for your lovely letter. We're pleased that Friends were able to make a record amount, well done to you and your hardworking group" Sarah Ma*

Any new members who would like to be more involved, please feel welcome to come along to one of our meetings. Best wishes, Beryl Main, President.