

**Friends of the Library Byron Shire, Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting
Wednesday 19 August 2020 at 10am, Via Zoom**

Attendance: Beryl Main, Richard Hodgson, Janene Jarvis, Anne Gilmore, Mary Nelson, Barbara Barrett, Brenda Anderson, Margot Wright, Samantha McGrath, Sue Ash

Apologies: Geoff Meers, Caroline Adams, Sally Bunyan

1. Librarian's Report

Brenda reported that as there are no face-to-face activities at the libraries, they are offering online activities for Science Week and for the next School Holidays there are likely to be 'take-away' and online activities. Katie Brown is the local representative a group set up to develop and promote the libraries Facebook and online presence. RTRL have started online author events which can be accessed on the RTRL homepage website via YouTube. The last of the Byron Bay furniture that FOL is paying to recover have now been completed (see attached photo). The current COVID plan remains in place, the only possible future development maybe the use of face-masks. Even with the limitation on numbers allowed into the libraries at any one-time Byron and Brunswick Heads Libraries have not experienced problems however there are times at Mullumbimby where patrons have had to line up to get entry due the numbers of patrons at any one time. A new printer is to be installed in the multifunction area at the Byron Bay library which will allow patrons to use photocopy card access independently of staff.

2. Minutes for the July Meeting

Anne moved the minutes for the July meeting be accepted and Beryl seconded.

3. Correspondence

No correspondence this month.

4. Financial Report

Richard reported the accumulated balance as of 16 August is \$40,063. Future known commitments are approximately \$4000 for the furniture reupholstering. In the past couple of months FOL has contributed approximately \$8000 to supporting the libraries. A possible future project could be a new check-out desk for Brunswick Heads and recovering of some chairs at the Mullumbimby branch. Richard moved the report be accepted, seconded Mary.

5. Membership

There were no new members in the past month.

6. General Business

Palace Cinema event 'The Booksellers'

Janene reported that the movie event was very successful and for little effort on FOL's part we raised \$300. All those who attended enjoyed the event and the Palace were wonderful to deal with. It was agreed that FOL will consider the possibility of future movie events with the Palace.

Byron Shire Council meeting re grants for Brunswick Heads Library and Byron Library Garden maintenance.

Beryl reported that Sarah Ford is currently not available due to family matters so she spoke with Lisa Brennan who works with Sarah at the Council. Lisa advised that the new Grants Officer is Alex who can be contacted to enquire about the re-submission of the 2018 proposal to refurbish and extend the Brunswick Heads Library. Beryl also raised the need for garden maintenance at the Byron Bay library. Lisa will refer the matter on to the Garden Maintenance section of the

Council. **Action:** Beryl will contact Alex at the Council to find out if it is feasible re-submit the Brunswick Heads Library proposal to an appropriate grant scheme this year.

Book sorting & collection for 2021

Janene reported that after yesterday's book sorting working bee FOL is up-to-date with sorting all books in storage. As yet FOL has not put out a call for books but if someone is aware of books that would be worthwhile collecting can they let Janene know and a pick-up will be organized. Janene has put aside a box of books for Barbara Barratt to collect for pricing. **Action:** Janene and Barbara to liaise to organize the pick-up of the books.

Book/Author events

***The School of Restoration* by Alice Achan and Philippa Tyndale**

The School of Restoration by Alice Achan and Philippa Tyndale book launch and fundraising event which was held on Friday 24th July in the Moller Hall Bangalow was a great success and much appreciated by Alice who is now home in Uganda and about to finish compulsory quarantine. The Bangalow Herald may print an article about Alice and the launch. Mary has a photo of Alice who is about to head off on the next stage of her journey home. **Action:** Mary to send it to Anne to be included in the next Newsletter.

Future book events

Mary is currently in discussions with publishers and authors on future face-to-face and zoom book events in the coming months. Current books proposed are Christine Jackman's *Turn Down the Noise*; Belinda Alexandra's *The Mystery Woman* and Di Morrisey's new book *Before the Storm* which is set in Victoria and comes out in late October. It may be feasible for Di to travel north for a November launch. **Action:** Mary will continue to follow up on these possibilities.

AGM

The FOL AGM will be held on Wednesday 21st October. Following our usual procedure all Committee positions will be declared vacant. Current Committee members need to decide if they want to stand down or re-nominate, all Byron Shire FOL members can nominate if they are interested in holding a Committee position. Nomination forms are on the FOL website. Committee members will investigate the best location options for combining the AGM with a welcome event for new members and a possible guest speaker.

Other Business

Publicity

The loss of the *Byron News* as a hard copy publication and supporter of FOL was raised by Margot. It was noted that the *Echo* still has its 'On the Horizon' community announcement section which is useful for short announcements. The *Bangalow Herald*, which is delivered to all those in post-code 2479, are very supportive and a new local paper/magazine has started called the *Northern Rivers Times*. **Action:** Margo to investigate the feasibility of getting ads and articles into this publication in the future.

Jesse Blackadder

Mary had no update on the creation of a writer's fund in honour of Jesse.

Meeting closed: 11.35am