

**Friends of the Library Byron Shire, Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting
Wednesday 15 July 2020 at 10am, Via Zoom**

Attendance: Beryl Main, Richard Hodgson, Janene Jarvis, Anne Gilmore, Mary Nelson, Geoff Meers, Barbara Barrett, Caroline Adams, Sally Bunyan, Brenda Anderson

Apologies: Margot Wright, Samantha McGrath, Sue Ash, Anna Middleton, Margaret Wills, Margaret Wright, Lee Rogers, Kathie Boller, Catherine Short

1. Librarian's Report

Brenda reported that a COVID plan that followed Department of Health guidelines was in place when the local libraries re-opened on 1 July. The Department of Health did one unannounced spot check to make sure all aspects of the plan were being complied with. All Byron Shire library branches are open however with a slight change to opening times to assist with the required decontamination routine to be performed at the end of each day. Brunswick Heads library is currently closed on Saturday morning as additional staff are required at Byron and Mullumbimby branches on that day due to the additional requirements.

2. President's Report

Please see the President's Report below.

3. Correspondence

No correspondence this month.

4. Financial Report

Richard reported the accumulated balance as of 12 July is \$42,805. FOL's public liability insurance policy has been paid, with coming expenses being the payment for *The Booksellers* event at the Palace Cinema and refunding Beryl for the flowers for Kate. Richard moved the report be accepted, seconded Anne.

5. Membership

We have two new members Gulcin Cribb and Kathie Boller.

6. General Business

Quick Reads Program at Byron Library

Brenda Anderson has asked FOL if we are able to fund the Quick Reads Program for the next year. It costs \$4000 p.a. and that provides four copies of four recently published books each month. The program has been very popular with library users to date. **Decision:** It was agreed that FOL fund the Quick reads program again. Beryl moved we accept this decision, seconded by Richard. **Action:** Beryl will contact Brenda and find out if each month FOL can get a list of the books that will be available as quick reads so we can post this to our Facebook site.

E-resources contributions by RTRL FOL groups

We have been advised by RTRL that future action on e-resources is on hold. One issue is other FOL groups in the region may not have the capacity to raise matching funds and the proposal was that each group would provide funds that were then matched by RTRL. Secondly, there is to

be a restructuring around how e-resources will be funded. We will find out about the progress on this in the future.

Palace Cinema event The Booksellers on Wednesday 22 July

Janene reported that there has been a wonderful response to the film event with only 6 places remaining. Janene has lucky door prizes organized and there will be a list with all that are attending to facilitate the signing in as required under COVID health regulations. **Action: Janene** is will get some more paper raffle tickets for the lucky door prize. **Mary** will send Janene the proforma for recording attendees' details.

Progress on re-upholstery for Byron Bay Library furniture

Brenda Anderson reported that the re-upholstered chairs are fantastic and they are just waiting for the final two couches to be completed. The Byron Shire Council has thanked FOL for providing the funding for the re-upholstering.

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

Beryl and Janene have a zoom meeting with Sarah Ford at the Byron Shire Council next Thursday to discuss if there are any grant opportunities that can assist with funding for the Brunswick Heads Library extension. They will also raise the need for garden maintenance at the Byron Bay library.

Book/author events

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

Mary has organized a book launch and fundraising event to be held on Friday 24th July in the Moller Hall Bangalow for the book *The School of Restoration* by Alice Achan and Philippa Tyndale. This is Alice's story and provides a remarkable example of great achievement in a society torn apart by civil war. Under the current restrictions the number of attendees will be limited to 40 people. The Bangalow CWA are kindly preparing and donating morning tea and Rebecca from Zentvelds is donating the coffee. Ben from RTRL is designing the poster to promote the event and Jo Shoebridge will interview Alice and Philippa on Local ABC to promote the event. Books will be available to buy on the morning. **Decision:** That FOL would charge \$10 for the event with all proceeds going to assist the School and or associated activities. **Action: Mary** will prepare the 'COVID ready' list of tasks required for this event. **Sue:** to circulate details of the event and a request that members that are able to help out at this event respond to the email so Mary can plan who is doing which tasks.

Future book events

Mary is currently in discussions with publishers and authors on a few future zoom book events in the coming months.

Other Business

Jesse Blackadder

As yet neither Beryl or Mary have heard back from the Byron Writers Festival about collaborating on appropriate project in memory of Jesse. Barbara Barrett sent through some ideas as to what types of collaborations could be of interest. **Action:** Mary and Beryl will review Barbara's email to see if there is anything in addition to the suggestions that have been made to date.

Meeting closed: 11.05am

President's Report

Zoom Meeting July 15, 2020

Welcome to another monthly meeting. How great it is to have our libraries open again. Thank you to the library staff for their efforts in keeping books. In one form or another, available to library members. It had been my intention to have a face to face meeting this month, but circumstances have prevented this from happening. However, it is hoped that by having an open meeting, this will give all members the opportunity to reconnect. I thank everyone for their patience and understanding as we accommodate the difficulties of covid-19.

Some busy work behind the scenes is bringing a couple events to our members. Thank you, Janene, for all your efforts getting The Booksellers at Palace Cinemas as a special event for members. You have worked tirelessly with Eli to make this happen for our enjoyment. Some of you will have joined our Zoom author event with Alice Achan from Uganda with her book *The School of Restoration*. This inspirational woman is coming to Byron and will be speaking at The Moller Pavilion in Bangalow on Friday July 24 at 10am. Thank you Mary Nelson for making this possible. Further details will be established in general business of this meeting. Keep this date reserved and look out for further updates. I have read her book relating her endeavours of educating and restoring the lives of traumatized girls in post war Uganda. It filled my eyes with tears and my heart with joy. Such courage and strength in the face of extreme adversity!

Last week I had a phone conference with Brenda Anderson, Byron Area Librarian, to discuss our continuing support of the libraries. She would like to continue the Quick Reads programme. Our e-resources contribution is dependent upon the other RTRL groups continuing to participate. The refurbished furniture is complete so pop in a take a look. Kate Crisp's replacement is now in her third week at Byron, travelling daily from Lismore. Flowers were sent to Kate on her retirement as an acknowledgement of her support of FOL fundraisers.

I will be meeting with Sarah Ford from the Byron Council to discuss grant writing proposals for the Brunswick Heads Library. Hopefully the application will be successful this time round. Grant applications are lodged by the Council but FOL supplies support documents where needed.

I ask that everyone keep an eye on announcements for special events and please support them whenever you are able to do so. Much effort goes into recruiting, planning and executing these events.

I hope you all have plenty of great reads to enjoy during this time of isolation. My favourite so far is "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens. "The Girl from Munich" by Tania Blanchard is up there too.

