

# Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting

## Friends of Libraries Byron Shire

Wednesday 15 October 2025, 10.00am

Arakwal Room, Byron Bay Library

**Present** – Monique McElhiney, Lee Rogers, Catherine White, Beryl Main, Mary Nelson, Gulcin Cribb, Barbara Barrett, Geoff Meers, Susan Melhuish, Cathy Short, Richard Hodgson, Suzanne Smith, Kathleen Barrett, Veronica Crowther, Patricia Grant.

**Apologies** – Janene Jarvis, Lisa Harcombe, Kathy Pickles, Anne Gilmore, Phil Finnimore.

1. **Welcome** by Beryl Main to all attendees and acknowledgment of apologies. Beryl read the **President's Report** on behalf of Janene Jarvis (see below).
2. **Minutes of 2024 AGM** moved as accepted by Beryl, seconded by Richard Hodgson.
3. **Treasurer's Report** circulated and read by Richard Hodgson. Total funds at the end of 2024/2025 were \$59,189.14. Moved as accepted by Richard, seconded by Mary Nelson.

**Action:** *Richard to summarise the Financial Report and submit to the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission.*

4. **Nomination and election for Committee positions**, chaired by Geoff Meers.

All positions were declared vacant and nominations sought as follows:

- **President:** Catherine White nominated, seconded by Mary. Catherine duly elected.
- **Vice president:** Beryl Main nominated, seconded by Catherine. Beryl duly elected.
- **Secretary:** Kathleen Barrett nominated, seconded by Monique. Kathleen duly elected.
- **Treasurer:** Richard Hodgson nominated, seconded by Geoff. Richard duly elected.
- **Assistant Secretary:** Suzanne Smith nominated, seconded by Beryl. Suzanne duly elected.
- **Publicity:** Margo Wright nominated and accepted; assistance offered by Mary Nelson to fulfil the role, including digital media.
- **Membership Officer:** Monique McElhiney nominated, seconded by Catherine. Monique duly elected.
- **Events and Book Fair Coordinator:** Vacancy

### 5. General Business:

- **Signatories on Westpac FOL accounts.** The newly elected FOLBS officers will be signatories to FOLBS bank accounts:
  - President, Catherine White
  - Secretary, Kathleen Barrett
  - Treasurer, Richard Hodgson

**Action:** *Richard, Catherine & Kathleen to attend the bank to update signatories for bank Accounts.*

- **Guest speaker** at this year's AGM is Jessica Alice, Artistic Director, Byron Writers Festival. Jessica spoke to us of the Writers Festival, Jessica's experience and the future.

**Meeting closed at 11am**

## **President's Report 2025**

I have enjoyed a year as President of Friends of Libraries Byron Shire - and what a rewarding time it has been!

I was fortunate to follow on from Beryl Main who had done an admirable job as President for a number of years and deserved a welcome break! However with the active team behind me the year brought great rewards personally and for our libraries and community.

FOL contributed to many resources for the 3 libraries during 2024/25. We were able to fund some exciting school holiday activities at the libraries including young literary events and Wildlife Warriors. Resource funding has contributed to expanding the library collection in all categories as well as improving the furniture upgrades in all locations. An exciting addition to the children's area was the purchase of Story Time chairs in each library. If you haven't yet seen these, please make sure to visit the children's area and try one out! FOL continues to fund the Quick Reads which has proven to be a very popular addition in all three libraries.

The annual Book Fair and raffle again was a very successful event with a return of \$25500 to funds and a very welcome Community event. This was the eleventh year for the Book Fair, and it is apparent that it needs to continue! I am stepping down as manager of the event to leave the Book Fair in good hands with a great team! There is a great opportunity here for members to be involved in a very successful, fun and rewarding event.

It was exciting to be involved with the Byron Writers Festival this year and host Grantlee Kieza in conversation with Mick O'Regan. Grantlee has written a number of historical biographies on Australian characters, focusing this interview on his latest book on Annette Kellerman- Australia's Mermaid. The interview was a fascinating introduction to this amazing famous Australian. We then enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea provided by the Bangalow CWA - a partnership that FOL highly values.

The State Library made a very welcome visit to the area in August and visited all three libraries. FOL was invited to provide morning tea and enjoy a very interesting chat with the group. They went away very impressed with the management of our Shire Libraries - a credit to Stacey and her team!

Richmond Tweed Regional Libraries welcomed a new Business Manager, Courtney Brown, this year. Courtney very willingly met with a few of the FOL team and expanded on her vision for the area - and what an exciting year we can look forward to!

I extend my sincere thanks to the entire FOL team and membership for their dedication, energy, and commitment over the past year. Your collective efforts continue to strengthen our organisation's reputation within the library community and beyond.

As I reflect on this year, I am filled with pride in what we have achieved together. I look forward to seeing FOL continue to thrive in the coming year, building on this strong foundation.

**Janene Jarvis**

**President 2024/25**