



FRIENDS OF GREAT LAKES LIBRARY SERVICE INC.

NEWSLETTER July 2009

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday July 31st - 2 pm at the Library

At this important time for considering the future needs for Library Services in our community, your committee hope as many members as possible will attend this meeting. The present committee members are all willing to serve in some way for another term. Any additional nominations would be most welcome. By forming sub-committees we are able to increase the number of active members for specific projects, without the obligation to attend all committee meetings.

Chris Jones, Manager of Library Services will give a short talk about the Great Lakes Library and its future needs. Reports from the President and Treasurer will let you know of FOGLLS achievements

At the conclusion of the meeting all will be invited to go "Dutch" at a nearby coffee shop so we can continue talking.

COMPANY OF VOICES

OVERDUEat the Library

Monday 3rd August, 7.00 pm

Great Lakes Library, Breese Parade , Forster

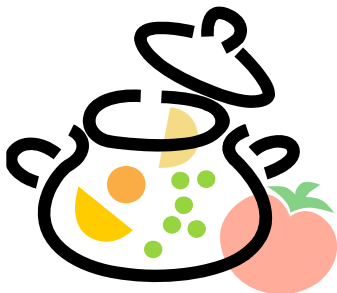
Cost \$12.00 (includes drinks and nibbles at interval)

Tickets on sale at the Forster Library and The Great Lakes Bookshop, Tuncurry



This will be the 5th annual concert in the Library, by the very popular *Company of Voices*. Experience the happy rapport between the Singers and the audience. Highly recommended you buy your tickets early as previous concerts attracted a "FULL HOUSE"

"SOUPER" SAILING SUCCESS - 6-7-09



This was a lovely evening. Very interesting talk, photos of faraway places and portraits of friends met along the way. Bill and Sylvia certainly took us on an interesting journey.

For the first time we served hot soup (an idea copied from Port Macquarie Friends) plus extras and it was so successful we should make it an annual winter event.

NEW LIBRARY

I promised to report on the outcome of the Council Strategic Committee meeting on 12th May. Several presentations were made and the matter has been placed on hold as Council has granted a private consortium time to prepare plans for “a multi-level building on Lake Street” which could be used by council, police and courts with home units above and leaving the present Civic Precinct site as open space. I took some comfort in the fact that proposals for the site assume that a library would be a welcome inclusion.

However I am very concerned at the prospect of a Public/Private partnership for the Library, as in my experience, such arrangements tend to give priority to the needs of the private investors.

Three examples spring to mind:

- Canterbury Library, built by developers in the basement of a large shopping and office complex, has suffered many problems relating to building maintenance. Most recently, a sewerage outlet above the library collapsed, allowing raw sewerage to flow into the library.
- Leichhardt Library provided by developers in the Forum complex was considerably smaller than expected, proving a very costly experience for the ratepayers.
- Nearer to home, the new Taree library does not meet minimum floor space standards because of compromises made to accommodate the developers interests.

Judy Crewe, longtime FOGLLS member and former librarian assesses the situation thus: “There comes a time in the life of every library when existing premises become too cramped to hold the necessary materials and for staff to do the best job of meeting the needs of their users. This time has well and truly arrived at the Great Lakes Library which is now much too small to provide adequately or comfortably for patrons. A library needs space, appropriate shelving, room to move, quiet spaces, easy access to technology and comfortable spaces for children, young adults, and adult users. Easy access for patrons, as well as adequate adjacent parking is also absolutely essential.”

Yes we can have community buildings on the School of Arts site if the decision makers and the people of Great Lakes embrace the idea. There are many organisations hoping for space in the Civic Precinct and most of them could be incorporated into a new Library development. The Library already has some finance available. Funding sourced through Section 94 has been collected since 2000 and approximately seven million dollars will eventually be available. There is no need to put planning for a new library in the “too hard” basket.

Audrey Semon, Secretary

THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Friends of Libraries Australia (FOLA) is receiving increasing reports that worldwide, public libraries are experiencing even heavier demands on their resources, services, information technology and spaces as the world economy weakens.

Already by far the most used and valued community provision by Australian councils and state/territory governments, Australia’s public library system is under growing pressure as economic pressures impact particularly on families. More and more people are discovering that they do not have to spend anything directly to access the uniquely wide range of resources and services of their local library. This highlights Australia’s continuing failure to invest properly in its public library system compared with other developed countries.

If Australia’s public libraries are to make the best contribution they can to helping families and people through harder economic times, councils and state/territory governments need to improve investment in their public libraries as an inclusive people priority, even if their own funding circumstances become more difficult.

FOLA therefore urges all Friends of Libraries to discuss what is occurring in their own libraries with their library managers, and bring increased demand and funding issues to the attention of their councils.

BOOK CLUBS

Did you know that the Great Lakes region has 23 book clubs actively participating in the Library's Book Club Program? Book clubs are groups of like-minded people who love reading and meet once a month to discuss a particular book. Some groups combine this with lunch or dinner and some even add wine to the mix to loosen tongues. Discussion can be informal, or if you want structure, there is information available on the internet. Reading guides are available for more recent publications. Just Google the author's name, book title and 'reading guide'. I belong to a bookgroup which uses a set of 'generic' questions. I find the discussion is more interesting if one has a set of questions that relate specifically to the book.

The Library now has 63 sets of books available to book clubs for borrowing . You can access a list of these books via the library catalogue on line. Go to the council web site www.greatlakes.nsw.gov.au/library and follow the links to the Catalogue, once there type in "Great Lakes Book Clubs".

The agreement the library makes with each book club is, that in order to be able to borrow sets of books, a club must purchase a set of books each year. There is no other expense to the club and the library has amazingly found space to store the boxes of books currently not out on loan.

Kim Tattam - Outreach Services Librarian, looks after the Book Club Collection, so if you are interested in joining a book club or would like to know more about the collection please contact her. She recently got together enough interested people to form a new club.

Book clubs are a great way to socialise, exchange ideas and sometimes step outside your comfort zone.

Jane Hulme

FOGLLS WEB PAGE

A wonderful opportunity has arisen to develop a Web Page for FOGLLS.

A group of TAFE students will undertake its development as part of their IT course. FOGLLS will form a sub-committee to consider content to be used in the process. If anyone is interested in taking part of this project, please contact Audrey (0448 554 855)



FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES AUSTRALIA

News has just been received that the national body of Friends of Libraries will be holding their AGM in Port Macquarie on Thursday 27th August. Usually there are discussions in the afternoon and the formal AGM at 6 pm. Anyone interested in coming along, please contact any Committee Member.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

July 31, Friday 2 pm **AGM** at the Library
 August 3, Monday 7.00 pm **Company of Voices** at the Library
 October 26, Monday 6.30 pm **Jazz** concert at the Library
 November 9, Monday 12 noon **Barry Crocker** at the Library
 2010 February 12 Friday lunch (time and venue to be confirmed) **Susannah Fullerton** (Author and Jane Austen expert)

APPRECIATING FRIENDS

Dorothy King, member of ten years standing has recently left the district. The Committee would like to acknowledge Dorothy's contribution to FOGLLS. Dorothy served on the Management Committee and was Treasurer for some 4 years. She continued to help with the organisation wherever possible and for the last few years distributed posters in Tuncurry. Sincere thanks to Dorothy and warmest wishes for life in her new home. Would a member from Tuncurry like to take on the poster distribution job?

Livia's Library

ILSA EVANS: WRITING ABOUT WOMEN

Reading a novel by Ilsa Evans is rather like taking a wild roller-coaster ride. You emerge at the other end laughing, panting, and ready to do it again! This applies particularly to her first three books, known as the "Laundry series": *Spin Cycle*, *Drip Dry* and *Odd Socks*. Ilsa Evans is an Australian writer from Melbourne, is twice divorced and bringing up three children on her own. She also has a PhD on the long-term effects of domestic violence. She has used all these experiences to write about women, and how they cope with all the slings and arrows their sex is heir to! This may sound rather dreary, but her delightful humour and sharp insight will have you laughing out loud, and many situations in which her heroines find themselves are familiar to us all. Familiar, too, is the Australian urban cultural scene, so accurately described.

Who has not experienced the exasperation of dealing with a surly teenager or an irrepressible younger child who happily imparts some embarrassing family event to a tram full of interested strangers? Who has not stood in a queue at the supermarket, in a desperate hurry and fuming, as an elderly lady at the check-out hunts through her shopping bag for her purse? And what about the kind and helpful neighbour, who treats your home like her own? Not to mention family relationships with in-laws, second wives and ex-husbands!

The book which has attracted most critical acclaim is *Broken*, which is about an abusive relationship and is more serious in tone. I have not yet read this work, but a friend who was in such a situation said it helped her to a better understanding and ultimately, to take positive action. Ilsa's characters are real people, with strengths and weaknesses. There are no real villains, just flawed human beings. Women overcome their problems with the help of family and friends (women friends in particular), and grow in self-confidence and assertiveness. There is no sentimentality, but a lot of fun and optimism along the way. What more can one ask for?

Livia Richardson

<p style="text-align: center;">Contact Details</p> <p>Address: FOGLLS, PO Box 726 Forster, 2428</p> <p>Secretary: Audrey Semon Phone: 6554 8507</p> <p>New members welcome: Membership forms available at the Library front desk.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Committee Members</p> <p>Helen Duggan President Jane Hulme Treasurer Audrey Semon Secretary Committee: Helen Bryan Noni Pratt, Livia Richardson Margaret Macdonald, Lola Jones</p>	<p>This Newsletter is produced by Friends of Great Lakes Library Service Inc. for member information only. The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Friends, nor of the Great Lakes Library</p>
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