



# FRIENDS OF GREAT LAKES LIBRARY SERVICE INC.

NEWSLETTER May 2009

This will be our FIFTH Trivia Night, and we can promise you it gets better every year.



Quizmaster for the night is the legendary Chris Jones, Manager, Library Services, at the Great Lakes Library and wearer of many different hats.

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## TRIVIA NIGHT

**Saturday May 23**

**7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start - at the Tuncurry Memorial Hall**

**\$10.00 per head (including refreshments at interval)**

**Groups of 8 to a table - Individual bookings welcome**

**LOTS OF FUN & PRIZES**

**BYO Drinks, nibbles, glasses**

**RSVP 18-5-09 Jane 6555 6523,  
or Shirley 6555 4938**



Bring your own nibbles and drinks to sustain yourselves for brain teasing and fun. Gather up some friends or Acquaintances, or just come along individually and join another group.

Funds raised by FOGLLS are used to supplement your library's shrinking resources.

## Helen Bryans's BIGGEST MORNING TEA

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May - Call in anytime between 9 am and 12 noon,  
33 Churchill Road, Forster

Although Helen has held a BMT for a few years, this will be the first in her new home. There'll be plenty of fun and tea and all money raised will help the Cancer Council continue its research, education, prevention and patient support services to help all those affected by cancer.

RSVP Audrey 04 4855 4855, Jane 6555 6523

**NEW LIBRARY** In 1988 when the Library opened, Forster-Tuncurry had a population of 11,000. By 2007 it was well over 18,000 - an increase of 70% The people of The Great Lakes area deserve a library designed for this century, to meet current and future population needs .

No doubt you are all aware by now that the Library funding has been drastically cut. To quote from the *Advocate* (15-4-09).

*“The already stricken Great Lakes Library Service’s budget for new books and articles will be slashed from \$158,000 to \$50,000.”\**

Councils across NSW have been forced to make severe cuts to the budgets of all departments. However, from talking to friends in other parts of the state, I would be surprised if any other Council has cut the Library budget as savagely as has our Council. The population of Great Lakes has the greatest number of older citizens of any area in NSW. Fifty per cent are aged over fifty and many have special needs such as large print books, talking books and services for the housebound. Council should be taking this into consideration and invest more in the Library.

The Great Lakes area was the second last in the State to acquire a Public Library and it has never been funded well enough to be able to bear a substantial cut to its budget.

The Great Lakes area was the second last in the State to acquire a Public Library which has never been funded well enough to be able to bear a substantial cut to its budget. It would appear that those who control the funding of the Great Lakes Library Service are not sufficiently sensitive to its significance to the health of the community. Librarians, the very people who should be able to make representations regarding facilities, are restricted as Council employees from making any public statements.

I believe Public Libraries should be considered an essential part of the nation’s infrastructure and it is high time both State and Federal Governments made sure that Library funding was removed such a high dependence on individual Municipal Councils.

In the meantime, in this community, we need to plan for a new library or we will be left behind as we were last century. We need Councillors and Council Executives to demonstrate they have the vision to make sure that the people of the Great Lakes area are not disadvantaged regarding Library Services and other public facilities. For this they need the support of the ratepayers. There will very likely be a long interval between acknowledging the need to plan for a future library and the reality of the completed building. The planning must not be postponed.

On Tuesday 12th May, 9.30 am there will be a Council Strategic Committee meeting where I will have the opportunity to make a short presentation to Councillors regarding the need for a New Library. I hope as many of our members as possible will attend in a show of support.

More details about the Meeting in box on page 3:

Hope to see you there, at the Council Chambers, Breese Parade.

Sincerely,

Audrey Semon

May the  
Bookstart  
Fairy  
wave her  
magic wand  
over the  
Civic Precinct



\*Committee Member Livia Richardson’s thoughts on the matter appear on page 4 of this Newsletter.

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Our financial year ends on June 30th when membership fees are due. With the next Newsletter we will enclose a self addressed envelope to make it easy for you to make the payment.

The AGM will be held on Friday 31st July at 2 pm. More about that in the June Newsletter.

Over the past year your Committee have held a series of morning teas for new members. We are conscious that at functions we are sometimes a bit distracted with activities to take to time to talk to other members. If any other members would like to have a chat, please let Audrey know so we can invite you to the next one.

If you would like to attend a Committee Meeting, as an observer, you would be most welcome

Just contact any member of the committee so she can let you know when the next one is being held.



## FOGLLS welcomes many different types of members

*Friends* who play an active role on the committee.

*Friends* who join a sub-committee to work on a special project

*Friends* who are able to help at book sales and other events.

*Friends* who help with catering and assisting at venues

*Friends* who attend functions and bring a group of their friends.

*Friends* who are not able to participate in activities but want to show their support just by being a member.

Snipped from the Great Lakes Council's eNewsletter

## CIVIC PRECINCT TO BE CONSIDERED

Great Lakes Council will consider feedback and consider the future of the Draft Forster Civic Precinct Masterplan at the Strategic Committee meeting on Tuesday 12 May 2009. The meeting, scheduled to commence at 9.30am will begin with presentations by individuals and organisations that have made submissions during the four month public exhibition period; and conclude with a workshop between the Councillors, senior staff and consultant assisting Council with the preparation of the Masterplan. The draft Masterplan envisages the creation of a true 'civic precinct' incorporating a flexible use public hall, possible library, community meeting rooms, performance and exhibition spaces and a generous town square facing Breckenridge Channel. Comprehensive information on the Forster Civic Precinct project including original concept options and information from the community meetings can be found on Council's website <http://www.greatlakes.nsw.gov.au/>. For further information on the Civic Masterplan or the Strategic Committee Meeting, please contact Council on 6591 7222.

## **LAW WEEK “Rest Assured” - Planning for the future; wills and power of attorney**



Guest speaker from the Public Trustee of NSW (allow about 1 hour)

Free - at the Great Lakes Library, Forster. Bookings 6591 7256

**Monday 11th May, 11 am**

### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

May 11, Monday, 11 am Law Week “Rest Assured”  
May 12, Tuesday, 9.30 am, Council Chambers  
May 23, Saturday, 7. pm Trivia Night  
May 30, Friday, 9 am to 12 noon Biggest Morning Tea  
June 3, 10.30 am Morning Tea for New Members  
June 15, Monday 7 pm, Author Talk, Sharyn Munro

**Livia’s Library - Cutting a Life Line\***

“These are difficult times. We have to make sacrifices.....” These words have been ringing in our ears for months now, and yes, we do understand that services have to be cut back, and that this is a very difficult task, with everyone seeing their own particular interests as being more important than anyone else’s. However, when the Library Book vote is cut by two-thirds one suspects that the powers-that-be regard reading as a frivolous activity which has no place in an economic recession. Why do people read? For many reasons: some are looking for information, some for entertainment, others are hoping to find inspiration to help them along their way, or to see how others cope with the trials and tribulations of this world. At the very least, people read to escape from the realities of daily life. For a few hours they can forget about the chaos the world is in, a little oasis of peace in which they can shelve their worries about unpaid bills and the prospect of losing their job. Or, they can read books which give them new ideas, new hope to face the future, ways in which they can economise or plan a new future. Whatever the reason, reading is therapeutic, and costs much less than consulting a psychologist.

As new books are published and purchased by the library, new ideas and fresh insights are being presented, and people can keep up to date with current thinking and lifestyle alternatives, with new ideas and possibilities. Such a large cut in the Book Vote will drastically reduce the reading public’s access to a wide variety of literature and knowledge. Fewer copies of important works will be available, and the choice will be severely limited. Oh that the purse strings could be loosened just a little!

Livia Richardson

\* This item was published as a Letter to the Editor in the *Advocate* 29-4-09

<b>Contact Details</b> <b>Address:</b> FOGLLS, PO Box 726 Forster, 2428 <b>Secretary:</b> Audrey Semon Phone: 6554 8507 <b>New members</b> welcome: Membership forms available at the Library front desk.	<b>Committee Members</b> Helen Duggan President Jane Hulme Treasurer Audrey Semon Secretary Committee: Helen Bryan Noni Pratt, Livia Richardson Margaret Macdonald	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
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