

COMMITTEE MEETING of the FRIENDS OF THE BENALLA LIBRARY INC. (FOBL)
held at 9:45am at the Benalla Library
on Thursday 1st February 2024

1. **Absent:** Heather Rogers, Betty Lindsay, Anne Nelson
Apologies: Ashley Merbach

2. **Present:** Geraldine McCorkell, Corrie Witlox, Robyn Maclean, Christine Glynn, Bev Thornell, Deb Saunders, Phyllis Doxey, Andy Stevens, Kay Johnson

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting September 7th 2023**

Received: Christine **Seconded:** Phyllis **Passed**

Business Arising: nothing to follow up

4. **Correspondence:**

In: Thank you card from Heather Rogers

Out: Annual Report sent to CAV in November after the AGM

Moved that correspondence be accepted:

Accepted: Bev **Seconded:** Corrie **Passed**

REPORTS:

 **Treasurer's Report to the end of December 2023**

Opening Balance	\$11,837.47
Income	\$ 1,838.50
Expenditure	\$ 723.91
Closing Balance	\$12, 952.06

Term Deposit due 11/4/24 \$10,667.10

Total funds \$23,619.16

Moved: Corrie **Seconded:** Robyn **Passed**

 **Membership Report :**

General Members	100
Life Members	38
Total	138

Life Member, Norma Grubb, died in November. Norma was a dedicated part of our organisation for many years.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Keith Rogers in December. Keith was a dedicated and valued volunteer at Redb4 since the inception of the bookshop in 2013.

Rosie Cameron has relocated to Western Australia. Rosie was also a much valued volunteer at Redb4.

 **Library Coordinator's Report:**

I would like to take a moment to thank you for all your support. We truly appreciate all that you do to support us and enjoy chatting to you all when you come collect your holds or attend events.

HIGHLIGHTS SINCE LAST MEETING (AGM):

- Ashley finally finished the 8 week course she undertook as PD to better help people experiencing family violence within our community
- Staff undertook Child Safe training

- Benalla Library welcomed Molly, a speech pathologist, to help parents teach literacy skills to their children as a part of the Speechie Library Talks
- We were thrilled to host Melanie Trecek-King's *Thinking Is Power* on her international tour
- School Holidays events have had quite good numbers
- We were happy to host the following authors:
- Gary Moore for a chat about his family history and how he found the information for his books
- Darry Fraser discussing all of her books. She was definitely a crowd pleaser
- Cathryn Warnock, a former local, promoting her picture book
- Gabriel Bergmoser promoting his new book *The Caretaker*

REGULAR WEEKLY PROGRAMS:

- Monday: Mahjong Mondays, 10:30am
- Tuesday: Walking Talking-Book Club, 9:00am **NEW**
- Tuesdays: Chatty Café Communi-tea, 10:00am **NEW**
- Wednesdays: Online Library Help Sessions, 4:00pm
- Thursdays: Walking Talking-Book Club, 9:00am **NEW**
- Saturdays fortnightly: Benalla Permaculture Book Club

REGULAR MONTHLY PROGRAMS:

- First Tuesday: Chess Club, 2:00pm **NEW**
 - Second Wednesday: Library Lovers Social, 5:00pm
 - Third Thursday: Family History Research Support, 10:00am
 - Last Friday: Basic Digital Help 20min One-On-One Sessions, 2:00pm, 2:20pm, 2:40pm
- Staff are only able to help with basic assistance, e.g. help downloading apps or resetting passwords

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- AUTHOR TALK: Jess McLough, Wednesday 7 Feb, 6:00pm
 - AUTHOR TALK: Karen Viggers, Tuesday 20 Feb, 2:00pm
 - AUTHOR TALK: Andrew Skeoch, Wednesday 13 March, 5:00pm
- Other author talks to keep an eye out for when confirmed – Lee Lehner, Fiona Lowe, CJDuggin.

PROGRAMMING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST WANTED AND COMING SOON:

- Adults Spintronics or Turing Tumbles sessions
- Crafter-noons
- Scrabble
- Card Game Club
- Anything else you can think of?!

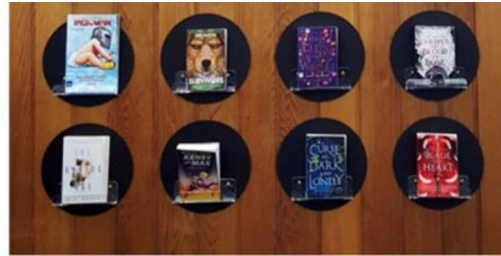
Staff also found an author that they believe would do quite well here. Vikki Petraitis is a crime writer/journalist/podcaster who has written nearly 20 books including *The Philip Island Murder*, *The Frankston Murders*, *Cops*, *Drugs*, *Lawyer X and me*, *Once a Copper* and *The Unbelieved*. Vikki would cost approx. \$750 to get here (including fees and accommodation). Would you like to go halves in getting her here as a partnership together?

ITEMS THAT WOULD ASSIST STAFF/PATRONS

- **Patron Recommendations Wall Display (2 X Set) - approx. \$1900 including GST & Freight**
- These wall displays would allow patrons to take a display into their own hands, and place books they have loved on display for others to borrow. We have many people say to us, while returning books, that they loved this book and they recommend it to others. These displays would give patrons an avenue to show their love and connect with displays.



FICTION SET
Set of 16
"What's Hot" 300mm diameter
SKU: 32981
Set of 16
"Quick Pick" 300mm diameter
SKU: 32980



- Advertising TV mounted onto wall above Returns Computer – Price TBC (guess \$1500)

Staff have suggested having a TV monitor mounted to the wall behind Circulation Desk to run slideshow of upcoming events and programs to advertise to people waiting to be served and as patrons exit.

- Beautification Ideas and Signage, \$592.19 including postage

Staff have suggested getting signage that says "Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Leaning Centre – Benalla Library" above the circulation desk and adding LIBRARY to the pole as you enter through the internal doors to add a little polishing to the area. Staff have also suggested that some fun bird window decals would help make the children's area more engaging.

LONGTERM GOALS

External Chute Upgrade – Smart Bin and secure 24/7 chute for returns. Updated FE Tech price received (July 2023), but waiting on electrician and builder for quote and feasibility.

After discussion the following motions were moved:

To contribute \$375 to partner the library in an author visit of Vicki Petraitis

Moved: Christine **Seconded:** Phyllis **Passed**

To purchase the wall mounted TV for advertising above the returns desk

Moved: Andy **Seconded:** Robyn **Passed**

In regards the wall book display we will request more information first.

📖 Bookshop Report:

The bookshop has continued to have water leaking issues recently. It has been fixed again. The coffee vouchers will be invoiced and follow up with Jackie Brennan in regards the payment.

January 2024 has been the best month for book sales

To seek clarification on the current processes for recycling books Geraldine will invite someone from Benalla Council to explain the process at our next meeting.

Reports accepted: **Moved:** Geraldine **Seconded:** Bev

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. A request was made by Christine to support the Yarn Bombing Group. In response it was explained that we have a policy of not supporting outside organisations.
2. Opening the bookshop on Public Holidays from 10-2pm has been found to be quite lucrative for book sales. While Public Holidays are not rostered days, members can choose to volunteer to run the shop on these days – let Kay know if you are available.

Next Meeting:

Thursday March 7th at 9.45am