

**MINUTES for the COMMITTEE MEETING of
FRIENDS OF THE BENALLA LIBRARY INC. (FOBL)
held at 9:30am at the Benalla Library
on Tuesday 18th February 2025**

1. Apologies: None Received

2. Present: Corrie Witlox, Geraldine McCorkell, Robyn Maclean, Phyllis Doxey, Heather Rogers, Anne Nelson, Betty Lindsay, Kay Johnson, Bev Thornell, Andi Stevenson, Christine Glynn, Deb Saunders

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on September 5th 2024

Received: Geraldine Seconded: Betty Passed

Business Arising:

Payment of \$1200 to Tomorrow Today for 10 children to receive books for the year.

4. Correspondence:

In: CAV – Initial acknowledgement of Constitution Changes but waiting on their approval of these changes.

ACNC – Acknowledged receipt of updated Constitution

Tomorrow Today thank you letter for the donation to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program.

Out: CAV – Annual Statement and Changes to the Constitution

ACNC – Updated Constitution

Dates for FOBL Meetings for 2025 sent to all members.

Note:

We will no longer be required to complete an Annual Statement for CAV. Instead, we will be completing financial requirements for ACNC.

The cost for updating our Constitution on CAV was \$424.60.

The Annual Statement to CAV was \$49.00.

Moved that correspondence be accepted:

Accepted: Christine **Seconded:** Bev **Passed**

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report 1/1/25 to 31/1/25

Opening Balance 1/1/25 \$ 22,122.22

INCOME

Books	\$ 2529.30	
Interest	0.18	
Donations	82.25	2,611.73

EXPENDITURE

Shop

Hide's Bakery – rent	\$ 600.00	
Hide's Bakery - electricity	54.25	

Library Support

Benalla Newsagency – papers	78.58	
Water Filter	132.00	
Benalla Imagination Library	1200.00	
Australian Geographic	71.99	

Transfer to term deposit	<u>14,000.00</u>	16,136.82
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Closing Balance 31/1/25 \$ 8,597.13

Bendigo bank closing balance	\$ 8,699.13	
Less presented cheque		
Australian Geographic	<u>71.99</u>	\$ 8,597.13

Term deposits

Maturing 11/4/25	4.75%	\$ 11,067.91	
Maturing 8/1/26	4.50%	14,000.00	\$ 25,067.91

Total Funds 31/1/25 \$ 33,665.04

Moved: Corrie Seconded: Robyn and Andi Passed

Membership Report:

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS FEBRUARY 2025

GENERAL MEMBERS 89

LIFE MEMBERS 38

TOTAL MEMBERS 127

We were saddened to hear of the death of long-time member, Carole Marple on 31st January 2025. She was buried at Devenish Cemetery on Thursday 6th February, next to her much-loved husband, Godfrey.

Several members of our group attended the moving ceremony, where there was much acknowledgement of Carole's strong activism which was instrumental in establishing our wonderful new Benalla Library. Carole and Godfrey's enthusiasm and leadership led to the establishment of our long running and successful second hand bookshop, Redb4.

Library Coordinator's Report:

HIGHLIGHTS SINCE LAST MEETING (November):

- Ramey presented to PLV (Public Libraries Victoria) about the Walking Talking Book Club, in my stead. Other libraries were interested in our digital platforms, as well as other ways they could run similar programs in their libraries.
- Ramey continued with the popular Junior and Teen Dungeons and Dragons sessions, while also starting new Adult and Family games.
- James ran two school in-reach library tours/story-times.
- School holidays programs ran quite well.
- We saw an uptick in venue attendance during the recent hot weather in Feb – thank you for the water filter in the foyer.
- We hosted two author talks – Ken Hadley and Darry Fraser.
- We completed our annual inventory. We get better at it each year – this year James upgraded us to three out of four completely portable stations, so scanning was much quicker and easier.
- Grab yourself a blind date with a book – set out for Library Lovers Day/Valentines' Day display. A big thank you to Tracey for wrapping all the books. Huge effort!

REGULAR WEEKLY PROGRAMS:

- **Morning Mah-jong**, Monday, 9:45-11:45am
- **Crafternoons**, Monday and Wednesday, 1:00 – 3:00pm
- **Walking Talking-Book Club**, Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00-10:00am
- **Chatty Café Communi-tea**, Tuesday, 10:00 – 12:00pm
- **Digital-Library Help**, Wednesday, 4:00 – 4:30pm
- **Super Seniors PS5 Sessions**, Thursday, 10:00 – 12:00pm
- **Scrabble**, Thursday, 10:00 – 12:00pm
- **Card Game Club**, Thursday, 2:00 – 3:00pm
- **Creative Cuppa**, Friday, 10:00 – 11:00am
- **PS5 Open Sessions**, Saturday, 09:05 – 09:50am, 10:05 – 10:50am, 11:05 – 11:50am

REGULAR MONTHLY PROGRAMS:

- **Spintronics for Adults**, First Tuesday, 3:00 – 4:00pm
- **Library Lovers Social**, Second Wednesday, 5:00 – 6:00pm
- **One-on-One Resume Basics**, Third Thursday, 10:00am, 10:30am, 11:00am, 11:30am
- **Family History Research Support**, Second Friday, 2:00 – 3:00pm
- **Basic Digital Help**, Last Friday, 2:00pm, 2:20pm, 2:40pm

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- AUTHOR TALK: Stuart Kells and Scott Hamilton, 22 February, 10:00am
- AUTHOR TALK: Stephen Whiteside, 5 March, 5:30pm
- AUTHOR TALK: Jess McFarlane and Samantha L. Valentine, 28 March, 3:00pm
- Other author talks to keep an eye out for when confirmed – Grantlee Kieza and CJ Duggin.

ITEMS THAT WOULD ASSIST STAFF/PATRONS

Thank you for the coffee machine. Very appreciated!

Umbrella Dryer – \$1145 + GST + Postage = \$1335

Staff have suggested that, given it has been quite a wet few years, an umbrella dryer would be handy so patrons stop dripping water all through the library and splashing onto shelves.

Height Adjustable Puzzle Tilting Puzzle Stand – \$456.80 each x2 = \$913.60

(The original one we were looking at is no longer available. This is the best next option. Men's Shed were asked if they could make something similar to this and they said they could not)

The puzzles are a fantastic thing for people to sit and do when they have time – we even have five regulars who come in to complete the puzzles. Getting a tilting puzzle board will help with OH&S issues and make the puzzle easier to see.

We now have the issue that the puzzles are so popular, that patrons have suggested having two on the go at once... as people have come in to work on it and two people are already there!

Ian Trevaskis Author Talk – \$535 (\$450 talk + \$85 travel) or \$267.50 (50% of \$535)

We have had an enthusiastic patrons connect us with a semi-local author whom they would like to come to our library for an author talk. The quoted talk is outside our budget, but going half would put the figure in a much easier spend. If you would like to assist in getting this author to our library, we can find a suitable time this year. If committing to this is difficult this meeting, we could re-look at this suggestion at the next meeting.

LONGTERM GOALS

External Chute Upgrade – Smart Bin and secure 24/7 chute for returns. Updated FE Tech price received (July 2023 – approx. \$23,000), but waiting on builder for quote and feasibility. Electrician guesses \$700 would cover powering the secure chute, but would need to confirm requirements with FE Tech.

External Scooter and e-bike Charging Station – I have been searching for grant opportunities to create a little clear area outside the library as a charging station for e-bikes and mobility scooters.

If you would like to contribute to this, I can take that into account when I source quotes and apply.

Bookshop Report:

Rain still coming through the light fitting at the shop.

Fire hydrant – Do we have one in the Bookshop? Geraldine to follow this up.

Updating information re availability times for the roster will be sent out by Kay. Please complete and return this information to the FOBL email address.

Jackie Brennan has retired as volunteer coordinator. The current list of volunteers for RedB4 needs to be submitted to the new volunteer coordinator at Council.

Reports accepted: Moved: Andi

Seconded: Bev

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Purchase of the Coffee Machine for staff was applauded by the committee.
2. Coffee vouchers for volunteers have been invoiced and paid by Council.
3. Discussion for library requests:

Umbrella Dryer – the committee did not agree to purchase this item.

NB: *Under our Registration with ACNC our purchases need to fall under two subtypes: Advancing Education or Advancing Culture.*

Puzzle Tables -

Move to purchase two puzzle tables for the library at \$456.80 each.

Moved: Phyllis Seconded: Andi Passed

Author Talk –

There was concern that the audience would be very limited as the author's books have been written mostly for young children. More follow up required.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 18th March – General Meeting