

**Minutes for the General Committee MEETING of the  
FRIENDS OF THE BENALLA LIBRARY INC. (FOBL)  
held at 9.15am at the Benalla Library on  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

- 1. Apologies:** Phyllis Doxey, Robyn Maclean, Christine Glynn, Ashley Merbach
- 2. Present:** Geraldine McCorkell, Corrie Witlox, Heather Rogers, Keith Rogers  
Deb Saunders, Andrea Stevenson, Bev Thornell, Lynne Lidgerwood, Betty Lindsay
- 3. Minutes of the previous meeting Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were read**

**Received:** *Geraldine McCorkell*    **Seconded:** *Bev Thornell*                      **Passed**

**Business Arising:**

*Book Binding demonstration at the bookshop well attended, but more of a sales pitch than demonstration*

**4. Correspondence:**

**In:**     Nil

**Out:**   Nil

**Moved that correspondence be accepted:**

**Accepted:**                      **Second:**

**REPORTS:**

 **Treasurer's Report** tabled

The Treasurer asked that accounts be passed for payment:

Account for \$1,132.00 was received from Council for payment of the Circulation Assistance Pad.

<b>Opening Balance as at 1/02/2021</b>	<b>\$ 12, 188.88</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$ 2, 098.85</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>\$ 1, 212.95</b>

<b>Closing Balance as at 28/02/21</b>	<b>\$ 13, 074.78</b>
<b>Balance as at Bendigo statement 28/02/21</b>	<b>\$ 13, 524.78</b>

**Term Deposit maturing 11/04/21    \$10,515.53**

**Moved:** *Corrie Witlox*                      **Seconded:** *Betty Lindsay*    **Passed**

 **Membership Report: tabled**

*General Members – 131, Life members – 40, Total members = 171*

*Redb4 Roster changes:*

*Marcia Elliott and John Dennis are retiring members after the March roster.*

*A thank you email has been sent to each of them by Robyn..*

*New volunteers beginning this month – Rina Caddy, Narelle Leaf, Rhonda Lloyd and Lu Mulligan*

 **Library Coordinator's Report: tabled**

*The non fiction section is now open to the public. This opening has the additional benefit of allowing more patrons into the library.*

*Due to a coding error, library staff have completed re-coding all 30,000+ items within the library. This has been a massive but rewarding task.*

*Click and collect was not available in the recent snap lockdown. It gave staff the chance to do shelf checking, tidying and organizing and much needed time to catch up on a few projects.*

 **Bookshop Report - received**

*It was suggested that our price labels be removed from the books in the \$1 bin.*

**Reports were accepted:**

**Moved:** *Geraldine McCorkell*

**Seconded:** *Bev Thornell* **Passed**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

 **Meetings**

Discussion held re committee/general FOBL members. A Committee meeting will be held monthly with a general meeting quarterly. A general meeting will need to wait until space becomes available at the Library.

 **Pat Claridge Meeting Room and Library Toilet Facilities**

It has come to the notice of FOBL that the Pat Claridge meeting room, previously used as a community meeting room by a number of groups, including FOBL, is now fully occupied on a permanent basis by Council employees.

The toilet facilities are screened off for the sole use of these Council employees.

Geraldine contacted Pat Claridge to ascertain her knowledge of these arrangements, Pat was prepared to ask the Mayor, Danny Claridge, to bring this situation to the notice of Councillors and the CEO.

Points noted were:


- Room was intended for community meetings, which were booked through the Council.
- The toilets, were intended for community use, the toilet block under the library is not easily accessible from the library for the elderly, disabled or young children.
- There is a staff toilet in the Library.
- The excellent level of facilities in the disabled toilet at the library are not available anywhere else in Benalla. These are currently closed to the public.

After much discussion a Motion was moved.

**Motion:** *A letter be written on behalf of the Friends of the Benalla Library, to the CEO, Mayor and Councillors requesting an explanation of the inavailability of the toilets and meeting rooms and requesting that Council notify us of the expected timeline when they will be made available for community use again.*

*Moved Geraldine McCorkell. Seconded Betty Lindsay*

Debbie and Geraldine will consult on the format of the letter to be sent.

 **Limitations at the Library**

The staff informed the meeting that the whole library will be open from today.

50 people will be able to be in the library.

Groups i.e. Story Time, Sit and Knit, Let's Talk Books and Book Groups are under discussion.

**Moved:** *Geraldine McCorkell*

**Seconded:** *Betty Lindsay*

**Passed**

**The next committee meeting will be Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 9:30am in the library. (Following COVID 19 rules)**