

**MINUTES for the GENERAL MEETING of  
FRIENDS OF THE BENALLA LIBRARY INC. (FOBL)  
held at 9:45am at the Benalla Library  
on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**1. Apologies:** Joan Brown, Kay Blore, Amber Gold, Andi Stevenson, Priscilla Shanks, Anne Nelson, Margaret Richards, Dawn Stephens, Chris Atkinson and Tracey Shaw

**2. Present:** Christine Glynn, Ashley Merbach, Shirley Robertson, Phyllis Doxey, Bev Thornell, Geraldine McCorkell, Deb Saunders, Robyn Maclean and Kay Johnson

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**Received:** Christine Glynn    **Seconded:** Shirley Robertson    **Passed**

**Business Arising:**

- The new account for CAV has been set up. Reporting for the Financial Year after our AGM will be done through the Charities Commission (ACNC) from now on.

**4. Correspondence:**

**In:** None received

**Out:** Thank you email sent to Chris Hammond for servicing the air conditioner.

**Moved that correspondence be accepted:**

**Accepted:** Corrie Witlox    **Seconded:** Bev Thornell    **Passed**

**REPORTS:**

**5. Treasurer's Report**

**Opening Balance 1/7/25** **\$13,455.65**

**INCOME**

Book sales	\$4,308.05	
Membership	40.00	
Donations	<u>40.00</u>	4,388.05

**EXPENDITURE**

*Shop*

Hide's Bakery – rent	1,200.00	
Hide's Bakery – electricity	<u>110.71</u>	\$1,310.71

*Library Support*

Papers and Magazines	2,155.26	
Equipment – jigsaw table and upholstery cleaner	<u>1,333.10</u>	<u>3,488.36</u>
		<u>4,799.07</u>

**Closing Balance 31/8/25** **\$13,044.63**

Term deposit maturing 8/1/26 @4.5%	\$14,000.00	
Term deposit maturing 11/4/26 @ 4.0%.	<u>11,592.59</u>	<b><u>\$25,592.59</u></b>

**TOTAL FUNDS 31/8/25** **\$38,637.22**

**Moved:** Corrie Witlox    **Seconded:** Phyllis Doxey    **Passed**

## 5. Membership Report:

**GENERAL MEMBERS 58**

**LIFE MEMBERS 39**

**TOTAL MEMBERS 97**

## 6. Library Coordinator's Report:

### HIGHLIGHTS SINCE LAST MEETING (July):

- Finished up school holidays, with the film sessions doing particularly well.
- Submitted EOFY reports, which are all due within weeks of each other.
- Ashley completed more training to help better support children with disabilities and neurodivergence within the library. More sensory aids and supports available for families.
- Launched into Science Week with three successful events. Ramey looking to organize another Science author talk in November.
- Book Week had children rolling in with our normal EY's programs, Tomorrow Today special programs, and kinder visits to the library. We absolutely loved seeing the costumes.
- Kylie Ladd's dementia talk was very interesting and well supported.
- We have welcomed two author talks in the last week, Kirsty Harris and Jade Miles.
- We currently have two work experience students working with us, with another joining us for a week after the school holidays.

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### 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, 10:30 – 12:00pm
- **Scrabble**, Thursday, 10:00 – 12:00pm
- **Extra Mah-jong**, 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:

- Homelessness Response Action Group Community Update, 16/09/25 5:30pm
- Dementia Hub Part 2, 17/09/25 2pm
- SCHOOL HOLIDAYS: Junior Walking Talking-Book Club, each weekday (ex public holiday) 9am
- SCHOOL HOLIDAYS: Butterfly Craft, 22/09/25 10:30am
- SCHOOL HOLIDAYS: Minecraft Movie, 23/09/25 2:30pm
- SCHOOL HOLIDAYS: Junior Knitting with Social Knitters, 24/09/25 1:30pm
- AUTHOR TALK: Peter Mitchell, 25/09/25 2:30pm
- SCHOOL HOLIDAYS: Runt Movie, 29/09/25 2:30pm
- SCHOOL HOLIDAYS: Bookable PS5 Sessions, 30/09/25
- SCHOOL HOLIDAYS: The Quiet Year, 02/10/25 2:30pm
- SENIORS MONTH: Musical Interlude, 03/10/25 2pm
- SENIORS MONTH: Live Up Talk, 08/10/25 5pm
- SENIORS MONTH: Live Up Talk, 09/10/25 10:30am
- AUTHOR TALK: Gabriel Bergmosser, 22/10/25 5:30pm

Other author talks to keep an eye out for when confirmed – CJ Duggin.

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## ITEMS THAT WOULD ASSIST STAFF/PATRONS

- **Upholstery Spot Cleaner – Complete**
- **Junior and Teen Educational Magazines – Complete**
- **Adult Literacy Learning 'Easy Read' Readers – Cataloging**
- **Yoto Players, accessories, and books – Approx \$3,500 – waiting for Wang to troubleshoot**  
Following Wangaratta Library's lead, we are looking at purchasing loanable Yoto Players. Yoto Players offer a screen-free option for audiobooks for parents limiting their child's screen time. Yoto Players encouraging independent listening and play and help solidify literacy skills, in the same way audiobooks do.



- **Program including Speech Pathologist for young families – followed up via email 16/09/25**  
We are aware that many families are struggling to find Speech Therapists in the local region. We are hoping to run a series, over a few sessions, with a local "Speechie" to assist parents understand the foundational tools to help develop speech and vocabulary skills.
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## **7. Bookshop Report:**

Corrie and Geraldine have followed up a number of books from deceased estates by visiting their homes.

RedB4 has become a popular shop for return visitors from out of town.

A summary of purchases for the library is on display in the shop. Geraldine will continue to update this.

If members are unable to do their shift at RedB4 Bookshop please try to find a replacement from the list. If this is not possible just contact the person rostered with you on that day so that they know that no-one will be doing your scheduled shift.

## **Reports accepted:**

**Moved:** Christine Glynn      **Seconded:** Bev Thornell      **Passed**

## **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

1. Discussion of suggested purchases – waiting on the purchase of the Yoto players and the Speech Therapist sessions for the Library.
2. The 2025 AGM will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November at the Golf Club at 11am. The meeting will be followed by lunch at the member's expense.

All positions will be declared vacant. Please consider joining the committee for 2026.

Nomination Forms will be available at the Bookshop and emailed to all members with today's minutes by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

Nomination Forms are to be returned to the Bookshop or scanned and emailed to the secretary using [fobl08@yahoo.com.au](mailto:fobl08@yahoo.com.au) by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November.

Geraldine will book the Golf Club and follow up a speaker.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 18th November – Annual General Meeting**