

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

1. Apologies: Amber Gold , Louise Doddrell, Bev Thornell, Lynn Gibson, Christine Glynn

2. Present: Geraldine McCorkell, Corrie Witlox, Andi Stevenson, Dawn Stephens, Betty Lindsay, Kay Blore, Erna Howell, Deb Saunders, Phyllis Doxey, Robyn Maclean, Marilyn Bourke, Joan Brown

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on February 18th 2025

Received: Andi

Seconded: Corrie

Passed

Business Arising:

Requested fire hydrant to be purchased for RedB4. It has been purchased and installed on a post on the right hand side of the shop above the children's books.

Two jigsaw tables have been purchased for the library and will be delivered at the end of April.

4. Correspondence:

In: ACNC Newsletter excerpt:

In anticipation of a federal election, we have updated our advocacy guidance, and we will be promoting that to charities to ensure they understand the rules.

Charities can advocate and run campaigns during elections, including evaluating and ranking policies, if it serves their charitable purpose.

Charities should be careful not to support or oppose a particular political party or candidate as this will run the risk of being found to have a disqualifying purpose. Likewise, donations to political candidates or parties will run the risk of being found to have a purpose of supporting a particular party or candidate. However, charities can spend money on campaigning if it supports their charitable purpose, which includes advocating for policy positions or relevant law changes.

We know charity political advocacy is an area of concern for the public as leading into the last election we received nearly 500 related concerns. Our goal is to help charities understand the rules and guide them back into compliance if an issue arises.

Out:

None

Moved that correspondence be accepted:

Accepted: Betty

Seconded: Robyn

Passed

Library Coordinator's Report:

HIGHLIGHTS SINCE LAST MEETING (February):

- Staff attended Active Bystander training to assist staff in knowing what to do if they witness discrimination or violence.
- Held a very successful author talk with Stuart Kells and Scott Hamilton discussing their book 'Sold Down The River' and their research.
- Ramey attended the Community Connections Expo at the Showgrounds on behalf of the library.
- James and Ashley attended some basic mental health training provided by PLV to assist in programs focused on supporting mental health.

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
- **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:


- **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

- Upholstery Spot Cleaner – \$499 (GST & postage included)

Some of our furniture is looking less than fresh. We could give everything a freshen up and tackle new stains in a timely manner in the future with our own spot cleaner.

Cart Overview



Bissell SpotClean HydroSteam
3689F \$499.00 1

Get great rewards and lots of extras as a Gold Service Extras member
\$0 - No thank you What extras are included?

1. Customer Details

Checkout as a guest by filling out your details below.
Already have an account? [Sign in](#) for fast checkout.

Order Summary

Item(s) delivered	Qty	Cost
Bissell SpotClean HydroSteam	1	\$499.00

Apply promo code
Enter a promo code (if you have one) APPLY CODE
Promo codes are case sensitive

Subtotal: \$499.00
Total Delivery: \$0.00

Order Total: \$499.00

MOVE a motion that we purchase the spot cleaner

Moved: Geraldine

Seconded: Betty

Passed


- Height Adjustable Puzzle Tilting Puzzle Stand – Ordered and waiting on delivery

(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!

Price



Tektalk 2000 Piece Foldable Puzzle Board with Height Adjustment, Jigsaw Puzzle Table with 2 Felt Cover & 8 Sorting Trays/Drawers, Puzzle Easel with Legs, Enclosed... \$456⁸⁰

In stock
Shipped from and sold by Amazon US
Eligible for FREE international delivery
Gift options not available. [Learn more](#)
Colour Name: 2 Felt Cover

2 Delete Save for later Share

Subtotal (2 items): **\$913.60**

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



Bookshop Report:

Going along very well. Do we need a designated area for fantasy books? Thirteen shopping bags of fantasy books have been donated. Some of these have been donated to the library.

It was agreed that Fantasy Books could be placed where the travel books currently are.

It was clarified that the Carousel is for smaller paperback books. There is no particular order in this display.

Future follow up with the leaking roof will be put in writing.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Next meeting – Bev or Christine will be asked to take minutes

Deb will be unable to take the minutes at the next meeting. Deb can send the emails and agenda out, and create a digital template for the minutes.

2. Ideas for future purchases to be discussed with Ashley. Some suggestions made at today's meeting included:

- Follow up the 2025 cost of installing the external chute
- Purchase more Mahjong Resources
- Explore supporting author talks
- Explore purchasing sets of book club books
- Explore purchasing books for school aged students as a gift in Book Week (Imagination Library is catering for 0-5 years)
- Explore sponsoring prizes for a writing competition that may or may not coincide with the Benalla Festival.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 20th May – General Meeting