

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Annual General Meeting November 2022.**

With much pleasure I submit my Report for the year 2022.

2022 has been another up and down year for the Library and subsequently the Friends of the Library, but through thick and thin the Redb4 Bookshop, along with our COVID safe plan, has again come out on top of adversity.

The Committee has remained steadfast and in July and September we were able to again hold General Meetings of the Friends in the Pat Claridge room.

Thanks to Corrie our astute Treasurer who manages our finances with great expertise and treads a regular path to the Bendigo Bank with the proceeds of the shop.

Our Secretary Deb Saunders who sends apologies for her absence, has been a great help on Agendas and Minutes and keeping me on track for meetings.

Along with all the usual family obligations and COVID restrictions the wonderful volunteers at the bookshop continue to sell books, tidy the shop and be very pleasant to our customers. Many comments are made on the bright and friendly atmosphere by visitors to the shop, and some travellers leave a donation as well as buying a few books.

Special thanks to Kay who took over the role of the monthly Roster during this year, and has juggled requests for changes and replacements admirably. The shop simply would not work without Kay our roster person.

The Friends continue support for the Library, our contribution of \$6,262 for the purchase of an RFID Wand earlier in 2022 and, following a `special committee meeting' to discuss the quote for a much needed Overhead projector in the Library, a Motion was put to the General Meeting of the Friends in July which was passed unanimously, it has been agreed to provide \$10,926.00 for the projector and audio system.

Recently the daily newspaper and drink machine have resumed, along with some magazine subscriptions that the Friends contribute significantly to.

After discussion with Jackie Brennan the Volunteer Co Ordinator with the Benalla Council, it has been agreed that Council will pay for the `coffee/tea vouchers that are in the Bookshop during December and January for the use of our volunteers. It is a small thankyou for all the generous time and effort undertaken by our volunteers.

I finish my report once again thanking all the members of the Friends of the Benalla Library, an organisation which continues to flourish, many hands make light work and the foresight of previous committees in opening a second hand bookshop has paid worthwhile dividends in helping the Benalla Library to continue the high standard expected of Libraries in the often confusing world we live in.

As the end of 2022 approaches I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and holiday season and we will renew our efforts in 2023 in supporting our Library.