

**MINUTES for the GENERAL MEETING of  
FRIENDS OF THE BENALLA LIBRARY INC. (FOBL)  
held at 9:45am at the Benalla Library  
on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**1. Apologies:** Robyn Kelly, Marilyn Bourke and Priscilla Shanks

**2. Present:** Shirley Robertson, Geraldine McCorkell, Deb Saunders, Christine Glynn, Kay Johnston, Corrie Witlox, Ashley Merbach, Heather Rogers, Phyllis Doxey, Bev Thornell, Andi Stevenson, Robyn Maclean, Lyn Gibson, Kay Blore.

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on March 17<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**Received:** Christine Glynn      **Seconded:** Corrie Witlox      **Passed**

**Business Arising:**

*Extra motions passed unanimously by the committee after the March meeting based on the Report received from the Library Coordinator.*

MOTION 1: That we purchase the shelving (\$1584 including GST and Freight) and the Dual Language Section Dividers (\$493.35)

MOTION 2: That we ask Ashley to arrange an initial session with the Speech Pathologist at a cost of \$290.98.

**4. Correspondence:**

**In:**

**Out:** Initial contact with schools re the Writing Competition.

Posters sent to schools for inclusion in their newsletters.

**Moved that correspondence be accepted:**

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

**REPORTS:**

**Treasurer's Report 1/3/26 till 28/4/26**

1/3/26 Opening balance		\$ 17,485.59
<b>INCOME</b>		
Books	\$ 4,596.44	
Donations	<u>48.65</u>	<u>4,645.09</u>
		\$ 22,130.68

**EXPENDITURE**

**shop**

Hides bakery – rent	\$ 1,200.00	
Hides bakery – electricity	<u>74.71</u>	\$ 1,274.71

**Library support**

Benalla newsagency – papers	\$ 176.00	
BRCC – bird kits	902.72	
BRCC – shelving	2,077.20	
Vogue magazine	<u>65.00</u>	<u>\$3220.92</u>
28/4/26 Closing balance		\$ 17,635.05

**Term deposits**

503 matured 11/4/26		\$11,592.59
rolled over interest, maturing 11/4/27	<u>\$463.70</u>	
		\$12,056.29
808 maturing 8/8/26		<u>\$ 14,630.00</u>

**28/4/26 Total funds** **\$ 44,321.34**

**Moved:** Corrie Witlox

**Seconded:** Heather Rogers

**Passed**

**Membership Report:**

61 General Members  
39 Life Members  
**TOTAL: 100 Members**

Letter / email to renew membership will go out to members in June.

**Library Coordinator's Report:**

**HIGHLIGHTS SINCE LAST MEETING (MARCH 2026)**

- Ashley's leave has been advertised and will be interviewing soon!
- A lot of work has gone into HCLN policy updates.
- School Holidays were a success once again – with the annual Easter Egg Hunt as popular as ever!

**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, 7:00 - 8:00am
- **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
- **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

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**ITEMS THAT WOULD ASSIST STAFF/PATRONS**

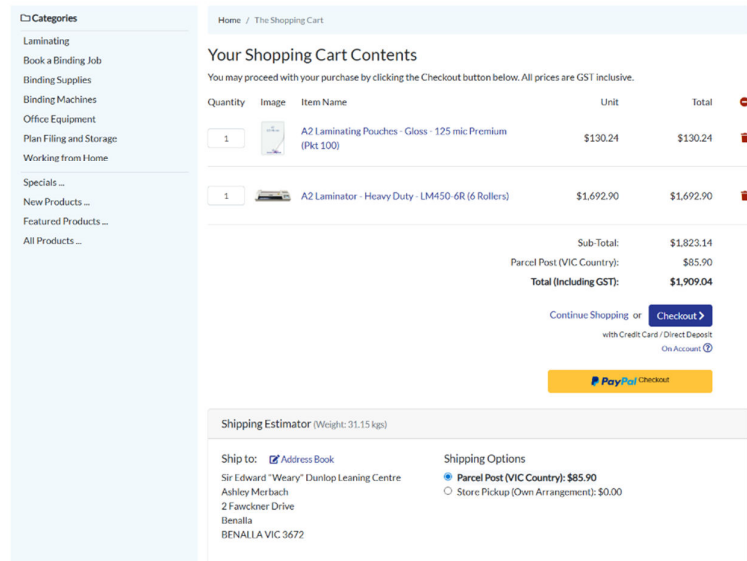
- **Shelf for Adult Graphic Novels**  
Purchased – Here!
- **International Collection (Adult and Junior/Teen) Language Shelf Dividers**  
Purchased - Complete
- **Program including Speech Pathologist for young families – \$193.99 per hour = \$290.98 per session**  
Contacted
- **Prizes for Council Careers Day**  
James and Ramey are attending the careers day, representing the library booth, and noticed last year that other areas booths had prizes for students who interacted with the area (e.g. filled out questionnaires). They have asked if there is a possibility of them having prizes this

year to help engagement (possibly gift voucher to Booktique in Wangaratta or a gift card to an online book retailer, like Booktopia).

**Move that we purchase a \$50 voucher from Booktique as a prize: Geraldine McCorkell Passed unanimously.**

**- A2 Laminator - \$1909.04**

Our current A3 laminator is broken and we are looking into bigger options, as Ingrid's creative energy is often limited by the size she can laminate.



**Move that we purchase the laminator: Andi Stevenson Seconded: Kay Blore Passed unanimously.**

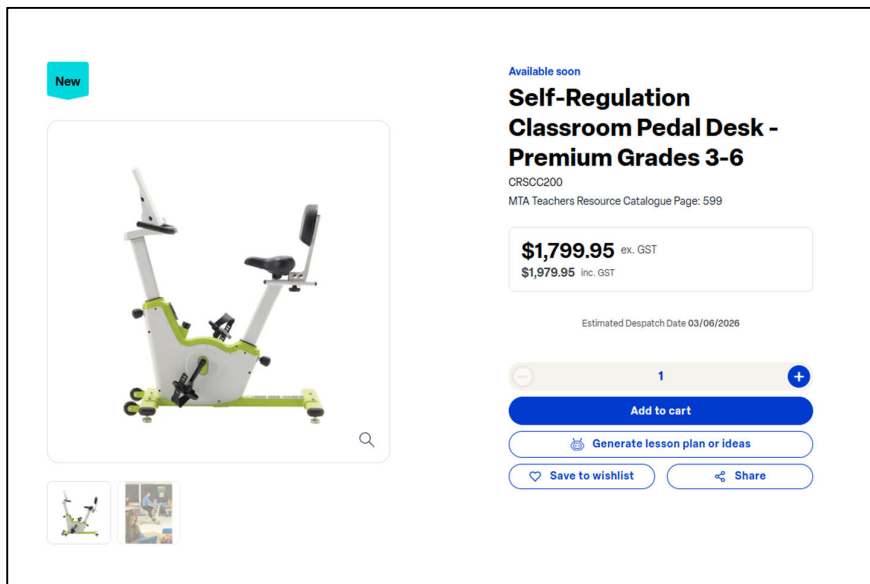
**LONGTERM GOALS**

**- External Chute Upgrade – details to be sent to the CEO before Ashley's leave.**

Item	Price	Provider	Quote Number	Quote Expiry
24/7 Return Chute V2	\$13,432.00 + \$48.00 + 926.00 <hr/> \$14,406	FE Tech	20251104	24/12/2025
Builder – Removal of old chute, Install of new chute, Labour and Materials (may be more if work is harder than expected)	\$1,654.00	Shib Hot Constructions (Nicholas Diteodoro)	“Library Book Return Box”	08/02/2026
Electrical and Cable Work	Approx. \$1000	Luke Johnson Electrical	REQUOTING	
	<b>\$17,060</b>			

## - Self-Regulation Pedal Reading Desk – \$2034.84 (including freight) - REASSESS IN FUTURE

Movement helps children, particularly those with high energy or ADHD, to stay attentive and calm during reading, which can lead to better learning outcomes. A reading bike would assist bridge accessibility barriers for children with high sensory seeking behaviors, as well as assisting all children develop better coordination, posture, health, focus, and multitasking. This bike would help students who come into the library for study after school, children coming in to meet tutors, and families coming in to read and relax in the library.



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## Yoto Players, accessories, and books

Waiting for Rhonda's card to be available, as this was over Janine's credit card limit also.

### Bookshop Report:

- Have received a great influx of books.
- Volunteers can choose to allocate books with a special price eg an excess of an author. These could be displayed in a box or on a table.
- Transfers to the Bank account are working well \$300 this month and \$270 the previous month.
- Consider the idea of creating levels in the window display.
- Thank you to Kay for organizing the roster.
- We have interest from two more volunteers.

**Reports accepted: Moved:** Geraldine McCorkell      **Seconded:** Christine Glynn **PASSED**

### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

#### **1. Council Assembly Report Update**

Geraldine and Deb attended the meeting. Geraldine gave an overview of FOBL and the purchases we have donated to the library. We made a commitment to pay for the installation of the external chute. CEO to liaise with the library coordinator.

#### **2. Writing Competition Update**

- Competition prizes and values are as listed on the poster

- Poster – thanks to Ashley for designing the poster. It has been sent out to the schools to include in their newsletters. After we get the posters printed, Phyllis has offered to deliver them around the CBD businesses on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Entry Form – this will be emailed to the school and U3A writing convenors on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Copies will be available at the library and RedB4 Bookshop.
- Judging – the following people have agreed to assist in judging entries: Christine Glynn, Bev Thornell, Amanda Marshall, Deb Saunders, Geraldine McCorkell and Robyn McLean.  
Please contact Deb if you would like to assist on :dsaun2023@gmail.com or 0419898236  
Judges will meet on Tuesday June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9.45am. Venue to be confirmed.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July – General Meeting**