

## MINUTES

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of FRIENDS OF THE BENALLA LIBRARY INC. (FOBL)

**Held at 11:00am at the Benalla Golf Club  
on Tuesday 18th November 2025 followed by lunch.**

#### 1. Apologies:

Gwen Turner, Priscilla Shanks, Amber Gold, Lynn Gibson, Robyn Kelly, Cath O'Connor, Heather Rogers, Shirley Robertson, Amanda Edgar, Claire Rudolph, Ashley Merbach, Margaret Richards, Alana Johnson and Louise Doddrell

#### 2. Present:

Christine Glynn, Andi Stevenson, Brian Vial, David Blore, Kay Blore, Robyn Maclean, Bett Lindsay, Deb Saunders, Geraldine McCorkell, Corrie Witlox, Ramey Hengen, Bev Thornell, Amanda Marshall, Kay Johnson, Tracey Shaw, Annie Cuming, Phyllis Doxey and Anne Nelson.

#### 3. Minutes of the previous AGM meeting 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Received: Christine Glynn                      Seconded: Kay Blore                      **PASSED**

#### Business Arising:

Submitted the new Constitution to CAV at a cost of \$424.60

#### 4. Correspondence:

In:

Notification from CAV –

As a registered charity we no longer need to submit Annual Statements to CAV.

Notification from ACNC that our Annual Information Statement is due on 31/12/2025.

Out:

Moved that correspondence be accepted:

Accepted: Bev Thornell                      Seconded: Betty Lindsay                      **PASSED**

## 5. REPORTS:

### **Treasurer's Report - Corrie Witlox**

#### **Friends of Benalla Library Inc.**

#### **Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2025**

##### **INCOME**

Book Sales	\$25,949.05	
Interest	1.29	
Memberships	433.00	
Donations	<u>234.70</u>	\$26,618.04

##### **EXPENDITURE**

###### *Bookshop*

Hide's Bakery – rent	7200.00	
Hide's Bakery – electricity	517.31	
Benalla RC Council – rates	1327.53	
Printing and Stationery	41.00	
Fire Extinguisher	17.00	
Vacuum Cleaner	249.00	
Department of Consumer Affairs	424.60	
Consumables	719.35	
Bank Fees	<u>5.20</u>	\$10,500.99

###### *Library Support*

Benalla Imagination Library	1200.00	
Coffee machine	300.49	
Water Filter	264.00	
Newspapers and magazines	1496.53	
Equipment and shelving	<u>2400.00</u>	\$ 5,661.02
		<u>\$16,162.01</u>

##### **PROFIT**

\$10,456.03

**TERM DEPOSIT** matured 11/4/25 re-invested at 4%

\$11,067.91 + interest \$524.68 \$11,592.59

**TERM DEPOSIT** review 8/01/26 at 4.5%

\$14,000.00

#### **Balance Sheet for the year ended 30 June 2025**

Term Deposit to mature 11/4/26	\$11,592.59
Term Deposit to mature 8/01/26	\$14,000.00
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account	<u>\$13,455.65</u>

**Total Funds as at 30 June 2025**

**\$39,048.24**

Moved: Corrie Witlox

Seconded: Andrea Stevenson

**PASSED**

## **Membership Report for November 2025 - Robyn Maclean**

GENERAL MEMBERS 60

LIFE MEMBERS 39

TOTAL MEMBERS 99

We were saddened by the death of Life Member, Janet Gourley, in October, following a brief illness.

For comparison:-

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS 2024 (AGM)

GENERAL MEMBERS 81

LIFE MEMBERS 38

TOTAL MEMBERS 119

NOTE : The decrease in numbers (20) may be attributed to the new method of email membership renewal or general attrition due to age or change in circumstances.

## **Library Coordinator's Report - Ramey Hengen on behalf of Ashley Merbach**

On behalf of the library, thank you for your support which we know comes in many forms. The puzzle tables inside the library and to the left, have seen regular use, and it is not uncommon for puzzling behaviour to take place. The new children's magazines, which are starting to arrive regularly, are fabulous and library staff have been promoting these periodicals to excited families. We are grateful for the ongoing advocacy and local championing, as well as the generous donations throughout the year.

Some of the highlights of 2025 so far:

We hosted a well-attended and extremely interesting author talk and panel discussion with Stephen Gapps, who chose the Benalla Library to launch his book *Uprising* which includes references to local history and interviews with Community elders and local educator Hamish.

We secured a "Seed Grant" for Science Week, which helped us to deliver a science week that saw 85 adults and 8 children attend the library across the 3 events that included an interview with an astrochemist, an author talk with an astrophysicist and elder, and the Astronomy Benalla Club.

We have welcomed six work experience students for a week each: one university placement and five high school placements.

We have hosted 11 author talks discussing a variety of genres and events, across a variety of times.

We are excited to announce that in 2026 we will be welcoming a new staff member on a post-school traineeship. I am sure you will welcome Daniella when she starts in January.

Once again, we would like to thank you for your support and we look forward to connecting again in 2026.

### **President's Report – Geraldine McCorkell**

In the 12 months since our last AGM the Friends of the Benalla Library have continued support for the Library. We pay for newspapers, magazines and the water cooler on a monthly basis, this year we have purchased a Tektalk 200 piece foldable puzzle table, Upholstery cleaner for the library furniture, Junior and Teen Magazines; and Adult Literacy Learning 'Easy Reader' Readers. In the pipeline are a visit from a Speech Pathologist and some Yoto Players, both these are awaiting confirmation. We hope to support the Library staff in many and varied ways in the coming year. Author visit support is an area we could assist with.

All of this could not happen without the support of the volunteers in the bookshop and the patience of Kay with the roster. The last few months it has been a little difficult to fill the roster and I thank those volunteers who work through the morning until mid-afternoon as the need arises, the foot traffic slows down somewhat once Hides Bakery closes. The bookshop continues to be a popular venue for locals and people travelling through who are repeat visitors. I receive quite a few phone calls from local people downsizing or family members asking us to come and clean out bookshelves, Corrie and myself have become quite expert at loading the back of my car with boxes and bags of treasures from people's shelves.

My grateful thanks to the Committee, Deb our Secretary, Corrie Treasurer extraordinaire who walks a regular path to the Bendigo Bank with our takings, Robyn membership officer, Andi our website manager, Kay the keeper of the roster and Christine, Phyllis, Bev and Heather all of whom I know I can call on for a special meeting or assistance.

An extra meeting was called in October with Corrie, Phyllis, Christine and Andi re the website as VicNet are ending their free hosting of community groups in December. Andi researched and found another place that will host our website for free, and with Andi willing to continue managing the website, this has now been set up. I do receive quite a few enquiry calls through the website. At this meeting it was also agreed to provide the volunteers with a

tea/coffee voucher over December and January in appreciation of their efforts, we have done this for quite a few years now.

Our Library continues to thrive, the staff are always helpful and very supportive of our efforts, it has become and will continue to be a community centre, running many and varied programs to support all members of Benalla. It is a pleasure to walk through the door.

The friends of Janet Gourley were saddened by her passing in October following a brief illness. Janet was a Life Member of the Friends and her support was appreciated.

I am confident that the Friends will face the challenges and achievements over the next 12 months and continue support for the Library and the staff with enthusiasm.

### **Bookshop Report**

Bookshop has been overwhelmed with book donations. Our roof has stopped leaking. Bookshop sales for the financial year was \$25,949.05.

There is a need for a working bee – Robyn is happy to organize some members to assist.

### **Moved Reports be accepted:**

Moved: Christine Glynn      Seconded: Phyllis Doxey      **PASSED**

### 6. Election of Office Bearers:

#### **Ramey Hengen (Library) took the chair for the election of office bearers for 2025/2026**

All positions on the committee were declared vacant.  
Nominations received as at 1/11/25

**President:** Geraldine McCorkell

**Nominated:** Christine Glynn

Seconded: Phyllis Doxey

**Accepted and Passed**

**Vice President:** Christine Glynn

**Nominated by** Phyllis Doxey **Seconded:** Corrie Witlox

**Accepted and Passed**

**Treasurer:** Corrie Witlox

**Nominated by:** Andrea Stevenson **Seconded:** Phyllis Doxey

**Accepted and Passed**

**Secretary:** Deb Saunders

**Nominated by:** Geraldine McCorkell **Seconded:** Andrea Stevenson

**Accepted and Passed**

**Membership Officer:** Robyn Maclean

**Nominated by:** Deb Saunders **Seconded:** Corrie Witlox

**Accepted and Passed**

## 7. Election of General Committee Members

The following members were elected:

Phyllis Doxey, Andrea Stevenson (website), Kay Johnson (roster), Bev Thornell and Heather Rogers.

Please note that all members are welcome and invited to attend our General Meetings throughout the year.

**Accepted and Passed**

## 8. General Business – Motions to be Passed

### **Financial Review of Accounts**

#### **Motion:**

That the accounts of the Friends of the Benalla Library be reviewed by Sue Hutchins R.A. at the end of the next financial year.

**Moved:** Corrie Witlox **Seconded:** Christine Glynn **Vote: Passed**

### **Membership Fees**

#### **Motion:**

Moved that the membership fees stay the same for 2025 – 2026  
\$5 per person, \$3 Concession, \$ 10 per family concession, \$100 Individual life member.

**Moved:** Andrea Stevenson **Seconded:** Phyllis Doxey **Vote: Passed**

### **Meetings for 2026:**

#### **Motion:**

To continue the meeting time for 2026 on the third Tuesday at 9.45 am at the Benalla Library.

**Moved:** Geraldine McCorkell **Seconded:** Bev Thornell **Vote: Passed**

#### **Motion:**

That the FOBL General Meetings for 2026 will continue to be bi-monthly in March, May, July, September and November. A committee meeting will be held in February and the AGM will be held in November.

Extra Meetings will be held as required.

**Moved:** Kay Blore **Seconded:** Phyllis Doxey **Vote: Passed**

## GENERAL MEETING following AGM

### Motion:

To contribute \$2400 to the Imagination Library coordinated by Tomorrow Today and supported by the Benalla Library.

**Moved:** Geraldine McCorkell

**Seconded:** Deb Saunders

**Vote: Passed**

### 9. Any Other Business Items

- Thankyou from Waste-wise for collecting recycled items.
- A copy of the President's Report to be sent to David Blore to brief the current council.
- A sign will be placed in the Bookshop explaining that it is the **responsibility of members to find a replacement for the roster** if they are unable to attend their rostered shift.  
If there is no-one available to replace you the shop will remain closed for your shift. Please call the other person scheduled on that day so that they are aware of this.

Meeting closed: 12.15pm