

## Extract - Annual Report, July 2018-June 2019



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### Annual General Meeting, Saturday, 14th September, 2019

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

This report covers the activities of the Literacy Network Manly Warringah for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019. It has been another year full of changes and hurdles to overcome but as usual the Network has continued to survive and successfully deliver the unique literacy assistance program for which it is widely recognised.

The Literacy Network continues to harness the literacy skills of the community through its volunteers and directs them, with professional guidance, to improving the reading, writing and numeracy skills of those currently struggling to participate fully in our community. The Literacy Network has been providing its unique service for over 30 years and its services continue to be in strong demand. We assist over 30 students per year and continue to get new requests for assistance from both newly arrived migrants and those native speakers with literacy problems. By improving the reading and writing skills of our students in English we increase their ability to participate in work and community life.

I want to offer a big thank you to all our volunteer tutors, both existing and new, who generously give their time and energy to assisting the adult learners who seek our assistance to improve their English literacy skills.

The highest praise must go to our talented and committed Committee that has handled all the challenges we faced during the year.

I want to give a special thank you to our Treasurer who has not only looked after our finances but stepped in to organise venues and office lease among other things.

#### ***Change of operating venue.***

In 2019 we were unable to continue using facilities at the Northern Beaches Community College premises at Brookvale. This caused much concern about our future as we searched to find a suitable alternative. But thanks to heroic efforts we were successful in finding our new base for operations at Manly Vale.

#### ***Education Coordinators.***

Our coordinators have continued to be towers of strength in managing the tutors and students and ensuring that those coming to us for help with literacy problems get the best possible assistance. They have done a great job in the coordination and training of tutors and making new volunteer tutors welcome to our Network

#### ***Tutor Training.***

New volunteers continue to join the Network each year and after completing the Tutor

Training Program join the ranks of tutors. It is always exciting to see new volunteers wanting to help in continuing on the great work that the Literacy Network has been doing for over 30 years.

***End of Year Function.***

We again had a great lunch for our members at the Balgowlah RSL with over 30 attending including 8 students. We are planning a similar event this year.

***The people we assist.***

As indicated in last year's annual report the Census continues to show in excess of 3500 residents living in the Manly, Pittwater and Warringah local government areas identify as "speaking English not well or not at all", confirming what we already know that there is an ongoing demand for our services. We continue to have people waiting to be matched with appropriate tutors

***Publicity***

We continue to work at getting coverage of our service in the Manly Daily. In May we had a stall at the Northern beaches Volunteers Expo to inform those wanting to volunteer what opportunities we offer.

***Our Financial Supporters.***

The ability of the Literacy Network to meet the ongoing needs in the community by delivering our unique service is totally dependent on the funding we receive from funding agencies in our local community. We are most grateful for this ongoing support.

In 2018-19 we received funding from the following:

Dee Why RSL Club, Northern Beaches Council, Balgowlah RSL Club, Pittwater RSL Club

***Chris McGuigan***

***President***

***September 2019***

***COORDINATORS' REPORT***

We have had a busy year, interviewing and training, culling office materials, reviewing resources and moving premises.

***Tutor-student pairs***

We averaged about 24 pairs over the year with a few students waiting. The number tends to fluctuate with people breaking for personal and family reasons and holidays, some with a view to returning. Backgrounds include English-speaking, Korean, Russian, Tibetan, Thai, European and South American. During the year we farewelled some long-standing tutors who have moved or are taking up other commitments. We miss our Tibetan families who are gradually moving from the area. A few tutors and students found it convenient to have sessions in the office in King St.

***Tutor training***

Eight people enrolled in our Oct/Nov course and we matched most with a student.

Many tutors find us by googling 'literacy on the northern beaches'; the Mona Vale, Dee Why and Manly libraries also direct tutors and students our way. Our team at the Dee Why RSL Volunteers Expo also attracted interested participants. Further training included a Tibetan tutors group which met twice, and two successful get-togethers for tutors.