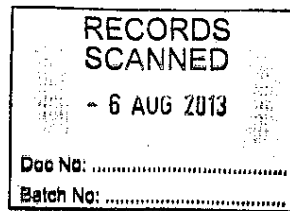


Ballina Bookhaven  
41 River Street  
NSW 2478  
5<sup>th</sup> August 2013

The General Manager  
Ballina Shire Council  
PO Box 450  
BALLINA NSW



Copy to :-  
Mr. D. Wright, Mayor

Dear Sir

Congratulations to the Council for the upgrade to the eastern end of River Street. As retailers in River Street for the last 12 months at the eastern end of the street, we have had many positive comments about the improvements and we have noticed an increase in the number of our customers, local and particularly tourists into our unique and pleasant second hand bookshop.

However we were surprised and disappointed when the Friends of the Library were given a shop in Tamar Street to also run a second hand bookshop. We were under the impression that this was only a temporary arrangement and therefore we thought we would go along and try to maintain our business in the best possible way. We now notice that the Friends of the Library have re-opened their shop in the Wigmore Arcade where the books are sold at a price that is not a market rate but a give away, which of course we could never match as we pay rent and electricity costs as well as credit stock to our customers.

Our concern is that the Friends of the Library are operating under the auspices of the Ballina Shire Council as we believe that the Library is a part of the Councils' responsibility. Could you please explain if it is part of Council's Policy to be in competition with local retailers?

Many of our customers are asking this question and we can only reply that we don't understand, particularly when the Council is encouraging tourism and our bookshop attracts many tourists.

It would be disappointing if Ballina Bookhaven was forced to close because of the Friends of the Library bookshop selling books at give away prices, an annual book sale as happened in the past does not have the same continual effect.

We ask you to seriously consider this issue and we look forward to your reply as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely *Lawrence & Gene Trim*  
Lawrence & Gene Trim  
(Ballina Bookhaven)