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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THANKS TO OUR PATRON

Our esteemed patron, Justice Michael Kirby, while in Perth at the end of 2003, addressed the Friends of the Library of the University of Western Australia. The occasion took place in University House, University of Western Australia, and was hosted by Professor David Tunley AM, Emeritus Professor of Music of the University.



groups and library staff, email him on - alan.bundy@unisa.edu.au.

We are indebted again to our Patron, who despite his demanding schedule both in Australia and internationally, finds time to pass on the word about the value of *Friends*.

At the final meeting of the FOLA executive for 2003, members endorsed the Senate Committee Report by the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee on *Libraries in the online environment*. Further more, FOLA endorsed action by writing to the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, leaders of other political parties and State Premiers. It sought a response from the government for discussion at our 10 March meeting in Melbourne.



Justice Michael Kirby at the University of Western Australia

Our Vice-President, Dr Alan Bundy has also been busy. In addition to speaking at the FOLA AGM in Altona in 2003, he had the pleasure of addressing FOL groups in Mitcham, SA, Castlemaine, Victoria and Nambour and Gympie in Qld about why public libraries are such an outstanding public investment, their important contribution to the development of much needed social capital, and how FOL groups can be very effective advocates for better libraries for all.

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All FOL groups would be urged to obtain a copy of the report and respond accordingly.

And finally, to all our members, compliments of the season and may 2004 bring great success to your Friends group and library.

DANIEL FERGUSON