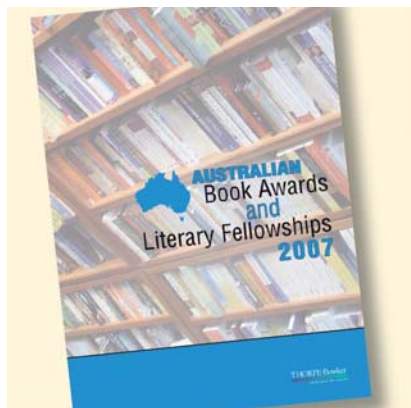


THORPE-BOWKER'S AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY NEWS

The weekly news & information service for library & information professionals



Australian Book Awards & Literary Fellowships 2007

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WA to review its Library Board Act

The public library system in Western Australia will not notice many differences on an operational level after proposed changes to the Library Board of Western Australia Act come into effect sometime next year.

State Librarian and chief executive of the State Library of WA Margaret Allen said a review of the Act was being undertaken because of markedly changed conditions since it was first enacted.

The Act came into force in 1951 to establish a statutory public body to oversee the introduction of a free public library system in Western Australia. The state's first public library opened in York in 1954.

The proposed changes fall into three areas:

- Library board structure and governance - emphasis in the review will be on meeting modern corporate governance requirements and will also consider the size and level of representation on the library board;
- Relationship with local government – emphasis will be on the role of the board in the operation of public libraries against the context of 21st century local government and library practice and the current framework agreement between the library board and local government; and
- Legal deposit – Western Australia is currently the only Australian jurisdiction without legal deposit legislation following the repealing of two different acts in recent years. The review proposes to re-introduce legal deposit requirements for Western Australian publications including printed material, sound, film and electronic publications.

Allen said the current Act did not allow a partnership between the State Library and local government, rather it was more a case of the library telling government what to do in regard to public libraries.

'Of course that's not where we are any more- it's not the way these things work now,' Allen said.

'We have a framework with local government that sets out funding and priorities so the intent is we want to move to a partnership relationship and we want to express that in the legislation.'

Allen said the current framework was also under a separate review and the outcome of that would have far more of an impact on public libraries than changes to the Act.

The current framework agreement expires at the end of June, 2008.

Allen said the change with the most impact would be the reintroduction of legal deposit to Western Australia.

May 17, 2007 Issue 276

Contents

News:

National Library agrees OCLC deal, chooses databases ... 2

Academics:

Two universities target new libraries from HEEF money ... 3

Publics:

Burwood changes site for \$45 million library ... 3
First refurbishment for 14-year-old Christchurch building ... 4
Mareeba investigates building a new library ... 4
North Queensland students delve into Vietnam War history ... 4

Specials

Government attacked for sending records to auction house ... 4
History as Archives opens its South Australian doors ... 5

TAFES/Polys:

WA budget sees \$13 million funding for Central TAFE work ... 5

Schools:

Victoria launches e-Learning initiative ... 5

Suppliers:

Thomson agrees sale of its Learning division ... 6

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National Library agrees OCLC deal, chooses databases

Australian libraries now have access to WorldCat after the **National Library of Australia** and **OCLC** agreed a collaborative services deal.



National Library director general Jan Fullerton said that Australian bibliographic records would also be more accessible to researchers worldwide.

In turn the cataloguing records from 110 countries will be available to Libraries Australia subscribers.

'The National Library of Australia looks forward to working closely with OCLC through this collaborative services agreement, which opens up access to WorldCat for Australian libraries,' Fullerton said.

'This agreement marks a major step forward in the sharing of Australian bibliographic data and exposure of the collections of Australian libraries internationally.'

The Ohio-based OCLC is a non-profit library membership and research organisation which provides computer-based cataloguing, reference, resource sharing, eContent and preservation services.

OCLC president Jay Jordan said the agreement benefited library users not only in Australia but around the world.

'These organisations will also be participating in the world's largest library cooperative,' he said.

Libraries Australia subscribers who contribute their current cataloguing and holdings to the Australian National Bibliographic Database (ANBD) and WorldCat will become governing members of the OCLC.

Details of the agreement are:

- All Australian libraries who subscribe to Libraries Australia will have unlimited search and cataloguing access to OCLC's WorldCat;
- To get access to WorldCat, libraries must be Libraries Australia subscribers;
- Provision of bibliographic records with Australian holdings from the ANBD to WorldCat and vice versa; and
- Exposure of ANBD bibliographic and holdings records in search engines though the Open WorldCat program and the web through WorldCat.org.

The National Library has also chosen the resources for its ERA national site licence initiative.

There are three categories – Australian News and Business Information, General Reference and Health Information.

The products and vendors are:

Australian News and Business Information:

- ProQuest-CSA's ABI/INFORM
- ProQuest-CSA's Asian Business and Reference; and
- ProQuest CSA's ANZ Newsstand

General Reference:

- EBSCO Publishing's Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre
- Oxford University Press's Oxford Reference Online Premium; and
- Forward Learning's World Book Online Reference Center

Health Information:

- EBSCO Publishing's Consumer Health Complete
- Thomson Gale's Health and Wellness Resource Center; and
- Thomson Gale's Health Reference Center Academic.

WA to review Library Board Act

From Page 1

'It was embedded in two other acts, which were repealed in past years, so effectively I think it's since about 1994 we haven't had legal deposit legislation, although the majority of publishers have continued to abide by the spirit and we're appreciative of that,' she said.

The library says consultation will be 'open and fair'.

A report summarising the views expressed during consultation will be made available to the public after the consultation period.

There is no timeframe at this stage as to when the review will be completed.

ACADEMICS

Two universities target new libraries from HEEF money

The **University of Tasmania** and the **University of Western Australia** have both confirmed they would go ahead with new libraries thanks to the Australian Government's new Higher Education Endowment Fund announced in last week's budget.

UTAS vice-chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said the announcement in the budget meant the university could begin projects such as the new library and information centre at Newnham.

"We were hoping for some big-picture items in the budget and the outcome has been fantastic," Le Grew said.

"We are delighted with this increase in commonwealth grants, which favours courses in which UTAS specialises.

"Now, the university can look to the future with great confidence and continue to develop our facilities, courses and our cutting edge research to ensure we are recognised worldwide."

Le Grew said the funding announcements meant the university would be able to move forward with its planned building projects well ahead of schedule.

The university will also transfer the \$61 million worth of assets of the Australian Maritime College to UTAS as part of the planned merger between the two institutions.

UWA said it would use money from the fund to build a new physical sciences library.

PUBLICS

Burwood changes site for \$45 million library

The proposed new \$45 million library and cultural centre in the Sydney suburb of Burwood will now be incorporated into the current Burwood Council administration building site and include commercial space.

The council, based in the city's inner-west, had initially earmarked a site adjacent to the council chambers as the preferred site.

But Burwood Mayor John Faker said the site rethink had come after a review of existing space in council chambers and available funding options.

'The decision makes practical and financial sense because the current council chambers site is sufficiently large to house the new library as well as extra community facilities and existing administration space,' Faker said.

Sections of the 1970s-era council administration building will be remodeled to accommodate the new library, leaving the adjoining heritage-listed council chambers, built in 1887, untouched.

'The new library and additional community space will blend aesthetically and architecturally complement the existing council chambers,' Faker said.

'The decision makes financial sense too because council can use money from the sale of the land earmarked to build the library and surrounding properties to partly fund building of the new library.'

Faker said that the proposed commercial space in the new building would also generate additional revenue that could be put towards improving community services.

Council-owned land adjacent to where the library was originally to be built will be freed up for residential re-development.

Tenders for building the library will hopefully be called in December with construction commencing in February 2008.

ALN News

First refurbishment for 14-year-old Christchurch building

Linwood Library in Christchurch will close for almost three weeks from Monday to enable the first major refurbishment of the building to be carried out since it opened in 1993.



Christchurch City Libraries manager Carolyn Robertson said the library was now 14 years old and the interior was 'looking both tired and shabby'.

'Much of the work is required for health and safety reasons,' Robertson said. 'The refurbishment involves the replacement of threadbare carpet, painting of

the walls in fresh, Pacific-inspired colours, the relocation of some services to make better use of available space and for work to begin on an on-going program to refurbish the furniture.'

Robertson said the theme for the refurbishment had been inspired by the sea, the colours predominantly being blues, greens and parchment.

'Linwood Library is a busy community library with an average monthly foot count of 15,000,' she said.

'It has a sense strong of community; the customer base being drawn from the local Linwood community and Christchurch's seaside hill suburbs.'

Mareeba investigates building a new library

Mareeba Shire Council in far north Queensland will investigate alternative designs for the proposed new Mareeba Library.

'At its last meeting council resolved to engage a quantity surveyor to undertake a review of the capital costs of the building taking into account proposed structure design changes and the desire for council to complete the project within the original budget,' Mareeba Mayor Mick Borzi said.

Borzi said that while Mareeba Shire Council did not have unlimited funds towards construction of the new library, it was necessary to provide an adequate and fully functional new facility.

'Figures have revealed a consistent usage of library services hence council's desire to provide the advantages of a new spacious and user friendly library within the adequately funded allocated budgeted amount,' Borzi said.

North Queensland students delve into Vietnam War history

A group of students Thuringowa State High School in the greater Townsville area have used a library-run program to look into the history of the Vietnam War to try and uncover some of the untold stories and the impact on society in the region.

The project was entitled Remembering Vietnam and involved a group of year 10 students researching and interviewing Vietnam veterans.

Thuringowa Library has facilitated the project, which has seen the students attend a lecture on the Vietnam War, visit the 2 RAR museum and conduct research in class.

The students moved into the next stage of their project last Friday and conducted interviews with Vietnam veterans.

The project will finish with the students developing digital stories and displaying an exhibition in the Thuringowa Library in August, coinciding with the commemoration of the Battle of Long Tan.

The Vietnam War has had a significant impact on the Townsville region, with the city being the point of departure for troops sent to Vietnam.

This contributed to the establishment of Lavarack Barracks in the city.

'Many of the students may have grandparents who were involved in the Vietnam War and therefore they have an important source of information and personal connection to the topic,' Thuringowa councillor Jenny Lane said.

'The Vietnam War is an area that has been neglected in recent years, with more of an emphasis placed on Australia's involvement in World War II.

'I think it is an excellent project the students are involved in and will help them to better understand the issues, conflicts and impacts on society.'

The Remembering Vietnam project is a joint project between Thuringowa State High School, Thuringowa Library, James Cook University and the RSL Thuringowa Branch.

SPECIALS

Government attacked for sending records to auction house

Tasmania's Shadow Attorney General Michael Hodgman has questioned whether the state government broke the Archives Act when it sent filing cabinets containing confidential government records to a Hobart auction house.

He said the possibility of wrongdoing needed to be explored with the Solicitor General as part of the government's investigation, which was announced in the wake of the mistake being made public on ABC News.

Hodgman said it 'beggared belief' that a government could be so complacent about records that were supposed to be kept secure.

ALN News

'I welcome the fact that the Treasurer, Michael Aird, has announced an inquiry into this matter – it is a very serious security breach, and potentially also a breach of the Archives Act 1983,' Hodgman said in a statement.

'This Act spells out how state records are to be preserved and made public.

'It covers Cabinet records such as those that were sent to auction, and these are supposed to be preserved so that generally they can be made public after a period of 25 years.

'For the state government to treat the preservation of such records with so much disdain that it would ship them off to an auction house suggests gross Labor mismanagement and the issue of whether the law has been broken must be included in the scope of the Treasurer's investigation.'

History as Archives opens its South Australian doors

The **National Archives of Australia** in Adelaide is opening its doors to the public on Sunday to help celebrate South Australia History Week.

'We're holding behind-the-scenes tours every hour from 11am to 3pm to show the types of documents and items we have in the collection and how people can research them,' National Archives state director Diane List said.

'Most of our records were created after 1901 when the Commonwealth of Australia came into existence but we also hold some colonial records that became the Commonwealth responsibility at the time of federation, such as customs, shipping, meteorology, patents, postal and telegraphic records.'

Visitors can also book into a conservation clinic to learn how to care for their personal documents and photographs and ensure the preservation of their own family archives.

'We'll also be demonstrating how to search for records on the National Archives' database, showing the digitisation process and the digital images available,' List said.

TAFES/POLYS

WA budget sees \$13 million funding for Central TAFE work

The major redevelopment of **Central TAFE's** Perth campus was given a boost this week with confirmation of \$13 million in funding.

In last week's WA budget, Treasurer Eric Ripper announced that Central TAFE would receive \$2.5 million to complete work on Stage Two of the redevelopment and \$10.575million to continue work on Stage Three.

Central TAFE is undertaking a \$50 million capital works program, which will change the face of the college and is designed to create a new educational hub in the centre of Perth.

The redevelopment, which will include two new buildings on Newcastle and William Streets, will consolidate the college's resource, science, industry and creative-based courses.

Construction began last November on the first of two new buildings, facing Newcastle Street, which will house the computing, multimedia, print and jewellery courses.

The second building, on the corner of William and Aberdeen streets, will incorporate the engineering, architectural drafting and building studies courses, as well as a library.

The new campus will open onto a public space being created by the East Perth Redevelopment Authority.

The redevelopment is due to be completed in late 2008.

SCHOOLS

Victoria launches e-Learning initiative

Victoria has launched a program designed to make digital technology a more effective learning tool.

The \$8.4 million e-Potential learning initiative teaches students to use online technology as part of the study of core curriculum subjects.

Primary and secondary students will study subjects including maths, history and geography online, which may take the form of virtual tours and other interactive programs to bring core subject matter to life.

'This program will help make our teachers and students more tech-savvy than ever before and importantly it will result in tangible teaching and learning outcomes,' deputy Premier John Thwaites said when launching the program.

Thwaites said the e-Potential initiative would build on the work already underway in Victorian schools to use digital technology as a learning tool.

'It is two-tiered, innovative approach to encouraging learning while enabling teachers to map and improve their own ICT teaching capabilities through an online survey,' he said.

Thomson agrees sale of its Learning division

The **Thomson Corporation** has announced the sale of its higher education, careers and library reference assets, which include **Thomson Learning Australia** and **Gale**, in a US\$7.75 billion (A\$9.32 billion) deal with private equity firms Apax and OMERS Capital Partners.

Managing director of Thomson Learning in Australia John Mehan said the deal would likely close within 60 days and said that he did not expect it to face any regulatory obstacles in Australia.

'We're very pleased that our new owners have been announced,' Mehan said.

Thomson Corporation announced its intention to sell Thomson Learning in October 2006, citing the business's anomalous position as a traditional publisher within a company wishing to concentrate on electronic products and services.

'Thomson Learning is an excellent business, but it does not fit with our long-term strategic vision,' Thomson's president and CEO Richard J Harrington said at the time.

The offer of US\$7.75 billion for the higher education, careers and library reference arm was well above predicted figures of between US\$5 billion (A\$6 billion) and US\$6 billion (A\$7.21 billion).

'What the price paid demonstrates is that there is real value in our assets worldwide,' said Mehan.

The Thomson sale follows last week's news that educational publisher Pearson had bought competitor Harcourt Education, pending regulatory approvals.

While Mehan said it was too early to speculate on how its new owner might affect operations at Thomson Learning in Australia he admitted the company was 'probably in a better position with private equity than (if it had been bought by) a competitor'.

Apax Partners is a UK private equity firm specialising in investments in telecommunications, IT, retail and consumer goods, media and healthcare, while OMERS Capital Partners is the private equity arm of a large Canadian pension fund and will have majority ownership of publisher Thomson Nelson in Canada, where the law limits foreign ownership of publishers.

Following the sale announcement, Thomson Corporation yesterday announced its intention to take over the Reuters news agency to form a new dual listed company called Thomson-Reuters Corporation.

However, despite both boards recommending the deal, it can still be blocked by the Reuters Founders Share Company, which owns a 'golden share' that can be used to block takeovers.

A further announcement will be made in due course.

CATALOGUED

Fraser stands down as CEO of CAL

Michael Fraser, chief executive of the Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) has retired from the position after 21 years to establish his own consultancy on copyright and rights management matters.

CAL chairman Brian Johns said the history and achievement of CAL were 'inextricably linked' with Fraser, who re-established the agency in 1984.

'As chief executive he has steered its many successes to the company it is today, one that has paid over \$500 million in copyright fees to our members: authors, artists and publishers.

'Under Michael's leadership, CAL has enjoyed strong double digit growth in revenue every year for 21 years.'

The board of CAL has appointed Jim Alexander, general manager business services, as acting chief executive, effective from May 28.

Former National Librarian to receive honorary doctorate

The former National Librarian of New Zealand is to receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Otago this weekend.

Mary Ronnie will receive the honorary Doctor of Literature at the university's graduation ceremony in Dunedin on Saturday.

Ronnie is also a former city librarian of both Dunedin and Auckland.

Otago vice-chancellor Professor David Skegg said that throughout her career Ronnie had demonstrated a 'passionate commitment' to provide New Zealanders with improved access to high-quality library services.

'I'm delighted that the university is able to recognise formally the enormous impact she has had both as a library leader and as an influential librarianship scholar,' Skegg said.

Ronnie will also deliver the graduation address at Saturday's ceremony.

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WHAT'S ON

CONFERENCES

Reading Matters

May 24-26

Centre for Youth Literature

State Library of Victoria

Mike Shuttleworth

mshuttleworth@slv.vic.gov.au

5th International Indigenous Librarians' Forum

June 4-7

State Library of Queensland

ils@slq.qld.gov.au

SLANZA 2007 – Intersections - collaborative forces

July 2-4

Wellington High School

slanzja@cmskl.co.nz

Hearts on Fire: Sharing the Passion – ASLA annual conference

October 2-5

Adelaide Convention Centre

+ 61 2 9437 9333

Fax + 61 2 9901 4586

aleks@conferenceaction.com.au

ALIA National Library and Information Technicians Conference 2007

October 9-12

Grand Hyatt, Melbourne

alia07@icms.com.au

Simply the Best 2: Reflections of women through records

October 10-12

Hawke Centre - University of

South Australia

jenni.jeremy@unisa.edu.au

Libraries/Changing Spaces, Virtual Places - Vala2008

February 5-7

Melbourne Convention Centre

info@wsm.com.au

AUTHOR LIBRARY VISITS

John Boyne – *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*

Subiaco Library, Perth

May 21, 6.00pm

Andrea Mayes – *Shearwater*

Ocean Grove Library, Victoria

May 22, 2.00pm

Dorothy Porter – *El Dorado*

Flinders University Library,

Adelaide

May 24, 1.00pm

Jacqueline Wilson – *Jacky*

Daydream

Mosman Library, Sydney

May 28, 4.00pm

David Hill – *The Forgotten*

Children

Mosman Library, Sydney

May 30, 7.00pm

Jackie French – *My Pa the Polar Bear*

Wallsend Library, Newcastle,

NSW

May 31, 5.00pm

Peter FitzSimons – *Torbruk*

Penrith Library, Sydney

May 31, 6.30pm

Lincoln Hall – *Dead Lucky: Life*

after Death on Mount Everest

Liverpool Library, Sydney

May 31, 7.00pm

Tom Keneally – *The Widow and Her Hero*

HJ Daley Library, Campbelltown,

Sydney

June 1, 6.30pm

Carmel Bird – *Writing the Story of Your Life*

State Library of NSW

June 2, 2.00pm

Judy Horacek – *The Story of Grawl*

Diamond Valley Library, Victoria

June 3, 2.30pm

Anita Heiss – *Not Meeting Mr Right*

Mosman Library, Sydney

June 6, 7.00pm

Dorothy Porter – *El Dorado*

State Library of Victoria

June 8, 7.30pm

Sam Everingham – *Wild Ride: Cobb and Co*

Orange City Library, NSW

June 15, 6.00pm

Maggy Maxwell – *Isabella*

Takapuna Library, Auckland

June 19, 10.00am

Anita Heiss – *Not Meeting Mr Right*

Kunanurra Community Library, WA

June 23, 10.15am

Barbara Ewing – *The Mesmerist*

Takapuna Library, Auckland

July 19, 1.00pm

EXHIBITIONS

Joseph Lycett: convict artist

National Library of Australia

Until May 27

How's That

National Library of Australia

Until June 27

A Quick Stab at the Eighteenth Century

Central Library

University of Otago

Until June 29

A Nest of Singing Birds: 100 years of the School Journal

National Library of New Zealand

Until July 20

The A to Z: An Illustrated Alphabet

National Library of New Zealand

Until July 20

Broken Links: The Stolen Generations in Queensland

Philip Bacon Gallery

State Library of Queensland

Until August 26