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## Senator fears more cuts to NLA



The Australian Government's funding of the National Library has come under renewed attack with a Liberal Party Senator saying the library's ability to acquire new materials is now under threat.

Senator Gary Humphries said the government had refused to confirm whether or not the National Library and the National Gallery would continue to receive depreciation funding for their collections.

The fresh attack comes hard on the heels over claims the government's decision to remove the national cultural institutions' exemption from the efficiency dividend would cost them millions of dollars in annual funding.

Senator Humphries said institutions such as the National Library and National Gallery were assured a certain amount of depreciation funding, based upon the value of their collections.

'In the case of the National Library, this funding totals some \$12 million per year,' he said.

The Senator said that in recent Budget Estimates hearings, Director General of the National Library Jan Fullerton revealed that this money was primarily used for acquiring new material for the library's collections.

'But the government has failed to confirm that this funding will continue into the future and indications are that the Department of Finance is reviewing the arrangements,' Humphries claimed.

'This government doesn't care about our national institutions – that is the message coming loud and clear from Peter Garrett.

'Despite espousing his supposed love for arts and culture in the media, Mr Garrett has refused to put these institutions out of their misery by emphatically stating that they will continue to receive a suitable level of depreciation funding.

'This is the key funding that some institutions rely on to build and develop their collections, it could not by any means be considered "bureaucratic fat".

'So if changes to depreciation funding are made, the only effect will be to cut back even further the funds available to these institutions, with disastrous consequences for our national collections.'

Humphries said that rather than letting the institutions 'dangle in the breeze', Garrett should reassure the national institutions over depreciation funding.

'He should reassure these institutions that the government does value them, because at the moment it seems like they are just being treated as a source of quick savings,' Humphries said.

March 20, 2008 Issue 316

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# ALN News

## Australian Library News

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## NEWS

### Police offer reward for information about school fire

New South Wales Police are offering a reward of up to \$1000 for information about an explosion and fire that caused \$5 million damage to a school in the New South Wales Riverina town of Hay last year.

The blast at the Hay War Memorial High School happened on the morning of July 3 2007, sending debris 50 metres and breaking windows on surrounding homes and shops.

Police suspect arson and believe the incident may be linked to an earlier break-in at the Hay sports ground's tuck shop.

Detective Sergeant Miles Rogers said he was confident many people in the Hay community had information on the blast but were yet to come forward.

'The explosion caused severe structural damage to the science/library building and the surrounding school,' he said.

'It's only the fact that it occurred at 2:30 in the morning that no-one was injured or in fact killed.'

### Supreme Court Library suffers water damage after leak

The South Australian Supreme Court Library has called in expert help to try and rescue a number of rare legal books that were damaged after the building was flooded.

Legal volumes, some more than 100 years old, were removed from the 1960s building after staff were confronted by the flooding when they arrived at work on Monday.

Library staff are seeking advice sought from the State Library of South Australia and a specialist book treating company on how best to dry and preserve the damaged collection.

The leak is believed to have stemmed from a faulty connection between the mains and a drinking tap on the building's third level.

### Maddock appointed as interim CEO of Screen Australia

Lyn Maddock has been appointed the interim chief executive officer of Screen Australia, the government's new film support agency created with the passing of new legislation this week.

Arts Minister Peter Garrett said Maddock's appointment was the next step in the establishment of Screen Australia, delivering on a key plank in the government's plan to 'revitalise and expand our film and television industry'.

'Today's announcement follows the passage of legislation in both Houses of the Australian Parliament last week,' he said.

'The new body will begin work on July 1 2008, following the merger of the Australian Film Commission, the Film Finance Corporation and Film Australia.

'The creation of Screen Australia heralds a new era in Australian film and television, expanding the potential of the industry and the opportunities for the more than 50,000 people it currently employs.

'Screen Australia will be a strong centralised funding body, encouraging greater private investment in Australian film and television and building on the enormous contribution the industry already makes to the Australian economy.

'Maddock brings significant management and public policy experience to this new role, having previously overseen the creation of the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and currently serving as ACMA deputy chair.'

As interim CEO, Maddock will have responsibility for decision making on the operations of Screen Australia before its official commencement.

She will manage the merger of the existing agencies ahead of the appointment of the incoming board and permanent CEO.

Maddock's secondment will conclude on July 31 2008.

### Quote of the Week

'Why buy a book when you can join a library?'

Ricky Gervais – English comedian (1961-)

### Law librarian co-authors book on legal research



Monash University's Kay Tucker (pictured), the manager of the Law Library at the Clayton Campus, has recently co-authored a book called *A Practical Guide to Legal Research*

The book, published by the Lawbook Co. in 2008, is jointly written by Tucker with Sue Milne, the law librarian at the University of Adelaide.

The book addresses the basic research needs of law students or practising lawyers who need to know how to quickly and effectively locate specific information, be it cases or statutes or changes in law, and how to locate commentary on particular fields of law.

Tucker's appointment as manager of the Law Library comes after acting in the position for 2007 and extensive experience in the field of information literacy, including working with faculty staff to develop the new research and writing unit to be offered for the first time in Semester 2.

The Law Library, one of eight branch libraries at Monash University, supports and resources the learning, teaching and research activities of staff and students of the law faculty.

The Law Library has collection strengths in corporations, criminal, human rights, and international law.

The library provides its specialist law collection in both print and electronic form, concentrating on resources covering Australia and other common law jurisdictions, as well as international law.

In other news, an exhibition of material relating to early Monash is on display on the ground floor of Sir Louis Matheson Library at Clayton.

Among the items on display are a mug made by Audrey Matheson, the wife of the first vice-chancellor, Sir Louis Matheson, from the clay dug up in 1960 when building for Monash first began; and the French champagne bottle from the opening ceremony, with the signatures of the official party.

There are also copies of the first student newspaper, called the Student Newspaper and of Chaos, the original Monash student paper, and an early *Lot's Wife* (24 June 1964).

The display will run until mid-year as a supplement to the 50th Anniversary Rare Books Collection exhibition planned by the library for early May.

### Exhibition commemorates 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of PM library's opening

The John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library (JCPML) will open a major new exhibition next Wednesday at Curtin University of Technology's Bentley Campus as part of its 10th anniversary celebrations.

The JCPML major exhibition, 'The Pursuit of Knowledge: Curtin, Looking Ever Forward', will be officially opened by Western Australia Governor Dr Ken Michael.

'The exhibition explores the shared commitment of Curtin the man and Curtin the university to the pursuit of knowledge,' the library said.

'From John Curtin's own education and the initiatives of his war time government in furthering tertiary education and research, the exhibition focuses on the university and showcases some of the innovative research being undertaken at Curtin University.'

### Two Auckland councils agree reciprocal scheme

Residents of Auckland's North Shore City Council who work in or regularly visit Rodney District will soon be able to use Rodney Libraries free of charge.

Reciprocal borrowing between North Shore Libraries and Rodney Libraries was approved at last week's North Shore City Council community services and parks committee meeting.

Chairman of the committee Tony Homan said the decision promoted a spirit of co-operation between the two authorities and reflected the direction the eLGAR consortium was planning to move.

The eLGAR consortium is made up of Auckland, Manukau, North Shore, Rodney and Waitakere libraries.

Its members share a library management system and are working to provide better library services through collaboration.

Traditionally subscriptions for library use are charged to people who live outside the borders of the authority whose library they wish to use, and those Rodney residents using a North Shore library pay a membership of \$120 per year.

Holman said total library subscription incomes had fallen from \$8500 to \$6500 in the past two years.

## ALN News

'This is a clear indication that paying a subscription to use another authority's library is either a complete deterrent from using a library, or residents will go out of their way to use one free of charge,' he said.

'By forfeiting the subscription we are making library services more available, by giving residents access to a larger range of library stock and making library services more available.

'This process is to be trialled for 12 months and renewed at the end of this time.'

North Shore City's library services manager, Geoff Chamberlain, said that since the formation of the eLGAR consortium, library customers had the ability to see the holding of all five library systems but not the ability to use more than their own one.

'Since eLGAR will in time seek to have reciprocal borrowing rights for all citizens across the region, it is likely to be a while before any Auckland-wide agreement is reached,' he said.

'The reciprocal borrowing arrangement will begin in about a month once the necessary adjustments have been made to our software.

'In the meantime staff are collecting email addresses and phone numbers of people enquiring about the new service so that they can be told as soon as it is ready to start.'

## Clayton Library to soon relocate to new facility



Clayton Library in the Melbourne municipality of Monash is moving across the road to the new Clayton Community Centre (pictured) in Cooke Street and will open its doors on April 7.

The new library will operate seven days a week and feature additional floor space including an expanded children's area, opportunities for both private and group study, a reading terrace and more computers for internet access.

There will also be two community meeting rooms available for hire. Monash Mayor Paul Klisaris said the library was one of the many

services that will soon open at the new \$24.2 million Clayton Community Centre.

'This is a terrific complex for the Clayton community,' he said.

'By bringing together a range of community services, council has made it as user-friendly and inclusive as possible.'

In addition to the library, the new Clayton Community Centre will house a theatrette, pre-school, occasional care, youth and family services, maternal and child care services, cafe, gymnasium, meeting rooms, an indoor aquatic facility and MonashLink community health services.

Klisaris said there would also be author talks and workshops as part of the Monash Literature Festival 2008.

'This major council facility has been years in planning and construction,' he said.

'It will provide our residents with a wealth of recreational, educational and health services right in the heart of Clayton.'

The old library closes Thursday.

## Early literacy program introduced in Lake Macquarie

The successful children's literacy program Read and Rhyme Time is now available at Edgeworth Library in the New South Wales district of Lake Macquarie.

Suitable for children aged from one to three years, Read and Rhyme Time introduces toddlers to language and reading through nursery rhymes and action songs.

Belmont Library in the city also hosts Read and Rhyme Time on the third Tuesday of each month.

Promotions librarian Tonia Bishop said Read and Rhyme Time was a progression from the Books and Babies program for children under 12 months.

'Both Books and Babies and Read and Rhyme Time are programs that offer parents and carers the opportunity to introduce their child to reading in a relaxed, fun filled atmosphere,' Bishop said.

'We encourage the toddlers to join the fun through music with simple percussion instruments.

'The children can start to learn the fundamentals of literacy at a young age while having loads of fun with other children.

'Parents and carers also enjoy the interaction with the children as they learn how to make reading fun.'

Books and Babies is a six-week program offered throughout the year at Lake Macquarie City Library branches.

Books and Babies helps carers gain confidence in introducing their babies to books and reading using stories and simple rhyme.

## ALN News

### Council commits to upgrading Footscray Library

Footscray Library in Melbourne will shortly undergo a major refurbishment, giving the library a fresh new look, layout and design.

Maribyrnong City Council has committed more than \$300,000 to the project, which will include:

- the relocation of most collections to create more open public areas;
- the re-carpeting of the entire library;
- the construction of 25 ergonomic workstations for public access PCs, as well as six new 'kids only' PCs in the children's area; and
- a brand new, redesigned services desk.

Work is expected to commence in May and continue through to the end of June.

The library will only need to close for about a week during that period.

### Press photos on show at Newcastle

A collection of images from Australia's most prestigious competition for press photographers, the Nikon-Walkley Photographic Awards, is currently on display at Wallsend District Library in Newcastle.

Newcastle Region Library education and promotions officer Carol Edwards said the library was delighted to host the exhibition showcasing the best press photos from across the country.

It features more than 90 images from 16 finalists in the competition, presenting reportage in news, sport, daily life, portrait and suburban/regional photography as well as documentary essay work.

'This year Sydney Morning Herald photographer Kate Geraghty was awarded the Nikon-Walkley Press Photographer of the Year Award, for her photographic essay John Elliott.'

Geraghty's series of photographs are a painful insight into a man's dying wish and a wife's crippling grief.

Newcastle Herald photographer Simone De Peak won the Nikon-Walkley suburban/regional award for her images of the June storms.

The series of images captures the grounding of the Pasha Bulker and the extreme weather that left taxi drivers and pedestrians battling flash flooding.

A record 160 photographers from around Australia entered more than 360 photos into this year's competition, representing over 1500 images on major national stories.

The awards are presented annually by the Walkley Foundation for Journalism and its trustee, the Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance, which represents more than 10,000 media workers nationally.

## SPECIALS

### Hazlehurst launches new National Archives book

Well known actress Noni Hazlehurst spoke about her family's arrival in Melbourne as 'ten-pound poms' when she launched Family Journeys, the book containing their story, published by the National Archives of Australia.

Other high profile Australians who shared their stories in Family Journeys are television presenter and producer Annette Shun Wah, landscaper Jamie Durie and celebrity scientist Dr Karl Kruszelnicki.

'Knowing something of your family background is immensely valuable,' Hazlehurst wrote in the book's foreword.

'It provides a sense of connectedness with someone other than your peers and immediate family.

'I know how much it meant to me and to my children to read the information about my parents that the National Archives of Australia unearthed for us,'

The book also features families who are not so well known but whose stories make fascinating reading.

They include the Casamentos, an Italian migrant family who arrived in the 1920s and 30s, marathon cyclist, inventor and patriot Ernie Old, the war bride mother and serviceman father of author and publisher Carol Fallows, and the Cubillo family, descended from Antonio Cubillo who arrived in Darwin from the Philippines and married Lily a young woman of Aboriginal and Scottish descent.

Another story is that of war hero Hugo Throssell and his wife, the writer Katharine Susannah Prichard, part of whose story is held in ASIO files preserved in the National Archives collection.

'We are very proud of Family Journeys, a book which we hope will inspire and help many other Australians to search their own family history through the records in our collections,' director-general of the National Archives Ross Gibbs said at the launch.

'In conjunction with this book, we have also recently created a new website feature on tracing your family history.

'This gives people tips on how to search our collection to find members of their own families.'

### Treaty exhibition on its way to Unitec



Students at Auckland's Unitec have an opportunity to learn more about one of the most debated documents in New Zealand history when the Treaty 2 U Touring Exhibition visits their campus next month.

Treaty 2 U is a mobile exhibition that provides the education community with an opportunity to experience the Treaty of Waitangi through text, images, sound, video, cartoons and animated graphics, using the latest technology to find out more – and have their say.

The travelling exhibition opens at Unitec's Mt Albert Campus on April 4, where it will be based outside Building 170 until April 10.

The Treaty 2 U bus exhibition covers events leading up to the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, including the lengthy debate that took place the night before.

It also explains the differences between the Maori and English versions of the document.

The exhibition bus will also include a replica of the original nine Treaty documents.

Students will also be able to see where the Treaty went after the signing, and the different perspectives of both Maori and Pakeha at the time.

The mobile exhibition is a joint venture of Te Papa, Archives New Zealand and the National Library of New Zealand.

### TopNZ helps African university's eLearning

The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand has stepped onto the world stage to help the Open University of Tanzania get eLearning up and running at their institution in Dar es Salaam.

TopNZ Acting eLearning director Sue Dark said the polytechnic's experience in leading eLearning projects using the open source software Moodle made it an obvious choice to help the university as it set up its eLearning office.

Initially around 20 staff from the university are being trained in Moodle administration and will receive an overview of how to use Moodle to create and deliver courses.

'Because Moodle is open source software, institutions in developing countries are able to benefit from the low cost of delivering eLearning using this platform, helping them to reach a greater number of students more cost-effectively,' Dark said.

'We're really excited that The Open Polytechnic is able to help facilitate that.'

## SCHOOLS

### Brisbane Catholic schools choose Softlink

The Brisbane Catholic Education (BCE) office has chosen Softlink's Oliver advanced library management solution for its 133 schools across a region from the Gold Coast to Hervey Bay and west to Gatton.

The selection of Oliver comes at the end of a comprehensive evaluation process at BCE that commenced early 2006.

'A large number of school and BCE Centre staff have been involved in the evaluation process to ensure that products chosen for the iSAS Project best meet the needs of our schools as we plan for quality teaching and learning,' BCE senior program manager Carmel Wikman said.

'Oliver and Softlink have a presence in our schools already and we are happy to be moving forward with them for school resource centre management.'

Oliver will replace a variety of systems, including Softlink's Alice and Oasis, in addition to a number of other library products currently used to manage library and school resources.

The implementation of Oliver will allow BCE schools to manage their resources more effectively and provide the potential for resource sharing of electronic documents, books, multimedia and other learning resources with other BCE schools.

The new model for provision of the software to schools will also release funds at the school level to be re-allocated to teaching and learning.

The consortia project will benefit over 60,000 students from infants to Year 12 who will have access to this latest technology.

## CATALOGUED

### New education manager at ALIA named

ALIA has announced that Dianne Walton-Sonda has accepted the position of the association's education manager.

Walton-Sonda comes to ALIA with a range of experiences, having worked at Airservices Australia on the research services team, the Australian Bureau of Statistics on the Library Extension Program (LEP) and at the Stanton Library in North Sydney as the database and circulation librarian.

She is treasurer of AGLIN (the Australian Government Libraries Information Network) and co-editor of Proactive.

Walton-Sonda has a BA in Library and Information from Charles Sturt University and is currently undertaking a Graduate Diploma in Adult Education at the University of New England.

### Long-serving WA Arts Minister to stand down at next election

Long serving Western Australia Arts Minister Sheila McHale has announced she is standing down at the next election.

'It has been an honour to represent the people of WA as a Minister and as the member for Kenwick,' McHale said in a statement.

McHale was elected to Parliament as the member for the then seat of Thornlie in 1996 and in 2001 became a Minister in the first cabinet of Premier Geoff Gallop.

She was appointed Minister for Community Development, Women's Interests, Seniors and Youth; Disability Services; and Culture and the Arts.

McHale said some of her achievements had been delivering significant increases in government spending to the areas of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, Community Development and Disability Services.

'It was very gratifying to recently announce details of WA's new half-billion museum and also unveil the exciting \$73 million Ignite package of arts initiatives, the biggest ever by a WA Government,' she said.

Premier Alan Carpenter, who was with McHale for her announcement, paid tribute to the Minister.

'Sheila has been an excellent Minister across a broad range of portfolios,' Carpenter said.

'Her commitment to culture and the arts in WA will leave a positive and long-lasting legacy of unprecedented proportions.'

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## WHAT'S ON

## CONFERENCES

**Reading Critical: Developing readers in Australia and New Zealand'**

April 11-12  
State Library of Victoria,  
Melbourne  
[www.auslib.com.au](http://www.auslib.com.au)

**IATUL Conference 2008**

Digital Discovery: Strategies and Solutions  
April 21 - 24  
AUT University, Auckland  
<http://www.aut.ac.nz/iatul2008/>

**Open Road 2008 Conference: Multilingualism and the Information Society**

May 15-16  
State Library of Victoria  
[conference@openroad.net.au](mailto:conference@openroad.net.au)

**Dreaming08: ALIA 2008 Biennial Conference**

September 2-5  
Alice Springs Convention Centre  
<http://www.alia2008.com/>

**Cultural Connections: MySpace is an ArtSpace: ARLIS/ANZ Biennial Conference**

October 9-10  
State Library of Queensland  
[conference@arlis.org.au](mailto:conference@arlis.org.au)

**Poropitua Outside the Box: LIANZA Annual Conference**

November 2-5  
Skycity Convention Centre,  
Auckland  
[Beverly.fletcher@rodney.govt.nz](mailto:Beverly.fletcher@rodney.govt.nz)  
<http://www.lianza.org.nz/events/conference2008/index.html>

**New Librarians Symposium**

December 5-6  
CQ Functions, Melbourne  
<http://conferences.alia.org.au/newlibrarian2008/>

## AUTHOR LIBRARY VISITS

**Liz Byrski** – *Trip of a Lifetime*  
Bentley Public Library, WA  
March 25, 10.00am

**Liz Byrski** – *Trip of a Lifetime*  
**Iluka Capel Public Library**, WA  
March 25, 7.00pm

**Liz Byrski** – *Trip of a Lifetime*  
**Spearwood Public Library**, Perth  
March 26, 11.00am

**Max Barry** – *Syrup*  
**City Library**, Melbourne  
March 26, 6.00pm

**Liz Byrski** – *Trip of a Lifetime*  
**South Hedland Public Library**, WA  
March 26, 7.00pm

**Ellie Neilsen** – *Buying a Piece of Paris*  
**Belgrave Library**, Melbourne  
March 27, 12.30pm

**Liz Byrski** – *Trip of a Lifetime*  
**Mosman Park Library**, Perth  
March 27, 7.00pm

**Patrice Newell** – *Tree to Table: Cooking with Australian Olive Oil*  
**Stanton Library**, North Sydney  
April 2, 1.00pm

**Cher Chidzey** – *The House of 99 Closed Doors*  
**Footscray Library**, Melbourne  
April 15

**Leigh Hobbs** – *A Friend for Old Tom*  
**Craigieburn Library**, Melbourne  
April 16, 11.00am

**Tabitha Becroft** – *The Friendly Kiwi Garden*  
**Takapuna Library**, Auckland  
April 22, 6.00pm

**Ross McMullen** – *Pompey Elliott*  
**East Melbourne Library**  
April 22, 6.30pm

## EXHIBITIONS

**Paradise**  
slq Gallery  
State Library of Queensland  
Until March 24

**The System of Nature: Carl Linnaeus (1707–1778)**  
National Library of Australia  
Until April 6

**Tasmanian Regattas: boats, bathers, bonnets and beer**  
Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts  
State Library of Tasmania  
Until April 26

**Politics and Power: Bligh's Sydney Rebellion 1808.**  
State Library of NSW  
Until April 27

**Travelling For Love**  
Philip Bacon Heritage Gallery  
State Library of Queensland  
Until June 1

**Up, Up and Away**  
Visitor Centre  
National Library of Australia  
Until July 19