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## Sydney council approves project

The inner-western Sydney municipality of Ashfield will get a new \$12.5 million civic centre and library after council voted for it to proceed at a sometimes heated meeting.

The massive Civic Centre redevelopment in Liverpool Road, one of Sydney's main arteries, was given approval following a special meeting of the council.

The new library will join similar projects in two nearby municipalities, Burwood and Strathfield (see story page 4)

General manager Ken Gainger said the redevelopment was the most significant project undertaken by council for many years and would bring extensive benefits for the community and key stakeholders now and into the future.

He said the community would benefit from a modern, accessible and purpose-built civic precinct fronting Liverpool Road including the current Westpac Bank site, the refurbishment of the existing Town Hall and administration buildings, a landscaped plaza with outdoor seating, and a new building incorporating a large foyer housing a new customer service centre, library facilities and multi-purpose community meeting rooms.

'The new library, to be twice the size of our existing facility, will meet the needs of Ashfield Council's 40,192 library members and bring our library service into line with state government recommendations,' Grainger said.

The redevelopment will also provide improved staff accommodation, which is presently undersized, cramped, and presents concerns for occupational health and safety.

Gainger said the council's quantity surveying consultants had estimated the total cost of the project to be \$12.3 million dollars, which includes \$700,000 of contingency funds.

Ashfield Council applied a special rate variation of 6.4 per cent in 2007 to fund the redevelopment,

'These funds will be applied to meet loan redemption costs associated with the \$10 million that council proposes to borrow to fund the project,' Gainger said.

'No further rate increases will be required to fund the project.'

Gainger said the project cost represented the building and construction estimate, as well as consultant fees and staff relocation while construction was underway.

He said a youth space would be incorporated into the design for the new library. Several councillors predicted cost blow-outs at the special meeting, with Liberal councillor Nick Adams nicknaming the development the 'Taj Mahal'.

Adams claimed the project would go ahead at the expense of local infrastructure.

Mayor Ted Cassidy said he also had 'grave doubts' that there would be no unforeseen costs.

April 24, 2008 Issue 321

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### New battleground over NSW public library funding

The New South Wales local government authority has opened a new front in its battle for more funding from the state government, slamming new laws governing developer contributions.

The NSW Local Government and Shires Associations says communities will be deprived of millions of dollars in developer contributions used for libraries, playgrounds, and roads under proposed changes to NSW planning laws.

The NSWLGSA has launched a \$100,000 campaign to fight the reforms, outlined in a draft bill released by Planning Minister Frank Sartor.

As reported in *ALN*, Sartor is also under fire in his guise as Arts Minister over the level of funding to the state's public library sector.

The LGA says the changes include the establishment of a new set of housing codes which would allow councils to fast track building and renovation applications in as little as 10 days.

Councils will also have their ability to approve developments that exceed local planning limits curtailed, with those applications instead going before an independent panel.

Sartor also wants to limit the fees developers are charged by local councils in the hope of improving housing affordability.

LGA president Genia McCaffery said this would result in communities being stripped of as much as \$4 million each year for essential services such as libraries, playgrounds, childcare centres and local roads.

'Developers will now be able to pay less money when they do a development to contribute to community facilities,' McCaffery said.

'The state government keeps ripping money out of councils and we will not be able to supply to our communities critical services – your libraries, pools, parks and community centres.'

The \$100,000 used to campaign against the reforms was raised through 152 local councils.

'This will impact on every member of every community in NSW,' McCaffery said.

'My real concern is that people often don't know what happens until it's too late and this is when the bulldozers arrive and you've lost your views and you've lost your sunlight.'

Shires Association president Bruce Miller has urged residents to tell their state MPs if they do not support the laws.

Miller said there was no risk of residents dismissing the campaign as just politicians bickering with politicians.

'All the surveys say local government is the most trusted level of government, the one that focuses on the people and the one that connects with their communities the most,' he said.

'What we need to make sure is that our communities understand, in a very short time, the effect that these laws will have on those communities and their amenities in the future.'

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### Inner Sydney council approves new library project

From Page 1

Cassidy said the detailed design for the redevelopment had been finalised in accordance with outcomes from extensive consultation with the community, key stakeholders and council staff.

'The redevelopment considers design criteria developed by our community, which included a development that was accessible, flexible, environmentally-sustainable, met library users' needs, and created a sense of community,' he said.

A Development Application for the redevelopment will be lodged with council within the next month for assessment by an external planning consultant.

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### Quote of the Week

'But the best problem I ever found, I found in my local public library.'  
Andrew Wiles – English mathematician (1953- )

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### Canterbury puts thousands of pictures online



Thousands of historic photographs from the University of Canterbury library archival collections are now available online via university's digital library.

Users can browse the collection, which covers a period of more than 100 years, via the UC Unique Resources.

Library IT and archival staff have been developing the online database over the past two years, giving digitisation priority to parts of the collection that were regularly used by researchers.

The collections currently available include the AC Graham collection of West Coast photographs dating from the 1880s, a photographic collection recording more than 100 years of the history of the Canterbury Frozen Meat Company and Pacific photographs gathered by John Macmillan Brown in the early 20th century.

University library archivist Jeff Palmer (pictured) said it was exciting to see the photographic image database go live.

'The main reason we developed this online database was accessibility,' Palmer said.

'The collection has been under-utilised because, until now, many of the photographs have only been available in the Macmillan Brown Library's reading room, and also because not many people know about the collection.

'Institutions around the world are putting their collections online and users now expect that service so it's incredibly important that we take advantage of this wave of digitisation and make it easier for people to access our collection.'

The library has more than 40,000 photographs in its archives.

The images not only record the university's history but also document Canterbury's social and economic past and feature a unique collection of historic photographs of the Pacific.

Palmer said the current collections available online were 'just the beginning' and many thousands of additional images would be available via the digital library as soon as the hard-copy prints have been digitised.

## PUBLICS

### Melbourne library service prepares strategic plan

Melbourne based Yarra City Council is seeking community feedback on a draft Yarra Libraries Strategic Plan, which sets a framework for the future delivery of library services.

Councillors have endorsed the draft strategy and placed it on public exhibition until May 9.

Mayor Judy Morton said she was encouraging all residents to view the draft Strategic Plan and provide feedback.

'The plan explores emerging trends and priorities impacting Yarra Libraries over the next four years and identifies strategies and new programs to address them,' Morton said.

'These trends include the rising popularity of the internet, improvements in technology, and the predicted increase in the number of children and young families in Yarra.

'It is important that the community has their say to ensure they get the most out of their library service.'

The draft plan identifies five priority areas:

- Services;
- Community engagement;
- Information and communication technology;
- People and culture; and
- Finances and assets.

After the public submission period has closed, a further report taking in feedback will be presented to council for endorsement.

### Auckland libraries celebrate Pasifika month

Auckland City Council's libraries held a number of community events to help the city celebrate Pasifika.

Pacific outreach librarian Leitu Tufuga said the month of festivities had been a big success.

'We started with our annual Celebrate Pasifika Storytelling event at the Central Library,' she said.

## ALN News

This year's guests included author Andrew Fiu (Purple Heart), children's author Tulia Thompson (Josefa and the Vu), Pasifika poets, Rev Mua Strickson-Pua, Doug Poole, Serie Barford and Kila Kokonut Krew Entertainment.

'We also presented an original collection of children's Pasifika stories,' Tufuga said.

'We selected 30 stories written and illustrated by children themselves.

'The theme of the collection was "Festivities that express their Pacific Island culture and their up-bringing in New Zealand, Aotearoa".

'This was the first year we've done this project and something we would like to continue to expand as an annual contribution to Pasifika.'

She said there were also Pasifika storytimes at community libraries and songs and stories presented by special friends and Pacific staff at Auckland City Libraries.

'Glen Innes Library celebrated by having free lei-making workshops and performances,' she said.

'They were all made possible by generous support from local community sponsors.'

The library is in the process of having the children's Pasifika stories collection bound into a book.

## Sydney council seeking community input for new building

Strathfield Council in Sydney's inner-west is inviting the community to have their say during the public exhibition detailing concept plans for a new Multipurpose Community Centre centred around a new library.

Mayor of Strathfield Paul Barron said the public exhibition of the plans would provide an opportunity for the community and interested parties to express their views.

'I would like to encourage the community to provide council with their feedback about this project, to ensure that our facilities and revitalised areas are inspired and owned by the community,' he said.

'The proposed Multipurpose Community Centre will provide a new lease of life for the Strathfield municipality and provide the diverse local community with a new meeting place.

'The centre will provide open spaces, meeting rooms, internet hot-desks, study stations for community groups and will also cater for a wide range of community activities.'

The proposed Multipurpose Community Centre will replace the High Street Branch Library, which has reached the end of its serviceable life, and be funded through council contributions.

## Birkenhead Library design work halfway there



Work on the new Birkenhead Library in Auckland is well underway with 50 per cent of the preliminary design now completed.

North Shore City's Birkenhead Library project manager, Sharron Cleghorn, said the architect and the project team were working hard to complete the preliminary design for the empty site (pictured), which will be presented to North Shore City Council in July.

'Unfortunately the plan change appeal and environment court decision has slowed the project

down,' she said.

Councillor Tony Holman said there was no work happening on site yet because all of the design and other preparatory work had to first be completed very carefully.

'According to our project management team, RDT Pacific, who have 30 years experience with such large scale projects, the project is on schedule for completion in October 2009.

'These have been difficult times for the Birkenhead community, which is greatly regretted.

'We are doing our best to get the civic amenities and the library reinstated as soon as is possible, while ensuring that there are no hiccups.

'These have also been difficult times for the staff at the temporary library, who are to be commended for their work and commitment in such a difficult environment.'

### NT Government to develop plan for museum sector

Northern Territory Arts and Museums Minister Marion Scrymgour on Monday announced the NT Government would develop a 10-year plan for the museum sector.

Scrymgour said the plan, *Building Our Museum Sector*, would be developed over the next 12 months and would include periods of public and industry consultation.

‘We believe the time is right to set the direction for the industry for the next 10 years with the Territory’s growing population and the increasing importance of tourism,’ Scrymgour said.

‘Also, our two major collections at MAGNT at Bullocky Point and Araluen in Alice Springs were both established 20-25 years ago.

‘While we’ve had recent additions to the sector with the construction of Nyinkka Nyunyu in Tennant Creek, Wave Hill Walk Off Museum at Kalkarindji and planning work on the Katherine Cultural centre, there are issues with storage space.

‘Some important parts of our collections, including Papunya Tula Art, can’t be shown because of lack of space.

‘We also need to address the issue of skeletal remains and secret-sacred objects with more objects likely to be in the care of government in the future as they are returned from interstate and international collections.’

Scrymgour said a range of issues and proposals would be looked at as part of the process of developing the plan, including:

- A Territory repository to solve storage problems;
- A dedicated gallery of Aboriginal art;
- Better display of the Territory’s important south east Asian art;
- Expansion of natural history displays, possibly involving other institutions such as George Brown Botanical Gardens; and
- Better displaying our social histories, for example discussions about the World War 2 Museum will continue.

‘I place the utmost importance on government supporting our museums and galleries and will also look at other potential funding sources including the philanthropic and private sectors,’ she said.

### One hundred years of French history on show in Wellington

Harold Beauchamp, the father of one of New Zealand’s greatest writers, Katherine Mansfield, is just one of the people being remembered in the Alliance Française of Wellington Centenary Exhibition.

The exhibition, running until May 4 at the Michael Fowler Centre, celebrates 100 years of the French speaking group he co-founded in 1908.

It honours French speaking citizens of Wellington who responded to a letter in the Evening Post on June 18 1908, and created the Cercle Littéraire Français de Wellington (Wellington French Literary Circle), which became the Alliance Française of Wellington in 1985 and now has over 1000 members.

The exhibition opened on Tuesday and was attended by family representatives of three other co-founders, Phoebe Myers, Louis Dufrou and Alexander Grant.

The exhibition, with text in both French and English, features aspects of the Cercle/Alliance history, including annual events like balls, concerts, July 14 activities, and the Beaujolais nouveau celebration, French honours awarded to Wellington residents, shared French and New Zealand interests such as rugby, and ongoing Alliance activities such as French language classes for all levels and ages.

In the classroom at the exhibition there are also simple language activities for children.

The exhibition brings together a folk costume from Alsace, ball gowns from the 1970s and 1980s, and black and white photographs from the 1940s-1960s of dramatic productions featuring local students of French, some of whom later became noted diplomats and academics.

One striking black and white photograph (1947) portrays the patriotic zeal of a group of French women in Wellington, knitting garments for World War II soldiers and orphans back in France.

Another, from the 1950s, portrays well-known local French wool buyer Victor Vivequin in the elaborate encrusted costume of the leading lady from *Les femmes savantes*.

The leading lady had become sick and he had to play the role on the last night.

There is also a sound montage of excerpts from the Alliance’s Oral History Centenary Project interviews, which provide a spoken insight into the lives of French-speaking people in Wellington and changes in New Zealand society since the 1930s.

### Clark opens new UCOL campus



New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark (pictured in the new library) has opened a major new campus in Wanganui for polytechnic the Universal College of Learning (UCOL).

‘The development of the Universal College of Learning’s new tertiary education campus, Matapihi ki te Ao, or Window of Opportunity to the World, is an important milestone for Wanganui,’ Clark said at the official opening.

‘The government has invested NZ\$25 million in the project.’

The consolidated campus brings together courses and administration which had been spread over a number of sites.

The new campus is a blend of existing heritage buildings and new buildings constructed with environmentally friendly and sustainable materials.

It is expected that the campus will cater for education for around 950 enrolled with UCOL.

It will also be developed over the next four years as a tertiary education ‘multiplex’ or collaborative venture involving a range of tertiary education organisations and support agencies across Wanganui and the wider region, the first such educational complex in New Zealand.

‘The government has funded this project because it both guarantees the future of polytechnic education in Wanganui and provides for collaboration with other tertiary education organisations to provide the best possible study options for students and benefits for the community and business,’ Clark said.

‘Our future prosperity depends on having a highly skilled population, effective managers, and an education and training system which responds to the changing needs of our economy and society.

‘Institutes of technology and polytechnics play a key role in this, by providing applied professional and vocational education of internationally competitive quality, and by attracting people to tertiary education who are currently not engaged or participating at a low level.’

## SCHOOLS

### Tasmania joins the reading challenge

Tasmania this year becomes the latest state to launch a Premier’s Reading Challenge for its primary school children.

‘This challenge will encourage young people to enjoy reading regularly and raise community awareness about the importance of reading with children at home,’ Tasmanian Premier Paul Lennon said at the launch.

‘I’m challenging 45,000 students from grades one to six to read 20 books in 20 weeks, starting now.

‘Government and non-government schools as well as home-educated students will receive information packs this week with all the information they need to get involved.’

Students will be able to choose from approximately 6000 book titles, arranged in reading levels appropriate to their abilities.

‘For every student that registers in the Premier’s Reading Challenge, their school will receive \$10 to buy more books for their school library,’ Lennon said.

Minister for Education David Bartlett said the challenge would complement literacy programs already happening in schools.

‘I hope that schools will incorporate the challenge into their daily reading and literacy activities’ Bartlett said.

In other challenge news, the Victorian Government has spent the first \$2 million of the Premier’s Reading Challenge Book Fund on new books.

Premier John Brumby said the Reading Challenge had already resulted in over seven million books read by Victorian children in the last three years.

‘I’m delighted to say that the number of children completing the challenge has risen significantly since its launch in 2005 resulting in an increase in reading among school students, and the book fund will build on that success by enabling our public libraries to improve access to the books and materials on the challenge reading list,’ Brumby said at the Victorian launch.

‘The book fund was established to increase participation even further and to help Victoria’s students develop a lifelong love of reading and discover new worlds, new words, new ideas and new friends in books.’

The first \$2 million of the overall \$6 million book fund includes \$10,000 for every council in Victoria, \$1 million for school libraries and funding for Vision Australia so vision impaired students are able to take part in the challenge.

A further \$3 million will be awarded to Victoria’s public libraries over the next three years.

## CATALOGUED

### Walker elected as LIANZA president

LIANZA vice-president Glen Walker, library manager at Selwyn Libraries, has been elected unopposed as the association's president.

Walker has served on the LIANZA council for the past three years and was formerly chair of the Aoraki regional council.

Also elected unopposed to the LIANZA council is Barbara Garriock, institute librarian at Manukau Institute of Technology Library, who takes up the role of vice-president.

Garriock has twice served on the LIANZA council and is a former credentials committee chair.

The newly elected councillors for the seats representing Ikaroa and Otago Southland are Heather Lamond, college liaison librarian at Massey University, and Lynda Hodge, library manager at Southlands District Libraries.

Two nominations were received for the position of councillor for the Waikato Bay of Plenty Region, from Joan Gibbons and Carol Spanhake, meaning an election will be held for this position in May.

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## WHAT'S ON

## CONFERENCES

**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/>

**SLAQ 2008: Take Flight**  
September 21-23  
All Hallows School, Brisbane  
[http://www.slaq.org.au/Conferences/SLAQ%202008/slaq2008\\_home.htm](http://www.slaq.org.au/Conferences/SLAQ%202008/slaq2008_home.htm)

**ACEC 2008: Australian Computers in Education Conference**  
September 28-October 2  
National Convention Centre, Canberra  
[www.acec2008.info](http://www.acec2008.info)  
[enquiries@acec2008.info](mailto:enquiries@acec2008.info)

**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)

**Poropitia 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

**Terri Kessell – *Burning the Evidence***  
Takapuna Library, Auckland  
April 28, 6.00

**Emma McEwin – *An Antarctic Affair***  
Mawson Centre, Salisbury Library, Adelaide  
May 1, 6.30pm

**Judith Lucy – *The Lucy Family***  
Alphabet  
Mosman Library, Sydney  
May 7, 7.00pm

**Bob Carr – *My Reading Life***  
Stanton Library, North Sydney  
May 8 1.00pm

**Myfanwy Horne – *Dying: A Memoir***  
Woollahra Library, Sydney  
May 8, 6.30pm

**Jodi Picoult – *Change of Heart***  
Mt Barker Community Library, SA  
May 12. 12.15pm

**Jodi Picoult – *Change of Heart***  
Greater Union Cinema Theatre, Marion, Adelaide  
A City of Marion Library event  
May 13, 6.00pm

**Amanda Hampson – *Two for the Road***  
Mona Vale Library, Sydney  
May 14, 6.00pm

**Vicki Hastrich – *The Great Arch***  
Ashfield Library, Sydney  
May 16, 1.00pm

**Jodi Picoult – *Change of Heart***  
Dorothy Winstone Centre, Auckland  
An Auckland Libraries event  
May 22, 7.00pm

**Jodi Picoult – *Change of Heart***  
Ilott Theatre, Wellington, NZ  
A Wellington City Libraries event  
May 23, 7.00pm

## EXHIBITIONS

**Rare Delights II**  
University of Otago Library  
Until April 25

**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

**Mr Squiggle & Friends – An Exhibition**  
State Library of WA  
Until April 27

**Selected Photographs from the Daryl Hewson Collection**  
State Library of Queensland  
Until May 20

**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

**The Opening Chapter: Building the National Library**  
Visitor Centre  
National Library of Australia  
Until November 16