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The weekly news & information service for library & information professionals

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## ABS figures show role of libraries

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has used Australian Library and Information Week to release figures that show, among other things, that libraries were the second most popular cultural destination in 2006.

The ABS prepared a 'snapshot' on libraries which it says ties in with this year's theme of Libraries are for Everyone.

This week's Library and Information Week is being celebrated across a vast array of libraries from every sector this week.

Libraries have organised different activities to help promote the role the sector plays in the lives of almost every Australian.

The week includes annual events, such as the National Library Technicians Day, held on Tuesday, and the increasingly popular National Simultaneous Storytime, held on Wednesday.

This year's featured book was *Arthur*, written by Amada Graham and illustrated by Donna Gynell.

The ABS figures show that in 2006 the most popular cultural and leisure activity enjoyed by people aged 18 years and over was going to the movies – of the people who reported activities enjoyed over a 12 month period, 69 per cent said they enjoyed going to the cinema.

However, visiting libraries was enjoyed by 46 per cent of respondents, ahead of visiting zoos and aquariums (41 per cent); and visiting botanical gardens (40 per cent).

Other statistics revealed by the ABS were that almost two-thirds (65 per cent) of Australians aged 15 and over who had visited a library during the 12-month period had visited more than six times during that period, including 25 per cent who had visited more than 20 times.

Females were more likely than males to visit a library with their attendance rate at 41 per cent compared with 27 per cent for males.

Interestingly the survey showed that 55 per cent (1.47 million) of children visited a public library outside of school hours in 2005-06.

Seventy-four per cent (1.94 million) of children read for pleasure in April 2006.

But while 80 per cent of girls read for pleasure during that period, only 69 per cent of boys did so.

Other points were:

- 72,600 Australians reported unpaid involvement in libraries and archives in April 2007; and
- Federal and State and Territory Government funding for libraries in 2005-06 was \$394 million, a national average of \$19.95 per person.

May 22, 2008 Issue 325

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### Twelve appointments to Tasmanian advisory board

The Tasmanian Government this week announced 12 new appointments to the Tasmanian Library Advisory Board.



The advisory board plays a key role in supporting the State Library of Tasmania (pictured) to provide public library services across the state.

'The new appointees bring with them a diverse range of skills and interests and come from all three regions of the state, including rural and urban locations,' Education Minister David Bartlett said.

'Members of the board will ensure the interests of the community at large are represented in the work of the board.'

Shirley Abel has been reappointed as the chair.

'Ms Abel comes from a government service delivery background in vocational education and training, health services, and Service Tasmania,' Bartlett said.

'Four members of the board represent the general interests of library users across the state and bring to the board a wide range of interests and experience.'

'Ms Beverley Jennings, Mr David Owen, Dr Stefan Petrow and Dr Dianne Snowden have been appointed to serve this role.'

Bartlett said the interests of regional Tasmania would be served by the appointments of Dr Mark Briggs (North-West), Leonie McNair (North) and Dr Lynn Hemmings (South).

The Local Government Association of Tasmania has four nominees on the board representing regional interests.

They are Alderman Sandra French (Burnie City Council), Lorraine Green (Northern Midlands Council), Councillor Julian Bush (Kingborough Council) and Councillor Doug Chipman (Clarence City Council).

'The board commences its work at a time of significant change,' Bartlett said.

'The range of information resources available electronically continues to increase, which presents the State Library with many opportunities to transform the delivery of its services.'

Members have been appointed until March 31 2010. The first meeting of the new board will be held in Hobart on May 29.

### Applications wanted for Roger K Summit Scholarship

Thomson Reuters is calling for applicants from the Asia Pacific for its 2008 Roger K Summit International Scholarship.

The €5,000 (\$A8200) award is given annually to a promising graduate student from around the world in library and information sciences.

The deadline for applicants is October 24, with the winner to be announced at the 2008 Online Information Conference and Exhibition in London from December 2-4.

Applications are available at [gcp.dialog.com/scholarship/application.shtml](http://gcp.dialog.com/scholarship/application.shtml).

Two Roger K Summit scholarships are awarded annually to graduate students enrolled in an accredited library or information sciences program, one in the Americas, and one in Europe, the Middle East, Asia Pacific and Africa.

'As the information industry evolves, it is increasingly important that information professionals develop a range of skills that will allow them to excel in information management for their future organisations,' Thomson Reuters' Libby Trudell said.

'We are committed to supporting the next generation of information professionals with the Roger K Summit Scholarship.'

The scholarship is named in honor of Dialog founder and chairman emeritus Roger K Summit, a pioneer in developing the technology behind online information retrieval.

### Quote of the Week

'I had plenty of pimples as a kid. One day I fell asleep in the library. When I woke up, a blind man was reading my face.'

Rodney Dangerfield – US comedian (1921-2004)

### Building progressing on Monash's pharmacy library

Building works at the Melbourne-based Monash University's CL Butchers Pharmacy Library in Parkville are well under way, with walls and electrical services currently being installed.

When complete the refurbished library will provide a better, more convenient service and facility for users and will be almost double its former size.

It will occupy the majority of the ground floor of the Manning Building and will be technologically enabled, more adaptable to changing study styles, easier to navigate, modern and consistent in design and layout.

With 67 computers, including 27 in a training room, students will have access to more computer workstations as well as laptop facilities.

At the same time the library will be rearranged to better separate areas for quiet and group work.

Once the renovations are complete, the library space will be revealed on approach through large glass walls around the entrance.

A display of pharmacy artefacts will be on show in a Culture Wall near the entrance.

It is hoped that building and fit-out will be completed later this year.

### Government gives VUW range of books on Iran



More than 60 books on the history, culture, ideas, arts and religion of Iran have been donated to Victoria University of Wellington by the Iranian government.

The Iranian Ambassador to New Zealand, Morteza Rahmani-Movahed, presented the books to the university earlier this month to promote understanding and knowledge of Iran in New Zealand.

The gift is timely as VUW moves to establish the Centre for Islamic Studies with Otago University.

Rahmani-Movahed (centre) is pictured in Victoria University of Wellington's Special Collections room with university librarian Sue Roberts and pro-vice chancellor (international) Rob Rabel.

### Artist donates portfolio of work to Canterbury library

The University of Canterbury Library has been given an important portfolio of student artwork by the Reverend Doris Tutill.

Tutill was born in Christchurch in 1916 and attended the Canterbury College School of Art between 1929 and 1934, graduating with a Diploma of Fine Arts – she was just 12 when she began studying at the school.

After graduating Tutill worked briefly as a dressmaker, typist, and commercial artist, before becoming a teacher.

She joined the staff at St Margaret's College and was head of art for about 25 years.

In 1986 Tutill was ordained as a minister in the Anglican Church and continued to use her skills in art to embellish the churches in which she worked.

In her interview for the exhibition Art School 125, Tutill described some of her experiences at art school and memories of her teachers.

Despite not becoming a professional artist she felt: "If I'd never gone to art school I'd have missed out on a whole lifetime of wonderful experience. Later, when I taught at St Margaret's, everything I had learnt at art school came with me. I can't think of life without it – I just can't."

Tutill's student portfolio includes anatomy studies, still life studies, landscapes, calligraphy work and decorative designs in a variety of media.

Several of the works from her portfolio were included in the exhibitions *Simplicity and Splendour*, at the Christchurch Art Gallery in 2004-05, and *Daughters of Design*, at the Christchurch Arts Centre in 1999.

The portfolio will be added to the others held in the university's art collection.

### New facility in Sydney's west due for completion later this year

The \$10 million redevelopment of Ingleburn Library and Community Centre in Sydney's south-west is well underway, with work on the site anticipated to be completed later this year.

Work has been steadily progressing as part of the redevelopment of the facility, which is set to play a pivotal role in the rejuvenation of the north of the municipality of Campbelltown.

## ALN News

The new facility will include a library, community hall, community meeting rooms and the retention of the School of Arts building which will function as a foyer space.

The library will include greatly expanded educational and recreational resources and provide access to more than 20 public internet terminals.

A dedicated exhibition space adjacent to the library entrance will also be able to display community art and other small exhibitions.

The adjacent Hallinan Park will also receive a significant upgrade, including an active play space area, an outdoor performance area and other landscaping improvements.

Mayor of Campbelltown Aaron Rule said the new library and community centre development was one of the most substantial investments in Ingleburn's history and would benefit residents for years to come.

'As Mayor and a resident of Campbelltown I am undeniably proud of the fact that council has invested in this vital community facility,' Rule said.

'The new library will feature state of the art facilities and the revitalised Hallinan Park will become a popular area to be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.'

## Clean energy to be used to power Toowoomba library

The Toowoomba City Library has switched on to a six-month supply of clean energy as part of its overall electricity use thanks to the southern Queensland city winning the national Tidy Towns award.

The clean energy subscription from Ergon Energy is part of the prize awarded to Toowoomba for winning the title in August last year.

Councillor Bill Cahill said the council appreciated Ergon Energy's six months' subscription of clean energy.

'We are in an age where we must think carefully about our everyday energy consumption,' Cahill said.

'This prize reinforces that there are options out there for consumers to consider that will reduce resource consumption and overall energy use and costs.'

'Toowoomba Regional Council is mindful of the leadership role it can play by auditing its own energy and water use and looking for ways to save these resources.'

Ergon Energy's manager of regional services Dave Heberlein said Ergon was aiming to become more sustainable in its own operations and to help empower its customers to become more sustainable.

'As the most recognisable face of the electricity industry in regional Queensland, Ergon Energy has to be a leader in responding to climate change,' he said.

'It's fantastic to see that Toowoomba Regional Council is using this prize of a clean energy subscription as a way of also increasing awareness of sustainability among the people of the region.'

## Canada Bay introduces new system for vision impaired

Vision impaired residents in Canada Bay area of Sydney will have access to a new level of independence with the launch of the Navigator Library Access Project (NLAP) by the Macular Degeneration Foundation at Five Dock and Concord libraries.

The project enables local residents who are affected by macular degeneration (MD) to visit the library, select up to five books from a range of over 1000 titles, including magazines and newspapers, have them loaded on the navigator and then borrow the device as they would a normal library book.

Canada Bay Mayor Angelo Tsirekas said MD was the leading cause of blindness in Australia.

'The navigator is an extremely important device as it allows those with macular degeneration to do something we can all take for granted – read a book or a newspaper,' he said at the launch.

'It's wonderful to be able to offer this technology to residents in our community.'

'Thank you to the MD Foundation for working with Canada Bay libraries and allowing us to be part of this program.'

The navigator is a hand-held, portable device developed by Australian company Audio-Read, which reads books, magazines and newspapers out loud.

The range of books, magazines and newspapers available for the navigator device changes every few months, providing vision impaired residents with a wider selection of material than was previously available to them on the old talking book system.

### SPECIALS

## Warren Collection gifted to National Museum

The National Museum of Australia has received a donation of the Johnny Warren Collection, almost 500 objects related to the life of the footballer, administrator, journalist and television personality.

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The objects range from a 1953 under 12s trophy, through to the FIFA Centennial Order of Merit medal, which was presented by FIFA president Sepp Blatter in 2004.

It was the only medal awarded to an Australian and one of only 100 awarded worldwide.

Other highlights include Warren's Socceroo shirt worn in the match against East Germany in the 1974 World Cup and his Medal of the Order of Australia, awarded in 2002.

Warren played 42 times for the Socceros including the 1974 World Cup.

For more than 30 years he became the face of football in Australia through his tireless commitment to the development of the game.

The Johnny Warren Collection was donated to the National Museum by his brothers, Geoff and Ross Warren, his nephew Jamie Warren, and his partner Sibere Rodrigues.

'Without the support of donors, the National Museum could not hope to fulfill its role at the pre-eminent institution devoted to Australia's history,' director of the National Museum of Australia Craddock Morton said.

'We intend to exhibit elements of the Johnny Warren Collection in our permanent galleries in the neat future and we are looking at opportunities to tour the collection around the country in coming years.

## Garrett announced more transfers to film archive

The National Film and Sound Archive's access role has been further strengthened through the transfer of key public access programs from the Australian Film Commission, the Minister for the Arts, Peter Garrett said in a statement this week.

These programs include:

- www.australianscreen.com.au, a web-based resource of film and television material sourced from a range of archives;
- the Big Screen travelling film festival, which presents new and classic Australian films to audiences across regional and rural Australia;
- Black Screen which focuses on access to indigenous films; and,
- School Screen which offers schools around Australia free access to Australian features as part of their curriculum.

As reported last week, the National Library of Australia's National Film and Video Lending Service will also be transferred to the National Film and Sound Archive.

'In addition to building on the National Film and Sound Archive's strong international reputation as an audiovisual collecting institution, these programs will improve its ability to promote and deliver public access programs associated with the collection,' Garrett said.

Garrett said that some key public access programs would be transferred from the Australian Film Commission to the National Film and Sound Archive along with \$1.7 million per annum in indexed funding to underpin the new public outreach function.

The National Film and Sound Archive's creation as a statutory authority from July 1 2008 was announced in the 2008-09 budget.

In addition to the transfer of its core funding from the Australian Film Commission, a further \$500,000 per annum will be provided to the National Film and Sound Archive from Film Australia to ensure additional costs in administering the new entity.

## TAFES/POLYS

### Bendigo combines library week with morning tea

Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE in Victoria is combining Library and Information Week with the Biggest Morning Tea, a fundraiser for the Cancer Council.

Library staff from BRIT and other libraries in Bendigo met for breakfast on Monday to celebrate the start of Library and Information Week 2008.

Throughout the week BRIT students will be challenged to a treasure hunt which aims to improve their information searching skills.

The combined Library and Information Week and Biggest Morning Tea will be held in the BRIT Library Seminar Room today from 10.00-11.00am.

All BRIT staff and students have been invited to attend and there will be a gold coin donation to the Cancer Council Victoria.

The Biggest Morning Tea is one of the most successful fundraisers for the Cancer Council and has raised more than \$40 million nationally since it began in 1994.

Money raised goes to cancer research, education and awareness and support services.

A free display of multicultural costumes and artefacts will also be on show in the BRIT City Campus Library throughout the week.

## ALN News

The week aims to provide an opportunity to introduce new services and professional skills to the community, and to invite public discussion of the issues of importance to the provision of library and information services in Australia.

BRIT library manager Jenny McIntyre said the week was especially important for those people in regional areas.

'Rural and regional libraries tend to be smaller than city libraries and this is an opportunity to highlight the specialist service we offer,' she said.

'People in rural areas often face obstacles in finding online information due to connectivity issues or socio-economic factors, and libraries can help redress this issue either individually or through cooperative arrangements.

'Here at the BRIT library we cooperate with the Heyward Library (La Trobe University, Bendigo) and the Goldfields Library to provide an extended service with a wider range of resources to our clients.

'I believe librarians and libraries have a really important role to play in connecting people and information in the Bendigo community.'

### SCHOOLS

#### ABC presenter gives school \$10,000 for literacy



Blaxcell Street Public School in Sydney's west has been given a \$10,000 donation from ABC personality Adam Spencer (pictured) through the Dymocks Literacy Foundation.

'It's going to change people's lives,' principal Sandra Bradley said.

The \$10,000 gift was made personally by Spencer and his wife, Melanie, to support the school's literacy program.

The relationship between Blaxcell Street Public and the broadcaster started in Education Week 2006 when Spencer was 'principal for a day' there.

Impressed by Blaxcell Street's diversity – 98 per cent of students are from a non-English speaking background – Spencer invited the school to attend 'The World in Sydney' event at the ABC headquarters last year.

Spencer made a return visit to the school to announce the donation, which will be made annually to Blaxcell Street Public.

Books selected by the school's support teacher learning have been purchased and will be given to students as they reach their reading targets in the school's literacy program.

'When you have kids at school who don't have one item in English at home, and we say to them, "Go home and practise your reading", they can borrow from the library, but it's not the same as having your own books in the home,' Bradley said.

The Spencers were then presented with a book, *Ellie, Olivia and the Lost Puppy*, written and illustrated by Blaxcell Street Public students and named for the couple's two daughters.

'The students were the most amazing, diverse and lovely group of young Australians and I'm just thrilled to be helping some of them take on the challenge of learning to read,' Spencer said.

### SUPPLIERS

#### Altarama acquires VRLplus from SirsiDynix

Altarama Information Systems has acquired the Virtual Reference Librarian plus (VRLplus) business from the Docutek division of SirsiDynix.

Altarama, a pioneer in digital reference tools, has already assumed day-to-day responsibility for customer support and product development, aided by former Docutek technical experts.

The VRLplus system is used to provide live reference services over the web by over 200 academic, public, special and school libraries and consortia in North American, Europe and Australasia.

It provides a web portal that invites online chat, and a management system that ensures that multiple library staff can deliver an online reference service with all the required chat, file sharing and co-browsing functions.

'Since Docutek entered the digital reference market six or seven years ago, we've watched them create a great platform and a solid reputation for customer service,' Altarama CEO Arthur Brady said.

'And we are very pleased to be working with their customers who are leaders in breakthrough library service innovations and in Library 2.0 thinking.

'Our first task is to deliver to our new VRLplus customers the same level of excellent support that we provide to our RefTracker customers.'

Altarama's flagship product, RefTracker, is an industry-leading tool for managing and responding to all of the requests that come into a library.

Reference staff create web forms for use by patrons to submit requests online, and by staff members to capture more traditional requests (walk-up, phone, fax).

## ALN News

Librarians use its tools to communicate with the patron via email, phone, letters, SMS/texting, and Instant Messaging, and in concert with chat reference products to manage off-line completion of queries that cannot be completed online.

### CATALOGUED

## Lucas named to head WA's DCA

Allanah Lucas has been named as the new director general of the Western Australian Department of Culture and the Arts (DCA).

Lucas has a wealth of experience in developing funding and operational policies for government, arts companies, education institutions, and community and arts venues.

As a previous executive director within the department, she has been a major contributor to culture and arts capital works planning and projects, including the development of the new performing arts venue in Perth.

Lucas has worked in the arts and cultural sectors for over 25 years as an administrator, producer, practitioner, researcher, consultant and tutor.

She has held a number of senior positions within the arts and culture portfolio including director of ArtsWA, acting director of the WA Museum and executive director of development and strategy at DCA.

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## WHAT'S ON

### CONFERENCES

#### **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/Conference/SLAQ%202008/slaq2008\\_home.htm](http://www.slaq.org.au/Conference/SLAQ%202008/slaq2008_home.htm)

#### **Second Melbourne Unconference**

– **Learning through play**  
Thomastown Library

#### **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

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

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

**Lisa Forrest** – *Boycott: Australia's Controversial Road to the 1980 Moscow Olympics*.  
**Spearwood Library**, Perth  
May 26, 8.00am

**Anthony Gunn** – *Walking Tall: Overcoming Life's Little Challenges*  
**Camden Library**, NSW  
May 28, 6.30pm

**Morris Gleitzman** – *Then*  
**Mosman Library**, Sydney  
June 4, 7.00pm

**Shirley and Jennifer Stackhouse** – *My Gardening Year*  
**Campsie Library**, Sydney  
June 19, 1.00pm

**Peter Thompson** – *Pacific Fury*  
**Stanton Library**, North Sydney  
July 1, 1.00pm

### EXHIBITIONS

**Sustainable Sydney 2030**  
Customs House Library, Sydney  
Until May 30

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

**70th Anniversary of the Fellowship of Australian Writers WA**  
State Library of Western Australia  
Until June 8

**Illuminated Manuscripts from Cambridge, Australia and New Zealand**  
State Library of Victoria  
Until June 15

**Multicultural Art Competition - Everyone is Welcome**  
Customs House Library, Sydney  
Until July 5

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

**Simple to Sumptuous: Bookbindings from 1450 to the Present**  
National Library of New Zealand Gallery  
Until July 19

**A Capital Suburb: Pipitea Thorndon**  
National Library of New Zealand Gallery  
Until July 19

**Eire a Moradh: Singing the Praises of Ireland**  
De Beer Gallery  
University of Otago Library  
Until July 31

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