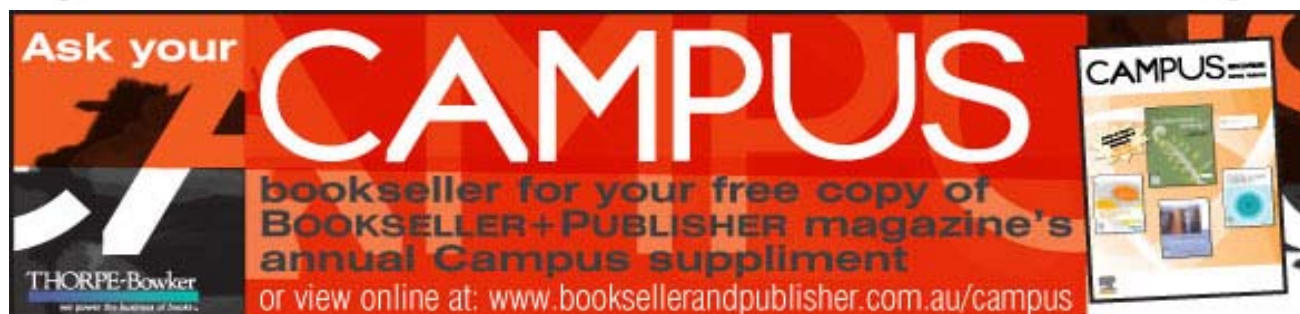


THORPE-BOWKER'S AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY NEWS

The weekly news & information service for library & information professionals



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Funding to Victorian publics lifted

Victoria's public libraries will receive a five per cent increase in funding from the state government in 2008-09, taking the total amount of state government funds to \$38.2 million.

Local Government Minister Richard Wynne said the government has increased the allocation to the Public Libraries Grants Program by \$1.5 million.

'The government is taking action to ensure all Victorians have access to quality libraries,' Wynne said.

'With almost half of all Victorians belonging to a public library, there is a growing demand for library services, which is why we have given them this boost.'

Wynne said the funding boost reflected increased populations in many areas, as well as increased demand for a range of services among existing users.

However, the Municipal Association of Victoria said the increase did not go far enough.

'The municipal association is grateful for any increases in state funding for libraries and we welcome it and are grateful for it,' MAV president Dick Gross said.

Gross said the figures weren't huge amounts and the government could have boosted funding even further.

'It's an increase of five per cent, which isn't dramatically above inflation,' he said.

Wynne made the announcement at the Collingwood Library in the Melbourne suburb of Abbotsford.

He said the funding included an additional \$4 million through the extension of the Living Libraries Program to support renovation and new facilities, as well as an extra \$1 million for the Premier's Reading Challenge Book Fund.

A further \$1.6 million has been allocated for new programs including the Wireless Internet and Computer Management Programs.

'Living Libraries has been hugely successful in giving communities bigger, better, brighter libraries through funding the renewal of public library infrastructure,' Wynne said.

'The additional \$1 million for the Premier's Reading Challenge Book Fund will help libraries to add to the seven million books that have already been read by school children taking part in the challenge.'

Wynne said that in addition to record funding, visits to Victoria's public libraries were also at record levels.

'More than 650,000 visits are made each week to libraries in Victoria, with over 50 million items borrowed each year,' he said.

'The way that people use libraries is changing too – we are seeing record numbers of people making 'virtual' visits and more and more people are taking advantage of the internet and IT facilities available in libraries.'

September 25, 2008 Issue 344

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Australian Library News

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NEWS

Union attacks plan to privatise Auckland's libraries

New Zealand's Public Service Association said it was 'alarmed' at a proposal reported in last week's *ALN* which could lead to the privatisation of Auckland City Council's libraries.

A report from council officers said Auckland could benefit if the city's municipal facilities were run by private enterprise rather than by management committees featuring city councillors.

The assets specifically mentioned were libraries, parks, swimming pools, the art gallery and the zoo.

'We are alarmed to read about this privatisation proposal and have asked the council for a copy of the report,' national secretary of the PSA, which has around 500 members at Auckland City Council, Brenda Pilott said..

'The union is totally opposed to any move to privatise community assets like libraries, parks and pools that Auckland City residents have paid for through their rates.

'Handing control of these assets to a holding company run by businessmen will spell the end of free access to Auckland City's libraries, parks and the art gallery.

'Auckland City residents pay for these facilities through their rates and will end up paying a user charge as well if they're privatised.'

Pilott said Auckland City staff and councillors worked hard to ensure that the city's community assets were well run and user friendly.

'Any suggestion that the private sector is better equipped to run public assets and services has no credibility when there's a major crisis in the world's financial markets because they've been badly managed,' she said.

'Why put our public services at risk through privatisation when New Zealand's public services, at a national and local level, are among the best in the world?'

YouTube takes photographers from backyard to NLA

A chance sighting on YouTube has taken a group of photographers from a Sydney backyard to a showing at the National Library of Australia.

The 20 photographers, who are in various stages of their careers, first projected their images in a backyard in Miller Street in the inner-western Sydney suburb of Haberfield for an audience of family and friends.

However, when the curator of pictures at the National Library, Linda Groom, spotted the images on YouTube she was so impressed that she invited the photographers to screen them at the National Library as part of the Vivid photography festival.

The festival runs in Canberra until October 12.

Though relocated to the National Library's theatre, the event will keep its Sydney title of Miller Street Soiree when it goes on show today.

Many of these photographers have day jobs as photojournalists or commercial portrait photographers but in the Soiree they show another side of their skills with the camera.

Their images range from edgy interpretations of Australian inner-city life to stunning close-ups of backyard fauna and elegant travel shots from all over the world.

Each projection is set to the photographer's choice of music.

The photographers include many of print journalism's best including Andrew Quilty, Tanya Lake and Nick Moir.

The Miller Street Soiree is the climax of a series of events that the National Library has arranged to showcase the work of contemporary Australian photographers during the Vivid festival.

Quote of the Week

'Being a writer in a library is rather like being a eunuch in a harem.'

John Braine – British author (1922-86-)

Curtin indigenous scheme wins ABaF award

The Perth-based Curtin University of Technology's new Indigenous Curatorial Traineeship Scheme has won the Australia Business Arts Foundation's (ABaF) Marsh Partnership Award.

It will now go forward to the national awards in Melbourne in October.

The ABaF Awards are Australia's top awards for business and arts partnerships, sponsorships, volunteering and giving.

Curtin's Cultural Heritage Program director, Professor David Dolan, said the training scheme was a partnership between the university, mining companies AngloGold Ashanti, Downer EDI and Carey Mining, and the Art Gallery of WA.

'The three-year employment and mentoring scheme is tailored to young indigenous people seeking a career in museums or art galleries,' Dolan said.

'The scheme provides the trainee with work and educational opportunities, with the trainee being employed by the Art Gallery of WA and sponsored by the mining companies.

'They also study half-time for the Graduate Diploma in Applied Heritage Studies at Curtin, which includes placement at the university's John Curtin Gallery.

'As a partner Curtin's contribution is to waive fees.'

Chad Creighton was selected as the first trainee under the new scheme after completing a Bachelor of Arts.

He now has three years employment experience from the Art Gallery of WA, a graduate qualification from Curtin and has been involved in an award winning scheme.

'This is a win-win situation for all involved,' Dolan said.

Dolan said the ABaF award demonstrated how much the program, its courses and graduates were valued in the community.

'Graduates like Chad Creighton are in strong demand in the heritage and cultural sector,' he said.

In addition to the ABaF award, the Indigenous Curatorial Traineeship Scheme won a 2006 Western Australian Business and the Arts Partnership Award.

Opposition concerned over future of endowment fund

The federal opposition this week claimed that the government's changes to its Higher Education Endowment Fund (HEEF) would lead to further funding shortfalls for the nation's universities.

Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Education Senator Brett Mason said the former Coalition Government's HEEF was set up to secure funding for the infrastructure needs of universities into the future.

However, he said the way that Labor's Education Investment Fund (EIF) has been constructed undermined that purpose.

In the 2007/08 Budget, then Treasurer Peter Costello announced a \$6 billion HEEF fund, the interest from which would fund infrastructure projects at Australia's universities.

New Treasurer Wayne Swan's first budget saw that fund rolled it into the \$11 billion EIF.

'The issue, however, is that the new fund is available not only to the nation's 38 universities but also to hundreds of vocational education facilities, research institutions and conceivably even schools,' Mason said.

'By making the EIF available to hundreds, even thousands of extra organisations it is more than likely that universities will be worse off under the new arrangement.'

Mason said the total number of organisations entitled to apply for the EIF was still unclear, but he said the new arrangement was already creating confusion.

He said medical researchers are uncertain if they can access the EIF or whether they have to compete with hospitals for funding under the health and hospitals infrastructure fund.

'What's even worse for the integrity of the fund is that the capital can also be drawn down to fund grant applications, unlike under the Coalition's HEEF, where only the interest from the fund could be used to fund projects,' Mason said.

'This defeats the whole concept of having a secure ongoing source of funding for universities.'

'Instead, Labor turned the fund into an all-purpose slush fund that is no different from ordinary recurrent expenditure.'

'In the first year of funding under the HEEF arrangements universities have access to \$304 million to provide much needed infrastructure upgrades on their campuses.'

'Whether those kinds of funds will be available to universities in the future remains to be seen.'

Immigrant literacy program recognised with award

The Adelaide-based City of Charles Sturt's library service has won the prestigious Jim Crawford Award for its program to bridge cultures for Muslim refugees in western Adelaide.

The program was aimed at connecting new arrivals from the Middle East, Africa and Bosnia to be a part of social networks and increase their English literacy skills.

Delivered in partnership with the Muslim Women's Association, the program has involved reading stories in both English and either Arabic, Somali or Bosnian, with newly arrived refugee mothers and children.

It has seen a number of the group become library users.

Council's libraries will receive a \$10,000 prize for library or library staff development.

'Charles Sturt is honoured to receive this award as it acknowledges our ongoing commitment to connecting with and helping new arrivals settle into the council area,' Mayor Harold Anderson said.

'This innovative program allows new arrivals to interact socially with other mothers and their children, as well as improve their English skills.'

The award is named in honour of the late Jim Crawford, who was chairman of the Libraries Board of South Australia from 1977-87 and established the blueprint for development of the public library system in SA.

Two Cairns libraries converted to be energy efficient



Cairns Regional Council in far north Queensland has installed two grid connected solar energy systems at its Gordonvale and Mossman libraries. (*Mossman Library pictured.*)

Cairns Mayor Val Schier said the two systems would interact with the mains power grid rather than having batteries for storage.

'These solar panels generate electricity and use the energy on site,' Schier said.

'Any excess electricity generated can be exported to the mains power grid and any additional electricity required by the libraries can be imported from the mains grid.'

'Each 2kW grid connect system will reduce the libraries' annual electricity bill by more than \$500 and save more than three tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions a year.'

The installation of the systems is part of council's Cities for Climate Protection Action Plan and triple bottom line approach, with benefits including reduced electricity bills, community education and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

For the Mossman Library system, the council was able to receive a 50 per cent rebate on system equipment and installation under the federal government's Photovoltaic Rebate Program.

This was funded as part of the Developing Sustainable Communities program in 2007.

For the Gordonvale system, the council partnered with Ergon Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency in the ClimateSmart Living Project, which involves installing renewable energy on a community building, energy audits and providing education to local schools and the community.

Ergon Energy donated the system to the library.

City launches local history collection online

Blacktown City Libraries in Sydney's western suburbs has launched its Local History Images Collection online.

'The collection is one of our library services' most historical pieces,' Mayor Leo Kelly said at the launch.

'It covers a wide range of events, people and places and includes photographs that have captured our city's floods, well-known local people, buildings, streetscapes, geography, animals and farming.'

Initially more than 300 images will be available online for viewing and these will be added to constantly.

The current Local History Collection holds over 8000 images and is continuing to grow.

'The collection is a way to view how people in the past lived, played and worked in Blacktown City and depicts the growth of the area,' Kelly said.

'The launch of the collection on the internet will also allow these precious and fragile photographs to be viewed without any damage occurring and will allow people all over the world to view items that may have been inaccessible otherwise.'

Members of the community can submit photos they have taken of the area, local people and events to the Local History Collection.

ALN News

SLQ receives gift of significant photographic collection

The State Library of Queensland has been given a significant photographic collection charting the development of the Hope Vale community from 1958–83.

Lutheran Pastor Ivan Roennfeldt's donation of his collection of 2000 photographs and slides coincided with the 50th anniversary of Hope Vale's Lutheran Church.

Pastor Roennfeldt, 83, who is now retired and living in Brisbane, was on the Board of the Lutheran Church which oversaw the Hope Vale Mission.

He visited the Mission many times over 25 years from 1958, and photographed the community and local landmarks.

'The photographic collection donated by Pastor Roennfeldt depicts the daily activities of the mission, such as farming, constructing irrigation systems and wood turning,' State Librarian Lea Giles-Peters said.

'There are also a number of images acquired by Pastor Roennfeldt dating from the 1800s, which show the earlier traditional life of the community, including rare shots of fishing, camping and shelters.'

Roennfeldt's photographs will become part of the State Library's Heritage Collections.

The State Library is investigating digitising the collection so it can be viewed by people across the state and throughout Australia online through the Picture Queensland database.

Giles-Peters said the library was committed to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities and preserving their unique culture and stories.

The State Library opened an Indigenous Knowledge Centre in Hope Vale last month in partnership with the local council, the Department of Communities and private donors.

'The Hope Vale centre provides a place for people to come together, socialise, learn and celebrate the community's cultural heritage and is part of the network of 17 Indigenous Knowledge Centres located across the state,' Giles-Peters said.

SPECIALS

Applications for Archives NZ scholarship closing soon



Archives New Zealand's acting chief executive John Roberts said this week that the archives' 86 kilometres of holdings were a treasure trove for applicants for the department's inaugural scholarship.

Applications are currently open for the \$6000 scholarship, which will enable people or groups to develop quality projects using the archives holdings throughout the country in innovative and new ways.

Roberts said many of the archives' holdings had yet to be explored.

'The scholarship will give people the opportunity to add to the history of New Zealand with an exciting, new contribution from our holdings,' he said.

'Archives holdings include our nation's records and treasures, such as the original nine sheets of the Treaty of Waitangi.'

'There is also a considerable collection of public records, photographs, maps and plans and motion picture reels.'

Applicants will be selected on their ability to develop a quality project and will have outlined a topic that uses the archives holdings in an innovative way or uses archives not previously been explored.

The scope for projects can include (but is not limited to):

- The contribution of archives to society;
- Aspects of New Zealand or Pacific history; and
- Biographies of important New Zealanders.

Applicants can make extensive (but not necessarily sole) use of the archives held at Archives New Zealand repositories in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch (pictured) and Dunedin.

Applications for the scholarship close on September 30.

Teacher to study oral history after winning scholarship

Carol McKirdy, a teacher at Sydney Institute of TAFE's Sutherland College, has received a 2008 Premier's Teaching Scholarship.

The scholarship means that McKirdy (pictured) will be able to undertake an international study tour and visit some of the world's best schools and centres of education.

She will be studying how other institutes record histories.

'I've had over 20 years of experience as an Adult Basic Education TAFE teacher, and I can see the value of recording both student and teacher histories,' McKirdy said.

'This scholarship will enable me to study oral history in both England and Scotland.

I'll also be speaking at the Oral History Conference in Glasgow in July 2009.

'On my return to Australia I would love to start collecting the oral histories of people such as Sudanese and Vietnamese refugees, migrants, war veterans, adults with little schooling and Aboriginal students.

'There's a wealth of tales out there that need to be recorded.'

SCHOOLS

Auckland girl wins \$5000 worth of books for school library

Auckland's Glenavon Primary School Year Six pupil Corbyn Taulealea-Huch has won an innovative writing competition and almost \$5000 worth of books for her school library.

Corbyn, 9, is the winner of the inaugural BACI Lounge Short Story Competition, beating entries from more than 200 of Auckland's low-decile primary schools.

As the winner, Corbyn also receives a \$150 BACI Lounge book voucher for her efforts plus the pleasure of seeing her story published online at www.bacilounge.com

Corbyn said she was proud of her achievement and was glad to help out her school with a stack of brand new books.

She said she was surprised when told her story, about why her pet blue donkey made her late for school, won the competition.

'I couldn't believe it – I worked really hard on my story but didn't think I'd actually win,' she said.

'Writing is really cool so I've asked my teacher if we can enter some more competitions.'

The BACI Lounge Short Story Competition was created by Dr Sharad Paul, a skin cancer surgeon, university lecturer, published author and director of bookstore BACI Lounge.

Paul was convinced a short story competition for lower-decile Auckland schools was an excellent way to get young minds excited about reading and writing.

'If the competition inspired even one child to pursue their writing or academic education further then it's been a great success in my mind,' he said.

'I think it's safe to say that we have achieved this judging by the really positive feedback from both students and teachers.'

Glenavon Primary School principal Elaine Herbert said the competition got her pupils excited about writing.

'All the children really got behind the competition, so we'd like to thank Dr Paul and BACI Lounge for inspiring the budding young writers at Glenavon primary school,' she said.

CATALOGUED

Schmidt named library technician of the year

Gail Schmidt has been named the ALIA Library Technician of the Year for 2008.

Schmidt was the convenor of the 2007 National Library and Information Technicians Conference in Melbourne.

She has been an active member of the ALIA Victorian Library Technicians Group, where she has recently accepted the position of deputy convenor, and is also secretary of the ALIA National Library Technician Group.

ALN News

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A current Victorian driver's licence is required.

Applications Close on the 3rd October 08 at 16:00

Download a PDF of the Position Description here-

http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/freestyler/gui/files/CYSL_48d3004e078e0.pdf

Enquiries: Tracey Dunshea ? (03) 9748 9333, tracey.dunshea@wyndham.vic.gov.au

WHAT'S ON

CONFERENCES

ACEC 2008: Australian Computers in Education Conference

September 28-October 2
National Convention Centre,
Canberra

www.acec2008.info
enquiries@acec2008.info

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

October 9-10
State Library of Queensland
conference@arlis.org.au

Rivers of Opportunity 5

October 25-26
Mantra on Northbourne, Canberra
Libby Brackenridge
libby.brackenridge@deakin.edu.au

Poropitia Outside the Box: LIANZA Annual Conference

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

4th ALIA New Librarians Symposium

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

Information Online 2009

January 20-22
Sydney Convention and
Entertainment Centre
www.information-online.com.au

10th International Congress on Medical Librarianship (ICML) 2009

August 31-September 4
Brisbane Convention and
Exhibition Centre
www.icml2009.com

AUTHOR LIBRARY VISITS

Amanda Hampson – *Two for the Road*

Hornsby Library, Sydney
September 26, 10.30am

Liz Deep-Jones – *Lucy Zeezou's Goal*

Rockdale Library, Sydney
September 30, 2.00pm

David Hill – *1788*
State Library of Queensland

September 30, 6.00pm

David Hill – *1788*
Stanton Library, North Sydney

October 2, 1.00pm

Rochelle Jackson – *Inside Their Minds*

Lilydale Library, Melbourne
October 6, 12.30pm

Christine Manfield – *Fire*
State Library of Queensland

October 9, 6.30pm

Geoffrey Blainey – *Sea of Dangers: Captain Cook and his Rivals*

State Library of NSW
October 20, 6.00pm

Peter Goldsworthy – *Everything I Knew*

Stanton Library, North Sydney
October 28, 1.00pm

Peter Goldsworthy – *Everything I Knew*

Mosman Library, Sydney
October 29, 6.30pm

Michael Connelly – *The Brass Verdict*

Stanton Library, North Sydney
November 6, 1.00pm

Chris Patten – *What Next? Surviving the Twenty-First Century*

State Library of Victoria
November 11, 7.30am

Michael Connelly – *The Brass Verdict*

Takapuna Library, Auckland
November 12, 6.00pm

Maggie Beer – *Maggie's Kitchen*
Stanton Library, North Sydney

November 18, 1.00pm

EXHIBITIONS

Freestyle Books

slg Gallery
State Library of Queensland
Until October 12

Studio: Australian Painters Photographed by R Ian Lloyd

State Library of NSW
Until October 12

Sport and War

State Library of Victoria
Until October 26

Cautionary Tales – William Hogarth

National Library of New Zealand
Until November 6

Grimm Stuff: Folktales and Fairy Stories

National Library of New Zealand
Until November 6

The Opening Chapter: Building the National Library

Visitor Centre
National Library of Australia
Until November 16

A Modern Vision

Exhibition Gallery
National Library of Australia
Until November 16

Nevermore – Artists' Books

Barr Smith Library
University of Adelaide
Until November 30