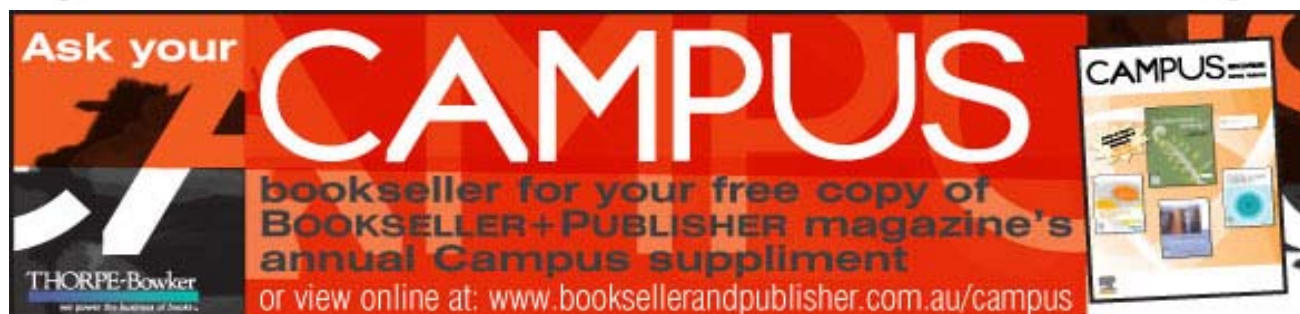


THORPE-BOWKER'S AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY NEWS

The weekly news & information service for library & information professionals



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Victorian funding levels slammed

The Victorian opposition has attacked the state government's announcement of record funding for the state's public libraries, saying the amount promised was not nearly enough.

As reported in last week's *ALN*, Local Government Minister Richard Wynne announced \$38.2 million in funding for public libraries.

The figure was criticised by the Municipal Association of Victoria and this week National Party Deputy Leader Peter Walsh also lashed out at the government, accusing it of 'grossly underfunding' the state's libraries.

'Richard Wynne may feel comfortable boasting about a miserly increase of \$1.5 million to the Public Libraries Grants Program,' Walsh said.

'However, Victorians know that for many years now the government has been putting the squeeze on local government when it comes to funding community libraries.

'Over time Victorian government funding to libraries has slowly eroded from 51 per cent to just 20 per cent.

'As a result councils are increasingly absorbing the costs to run these facilities and libraries themselves can less and less afford to restock their shelves with books.'

Walsh said that under the program, Buloke Shire Council had been allocated funding of \$81,808 for 2008/09, Gannawarra Shire Council had been allocated \$101,058 and Swan Hill Regional Library \$152,937.

Walsh is the local member for Swan Hill.

'This announcement fails to deliver any real money to councils at all,' he said.

'This so-called "record funding allocation" barely covers the annual increase in costs and certainly does not make up for the reduction of funding these councils have experienced over time.

'Essentially, this announcement barely scratches the surface of the cost of running these public services and falls far short of what is needed by our councils.

'To put it in to some context, this funding barely covers the cost of hiring a library manager, let alone the costs of running a library or funding the purchase of new books.

'The Minister should hang his head in shame.'

Walsh said public libraries should be congratulated for the service they provide despite funding difficulties.

'Councils are doing a magnificent job of operating our libraries on the meagre stipend meted out to them by the Minister and it is high time he recognised the valuable role libraries play in our communities by providing them with a return to more equitable funding,' he said.

October 2, 2008 Issue 345

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Auckland library controversy keeps bubbling along

The controversy over an Auckland City Council plan to privatise the city's facilities – including its libraries – refuses to die, with the council keeping the option open at a council meeting.

Under the proposal, the council would hand control of swimming pools, libraries, parks and the zoo to businesspeople to run along commercial lines.

The idea came after a study into plans to manage the council's shares in Auckland Airport along similar lines recommended extending the scheme to other facilities.

City Vision-Labour councillors put forward a proposal to remove those facilities from the plan, but Mayor John Banks and Citizens & Ratepayers (C&R) councillors rejected the proposal.

Labour councillor Leila Boyle told the meeting that the council should put people's minds at rest' by ruling out community assets and services.

However, Deputy Mayor and C&R leader David Hay said councillors were not elected to manage assets.

He pointed out that neighbouring Manukau City Council had put leisure facilities including swimming pools into a holding company.

Council officers who came up with the proposal believe professional directors would provide better governance and a stronger commercial focus.

Meanwhile, the council also revealed that under-performing community centres and halls in the city could be sold off.

Community centres in Pt Chevalier, Sandringham and Panmure and halls in Ellerslie, Glendowie, Three Kings, Rakino Island and Waiheke Island have been identified as possible divestments.

However, the mobile library, which had been earmarked for possible closure, seems safe for the time being after the council's Community Services Committee recommended it remains in service.

The committee also made a \$NZ60,000 provision to refurbish the current vehicle when it is required and has recommended the library investigate alternative ways of continuing to reach the needs of those who use the service, as well as future users.

Committee chairperson Councillor Paul Goldsmith said it would have been ideal to have a new vehicle, but as the current bus was adequate, the committee decided it was best to retain it.

Goldsmith also said that as technology was evolving so rapidly there might be better ways to reach users in the future.

Clark welcomes passage of new NZ lending rights Bill

New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark this week welcomed the passage of the Public Lending Right for New Zealand Authors Bill through Parliament.

'This new Act clearly establishes in law the right of eligible New Zealand authors to receive an annual payment compensating them for free access to their books in our libraries,' Clark said.

The Public Lending Right scheme replaces the New Zealand Authors' Fund, which has been administered by Creative New Zealand under section 31 of the Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa Act 1994.

The new law repeals section 31 of the old Act, disestablishing the New Zealand Authors' Fund, and establishing the Public Lending Right scheme in stand-alone legislation.

The scheme will be administered by the National Library of New Zealand and will ensure that registered New Zealand authors receive annual payments, based on regular surveys of New Zealand libraries.

The new law was developed after consultation with authors and with interested parties in the literary and library sector.

Quote of the Week

'It is the interest one takes in books that makes a library. And if a library have interest it is; if not, it isn't.'

Carolyn Wells – US poet (1869-1942)

SLNSW announces inaugural fellowship winners

The Library Council of New South Wales has announced the winners of the inaugural David Scott Mitchell Memorial Fellowship and Merewether Scholarship.

The David Scott Mitchell Memorial Fellowship 2008 has been awarded to Mr Michael Davis.

Davis's research, History of European representations of Aboriginal art and heritage based on papers of Fred McCarthy and others, will review McCarthy's private and personal correspondence relating to specific archaeological sites and surveys in New South Wales and Arnhem Land.

Davis's study is interested in the way mid-20th century Europeans, particularly academics, curators and anthropologists, have depicted and written about Aboriginal culture.

The Merewether Scholarship for 2008 has been awarded to Dr Peter Tyler.

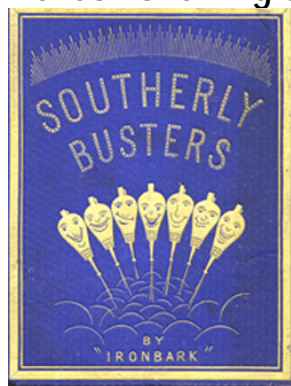
Tyler's research, History of the Royal Society of New South Wales, will examine the cultural significance and intellectual influence of the Society as the first scientific organisation in Australia.

The Society was formed in 1821 as the Philosophical Society of Australasia (Royal Society from 1866) and continues today.

Its extensive archives are now held in the Mitchell Library.

ACADEMICS

Monash showing off its rare Australian books



A new rare books exhibition of Australian literature entitled southerly busters is currently being displayed by Monash University library at its Clayton campus.

The exhibition, which was opened last week by Professor Peter Pierce of the Monash Centre for Australian Studies, highlights the Rare Books Collection's wide holdings in Australian literature.

On display are 130 items including classic works and those now forgotten.

All of the major 19th and 20th century writers are represented, from Charles Harpur, Henry Kendall, Adam Lindsay Gordon, Henry Lawson and Banjo Paterson, to Patrick White and Helen Garner.

Dorothea Mackellar is there with her famous poem, 'I love a Sunburnt Country'.

There is a selection of World War I poetry and a 1917 novel, *The White Feather*, about the practice of shaming men into joining up.

A visual display features covers from the collection of Australian 1940s and 1950s pulp fiction.

There is also a selection of 19th century Australian paperbacks, and early Australian novels set in the future. Modern artist's books and limited editions can also be seen.

Southerly Busters runs in the exhibitions area at the Sir Louis Matheson Library until March 1.

Swinburne library starts adding films to YouTube

Rare footage of Swinburne University's Hawthorn campus life in the 1950s, 60s and 70s has been made available on video sharing website YouTube.

Swinburne Library staff have uploaded digitised recordings from the last half century of the institution's history at www.youtube.com/user/swinvideos, where you can see:

- A young David Williamson spruiking the Swinburne faculties through myriad doors in a promotional film produced by the Film and TV students in 1972;
- Swinburne diploma students on an excursion in Mt Donna Buang in 1950;
- The 1960 ceremony to lay the foundation stone for the Ethel Swinburne Building that has now been demolished to make way for the state-of-the-art Advanced Technology building;
- The grand parade along Burwood Rd to mark the City of Hawthorn's centenary in 1960;
- A young Malcolm Fraser opening the library in 1972; and
- The boys and girls and the seniors on their sports days at Glenferrie oval 1951.

The project came about when broadcaster SBS contacted the university to obtain archival footage of former Swinburne staff member, playwright David Williamson's appearance in *The Right Door*, a promotional film on Swinburne's courses, for a series profiling famous Australians.

ALN News

In the process of digitising the old film footage, library staff unearthed other recordings and realised that by bringing old recordings into a modern format they could be made available to a wider audience.

The library became a YouTube member and is uploading more material as other old footage is digitised, including a compilation of video footage and audio recordings of Ethel Swinburne's message to the future.

Mahara wins open source education award

An e-portfolio system developed by New Zealand's Massey University and other institutions has won the education section in the New Zealand Open Source Awards.

Mahara, which means 'thought' or 'to think' in Te Reo Maori, is an open source e-portfolio, weblog, resume builder and social networking system, connecting users and creating online learner communities.

A team including Massey staff Associate Professor Mark Brown and Gordon Suddaby, the Auckland University of Technology, the Open Polytechnic, and Victoria University of Wellington developed the system.

Brown said the intention was to develop a system to collect digital artefacts and promote critical reflections on them to support self-directed and life-long learning.

'Mahara provides the opportunity for learners to collect, select, reflect, connect and share their goals and accomplishments,' he said.

'It helps learners to document their learning journey and showcase their skills and achievements in a rich digital media format.'

Mahara is now being used by institutions throughout the world, including the University of Southern Queensland, the University of London, the University of Glasgow, San Francisco State University and by educators covering the entire US state of Georgia.

'It has been highly successful in developing a community of educators in a short amount of time,' Brown said.

'As an open source platform, it will be further developed by that community.'

ACU Melbourne holds exhibition celebrating women' suffrage

The Australian Catholic University's Melbourne's campus is hosting an exhibition of some newly uncovered historical photographs and artefacts to celebrate the centenary of women's suffrage in Victoria.

Leading women's history experts from ACU National and the University of Melbourne will present papers on October 9 to launch the month-long Balance at the Ballot Box exhibition.

'There are some fascinating stories in this suffrage history – stories of inclusion and exclusion that weave themselves through the exhibition we are presenting,' ACU's Dr Ellen Warne said.

'The facsimiles of letters, the cartoons and photographs, the earnest papers and the "monster petition" give us fascinating evidence of the suffrage struggle.

'Early feminists made strong arguments that women in politics would provide tenderness and a capacity to engage with problems in society that men may have seen as impossible to change.

'They pointed to role models in the near and distant past to show that women could achieve change.

'In this process we discovered that there are hidden histories of Catholic women's involvement that have not been given much publicity to date.'

Visitors to the exhibition will be able to sign a replica of the famous 'monster petition' calico banner, just as 30,000 women did in 1891.

Despite this show of force women in Victoria were not given the right to vote until 1908, six years after the right was granted nationally.

'With the original documents in this exhibition, the long struggle for women's suffrage becomes tangible,' Warne said.

PUBLICS

State Library of NSW puts first images on Flickr Commons

The State Library of NSW has become the first library in Australia to partner with Flickr to provide community access to its world-renowned photographic archive.

An initial 100 images of historical Australian firsts, selected from the State Library's photographic archive of over a million images, has been launched on Flickr Commons, an online initiative to share the collections of cultural institutions world-wide and increase access to historical photos.

'Flickr is a positive example of how the State Library is using emerging technologies to share its rare and historical photographs with the NSW community and beyond, with far reaching benefits for those living in regional and remote areas,' NSW State Librarian Regina Sutton said.

ALN News

'The State Library's partnership with Flickr also supports the NSW Government's State Plan priority to provide greater community access to our cultural collections.'

One hundred quirky and momentous historical firsts captured on film, each with a fascinating story from Australia's past, were selected for the State Library's launch on Flickr Commons.

The Australian Women's Firsts category celebrates the accomplishments of females such as Louise Lovely, Australia's first Hollywood silver screen star.

An image of the first commercially produced amphibious car, the German Amphicar of 1960-68, can be viewed among other transport and technology firsts in Australia.

Other categories of firsts include: portraits by Australia's first commercial photographer, George Goodman, the first Australasian Antarctic Expedition with images by Frank Hurley, the opening of the Harbour Bridge, and landmark aviation achievements.

Sutton said she hoped the partnership with Flickr would see new information and knowledge added to the images through tagging and user comments.

'Images will be added to Flickr on a regular basis, providing anyone with an internet connection immediate access to historically significant material from the State Library's extensive collections,' she said.

Geelong West Library realisation of community vision



The Geelong West Library has been officially opened 11 months after work began transforming the old building.

The redevelopment includes more space, improved seating and better study facilities.

Additional services include 10 internet terminals, adult and junior DVDs, a music CD collection, Playstation 3 and X-Box 360 gaming and the relocation of council customer services to the foyer of the building.

Councillor Barbara Abley (pictured) said the upgraded library represented the realisation of a long held community vision.

'When the city began to consider options for the future of the Geelong West Library we consulted extensively with local residents and it became very clear that the library, while in urgent need of an upgrade, should remain in its current location,' Abley said.

'There was overwhelming support for the decision to keep the library in Pakington Street given Pako's place as the social heart of the Geelong West community.'

'The challenge for the council was to provide a suitably modern library and customer service facility but to retain the cultural and heritage features that characterise the area.'

The new library contains at its centre the colonial era Geelong West Courthouse building.

'The renovations have revealed the historic facade of the courthouse while the interior of the courthouse has been converted into a very welcoming reading room,' Abley said.

The total cost of the project was \$1.034 million, with the City of Greater Geelong contributing \$784,000 and the state government \$250,000 through a Living Libraries Grant.

A Councillor Community Grant from Abley has enabled the establishment of a specialist Learning English Collection at the library.

'The Learning English Collection will be especially valuable to the many people who access the multicultural services provided through Diversitat, which occupies the former Geelong West Town Hall adjacent to the library,' Abley said.

'The co-location of the library with the city's customer service centre will further enhance the delivery of services to the community.'

'Positioning the customer service facilities within the library building is likely to encourage more people to visit the library – at the same time there are more opportunities for community interaction.'

RFID technology will be introduced for borrowing items.

ABC broadcasts live from Rockhampton library

ABC Capricornia presenters Scott Rollison and Rachel Fountain were in Rockhampton on Tuesday to broadcast live from the Rockhampton South Library.

ABC broadcast from 8.30am to 11.30am, highlighting the services and resources of the library.

They also conducted mini tutorials on how to access the ABC Capricornia website and how to ask questions online via their ABC Capricornia forum.

They were keen to see if they could be stumped by a tricky question from a library patron, particularly in the realm of horticultural enquiries for Tom Wyatt's gardening program.

Rollison chatted with staff and found out about the range of resources and services on offer at the library.

ALN News

Local history buffs, writers, children and parents, gardeners, and readers of all ages, interests and abilities were invited to the morning broadcast.

SPECIALS

Archives ACT proving popular since its July launch

The new Archives ACT is proving popular with the community since its launch in Canberra at the beginning of July.

‘Archives ACT is a new initiative of the ACT Government which enables the public to access ACT Government records and archives,’ Minister for Territory and Municipal Services John Hargreaves said.

‘Since the opening of Archives ACT on July 1, there has been several enquires per week for access to older ACT Government records.

‘These enquiries range from simple to extremely complex.

‘Many files have been identified and retrieved from agency record repositories and delivered to the Archives ACT Reading Room.

‘The community can also make enquires and gain access to government records via the Archives ACT website.’

Hargreaves said a wide and varied assortment of information regarding the Canberra community could be discovered in the ACT Government’s archives, covering areas such as social, cultural and sporting history.

SCHOOLS

Opposition lashes government over NSW computer pull out

The federal opposition has launched a scathing attack on the government’s Computers in Schools program after New South Wales instructed its public schools not to apply in the latest round.

The NSW Government requested an extension to the October 9 deadline for applications to allow it to clarify who was responsible for additional costs associated with each laptop.

When Education Minister Julia Gillard refused that request, the NSW Government withdrew from the scheme.

‘The New South Wales Government’s decision is disappointing however an extension is not appropriate because it would delay funding for computers to all school sectors across the other states and territories and independent and Catholic school sectors in New South Wales,’ Gillard said.

However, new Shadow Education Minister Christopher Pyne said Gillard had ‘questions to answer’.

‘Kevin Rudd brandishing a laptop computer as the “tool box of the future” was a potent image of the 2007 campaign,’ Pyne said.

‘According to Rudd at the time, no child could succeed with anything less.

‘First it was one computer for every child, then one for every two children.

‘Now the New South Wales state government has completely pulled out of round two of the Computers for Schools program.

‘The NSW Education Minister is quoted as saying it was akin to buying only half a suit.

‘All the best intentions in the world aren’t going to supply technical support, software, and broadband access.’

Pyne said Gillard had too much on her plate to focus on the details of her portfolio.

He said the Australian public had a right to know:

- When Gillard knew that the NSW Government was not going to participate in round two of the Computers for Schools program?
- How the funds allocated for NSW will now be used: and
- Will there be another program negotiated with the NSW Government for students who have missed out on a computer so that they don’t fall behind their counterparts interstate?

Pyne queried whether any other state governments would follow the NSW lead and withdraw from the program.

CATALOGUED

Two new senior appointments at Innovative

Innovative has announced that two long-time Innovative employees have been promoted to senior management positions within the company.

Rebecca Jones has been promoted to vice president, product architecture and Hilary Newman has been promoted to vice president, implementation services.

Jones has been with Innovative's product development department for more than 15 years.

Newman has been with Innovative for 14 years, serving in a wide range of positions, trainer, help desk manager, product manager, manager of the product development circulation team and, most recently, director of implementation services.

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WHAT'S ON

CONFERENCES

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

Engage. Explore. Celebrate: ASLA XXI Biennial Conference 2009
September 29-October 2
Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre
<http://www.asla.org.au/pd/conference/>

AUTHOR LIBRARY VISITS

Rochelle Jackson – *Inside Their Minds*
Lilydale Library, Melbourne
October 6, 12.30pm

Christine Manfield – *Fire*
State Library of Queensland
October 9, 6.30pm

Sam Cutler – *You Can't Always Get What You Want: My Life With The Rolling Stones*
State Library of NSW
October 13, 5.30pm

Kerry Greenwood – *Murder on a Midsummer Night*
Kingston Library, Melbourne
October 14

Sam Cutler – *You Can't Always Get What You Want: My Life With The Rolling Stones*
State Library of Queensland
October 15, 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

Rochelle Jackson – *Inside Their Minds*
Monash Public Library, Melbourne
October 30, 7.00pm

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

Amanda Tabberer – *My Amalfi Coast*
State Library of NSW
November 27, 6.00pm

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