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Beecher books place at new centre

Publisher Eric Beecher has been named as the man to head up the inaugural board of the Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas – the centrepiece of Melbourne's winning UNESCO City of Literature bid.

Arts Minister Lynne Kosky said the board would begin searching for a director to run the centre, which will open next year.

'Eric Beecher brings a breadth of experience to the role of chairperson, from journalism to publishing and in-depth knowledge of Victoria's diverse literary sector,' Kosky said.

Beecher will be joined on the inaugural board by:

- Peter Biggs – managing director of Clemenger BBDO in Melbourne;
- Joanna Murray-Smith – Melbourne-based playwright, screenwriter and novelist;
- Mark Rubbo – managing director of Readings Books and Music;
- Gabrielle Coyne – managing director of Penguin Australia, and
- Andrew Hagger – NAB's executive general manager, private and institutional wealth.

'This group brings the right mix of skills and experience to head up this ambitious and exciting new cultural organisation for Victoria,' Kosky said in a statement.

The Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas is now being incorporated as a public company and will be housed in the State Library of Victoria. Construction will begin by the end of the year.

Kosky said the centre would provide many benefits for Victoria's literary community, and for the state more generally.

'It will provide a home for some of the Melbourne's key independent literary organisations; a performance space for public events; and flexible spaces for writers and small literary projects,' she said.

'Importantly, the centre will provide a focal point for Victoria's diverse literary activity, with up to 1000 events expected each year, attracting around 100,000 people.'

Beecher said he was looking forward to working with the board to steer the development of the centre, through construction, opening and initial programming.

'The Centre for Books Writing and Ideas will be a creative and inspiring hub for Victoria's literary community and a place where the wider community can engage with writers, writing and ideas,' Beecher said.

Beecher confirmed the board was now looking to appoint a full time director who would be responsible for programming, marketing, promotion and development of the centre.

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Contents

News:

Professor praises new SLV boys' literacy program .. 2
UQ to expand high speed internet service for schools .. 2

Academics:

Pioneer families celebrated at New England library .. 3

Publics:

Island library sets up an indigenous welcoming area .. 3
Younger readers can get beneath the surface .. 3
Grant helps to refurbish Eltham landmark .. 4
International students donate books in own languages .. 4
Rodney Writes competition open again .. 5

Specials:

Round table allows meeting of like minds .. 5

TAFEs/Polys:

Local company donates \$2 million to Wintec .. 6

Schools:

Radford wins top teacher librarian award .. 6

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Professor praises new SLV boys' literacy program



University of Melbourne vice-chancellor Professor Glyn Davis (*pictured*) has lavished praise on a State Library of Victoria program aimed at encouraging boys to read.

Davis was speaking at the official launch of the library's Boys, Blokes, Books and Bytes program.

He told guests the program was a 'sensible, balanced and effective approach to the issue of teen literacy'.

'There is a lot of passion on either side of the literacy debate but this program reveals important

thoughts about cultural literacy and the basic skills of reading,' Davis said.

'The result is a well-designed program to get boys reading and enjoy reading.'

Developed by the State Library's Centre for Youth Literature, Boys, Blokes, Books and Bytes partners schools with public libraries to run a series of hands on reading and book related activities for boys and their families.

The program focuses on a style of learning that appeals to boys, incorporating a blog and encouraging fathers and male role models to get involved in reading and sharing stories with their boys.

The library will send a Boys, Blokes, Books and Bytes toolkit to every school and public library in Victoria.

After successful pilot runs in Melton and Drouin, acting library CEO Sue Hamilton said she hoped the innovative program would be supported across the state.

'Reading for pleasure is one of the best things for a child's learning development,' Hamilton said.

'Boys, Blokes, Books and Bytes creates an environment which makes reading interesting and a normal part of adolescent life.

'By working together, schools, libraries, families and their communities can make a huge difference in a child's future.'

UQ to expand high speed internet service for schools

The University of Queensland is to expand its UQSchoolsNet service after a successful trial at Ipswich Girls' Grammar School (IGGS).

The service allows an online community of schools to connect to the internet at a speed of one gigabit a second, 500 times faster than many schools' current network speed.

IGGS piloted the new network and now has the fastest internet connection of any school in the southern hemisphere.

UQ Information Technology Services (ITS) director Nick Tate said UQ had one of the best internet connections in Australia and was happy to extend the capability of the network with the school community.

Tate said schools were being connected to UQSchoolsNet on one of the fastest technologies available.

'The demand that some resources and services require from a network connection are significant, therefore UQSchoolsNet opens up new avenues for teaching and learning, including videoconferencing and access to higher education research,' he said.

'UQSchoolsNet will also enable schools to tap into the university's resources, such as Cyberschool offered through the library, as well as enrich the classroom experience through applying engaging and lively features to traditional face-to-face learning.'

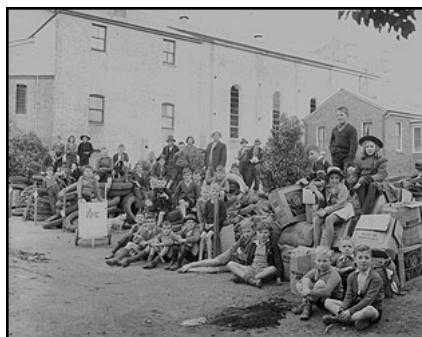
The Southport School, Somerville House and Brisbane Boys' College are scheduled for connection in the immediate future.

Quote of the Week

'Doing research on the web is like using a library assembled piecemeal by pack rats and vandalised nightly.'

Roger Ebert – US film critic (1942 -)

Pioneer families celebrated at New England library



Family members of foundation lecturers at the New England University College – the precursor of the University of New England – were among the guests at the opening of an exhibition illustrating the home lives of those first families.

The exhibition, prepared by UNE staff members and mounted in the university's Dixson Library, is the brainchild of four of those family members.

Speaking at the opening, Jenny Browning, the daughter of foundation philosophy and psychology lecturer Duncan Howie, said the initial idea for the exhibition had arisen about four years ago in a conversation with three other 'pioneer children', Cathy Davis, Peter Crossley and Yvonne Voisey.

'Peter (the son of Ralph Crossley, foundation lecturer in German) was very enthusiastic about the idea, emphasising that we had to tell the women's story,' Browning said.

That story, as revealed in the exhibition, is one of 'pioneer' women, tirelessly supporting their trail-blazing husbands while negotiating their way in and around the highly-stratified society of rural Armidale.

The New England University College was established as a college of the University of Sydney in 1938.

Numbers of staff and students were small in the early years, and the families of staff members formed a close-knit group.

Browning said her own mother, Ella Howie, had formed a close relationship with the mothers of the three other instigators of the exhibition.

'We children were like cousins and the others' parents were like aunts and uncles,' she said.

The exhibition includes historic photographs of staff, students and college buildings, and personal and household items illustrating the lives of the 'pioneer' families.

One of those families – that of Frank Letters, foundation lecturer in classics and English – is represented by items including books and music.

Guests at the opening included several lecturers from the early days of the University College.

The exhibition will be on display in the Dixson Library for the rest of the year.

Pictured is a photo of the Armidale Salvage Team in World War Two.

PUBLICS

Island library sets up an indigenous welcoming area

Bribie Island Library just north of Brisbane is reaching out to the local indigenous population through its new Welcoming Place project.

Moreton Bay Regional Councillor Gary Parsons (Div 1) said the library was developing a well-resourced, visually identifiable indigenous focus space that would continue to grow and develop through feedback from local communities.

'This project is aimed at improving our relationship with indigenous communities and enhancing the quality and diversity of services our libraries offer all residents,' Parsons said.

'The Welcoming Place provides the opportunity for people and cultures to connect and share experiences, creating a space for everyone to enjoy.'

The space includes community information, displayed resources, newspapers, book lists, flags, a community notice board and seating.

A commissioned artwork, by respected local community member Lynelle Mace, will be displayed in the Welcoming Place area.

The space will provide the opportunity to host more cultural storytelling sessions and related events.

The joint project between Moreton Bay Regional Council and the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities will help serve the more than 3000 indigenous people living in the Caboolture district.

Younger readers can get beneath the surface

Young readers in the Port Adelaide Enfield municipality will be able to discover what lies beneath stories and puzzles with a new children's library service called Ziptales.

The council's public libraries are set to launch the innovative online site which aims to improve literacy and comprehension in 6-12 year olds.

ALN News

The Ziptales subscription service includes an e-book reading library, interactive puzzle solving activities, graphic novel adaptations, Australian history dramatisations, classroom-based projects, poetry modules, creative writing assistance and accompanying worksheets.

‘Adding Ziptales to our resources reaffirms Port Adelaide Enfield libraries’ key role in promoting the pleasure and benefits of reading to young people, and helping parents and teachers to provide a nurturing and relaxed environment where children can learn and play,’ library services manager Bill Roche said.

‘The interactive format helps children to use their imagination and learn at a pace tailored to their ability level.’ Ziptales also works to promote the concept of public libraries as multi-media centres and encourages children to engage with their local library.

Australian educators designed and created the site, which has age-appropriate activities and a user-friendly format and layout.

All its programs, activities and stories are custom-written for the web.

Ziptales is free to all members of the Port Adelaide Enfield Libraries and is available on library public PCs and at home via the council’s website.

Grant helps to refurbish Eltham landmark



Eltham Library in Melbourne is to undergo a \$1.2 million refurbishment after the state government committed \$500,000 to the project.

The money is being granted to the Nillumbik Shire Council as part of the government’s Living Libraries program.

Local Government Minister Richard Wynne visited the Eltham Library to announce the grant for the library infrastructure.

‘The government’s \$500,000 Living Libraries grant will help to improve facilities at the Eltham Library,’ Wynne said.

‘Living Libraries funding is one of the ways the government is ensuring that all Victorians have access to good quality library facilities and services.’

The upgrade will increase the library’s floor space by 400 square metres, which will accommodate a new children’s library, an outdoor children’s space, an

expanded local history area, a reading lounge and more space for teenagers and technology.

The Nillumbik Shire Council will contribute more than \$700,000 to the refurbishment of the iconic building.

International students donate books in own languages

Hamilton City Libraries’ world language collection has received a boost thanks to the generosity of the New Zealand city’s international students.

More than 40 international language books have been donated to the world language collection at the city’s Central Library.

The donations are the result of a campaign run by Hamilton City Libraries, Waikato Education International (WEI) and Hamilton City Council Ethnic Development Advisor Philip Yeung, aimed at encouraging international students to donate books written in the language of their home country.

Amongst the donations are books written in Mandarin, Japanese, Korean and Swedish.

Wintec manager of international student affairs and WEI president Helen Richardson said WEI was extremely grateful for the campaign, which began at the end of 2007 and is helping to provide an improved library service for Hamilton’s ethnic communities.

‘We are all really excited about working with the libraries and council to expand the world languages collection for speakers of other languages,’ she said.

‘We hope these donations will be the first of many to come and we will be encouraging our students and international visitors to donate a book to the cause, as well as become regular users of the collection.’

Among those donating books was Hillcrest High School Year 11 international student Kelly Kim, who is contributing a copy of *The Diary of Anne Frank* written in Korean.

Kim said she was pleased to donate a book in her native language and was considering donating further titles to the collection.

ALN News

Rodney Writes competition open again

The annual Rodney Libraries writing competition, Rodney Writes, is underway for another year. The competition is now open to people all over New Zealand with thousands of dollars of prize money on offer.



'This year's theme is Going Global,' Rodney Writes coordinator Christine Chambers said. 'We are calling all budding writers to get their thinking caps on and tell us what Going Global means to them.'

'Competition entries can be factual or fiction and basically with the world at your feet your story could be about anything global.'

Chambers said entries might come from young people about to embark on their big overseas experience or from more mature writers who'd like to reflect on the life changing experience their time abroad had on them.

'Alternatively your story could be about global technology or ecology – the world really is your oyster.'

There are three main categories for entries – the Premier Award (for professional writers), the Novice Award, and the Young Writers Award (for writers under 18 years of age).

There is a limit of 2500 words for each story, which applies to all the categories.

The Premier Award attracts \$1000 for first prize and \$500 for runner up, the Novice Award offers \$500 for first prize and \$200 for runner up, and the Young Writers Award has a \$500 first prize and \$200 for the runner up.

Closing date is March 6 next year with an awards evening to be held on April 22 at the Whangaparaoa Library and Service Centre.

SPECIALS

Round table allows meeting of like minds



The Collections Council convened a round table meeting in Melbourne earlier this month to enable Nick Poole, the CEO of the Collections Trust in the UK, to meet local people involved with the collections sector.

The round table was designed to help Poole gain an understanding of some aspects of the Australian collections sector, and for him to share information about the work of the Collections Trust.

At the Melbourne Museum he met representatives of Arts Victoria, the Collections Council of Australia, the Council of Australasian Archives and Records Authorities, the Council of Australasian Museum Directors, Deakin University, the Department of Planning and Community Development, Heritage Victoria, Museum Victoria, Museums Australia (Victoria), National and State Libraries Australasia, the Public Record Office Victoria, the State Library of

Victoria, and The Le@rning Federation.

The Collections Trust is a new and well-supported organisation that is working in several areas overlapping with the interests of Australian organisations, including digital collections and standards.

Its predecessor organisation was the Museum Documentation Association.

The information-sharing was generous on all fronts and new contacts were made that might contribute to future collaborations.

While at Melbourne Museum, Poole was also able to address a meeting of the Council of Australasian Museum Directors, and to discuss shared interests with representatives of The Le@rning Federation.

Pictured during a break at the meeting (L-R) Back row: Tim Hart, Shaun Carmody, Ken Walker, Martin Hallett, Jonathan Sweet, Amanda Bacon

Front row Anne Kershaw, Ely Wallis, Nick Poole, Margaret Birtley, Justine Heazlewood, Laura Miles

Local company donates \$2 million to Wintec



The New Zealand city of Hamilton's Waikato Institute of Technology's has named its new award-winning Hub building after local company the Gallagher Group.

The polytechnic announced the naming of the Gallagher Hub on the same night the group revealed it was giving \$NZ2 million to the newly established Wintec Foundation.

The Gallagher Hub is home to a number of Wintec services, but its centrepiece is the learning commons.

The gift was announced by Gallagher chairman and chief executive Bill Gallagher (pictured) at a formal dinner at Wintec's city campus.

The surprise announcement came at a function described on invitations as a joint birthday dinner to celebrate Wintec's 40 years as a polytechnic and 70 years of the Gallagher Group.

Gallagher told guests that he was delighted that the Gallagher Group was the first corporate supporter of the Wintec Foundation.

'Our gift reflects an excellent connection between the two organisations that share core philosophies of learning and innovation,' he said.

'This was critical for growth of individuals and business.'

Guests were then invited outside to witness the unveiling of the naming of the \$NZ12 million Gallagher Hub.

Wintec will also provide an annual \$NZ5000 scholarship in the name of the Gallagher Group to be awarded to an academic staff member for study overseas.

Wintec chairman Gordon Chesterman said the Gallagher gift was a wonderful gesture by one of New Zealand's leading companies.

'Gallagher's outstanding achievements over the last 70 years have been inspiring,' he said.

'The company is a world leader in security and access systems, yet it continues to support the region and the community it has always called home.

'Wintec is extremely grateful to Gallagher's for its generosity. What the company has done will make a very real difference to our progress.'

Chesterman said the gift would help support the institute's \$NZ58 million modernisation project at the city campus and at Avalon.

The foundation has been formed to establish a tax efficient vehicle for corporate gifting.

'We have not previously approached the corporate sector for investment because of our focus on building a modern tertiary organisation that was recognised for delivering the skills the region wanted,' Chesterman said.

'Our objective over the past four years has been to embrace the government's tertiary education reforms which we have supported from the outset.

'Now, as a high-performing institute of technology, we are ready to move forward and continue to deliver work-ready graduates that employers need.'

SCHOOLS

Radford wins top teacher librarian award

Sydney's Jan Radford from Delany College in Granville has been named as the winner of the 2008 teacher librarian of the year.

The national award, sponsored by the Australian School Library Association and Pledger Consulting, honours an 'exceptional Australian teacher librarian in a school setting whose professional practice has a positive impact on student achievement and information literacy'.

Radford manages a diverse library service at Delany College, a coeducational, Catholic systemic school.

The enrolment of the school is 554 with a majority of students from backgrounds where English is not the first language of the home.

'In 2008 Jan has continued her usual practice of planning for the best possible advancement of her library and school mission and providing her school executive with sound recommendations regarding the future,' Delany principal Peter Wade said.

'Jan models a commitment to lifelong learning on a daily basis.'

ALN News

Radford has been involved in school-wide literacy initiatives, backing them with her skills in resource management, ensuring the library has a prominent role and giving special assistance to gifted learners.

'Jan's professional commitment to learning networks, both physical and virtual, is reflected in her school by transferring this knowledge into practical projects, such as TAG-L, her teen advisory group cum book club,' Wade said.

'She mentors these students by giving them roles and responsibilities and honouring their decisions.

'Her commitment to keeping up to date in relation to technology, especially Web 2.0, lead Jan to recognise the importance of a virtual library space.

'She strives to increase student access to information through modern technologies.

'Jan knows her community and how to meet the needs of the wide range of students represented.

'She has taken special care to provide for new arrivals, a significant group in the school as Delany hosts an Intensive English Centre, finding ways for these students of limited English ability to be involved in the book group, as well as providing some resources in their first languages.

'Jan strives to provide an information rich learning environment for her school community.

'She has particularly excelled at developing a rich virtual space for a wide range of curriculum areas, and supporting literacy and recreational reading.

'Resources on her web page extend to include parents, (with brochures including tips to encourage reading skill and behaviour) and fellow professionals with a drop-down menu linking to background information on programs.

'The website design combines HTML, access to system provided databases and access to a range of free Web 2.0 tools.'

This award carries a \$1500 cash prize from Pledger Consulting and \$500 Weblinks-LinksPlus products.

The other state and territory nominees for the award were:

- Paul Huard, Gold Creek School, nominated by the Australian School Library Association (ACT);
- Ailsa Hill, Rose Bay High School, nominated by the Australian School Library Association (Tasmania);
- Lyn Lawrence, The Cathedral College, nominated by the School Library Association of Queensland;
- Sue Johnson, Marden Senior College and Open Access College, nominated by the School Library Association of South Australia; and
- Maria Darby, Cyril Jackson Senior Campus, nominated by the Western Australian School Library Association.

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WHAT'S ON

CONFERENCES

**Poropitua 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

**Next Chapters: Public Libraries
for Older Adults in Australia and
New Zealand**
May 1-2
State Library of NSW
www.auslib.com.au
info@auslib.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

Donna Carson – *Judas Kiss: The
Story of Donna Carson*
East Maitland Library, NSW
October 31, 12.30pm

Maggie Alderson – *How to
Break Your Own Heart*
Stanton Library, North Sydney
October 31, 1.00pm

Di Morrisey – *The Islands*
Blakistone Theatre, Geelong
A Geelong Libraries Event
November 5, 7.00pm

Michael Connelly – *The Brass
Verdict*
Stanton Library, North Sydney
November 6, 1.00pm

Di Morrisey – *The Islands*
Darwin City Library
November 7, 7.30pm

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

Richard Flanagan – *Wanting*
State Library of Qld
November 13, 6.30pm

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

Michael Leunig – *The Lot in
Words*
Stanton Library, North Sydney
December 3, 1.00pm

Camilla Nelson – *Crooked*
Kings Cross Library, Sydney
December 3, 5.30pm

EXHIBITIONS

**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

Wisdom
State Library of NSW
Until November 16

The Heart of Medicine
Fisher Library
University of Sydney
Until November 20

**Fine Folk: Design Work by Colin
McCahon**
Hocken Gallery
University of Otago Library
Until November 22

Ferdinand von Hochstetter
Central Library, Auckland
Until November 23

Nevermore – Artists' Books
Barr Smith Library
University of Adelaide
Until November 30

A Hard Day's Night
Liverpool City Library, NSW
Until February 15