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Gillard throws more money for PCs

The Australian Government has been forced to commit an extra \$807 million to ensure its election commitment to provide all Australian school children with computers did not collapse.

The scheme has been under threat because a number of states said they would not provide the additional funds needed to provide ongoing support and maintenance.

Both New South Wales and Western Australia announced recently they would not be applying for computers in the second round of applications.

Education Minister Julia Gillard moved this week to head off the scheme's collapse with the announcement of the additional funding, an announcement that was met with scorn by the opposition.

'In March, the Council of Australian Governments commissioned a review of legitimate and additional financial implications for the states and territories arising from the implementation of the \$1.2 billion National Secondary School Computer Fund,' Gillard said this week.

'The Grimes Review ... found that a reasonable overall estimate of the cost of deploying each additional computer stands at \$2500.

'The additional funding of \$807 million will be paid before the end of the 2008-09 financial year.

'This funding will cover the legitimate on-costs incurred for computers purchased through Round One as well as future on-costs associated with subsequent rounds.'

Gillard said schools which had not applied in the first or second round because of uncertainty over the issue of on-costs would be given an opportunity to apply under a supplementary Round Two process.

However, the opposition claimed Gillard had refused to rule out any further cost blow-outs in the program.

'I asked Ms Gillard pointedly in the federal parliament whether she could confirm that there would be no further federal government monies required to prop up this bungled program,' Shadow Education Minister Christopher Pyne said.

'She had the opportunity to draw a line in the sand and say that this election promise will not drive the Budget any further into deficit.

'Instead she avoided the questions.

'Ms Gillard had an opportunity to show that the Labor Party has some shred of economic credibility as managers of the government's finances, but let's not forget Ms Gillard was the author along with Mark Latham of Medicare Gold, a policy that would have plunged Australia into deficit years ago.

'Now it seems Computers in Schools is heading the same way as Medicare Gold would have. Ms Gillard needs to be upfront with taxpayers and tell Australians how much Computers in Schools will really cost by the time it has delivered a computer for every student.'

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Australian Library News

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NEWS

Publishers win court battle to stop online piracy

Elsevier and Germany-based Thieme Publishers say they have secured a significant victory against an international piracy scheme involving illegal copying, sale, and distribution of their scientific journals.

In September 2007 the publishers became aware that an unknown person had sent unsolicited e-mail advertisements to academic professors informing them that journals were available for sale on the internet.

Recipients were also Elsevier and Thieme authors, who have been instrumental in gathering the evidence.

To stop the scheme, the publishers engaged the law firm of DeVore and DeMarco LLP.

Working in conjunction with US and international investigators, the firm filed an action in the US federal court on behalf of the publishers and identified the copyright infringer as an entrepreneur living in Vietnam.

The investigators discovered that the infringer had orchestrated an elaborate scheme and was selling copyrighted journals around the world, including to individuals in Botswana, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, the United States, and Vietnam.

A complaint was filed with the Vietnamese Ministry of Information and Communication, which formed a task force to handle the matter.

The task force engaged the assistance of local law-enforcement and regulatory officials and ultimately concluded to prosecute the action.

As a result, within weeks of filing the complaint with the Ministry, Vietnamese authorities identified the infringer.

The infringer confessed to the illicit scheme and agreed to stop all piracy activities and to pay a substantial fine, including repayment of illegal profits garnered from the sales as well as penalties for copyright infringement under Vietnamese law.

In a similar move earlier this month, publishers John Wiley and Sons., McGraw-Hill Education, Pearson Education, and Cengage Learning were awarded a favourable ruling in a copyright infringement case against two online booksellers.

Photographer's confronting works at National Library

The confronting works of internationally renowned South African photographer Roger Ballen will be exhibited at the National Library in Canberra over the next three months.

Brutal, Tender, Human, Animal: Roger Ballen Photography provides a powerful and thought-provoking vision of the human condition, exploring poverty, the psychology of human beings and the theatrical possibilities of photography.

This exhibition, curated by the Art Gallery of Western Australia's associate curator of contemporary art, Robert Cook, broadly surveys Ballen's photography over the past 25 years.

It is the first major Australian exhibition of his work and was first shown at the Art Gallery of Western Australia as part of the FotoFreo Festival in early 2008.

The National Library of Australia is the only other Australian venue for the exhibition.

Born in New York in 1950, Ballen studied psychology and later geology, the field he made his profession.

He has lived in Johannesburg for the past 30 years, where he worked in the mining industry, a career that took him into the poor rural areas known as 'dorps' that became his initial artistic focus.

'Ballen's work is unsettling, beautiful, often brutal, but always deeply moving,' Cook said.

'These are non-judgmental portraits, based on trust, exchange and friendship. Ballen knows his subjects, revisits and re-photographs them on a number of occasions.'

Quote of the Week

'There are seventy million books in American libraries, but the one you want is always out.'

Thomas L Masson – US writer (1866-1934)

Herbarium to be housed at USC library

The Queensland-based University of the Sunshine Coast has launched a herbarium at its library at Maroochydhore.

Contained within the collection are about 8000 plant specimens of trees, shrubs, herbs and weed species from across the Sunshine Coast region.

The collection, which was started in 1950 and includes valuable historical records of plant distributions in many areas prior to clearing, is housed in a climate-controlled room in the USC library.

Library staff have started digitising the specimens for a virtual herbarium which will be accessible to researchers worldwide via the internet.

The university has thanked those who have contributed to the establishment of the herbarium, particularly the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries - which donated the herbarium to the university - and to HESSIE and Keith Lindsell of Buderim who helped fund the project.

The herbarium is expected to be used by USC staff and students, visiting researchers, the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, local councils and land care groups.

Photographer gives her take on Hocken paintings

The University of Otago's Hocken Gallery in its Central Library is hosting an exhibition entitled once more with feeling, by Ann Shelton, which will be made up of 13 large photographs displayed alongside more than 50 paintings from the Hocken Collections.

All of the photographs use paintings from the Hocken as their starting point.

Shelton has created three distinct groups of works specifically for the Hocken Gallery exhibition.

In the first group of photographs, Shelton 'remakes' three different landscape paintings.

A second body of Shelton's photographs focuses on artworks in the Hocken Collections, for which the artist is unknown or unidentified.

While the Artist Unknown label is required for the institution's cataloguing and storage systems, its arbitrary nature also perpetuates the anonymity of artists whose identities have been lost.

Shelton's six photographs of the picture racks in the Hocken's storage area which house these paintings preserve the memory of these unknown artists for posterity and it is possible that the exhibition of these works may lead to the identification of the artists of some of the paintings.

A third series of Shelton's photographs in once more with feeling are based on a group of paintings by Lionel Terry held by the Hocken Collections.

Terry gained notoriety in 1905 when he killed a Chinese immigrant, retired gold-miner Joe Kum Yung, in a racist attack on Wellington's Haining Street.

Terry was also an immigrant, but, because he was English, he was not considered an alien as Chinese immigrants were.

A huge national outpouring of public sentiment sympathetic to Terry followed his sentencing.

Terry took up painting while at Dunedin's Seacliff psychiatric hospital, where he was imprisoned after his death sentence for the murder was reduced to life imprisonment on the grounds of insanity.

In an act of remembrance to Joe Kum Yung, Shelton has photographed the reverse side of four of Terry's paintings.

Her blank images create 'moments of pause' that encourage us to reflect on the racism experienced by Chinese in early 20th century New Zealand.

The exhibition runs until January 24.

PUBLICS

Building consent comes through for Birkenhead Library



Building consent was this week issued for the long-awaited Birkenhead Library in the Auckland suburb of Birkenhead.

Councillor Tony Holman said staff members and architects involved with the project were thrilled that the consent has at last come through.

He said tenders for the construction of the library closed on November 7 and council would now also be in a position to appoint the successful tenderer before Christmas.

'The library has been a top priority for council and it is

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wonderful to know the people of Birkenhead will have their new library and Civic Centre in 2009,' Holman said.

Since the demolition of the old library, area office and Plunket rooms, Birkenhead Leisure Centre has and will continue to be the temporary library space until the new one is open.

'There has been much frustration in the past about the delays for this library, but today brings a very nice pre-Christmas present,' Holman said.

'We're well aware that many people have found it difficult to use the interim library and we're conscious of the economic effects on Highbury Town Centre.

'We hope that the new library will help provide new enthusiasm for the use of the library and rejuvenate the centre.'

Holman said an open day on the site during election day was welcomed by locals.

'All of the design and floor plans were on display and we had a lot of positive feedback from people,' he said.

The library will house some of council's community services such as the Birkenhead Northcote Community Board meeting rooms.

It will also be home to the Citizens Advice Bureau and Plunket, and will allow Community Coordinator contact.

The building will be built to Green Star NZ status, which is New Zealand's first comprehensive environmental rating system for buildings.

Alice Springs wants infrastructure funds for new library

Alice Springs Town Council has confirmed it will be putting in a submission to use the recently announced federal government infrastructure funding to rebuild the town library.

Mayor Murray Stewart said the cost of the rebuilding the library could run to \$12 million.

'The option of the library, which in fact I promoted strongly in and around infrastructure meetings in Canberra, will be presented in terms of this new package,' he told media.

Stewart said he hoped Alice Springs would be successful in its bid.

'We're going to step up to the plate in terms of the additional \$50 million that the federal government has offered up,' he said.

'However, you must understand that \$50 million is the one pool for the entire nation.

'The favoured option at this point in time is to again present the option of the library.'

Rare images go on display at State Library of NSW



A shoebox of forgotten negatives unearthing an interesting aspect of Bondi's colourful history from the 1930s and 40s will be revealed for the first time via a new photographic exhibition officially opened at the State Library of NSW on Monday.

Bondi Jitterbug: George Caddy and his Camera features 60 striking black and white images of the strongmen and gymnasts of the time performing their outrageous 'beachobatics', captured by local amateur photographer George Caddy.

'Incredibly, the negatives remained undisturbed for 60 years and this remarkable discovery has produced the only record of this fascinating, lost story of Bondi Beach.' State Library curator of photographs Alan Davies said.

'Beachobatics' were dramatic gymnastic displays with daring manoeuvres like the 'throw up bird' and 'jack knife', executed by members of the Graham Men's Gymnastic Club.

The club boasted celebrity member Wal Balmus, who shot to fame as Tarzan in the Tarzan's Grip logo.

The negatives were discovered last year by the late photographer's son.

Davies said Caddy's images of parading lifesavers, fashionable sunbathers and 'beachobatic' rivaled his contemporary, Max Dupain.

'George was everything Max wasn't because he obviously loved photographing people; there's an extraordinary photo of a man standing on top of a sunbaker which pre-dates Max's iconic Sunbaker,' Davies said.

Caddy was better known for his dancing, winning jitterbugging contests in Sydney at places like the Trocadero.

Of the 900 images he produced, only 290 still exist.

Delegates thrash out new digital standards

Forty six international standards experts met in Wellington recently to thrash out details for new standards necessary to ensure the survival of digital records.

‘This International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) technical committee sets global policies and practices in place to safeguard our digital future,’ New Zealand’s chief archivist Dianne Macaskill said.

‘This week’s meeting was designed to maintain the impetus on current work and to set the upcoming program to ensure we are keeping up with the fast changing digital world.

‘It is imperative we have well thought out recordkeeping, digitisation and digital preservation standards which are adopted universally so information is maintained and available in the digital environment now and in the future.

‘Topics up for discussion included digital preservation functionality requirements, guidelines for digitising records and digital records conversion processes.’

Macaskill said this meant, for example, setting standards for metadata so that in five years’ time it is known what the record is and it can be transferred from one platform to another and still be accessed and understood.

Jointly hosted by Archives New Zealand and Standards New Zealand this was the first time this ISO meeting had been held in New Zealand.

It brought together delegates nominated by the national standards bodies in their own countries.

The group meets twice annually with delegates representing the private sector, government standard bodies, archives, libraries and universities.

Council unveils three new web resources

Three new online resources have been launched by the Collections Council at its end of year event in Adelaide.

Guest speaker Greg Mackie, the new chair of the Cultural Ministers Council standing committee, gave public assurance of the Collection Council’s future funding through to June 2011.

The new resources are:

- The Collaborative Projects Showcase, which aims to inform and inspire people who are considering their own collaborative project. It also provides an opportunity for organisations within the collections sector to share their experiences;
- Standards And Guidelines: an E-directory (SAGE). This exposure draft is an online directory intended to provide up-to-date and reliable information to assist collecting organisations identify standards and guidelines that meet their specific needs; and
- Digital Standards Bibliography Version 2.0: Exposure Draft. The Bibliography was initially developed to support the CCA’s Summit on Digital Collections in August 2006 and has now been revised to update the standards provided to publish it independently.

All three resources are interactive.

Tasmania launches latest Let’s Read program

A program to support early years literacy in local communities is now operating in the Huon Valley municipality of Tasmania.

Launching the Let’s Read program in Huonville, Member for Franklin Ross Butler said that the Tasmanian Government recognised the importance of early literacy development of babies and pre-school children.

‘Reading stimulates brain development and babies who are read to regularly develop listening skills and familiarity with printed works which gives them a head-start with reading and writing,’ Butler said at the launch.

‘Let’s Read promotes and supports parents to read aloud with young children from birth to five.

‘In Tasmania, it’s being delivered through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Education, The Smith Family and the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute’s Centre for Community Child Health.

‘Let’s Read provides high quality reading resources to parents and trains trusted community members to work with parents.

‘Community-wide activities provide opportunities to support parents.’

Butler said that the Huon Valley community had set up a Let’s Read Steering Group as part of its Early Years Group.

He said people in the community had been trained and materials ordered.

‘This year every child in the region can receive a Let’s Read pack consisting of a bag, age appropriate book, DVD, parent tip sheet and book suggestions,’ Butler said.

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'The full pack is designed to be delivered at one of four points during a child's development – four months, 12 months, 18 months and three and a half years.

'Parents' tips and book suggestions will continue at intervals between birth and five years and babies will receive the full pack for the next two years.'

Thirteen municipalities across Tasmania have already implemented Let's Read and over 10,000 packs of resources have been delivered to these communities.

CATALOGUED

Metcalfe wins ALIA's Metcalfe Award

This year's Metcalfe Award has been awarded to Kate Davis, a librarian at the Gold Coast City Council library service.

The Metcalfe Award recognises high achievement by an ALIA personal member in their first five years of practice in libraries and information services and commemorates John Metcalfe and his contribution to librarianship and library education.

Metcalfe was New South Wales state librarian before he became university librarian at the University of New South Wales.

He established the Australian Institute of Librarians, later to be renamed the Library Association of Australia and served a term as president of each.

The ALIA directors said Davis was an outstanding candidate for the Metcalfe Award.

'She has contributed to the profession through her work in national and public libraries, and has supported her new generation/graduate colleagues through her very active participation in newgen groups, the New Librarians Symposium and through personal support to her colleagues,' they said.

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ALIA Information Online Conference and Exhibition 2009

Early bird registration has been extended to Friday 5th December 2008, Hurry don't miss out! Early bird registration will not be extended again.

With early bird registration being extended one month, it is time to submit your registration form to attend Information Online 2009, the leading conference and exhibition for the online information industry in the Asia-Pacific region.

Information Online will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney Australia from Tuesday 20 to Thursday 22 January 2009 with a number of engaging satellite events available on Monday 19 and Friday 23 January.

The trade exhibition has grown to become the largest event of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region and showcases a diverse range of exhibitors and the 2009 conference is no exception.

Register online now or before 5 Dec 08 at www.information-online.com.au (or phone 02 9437 9333) to secure the early bird discount. You can also register online to stay up to date with the latest Information Online news.

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- Are able to travel and work non-standard hours when required.

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WHAT'S ON

CONFERENCES

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

Hamish Keith – *Native Wit*
Central City Library, Auckland
December 10, 5.30pm

EXHIBITIONS

Free Falling
Northern Territory Library
Until December 5

Paintings by David Reid
Waverley Library, Sydney
Until December 7

Home Truths
State Library of NSW
Until December 7

60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Murdoch University Library
Until December 10

once more with feeling – Ann Shelton
Hocken Gallery
University of Otago Library
Until January 24

From Manuscript to Print
Morris Miller Library
University of Tasmania
Until January 30

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

Game On
State Library of Queensland
Until February 15

Bondi Jitterbug: George Caddy and his Camera
State Library of NSW
Until February 22

Hobart Town Rivulet - Artists' Impressions
Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts
State Library of Tasmania
Until February 28

The photography of Professor John Smith 1855-80
Fisher Library
University of Sydney
Until February 28

Thomas Griffith Taylor – Prophet and Pariah
National Library of Australia
Until March 22

Brutal, Tender, Human, Animal: Roger Ballen Photography
National Library of Australia
Until March 22

Studio: Australian Painters Photographed by R Ian Lloyd
Keith Murdoch Gallery
State Library of Victoria
Until March 29

An Impressive Silence – Public Memory and Personal Experience of the Great War
Archives New Zealand, Wellington
Until May 29