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Public Libraries Summit takes shape

Public libraries across Australia are being encouraged to appoint local ambassadors to promote the role of library services across the community.

Appointing ambassadors is a key stage in the build-up to next year's invitation only Public Libraries Summit to be held in Canberra on March 26.

The summit is an initiative of the Australian Libraries and Information Association and the public library associations in each state and territory.

It is being supported by Public Libraries Australia (PLA), the state and territory public library associations, National and State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) and Friends of Libraries Australia (FOLA).

ALIA executive director Sue Hutley said that while the summit was by invitation only, members of the profession could have their say by making a submission.

Hutley said the Public Libraries Summit was designed for key stakeholders in the sector to meet with senior members of government at federal, state/territory and local level.

"The summit is not about librarians talking about libraries to other librarians," Hutley said.

"It's about the opportunity of having others learning and talking about us.

"The invitation list is actually limited to about 50 people who can influence discussion.

"So to give an indication of the sort of people coming, it's ministers or their nominees, senior people in local government – that sort of thing."

Hutley also said parliamentarians would also be invited from government and opposition parties.

She said people working in the public library sector should be reassured that the summit was for them, even though they won't be attending.

"I guess that's where the submissions process and the local ambassadors come in," she said.

Continued Page 3

Final ALN for 2009 – and my final edition as editor

After seven and a half years and 365 editions, I have decided to move on from Australian Library News to some other opportunities.

I would like to thank all my readers for their loyal support – many of you have been with me from the very beginning.

Thorpe-Bowker publisher Tim Coronel will be in charge until a replacement editor is appointed.

Have a Merry Christmas and a safe and successful New Year, and I trust Santa will bring you that recurrent funding increase you've been hoping for all year,

December 18, 2008 Issue 356

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Australian Library News

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NEWS

National Library Fellowship on hold during building



The National Library of New Zealand will not offer its Research Fellowship between 2009 and 2012 due to the redevelopment of the National Library building in Wellington.

The building is being redeveloped to provide greater access and improved service for customers, a better working

environment for staff, and improved capacity and storage conditions for collections.

The library staff, collections and services will move out of the Molesworth Street building during 2009 and operate from several temporary locations until the end of 2011.

Because of the size of the collections, which form more than 95 kilometres of material, no single location is big enough for all staff and collections.

This means that staff members and collections will be moved into several different spaces, and the ways in which items can be accessed by researchers will change.

The changes will mean the library cannot offer the usual services and assistance to the Research Fellow.

After considerable deliberations, it has been agreed that the Fellowship will not be offered for the duration of the building redevelopment.

During this time the Fellowship will be reviewed and refreshed, and a new look scheme launched following the opening of the redeveloped National Library in 2012.

Waikato researchers create digital library on an iPod

Researchers from the Greenstone digital library software project at the University of Waikato have created an experimental prototype which enhances an ordinary personal media player by adding digital library capabilities.

'We're talking truly vast portable storage capacity,' Dr David Bainbridge said.

'In terms of text storage, it equates to downloading the contents of a medium-sized university library onto something the size of a matchbox.'

Bainbridge said the researchers had reached proof of concept stage for the prototype, which also allows the mobile device to be configured as a web server.

'This means you could use your iPod to deliver digital library content over a network, so you could read the book of your choice on a full screen.'

Bainbridge and his co-researchers have just won a best paper award for their research at the annual International Conference on Asia-Pacific Digital Libraries (ICADL), held in Bali earlier this month.

The research is part of Waikato University's internationally-awarded Greenstone project, which allows communities all over the world to build their own open access digital libraries.

Bainbridge said there were still a number of obstacles to be overcome, such as copyright issues and the cost of digitising all those books.

Quote of the Week

'Suppose ... burglars had made entry into this ... [library]. Picture them seated here on this floor, pouring the light of their dark-lanterns over some books they found, and thus absorbing moral truths and getting moral uplift. The whole course of their lives would have been changed. As it was, they kept straight on in their immoral way and were sent to jail. For all I know, they may next be sent to Congress.'

Mark Twain – US author (1835-1910)

Public Libraries Summit takes shape

“Public libraries will be able to tell their stories through submissions and also from getting a local ambassador.

“We’ve never done anything like this before – I mean getting someone from the local community involved.

“We’re talking a senior person from a community – be it a rich person or a famous person. Every public library in Australia has one and it’s an opportunity to approach them.”

She said the more people at a local level who knew about issues such as funding and usage statistics, the more chance there was to engage with government decision makers about the problems.

Suggested topics for submissions include:

- Priorities public libraries share with the federal government;
- Valuing the contribution of public libraries by economic, environmental and social impacts illustrated by powerful case studies;
- Public libraries and the digital economy;
- Public libraries and e-government and e-democracy;
- Public Library Best Practice and best value with examples;
- Role of public libraries in information literacy from early childhood, to adults to seniors;
- Reducing fragmented, competing and duplicated funding models operating at local, state and national levels;
- New partnerships with other cultural institutions for cooperation and joint projects;
- New partnerships and working with the non-profit sector; and
- Public Library ethos - ALIA, UNESCO, IFLA values and policies

The papers must be submitted by February 27 and will be distributed to all summit participants to consider.

ACADEMICS

Time capsule in place at Monash campus library



A time capsule has been put in place at Monash University’s Peninsula Library to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the campus./

The capsule was unveiled by Phillip Steele, pro vice-chancellor (campus coordination) and Cathrine Harboe-Ree, the university librarian, in a small ceremony attended by campus and library staff and visiting South African colleagues.

The capsule plinth weighs 250kg and is made of black granite, with a plaque on top stating ‘the capsule presents a way of capturing the rich sense of community that encompasses the Peninsula Campus and preserving a slice of this for future generations’.

It is due to be opened in the centenary year of 2058.

The library was deemed the most obvious location for the time capsule as historically it represents the recorded history of the Peninsula Campus.

Items in the capsule include various letters to the future from staff and students, the *Monash Magazine* jubilee edition, *Still Learning: A 50 year History of Monash University Peninsula Campus*, various handbooks, newsletters and guides from faculties, photographs of the campus past and present, a bottle of commemorative wine and text books representing the first year of study for the three major faculties.

ACU helps put range of church documents online

A joint project to make important church documents accessible online has been launched by Church Resources and Australian Catholic University (ACU National).

The documents, created in Latin by a number of Popes and covering such subjects as faith, humanity, life and religion, will be translated, summarised and interpreted in their historical context by ACU National academics with expertise in theology, philosophy and religious education.

Teachers, students and anyone wanting a deeper understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church are expected to benefit.

‘This project is entirely consistent with the Catholic identity and Mission of Australian Catholic University,’ vice-chancellor Professor Greg Craven said.

‘We are delighted to help make available some of the riches of the Catholic intellectual tradition to people of all backgrounds.’

ALN News

'It's enormously important for the university to make these types of documents accessible.

'This is a great collaborative venture in a university that is to be increasingly committed to research and intellectual engagement in theology, philosophy and church history.'

In the next five years summaries of up to 40 significant documents are expected to be made freely available online by Church Resources, a charitable trust, established by the Bishops of the Catholic Church, with a mission to facilitate participation in and contribute to the era of on-line and digital communication for the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel and building community.

Church Resources executive director Father Michael Kelly praised the university's emphasis on research and providing resources of vital importance, describing the partnership as 'a joy and a pleasure'.

PUBLICS

Caloundra Library to run on green power

Caloundra Library on Queensland's Sunshine Coast will be run exclusively on green energy for the next six months after it won power from 100 per cent renewable sources from Ergon Energy.

The power supply is part of the prize for Caloundra's win as Queensland's Tidiest Town for 2008.

The prize will allow the library to run on green energy until June 2009.

The library was chosen as the beneficiary of the prize by the Caloundra City Tidy Towns Group because it is the most popular council facility in the Caloundra area – attracting up to 1000 visitors a day – and therefore one the whole community regularly uses and enjoys.

Councillor Keryn Jones said the prize fitted perfectly with council's plan to cut carbon emissions across all its areas of operations.

'It's great to see a public building that is so well used by residents being powered on green energy,' she said.

'Council purchases some green energy for its operations currently and will be seeking to increase the percentage of energy from renewable sources in the future.

'Council intends that this will be the start of many initiatives that result in council operations dramatically reducing their carbon footprint for the sake of the environment and the future of the region.'

Sydney council launches men only reading group

The Mayor of the City of Canterbury in Sydney, Councillor Robert Furolo, has encouraged local residents to join a new book group for men at Campsie Library.

'For some adults, reading books may sometimes be dismissed as an underrated hobby or interest that they have put on the shelf behind other priorities in their lives,' Furolo said.

'It's a sad fact that some men may only venture into their local library to collect their children after school.

'Life can sometimes seem too busy for books, especially for us men, but it's important that we make quality time to develop our literacy skills and expand our horizons through reading.

'For this reason we are establishing a men's reading group at Campsie Library, which will give men of all ages an opportunity to share and develop a common interest in reading fiction while exchanging ideas on favourite titles.

'This group will also be a great way to broaden social circles and make new friends in our local community.'

Refurbished Perth library officially opened

The Perth-based City of Wanneroo has celebrated the official opening of the newly upgraded Yanchep Two Rocks Library.

Councillor Laura Gray opened the facility, which has had an upgrade to improve the existing building and services, provide an additional 10,000 books, a refurbished children's reading area and extended operating hours.

Gray said the City of Wanneroo acknowledged the importance of literacy and learning and was committed to continually improving library services to cater for the needs of the city's rapidly expanding population.

'The city has four public libraries that provide state-of-the-art library services, we have a free Books on Wheels service for housebound residents and there are opportunities for residents to access library resources online in their own homes,' she said.

'The city is also scheduled to conduct a feasibility study early next year, looking into future development opportunities for library services in the northern suburbs, particularly for the rapidly expanding populations within Yanchep and Two Rocks.'

Mayor Jon Kelly said residents would also have access to advanced library services with the opening of the new City of Wanneroo Library and Cultural Centre, which is due for completion mid next year.

'This \$18 million dollar state-of-the-art project will be one of the first of its kind in Western Australia and will feature a museum, touring exhibitions and community function space,' he said.

ALN News

Historic New Zealand papers put on line

Over 100,000 pages of diaries, correspondence, letter books, telegrams and other papers from Sir Donald McLean are now accessible online through the Alexander Turnbull Library's new website, Manuscripts & Pictorial.

Curator of Manuscripts at the Alexander Turnbull Library David Colquhoun said no other single person played as significant a part in mid-19th century New Zealand history as Sir Donald McLean.

'There were other figures whose actions and arguments shaped that history,' he said.

'But none had such an ongoing influence. He was a dominating figure during a particularly tumultuous time in our history.'

Sir Donald McLean was the chief land purchase officer during the years leading up to the 1860s land wars, first Native Secretary and, later, Native Minister up until just before his death in 1877.

His papers have long been regarded as one of the key primary sources for 19th-century historical research, but their size and relative inaccessibility has often daunted researchers.

The papers, one of the most heavily used collections at the library, comprise letters, including the largest surviving series of Maori-language letters from the 19th century, extensive diaries and notebooks, telegrams, letter books, reports and other documents from his long career.

'This is by far the largest digitisation project of manuscript material in New Zealand to date,' Colquhoun said.

'It is a major achievement of the team of digital specialists, archivists, historians and te reo experts to make these papers so much more widely available in this way.

'The papers are a significant collection that will be of interest to researchers of all kinds from local historians to Treaty claim researchers, educators, biographers, iwi historians and linguists.'

Of particular significance are the 3000 letters from Maori.

They are a rich source for understanding Maori attitudes to land ownership and sale, as well as the social history of Maori communities and inter-hapu politics.

They also allow further research by linguists and other language scholars about the early development of Maori as a written language.

SPECIALS

Historic Tasmanian convict records put on line



Tasmanian convict records are now available online for the first time after they were digitised as part of improvements to the state's library and archive services.

The records document the lives of more than 75,000 people transported to Tasmania from 1803 to 1853.

'These meticulously kept records are a significant and irreplaceable part of the world's cultural heritage,' Premier David Bartlett said.

'They were included on the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) International Memory of the World register in 2007 and can now be accessed via the state library website.'

The Premier was speaking at the launch of the new zone, which has seen the Archives Office of Tasmania and the Heritage Collections of the State Library relocated to the library's State Reference Service in Hobart.

'Our culture and identity are important and I believe that all Tasmanians should have easy access to information about their own history and heritage,' Bartlett said.

'The programs and services of the Archives Office of Tasmania and Heritage Collections of the State Library have been brought together to provide unprecedented access to Tasmania's documentary heritage.

'The new Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office will give Tasmanians access to a collection of unparalleled depth and breadth including books, periodicals, newspapers, maps, audio, video, films and kilometres of government records which all provide valuable information about Tasmania's past.

'The service's new location will provide the community with a central service point for reference, archive and heritage collections.

'The area also includes a new integrated family history service.

This is complemented by a Virtual Library so that Tasmanians can explore their cultural and documentary heritage online, anywhere, anytime.'

Government announces \$400 million skills boost

Federal Education Minister Julia Gillard has announced a \$500 million injection into the country's public skills and training infrastructure.

The Teaching and Learning Capital Fund for Vocational Education and Training is part of a \$4.7 billion nation-building infrastructure package.

The \$500 million will be distributed through two streams focused on modernising and improving the quality of teaching and learning across the vocational education and training sector, with \$400 million going towards the TAFE sector.

'All TAFEs across Australia will be eligible to receive a grant of up to \$8 million to help them address immediate maintenance needs, small capital works and equipment and plant purchase,' Gillard said.

'Individual TAFE institutes will be expected to provide expressions of interest supported by state and territory governments to outline how the funding will be directed to address maintenance backlogs, which are inhibiting capacity and the ability to provide state-of-the-art training.'

TAFE institutes will also be able to apply for competitive grants of up to \$10 million to:

- Adjust to the emerging training needs of the local economies in which they operate; and
- Boost the visibility and capacity of the training system to address industry's emerging green skills requirements.

Projects will need to outline how capital works and provision of technology and equipment would enable the TAFE institution, together with industry partners, to:

- re-skill and up-skill workers in regions undergoing industry based or regionally based structural adjustment;
- enhance industry-TAFE partnerships for the critical area of green skills training in building and construction other sectors.

Funding in this process will be prioritised according to criteria including social and economic indicators for the region and the delivery of training to selected industries with significant potential to improve environmental impact. Industry collaboration and co-investment will be encouraged.

Adult and Community Education providers will be able to apply for small grants of up to \$100,000 to assist with maintenance or the purchase of equipment and for larger grants of up to \$1 million for major upgrades.

'This investment will assist in boosting the capacity of this sector to deliver relevant training to individuals who are taking steps to improve their employability, literacy and numeracy and job skills,' Gillard said.

'The government is committed to lifting workforce participation and productivity in Australia, allowing the Australian economy to continue to expand and deliver prosperity to future generations of Australians.

'These investments will revitalise TAFE institutes and community education providers to give Australians the depth and breadth of skills they need for a 21st century economy.'

SCHOOLS

Minister opens new WA school library



A West Australian primary school that first welcomed students the year the pencil was invented, has opened its new library.

Heritage-listed Highgate Primary School, which opened on November 1, 1895, has received \$1 million of improved facilities including the new library and upgraded car park facilities.

WA Education Minister Liz Constable said the upgraded library would provide students with the very latest technology and complement the strong literacy and information based learning focus at the school.

'The previous library was housed in converted classrooms and this new facility, with additional space and increased opening hours, is a great enhancement to the school's learning environment,' Constable said.

Additional improvements at the school, one of the oldest in WA, included the replacement of the existing car park, upgrading the power supply, an additional storeroom and a paved courtyard.

The Minister acknowledged the strong parental, school and community involvement in the creation of the upgraded facilities.

'Over recent years a dedicated group of parents has given their professional service and advice for free, to help develop a comprehensive plan for the school upgrade,' she said.

'The school has also made a significant financial contribution to the cost of the upgrade.'

ALN News

Accelerate reading program working well

An accelerated reading program has increased reading and comprehension levels among students at Bemboka Public School in New South Wales.

Principal Wes Unicomb said the program – Accelerated Reader – had allowed the school near Bega to better match reading material to the reading level of students in Years 2 to 6.

‘Schools are very good at matching children to texts at the K to Year 2 stage, but as children get older it gets harder to find texts for children that interest them and are at their reading level,’ Unicomb said.

The program works by taking resources from the school library and storing them in the classroom according to reading level categories.

Based on assessment activities, the students can then choose a book that matches their reading level before completing a computer-based, multiple-choice quiz.

The program produces a report that reveals comprehension accuracy and provides teachers with a record of texts read by the students.

‘We can then integrate that information into a range of other reading activities and continue to retest the student and move them up to more challenging reading material,’ Unicomb said.

He said the school’s literacy results had improved since the program was introduced three years ago.

But he said the most positive outcome had been ‘the greater engagement of children in independent reading and home reading in the primary years’.

CATALOGUED

Shake up at Southern Downs

There has been a shake-up at Southern Downs Regional Council libraries.

Previous Warwick Library librarian Christine Taylor has now taken on the same role at the Stanthorpe Library.

As a result, there is now a vacancy for a librarian at the Warwick Library.

Previous manager for Warwick, Allora and Mobile Libraries, Samantha Shelbourn, has been appointed as the Southern Downs Regional Council principal librarian.

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WHAT'S ON

CONFERENCES

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

Susan Duncan – *The House
Hornsby Library*, Sydney
February 5, 6.30pm

EXHIBITIONS

An Exhibition of Early Ponsonby Photographs.

Leys Institute (Ponsonby) Library
Until December 31

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

Once Upon a Time

Auckland Central City Library
Until February 28

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