

THORPE-BOWKER'S AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY NEWS

The weekly news & information service for library & information professionals



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A library summit ... without too many librarians

This year's ALIA public libraries summit is an invitation-only event, and takes the unprecedented step of deliberately not having invited many librarians.

ALIA president Sue Hutley said the organisation wanted to avoid the situation where 'librarians are just talking to librarians—we know what a great job we do!' Instead the summit, which is being held in Canberra on Thursday March 26, will include decision-makers and people who influence areas of government policy.

ALIA vice president Jan Richards explained that 'we know we can add value to what the Federal Government is doing and we need to do is work out how we can best work together. So invitees include representatives from Federal and State departments whose portfolios include libraries and also those in departments which ALIA feels would benefit from the interaction.'

The focus of the day is to make attendees aware of the potential of the vast public library network—to champion social inclusion and community benefit. Parliamentary secretary assisting the Prime Minister for Social Inclusion, Senator Ursula Stephens, will be making the opening address.

Representatives from each of the state-based public library associations will be invited to attend as observers so that they can report back to their members.

Richards was keen to stress that while the summit is an invitation-only event, individuals and library groups are invited to submit working papers. Papers may be based on the topics suggested on the [ALIA website](http://www.alia.org.au) or a similar relevant topic, and need to be submitted by Friday 27 February.

If you have any queries, please contact Marion Nicolson on tel (02) 9310-2220, email marion.nicolson@alia.org.au. Information and updates on the summit are available on the ALIA website or through the associated blog www.alia.org.au/summit09.

12 February 2009 Issue 360

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Publishers and booksellers offer to help schools and libraries recover from Victoria bushfires

The Australian Publishers Association (APA) and the Australian Booksellers Association (ABA) will work with the Victorian government to assist communities affected by the bushfires that have killed more than 180 people in Victoria this week.

ABA CEO Malcolm Neil and APA CEO Maree McCaskill said their members had been calling to offer their assistance and donate books and resources. 'The response has been fantastic and we will need that support when the Victorian government indicates they are ready to proceed,' said McCaskill. The booksellers' and publishers' efforts are being organised in conjunction with recovery plans being prepared by the State Library of Victoria and the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Victorian branch.

Neil and McCaskill told the [Weekly Book Newsletter](#) that at this time members of both organisations and their staff are being encouraged to donate immediately to the various funds established to help victims of the fires.

'However in the longer term there will be a rebuilding phase for those communities. It is then that the book industry will be needed to co-ordinate a response through the Victorian government to provide replacement educational materials for children and replenish library stocks lost in the fires,' said a joint statement. 'The ABA and the APA will work together to co-ordinate the supply of books and educational resources to those communities when they are ready.'

The associations, on behalf of their members, expressed their condolences 'to the families and communities of Victoria who have been subjected to such tragedy.'

ALN understands that a number of businesses have already stepped in to provide more immediate assistance, such as [Campion Education](#)—which has been providing free replacement school texts—and [DA Information Services](#)—which has offered its warehousing and distribution services in Melbourne's eastern-suburban Mitcham as a coordination point for donations of books.

As *ALN* receives further news as to how people may help donate books or library services to the regions and towns affected by the fires, we will inform readers as to how they can help.

Donations can be made to the [Red Cross bushfires appeal here](#), or for further information on how to direct contributions see the [ABC Online website here](#).

Queensland libraries weather floods



Three weeks of widespread flooding in Queensland has stranded some libraries, made some busier than ever, and in some cases has seen people coming by boat to borrow books. But luckily all the libraries contacted by *ALN* appear to have escaped serious flood damage and were all counting their blessings as waters failed to rise high enough to ruin their collections.

Ingham, situated between Cairns and Townsville, was one of the worst-hit areas—with stranded flood victims being offered food drops (photo at right contributed to [the ABC's website](#)). Ingham library, which usually offers respite for people stranded in town by floodwaters, was itself inaccessible because of floodwaters. Fran Moroney, manager of library and cultural services at the Ingham library, said that water reached the carpark but no higher. 'We usually stay open so backpackers can shower and have somewhere to hang about—but not his time as no one could get in,' she told *ALN*. The waters reached up the stairs leading from the carpark, but no higher so the collection and the furnishings are safe. [cont ...]

She said they were also worried about their Halifax branch, but someone had rung her earlier in the week and told her that water had come onto the grass area at the back of the library, but that a new levy bank had obviously done its work, and the flood water had reached no higher.

At the Dorothy Jones Library in Tully the flood meant it was almost a case of standing-room only. The library is in town and was well away from flood waters, and became a popular daily refuge for stranded backpackers who would normally be out working on the banana plantations. Luckily they had people in town to open and staff the library. Assistant library administrator Maxine Marsh said 'it was really noticeable how busy we were. Every chair was taken and there were even people sitting at the computers reading, not even using the computers, because every other chair was taken.'

At Normanton in the Carpentaria Gulf area, flood waters came within six metres of the library, but library officer Philomena Johnston said the library hadn't had to close at all. Although the town itself was cut off by flood waters, the library had been really busy with people borrowing books and coming to use the town's only public internet facility. In fact the library had been really busy, according to Johnston, with people coming to the town from outlying stations by helicopter (the library's catchment area extends as far as 500 kilometres away) and some people even arriving by boat. In light of the conditions, Johnston said the Normanton Library staff would also be lenient issuing fines, since many people on the outlying stations couldn't get in to town to return books. 'We're not complaining at all though,' she said 'what we have here is nothing compared to what those poor people in Victoria are going through.'

At Charters Towers Excelsior, library administrator Colleen Moss said the town had been cut off on and off for over a week and had started to run out of fresh fruit, vegetables and milk—but that it was 'business as usual' for the library.

At Wongaling Beach Library at Mission Beach, library administrator Claire Shepherd said she had to close the library for an afternoon, because of a rising creek and the fear of being cut off—but other than that, they hadn't been affected.

Although it is still raining in Richmond, and some stations have had more rain in the past month than in the previous six years, the librarian in charge David Quickling said the luckily the library was high and dry.

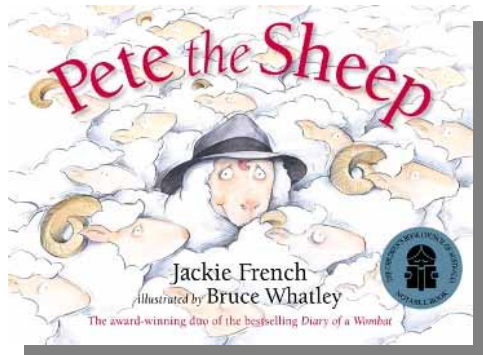
Help for flood or fire-damaged collections

The Collections Council of Australia has released special advice for people trying to salvage surviving family or community collections of documents, photographs, books, jewellery, medals, pictures and other keepsakes. They also suggest directing people to the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials, the professional organisation for conservators in Australia. www.aiccm.org.au, or alternatively going to the relevant state or national cultural organization and asking to speak to their conservation department.

There is also a free booklet *Bushfires Protect Your Precious Possessions*, produced by University of Melbourne with funding from Emergency Management Australia at www.culturalconservation.unimelb.edu.au/publications/bushfires.html

National Archives Australia also has a very comprehensive list of advice which includes some pre-emptive preservation. Visit www.naa.gov.au/services/family-historians/looking-after/fire.aspx

Don't be sheepish—join in National Simultaneous Storytime



The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) has announced that *Pete the Sheep* by Jackie French (HarperCollins) is this year's book for the National Simultaneous Storytime on Wednesday 27 May. Now is its ninth year, the National Simultaneous Storytime is a major event aiming to promoting the value of reading and literacy; the value of books; an Australian writer and publisher; and storytime activities in public libraries and communities around Australia.

Last year more than 110,000 children were read to in a simultaneous reading of *Arthur* (written by Amanda Graham, illustrated by Donna Gynell, Era Publications) in 830 locations around Australia. This year's reading will take place at 11am. For more information and a registration form visit www.alia.org.au/advocacy/storytime/2009/.

Library Lovers Day



Don't forget it is Library Lovers Day this Saturday February 14 and make sure you have fun.

Thorpe Bowker, publisher of *ALN*, is offering existing subscribers the chance to win an upgrade to a one-year subscription to its 'Library Intelligence Pack'—consisting of *ALN*, *Bookseller+ Publisher* magazine and its supplements, the *Weekly Book Newsletter*, *WBN Media Extra* and access to the www.booksellerandpublisher.com.au website—for the best and/or most original activity carried out by a library in recognition of the day.

Please send your description and photos to aln@thorpe.com.au by Friday February 20 2009.



Librarians get into the swing of things at the Medicare Australia Library during last year's Library Lovers Day.

Quote of the week

'A library is thought in cold storage'—*Herbert Samuel*.

ACADEMICS

Library offers students petrol or a beanbag

The University of Canterbury Library in Christchurch New Zealand has come up with a novel way to entice new students to go do a library tour during their orientation weeks. Any student doing a tour at any of the University's six libraries is in the running to win petrol, a beanbag, vouchers and 'other fun prizes.'

PUBLICS

Get yourself a celebrity

High-profile celebrities are no longer going to be just the domain of the glossy magazines—they will be the face of your local library if the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) has its way.

ALIA is calling on public libraries to adopt a local celebrity to help promote the wonders of a public library. These ambassadors could be authors, writers, actors, sports people—anyone who has a strong positive appeal and the respect of the community.

Mind you, ALIA vice-president Jan Richards said it is also important to look beyond the conventional Western perception of fame and celebrity. 'It's important not to ignore the less obvious candidates,' she said. 'There may be an ideal candidate who represents a different culture or faith, who is very well respected in your community and they may be able to reach out to groups who would be less impressed by more conventional spokespeople,' Richards explained.

The Ambassador program is the result of ALIA's recognition that we need a more positive appreciation of public libraries and to publicise the vital service public libraries offer. It will not replace the important work library advocates or [cont.]

Friends of Libraries groups, but will run parallel to it.

‘It is similar in concept to UNESCO’s goodwill ambassadors, an important difference is that ALIA Public Libraries Ambassadors will come from a broad cross-section of the Australian Community,’ says Richards. ‘Our goal is to have about 100 library Ambassadors around the nation from all walks of life. They can be grass-root members of the community or celebrity advocates who will use their profile or talent to promote the value of public libraries in their lives and to attract media attention.’

The Ambassador would need to provide a photograph and a short signed statement saying what they feel about local libraries and the value they bring the local community. This material can then be used on posters, bookmarks, media, the library website—anywhere you may want to promote the value of the library to the general public.

Ideally they would be available to promote a specific library event or program such as Library Lovers Day, Library and Information Week or a Summer reading or holiday program.

The Ambassador’s program will be officially launched at the Public Libraries Summit in Canberra on March 26 For more information about the program visit www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/public.libraries/summit09/

CATALOGUED

NLA to host literary speed-dating event

The National Library of Australia (NLA), Canberra, is hosting the event Literary Lovers: Speed Dating for Book Lovers, on Friday 20 February. Daters are to bring along their favourite book as an ice-breaker, and all guests will receive a complimentary glass of wine on entry. Jazz trio As Famous as the Moon will provide some music. ‘It’s for people who want to meet like-minded folk and discuss the pleasures of books,’ said NLA events manager Heidi Pritchard. The cost is \$30/\$25 concession and bookings can be made on (02) 6262 1271 or through bookings@nla.gov.au.

Get yourself a passport!

The theme for this year’s Libraries and Information Week from May 25-31 is ‘Libraries: your passport to discovery.’

CLASSIFIEDS

Reach thousands of library and information professionals by placing your announcements in this section. Classifieds are charged at \$1.10 +GST per word, with a minimum charge of \$38.50 +GST. The deadline for all advertising material is 5pm each Tuesday, Victorian time. Send material, together with your full billing and contact details, to aln@thorpe.com.au or fax +61 (0)3 8517 8399. THORPE-Bowker cannot guarantee inclusion of material unless confirmation is sought and a response received before deadline.



Thorpe-Bowker welcomes Matthew Hunter

Thorpe-Bowker would like to welcome Matthew Hunter as library sales manager. Matthew was previously with library management system provider, Civica, in the role of account manager and prior to this with Darebin Libraries. He takes over from Marta Nazarewicz and can be contacted on tel: (03) 8517-8360 or email: matthew.hunter@thorpe.com.au.

Reach thousands of library and information professionals by placing your job in this section. Situations vacant advertisements are charged at \$1.10 + GST per word, with a minimum charge of \$38.50 + GST. The deadline for all advertising material is 5pm each Tuesday, Victorian time. Send material, together with your full billing and contact details, to aln@thorpe.com.au or fax +61 (0)3 8517 8399. THORPE-Bowker cannot guarantee inclusion of material unless confirmation is sought and a response received before deadline.

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AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY NEWS
The weekly news & information service for library & information professionals

Thorpe-Bowker: Editor, *Australian Library News*, part-time/contract

Thorpe-Bowker is seeking an experienced communications professional to take on the role of editing and producing its weekly newsletter for libraries, *Australian Library News* and to contribute library articles to *Bookseller+Publisher* magazine.

The job occupies 2-3 days per week and while our preference would be for the position to be Melbourne-based, the successful applicant could also work from home anywhere in Australia.

The ideal candidate will have an in-depth knowledge of the library and information sector in Australia and New Zealand, and be able to demonstrate skills and experience across all areas of journalism, editing and production.

Remuneration will be commensurate with experience.

Please send applications consisting of a cover letter, CV and writing samples to:

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WHAT'S ON

CONFERENCES

Local Government Librarians' Association of Western Australia 2009 Conference
 Friday March 6
 Perth Convention exhibition Centre
www.loclib.org.au
rhorgan@canning.wa.gov.au

ATSILRN conference

April 15-16
 Broome
<http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atsilrn/home/index.html>
mjackson@sl.nsw.gov.au

Subject/Liaison librarian Workshop

April 15-16
 Tauranga Bay of Plenty Polytechnic, New Zealand
www.library.boppoly.ac.nz
margaret.jenner@boppoly.ac.nz

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

ALLA Evolution Conference

September 2-4
 Darwin Convention Centre
<http://www.alla.asn.au/>

ALIA 2009 National Library and Information Technicians Conference

September 15-18
 Adelaide Convention Centre
<http://www.alia.org.au/libtec2009/>

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

Graeme Lay – *In Search of Paradise*
Epsom Library, Auckland City Libraries
 February 25, 6-7pm

EVENTS

Library & Information Week
 May 25-31
www.alia.org.au/advocacy/liw

EXHIBITIONS

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

The Magic Pudding: Watercolours by Norman Lindsay
 The Picture Gallery
 State Library of New South Wales
 Until March 29

Australian Painters photographed by R. Ian Lloyd
 Keith Murdoch Gallery
 State Library of Victoria
 Until March 29

Lords of the Ring: Arnold Thomas boxing collection
 Visitor Centre & 4th Floor
 National Library of Australia
 Until April 5

Mawson and the Antarctic
 Treasures Wall
 State Library of South Australia
 Until April 30

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