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The weekly news & information service for library & information professionals

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Children flock to hear about a sheep named Pete



ALIA estimates that more than 100,000 children at some 850 locations around Australia took part in National Simultaneous Storytime on Wednesday 27 May.

This year's book was *Pete the Sheep*, by Jackie French, illustrated by Bruce Whatley.

Councillor Bruce Miller, who was recently made an ambassador for public libraries (*ALN* 14 May), wore a farmer's hat as he read the book to a crowd of enthusiastic pre-school children from two local child care centres, at Cowra library in NSW. It is reported that other libraries even went so far as to import livestock for the occasion.

A good week for ...

... an alternative way of thinking about public libraries as places where people *can* recharge their phones, laptops and scooters (*page 4*).



A bad week for ...

... library technicians in Tasmania, facing an unwelcome new grading structure (*page 2*).



AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY NEWS

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Library technicians call for a rethink of latest Tasmanian state service grading scheme

Library technicians in Tasmania are up in arms about the new state service restructure, which they feel has dealt a blow to their status as qualified members of the library team.

The restructure has seen four categories of state service employees – professional, administrative and clerical, technical and operational – reduced to two, professional and general, with library technicians falling under the latter heading.

During an email exchange, one library technician referred to the struggle for recognition in the 1990s when they were upgraded from clerical to technical, while another described the latest move as ‘going backwards fast.’

Jenny Rayner, manager of public library services at the State Library of Tasmania, explained, ‘The professional award is for people with degrees, mainly librarians and archivists in our organisation. The general award is for para-professionals and administrative staff, and includes people with diplomas and other qualifications in a wide range of subjects. By its very nature, it carries no requirement for mandatory qualifications in any particular discipline.’

Coinciding with the state service restructure is the establishment of the Community Knowledge Network (ALN, 23 April), which brings together libraries, adult education, the archives office and online access centres. Rayner said, ‘Given the new range of services, it is no longer appropriate to limit applicants for positions to qualified library technicians only. The general stream offers us more scope to broaden the skill base of our workforce.’

‘This doesn’t mean that qualifications will not be valued in the future, but there will be a wider range that will be relevant to our business, including training, IT, customer service and literacy support.’

‘When we advertise a job, we will have in mind a number of requirements that the successful candidate may bring to the table. We’ll be looking for the right combination of skills, qualifications and experience in every case.’

Asked to comment, ALIA executive director Sue Hutley said, ‘We have been in contact with our Tasmanian colleagues about this issue, and have written to government decision makers on behalf of ALIA members. We understand the pressure on the Tasmanian government and the education department, but as a professional association we are committed to supporting the value of core qualifications. We need more qualified librarians and library technicians to be employed and recognised for their skills and knowledge.’

INTERNATIONAL

Library services for the blind

A reading room for visually-impaired users has opened in Yinchuan city library in Ningxia Hui region, north west China, providing Braille and audio books, and talking internet browsers.

Book budgets take a pounding

A survey by Research Information Network (RIN) reveals that nearly 40% of UK university libraries, suffering from the drop in the value of sterling, are planning to cut book and journal purchases in 2010. Michael Jubb, director of RIN, said, 'In some libraries, the extra costs for journal licences that they will face next year, simply as a result of the fall in the value of the pound, exceed the total of their current budgets for buying books.'

www.rin.ac.uk

Partners to call Google to heel

The University of Michigan was the first institution to take part in Google's project to digitise library collections in 2004. Now, it has signed an expanded agreement with the company to give the university, and 28 other library partners, the right to challenge the pricing of institutional subscriptions to Google Book Search.

These libraries will be able to call for a review at two-yearly intervals, if they decide prices are too high.

Library staff take the credit

It's not only the British parliament that is experiencing an expenses scandal. Nineteen employees of a Kentucky library service have racked up US\$350,000—worth of expenses on library credit cards.

Intended for payments relating to travel and materials, the cards have been used for beer, wine, liquor, parties, and meals at smart restaurants. At least one member of staff has been fired for inappropriate use of their credit card. Chief executive Kathleen Imhoff said she is now reading the credit company bills as they arrive.

NEWS

**Qualifications take centre stage at library forum**

Library education was the most talked about topic on the agenda of the Peak Bodies Forum, held in Canberra last Friday. As a result, the National Library of Australia is planning to create a special event for employers and educators focusing solely on this area.

The Peak Bodies Forum is the annual by-invitation-only event that brings together the heads of the 10 top library organisations, including ALIA, CAUL, Public Libraries Australia and the Australian School Library Association. Host Jan Fullerton, director-general of the National Library told *ALN*, 'It's a forum for discussing the issues confronting everyone and an opportunity to see if there are common agendas, common approaches.'

The agenda for 2009 featured a broad span, including the effects of the global economic crisis on library budgets; national access for libraries to electronic resources; the dangers of an over-proliferation of library associations, and future directions for TAFE libraries.

Fullerton said, 'We talked about a range of issues, but the topic that led to most discussion was library education. We had a very interesting talk from Maureen Henninger of the University of Technology Sydney, about the range of courses and the variation in content and length. We decided that there should be a subsequent forum for employers and educators where we can have an even more frank discussion. I have no firm idea of the timescale yet. It will probably take place within the next year or so, but not in the next six months.'

She went on to explain: 'At the National Library, I suppose we have very different views from similar institutions, in that we don't require mandatory qualifications. It's a fact of life that there are not enough people coming out of library courses and so we seek our staff from anywhere in the community. They don't have to be librarians. This has some advantages when you're trying to recruit people with a range of skills. In fact, we're often envied by other organisations who have to recruit people with specific qualifications.'

More information about the Peak Bodies Forum at www.nla.gov.au.

'...there are not enough people coming out of library courses'

News story? Email us now—aln@thorpe.com.au

TENDERS

ICT architecture services

The National Museum of Australia is seeking tenders to provide information and communication technology infrastructure architecture services.

Closing date 1 June.

Digital system for AV content

The Department of Parliamentary Services is seeking hardware, software and services to construct a digital system for the capture, segmentation, delivery, archiving and management of audiovisual and audio-only content; and additional services to digitise the estimated 55,000 hours of recorded broadcast quality video of Parliamentary proceedings and special events.

Closing date 5 June.

Business case for digitisation

The National Library of Australia, the National Archives of Australia and the National Film and Sound Archive are seeking business and financial professional services for the preparation of a second pass business case for a budget proposal entitled *Dealing with the Digital Deluge*.

Closing date 10 June.

Indexing services required

The National Library of Australia is seeking indexing services for the articles currently included in the Australian Public Affairs Information Service (APAIS), and which will also be made available through Libraries Australia in the future.

The index records may be provided using DB/Textworks software or in XML format and in accordance with prescribed indexing protocols. The articles are from English language publications and the records are in English.

Closing date 26 June.

www.tenders.gov.au

New appointment?
Email us now at
aln@thorpe.com.au

NEWS

'It's not cheeky, it's good for business'

Last week's front page story about a mobility scooter user recharging their machine in a public library, 'There's cheeky—and there's really cheeky' (*ALN* 21 May), prompted Michael Scholtes, library service coordinator of the Melton library and information service in Victoria to get in touch.

Far from discouraging library users from plugging in their appliances, he told *ALN*, 'Both our libraries, in Caroline Springs and Melton, actively encourage members of the community who are electric scooter or wheelchair users to come into the library and recharge them. A lot of these devices have relatively limited battery levels and knowing that they can come into the library and plug them in gives people the confidence they need.' The cost of recharging an electric scooter or wheelchair is said to be less than 20 cents an hour.

'Not a lot of people use it, but it sends a great message out to the community about accessibility. We're also happy to recharge laptops and mobile phones as well. It's all about the library being a welcoming third place, the lounge room of the community.'

Melton library service is part of the Recharge scheme, developed by MetroAccess in the Shire of Nillumbik. Since its launch in 2006, it has spread to 50 councils in Victoria and more than 1000 locations.

Michael Scholtes is happy to provide further details—email michaels@melton.vic.gov.au or go to www.rechargescheme.org.au.



Recharging at Melton library

We've got the cash, where are the builders?

The Tasmanian Master Builders' Association has warned of a shortage of workers to carry out the school projects funded by the federal government's stimulus package, including the refurbishment of six libraries.

MBA state executive director Michael Kerschbaum said, 'If all the schools carried out work at the same time, it would be impossible.'

Campaign urges libraries to be ready for trouble

Blue Shield Australia has been promoting MayDay, a month-long national campaign to alert libraries, archives and museums to the need to have emergency plans in place, should disaster strike.

With this year's Victorian bushfires and the floods in Queensland and NSW, the campaign has been particularly pertinent. The MayDay web pages contain useful information about risk assessment, disaster-planning and the protection of collections in the event of a man-made or natural disaster.

For more information www.caara.org.au.



STATE LIBRARIES



NSW State Library snaps up colonial sketchbook

The State Library of NSW was the winning bidder at a Sotheby's auction earlier this month, paying out \$192,000 for a highly sought-after watercolour sketchbook, providing a visual record of life in Sydney in the early 1800s.

Chief executive Regina Sutton explained, 'I was determined to secure this high profile piece, which is absolutely unique for this period and significantly complements the library's unrivalled Macquarie collection.'

The paintings were produced by amateur artist Edward Close, an engineer with the military, who was stationed at Wynyard barracks from 1817. His sketchbook will be the centrepiece of the State Library's bicentennial celebrations of Governor Macquarie's regime and the centenary of the Mitchell Library in 2010.

Library treasures take to the road

The State Library of Victoria's Travelling Treasures program begins on 1 June, taking some of the most significant books and objects from its collection to public libraries and schools around the state.

Treasures include Captain James Cook's miniature celestial globe (*pictured*), his waistcoat, and one of Charles Darwin's most famous books, *On the Origin of the Species*.



Annual award for young writers in Queensland

The State Library of Queensland has launched its 2009 Young Writers' Award for would-be authors aged 18 to 25.

Entrants submit a short story of up to 2,500 words and the winner receives \$2000. This year's judging panel includes arts editor Suzanna Clarke and authors John Birmingham, Sue Gough and Alasdair Duncan, the latter an earlier recipient of the award.

The closing date is 20 July, more information from www.slq.qld.gov.au.

ALN's first guest editor

Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, chief executive of the State Library of Victoria (*pictured below*), will be guest editor of the 11 June issue of ALN.

Expect some interesting insights into the work that is going on in the State Library, as well as our usual round up of news and events from around Australia and New Zealand.



The Place for children

State arts minister John Day has officially opened The Place, a new area of the State Library of WA, for school groups and families. It is dedicated to children's literature and learning.

He said, 'The Place will play an increasingly significant role ... as it nurtures the next generation of readers.'

Closed for the holidays

However, in the same week, John Day confirmed that the State Library in Perth will close on all public holidays after 1 July, as part of his department's budget cuts.

Although there has been some criticism of the decision from the Future Perth think tank, the State Library has got off relatively lightly compared with the art gallery, which will close every Tuesday.

EXHIBITIONS

Ballet Russes Collection

National Library of Australia

Treasures Gallery 2010:**A Preview**

National Library of Australia

Until July 19

An Impressive Silence – Public Memory and Personal**Experience of the Great War**

Archives New Zealand, Wellington

Until May 29

Shakespeare: an exhibition of treasures from Auckland City Libraries

Central Library Auckland

Until May 31

Charles Darwin Down Under

State Library of NSW

Until July 26

In Living Memory: exhibition of photographs from the**Aborigines Welfare Board**

NSW regional tour

State Records of NSW

Until September 2010.

Exhibition of Leonardo's da**Vinci's *Codex Atlanticus***

Level 3, Fisher Library,

University of Sydney

Mirror of the World:**books and ideas**

Dome Galleries, Level 4

State Library of Victoria

The Independent Type: Books and Writing in Victoria

State Library of Victoria

Until October 25

Marranbala Country

Northern Territory Library

Until 30 May

Panoramic Queensland

State Library of Queensland

Until 12 July

Bold but Faithful: John Oxley Library at Work

State Library of Queensland

Until 11 October

CLASSIFIEDS

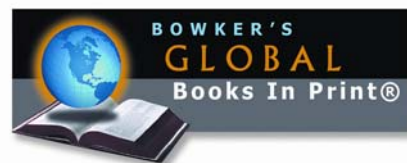
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All subscribers to GBiP receive a free subscription to our readers' advisory service, Fiction Connection. To subscribe to www.globalbooksinprint.com, or arrange a data extract from GBiP, contact Matthew Hunter (03) 8517-8360 or email matthew.hunter@thorpe.com.au.



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WHAT'S ON GUIDE 2009

Month	Dates	Title	Description	Location	More information
May	1-30	Information Awareness Month	Organised by the Records Management Association of Australasia	Australia-wide	www.rmaa.com.au
May	25-31	Library & Information Week	Major promotional opportunity for all libraries	Australia-wide	www.alia.org.au
May	28	Australia's Biggest Morning Tea	Cancer Council's popular fundraiser	Australia-wide	www.biggestmorningtea.com.au
May	28-30	Reading Matters Biennial Conference	Organised by the Centre for Youth Literature for students, professionals and the public	State Library of Victoria and Storey Hall	www.slv.vic.gov.au
June	1-7	Switched on Councils!	Local Government Week theme Powering Queensland Communities into Sustainability	Queensland	www.lgw.lgaq.asn.au
June	4	A Better Place to Live	Launch of Diana Giese's book	Northern Territory Library	www.ntl.nt.gov.au
June	5	School Libraries Leading Learning	Joint DET/ASLA Conference	New England Girls' School Armidale, NSW	www.aslansw.org.au

AWARDS

Closing dates

1 June

Library Technician Research Award and Ray Choate Scholarship

www.alia.org.au

30 June

HLinc honorary life membership
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~hlinc/index.htm>

1 July

Library Technician of the Year
www.alia.org.au

14 July

Australian and NZ Society of Indexers' Medal
www.anzsi.org

3 August

Premier awards and Excellence awards
www.alia.org.au

31 August

HLinc Pat Nakouz Award
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~hlinc/index.htm>

NEiTA awards open to teacher-librarians

The National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEiTA) 2009 have been launched, with nominations required by 31 July.

The annual awards are open to all teachers in kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, including teacher-librarians. Also known as the people's choice awards, they give parents and principals the opportunity to recognise inspirational teachers in their schools.

More information www.neita.com.au.



Melbourne's new awards for emerging writers

The City of Melbourne and Melbourne Library Service have joined forces to create the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards, in celebration of the city's status as the second UNESCO City of Literature.

The awards are for emerging Victorian writers, with a main prize of \$5000. Entries can be in one or more of four categories—general prose or poetry, e-book, three hour book or novella, and young writer, for those under 25 years of age.

The closing date is 31 August and the winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in November.

www.melbournelibraryservice.vic.gov.au



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June	19	AIS NSW Annual Conference	Association of Independent School teacher librarians of NSW	Powerhouse Museum, Sydney	www.aisnsw.edu.au
June	20-21	Froth and Bubble Literary Festival	Annual event	Torquay, Victoria	www.culture.gov.au
June	21-24	National General Assembly of Local Government	Theme is Rising to the Challenge—Infrastructure, Financing, Climate Change	National Convention Centre, Canberra	http://nga.alga.asn.au/event/2009/
June	22-23	Voices from the past: knowledge for the future	Two day master class in indigenous knowledge management	Sydney	www.arkgroupaustralia.com
June	24-26	Public Libraries NSW Country Symposium	20th anniversary of the founding of the Country Public Libraries Association of NSW	Parkes	Shellie Buckle (02) 6861 2309 shellie.buckle@parkes.nsw.gov.au
June	25-27	9th Australian Library History Conference	Theme Collections, Characters and Communities	Prahran Campus, Swinburne University, Centre for the Book	http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mivic/libhist.html
July	9	Constitution Day	Launch of Making Australia Home, the National Archives makes migration records available online	Australia-wide	www.naa.gov.au
July	16	Setting a National Agenda	ALIA Public Libraries Summit	National Library of Australia, Canberra	www.alia.org.au
July	20-22	The Limits of the Book	Bibliographical Society of Australia/NZ conference	The University of Queensland, Brisbane	www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/limits/
July	31	Experimenta	Media art curating forum	Albury Library Museum, Lavington, NSW	www.experimenta.org
August	3-9	Keeping It Local	Local Government Week (NSW)	NSW	www.lgsa-plus.net.au
August	6-10	Local Government Week	Western Australia event	Perth	
August	23	IFLA World Library and Information Congress	75th IFLA general conference and assembly	Milan, Italy	www.ifla.org
August	31-4	10th International Congress on Medical Librarianship	Co-hosted by University of Queensland Library and IFLA	Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre	www.icml2009.com
August	31-8	Ipswich Literature Festival: Book Safari	Organised by the Ipswich district teacher-librarian network	Ipswich, NSW	www.learningplace.com.au
September	2-4	ALLA Evolution Conference	Australian Law Librarians' Association	Darwin Convention Centre	www.alla.asn.au

Add your event—email aln@thorpe.com.au with the details and we'll include it in the next issue of
AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY NEWS

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Month	Dates	Title	Description	Location	More information
September	8	International Literacy Day	Founded by UNESCO in 1965	Worldwide	www.unesco.org
September	15-18	National Library and Information Technicians' Conference	Annual event for library and information professionals	Adelaide Convention Centre	www.alia.org.au
September	17-18	NSLA	National and State Libraries Australasia meeting	Adelaide	www.nsla.org.au
September	20-23	RMAA 26th Annual Convention	Organised by the Records Management Association of Australasia	Adelaide	www.rmaa.com.au
September	28-30	Turning Heads	School Library Association of NZ Aotearoa conference	Rangi Ruru Girls' School, Christchurch, NZ	www.eenz.com
September	29-2	Engage Explore Celebrate	Australian School Librarians' Association XXI biennial conference	Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre	www.asla.org.au
October	11-17	Voyaging Together: memory, integrity and sustainability	Australian Society of Archivists Conference	Brisbane	www.archivists.org.au
October	11-14	Change and Challenge	Public Libraries Australia and Queensland Public Libraries' Association joint conference	Jupiter's Casino Townsville, Queensland	rhenshaw@pla.org.au
October	12-14	LIANZA 2009	Library and Information Association of NZ conference	Christchurch Convention Centre	http://lianza.org.nz
October	15-16	People in the Information Profession	CAVAL, Emerald and ALIA conference	Victoria University Melbourne, Victoria	www.caval.edu.au/hrconference.html
October	15-17	The Practice of Indexing	Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers conference	Sydney	www.anzsi.org
November	23-25	SWITCH	Public libraries in a changing environment	Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre	www.plmns.org.au
November	26-27	NSLA	National and State Libraries Australasia meeting	To be confirmed	www.nsla.org.au

LOOKING AHEAD 2010

Month	Dates	Title	Description	Location	More information
February	9-11	Connections, Content, Conversations	VALA's 15th biennial conference	Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre	www.vala.org.au
August	10-11	Connection and Convergence	Second international conference on joint use in libraries	Adelaide	www.auslib.com.au