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Infrastructure cash windfall surprises council leaders

The Prime Minister used the Australian Council of Local Government meeting last week as the platform to announce a surprise cash bonus for Australia's 565 local councils.

He revealed a further \$245 million allocation for community infrastructure and sector reform initiatives.

Councillor Geoff Lake, president of the Australian Local Government Association, said, 'It shows that the Australian Government is serious

about backing up its new partnership with councils with real financial investment into local government. In the past six months, more than \$1 billion has been allocated by the Rudd Government to councils to fund community infrastructure at the local level. This is the most significant advancement in local government funding in almost a decade.

'We know that local government across the country faces a growing infrastructure funding deficit of more than \$14.5 billion and that somewhere

(continued on page 2)

A good week for ...

Public Libraries NSW Country, starting its 21st year with a party *(page 2)*.



A bad week for ...

Hopes of digitising orphan works held in UK libraries, with experts calculating it would take the equivalent of 16,000 years to track down rights holders *(page 3)*.



2 July, 2009 Issue 380

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In next week's issue:
Countdown to the ALIA
Public Libraries Summit
Canberra, 16 July

AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THORPE-BOWKER, A
DIVISION OF R R BOWKER LLC
(ABN: 87 082 599 102)
Level One, 607 St Kilda Road
Melbourne VIC 3004
www.thorpe.com.au

ISSN: 1445-8446
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NEWS



L to R: Brian Plummer, Amy Heap, Anne Reardon, Cr Yvonne Braid, Cr Ray Goodlass, Claire Campbell, Wendy Callis, Robert Knight, all from Riverina Regional Library

Librarians rock at 20th anniversary celebration

Last week, 150 members and guests gathered in Parkes, NSW, to celebrate 20 years of what was the Country Public Libraries Association of NSW and is now Public Libraries NSW Country.

The main event began with a reception and dinner, followed the next day by a symposium. Organiser Shellie Buckle, of Parkes public library, told ALN, 'We divided into smaller groups to talk about our strategy for the next three years, under five headings: lobbying and advocacy; governance; strategic partnerships; member services, and professional development. Looking back at the very first conference, held in Parkes in 1989, the same kind of issues were discussed then.'

After the serious business was out of the way, delegates headed for a local club and an evening with Elvis (well, someone who sounded a bit like him). Shellie explained, 'Each January, we have an Elvis festival in Parkes and the population virtually doubles. We thought it would be a good way to celebrate and everyone seemed to enjoy it.'

This wasn't the only musical tribute. Earlier in the day, Robert Knight, of Riverina regional library, led the south west zone's presentation, set to the tune of that old disco favourite *YMCA*, complete with dance routine. Sadly, we weren't able to get hold of a photograph of his team's performance.

For anyone who is interested in finding out more about the association, there's a new book, *The CPLA Celebrating 20 Years*. Contact Peter Conlon at Queanbeyan library—peter.conlon@qcc.nsw.gov.au.

Infrastructure windfall surprises council leaders

(continued from front page) between 10 to 30% of councils are facing bankruptcy unless there is urgent reform to local government funding. This extra money announced today is another step in the right direction to begin to turn this financing crisis around.'

The \$245 million is in three parts: \$25 million for reform initiatives; \$100 million to be shared between all councils and shires, and \$120 million for larger strategic projects, which will be awarded on a competitive basis.

It's this latter pot that has the most potential for public libraries.

ALN subscribers, please note that the email address you receive your ALN from will change in coming weeks. The new email address will be aln@emailthorpe.com.au.

Please add this address to your email program's 'whitelist' and/or inform your IT department to add @emailthorpe.com.au as an allowed domain in any spam filters or firewalls.

INTERNATIONAL

Posthumous award for British children's writer

The 2009 Carnegie Medal has been awarded to Siobhan Dowd, for her fourth and final novel *Bog Child*. The author died of breast cancer, aged 47, two years ago.

The Carnegie Medal, presented each year by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), is the UK's oldest and most respected award for children's writing.

The annual announcement of the Carnegie winner coincides with the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal for children's book illustration, which this year went to Catherine Rayner, for *Harris Finds His Feet*.

For more details, visit the website www.cilip.org.uk.

Global view of advocacy

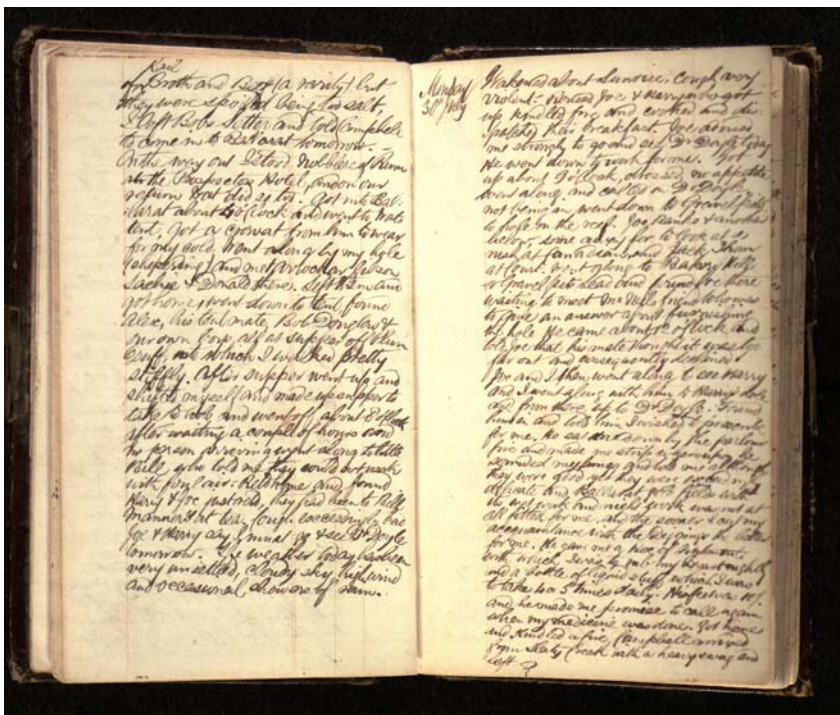
The need for advocacy is a topic that unites all types of libraries, all around the world.

Xiaoguang Yang, director of Beihang university library, Beijing, quoted in the latest *Library Connect* newsletter, 'Experience has taught me that there are strategies that can help improve your success when lobbying governing bodies for library funding. Two strategies key to successful lobbying for academic library funding are: communicating clearly with the library's funding body, and deploying library champions. Our practice is to make the key professor of each discipline responsible for helping spread the good word, university-wide, about the library.'

Sisyphean task for holders of orphan works

A recent report published by the UK's Strategic Content Alliance and the Collections Trust suggests that it would take something like six million days to trace the rights holders of 13 million orphan works, held by the nation's publicly-funded libraries, museums, archives and universities. For more detail, go to www.jisc.ac.uk.

NEWS



State Library acquires gold digger's diary

Through a public appeal, the State Library of Victoria has raised \$50,000 to buy the diary of a Scot who became a gold digger in Ballarat, in 1855.

State Library of Victoria foundation director Michael Leeuwen said, 'The author of this diary took time out every day to record his experiences. Sometimes they were mundane and sometimes extraordinary. But here, more than 150 years after the events were recorded, we have a detailed and very personal account of what it was like to live and work in this time of feverish gold rush activity.'

The pages have been scanned and will soon be available with transcripts on the State Library website (www.slv.vic.gov.au). The diary itself is on loan to Sovereign Hill gold museum until August.

Libraries unite to fly in children's reading experts

In October, three early childhood literacy specialists from Seattle, in the US, will be visiting libraries in Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and Tasmania, to run a series of workshops at each location.

The story is newsworthy, not only for the events themselves, but also as an example of interstate library cooperation.

Nella Pickup, of Tasmania's Launceston library, explained, 'The workshops will provide proven techniques and current information for using with young children.'

The presenters are Shannon Schinagl, a children's librarian with the Seattle public library, who also performs with Sound Safari Theater; Dr James Thomas, a children's librarian, author and former library science professor, and Nancy Stewart, an award-winning presenter and keynote speaker at early childhood literacy conferences.

The state contacts for more information are Robyn Burns robbyn@wev.vic.gov.au; Teresa Brook brook.teresa@saugov.sa.gov.au; Alexander Mills alexanderm@ashfield.nsw.gov.au, and Nella Pickup nella.pickup@education.tas.gov.au.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Protesters *against* new library
 Reversing the normal course of events, a community group has been formed to challenge plans to build a \$2 million new library at Bell primary school, in the northern suburbs of Melbourne.

Local people say there has been no consultation and the belief is that an alternative site at the front of the school would be better than the proposed location.

First NSW unconference

Senior library technician Rob Thomson is organising the first library unconference in NSW.

He told *ALN*, 'The idea is based on the fact that when you go to a normal conference, the best bits are often the bits in between the presentations. There will probably be a speech at the beginning, but the rest of it will be about like-minded people sharing knowledge.'

The event is at the Australian Catholic University, North Sydney, on 1 August, and there are half a dozen places left. To register, go to <http://one8nineunconference.wordpress.com>.

Are we sure government is getting the message?

Building Inclusive and Resilient Communities is a new publication produced by the Australian Social Inclusion Board.

Available to download from (www.socialinclusion.gov.au), the guide provides a useful insight into government thinking.

It is disappointing to note, though, that while schools appear 11 times in the eight-page document, libraries are mentioned only twice, despite the amount of effort that associations, state and public libraries have put into aligning themselves with this topic.

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

A seasonal quip from British Liberal politician Lord Samuel (1870-1963), who said 'A library is thought in cold storage.'

NEWS



Discover geeking at www.geekthelibrary.org

We geek the new US library advocacy campaign

A major new community-based awareness campaign for US public libraries was launched last week, with the aim of introducing a new verb into the language, 'to geek'.

Called Geek the Library, the campaign has been developed by OCLC, with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. It is based on print and radio advertising, social networking and a website, and is going live region by region. The first states to adopt it are Iowa and Georgia.

The idea is to highlight people's passions and to show how libraries support them all. OCLC global vice president of marketing Cathy De Rosa explained, 'This campaign is designed to provoke conversation about the vital role that public libraries and librarians play in today's challenging environment. We hope it will spark important community discussions about how public libraries can remain strong.'

Barriers to ebooks? Not so says local supplier

In last week's issue of *ALN*, we ran a story entitled 'Copyright, cost, content—so many barriers between Australian libraries and ebooks.'

DA Information Services has responded with an alternative view. DA chairman Richard Siegersma drew our attention to the local company's range of ebook readers, and the trials which are taking place with Glenelg libraries, in South Australia, and Melbourne City library, in Victoria. At Glenelg, eight library members are using e-readers loaded with the latest novels as well as classic fiction. In Melbourne, the library is trialling the e-reader with content from PressDisplay, as a replacement for daily newspapers. For more information about ebooks, visit www.dadirect.com.



EXHIBITIONS

The Journey of NAIDOC: Heritage Posters 1972-2009
Northern Territory Library
6 to 19 July

Panoramic Queensland
State Library of Queensland
Until 12 July

Treasures Gallery 2010: A Preview
National Library of Australia
Until 19 July

Charles Darwin Down Under
State Library of NSW
Until 26 July

Harbour Bridge Exhibition
Central City Library Auckland
Until 26 July

Capturing the Territory
Northern Territory Library
Until 26 July

Portrait Photography 1909-1919
Central City Library, Auckland
Until the end of August

Bold but Faithful: John Oxley Library at Work
State Library of Queensland
Until 11 October

The Independent Type: Books and Writing in Victoria
State Library of Victoria
Until 25 October

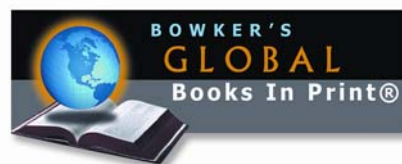
In Living Memory: exhibition of photographs from the Aborigines Welfare Board
NSW regional tour
State Records of NSW
Until September 2010

Exhibition of Leonardo's da Vinci's *Codex Atlanticus*
Level 3, Fisher Library,
University of Sydney
No closing date

Goyder Survey Exhibition online
Northern Territory Library
www.ntl.nt.gov.au
No closing date

CLASSIFIEDS

Global Books in Print (GBiP), the world's leading bibliographic resource for libraries, now contains over two million Australian-market records.



Find what you are looking for quickly and easily, using the most comprehensive database of in-print, forthcoming and out-of-print book, e-book, audio-book, video and DVD titles.

A subscription to GBiP reveals more than 20 million records, from over 43 markets, as well as remote plus onsite access for both staff and customers. GBiP also includes workflow tools which allow users to create alerts, download, email and print records, whilst linking to the libraries' holdings via Z39.50.

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.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Your ideal recruit could be reading this right now.

If you've got a job that needs a real library and information professional, call Katie Horner (03) 8517 8347, email aln@thorpe.com.au or fax (03) 8517 8399.

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TENDERS

- ◆ The Canberra office of National Archives of Australia is looking for a company to provide a courier and passenger service.
Closing date 16 July
- ◆ The lift maintenance contract at the National Library of Australia is up for review.
Closing date 8 July
- ◆ The National Gallery of Australia needs a sculpture restorer.
Closing date 13 July
www.tenders.gov.au

DEADLINES

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>

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WHAT'S ON GUIDE 2009

Month	Dates	Title	Description	Location	More information
July	3	Health Libraries Inc AGM	Training and information day incorporating the AGM	Council of Adult Education Flinders Lane, Melbourne	jedwards@rdns.com.au
July	9	Constitution Day	Launch of Making Australia Home, the National Archives makes migration records available online	Australia-wide	www.naa.gov.au
July	9-12	Voyages of Discovery	The 24th annual ANZ Theological Libraries Association conference	Sundown Motel Canberra	www.anzta.org
July	16	Setting a National Agenda	ALIA Public Libraries Summit	National Library of Australia, Canberra	www.alia.org.au
July	16-19	Mildura Writers' Festival	Workshops, readings and other events	Various locations, Mildura, Victoria	www.artsmildura.com.au/writers/
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	1-9	National Family History Week	Initiative of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations	Australia-wide	www.familyhistoryweek.org.au
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	7-9	Byron Bay Writers Festival	Workshops run from 3 August	Byron Bay, NSW	www.byronbaywritersfestival.com.au
August	10-16	New Zealand Library Week	Theme of Escape, Explore, Discover	NZ-wide	www.lianza.org.nz
August	21-30	Melbourne Writers' Festival	Bringing together 250 local and international writers	Various locations, Melbourne	www.mwf.com.au
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
September	8	International Literacy Day	Founded by UNESCO in 1965	Worldwide	www.unesco.org
September	9-13	Brisbane Writers' Festival	Bringing together books, writing, ideas and readers	Various locations, Brisbane	www.brisbandewritersfestival.com.au
September	14	The Acquisitions Continuum: from source to supply and beyond	ALIA Acquisitions National Seminar	TAFE Lecture Theatre Currie Street Adelaide	www.alia.org.au

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Month	Dates	Title	Description	Location	More information
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	1	IAML AGM	International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres AGM	Fisher Library University of Sydney	www.iamlaust.org
October	2-3	6th ALIA Top End Symposium	The theme is Exploring Learning Spaces and Learning Environments	Education Lecture Theatre Charles Darwin University NT	www.alia.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
August	14-19	World Library and Information Congress	IFLA general conference and council	Brisbane	www.alia.org.au/ifla2010/