

# THORPE-BOWKER'S AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY NEWS

The weekly news & information service for library & information professionals

non-  
FICTIONCONNECTION  
.com

## Looking for the next great read?

"Non-Fiction Readers' Advisory - the hot new area of readers' advisory work."

LIBRARY JOURNAL FEBRUARY 15, 2007

Use [www.nonfictionconnection.com](http://www.nonfictionconnection.com), a non-fiction readers' advisory tool, to help your patrons discover books similar to those they really enjoy. Make non-fiction recommendations with ease and confidence. Search for similar titles to a book you enjoy or browse by subject. Use the combined search to simultaneously recommend fiction titles from [www.FICTIONCONNECTION.com](http://www.FICTIONCONNECTION.com) and non-fiction titles.

FOR PRICING OR INFORMATION CONTACT ANTHONY SHAW: **THORPE-Bowker**  
03 8517-8350 or [anthony.shaw@thorpe.com.au](mailto:anthony.shaw@thorpe.com.au) click open the world.

## IT'S ALN's 400TH ISSUE



### A sunny day in Melbourne and no fewer than three national librarians

Dr N Varaprasad, chief executive of the National Library Board, Singapore; Jan Fullerton, director-general of the National Library of Australia (centre), and Penny Carnaby, chief executive and national librarian of the National Library of New Zealand, were together on stage with the State Library of Victoria's chief executive Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, for the The Big Issues seminar this week. Turn to page 8 for our report.

#### A good week for ...

... Melbourne's oldest library, still going strong after 170 years (*page 2*)



#### A bad week for ...

... Harvard libraries— not used to sharing Resources (*page 4*)



19 November, 2009 Issue 400

### Contents

- 2 Funding challenges in WA compounded by merger fears
- 2 Melbourne's oldest library celebrates 170 years
- 3 Books Alive becomes Get Reading
- 3 New Zealand librarians lead by example
- 3 Pick up a bargain with a little history attached
- 3 News in brief
- 4 Major shake-up on the cards for Harvard libraries
- 4 Google revises the terms of its settlement
- 4 Mining a wealth of material for the collection
- 4 International
- 5 University software will reflect digital content
- 5 Academic libraries take an Innovative approach
- 5 Digitisation news from the university presses
- 5 News in brief
- 6 Exhibitions, Classified advertising, Grants
- 7-8 What's On Guide
- 8 The Big Issue

## 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  
© Copyright THORPE-Bowker 2009

Website: [www.librarynews.com.au](http://www.librarynews.com.au)

**Editorial submissions**  
email [aln@thorpe.com.au](mailto:aln@thorpe.com.au)

**Publisher**  
Tim Coronel  
+61 3 8517 8343  
email  
[tim.coronel@thorpe.com.au](mailto:tim.coronel@thorpe.com.au)

**Editor**  
Sue McKerracher  
+61 3 9890 3345 m 0404 456 749  
email  
[sue.mckerracher@thorpe.com.au](mailto:sue.mckerracher@thorpe.com.au)

**Advertising**  
Xeverie Swee  
tel +61 3 8517 8357  
+ 61 3 8517 8399 (Fax)  
[advertising@thorpe.com.au](mailto:advertising@thorpe.com.au)

**Subscriptions**  
This weekly news service is provided to  
subscribers 48 times a year.  
To subscribe contact Thorpe-Bowker  
subscriptions at:  
+ 61 3 8517 8390 or  
1300 369 521 (Tel)  
+ 61 3 8517 8399 (Fax)  
email  
[subscriptions@thorpe.com.au](mailto:subscriptions@thorpe.com.au)

Subscription costs:

No of staff	Price + GST
1	\$250
2-5	\$325
6-10	\$400
11-50	\$500
51-100	\$750
101 +	\$1000

**COPYRIGHT WARNING**

Each edition and update is copyright. Other than for purposes prescribed under the Copyright Act and subject to the conditions of the Act, no part of any edition or update may be reproduced by any means, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted without prior written approval of the publishers

## NEWS

## Funding challenges in WA compounded by fears of what local government mergers could mean for libraries in the state

Public library managers in Western Australia are working flat out to put together a business case for an alternative funding model, to replace the one that has been in operation since 1954. Until the new funding agreement has been signed off, the State Government has capped its contribution to the annual library budget at \$6.5 million. There had been a further \$10 million in top-up funding spread over the previous four years.

A library manager told *ALN*, 'A report was prepared for the joint advisory committee on libraries a couple of years ago and it made 111 recommendations. Because of all the changes, we're about 12 months behind where we thought we would be, but there are lots of working groups tackling the top 10 recommendations and the big one is the funding model.' If the new funding model is finished in time, there is a chance that the State Government could be persuaded to grant additional cash in years two and three of the current three-year plan.

At the start of the year, there was nervousness about what local government amalgamation in WA might mean for public libraries, and the situation has not improved. Our source said, 'There is still a great deal of uncertainty around amalgamation. In February this year the minister for local government announced the Liberal-National government package of local government reform strategies. The principle strategies in the package focus on voluntary structural reform of local government. Specifically, the strategies encourage local government to take steps voluntarily to amalgamate and form larger local governments to reduce the total number of elected members to between six and nine, and for local governments to form appropriate regional groupings of councils to assist with the efficient delivery of services.'

'Local government was invited to submit proposals to a steering committee by the end of September 2009. The steering committee is due to submit a report to the minister for local government next month [December 2009]. There is still a great deal of uncertainty, particularly for the regional areas, as to whether there will be mandatory amalgamations, with little information, apart from speculation, being forthcoming.'

## Melbourne's oldest library celebrates 170 years

The Melbourne Athenaeum library, above the Athenaeum theatre on Collins Street, held an event last Thursday to mark its 170 year anniversary.

The subscription library is still going strong, with annual membership available from \$65 and a choice of more than 60,000 books, journals and DVDs, plus author talks, book clubs and social activities.

The library was founded in 1839 as the Melbourne Mechanics' Institute and School of Arts and it claims to be one of the city's oldest institutions.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Will book prices fall?**

DA Information Services' Richard Siegersma told *The Australian* this week that book prices would drop as e-books came on stream and book publishing was forced to become global, despite the Federal Government's decision to maintain restrictions on parallel imports.

**2009 indexing medal winner**

Frances Paterson has won the 2009 ANZSI medal for the index to *A Handbook of Aboriginal Languages of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory*, edited by J Wafer and A Lissarague.

**Tragic record of hurt and grief**

The National Library of Australia had a small part to play in this week's apology by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to the children who suffered abuse while in Australian orphanages and foster care between the 1920s and 1970s. The National Library is collecting some of their stories for an oral history record.

**Closing date for Inky**

The State Library of Victoria's 2009 Inky awards, the only book prizes voted for by teenage readers, are nearing their close. Voting on [www.insideadog.com.au](http://www.insideadog.com.au), ends tomorrow (Friday, 20 November) and the winners are announced on 26 November at the State Library of Victoria.

**News from South Australia**

A collection of mid-nineteenth century records relating to St George's Day School, Gawler, has been given to the State Library of South Australia.

The papers were discovered in 1983 during restoration work on St George's church hall and include the minutes of trustee meetings and notes from pupils to teachers.

Other news from the State Library is that it has added a family history starter guide to its website <http://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/fhstarterguide>.

## NEWS

*Gretel Killeen in one of the 2009 Books Alive TV advertisements*

**Books Alive becomes Get Reading for 2010**

Books Alive will have the same project director next year but a different name. It will be called Get Reading, adopting one of the slogans used for the 2009 campaign.

Cheryl Akle has been reappointed project director, with a new four year contract from the Australia Council for the Arts. Sandra Yate, chair of Books Alive said, 'Cheryl's energy and execution have been outstanding over the past two years, and her engagement and enthusiasm for the campaign have been widely recognised by the publishing industry.'

More than 230,000 books were sold during the Books Alive campaign in 2009, with early research indicating a market surge of 2%, and a massive increase in sales for the 50 recommended books. The addition of a free children's book in 2009 was judged a success and will feature in the 2010 event next September.

**New Zealand librarians lead by example**

The National Library of New Zealand is one of a consortium of book-related organisations, which have formed an alliance to promote books. The other members are the Publishers Association of New Zealand, Booksellers New Zealand, the New Zealand Book Council, New Zealand Book Month and the New Zealand Society of Authors.

Librarians have come out in support of the initiative with the National Library's chief executive Penny Carnaby and the head librarians from the Parliamentary Library, Victoria University Library and Wellington City Library, all promising to read a book written by a New Zealander every month in 2010.

**Pick up a bargain with a little history attached**

Sydney-based librarians and anyone attending the SWITCH conference on 23 and 24 November but arriving a little earlier, may be interested in this special book sale.

Paddy McGuinness's daughter is selling her father's books this Saturday, 21 November, in the garden of his former home at 437 Darling Street, Balmain. The event is entitled The Paddy McGuinness Last Drinks Book Fair and will feature some 10,000 volumes from the library of this prominent Australian journalist, who died in January 2008. The book fair runs from 10am to 4pm, with proceeds going towards a publishing project.

## INTERNATIONAL

**All things Irish**

The National Library of Ireland has launched *The Sources Database for Irish Research*, which provides bibliographic reference details for books and journals concerned with Irish topics, held in libraries and universities in the US, UK, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand <http://sources.nli.ie>.

**Food for Fines campaign**

The Essex Library Association in the US is sponsoring Food for Fines in December, with library patrons asked to donate boxed or canned food items in exchange for a dollar reduction per item on fines for overdue library materials. The food will go to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries.

**ProQuest appointment**

Boe Horton has been named senior vice president and managing director of ProQuest in the East Asia Pacific area.

**JFK photos online**

Conspiracy theorists can now view the photographs from the Dallas Police Department's investigation into US President John F Kennedy's assassination in 1963. The University of North Texas libraries' digital projects unit has digitised and posted the archive of more than 400 pictures on its Portal to Texas History site.

**Stevenson's archive online**

The archive of Robert Louis Stevenson, author of *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped* and *Dr Jekyll and My Hyde*, has been brought together on a dedicated website at [www.robert-louis-stevenson.org](http://www.robert-louis-stevenson.org).

**Jobs lost over censorship**

Two Kentucky library employees have been fired for keeping a graphic novel, which they consider to be obscene, out of the hands of younger patrons. One member of staff has had the book out on loan for more than a year.

## NEWS

**Major shake-up on the cards for Harvard libraries**

A review of the 73 Harvard libraries suggests that each branch of the world's largest university library may no longer be able to afford to provide students with its own comprehensive collection of journals and other materials but instead will need to share resources. Not only does the report recommend sharing books and other holdings across the Harvard library system, but it also proposes that the university should collaborate more with other institutions. The taskforce also recommends improvements to IT systems.

**Google revises the terms of its settlement**

Google has submitted a revised last minute proposal for its Book Search settlement. Instead of offering \$125 million for a Book Rights Registry to settle authors' copyright claims worldwide, it has suggested limiting the arrangement to the US, UK, Australia and Canada. Google stated, 'After hearing feedback from foreign rights-holders, the plaintiffs decided to narrow the class to include only these countries, which share a common legal heritage and similar book industry practices.'

**Mining a wealth of material for the collection**

*Thiess 75 years: Shaping a Nation* is the title of the new exhibition at the National Library of Australia. The company has donated more than 700 photographs documenting its history to the National Library in celebration of its 75th anniversary.

Curator of pictures Linda Groom said the Thiess images not only complemented the Library's documentary collection, but also illustrated a diverse range of topics from construction techniques of the day and working conditions, to the 1949 miners' strike and women's fashion. She said the 117 photographs of Mount Hart station in the Kimberley were a particularly welcome addition to the library's collection. 'Although we have a strong coverage of the Australian pastoral industry, the emphasis up to now has been more on the eastern states. The Mount Hart photographs were clearly taken by a professional photographer and show family life, the role of Aboriginal stockmen, the school of the air – and also contain a shot of the photographer himself – wearing some memorable checked shorts.'

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**New president for QPLA**

David West, currently president of Queensland Public Libraries Association (QPLA), will leave Moreton Bay library services to take up a position in the new Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast water authority at the end of this month, leaving a gap for the association to fill.

**Kindle for your PC**

Amazon has launched free software that lets people read Kindle e-books on their PC.

It is available to download at [www.amazon.com/kindleforpc](http://www.amazon.com/kindleforpc) for Australian but not New Zealand users, because of copyright issues.

**E-reader for visually impaired**

Intel has developed a handheld 'reading aloud' device for people with vision or reading problems. The reader scans text, turns it into a digital format and then into an audio file.

**NT event this Friday**

The Northern Territory Library's 23rd Eric Johnston lecture takes place tomorrow (20 November) at 7pm. The speaker is Clare Martin, chief executive officer of the Australian Council of Social Service and former chief minister of the Northern Territory.

**Writing award winners ...**

Gerald Murnane has won the Melbourne Prize for Literature 2009, with the Best Writing Award going to Nam Le for *The Boat*.

New Zealand author Witi Ihimaera has been named a laureate by New Zealand's Arts Foundation.

**And shortlisted hopefuls**

Out of the 23 nominations for the ACT Book of the Year awards, six authors have been shortlisted. They are John Clanchy; Nicholas Drayson; Clive Hamilton; Bruce Moore; Peter Rees and Peter Stanley. The prizes are for fiction and non-fiction, and poetry. More information at [www.arts.act.gov.au](http://www.arts.act.gov.au).

## UNIVERSITY NEWS

**University software will reflect digital content**

University libraries in the US are assisting in a project to develop management and workflow software specifically for academic research libraries through the Kualii Foundation.

More than 300 libraries and education institutions took part in the planning phase for the Open Library Environment (OLE) project. The idea is to create a library management system which breaks away from print-based workflows and reflects the move to digital content. The software will be made available free to libraries around the world and further iterations will be based on collaborative work by the library community.

Carolyn Walters, OLE co-principal investigator, from Indiana University library said, 'Libraries are changing, and we will succeed not only by transforming ourselves, but also by partnering with others. Libraries are rapidly advancing into a more connected world, and the OLE collaboration will give us the tools.' More information at <http://kuali.org/ole>.

**Academic libraries take an Innovative approach**

Ballarat University, in Victoria, and the Universities of Sydney and Wollongong in New South Wales, are three of the eight libraries involved in the development of new library management software from Innovative Interfaces of the US.

The libraries are participating in a project to develop features of the company's Encore Reporter statistics-generating product, around collection and cost analysis.

Billie Jo Kaufman of the American University of Law, one of the other partners in the project, said, 'As a chair of the American Bar Association's committee on libraries, I know it is important to get the right statistics, and get them easily, in the format that funders and other organisations want. What Encore Reporter will do is to present our data and allow us to see it from a number of angles that will give us more and better information.'

More information at [www.encoreforlibraries.com](http://www.encoreforlibraries.com).

**Digitisation news from the university presses**

The University of Adelaide has launched its own e-press, using an open-access model with the option of purchasing texts through a print-on-demand service provided by Griffin Press.

The new service was launched by author J M Coetzee. More information at [www.adelaide.edu.au/press/](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/press/).

Meanwhile, RMIT Publishing in Melbourne has added literary journal *Meanjin* to its Informit service (which also holds copies of sister publication BOOKSELLER+PUBLISHER), after digitising 40,000 pages from back issues dating back to 1940.

*Meanjin* is published in print by Melbourne University Publishing. Editor Sophie Cunningham explained, 'We've come a long way from a small pamphlet produced in Brisbane in 1940 by four poets and there have been significant cultural challenges to the environment our literary journal operates in... Thanks to RMIT Publishing, we'll be launching the Informit digitisation of our rich archive and making it more accessible to readers.'

RMIT has scanned, indexed and prepared 8,500 articles from the magazine for the web. The result is a fully searchable archive.

More information at [www.informit.com.au](http://www.informit.com.au).



**EXHIBITIONS**

**Nick Cave—The Exhibition**  
National Library of Australia  
Until 29 November

**Thiess 75 years: Shaping a Nation**  
National Library of Australia  
From 17 November

**Becoming Queensland: The First 50 Years**  
State Library of Queensland  
Virtual exhibition  
Until December  
[www.slq.qld.gov.au](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au)

**Cyclone Tracy**  
Northern Territory Library  
14 December until 7 February

**Focus on Mary Poppins author PL Travers**  
Nelson Meers Foundation  
Heritage Collection  
State Library of NSW  
Until 31 December

**Vaniman Panorama**  
State Library of NSW  
Until 31 January 2010

**Far-sited: The Maps That Made Canberra**  
National Library  
Until 31 January 2010

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

**GRANTS**

Arts minister Peter Garrett has announced funding of more than \$400,000 for arts and cultural activities at 27 community festivals around Australia.

He said, 'Festivals in outer regional and remote communities will have the opportunity to add special arts and performance projects to their programs, such as dance workshops and storytelling.'

More at [www.arts.gov.au](http://www.arts.gov.au).

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS**

**Be fully informed about what's happening in libraries and the book trade.**

As a subscriber to Thorpe-Bowker's *ALN*, you can also take out a subscription to its *Weekly Book News*, the online news service, and *BOOKSELLER+PUBLISHER* magazine, at a specially-discounted rate.

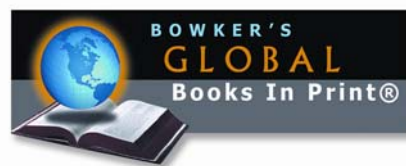
Contact [subscriptions@thorpe.com.au](mailto:subscriptions@thorpe.com.au) for details.

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](http://www.globalbooksinprint.com), or arrange a data extract from GBiP, contact Matthew Hunter (03) 8517-8360 or email [matthew.hunter@thorpe.com.au](mailto: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](mailto:aln@thorpe.com.au) or  
fax (03) 8517 8399.

Classified and job advertisements cost \$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](mailto:aln@thorpe.com.au) or fax +61 (0)3 8517 8399. Call Katie Horner (03) 8517 8347 for more information. THORPE-Bowker cannot guarantee inclusion of material unless confirmation is sought and a response received before the deadline.

## AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY NEWS

### WHAT'S ON GUIDE

Month	Dates	Title	Description	Location	More information
November	22-24	SWITCH	Public libraries in a changing environment	Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre	<a href="http://www.plmnsww.org.au">www.plmnsww.org.au</a>
November	23-24	National Digital Forum 2009	Eighth annual conference for cultural organisations	Museum of NZ Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington	<a href="http://ndf.natlib.govt.nz/about/2009-conference.htm">http://ndf.natlib.govt.nz/about/2009-conference.htm</a>
November	26-27	NSLA	National and State Libraries Australasia meeting	Melbourne	<a href="http://www.nsla.org.au">www.nsla.org.au</a>
December	5	International Volunteers Day	Celebrating the work of the voluntary sector	Worldwide	<a href="http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org">www.volunteeringaustralia.org</a>
December	10	150th Anniversary of Queensland's Independence	Following State-wide celebrations	State Library of Queensland Brisbane	<a href="http://www.slq.qld.gov.au">www.slq.qld.gov.au</a>
February	9-11	Connections, Content, Conversations	VALA's 15th biennial conference	Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre	<a href="http://www.vala.org.au">www.vala.org.au</a>
February	15	The Digital Revolution: Publishing in the 21st Century	Debate about the opportunities and challenges in the world of literature and publishing	State Library of Victoria Melbourne	<a href="http://www.publishers.asn.au">www.publishers.asn.au</a>
February	17	The Digital Revolution: Publishing in the 21st Century	Debate about the opportunities and challenges in the world of literature and publishing	National Maritime Museum Darling Harbour Sydney	<a href="http://www.publishers.asn.au">www.publishers.asn.au</a>
February	23-26	International Conference on Digital Libraries	The theme is Shaping the Information Paradigm, organised by TERI and IGNOU	New Delhi	<a href="http://www.teriin.org">www.teriin.org</a>
February	28-5	Adelaide Writers' Week	Part of the Adelaide Festival	Pioneer Women's Memorial Gardens, Adelaide	<a href="http://www.adelaidefestival.com.au">www.adelaidefestival.com.au</a>
March	3-4	South Island Children and Young Adult Librarians' Conference	Annual conference covering literature, literacy and Librarianship	Oamaru Opera House Oamaru	<a href="http://www.kids4libs2010.com">www.kids4libs2010.com</a>
March	5	Schools Clean Up Day	Part of the Clean Up Australia campaign	Australia-wide	<a href="http://www.cleanup.org.au">www.cleanup.org.au</a>
March	7	Clean Up Australia Day	Main focus of the Clean Up Australia campaign	Australia-wide	<a href="http://www.cleanup.org.au">www.cleanup.org.au</a>
April	10-18	National Youth Week	Events happening around the country	Australia-wide	<a href="http://www.youthweek.com.au">www.youthweek.com.au</a>
May	All	MayDay	Blue Shield Australia campaign to raise awareness about disaster preparedness in cultural Institutions	Australia-wide	<a href="http://www.collectionsaustralia.net">www.collectionsaustralia.net</a>

## AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY NEWS

### WHAT'S ON GUIDE

Month	Dates	Title	Description	Location	More information
May	17-23	Sydney Writers' Festival	Annual event	Sydney	<a href="http://www.swf.org.au">www.swf.org.au</a>
June	11-12	12 to 24s@Your Public Library in Australia and New Zealand	Call for papers	Brisbane, Queensland	<a href="http://www.auslib.com.au">www.auslib.com.au</a>
June	13-16	SLA 2010 Conference and Exhibition	Theme is Entering SLA's Next Century: Let the Good Times Roll	New Orleans USA	<a href="http://www.sla.org">www.sla.org</a>
July	15-18	25th Annual ANZTLA Conference	Australia and New Zealand theological library association	St Catherine's College University of WA, Perth	<a href="http://www.anzfla.org">www.anzfla.org</a>
August	10-15	World Library and Information Congress	IFLA general conference and council	Göteborg, Sweden	<a href="http://www.ifla.org">www.ifla.org</a>
August	10-12	MyLanguage Conference	First national conference	State Library of NSW Sydney	<a href="http://www.mylanguage.gov.au">www.mylanguage.gov.au</a>
September	2-3	ALIA Access 2010	Conference with satellite events	Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre	<a href="http://www.alia.org.au">www.alia.org.au</a>
September	27-1	SLAQ/IASL 2010 Conference	The School Library Association of Queensland biennial conference and the 39th International Association of School Librarianship annual conference	Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre	<a href="http://www.slaq.org.au">www.slaq.org.au</a>
August 2012	20-24	ICA Congress	A first visit to the southern hemisphere for this international archivists' conference	Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre	<a href="http://www.naa.gov.au">www.naa.gov.au</a>

## The Big Issues given air time in Victoria

The three national librarians of Australia, New Zealand and Singapore converged on the State Library of Melbourne this week for The Big Issues conference, hosted by the library and Public Libraries Victoria Network.

The event was attended by library people from Victoria and interstate guests.

Tom Bentley, deputy chief of staff to Australia's deputy Prime Minister, and Patricia Faulkner, chair of Australia's new Social Inclusion Board, gave delegates an

insight into government thinking around education and social inclusion and how these topics may impact on libraries.

The organisers had flown in UK technology expert Bill Thompson, who regularly presents on New Zealand radio, to talk about why libraries still matter in a connected world. He described libraries as 'agents of change' and said, 'they have always been more than their books'. He talked about the digital revolution as 'not a once-in-a-lifetime change. It is a once-in-a-civilisation change.'

The national librarians took to the stage for a combined session in the afternoon, which highlighted

the difference in the roles of the three libraries. Singapore's work with public libraries to entice young people through the doors; the National Library of NZ's focus on connecting communities through its People's Network, and the National Library of Australia's digitisation projects were all on the agenda.

An audio recording of the event will be available soon on the web at [www.libraries.vic.gov.au/infonet/](http://www.libraries.vic.gov.au/infonet/).

**'Medicine for the soul'**

**Inscription over the door of the library at Thebes**