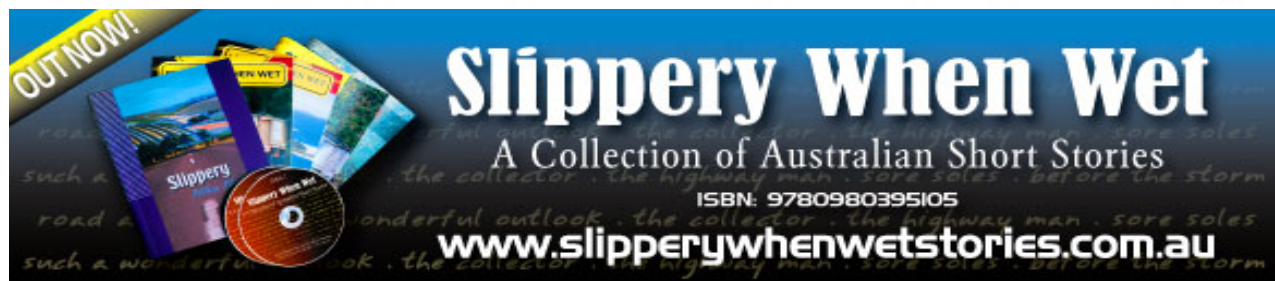


THORPE-BOWKER'S AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY NEWS

The weekly news & information service for library & information professionals



Descendant keeps family tradition

The great-great-nephew of David Scott Mitchell has continued his family's generosity to the State Library of NSW with a donation of \$500,000 to establish two new research fellowships.

John Merewether's financial gift to the State Library honours the centenary of Mitchell's own bequest in 1907.

DS Mitchell was a wealthy private collector who bequeathed to the library his premier Australian collection of some 40,000 rare and remarkable items, which became the foundation for the Mitchell Library.

Merewether himself has had a long and interesting relationship with the State Library of NSW as a generous donor, supporter and a volunteer.

His two most significant donations thus far have been a portrait of Dr James Mitchell, DS Mitchell's father, painted by Marshall Claxton, which hung in DS Mitchell's dilapidated home, and a silver candelabra presented to Dr Mitchell by the citizens of Sydney in 1837.

After retiring from his architectural firm Merewether & Bagot, Merewether took up volunteering at the State Library in the mid 1980s.

With fellow volunteer and former business partner Ted Bagot, they sorted through the library's huge architectural collections on Level.

Merewether and Bagot came into the library regularly every week up to the time of Bagot's death.

Merewether was born in Newcastle, close to the coal fields which funded DS Mitchell's collecting obsession.

Merewether freely admits he has never been a collector or a scholar, but he wanted to continue the family history of philanthropy.

He donated \$250,000 to establish the David Scott Mitchell Fellowship and \$250,000 to establish the Merewether Scholarship.

It is the biggest sum the library has ever received for fellowships. The two new fellowships will be awarded in perpetuity from 2008.

The Mitchell Fellowship will be awarded to a scholar using the library's resources to research Australia generally. The Merewether Fellowship will focus on research into NSW.

Merewether has also given money to the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and a Sydney private school.

The State Library of NSW already awards six other research fellowships each year and two for librarians – the Jean Arnot Memorial Fellowship and the State Librarian's Metcalfe Fellowship.

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Australian Library News

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Tasmania launches strategy for an ageing population

The State Library of Tasmania has launched a new strategy for its libraries and online access centres to deliver services to people over 50 years of age.

The State Library of Tasmania's 50+ strategic action plan details 10 areas of service delivery for older Tasmanians.

They are to:

- design services in consultation;
- provide services that respond to the interests of older clients;
- extend computer-based services;
- involve community organisations;
- provide training and support for older people to use electronic services;
- provide extension services;
- review buildings, furniture and equipment;
- encourage volunteering;
- provide community information; and
- develop a marketing strategy

The strategy will also involve organisations such as TAFE and Adult Education providing information sessions on topics such as retirement planning.

Thirty per cent of State Library clients are aged 50 years and older and research shows that Tasmania's population will continue to age.

It is predicted that Tasmania will have 10,000 more retirees every five years for the next 30 years and that by 2019 the state will have the oldest population in Australia.

The 50+ plan is in response to this changing demographic.

The plan is a result of state-wide consultation with community organisations including the Council on the Ageing, and library and online access centre staff.

The library also drew on research by Janice Biggin, manager of the Bega Valley Shire Library in NSW and winner of the 2005 Colin Mills Scholarship.

Biggin used the scholarship to visit the USA on a research trip in 2005.

She gave a talk at the State Library of Tasmania in 2006, at which she shared her findings about services for seniors in Arizona libraries.

New Zealand Library Week urges people to Pass it On!

This year's New Zealand's Library Week to be held from October 15-22 will have the theme of 'Pass it On!'.

This year's theme promotes libraries as community spaces where information of every kind can be passed on from one user to another.

A signature Library Week event is New Zealand's Biggest Storytime, similar to Australia's National Simultaneous Storytime during which libraries across the country will simultaneously read aloud a chosen children's book.

This year's storytime session will be held at 10.30am on Wednesday October 17 and will feature Melanie Drewery's book *The Grumble Rumble Mumbler* (Huia Publishers).

Living Heritage Day will be on October 18, where children are offered the opportunity to become authors by creating their own local history stories and publishing them on the web. Public and school libraries will work together to host Living Heritage Day celebrations.

A novel new concept for Library Week 2007 is the Living Library project.

Readers are invited to their local libraries to borrow a book with a difference, a living book in the form of a person. The 'books' may come from all walks of life and the project is aimed at breaking down stereotypes and prejudices with books and readers learning from each other.

The Living Library concept was developed in Scandinavia and has quickly become popular around the world, including at numerous locations throughout Australia.

Committee chairperson Philip Casey said libraries were a resource of relevance to all New Zealanders.

'The libraries people use may be their local public library, in their school and other educational institutions or at their work place, but no matter where they are, libraries provide powerful tools for innovation and social inclusion,' Casey said.

UK public library book spend declines again - magazine

The spend on books by public libraries in the UK fell in 2006/07, with the pace of decline on book spend accelerating, Britain's *The Bookseller* reported..

The Bookseller reported that the library service spent £77.8 million (\$A179.4 million) on books in 2006/07, 8.7 per cent of its overall budget.

The fall marks a decline of 0.6 per cent from the £78.2 million (\$A180.5 million) spent in the previous year.

The fall is expected to double again to 1.2 per cent in 2007/08.

Publishers and library campaigners have reportedly called on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to take immediate action in England.

'These figures cannot be ignored,' library consultant Tim Coates told *The Bookseller*.

The decrease in book spend comes in tandem with pressure on the overall libraries budget, which in 2006/07 fell for the first time in six years.

'The prognosis is not optimistic, with the London boroughs, the English counties and Wales all predicting decreases,' a report into public libraries said.

The budget pressure also forced cuts to library staff and a shift away from professionally qualified librarians.

The number of professionals employed in UK libraries decreased by 4.1 per cent in 2006/07.

A further decrease of 6.6 per cent is expected in 2007/08.

ACADEMICS

Monash opens latest Rare Books exhibition

The Melbourne-based Monash University has opened its latest exhibition from the Rare Books collection, entitled The Pacific.



On display until February, the exhibition offers a glimpse into the rare historical literature of travel and discovery of the Pacific held by the library.

Marine charts, illustrations of natives engaging in traditional rituals and early travellers' personal accounts are some of the features of the exhibition, which ranges from the early 18th century to the early 20th century.

It covers European discovery and exploration of the Pacific, the activities of the missionaries, traders and blackbirders, as well as accounts by those who visited for pleasure.

Anthropologist Dr Matt Tomlinson, who launched the exhibition, said the historic material exhibited could illuminate current discussions.

For example, he said the understanding of developments in present day Fiji could be increased by reading historic material about those islands.

Pictured is 'Tattooed native of Nukahiwa', from *Atlas to Krusentstern's Voyage around the World, 1803-6*.

Library hosting display of Macedonian material

A display of rare artefacts depicting the rich culture and history of Macedonia will launched at Victoria University's Footscray Campus library next Tuesday.

The exhibition, Macedonian Treasures, will run until October 23.

It focuses on Macedonia's 500-year cultural and historical connection to the Ottoman Empire.

Dr Nick Anastasovski gathered many items on exhibit after years of exploration and travel to the area while he was researching his PhD at VU.

The 27 items in Macedonian Treasures include a dagger belonging to a Macedonian freedom fighter from the momentous 1903 Ilinden Rebellion, which saw large parts of Macedonia liberated from the Ottomans, traditional village clothing including earrings made from Ottoman coins, historic photographs and publications.

Anastasovski said it was important for Macedonians to celebrate their cultural and national identity.

'For a group of people who have been dispossessed in so many ways, national identity is one of the things you cling onto,' he said.

'After 2000 years of not having an independent state, Macedonians have managed to survive with a unique culture, language and history.'

Australia is home to one of the largest Macedonian populations outside the present-day republic, with thousands emigrating in the 1960s and 1970s due to economic and political concerns.

ALN News

Anastasovski said it was fitting the exhibition was at VU because of the strong links between the Macedonian community and the university.

‘We could have chosen a church hall or a community centre for this exhibition,’ he said.

‘But a centre of higher learning, especially one with the highest number of Macedonian students in Victoria, provides an opportunity to present and promote Macedonian culture and history in a better way.’

PUBLICS

Work on new Cardwell library progressing on schedule

Work is progressing well on a new library (pictured) in the far north Queensland town of Cardwell with completion expected in November.



Building of the new library commenced in late May and construction is going to plan, with the exterior walls completed.

‘Council is pleased with the progress achieved so far and looks forward to the new library opening later this year’ Mayor G Galeano said.

Work is also progressing on the final design of the town’s undercover museum facility, which will store and display large articles.

The museum is being funded under the Queensland 150th (Q150) Legacy Infrastructure Program, being administered by the Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation.

The Q150 projects will become a focal point of state-wide and local community celebrations in 2009 which is the 150th anniversary of

Queensland’s independent from New South Wales.

Safety concerns lead to longer closure during construction

The Gold Coast City Council will close its Mermaid Waters Library for longer than originally anticipated because of concerns about the safety of customers during construction work.

The library will now close on October 27 and will re-open in the middle of next year when extensions to the library are completed.

Councillor Eddy Sarroff said the building was undergoing a major redevelopment that would transform it into a state-of-the-art library which would be among the most innovative in Australia.

‘Originally it was planned for the library to close for about 10 weeks from April next year to allow internal work to be completed,’ Sarroff said.

‘However, some issues have arisen for the contractor that mean he has concerns about the safety of library customers and staff during different stages of the project.’

Sarroff said library services staff were discussing alternative service options with customers, including a shuttle bus service to and from Burleigh Waters Library and a secure book chute for returns.

‘A lot of regular customers already have chosen to use other branch libraries during construction at Mermaid Waters and the remaining customers are being surveyed so we can work out the best ways to meet their needs until the new library opens,’ Sarroff said.

‘We expect to be able to advise customers of alternative arrangements in a couple of weeks.’

The design of the new Mermaid Waters Library includes flexible meeting rooms for public use, reading and listening areas, upgraded seating, myriad digital resources, an audio loop for the hearing-impaired, almost double the floor area, and a central plaza and meeting area linking the library and the community centre.

Sarroff said library customers had been consulted on the project and many of their ideas had been incorporated into the design.

Second hand books collected for reading program

The inner western Sydney municipality of Canterbury has launched a program to encourage parents to read to their children from a young age and is asking residents to donate second hand books.

‘As parents it’s our job to ensure our children develop their skills and begin learning from a young age,’ Mayor Robert Furolo said.

‘A great way to develop your children’s language skills is by reading to them.

‘Infants can enjoy the pictures and listen to the words, while primary school aged children can practice their reading skills with their parents, and we can create a love of reading to last a lifetime.

‘We want to encourage parents to read to their children from a young age and we’re asking our residents to help by donating preloved books which we will distribute to families with young children across our city.’

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The City of Canterbury is working with Canterbury Early Literacy Group to collect preloved books, which are being collected at libraries across the municipality.

The books will be included in Let's Read Together bags.

The bags are distributed to families across our city through local Early Childhood Services.

The bags also contain a calendar with hints and tips for reading to a child.

SPECIALS

Archives New Zealand launches government standard

Archives New Zealand has launched a new storage standard which is designed to represent a whole-of-government approach to managing the storage of public records.

The standard is the first mandatory standard issued under the Public Records Act 2005.

From 2010, public offices may be audited against the requirements in the standard.

The standard applies to physical records such as paper files, photographs, microfilms, maps and plans, and sets minimum requirements for storage of physical records throughout the state sector, in local government, and where government records are held by community archives.

It does not apply to digital records.

Archives New Zealand is now working to ensure that the standard is implemented throughout government.

'The standard builds a vital tool for records managers and archivists both in and out of government,' Archives Minister Judith Tizard said at the launch.

'It will help ensure that records of ongoing value are preserved for the memory of government and for the benefit of future generations.

'Historical government records are a vital tool for building our sense of national identity.

'Many government records also have great significance to Maori, and need to be protected and preserved with special care.

'Many government organisations already store their records well. This standard gives us a tool for auditing and improving storage across the government.

'Proper storage will ensure that records remain safe, secure, and able to be used.'

Forum told more international cooperation is needed

The challenges of preserving digital information for future generations will need greater cooperation across international borders according to global experts who gathered in Canberra last week.

Hosted by the National Archives of Australia, the Digital Futures forum at Parliament House attracted archival experts from nine countries who shared their expertise in the hopes of finding joint solutions to global problems.

Speakers from the UK, USA, Malaysia, Germany, Sweden, New Zealand and Australia emphasised a common theme – worldwide challenges will be overcome only if organisations cooperate across borders and across sectors.

'It is vital for archives and libraries across the world to collaborate with each other to get the most from emerging technology,' director-general of the National Archives of Australia Ross Gibbs said.

'We are proud of the software we have created at the National Archives which we have made freely available to anyone who wishes to benefit from it.

'More importantly, archival organisations need to forge closer working partnerships with digital content creators such as e-researchers, e-government, e-publishing and e-business, both at the big end of town and at the grassroots community and regional levels'.

The forum also recognised that more work needed to be done to bridge the gap between the public and private sectors in the field of digital information management.

'Both sectors stand to reap huge benefits by learning from and working with each other,' Gibbs said.

The forum noted that substantial investment in the creation of digital content was not matched by proportional investments in preserving and providing appropriate access to it.

'It is heartening to know there are so many top minds working on these challenges across the world,' Gibbs said.

'By collaborating across sectors and across nations, and by sharing our findings we can ensure the citizens of the future are not left with a black hole in their history books.'

Parramatta school wins Macquarie challenge

Our Lady of Mercy College in Parramatta has taken out first prize in the Macquarie University library's Create your Vision for the 21st Century Library competition.



The competition, for Year 10 students from Macquarie University's school partners' program, attracted a range of innovative and creative entries of a very high standard.

Students were asked to submit their vision for Macquarie University's new library (scheduled to open in 2010) based on the key design principles that will be adopted by the design architects. (Pictured is an artist's impression of the new library.)

Students could submit their entry in any medium and into one of three categories – the Library and the Environment, the

Library and People and the Library and Technology.

Jessica Rainert of Our Lady of Mercy College was awarded first prize in the Library and the Environment category for her creation of a library building using a PC motherboard. Her entry incorporated a number of clever environmentally conscious features and components.

Fellow Our Lady of Mercy student Alicja Drogomirecki was the runner-up in the same category.

As a result Our Lady took out the overall prize, which was a Macquarie University Library Access package for Year 11 and 12 students for the next two years and a book voucher to the value of \$100.

The Library and People category was won by Nicky Asmus, James Banks and Richard Bourke from St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga. The trio submitted a collective entry, an animated film called *Silentium*, a clever creation depicting a library of the future.

The Library and Technology category was won by Jessica Miao of North Sydney Girls High School.

Winning students received a Nano iPod, sponsored by RefWorks. The runner-up received a book voucher to the value of \$50.

SUPPLIERS

British Library making 19th century books freely available

The British Library has announced that more than 100,000 old books, previously unavailable to the public, will now go online.

The move is the result of a mass digitisation program focused on 19th century books, many of them unknown as few were reprinted after first editions.

At full production nearly 50,000 pages per working day will be scanned, with the first 25 million pages to take nearly two years to complete.

Texts which are hard to get hold of will mainly benefit from the digitisation.

The new category of digitised titles will supplement other early historic printed books, which the library has already made available online through previous projects.

Those are included in two commercial resources – the Early English Books Online and the Eighteenth Century Collections Online.

Digitised publications will initially be accessible through Microsoft's Live Search Books and then via the library's website.

Due to copyright restrictions and intellectual property issues, the deal covers only public domain materials.

The books will be fully text searchable, with users now able to look for keywords within a publication.

Other digital resources in the British Library will soon include one million pages of 18th century newspapers and two million pages of 19th century newspapers.

ALN News

Developing countries to get access to free digitised content

The Geological Society of London, one of the world's oldest national scientific and professional societies for Earth scientists, has announced an initiative to help developing countries benefit from access to digitised content.

Under the initiative all current and archival content from the society's digitised publications – the Lyell Collection – will be made freely available to higher education institutions, NGOs and geological surveys in developing countries.

Researchers, teachers and students in some of the poorest countries across the globe will now have access to over 14,000 original research articles and 230,000 full-text pages from the society's collection of world-leading journals and special publications, stretching from the mid 1800s through to the present day.

Access to the Lyell Collection will be facilitated by the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP).

However, the society believes that further support will be required if this access is to be translated into knowledge and actions that will have a real and positive impact on the progress of developing countries.

To that end, the society has formed a partnership with Schlumberger, a leading provider of technology, project management and information solutions to the oil, gas and water extraction industries.

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Little Bookroom for sale

The Little Bookroom is looking for an enthusiastic children's booklover to take over from the current owners.

This is a unique opportunity. If you would like a bookchange then please contact Deborah Kelly on 0425-868-499 or via email books@littlebookroom.com.au.

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WHAT'S ON

CONFERENCES

Hearts on Fire: Sharing the Passion – ASLA annual conference

October 2-5
Adelaide Convention Centre
+ 61 2 9437 9333
Fax + 61 2 9901 4586
aleks@conferenceaction.com.au

ALIA National Library and Information Technicians Conference 2007

October 9-12
Grand Hyatt, Melbourne
alia07@icms.com.au

Simply the Best 2: Reflections of Women Through Records

October 10-12
Hawke Centre - University of South Australia
jenni.jeremy@unisa.edu.au

Libraries/Changing Spaces, Virtual Places - Vala2008

February 5-7
Melbourne Convention Centre
info@wsm.com.au

Reading Critical: Developing readers in Australia and New Zealand'

April 11-12
State Library of Victoria, Melbourne
www.auslib.com.au

IATUL Conference 2008

Digital Discovery: Strategies and Solutions
April 21 - 24
AUT University, Auckland
<http://www.aut.ac.nz/iatul2008/>

Open Road 2008 Conference: Multilingualism and the Information Society

May 15-16
State Library of Victoria
conference@openroad.net.au

Dreaming08: ALIA 2008 Biennial Conference

September 2-5
Alice Springs Convention Centre
<http://www.alia2008.com/>

AUTHOR LIBRARY VISITS

Kylie Kwong – *Kylie Kwong - My China*
Stanton Library, North Sydney
October 8, 1.00pm

Judy Nunn – *Heritage*
State Library of NSW
October 9, 5.00pm

Rick Stein – *Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escapes*
Stanton Library, North Sydney
October 10, 1.00pm

Peter Watt – *The Stone Dragon*
Griffith Library, NSW
October 10

Monica McInerney – *Those Faraday Girls*
Morley Public Library, WA
October 17, 10.30am

Monica McInerney – *Those Faraday Girls*
State Library of WA
October 17, 6.30pm

Archimede Fusillo – *The Great Switcheroo*
Cairns City Library, Queensland
October 18, workshops 10.00am and 2.00pm

Monica McInerney – *Those Faraday Girls*
Wudinna School Community Library, SA
October 23, 12.30pm

Monica McInerney – *Those Faraday Girls*
Unley Town Hall, Adelaide
An Unley Library event
October 24, 1.30pm

Mohamed Khadra – *Making The Cut: A Surgeon's Stories Of Life On The Edge*
Mona Vale Library, Sydney
October 24, 6.00pm

Monica McInerney – *Those Faraday Girls*
Waikerie Public Library, SA
October 25, 12.30pm

Matthew Evans – *Never Order Chicken on a Monday*
Stanton Library, North Sydney
October 25, 1.00pm

Monica McInerney – *Those Faraday Girls*
Earlville Library, Cairns, Queensland
October 29, 10.30am

Di Morrissey – *The Songmaster*
Customs House Library, Sydney
November 4

Christopher Koch – *The Memory Room*
Stanton Library, North Sydney
November 8, 1.00pm

Judy Nunn – *Heritage*
Stanton Library, North Sydney
November 27, 1.00pm

EXHIBITIONS

Spanish Expeditions to the South Pacific in the 16th–18th Centuries
Centre for the Book
State Library of WA
Until October 7

Celebrate Your Place in our Neighbourhood
Parramatta City Library
Until October 14

100 Years of Reed Publishing
National Library of New Zealand Gallery
Until November 10

Bright and Beautiful – Creatures Great and Small
Allport Library
State Library of Tasmania
Until November 24

Just Add Water: Schemes and Dreams for a Sunburnt Country
State Library of Queensland
Until November 25