

# Australian Library News

## Murdoch to use funds for upgrade

**Murdoch University** is to use the \$2.04 million it will receive from the Australian Government's 2006 Learning and Teaching Performance Fund to turn two floors of its library into a so-called learning common.

The Perth-based university follows the University of Wollongong in using the funds to upgrade its main library.

Murdoch follows a range of Australasian educational institutions in converting libraries into "commons", known either as information or learning commons.

These have been introduced as a response to the massive growth of information technology in traditional library settings.

A number of recent Murdoch surveys have shown there is a degree of dissatisfaction with the number of available workstations in the library.

The learning commons, with its aggregation of workstations and dedicated spaces for wireless use of laptops, accompanied by a range of support services, will significantly improve existing facilities.

The learning common will be a "one-stop-shop" which will provide first year students with a whole of university integrated service to support their transition to university. Murdoch's first year coordinator will operate from the new facility.

Features of the new learning common include:

- Just-in-time information and advice from the first year coordinator;
- Accessible academic support from student learning staff;
- Advice and resources provided by library staff;
- Assistance with IT and access to an increased number of workstations;
- Learning spaces – group and individual study spaces and teaching spaces;
- Assistance with enrolments and fee-paying through student services after hours; and
- Murdoch Print for assistance with all student printing needs, including print-on-demand unit materials.

The University of Wollongong announced recently it was revamping its library with \$8.4 million it was receiving under the same scheme.

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## SLWA literacy program wins top service award

A **State Library of Western Australia** program aimed at improving literacy has won a statewide award for excellence.

The SLWA's Better Beginnings Family Literacy Program took out the top award at the 2006 Premier's Awards for Excellence in Public Sector Management in the Better Services (large organisation) category.

The Better Services award recognises outstanding performance and achievement in the delivery of quality and accessible services to Western Australians.

The State Library of Western Australia partnered with 239 public libraries throughout Western Australia, community health nurses, the Rio Tinto Future Fund and the WA Government in delivering the project.

Better Beginnings aims to spread the message that the act of sharing books and stories with even the smallest babies and very young children has a positive impact on literacy development and a life long influence on educational, social and justice outcomes.

It is also a further opportunity for libraries to contribute in yet another positive way to the communities they serve.

So far Better Beginnings has reached more than 45,000 WA families and has been taken up by 93 per cent of metropolitan and 49 per cent of provincial and rural local governments.

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## Australian Library

### News

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Editorial

1 Conebush Crescent  
Bellbowrie, Qld 4070  
AUSTRALIA

+ 61 7 3202 5853

+ 61 7 3202 8738 (Fax)

e-mail

andrew@librarynews.org

Managing Editor

Andrew Dent

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Andrew Dent

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community.

### Two Melbourne librarians to head to US for study tours

Two Melbourne-based librarians have been awarded prestigious fellowships from the **Library Board of Victoria**.

Michelle McLean from the Casey-Cardinia Library Corporation won the Margery C Ramsay Scholarship while Anna Boland, the community literacy and engagement officer at the Hume Global Learning Village, took out the Barrett Reid Scholarship. Each scholarship is valued at \$15,000.

Ms McLean, the information librarian at Casey-Cardinia, will attend and present a paper at the *Computers in Libraries 2007 Conference* in Arlington, Virginia as part of her study tour of public library services across the United States.

Her focus is on public library services which are providing cutting edge services to clients via the internet.

Ms McLean's tour will look at new ways of servicing virtual users, investigating latest technologies, equipment services, training and professional development.

Ms Boland will undertake a study tour of public library literacy programs in California.

She will be particularly looking at library services that provide programs which support and educate parents in their role as their child's most important teacher and involve the whole family in literacy learning.

Her tour will further knowledge in the Victorian library industry in building the image of the public library beyond the traditional model, as the hub of lifelong learning and community building.

The annual awards are part of the Library Board of Victoria's commitment to the development of public library staff.

The scholarships are named in honor of two eminent State Library of Victoria librarians, the late Margery C Ramsay and the late Barrett Reid.

### New Archives exhibition makes first stop in Tasmania

The **National Archives of Australia's** latest exhibition will begin a national tour in Hobart to mark the start of the city's annual summer festival.

*Summers Past: Golden Days in the Sun 1950 to 1970* opened at the **Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery** on December 1 and will run until February 28.

*Summers Past* will be the first official exhibition to be staged in the revamped ground floor of the gallery's historic Commissariat Building.

*Summers Past* features 75 summer images from the National Archives' collection of Australian News and Information Bureau photographs.

The exhibition will be the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery's main contribution to the summer festival and follows on from recent collaborations between the two cultural institutions – *Antarctica: Treaty Territory* and the Tasmanian Built Heritage seminars.

The National Archives has been developing touring exhibitions since 1993.

### Volunteers collecting books for Fiji public library

Australian volunteers in Fiji have been on a mission to collect 1000 books for the Suva City Council library as part of International Volunteers Day this week.

The **Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development** have been asking the public to donate books at the library.

Book drive coordinator Sarah Link said the volunteers hoped to collect as many books as possible.

She said they also wanted to paint a new mural on the library wall to help encourage people to get back to their library.

Chief librarian Maureen Shariff said she was delighted that the Australian volunteers had chosen to collect the books for the library.

### CSU library lecturer discusses digital preservation



**Charles Sturt University (CSU)** lecturer in library and information management Jake Wallis has presented a digital preservation seminar at the National Library of Australia discussing the problem of how to ensure content is not lost forever.

“We have this huge proliferation of digital content being created – photographs, blogs, citizen journalism,” Mr Wallis said.

“All of this is valuable. How are we going to make them accessible 100 years into the future?”

“One of the issues is how quickly digital information can disappear. We all know the frustration of coming across a dead link on the internet.

“The life cycle of digital information is much more volatile than a printed book. We need to be pro-active about trying to preserve this kind of information.”

Mr Wallis said CSU’s School of Information Studies presented the seminar because the school’s expertise meant it was worthwhile to look at the issue of digital preservation.

“We have access to cave paintings from thousands of years ago, we have fragments of the Bible in the Dead Sea Scrolls and we have mediaeval texts such as the Book of Kells,” he said.

“Humanity has been able to preserve these cultural artefacts, but at the same time I have floppy discs from 10 years ago that I cannot access because the discs do not fit into my computer anymore.”

Mr Wallis said while it was one thing to decide how to preserve digital artefacts, another issue was how to decide what to preserve.

“One of the reasons that we have gone into partnership with the National Library of Australia for this event is because they are recognised internationally for taking a lead in this area,” he said.

“They have initiatives such as *Pandora*, which is all about preserving websites within the Australian domain, so they are taking the lead in creating a framework within which we can make decisions about what kinds of digital information to store for the longer term.”

Mr Wallis said the preservation of digital information was a huge and pressing problem right across the country, from national institutions to regional libraries.

“Regional libraries, for example, have a huge wealth of cultural heritage resources related to their local communities that they have to think about preserving over the longer term,” he said.

“So as well as talking about preserving digital artefacts, we also discussed taking copies of physical objects that will allow for a record of those objects to be preserved over the longer term.”

Mr Wallis says the seminar may become an annual event.

### Students awarded prizes for excellent use of the library

The **University of Queensland** library has honoured two students who have demonstrated excellence in using the library’s facilities and resources.

The inaugural Library Excellence awards went to Mani Heck, a Bachelor of Applied Science student at the Gatton campus and Anton Petrenko an international exchange student in psychology at the main St Lucia campus.

The excellence award may be presented to up to three UQ undergraduates who demonstrate excellence in the use of the library to enhance their studies.

The prize is worth \$500 cash for each winner and acknowledges how library resources are used to support teaching and learning.

In a 500-700 word essay, accompanied by two statements of support from academic staff, Ms Heck and Mr Petrenko both demonstrated:

- sophistication, originality and/or unusual depth or breadth in the use of library resources, databases, primary resources and materials in all media;
- significant personal learning and the development of a habit of research and inquiry that shows the likelihood of persisting in the future; and
- exceptional ability to locate, select, evaluate and synthesise library resources and to use them in the creation of a project in any media that shows originality and/or has the potential to lead to original research.

### Model of *Endeavour* presented to JCU library

A large scale model of Captain James Cook’s ship the *Endeavour* has taken pride of place in the library of **James Cook University’s** Townsville campus.

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The 3.2 metre long by 2.9 metre high model of the bark was built using traditional techniques by former Navy man Philip McLeish.

JCU vice chancellor Bernard Moulden said Mr McLeish had taken about six years to create the model and his attention to detail was impressive.

“Each of the hatch covers is made from individual pieces notched to fit together,” Professor Moulden said.

“Philip spent hours splicing the rope ladders. The eight cannons and the 10 culverts were each made from brass bolts shaped on a small battery operated metal lathe.

“The wheel, the anchor winch and the anchors themselves, just like all the other parts, were hand made by Philip himself.”

Mr McLeish began building the model in 2000 and used timber similar to that used in the original. Each piece was soaked in bleach and water to make it pliable enough to bend without breaking.

He then tacked each piece to a frame and left it for a week before removing the tacks.

Mr McLeish worked for the Townsville Port Authority for 10 years after 13 years in the Royal Australian Navy, including three tours of duty to Vietnam.

## PUBLICS

### Maitland helps children with Christmas craft

Staff at the **Maitland City Library** in the Hunter Valley north of Sydney have gathered a range of resources for craft activities to help children prepare for Christmas.

Staff members have distilled a host of ideas from their collection of books on Christmas craft to provide a range of sessions aimed at creating presents, gift wrapping and making decorations.

The sessions are suitable for children eight years and older and are scheduled in the three weeks prior to Christmas.

Activities include:

- Gift wrapping with a twist, where children can learn how to wrap gifts of all shapes and sizes “without getting into a sticky tape bind”;
- Making a Christmas memory bracelet;
- Designing and making sequined Christmas baubles;
- Making and decorating photo frames, using a CD case to hold a precious photo or create an original Christmas card; and
- Decorating nails in preparation for Christmas festivities.

“The library offers a great environment for children to begin their Christmas preparations,” city librarian Keryl Collard said. “Children will have fun participating in our Christmas-focused craft.”

### Manukau children to get bugged by reading

**Manukau Libraries** in the Auckland region of New Zealand has adopted the *Don't Bug Me, I'm Reading* theme for its annual summer reading program, which is designed to keep youngsters reading over the school holidays.

The program opens today and runs until January 24 and aims to encourage children to enjoy reading, while urging parents and caregivers to become more involved in their children's reading at home.

“The challenge this year is designed to motivate and thrill kids to keep on reading over the school holidays,” Manukau Libraries learning and literacy coordinator Megan Williams said.

“There are five critter stickers to collect to get the opportunity to ‘get buggy with it’ at our fun-filled finale event being held at Butterfly Creek.

“We have some cool prizes including four super passes to Rainbow's End, four family passes to Butterfly Creek, stationery packs and books from UBS, Peter Pal and Wheelers Books.

“Each child at their library check-in will receive a coloured pencil set thanks to Auckland International Airport and all who finish will receive a Village Skycity Cinemas pass.

Last year over 650 children completed the program.

### New Brisbane library doubles visitor numbers

Brisbane's new central library is being hailed as a success after more than 23,000 people visited it in its first week of operation.

The new library is part of the council's new headquarters at the Brisbane Square development in the CBD.

The figure of 23,000 is more than twice the number of visitors to the old central library for the corresponding week last year.

“When the new library opened last Monday we had 4606 visitors come in on the first day and since then we've had a total of 23,344 people come through the doors, Lord Mayor Campbell Newman said.

“This is a testament to council's commitment of creating a single customer service destination for our residents.

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“The new library and customer centre is a wonderful asset to the city, providing Brisbane’s residential and business customers with a versatile facility that enables residents to pay rates, lodge a development assessment, borrow an item from the library or have a community meeting.”

More than 15,000 books were borrowed from Brisbane Square Library, an increase of 4000 books per week over the same time last year.

The new library has expanded its collections from 70,000 items to 110,000 items, with borrowing set to increase to one million in the next two years.

An automated book sorter, the only one of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, has been installed in the new library.

## Sleeping dogs set up home in Ipswich

**Ipswich Library** just west of Brisbane has appointed specialist pet artist Helen Vere as its special Christmas guest.

Ms Vere has developed an exhibition of paintings around the theme of sleeping dogs, which will be on display at Ipswich Library.

The display features 13 pictures of dogs sleeping or relaxing and coincides with the Chinese Year of the Dog.

The paintings are mixed media on canvas and the backgrounds are inspired by Ms Vere’s extensive collection of scarves.

“Helen has spent this year working on the paintings specifically for this occasion and the result is a delightful collection of paintings representative of her talents as an artist who specialises in pet portraits,” Councillor David Pahlke said.

“Helen has always felt affinity for animals and grew up surrounded by pets, leaving her with happy childhood memories of hours spent playing with a menagerie of cats and dogs and a passing parade of ducks, hens, pigeons and rabbits.”

*Sleeping Dogs* will remain on display at the Ipswich Library until the end of 2006.

### SPECIALS

## Grants to SA museums continue in 2006

The South Australian government says the state’s history will continue to be protected and preserved through a grants scheme for museums.

Minister Assisting in the Arts John Hill said 28 community museums across the state would share in \$150,000 in funding this year.

He said the money would help the museums establish new and innovative exhibitions, and also ensure the preservation of important collections.

The **History Trust of South Australia** will administer the grants through its Museums Accreditation and Grants program (MAGP), which has been running for 24 years.

“With more than 60 museums in the program, the grants are an effective way of ensuring that the history of the state is well documented, preserved and interpreted,” Mr Hill said.

“The grant program helps strengthen the partnership between state government and local communities.

“These museums are all community enterprises and dependent on many hours of local volunteer effort.

“This grants program reflects the government’s commitment to supporting the volunteer sector and acknowledging the valuable work they perform for their communities.”

History Trust of South Australia chief executive Margaret Anderson said that the government’s commitment to community museums was essential for their survival.

“Local museums are increasingly important, not only for helping to build community spirit, but also in local tourism strategies.”

### TAFES/POLYS

## GippsTAFE making online teaching news

Two experts in on-line education based at **Central Gippsland Institute of TAFE (GippsTAFE)** in Victoria are visiting New Zealand in December to assist polytechnics adapt to the demands of delivering education in a high-employment economy.

Brad Beach is the manager of innovation and organisational development and Vanessa Marsh is online learning lecturer at CGIT.

The pair is being brought to New Zealand by the Tertiary Accord of New Zealand (TANZ), a collaborative network of polytechnics comprising Otago Polytechnic, Universal College of Learning, Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology, Manukau Institute of Technology and the Eastern Institute of Technology.

Otago Polytechnic chief executive Phil Ker said that as New Zealand continued a period of high employment, tertiary providers were looking beyond their existing models of delivering tertiary education, in support of industry and the economy.

“Polytechnics play a crucial role in addressing staff shortages, especially in technical and applied learning,” Mr Ker said,

Meanwhile, GippsTAFE teacher Lynn Huguenin spoke recently at an international conference about using innovative

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technology as a tool for education.

Ms Huguenin was invited to present at the conference because of her involvement in a highly regarded Online Medical Terminology course, which has been run successfully by GippsTAFE for the past three years.

The theme of the 2006 BbWorldAsiaPac conference was *Educate. Innovate. Everywhere.*

The conference was designed to explore how teachers can achieve high quality educational opportunities and learning outcomes for their students using technology.

### SCHOOLS

## SLANZA makes administrative changes

The **School Library Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (SLANZA)** has announced a number of administrative changes.

Niki Waterhouse has stepped down as SLANZA administrative officer, a position she has held for the past two years, to return to Australia.

Prior to that she served on the national executive as chair of SLANZA Aoraki and was a long serving member of Aoraki SLANZA (including the 2003 Conference Committee) and School Library Network committees.

The position of administrative officer has been divided into two roles.

Patricia McKenzie of Wellington will be responsible for finance, membership and secretarial duties, while Karen Clarke of Christchurch will be responsible for the website and the magazine/newsletter.

Ms McKenzie has a long involvement with school libraries and with SLANZA at a regional level and Ms Clarke is the present chair of Aoraki SLANZA.

## School students rising to reading challenge

More than 90,000 South Australian school students have completed the 2006 **Premier's Reading Challenge**.

Students had to read a minimum of 12 books to complete the challenge and qualify for a certificate in their first year, followed by bronze, silver and gold medals.

Premier Mike Rann said it was "an incredible result" and he honoured 54 schools with outstanding achievement at a special reception in Adelaide.

"The Premier's Reading Challenge is having a huge impact on the motivation for students to read, with a 20 per cent increase in the number of students completing the challenge this year," Mr Rann said.

"Students at 718 schools completed the challenge this year – 90 per cent of all eligible schools and exceeding the target of 80 per cent of schools by 2006.

Sixty-four schools participated for the first time and 151 home-educated children met the requirements, an increase of 49 per cent.

"Public libraries have played a major role in supporting school children to complete the challenge through their encouragement and supply of requested books," Mr Rann said.

"Thanks also to the thousands of teachers, parents and our Challenge Ambassadors who have helped to encourage students to read more books."

In New South Wales, 260,000 students completed the challenge, which was launched five years ago and became the model for other states.

In Queensland, where it is in its first year, 47,000 pupils took part reading more than 870,000 books.

### SUPPLIERS

## Blackwell launches humanities collection

**Blackwell Publishing** has announced the forthcoming launch of its first online reference product, *Blackwell Reference Online* which the company says will be the largest academic collection of reference material in the humanities and social sciences to be published online.

The product will hold almost 300 volumes and 10,000 chapters including Blackwell's award winning *Companions* and *Handbooks* series and the entire 12-volume *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Management*.

"Blackwell's prestigious series, such as the *Companions to Philosophy* and the *Handbooks in Psychology*, have become essential resources for students and their teachers across the humanities and social sciences," Blackwell's Philip Carpenter said.

"In print, each book is in effect a one volume encyclopaedia of its sub-discipline.

"Taken together and published online, this vast collection offers the most comprehensive and sophisticated university reference resource available."

*Blackwell Reference Online* will comprise six essential subject collections – Business and Economics; Philosophy and

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Religion; Literature and Cultural Studies; Language and Linguistics, Sociology and Psychology; and History.

Users can search for answers to their research questions across the reference database using a sophisticated content classification by subject, person, period, key topic and place.

All bibliographic references are OpenURL compliant, MARC records are provided, and there are DOIs (Digital Object Identifiers) at book and chapter level to facilitate easy linking for library systems.

## Softlink introduces new generation product for schools

Brisbane-based **Softlink** has released Oliver Junior, its next generation platform for primary school libraries.

Oliver Junior is a fully integrated, web-based library and information management solution especially designed to cater for the requirements of primary schools.

Designed with young learners in mind, Oliver Junior provides a suite of searching options including an intuitive graphical interface using a one-click picture search.

Schools can either add their own images to the OPAC or choose from over 400 colourful, relevant school-based images included with the product.

Oliver Junior simplifies the OPAC search results for students by using large fonts and clearly indicating at first glance the location and availability of resources.

The design of Oliver Junior is based on Softlink's research into usability. Oliver Junior provides a library home page which can be fully customised.

Content gives users the option for URL links, direct OPAC search links, text, graphics, logos, colours and fonts without staff needing any knowledge of HTML. This allows the school to promote the resource centre as the hub of learning within the school.

"We now have a tailored web-based library solution for each type of school, from primary to secondary and K-12,"

Softlink CEO Bob Dunne said.

"Oliver Junior brings a new level of ease of use to young students, one that is unparalleled in the industry."

### CATALOGUED

## Walton new face of James Bennett in NT

**Peter Walton** has been appointed Northern Territory sales consultant for James Bennett.

Mr Walton has a background in library and information management and will be able to offer sales and technical support in the region.

He will be based in the Northern Territory.

## Alumnus moves back to Flinders to liaise

**Beth Prior** is the new liaison librarian for Social Sciences at Flinders University in Adelaide.

She moves to Flinders from the ACD Campus where she was the theological librarian for nine years.

Ms Prior is an alumnus of Flinders University and also worked for a time as a research assistant with the American Studies department.

She will be the Liaison Librarian for Ageing Studies, Business, NILS, Psychology, Sociology and Women's Studies.

## WHAT'S ON

### CONFERENCES

#### **NZ Mobile Library Conference**

January 27-29

Wairakei Resort, Taupo

Cathie Richards

[Cathie.Richards@northshorecity.govt.nz](mailto:Cathie.Richards@northshorecity.govt.nz)

Fax +64 9 446 0825

#### **Information Online 2007**

January 30-February 1

Sydney Convention Centre

Information Online Secretariat

+ 61 2 9437 9333

Fax + 61 2 9901 4586

[aleks@conferenceaction.com.au](mailto:aleks@conferenceaction.com.au)

#### **Learning futures: public libraries for the new generations in Australia and New Zealand**

March 9-10

Adelaide, South Australia

Auslib Conferences

PO Box 622 Blackwood SA 5051

[info@auslib.com.au](mailto:info@auslib.com.au)

fax 61+ 8+ 82784000

[www.auslib.com.au](http://www.auslib.com.au)

#### **EDUCAUSE Australasia 2007**

April 29-May 2

Melbourne Exhibition and

Convention Centre

Waldron Smith Management

+61 3 9645 6311

Fax +61 3 9645 6322

[educauseaust-07@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:educauseaust-07@unimelb.edu.au)

#### **SLANZA 2007 – Intersections - collaborative forces**

July 2-4

Wellington High School

[slanzja@cmskl.co.nz](mailto:slanzja@cmskl.co.nz)

### AUTHOR LIBRARY VISITS

#### **Iain Finlay and Trish Clark –**

*Good Morning Hanoi*

Ashfield Library, Sydney

December 11, 6.30pm

**Shelley Gare** – *The Triumph of the Airheads and the Retreat from Commonsense.*

Stanton Library, North Sydney

January 23, 1.00pm

**Elliott Perlman** – *Three Dollars*

Fitzroy Library, Melbourne

January 24, 6.30pm

### EXHIBITIONS

#### **Botanical Riches**

State Library of South Australia

Until December 15

#### **National Treasures From Australia's Great Libraries**

State Library of Queensland

Until January 7

#### **Australia on the Map**

Visitor Centre

National Library of Australia

Until January 14

#### **Melbourne 06**

Visitor Centre

National Library of Australia

Until January 27

#### **Swing and Seam - an exhibition celebrating cricket in Western Australia**

State Library of WA

Until January 28

#### **Leica/Centre for Contemporary Photography Award**

National Archives of Australia

Until February 4

#### **Fancy Buying That: New**

#### **Acquisitions 1996-2006**

Allport Library and Museum of

Fine Arts

State Library of Tasmania

Until February 16

#### **Heroes and Villains: Australian Comics and Their Creators**

Keith Murdoch Gallery

State Library of Victoria

Until February 25

#### **On the Run: Daring Convict Escapes**

Mitchell Wing Galleries

State Library of New South Wales

Until February 25

#### **I Cherish This: An Exhibition of Personal Treasures**

The Studio

State Library of Queensland

Until February 25

#### **Bound for Glory: Exquisite Books of French Pacific Voyages**

Mitchell Wing

State Library of New South Wales

Until February 27

#### **Summers Past: Golden Days in the Sun 1950 to 1970**

National Archives touring exhibition

Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

Until February 28