



**Public  
Libraries  
SA**

#### **Vision**

**Create a vibrant and sustainable network of South Australian Public Libraries who are at the forefront of innovation.**

#### **Mission**

**Provide leadership and direction for the South Australian Network through aligning resources and providing an independent voice for Network members.**

### **PLSA MEMO**

**TO: Members**  
**FROM: Janice Nitschke**  
**President**

Following on from the very successful two day conference, let me once again take this opportunity to thank the organising committee Bernie, Bill and Teresa, the sponsors, the speakers and panel members along with all those who supported the conference in any way,

As it is now two months since the conference and we have commenced initiatives as an Executive, the August Quarterly is upon us and further planning is underway, I thought it was appropriate to update members on these issues to date, of which many have developed since the 2-day conference and the March Quarterly.

I have left the issue of the PLS Budget and subsidies for Public Libraries to be handled as appropriate by Management of PLS. Suffice to say there has been much discussion around the budget and subsidies, the allocation of subsidies, the shift to the SLSA by Public Library Services and the decision to pay for the shift within this budget and the ongoing commitment of funding the building at Hindmarsh following the move. Much work has been undertaken by PLS Management to ensure that these costs are minimised and framework has been established to ensure that the ongoing costs of Hindmarsh have a cap and that this figure will not creep. Arts SA will use Hindmarsh. The P2 computer and infrastructure will remain at Hindmarsh in the interim. I would like to commend PLS Management on their commitment to ensuring that monies for the network continue to be maximised through such initiatives.

I have also linked the issues discussed to the relevant actions within the PLSA Action Plan 2008-2011 for your information and awareness. This will enable you to appreciate our decisions and the basis for them, constructed within the framework of the Action Plan. Very much the strategy based around an agreed action for the Network, enabling you to chart and monitor the progress of the plan.

#### **This memo contains information on:**

1. Crawford Award
2. Little Book of Libraries
3. Sue McKerracher: framework for the effective use of the Little Book of Libraries and the MOA (2010)
4. 31<sup>st</sup> August Quarterly information:
  - a. @ SLSA invitation from Mr Alan Smith, Director SLSA
  - b. Key Note Speaker: Sue McKerracher: advocacy and lobbying: You Can!
  - c. Mr Bruce Linn: One Card One Library: single integrated library management system. Project Objectives and Drivers outlined
  - d. ACE Report

It is anticipated that the program for the quarterly will be sent out this weekend.

5. Two National Projects that PLSA are supporting
  - a. Participation and support of the Public Libraries Summit
  - b. Participation in a National Standards Project
6. PLSA Website

### **1. CRAWFORD AWARD:**

Following the very successful conference dinner discussions were held around the concept of a conference dinner and the Crawford luncheon to be held in alternate years.

The Crawford award has been held annually and was due to be held this year at the August Quarterly. The Crawford Award is one of the most significant awards to be held within Australia and within SA it acknowledges and perpetuates the memory of Jim Crawford, past Chairman of the Libraries Board of SA and a champion for libraries, responsible for the development of the public library network in SA.

This year we have been placed in somewhat of a quandary, with the economic climate and the pressure on the Crawford Award Corpus, the cost of holding the award in this economic climate and the consultancies that we have all been part of: Future Planning of the PLN, One Card One Library, two significant consultancies which will further shape the future direction of the network and public libraries including school community and joint use libraries.

It has been agreed that the Crawford Award will be held Bi-annually, and it will be a permanent date on the Library calendar. The Award will alternate with the Two Day Conference and will be a luncheon with keynote speakers, recognising and rewarding innovation and best practice and the legacy of Mr Jim Crawford. Responding to and supporting Goal 5 of the PLSA Action Plan.

### **Goal 5 CREATIVITY**

Try new things, sharing ideas, opportunity, richness of learning, applying best practice in our everyday work, recognition

5.1 Creating a culture of open attitudes and enthusiasm for innovation

5.2 Recognising and rewarding innovations and best practice

### **2. LITTLE BOOK OF LIBRARIES:** <http://www.alia.org.au/summit09>

Those of you who have individually ordered this great little book will have started to receive them by now. The book was launched at the ALIA Public Libraries Summit on the 16<sup>th</sup> July and well received. What a great book and how useful will this be as an advocacy tool about libraries. The PLSA Executive have purchased 700 of these books which will be distributed to all members of the State Parliament, SA Federal Members, Mayors and Chairman across SA and Principals of our School Community Libraries, LGA Executive, ARTS SA management aligned to libraries, DECS (School Community Libraries) and SLSA. The above groups are our key strategic partners and we believe that this is an opportunity to further gain their support and understanding of libraries.

The order form and sample pages are available on the ALIA Public Libraries Summit website: <http://www.alia.org.au/summit09> At this page you will also find some sample pages and ideas.

### **3. SUE MCKERRACHER**

Further to the development of this book I proposed to the PLSA Executive that we invite Sue McKerracher, the author of this Little Book and author of a similar book written for UK Libraries to be a keynote speaker at the August Quarterly. We scoped her presentation around:

- An overview of her role in the advocacy and lobbying campaign that was developed in the UK around the Little Book Of Libraries
- The advocacy and marketing opportunities for you and your library through the Little Book of Libraries
- Development of Framework letters for the promotion/circulation of the little Book of Libraries to local stakeholders and supporters.
- An opportunity to workshop the suggestions at the quarterly.

*This will be an opportunity for you too ensure that you obtain maximum value from the book when you present it to your partners and funding bodies.*

It is the agreed intent that this will be the first step in developing an advocacy/promotional campaign (or enable library managers to gain some advocacy/promotional skills and ideas) to position public libraries in readiness for the MOA discussions to be held and agreed to in 2010. A key agreement, which will shape the future of libraries, Public Library Services, Projects and funding of libraries for the following 5-year period. Sue will be meeting with the PLSA Executive the following day and I also intend to arrange meetings with our Strategic Partners.

Sue McKerracher comes to us with a long list of credentials and we are indeed fortunate to have secured her as a keynote speaker. I have attached her CV for your interest SEE appendix 1.

This element of the quarterly program and the project covers off/addresses three goals within our Action Plan, all of which are interrelated and will enable us to move forward as a network.

#### **Goal 1 DEVELOPMENT**

Welcoming, succession planning, forward planning, program development, professional development, participation in decision making

- 1.3 Ensuring a strategic approach to the quarterly meetings and conferences
- 1.4 Providing professional development opportunities for our members
- 1.5 Strengthening the opportunity for all members to participate in projects
- 1.6 Planning for the short and longer term future

and

#### **Goal 3 ADVOCACY**

Enhance the profile of PLSA, present information to decision makers, lobbying for public libraries

- 3.1 Enhancing the profile of PLSA with local, state and national decision makers
  - 3.2 Actively engaging with the Libraries Board, PLS Standing Committee, LGA
- Fostering an understanding of the value of public libraries

and

#### **Goal 4 COMMUNICATION**

Information dissemination, promotion with SA & nationally, promotion of services, internal communication

- 4.1 Strengthening internal and external dialogue
- 4.2 Promoting achievements to the SA and National Library network, funders and colleagues
- 4.3 Promoting the services of Public Libraries to a range of stakeholders (including community)

### **4. AUGUST QUARTERLY**

#### **31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2009 @ SLSA**

The Quarterly will be held at the Hetzel Theatre on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August. The Director of the State Library of SA has invited us to hold our meeting at the State Library and to participate in their 175-year Anniversary celebrations. Invitations to the morning tea will follow and we may have to adjust the proposed program to accommodate this morning tea. Members of the Libraries Board, Public Libraries Standing Committee, Arts Sa, LGA have been invited to the morning tea. It is important to reflect that these are all key Strategic Partners of PLSA and this will be an opportunity to engage with them.

#### **Goal 2 PARTNERSHIPS**

Grow partnerships, enhance longevity of projects and processes, effective management of relationships, building foundations

- 2.1 Understanding our partners
- 2.2 Developing and strengthening outcomes from relationships with national, state, local and corporate partners

#### **4. a. AUGUST QUARTERLY AGENDA**

Three key issues have been identified for this quarterly meeting, both of significance to the Public Library Network and the continued development and sustainability of the network:



#### 4.c ACE REPORT

Members will recall that almost one year ago at the August 2008 Quarterly meeting we met with the ACE Group to discuss the Future Planning of the SA Public Library Network. The report developed as a result of this consultancy and the information and research contained within it has been used to inform the final report currently under compilation. The report has been developed under the auspices of Public Library Services and as such is their report informed through consultation with the field and key strategic partners. Further discussion is ongoing.

<b>Goal 1 DEVELOPMENT</b>
<b>Welcoming, succession planning, forward planning, program development, professional development, participation in decision making</b>
1.6 Planning for the short <u>and</u> longer term future of the PLN (One Card One Library: State-wide Library Management system)
1.6.3 ACE Report, Ageing of Collections and trends: pull together strands for change, employ consultant/someone to undertake work <b>NB Sue McKerracher has been invite to quote on this task of pulling together PLSA report and trends.</b>
1.6.4 Contributing to Libraries Board decision making
1.65. Engaging in the process of shaping the decisions around the ACE report and the resultant report on the Future development of the PLN.

5 Furthermore PLSA have agreed to participate in two National Projects, namely

1. Participation and support of the Public Libraries Summit, which has been held and
2. Participation in a National Standards Project.

#### 5a. PUBLIC LIBRARIES SUMMIT:

<http://www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/public.libraries/summit09/>

Great day with lots of enthusiasm, excitement, commitment, collaboration with an agreement to build on the day, report and develop the National Agenda through programs and dialogue.

Submissions for the summit can be found at:

[www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/public.libraries/summit09/](http://www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/public.libraries/summit09/)

A key goal of the ALIA Public Libraries Summit was to develop a stronger relationship with the Federal Government in achieving its agendas in a range of portfolios. Ideally, the country's 1,522 public libraries will be regarded as 'national champions' advancing social, educational, cultural, broadband and digital programs and policies.

#### National Framework

Australia's public libraries network straddles all three levels of government - national, state/territory and local. Services are delivered by a variety of administrative arrangements, which vary both between and within each State and Territory.

Services are the most effective where local support and partnership working is strong.

A second key goal of the ALIA Public Libraries Summit is to engage with all three levels of government to develop a framework that supports libraries across Australia to:

- o better deliver services to their communities especially in disadvantaged and remote areas
- o advance [COAG](#) and the [Social Inclusion](#) reform agendas.

Senator Stevens opened the Summit and both challenged us and said that

Public libraries have the opportunity to participate Nationally in three specific ways:

1. In the national compact, creating a new relationship between government and the third sector - not-for-profit organisations, several of which were represented at the Summit.
2. In reform of the third sector - and Senator Stephens referred to ALIA's recent submission to the Productivity Commission.
3. In a new third sector leadership body and structure.

Four presenters developed around submissions to the summit

#### **Children, early reading and a literate Australia**

Geoff Stempel, Vice President, Public Libraries Australia

Outcome: National Year of reading as proposed by SA

#### **Encouraging the digital economy and digital citizenship**

Roxanne Missingham, Chair, Electronic Resources Australia, Parliamentary Librarian

**Social inclusion and community partnerships – safety, fairness, participation**

Frank McGuire, Pioneer of Hume Global Learning Village

**Health and ageing**

Regina Sutton, State Librarian and Chief Executive, State Library of NSW

Chair, National and State Libraries Australasia

The afternoon session provided an opportunity for discussions of the key themes and developing a clearer description of how public libraries could further assist or champion each of these issues. The smaller workshops were facilitated by representatives of each of the seven State Associations.

Key Themes were:

- *Public libraries as National Champions of community engagement by government*
- *National Framework for ‘partnering’ between all levels of government and public libraries*
- *Encouraging the digital economy and digital citizenship*
- *Children, early reading and a literate Australia*

**Framework for discussion was**

- Objectives / benefits  
*‘Why should Public Libraries and government work more closely together? ‘What benefits are there for each and the wider community in such collaboration?’-*
- Principles and Policy  
*‘How could we work together more effectively?’*  
*‘What principles should guide how we work together’*  
*‘What are the policy challenges in building an effective, ongoing partnership between public libraries and any or all levels of government?’*
- Next Steps  
*‘What steps or processes ) could we now take to continue ongoing engagement / develop a process for the building of a national agenda for collaboration between public libraries and government?’ - The four groups reported back.*

The workshops were developed around the papers presented and outcomes were noted for further action and dialogue. See website for further information

<http://www.alia.org.au/governance/committees/public.libraries/summit09/> summary

Summing up briefly some phrases and words related to and encapsulating the meaning of a library and opportunities, to be further explored:

Clever country=clever libraries	Ascertain Current Federal spend on libraries
Smart communities= clever libraries	Service Desk for the community
Scope for partnerships	Life Coach for the Digital Age
Culturally diverse	Fibre to the Library: WiMax to the Library
Knowing your economic Value	Public Libraries: New Village Green or Cradle to Grave
Net worth of Libraries	
Shared Vision	
National Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadband</li> <li>• Innovation</li> <li>• Social Inclusion</li> <li>• Education</li> </ul>	Value Proposition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance</li> <li>• Members</li> </ul>

The Summit responded to Goal 3 of the Action Plan as PLSA was represented at the Summit.

<b>Goal 3 ADVOCACY</b>
Enhance the profile of PLSA, present information to decision makers, lobbying for public libraries
3.3 Enhancing the profile of PLSA with local, state and national decision makers
3.4 Actively engaging with the Libraries Board, PLS Standing Committee and LGA (through reporting)
3.5 Fostering an understanding of the value of public libraries



The Summit also afforded us an opportunity to promote the successes of the SA Public Library Network in particular The Little Big Book Club and further promote the opportunity for a National Reading Program within the context of one of the key strategies of the summit: **Children, early reading and a literate Australia**. Further more individual programs and partnerships were promoted i.e. Reading around the Region, Salisbury project with Uni. SA , Lapsit, Training . This promotion of the network and such programs is reflected in Key Goal 4: Communication and Goal 2 :Partnerships.

<b>Goal 4 COMMUNICATION</b>
Information dissemination, promotion with SA & nationally, promotion of services, internal communication
4.3 Strengthening internal and external dialogue
4.4 Promoting achievements to the SA and National Library network, funders and colleagues
4.5 Promoting the services of Public Libraries to a range of stakeholders (including community) Nationally, locally

Integral to the participation at this Summit was a key strategy of our Action Plan in developing partnerships, with other State Library Associations, ALIA and PLA:

<b>Goal 2 PARTNERSHIPS</b>
Grow partnerships, enhance longevity of projects and processes, effective management of relationships, building foundations
2.2 Understanding our partners
2.3 Developing and strengthening outcomes from relationships with national, state, local and corporate partners

#### 5b. National Public Libraries Standard Project

These standards will be based on the NSW standards “Living Learning Libraries” and be further developed with a National perspective. The Executive have agreed to support this National Project through part funding the project to an amount of \$5,000. Thus through establishing further partnerships and dialogue with these Associations we will have access to a set of key National Standards, responding to Best Practice and innovation.

<b>Goal 2 PARTNERSHIPS</b>
Grow partnerships, enhance longevity of projects and processes, effective management of relationships, building foundations
2.5 Developing and strengthening outcomes from relationships with national, state, local and corporate partners

and

<b>Goal 4 COMMUNICATION</b>
Information dissemination, promotion with SA & nationally, promotion of services, internal communication
4.5 Strengthening internal and external dialogue
4.7 Promoting the services of Public Libraries to a range of stakeholders (including community)

#### 6. PLSA WEBSITE

The migration of the PLS and PLSA website to a Unity based integrated SA Library Website has been slower than expected. This has impacted considerably on our ability to communicate through a modern website. There have been issues with the current website and the posting of minutes, agendas and reports. Helen Kawaka is our representative on the Web committee and she anticipates that this migration and redesign will be completed shortly. Please see attached overview submitted to PLSA Executive from Helen.

The Executive moved that with the development of the new website that the one page summaries of PLSA Executive meetings would not be distributed, however I believe that currently this has left a gap in the flow of communication. PLSA. Minutes, reports, agendas and information are currently posted to the old PLSA Website. However there seems to be a gap when some of the information has been posted elsewhere and I am following this up.

It is my intention that monthly- six weekly updates will be sent out. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Regards

Janice

President PLSA

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