



PRESIDENT'S REPORT MARCH 2009

This year we will see the passage of two key projects, which will shape the direction of the public library network. The Future planning of the public libraries network and the One card one library are both projects which will impact on libraries well into the future. Although from the outside it may look as though both of these projects are taking a long time to move on, it would be fair to say that much research and ground work is being undertaken in order to ensure that the resultant outcomes are both timely and well informed and will positively impact on libraries. Both of these projects have received the endorsement of the Libraries Board of SA and the LGA. It is critical that these bodies support the projects and the outcomes and are actively engaged.

The Executive have met three times since the AGM and the key issues discussed have included:

- PLS move to the State Library of SA
 - Discussions are ongoing and key issues to be resolved are in relation to the funding of the shift and the old PLS building.
 - Proposed timing of the shift
- Conditions of Internet use and wireless use
 - PLSA has agreed to revisit the conditions of use and their appropriateness in 2009 and onwards.
 - Discussions and research has been undertaken in relation to access by wireless and conditions around this access i.e. bandwidth
 - The majority of wireless clients access a mix of on-line web searches, normal browsing, streaming video, music, email, on-line chat sessions, and games which overall do not use a massive amount of bandwidth. These sessions can normally co-exist with the other usage of the system. Increasingly some wireless users are downloading large quantities of video, music, or binaries of suspect origin. It makes sense to limit this use.
 - A number of options have been presented to the executive from PLS based on an analysis of client usage.
 - They include a maximum allowable daily/monthly download limit, the ability to reset locally or not.
- One Card One Library
 - The Libraries Board of SA signed off on the project in December and at the February meeting agreed to move forward with developing a business plan.
 - It was proposed that the next logical step forward for the South Australian Public Library Network, being a single state-wide Library Management System (LMS) which will provide 21st century support for all libraries, and make the resources of all public libraries available to all South Australians.
 - The criteria for assessment of the Business Case for a single library system in South Australian Public Libraries are:
 - Price
 - Quality
 - Staff workflow benefits
 - Information Access
 - Network sustainability
 - The Libraries Board have moved that Mrs Anne Short and Janice Nitschke represent the Board on the steering committee.
- PLSA Website
 - The proposed completion date is set at June 2009

- Helen Kwaka represents PLSA Executive on this working party.
- Marketing
 - As reported by Shane Cathcart at the AGM the marketing committee agreed that the main projects be:
 - Library lovers
 - Simultaneous storytime
 - Youth week
 - Every Generation
 - All four are National campaigns and provide an opportunity to build on the promotional materials that will be available and use as a state wide promotional opportunity.
 - Members are reminded that the marketing committee' s charter is to engage with members and provide suggestions and opportunities for projects and training for statewide promotions.
 - The PLSA Executive has an advocacy role on behalf of the network and liaises closely with the LGA on such matters.
- Future Planning of public libraries network:
 - The AEC report has been received by the Libraries Board and the PLSA Standing Committee members and the PLSA Executive have met with the facilitator and are currently further developing the report. The ACE report will provide a base from which the final report will be developed.
 - A small committee will work with the facilitator along with Geoff Stremple and it is intended that they will report to the Libraries Board by September.
- PLSA Action Plan
 - The Executive met in January and discussed the Action Plan and members committed to ensuring that the plan will progress.
 - Attached is the Action Plan along with Executive members and PLS managers whose responsibility the action is.
 - Timelines are also being added to the actions
- Aging of the Collection Report.
 - The report has been received and the covering letter is being drafted.
- Customer Satisfaction Consultancy
- Sponsorship Framework
 - Abby Dickson and Teresa Brook are working on guidelines for sponsorship opportunities at Quarterly meetings.
 - The sponsorship of morning tea and lunch at the PLS quarterlies over the past two years has been successful. Vendors have responded positively to this opportunity to raise their profile within the South Australian Public Library Network and to build brand and company awareness. Enquiries have been made by some vendors for exclusive sponsorship arrangements.
 - The success of this program has highlighted the need to develop more formal procedures and guidelines for both selecting sponsors and managing agreements with vendors. Having clear and transparent procedures will ensure we maintain positive relationships with the vendor community and are clear on the scope of sponsorship opportunities we are offering.
- Conference 2009
 - The committee have kept members and the executive abreast of developments.
 - A very full and stimulating program has been developed, commencing with the Sunday night Dinner Dance.
- Country trips
 - The 2009 trips to country libraries are scheduled to commence in April with a two-day trip to the Riverland.
- Quarterly Meetings: key note speakers and activities.

- March Beth Jefferson
- May 2 day conference
- August it is proposed that this be a luncheon with invited guests, similar to 2009, with the Crawford Award Presentation etc.
- November: tba re key note speaker
- Manager's Kit
 - Information for a draft kit has been designed and suggested amendments have been forwarded.
 - Bernie, Geoff and I are to meet and finalise.
 - The Manager's Information Kit will contain background information and history of the development of the network, the Memorandum, role of the Libraries Board, existing governance model, key statements from library associations, State's Strategic Plan and how libraries and the network can establish sustainable partnerships with the State linked to the plan, PLS Review and comments about the two current Projects, key documents or links to the documents, and the information contained within the kit has been developed within the framework of the PLSA Action Plan, with key areas being:
 - Development
 - Partnerships
 - Communication
 - Creativity
 - Advocacy
 - It had been intended that this kit would be available at the quarterly however further work is being undertaken on the compilation.
- ALIA Public Library Representatives Group
 - Alia Public Libraries Summit:
 - All Associations across Australia have agreed to financially support the Summit. More information at the Summit website and blog <http://www.alia.org.au/summit09> <<http://www.alia.org.au/summit09>>
 - The Public Libraries Summit will bring together around 50 library and non-library participants including Federal Ministers or their representatives, local government representatives, partners or allies from the non-profit sector, key cultural/ethnic/racial groups and public library stakeholders. Participants will be invited to attend.
 - A new date in June/July 2009 is currently being finalised with Senator Ursula Stephens' office and will be announced next week.
 - **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:
 - better deliver services to their communities especially in disadvantaged and remote areas
 - advance **COAG** and the **Social Inclusion** reform agendas.
 - Suggested topics include:

- Priorities public libraries share with the federal government (eg some of the ten critical areas from the recent **Australia 2020 Summit**)
- Engaging with the new **Social Inclusion** agenda for:
 - a fairer and more equitable Australia
 - stronger community-based services organisations
 - strengthening the capacity of communities and individuals they serve
 - promoting better understanding of the needs and interests of disadvantaged unemployed people
- Valuing the contribution of public libraries by economic, environmental and social impacts illustrated by powerful case studies.
 - Public libraries and the digital economy
 - Public libraries and e-government and e-democracy.
 - Public Library Best Practice and best value with examples.
- Role of public libraries in information literacy from early childhood, to adults to seniors.
- Reducing fragmented, competing and duplicated funding models operating at local, state and national levels.
- New partnerships with other cultural institutions for cooperation and joint projects.
- New partnerships and working with the non-profit sector
- Public Library ethos - ALIA, UNESCO, IFLA values and policies

NEWS ITEMS NOT TO BE MISSED

The ALIA internet access in public libraries survey 2008 has been released <http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy/internet.access/>

There is also a media release entitled 'Public libraries provide vital infrastructure for Australia's digital future' <http://www.alia.org.au/media.room/2009.02.27.pdf> and as well there is an item on the home page in Latest news <http://www.alia.org.au/>

Members of the executive have carriage of PLSA projects and report to every executive meeting on the progress and or issues that have arisen.

In closing welcome to new managers who have joined the network and PLSA, we look forward to working with you and value your input.

Kind regards

Janice Nitschke