



**National
Year of
Reading
2012**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JUNE 2011

What a great beginning I have had to June in fact a milestone as we shape the future of the Public Library Network. I have been privileged to be part of the development/implementation of the 1LMS and as a member of the evaluation team I have faced the task of an enormous amount of reading, discussion, comparison and measurement. Last Thursday the Evaluation Team and the SME Groups all came together for the first time to gain an understanding of what was available in the market place and evaluate. The energy in the room was electric and the anticipation and excitement augers well for a very good, measured consultative outcome. This level of energy has continued through progressive deliberations.

In order to ensure that processes and protocols in place within libraries are evaluated and assessed an Interim User group has been established chaired by Bill Roche, Pt Adelaide Enfield, PLSA representative. The group has three jobs:

1. Identify all of the places where system-wide roles or policies will need to be developed to ensure the smooth operation of the network.
2. Identify what the various practices are in SA public libraries today which need to be taken into account when framing new operational policies and practices.
3. Look at a range of consortia to see how they have resolved some of the issues we will face, to see whether we can learn from some of these experiences.

The fundamental principles which will govern the work of the group are:

1. As per the longstanding intent of the SA public library network, where possible we want to make sure that barriers to access to information for customers will be as low as possible while maintaining reasonable expectations on customers.
2. Each library should retain as much local autonomy as possible so long as it does not negatively impact on other libraries or customers.

This group continues to meet regularly and will report at the quarterly. It is imperative that we map the operational processes and policies and identify practices which will frame the policies and change management processes that will evolve through the implementation of the 1LMS.

Following the March Quarterly voting took place to consider the value of the levies (please see attachments). The results of the vote was then progressed to the PLS Standing Committee and their affirmation of the outcome of the vote and recommendation was progressed to the Libraries Board for ratification.

The weighted levies results as per PLSA membership voting was

	Community languages	Online Resources	Print Disability	Digital Content
YES	84	94	98	99
NO	17	4	3	0

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2012

Momentum is growing for the Year of Reading 2012 (an initiative supported financially by PLSA) as the number of sponsors and supporters grow. **The Wiggles & ALIA urge parents to 'Make Australia a Reading Nation'** The superstar group have thrown their support behind the cause of literacy, fun times and sharing books to encourage children to get into the reading habit. "We'd like you to help us help make Australia a Reading Nation" said Anthony Field, founding member of The Wiggles. "By the age of 3 we've developed half our adult language, so what happens at home, in kinder and in the library in those early years is really important."

PLS and PLSA have established a group who will look at wider network planning for the National Year of Reading. The group will meet for the first time 20th June and will be chaired by Geoff Stempel. The NYOR will also be discussed at the June Quarterly meeting and Sue McKerracher has been invited to attend. Sue and her team have responsibility for rolling out the program, developing partnerships, sponsorship and marketing. PLSA has supported this initiative through funding and participating in meetings and development of this project. This SA initiative has gained National importance.

Whilst the development of the 1LMS continues and associated projects develop they involve a huge amount of commitment and time particularly at PLS; staff and management of PLS continue to develop actions around their Strategic Plan 2010 2011; actions and strategies that ensure that the Public Library Network continues to evolve and develop in partnership with PLSA, key partners and network members and underpins development, projects and planning. A diverse list of network projects ensures an agile developing network of libraries, at the forefront of technology, processes and community programs.

Welcome to Lyall Mutton new ICT Manager at PLS. What an exciting time to join PLS and the network.

MOA

It has been acknowledged that the MOA may not be signed prior to the 30th June 2011. Correspondence to the Libraries Board has confirmed that the corpus for 2011/2012 will remain at the level of 2010/2011. Similarly savings made at PLS through adjustments to the budget and savings across the business have been acknowledged. These savings have been earmarked for the 1LMS project.

A significant Public Library report to note has been launched Interstate:

Dollars, Sense and Public Libraries - A landmark study of the socio-economic value of Victorian Public Libraries an important report

<http://www.publiclibrariesvictoria.net.au/node/13>

The research measures the value of Victorian public libraries' contribution to the community through a cost benefit analysis and an economic impact assessment. *Dollars, Sense and Public Libraries* found that the benefits contributed by public libraries significantly outweigh their provisioning costs and represent a sound return on community investment.

SGS Economics & Planning was engaged to undertake the Dollars, Sense and Public Libraries study, for which it received the Planning Institute of Australia's 2011 Social and Community Based Planning Award. This State-wide Public Library Development Project was funded by the Library Board of Victoria and was delivered by the State Library of Victoria in collaboration with Public Libraries Victoria.

The report contains:

[Key Findings factsheet](#)

[Public report - summary of findings](#)

[Technical Report](#)

[Technical Report appendices](#)

Such a report with relevant statistical data for SA would inform the network and our strategic partners leading to the next State election and enable us to advocate for our libraries, funding and community with good qualitative data...

Beyond a Quality Service: strengthening the social fabric Standards and guidelines for Australian Public Libraries, launched in April is available at http://www.alia.org.au/publiclibraries/PLSG_web_110401.pdf

The PLSA Executive has agreed to provide ongoing financial support to ensure that the National Standards and Guidelines maintain currency. The process to ensure this currency is currently being debated by PLAC (PL Associations across Australia and ALIA) A paper on these key standards is being developed for the information of the LGA and the Libraries Board.

PLSA Executive has also agreed to financially support The Summer Reading Club for 2011 given that it will lead into the National Year of Reading 2012. All State Public Library Associations are supporting this initiative for 2011 and Queensland State Library will be the lead body.

School Community Libraries

At its February meeting the Libraries Board agreed that it would *“initiate a high level planning exercise to determine the most effective forms of service provision required to ensure appropriate public library services for those communities currently served by School Community Libraries.”* And at the May meeting of the Libraries Board the terms of reference and membership was confirmed.

Historically in small and remote councils (of less than 3,000 people) it was agreed that the local school library would be utilised to provide access to a public library for those local communities. A service delivery model was developed which became known as a School Community Library (SCL). 46 SCLs were developed throughout the State, with some being close to Adelaide, however the majority served the remote and sparsely populated areas of the State.

There have been significant changes in community infrastructure, technology, demographics and community expectations of what is expected of a public library service since the inception of school community libraries. These changes coupled with changes to school infrastructure and the environment in which they operate have impacted on these School Community Libraries. Given these changes the Libraries Board considers it appropriate to re-examine the premises on which these libraries were originally formed and to consider what the best possible model or models of public library service delivery should be for the next decade or more.

The Libraries Board has therefore committed to the development of a Working Party comprised of various key stakeholders to undertake an examination of current arrangement and future service delivery options. The working party will seek the services of a suitably qualified and experienced consultant to undertake the work.

The function of the Working Party is to be responsible for the high level oversight of this project, including setting key directions, monitoring project performance and taking responsibility for the recommendations and outcomes from the project.

The Working Party will be responsible for:

- The recruitment of a consultant who will work to the direction of the Working Party;
- The establishment of the framework through which the consultant will undertake their consultation, research and review work;
- The recommendations which will be provided to the Libraries Board and other stakeholders for their consideration.

Working Party membership includes:

One Libraries Board Member (Ms Ann Short)
One LGA nominated member

One DECS nominated member

Up to three staff members from public libraries – with at least two of these being employed in rural South Australia

The PLS Associate Director

A PLS staff member to act as Executive Officer

At the May meeting of the Joint Use Libraries Committee it was confirmed that a **School Community Libraries Sub Review Group** has been established and representation confirmed and its purposes include but not limited to

- The development of 'service standards' regarding the expectation of school community libraries to deliver a quality library service to the school and community
- Outcomes, accountabilities and responsibilities of the Principal, teacher Librarian and the School Community Library Officer
- What outcomes are to be expected from the funding DECS allocates for school community libraries?

Terms of Reference

- The impact of recent policies on school community libraries and their activities (e.g. Student Centred Funding Model)
- The factors influencing recruitment and development of "school community librarians" (current situation about the numbers of DECS teacher librarians in the system – including those that are qualified librarians and those that are not)
- The role of different levels of government and local communities and other institutions in partnering with and supporting school community libraries
- The impact and potential of digital technologies to enhance and support the roles of school community libraries and library staff (e.g. including the impending implementation of the 'one-library' card system by Public Libraries).

CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 5 & 6 2011:

People Place Purpose: Partnering for success. The venue is the Adelaide Entertainment Centre, the theme is confirmed and the program has been developed and confirmed with speakers and chairs confirmed including the keynote speaker, Nicky Parker, Head of Transformation, Manchester City Council, and UK. The Conference looks great and what an amazing group of speakers and information to share, be inspired and reflect.

The bus tour will include City of Adelaide, Campbelltown and Woodcroft libraries.

Please see the libraries.sa.gov.au for further information, program and registration.

Regards

Janice Nitschke

0417842875