



Message from the President – Jenny Dickman

Term 4, 2008

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Where do I start after the whirlwind that was third term, 2008. I hope everyone had a wonderful and very well earned holiday. The WASLA committee was kept very busy with the organising of our professional development calendar for the rest of this year; the advocacy for our profession in light of the implications of the Secondary School's Flexibility Project ; the hastily called state election and the Call for Abstracts for the ASLA XXI Biennial Conference.

WASLA already had plans underway for a mail-out to all schools in Western Australia including the *Standards of excellence for teacher- librarians* document when the Bethany Hiatt article appeared in the West Australian on 20th August. In the midst of organising the mail-out and submitting letters to the editors of The West Australian, Sunday Times and Community Newspapers, the snap state election was called. Our letters to the members of both parties can be viewed on our website together with the letters to the Editor. Now that we have a new Education Minister, a further submission will be sent to Hon. Liz Constable. We are also collecting anecdotal information from any schools that have been affected by the proposal to reduce teacher librarian time in school libraries. Members forwarding this information can be assured that names of personnel and schools will not be used in our submission.

WASLA ran a very successful Copyright PD on 3 September at St. Stephen's School. Please refer to the article elsewhere in this edition. We really appreciate the time and effort Caroline Brasnett puts into running Copyright PD sessions for us. The Library Officer's day set for Friday October 10 is also fully subscribed and our apologies to those people who missed out this year. Our Library Officer/Technician of the Year will also be announced early in Term 4 so look out for that announcement. Make sure to get your bookings in for the School Library Day dinner on Monday October 20 when we present the Teacher Librarian of the Year award to Maria Darby and the Library Officer/Technician of the Year Award. As well as celebrating their awards, it is also a great opportunity for networking with colleagues.

The WASLA AGM is on Wednesday 26 November. Nomination forms can be found in this newsletter. Please consider joining our committee, particularly with the need for ongoing advocacy. The renewal notices for membership will also come out with this newsletter. Prompt payment will ensure that you do not miss any issues of Access and payment before 28th February, 2009 could also put you in the running to have your renewal subscription refunded to you.

The ASLA XXI Conference is shaping up very nicely and looks like being a great showcase for both the state and the wonderful things happening in W.A. school libraries. Please give consideration to presenting a paper at this conference. Check out the website at <http://www.asla.org.au:80/pd/conference/>

I wish you all a stress free term 4 and look forward to seeing you at the School Library Day dinner and the AGM.

Jenny Dickman

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

AGM

MillPoint Caffe Bookshop
254 Mill Point Road, SOUTH Perth, WA, 6151
(opposite Wesley)

Wednesday 26th November 2008

4.00 pm Afternoon Tea – arrive earlier and browse through the bookshop at your leisure.

4.30 pm WASLA AGM

AGENDA

1. Welcome: Jenny Dickman, President of WASLA
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Annual General Meeting Wednesday 21st November 2007
4. WASLA President’s Report
5. WASLA Treasurer’s Report
6. Nomination of auditors
7. Nominations- Committee and Office Bearers
8. General Business

Close meeting

5.00pm – 5.30 pm Guest speaker Celia Cole - Literature Specialist
“Great Reads for adults during the holidays”

WASLA COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

The following positions are available for the 2007 Committee:

President	Vice President
Secretary	Treasurer
Committee Members (10)	Newsletter Editor

NOMINATIONS CLOSE: 20th November 2006.
Please forward to PO Box 1272, West Perth 6872

NOMINATION

I would like to nominate
.....

For the position of
.....

Name of person nominating
.....

Nominee acceptance

Mark Treadwell

Mark Treadwell was in Perth recently to conduct an ACEL Travelling Scholar program. He spoke with great knowledge about education systems in New Zealand, Australia and Ireland. One of his main concerns for Australian education is that there is no one body who has authority over education.

He talked about how education has reached the upper level of its efficiency. The introduction of computers and the use of the internet caused a paradigm shift for some students around the world. He questioned the notion of students being able to multi task because there has been no research. If a student is listening to music at the same time as being on the Internet researching, the music recedes to the background. Mark mentioned Howard Gardner's "Five Minds of the Future" where you cannot have five things going on in your mind at once.

Oral language is extremely important – listening and speaking is more important than being able to read and write. There has also been a shift from "remembering" to "understanding" although understanding is harder to assess. The national testing programs were questioned in this light. Mark suggested that one cannot be innovative without having understanding and being creative. Students need language to think at a high level and need to develop the art of questioning. In light of this it is the role of the teacher to have the skills to motivate the students.

Mark noted that oral presentations are an ideal way for students to present their work. Use an interview technique as in a television program so students talk about their topic but don't read directly from a written presentation although that could be showing in the background. Much of what Mark talked about used the enquiry process as the basis for students developing a crucial understanding. During the day of presentations, schools use of computers was discussed including using repositories such as Bebo instead of servers for collecting information. Schools need an IT committee which computer technicians contribute to but not dominate as they are not educators. The speed of internet connections for all of Australia and particularly schools is an issue. New Zealand is a leader in some areas such as providing free online resources to schools and also in the quality of computer access. This needs to be addressed at a national level along with the National Curriculum.

When a national curriculum was developed in New Zealand, it was put out to all teachers for input as a Wiki. A professional company was engaged to collate the responses. When the curriculum was released there was acceptance because teachers owned it. Mark talked about the curriculum having a strong values component. Mark provided many practical ideas and many thoughts on wide scale issues. If you have the opportunity to attend his seminars or keynotes try to do so as he is very in tune with the work being done in school libraries. Hopefully we might see him back in Perth next year at the ALSA conference.

The School Library Conference 2008

This library conference was very good, as always. Stimulating, demanding... 'though I would love it to be longer. As a country TL I hanker back to the time when we had two full days of lectures, workshops and discussions.

What did I bring back to Carnarvon?

St Mary Star of the Sea, Carnarvon, is a district high, K to 10, with approximately 400 students in an isolated town with a high low socio economic ratio and a strong multi-ethnic mix. Our library is small (and actually cut in size by a third 6 years ago) and well under the size recommended in *Learning for the Future* (2001). We have hopes that our present administration team will redress this, so Kevin Hennah's suggestions are timely:

- > Remember the task: "See the library from the user's perspective and remember the aim is to move books."
- > No, there is no library sign ... the door is open... everyone knows where it is. It is the centre, the hub, of the school. We are thinking of a changing sign (change it each term/semester) running along the windows in front ...stretch our creativity.
- > Work out the areas like a monopoly board... hot...everything goes; warm and cold.... And use it to arrange your stock Yes! And we confess to having the reference section just inside the door, in prime position! That will move to a "cooler" area when we expand.
- > Our "New Books" stand; our "Hot Pic" stand (although it's not called that) have to be passed by visitors and the covers are displayed. Our lovely library technician has perfected the art of shelving so that there are never piles of returned books. Shelving is a tedious task ...and students are very smart at collecting good books they have seen other students with, however, many people in public libraries head straight to the returns. So, suggestions?
- > Avoid fixtures. Moveable bookcases are a brilliant idea. But, we will never have enough space for reading pods, comfortable chairs and fat cushions.
- > Signs... vital and only the necessary... clear and modern. No scrappy A4 white paper signs, yes, Kevin.
- > Displays : Kevin is so right when he spoke of the importance of displaying covers. The cover of a book sings out its content. Lots of display areas...and frequent changing of displays. Use the aisles for display...slapboard.
- > Colour in the library... a neutral carpet and walls... colour in fabric and furnishings. Colour is energising - the bright pinks and oranges in St Hilda's Senior library says it all. (I love their hanging lights.)

I gave a talk on the Conference at the staff meeting on the Tuesday following my return. I took the staff to the Book launch; introduced them to Norm Jorgensen and "Jack's Island"; took them on our bus tour pointing out librarian delights. Fed them the idea of selling books... marketing a library...suggestions on the use of library passes. Then gave them a run down of IT info... Wikipedia has fewer errors than Britannica and don't be complacent because we have Netnanny... the dangers and the joys, present and yet to come.... and interesting/exciting/useful websites. The staff members were delighted with and distinctly envious of my "learning experience".

I consider the Library conferences quite unique in their scope and quality. They provide opportunity to gather ideas and to recharge and to exchange ideas with a wonderful mix of people: CBC members; book shop owners, publishers, authors, presenters, librarians. A great weekend. Thank you.

Jean Stretch
Teacher Librarian

Copyright and Intellectual Property

A professional development session organised by the Western Australian School Library Association was held on Wednesday, 3rd September, 2008 at St Stephen's School, Duncraig. The presentation by Caroline Brasnett, Principal Consultant IP and Copyright, was both informative and relevant to all staff working within the education sector.

Some of the subjects covered included ownership of copyright, the use of copyright under the new section 200AB flexible dealing and copyright issues in schools and intellectual property. Most intellectual property in education is subject to copyright so any intellectual property being developed is owned by the employer. If any new material is being developed then the employee must speak to their employer and seek agreement in writing with the employer regarding the ownership.

The presentation on copyright detailed the issues dealing with copying by staff and the appropriate acknowledgement of owners of copyright on any staff or student documents. There are copyright surveys every 7 or 8 years so it was recommended that all licences owned should be kept on file. It is important for every educational institution to keep accurate records of downloads and worksheets at one location.

The information Caroline presented was invaluable as it clarified many details regarding the new provisions under the Copyright Act and emphasised the importance of checking these provisions.

National Copyright guidelines and information sheets are available at the Smart copying website at <http://www.smartcopying.edu.au>

Margaret Ryan

Australian School Library Association National Council Meeting 2008

Sydney, NSW

Friday 8th August to Sunday 10th August 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Provide leadership in professional practice and school-based workforce planning

- a. Planning continues for ASLA XXI IN Perth in 2009
- b. Planning is underway for the joint SLAQ/IASL conference in 2010.
- c. ASLA and joint ALIA/ASLA policies are under review of Policy subcommittee and the PAG respectively and will be published by the end of the year.
- d. Advocacy subcommittee will produce a range of inexpensive resources which will be downloadable from ASLA website.
- e. Member associations are invited to provide successful advocacy campaigns to the Advocacy subcommittee.
- f. Professional recognition proposal under discussion.

B. Develop and maintain sound governance and management

- a. Biennial elections held for Executive committee
- b. New constitution allowed formation of subcommittees under the three groups:

Strategic Group				Projects Group			Publications Group		
Advocacy sub committee	Management sub Committee	Policy sub committee	Research sub committee	Councillor Professional Learning subcommittee	Awards sub committee	Professional Learning sub committee	Emerging Technologies subcommittee (inc. Web)	Journal sub committee	Publications sub committee
<i>National Councillor/s</i> will chair or co-chair				<i>Projects Councillor/s</i> will chair or co-chair			<i>Publications Councillor/s</i> will chair or co-chair		
Interested / experienced members from member associations are the members of subcommittees and, where applicable for the subcommittee, include ASLA PAG representatives				Interested / experienced members from member associations are the members of subcommittees and, where applicable for the subcommittee, include conference committee members			Interested / experienced members from member associations are the members of subcommittees, and where applicable for the subcommittee, include the <i>Journal editor</i> .		
Chair of subcommittees reports to Secretary – Judy O’Connell				Chair of the subcommittees reports to Vice-President: Association Relations Marie Clarke			Chair of the subcommittees reports to Vice-President: Association Operations June Wall		

- c. Members of member associations are encouraged to join the subcommittees above. Please contact the relevant Executive member.
- d. Councillor Induction Handbook in progress.
- e. Sponsorship package is almost ready to deliver to potential sponsors.
- f. ACCESS advertising will be a priority in 2008-2009.

C. Commit to communication and engagement

- a. Council and all subcommittees committed to using free Web2.0 for communication and lessening reliance on audio teleconferences.
- b. ASLA Executive members have participated in National meetings and strengthened links with Teaching Australia, National Curriculum Board, ALIA, ACEL.
- c. Submissions have been made to the Federal Government’s Community Cabinet Forums.
- d. E-forums held on updated policies and Professional Recognition proposal.

ABS Training: Free Teacher Librarian Information Sessions

This is a free training course by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Overview: these free hands-on Internet workshops will show you how to quickly access up-to-date information from the ABS website, for many subject areas and year levels. As well you'll discover the many online products and resources developed especially for teachers.

Format: hands on workshop.

Duration: 5 hours

Who should attend: teacher librarians

Course outcomes: Awareness of how to access free ABS information from a range of subject areas and year levels; ability to access online products and resources developed for teachers.

Location:

ABS Offices
Level 15 Exchange Plaza
2 The Esplanade (off Sherwood Court)

Cost: free

When is this course run?

Friday 24 October

For scheduled training courses see the [ABS Training Calendar](#).

Further information and registrations:

To register, RSVP to margaret.garner@abs.gov.au with your name, contact details and school.

If you would like further information contact the relevant person in your state/territory or call ABS Education Services on Freecall 1800 623 273

Following are letters to Colin Barnett, Alan Carpenter and school principals

31 August, 2008
 Hon. Alan J. Carpenter MLA,
 Premier,
 24thFloor,
 Governor Stirling Tower,
 197 St. George's Terrace
 PERTH WA 6000

Dear Sir,

Prior to the state election, the Western Australian School Library Association would like your comments on the recent article in The West Australian on 20 August by Bethany Hiatt, *Cuts "hide teacher shortage"*.

In your letter to this Association on 28 March, 2008 you assured our members that the value of teacher librarians is recognised by the Department and that information about our role is provided to schools on the CMIS School Library Website. This article and the proposed staffing documents being put to Principals, clearly indicates this is not the case. A further article in The West Australian on 23 August by Bethany Hiatt, *Schools say teens cannot read* talks of computerised programs being trialled to improve student literacy. The reading programmes developed and implemented by teachers librarians throughout this state, contribute significantly to increased literacy standards for Western Australian students.

By replacing teacher librarians with non-teaching staff, our students are being severely disadvantaged. There is a lack of appreciation of the direct relationship between resource management implications and associated loss of literacy outcomes. Poorly acquired, collected and managed school resources in an increasing number of schools without adequate school libraries and fully qualified teacher librarians can only result in decreased literacy levels. The ALP Campaign and Information Service responded to our national organisation, Australian School Library Association on Tuesday 13th November, 2007 with the following:

"School Librarians play an important role in promoting the importance of literacy and in fostering greater information literacy skills in students and teachers in our schools.

In an age where students are dealing with information on an unprecedented digital scale it is particularly important to ensure school librarians are properly qualified to assist young Australians in accessing and interpreting this information. To be the best trained and best skilled workforce in the world, we must do more to encourage greater professional development, mentoring and induction, particularly in education, including our school librarians." School libraries can have a positive impact on a range of learning areas, including reading scores, literacy and broader learning. Our members would like your undertaking that should you be re-elected, we can expect:

- Recognition of the significant role of school libraries and teacher librarians in literacy and other Education initiatives.
- Inclusion of statements supporting the significant role of school libraries and teacher librarians in Education policy.
- State funded research into the impact of Australian school libraries on the literacy skills and academic achievement of students at all levels and across all sectors.
- Development and validation of standards for school library facilities and staffing.

In this election year, we look forward to hearing how your policies and programs will address the issues raised for schools libraries and teacher librarians. We ask that you give due consideration to all areas of education and the crucial role of school libraries and qualified, quality staff to assist students with their life long learning at every level of their education.

Yours faithfully,
 Jenny Dickman
 President

cc Hon. Colin Barnett MLA,
 Mr. Robert Fry, President, WACSSO

31 August, 2008

Hon. Colin Barnett MLA
Leader of the Opposition,
Suite 12,
589 Stirling Highway,
COTTESLOE WA 6011

Dear Sir,

The Western Australian School Library Association is delighted to see your commitment to the educational outcomes of all students in Western Australia as detailed in the article in The Sunday Times on 24 August. Our members would greatly appreciate a response from you on the recent articles in The West Australian by Bethany Hiatt, on 20 and 23 August, 2008. On 23 August it was reported that schools have teens who cannot read and the article raised the need to trial computerised reading programs in an effort to increase teenage literacy. However, on 20 August the report stated that one of the solutions to the current teacher shortages is to remove teacher librarians from the library and replace them with non-teaching staff. The reading and information literacy programmes developed and implemented by teacher librarians throughout this state, contribute significantly to increased literacy standards for Western Australian students.

In addition, with the Federal government initiative of ensuring funding for computers in national secondary schools to provide a 21st century education system, it is imperative that qualified teacher librarians be available in all schools. Western Australian teachers need the support that collaboration with qualified teacher librarians brings in assisting students to develop quality on-line research and presentation skills that are implicit in the use of these computers. At present it is not mandatory in schools to have qualified teacher librarians. However, it has been shown in the past through independent surveys that having a well-resourced school library staffed by qualified teacher librarians has a positive impact on student learning. We urge your party to support the employment of teacher librarians in the foundation staffing of any new schools in Western Australia and indeed to ensure that qualified teacher librarians are employed in all schools.

Our members would like your undertaking that should you be elected, we can expect:

- Recognition of the significant role of school libraries and teacher librarians in Literacy and other Education initiatives. Inclusion of statements supporting the significant role of school libraries and teacher librarians in Education policy.
- State funded research into the impact of Australian school libraries on the literacy skills and academic achievement of students at all levels and across all sectors.
- Development and validation of standards for school library facilities and staffing.

In this election year, we look forward to hearing how your policies and programs will address the issues raised for schools libraries and teacher librarians. We ask that you give due consideration to all areas of education and the crucial role of school libraries and qualified, quality staff to assist students with their life long learning at every level of their education. The President and committee of WASLA would be pleased to discuss with you the improved student outcomes that can be achieved with the employment of qualified teacher librarians in all schools in Western Australia.

Yours faithfully,
Jenny Dickman
President

cc Hon. A.J. Carpenter, Premier.
Mr. R. Fry, President, WACSSO

To the Principal

The Western Australian School Library Association(WASLA), the Australian School Library Association (ASLA) and the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) were delighted to see the commitment by the Labor government to ensure “digital schools” provide a 21st century education system. Funding national secondary school computers has the potential to significantly improve the education outcomes for Australian students.

We seek to raise two important issues with you that are essential to the successful implementation of a digital education program. The first is the need for access to quality electronic resources. You will be aware that the information on the Internet is of variable quality and reliability. Australian libraries, including school libraries, have together selected quality electronic resources covering general reference (including encyclopaedias), Australian news and business information and health information through a national consortium (<http://era.nla.gov.au>). These products have been selected through a tender process and represent sources to which all schools should have access. We would recommend that your digital education program consider purchase of these resources to support quality outcomes for students and teachers.

Secondly, Western Australian students need support from qualified teacher librarians to enable them to gain on-line research skills to use the computers which will be available through secondary schools. It has been shown in the past through independent surveys that having the school library staffed by qualified teacher librarians has a positive impact on student learning. The role of the teacher librarian has changed significantly in recent times, particularly where information communication technologies are concerned. Teacher librarians contribute significantly to student technology and information literacies.

Please find attached a “Standards of professional excellence for teacher librarians” document which highlights the professional knowledge, skills and commitment demonstrated by teacher librarians working at a level of excellence. This document was put forward as an exemplar in the “National professional standards for Advanced Teaching and School Leadership” consultation paper in March, 2007.

WASLA provides numerous opportunities for professional development for staff in school libraries throughout Western Australia. Your staff may like to attend our Library Officer/Technician’s Seminar held on Friday 10 October, 2008 at SIDE. From 29th September to 2nd October, 2009, WASLA will host the ASLA XXI Biennial Conference at the Perth Convention Centre which provides a showcase of the contribution that school libraries make to education in Australia. Details of these and other professional development opportunities can be found on the WASLA website, on WATLNET and in the WASLA newsletter.

Should you have any queries about how teacher librarians can support and implement effective library and information services and programs in your school, please contact our Association.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Dickman
President.

**Western Australian School Library Association
Professional Development Calendar
2008**

DATE	EVENT
Term 4 – 20th October	International School Library Day Dinner. Presentation of Teacher Librarian & Library Officer of the Year Awards. Venue: Vultures, Northbridge
Term 4 - WASLA AGM Wednesday 26th November	Millpoint Bookcaffe including talk by Celia Cole. Details in newsletter

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