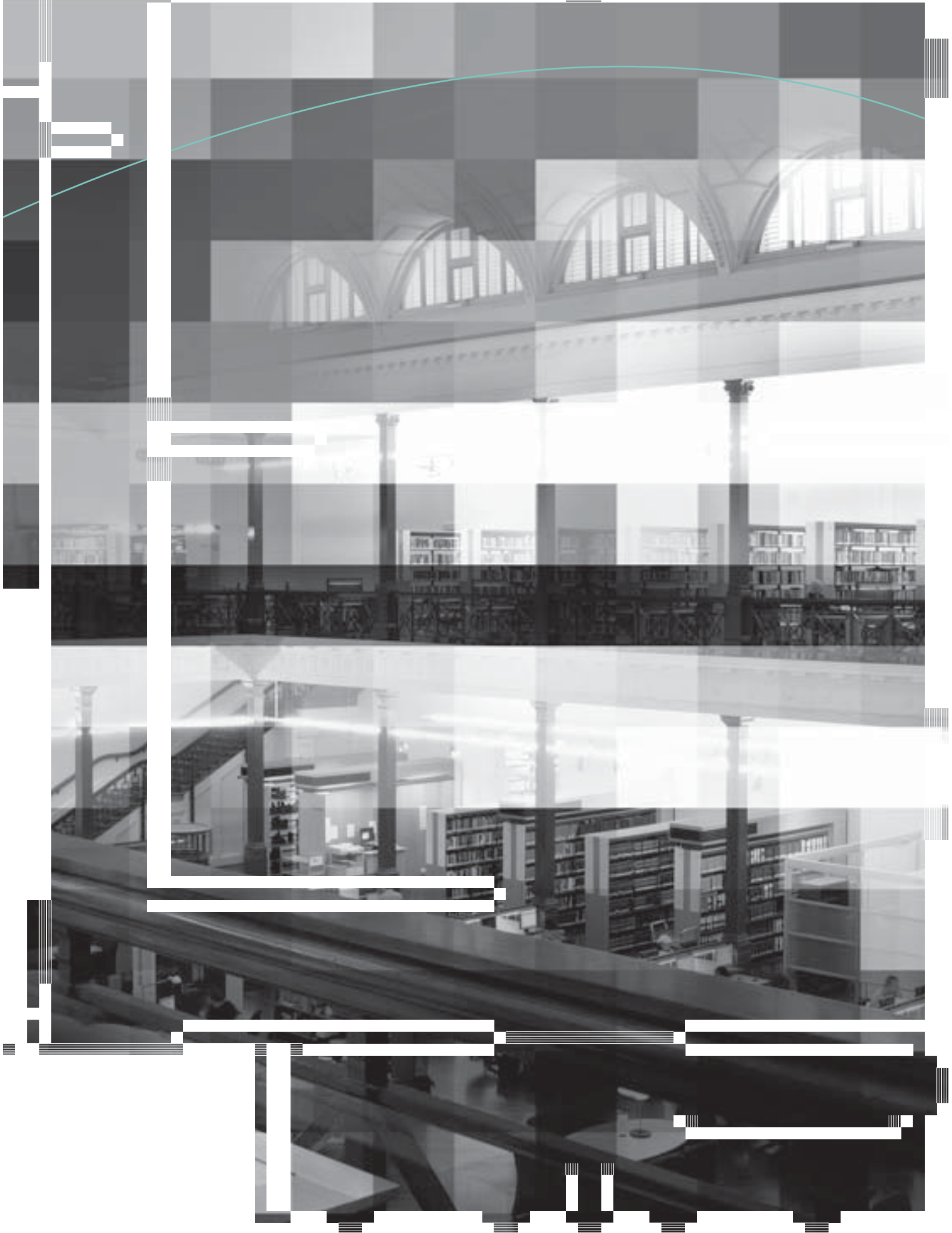


library board of victoria annual report 2005-06



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**ARTS
VICTORIA**





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Having started with the Library as a Board member in August 2005, it was with great pleasure that I accepted the role of President of the Board in May this year. I would like to thank my predecessor, Sam Lipski, who led the Board so enthusiastically and skilfully for six years. He ensured a smooth hand-over, and has offered me his counsel since.

A very gratifying start to my presidency was seeing the Library receive such an affirmation from government of the Library's strategic direction, slv21, through the allocation of a generous and very welcome funding increase.

The principle behind slv21 is the transformation of the Library's service model to one based around digital information and access appropriate to the 21st century, while achieving a sustainable funding base for the future. An integrated package of strategic initiatives, slv21 offers information resources to the whole Victorian community.

To equip the Library for the challenges of the 21st-century global information economy, slv21 has three core aims:

- to place the Library at the hub of an integrated knowledge network which reaches into the Victorian community and connects to the world at large, positioning Melbourne as a major creative centre
- to build, through its strengthening of the state's unique collection of social and historical documentary material about Victoria, a legacy for future generations of Victorians
- to ensure the long-term viability of the Library's heritage site as a destination for Library users and cultural tourists.

The planning principles behind slv21 are as follows:

1. The Library will serve its users as and when they seek information by giving them the means to access collections, services and resources digitally and to select from a range of digital delivery options.
2. The Library will provide access to digital information resources in preference to collecting other forms containing like information.
3. The Library will foster collaboration with other organisations, as shared responsibility will be essential to providing new and existing services, maintaining enduring access and preserving digital resources.
4. The Library will develop the skills of its staff so that the transitions to and performance in the digital environment is supported.

I look forward to working with the Board and the Library's senior management as we move forward with the slv21 agenda.

This has been an extremely busy year for the Library. Of so many interesting and varied activities in 2005-06, some of my favourite cultural highlights have been the Premier's Literary Awards; Morry Schwartz's delivery of the Redmond Barry Lecture; the 2005 Stephen Murray-Smith Memorial Lecture, delivered by Malcolm Fraser; and the Commonwealth Writers' Prize in March.



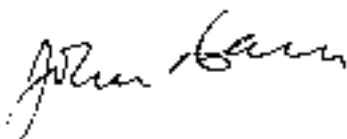
I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Foundation for its generous and unfailing support - in particular for its assistance with the groundbreaking Library of the 21st Century Symposium, which brought together key thinkers from the library industry, cultural sector and government at the Library. The Foundation once again organised a very successful Keith Murdoch Oration in 2006. Delivered by Lord Sebastian Coe, this fundraiser was held to coincide with the Melbourne Commonwealth Games. Thanks must also go to our philanthropic supporters, mentioned elsewhere in this report, whose generous contributions enable the Library to continue its work.

There have been some changes to the Board during the 2005-06 year. We farewelled Dr Vicki Williamson, who was appointed to the University of Saskatchewan as Dean of the University Library. In her four years on the Board, including the last as Vice-President, her strategic thinking, commitment, managerial skills and focus on the information needs of Victorians have been inspiring. We also said goodbye to the very talented Hilary McPhee AO, who spent six tireless years on the Board; and to Greg Hywood, who, after three years on the Board, left us to take up his appointment as Chief Executive Officer of Tourism Victoria. And we welcomed to the Board Stephen Kerr, a long-time supporter of the Library, who in 2002 was appointed Chair of the State Library of Victoria Foundation. My thanks and best wishes to them all.

Two special pleasures over the year have been the opportunity I have had to work closely with colleagues from the public library sector, as Chair of the Board's Advisory Committee on Public Libraries; and engaging closely with Library staff. During such an intense and busy period it has been immensely gratifying to see how much the staff have contributed to the success of slv21. Their professionalism and dedication is a credit to them.

Thanks, too, must go to Sue Hamilton, for stepping so ably into the role of CEO and State Librarian in the absence of Anne-Marie Schwirtlich while she is seconded to Arts Victoria.

The year ahead will be a busy and challenging one for the Library. Hopefully, while we move forward on our digital agenda, with its extraordinary benefits to the State Library of Victoria and, of course, to the wider Victorian community, we will also be able to make progress in completing the Library's redevelopment program, so that the whole of its magnificent site in Swanston Street will be available for the Victorian people to use and enjoy.



[John Cain](#)
President, Library Board of Victoria



What a fantastic year it has been for the Library, with the government's clear indication of support for our forward program, slv21, through its allocation of \$25.1 million in additional funding announced in the Victorian Government's May Budget.

This magnificent outcome was the result of outstanding teamwork: special thanks to all my colleagues at the Library for their efforts, and thanks, too, to the Library Board of Victoria for its generous support and advice throughout the year.

Full details on all areas of the Library's operations are included elsewhere in this report, but I will highlight a few here.

Collections and access

In 2005-06 the Library has made some significant moves towards making more collection materials and information available online. A central principle behind slv21 is equal access to the State Library of Victoria's collections and services - for onsite visitors to the Swanston Street buildings and for online users through the Library's websites.

As a result of this, some parts of the Library's collections are already online and many more will be accessible as the digitisation of Victorian materials gathers momentum. In the 2005-06 reporting period, for example, 750 Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works maps were digitised, giving interactive and unprecedented access to their important historical information. Other projects, such as the digitisation of the Port Phillip Papers; access to information databases through the online@home pilot project; the launch of the interactive book-review website for young people, called insideadog.com.au; and many others, demonstrate the diversity of opportunities for the State Library in the digital environment.

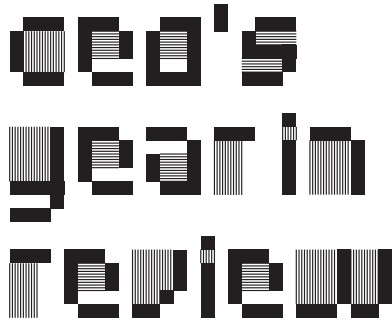
The Library is about stewardship as well as access, and the completion of a purpose-built, offsite storage facility at the Mt Helen Campus of the University of Ballarat was a major milestone in the Library's history. The store was handed over to the Hon. John Brumby MP, Treasurer and Minister for State and Regional Development, in November. The successful relocation and consolidation of the Library's collection materials into the offsite store was completed in June 2006, with retrievals commencing in May 2006. I would like to express my thanks to the University of Ballarat for its unstinting cooperation with this huge task.

The Library at Swanston Street

Back at Swanston Street, some important changes have taken shape from the Library's ongoing redevelopment. Our new café, Mr Tulk - named for the first Chief Librarian of Victoria - opened in May, and has been a welcome addition, bringing a youthful, spirited vibrancy to the Library precinct. The redevelopment of the Dome Galleries was completed this year, culminating in the opening of the beautiful exhibition *Mirror of the World: books and ideas*; and the Library's new conservation labs are nearly ready for occupation. The combination of the Dome Galleries, the Keith Murdoch Gallery, Cowen Gallery, Experimedia and now Palmer Hall gives us extensive and diverse spaces in which to showcase the Library's collections and visiting exhibitions.

The Library's redevelopment has been professionally recognised, too, with the awarding of the John George Knight Award for Heritage, and the RAIAs Lachlan Macquarie Heritage Prize, to Ancher, Mortlock & Woolley architects.

There have also been changes in customer service, with the introduction of a new and dedicated front foyer team to assist customers from the moment they enter the Library. The Library's new-media space, Experimedia, has had its opening hours extended in line with general opening hours, and all the Library's exhibitions are now open on public holidays. And what library of the 21st century would be without internet and wireless access for all users? These service extensions underscore our commitment to providing information online whenever and wherever it is needed.



Community

The State Library does not operate in a vacuum - we are continually looking for new and better ways to engage with the community and address its needs. The Library's Vicnet division does this by providing ICT support services to community groups and public libraries. It also provides a range of internet training programs for culturally and linguistically diverse communities, including the Multilingual Senior Surfers project, specifically designed for older people whose first language is not English.

The internationally lauded MyLanguage website - a national portal for Australians from diverse cultural backgrounds, who can now search and find information on the internet in more than 60 languages - was launched in November. The 'Your Treasures' website, which allows people to post their favourite personal treasures online, forms part of a series of planned initiatives in which the community will increasingly be invited to interact with and contribute content to the Library online. And on the treasures theme, the immensely popular *Travelling Treasures* program continued in 2005-06, taking an extraordinary selection of rare printed materials on the road to people all over Victoria.

We continue to develop and expand our schools programs, offering an increasingly wide and curriculum-relevant variety of events, tours and workshops for both students and teachers.

Colleagues

Our sadness at the departure of our CEO and State Librarian, Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, for a six-month secondment as Director, Arts Victoria, was tempered by pleasure at the recognition of her outstanding leadership skills. We look forward to her return early in the 2006-07 year.

As part of a management restructure in February to support the slv21 agenda, we welcomed a number of new colleagues to our senior management team. We also finalised a new Enterprise Partnership Agreement, in consultation with employees and the Community and Public Sector Union, which will apply for a period of three years. Several significant value-management projects were undertaken, which helped us to refine our processes and achieve efficiencies, and I am very pleased to note that the Library's staff fellowships were reintroduced during the year.

Partnerships

The Library has taken part in a number of successful and ongoing collaborative projects. The touring exhibition *National Treasures from Australia's Great Libraries* was hosted here from March to May. This exhibition was an initiative of the National Library of Australia, in collaboration with the Council of Australian State Libraries, and will see an extraordinary selection of significant collection items from Australia's national, state and territory libraries touring the country until 2007. Another exhibition, *Naked Democracy: Governing Victoria 1856-2006*, was mounted with the support of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

A very successful partnership has been the AskNow! online reference service, which celebrated its third birthday and passed the milestone 100,000th inquiry in August 2005. Staffed by librarians from the national, state, territory and public libraries, AskNow! is an opportunity for people to get expert help with their information needs in a virtual environment.

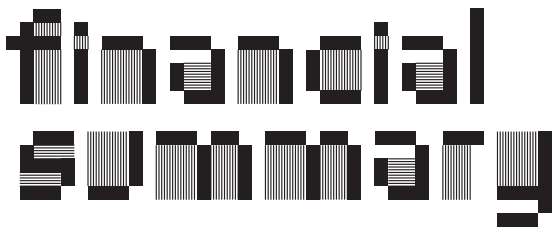
Opportunities to expand the Library's existing Memorandum of Understanding with the National Library Board of Singapore were investigated during the year, in anticipation of renewing the agreement late in 2006. And as part of renewing and consolidating the long-standing reciprocal agreement between the Nanjing Public Library and the State Library, more than 50 of our staff were involved in sharing their knowledge during a six-week study tour by two Nanjing colleagues.

Outlook

In the words of Mary Delahunty, Minister for the Arts, the Library's additional funding was given by the Victorian Government 'to transform this internationally recognised, 150-year-old library into a cutting-edge library of the 21st century'. Throughout this year we have been working to put in place the groundwork from which we can begin to make this aspiration a reality. Achieving this will be an exciting challenge for us all and one which we face with optimism and enthusiasm.



Sue Hamilton
Acting CEO and State Librarian



**Summary of Financial Results
with Four-Year Comparatives**

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Revenue from Government	78,449	72,957	68,748	64,737	62,844
Other revenue	13,118	12,127	16,107	11,501	15,679
Total revenue	91,567	85,084	84,855	76,238	78,523
Result from ordinary activities	5,948	6,451	5,421	3,695	8,853
Cash flow from operating activities	4,047	(1,528)	5,251	2,741	7,324
Total assets	750,392	728,908	723,240	708,047	572,023
Total liabilities	8,767	7,391	8,175	6,468	6,409

Increased revenue from Government includes additional depreciation equivalent funding for the Library redevelopment, the Ballarat Offsite Store and other capital projects. Other revenue increase is attributable to an increase in bequests and donations.

Cash Flow from Operating Activities modified by deducting Asset Replacement Grants and Dividends and Interest.

Increase in total assets reflects expenditure relating to the Library redevelopment, the Ballarat Offsite Store and collection acquisitions.

Key performance indicators

	Actual 2004-05	Target 2005-06	Actual 2005-06
Satisfaction with overall Library experience	83%	90%	86%
Satisfaction with retrieval services	55%	60%	53%
Percentage of external librarians rating training as 'very good' or 'excellent'	96%	90%	90%
Library onsite visits ¹	906,316	850,000	901,696
Library online visits ¹	2,006,323	2,250,000	2,836,315
Searches of State Library of Victoria catalogues	2,067,640	2,000,000	1,973,629
Events and exhibition visits ²	456,702	517,528	364,466
Reference inquiries ³	214,850	190,000	207,006
Digital images created	9504	10,000	10,610
Catalogue records created/added	41,544	46,100	50,937
Collection loans to other libraries	4610	3750	3997
Items acquired ⁴	51,883	50,750	59,260
Items conserved to industry standard	1514	2279	3777
Lifelong learning participants ⁵	30,962	29,018	26,724
Vicnet Victorian community portal users	21,732,747	21,000,000	31,722,019
Vicnet community publishing programs	5024	5000	4834
Community-based training users	5479	3060	2726
Online visits to collaborative public library websites	306,368	240,000	541,138
Proportion of collection items stored to appropriate standard	50%	100%	100%

Notes

1 The downward trend in some outputs reflects the fact that the Library and its users are shifting their emphasis towards the online environment.

'Online visits' does not include Vicnet internet statistics.

2 The downturn in events and exhibitions visitor numbers reflects a revised counting methodology.

3 2005-06 measure includes all desk, telephone and extended reference inquiries. It also includes email and AskNow! inquiries, which were not reported in 2004-05.

4 Figures reflect acquisition of books, journals, newspapers, pictures, CD-Roms, sound and video recordings, maps and exhibition catalogues by purchase, donation, exchange and through legal deposit.

5 Lifelong Learning figure includes programs for adults as well as K-12.



From *Eureka Revisited: the contest of memories*

high- lights of the year

July

iSLV podcasting

A global audience of Library users can now subscribe to recordings of Library events which have been captured in MP3 format and rapidly made available as podcasts. These can also be accessed via new podcast search engines launched by Yahoo! and Google in 2005.

MMBW maps catalogued and digitised on the Voyager catalogue

750 large maps from the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works plans, from the late-19th to early-20th centuries, are digitised and catalogued, available for all to use online.

Multilingual Senior Surfers project launched

This exciting collaborative project provides internet training to seniors from culturally diverse backgrounds in both metropolitan and regional Victoria.

Architectural award

The John George Knight Award for Heritage goes to Ancher, Mortlock & Woolley architects for the Library redevelopment.

August

Eureka Revisited: The contest of memories

This Ballarat Fine Art Gallery travelling exhibition chronicles the historic Eureka rebellion on the Ballarat goldfields in 1854, and explores the many interpretations of the Eureka legend. (Keith Murdoch Gallery, August-October.)

Copyright, Digitisation and Cultural Institutions Conference

This well-attended conference brings delegates from public and private institutions in Australia and New Zealand together at the Library to discuss the issues confronting cultural institutions, copyright owners and the legal profession.

September

Shakespeare window

Installed in the topmost gallery of the domed La Trobe Reading Room, the Library's Shakespeare window is repaired, cleaned and restored by Australia's foremost stained-glass maker and conservator, Geoffrey Wallace.

Bendigo Petition

The 1853 Bendigo Petition goes on display in the Library - this is only the third time it has been on public view.

October

Premier's Literary Awards, with live cross to Sale

The winners of the 2005 awards are announced by the Premier of Victoria, the Hon. Steve Bracks MP, at a special dinner. The event is hosted by celebrated actor William McInnes, and award-winning author Inga Clendinnen gives the keynote address. Includes a live internet-based cross to country Victoria.

Redmond Barry Lecture

To honour the work of the Library's founder, Sir Redmond Barry, publisher Morry Schwartz gives an insightful and engaging lecture on 'A Balancing Act: The rightful place of defamation law in open society'.

The 2005 Stephen Murray-Smith Memorial Lecture

The Right Honourable Malcolm Fraser AC CH, delivers a lecture on 'How Democracies Fight Terrorism' to a full house. This annual lecture commemorates Stephen Murray-Smith's contribution to Australian intellectual life.

Architectural award

The Lachlan Macquarie Heritage Prize goes to Ancher, Mortlock & Woolley architects at the RAI Awards.

PressDisplay

An expanded, online virtual newspaper service containing more than 200 local and international titles is purchased and made available to all Victorians.

November

MyLanguage website launched

A partnership between state and territory libraries, mylanguage.gov.au is a national portal for multicultural Australians, who can now search and find information on the internet in more than 60 languages. The website is a finalist in the prestigious international Stockholm Challenge in March 2006.

Cultural Broadband Network launched by Mary Delahunty MP, Minister for the Arts

This is a government initiative connecting Victoria's key cultural agencies with broadband technologies, enabling Victorian cultural content to be shared between connected organisations. A number of exciting projects are being developed to be shared across this network.

Creative Fellowships exhibitions

Resulting from the Library's Creative Fellowships program, two exhibitions drawn from the Library's diverse collections demonstrate the Library's strong commitment to original scholarship and creative endeavour:

Lost & Found - Peter Lyssiotis and John Wolseley: The adventures of two artists in the State Library of Victoria

As recipients of the inaugural Creative Fellowships in 2003-04, the artists create new bodies of work which respond to and reflect upon significant texts and images in the Library's collections. John Wolseley produces a series of paintings, drawings and prints, while Peter Lyssiotis produces a lavish artist's book, *A Gardener at Midnight: Travels in the Holy Land*. (Keith Murdoch Gallery.)

Picturing the Old People

A video and sound installation is produced by multimedia artist Genevieve Grieves, in Experimedia. Consisting of a series of 'moving portraits' based on 19th-century photographs of Indigenous Australians, the installation is drawn from the historical photographic collections of the Library.

Completion and handover of the Ballarat offsite store.

December

Mirror of the World: books and ideas

This exhibition showcases many of the rare, beautiful and historically significant books held in the Library's collections, from the Middle Ages to the present, and marks the completion of the redevelopment of the Dome Galleries.

Great art, great scholarship, great literature and great exploitation. That's the history of the book, and it's all at the State Library: no book lover can afford to miss it.

Jane Sullivan on *Mirror of the World: books and ideas, The Age*

Endowment

The Helen Macpherson Smith Trust endows the Library with \$150,000 over three years to digitise regional newspapers.

Arts Leadership Awards

The Library is awarded three prizes at the Arts Portfolio Leadership Awards, presented by Mary Delahunty MP, Minister for the Arts. The awards are for leadership in customer service/marketing/audience development for the Read Alert blog and iSLV podcasting; leadership in business improvement for the Library's Value Management project; and leadership in collaboration for the Ballarat offsite store construction.

Staff Fellowships

Staff Fellowships for 2006 are announced.



The Hon. Steve Bracks MP, Premier of Victoria, at the Premier's Literary Awards

January

insideadog.com.au

The Library's Centre for Youth Literature confirms its sponsorship agreement with the Copyright Agency Limited, allowing the centre to develop its website for teenagers, insideadog.com.au. The agreement marks a significant stage in the development of a youth-friendly, interactive information resource.

February

Library of the 21st Century Symposium

As part of the Library Board of Victoria's strategic planning to build an effective digital library service for Victorians for the future, this symposium is timed to focus attention on the transformational thinking that is taking place at the Library. It brings together key thinkers from the library industry, cultural sector and government at the State Library of Victoria.

Open Road conference

Presented in partnership with the State Library's Vicnet and the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs, this important international conference addresses the challenges and possibilities of providing access to and development of content and internet services within a multilingual environment.

Introduction of the new customer-service team at the Library's foyer desk.



March

National Treasures from Australia's Great Libraries

A spectacular touring exhibition of over 170 treasures, including Captain Cook's *Endeavour* journal and Don Bradman's favourite bat, takes place.

Commonwealth Writers' Prize

The Library again hosts the Commonwealth Writers' Prize after hosting the award in 2004. The week-long series of events culminates in a presentation ceremony, with awards presented by His Royal Highness The Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, KCVO, ADC.

Keith Murdoch Oration

The 2006 Keith Murdoch Oration is delivered by the Right Honourable Lord Sebastian Coe KBE, Olympic great and spearhead of London's 2012 Olympic bid. Organised by the State Library of Victoria Foundation, this major fundraising event is held to coincide with the Melbourne Commonwealth Games.

April

The Centre for Youth Literature's website, insideadog.com.au, is launched, with funding from Copyright Agency Limited.

Live @ the Library, an initiative of the Library funded by the RE Ross Trust, commences, with performances of excerpts of plays and conversations with previous winners.

May

The Library receives funding of \$25.1 million in the 2006-07 Victorian State Budget, 'to transform this internationally recognised, 150-year-old library into a cutting-edge library of the 21st century'.

The Georges Mora Foundation is launched.

Service commences at the Ballarat offsite store.

The first statewide audit of public library collections is held.



Mr Tulk café

The corner of Swanston and La Trobe Streets sees the arrival of Mr Tulk café.

Blogs launched

The Library has been an early adopter of both blogs and podcasting - two technologies that herald a profound shift in the way people will communicate and interact online.

Read Alert - a blog for the Centre for Youth Literature - provides essential reading for literacy professionals; BlogNow is a blog for librarians to share information about the AskNow! service; GLO blog is for staff working in the genealogy collections of the state and national libraries of Australia and New Zealand.

June

Naked Democracy: Governing Victoria 1856-2006

Supported by the Department of Premier and Cabinet and curated by Robyn Annear, the exhibition celebrates the 150th anniversary of self-government in Victoria. Guests were welcomed on the evening by the Library Board of Victoria's newly appointed president, the Hon. John Cain, former Premier of Victoria, and the exhibition is launched by the Hon. Steve Bracks MP, Premier of Victoria.

The Partnering for Success seminar is held at the Library. Speakers come from Queensland and Western Australia as well as from major public-relations and community-partnering organisations.

Mr Tulk café, named for Augustus Henry Tulk, the Library's first Chief Librarian

Miller and Richard, *Specimens of type, presses and printing materials*. Sydney, Gordon and Gotch, c. 1890.
From *Mirror of the World: books and ideas*

**Form
MEN**

TEN LINE ANTIQUE.

Sir

TWELVE LINE ANTIQUE.

Hi

MILLER & RICHARD.