

# New library service a world-first for vision impaired

An innovative browsing library catering for vision impaired people is now open for business following the launch of the new Vision Australia Library service at Kooyong.

The new library was opened on 12 April by Bob Cameron, Minister for Local Government, WorkCover and Assisting in Transport.

The fully-functioning library facility includes a browsing library of Braille, large print, cassette and standard print books, plus a world's first, state-of-the-art carousel system for storing and retrieving talking books, and four new digital recording studios.

Michael Lynch, chief executive officer at Vision Australia Foundation said the new service had been developed in response to a growing demand from vision impaired people for books in alternative format.

'More and more people are discovering the information and entertainment value of talking books and other alternative format literature,' he said. 'Vision Australia Foundation is committed to making information accessible to people unable to read standard print, whether through vision impairment or other disability.'

The new library service not only means that more books can be circulated more efficiently through the mail, but people with a vision impairment can now enjoy the many functions sighted people take for granted in the public library system. They can come into the library and browse the shelves, sample the new books at the listening posts, and then borrow their selection.

The library collection will include approximately 500 of the latest books in audio cassette selected from the total collection of approximately 10 000 titles, many of which are owned in multiple copies. It will also include compact discs, Braille, large print and standard print books, many of which will be produced by Vision Australia.

There will also be a small reference and research library for the professional development of staff, as well as a collection of audio-described videos.



At the launch of the Vision Australia Library, Jodie Selby demonstrated the adaptive computer technology that makes the browsing library's catalogue accessible.

Mr Lynch said the library was also equipped with computers with adaptive technology including screen readers and voice output software, which would enable people with vision impairment to access the internet and the library's electronic catalogue system.

The browsing library will operate on a rotational basis, whereby new books will replace the older ones, which will then be moved into storage for circulation by mail to borrowers.

Mr Lynch said in addition to the new browsing facility, the Vision Australia Library's talking book distribution service had been upgraded from a manual shelf storage system to a fully automated and integrated warehousing and library cataloguing system.

Two vertical carousels with 60 'cells' in each, and a combined storage capacity of up to 30 000 books, will be used to store the books, which are all barcoded. A computer system reads the barcode, allocates a place for storage, and can identify the location of the book for retrieval within seconds.

Four new digital studios are also part of the new service.

Mr Lynch said the studios would be used for recording new books and magazines, and for contract work performed for governments and businesses requiring alternative format information for their customer groups. He said the studios were an improvement over the previous facility.

The new library facility is now fully open for business. It is located at 454 Glenferrie Road, Kooyong, and is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 6pm. *RSVP for catering purposes to:* Jo-anne Fuller, local presence co-ordinator, ph 02 9906 6000, fx 02 9906 5987, jojo1@ozemail.com.au.

**27/7 Indexing web pages and documents.** University of New South Wales, School of Information Systems, Technology and Management. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 7128, fx 02 9662 4061, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au, <http://cpd.sistm.unsw.edu.au>

**3/8 Web publishing: the basics and beyond.** University of New South Wales, School of Information Systems, Technology and Management. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph 02 9385 7128, fx 02 9662 4061, M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au, <http://cpd.sistm.unsw.edu.au>

**• 21/8 NSW Branch.** Council meeting, all welcome. Sumitomo Room, Level 11, State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 6pm. *RSVP for catering purposes to:* Jo-anne Fuller, local presence co-ordinator, ph 02 9906 6000, fx 02 9906 5987, jojo1@ozemail.com.au.

**• 18/9 NSW Branch.** Council meeting, all welcome. Sumitomo Room, Level 11, State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 6pm. *RSVP for catering purposes to:* Jo-anne Fuller, local presence co-ordinator, ph 02 9906 6000, fx 02 9906 5987, jojo1@ozemail.com.au.

**• 16/10 NSW Branch.** Council meeting, all welcome. Sumitomo Room, Level 11, State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 6pm. *RSVP for catering purposes to:* Jo-anne Fuller, local presence co-ordinator, ph 02 9906 6000, fx 02 9906 5987, jojo1@ozemail.com.au.

## QLD

**• 6/6 Qld OPALS.** General meeting. KINETICA update. The presentation will be along the lines of the latest developments and will answer any questions/issues relating to Kinetica (10–11am). ANTA (Aust. National Training Authority), Level 11, AMP Place, 10 Eagle Street, Brisbane, 10–12pm, morning tea provided. After morning tea, a staff member from ANTA will explain what ANTA does. Contact: Jill Rogers, ph 07 3246 2300.

**• 20/6 Qld Branch CPD sub-committee.** Library and Information Policies and Environments *The 21st century profession — objects, values, responsibilities* — Alan Bundy (ALIA president). State Library Theatre, 5:30pm. Contact: Sue Rigney, [sue\\_rigney@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:sue_rigney@justice.qld.gov.au).

**20/6 QUT.** Kinetica Document Delivery training (hands-on). QUT Library, Gardens Point Campus, Room V121, full day, lunch provided. Cost \$195 + GST. Contact: Chris Davies, ph 07 3864 1821 or visit <http://www.lib.qut.edu.au/info/about/community/kinetica/>.

**• 29/6 Qld Branch CPD sub-committee.** Networking: *New Year's Eve party.* Mary Ryans, Paddington. Time: evening, tba. Contact: Sue Rigney, [sue\\_rigney@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:sue_rigney@justice.qld.gov.au).

**• 10/7 Qld Library Technician section.** Industrial issues for library technicians. State Library Theatre, State Library of Queensland, South Brisbane, 5 for 5:30pm start, unless otherwise advised. Contact: Marian Moyle, ph 07 3244 6446, [marian.moyle@detir.qld.gov.au](mailto:marian.moyle@detir.qld.gov.au).

**• mid-July Qld Branch Pathways to CPD.** Resource acquisition and management *Stating your case for what you need and/or how it should be managed* — Ray Lane, director, Support Services, Department of Justice. DPI Auditorium 1. Contact: Sue Rigney, [sue\\_rigney@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:sue_rigney@justice.qld.gov.au).

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