

Remember when we danced in the street?

Alison Miles

Librarians at Maryborough City Library are enjoying drawing out local residents' personal stories of the past in the recorded oral history element of their 'Remember When' project. Hundreds of photographs have already been selected and loaded as the first step in a project designed to be interactive, informative and distinctly Maryborough-flavoured.

Jennifer Campbell (client services librarian) and Robyn Dowling (city librarian) are currently collecting and recording around twenty stories to accompany historic photographs and news footage on CD-ROM; funded by a State Library of Queensland grant in the Queensland Stories project. Projects are designed to engage the community in developing a 'diverse collection of popular stories about Queensland, its people, places, landscapes and ecology' whilst building multi-media literacy (SLQ Library Strategic Development Grants 2004). Each city has its own colourful characters and significant events, and the public library is in a unique position to preserve these collective memories and provide opportunities for local learning and development.

Adhering to the old library adage that 'if it's worth preserving then it's worth providing proper access', the 'Remember When' project, launched in May 2006, will have two product outcomes: a photograph catalogue, made available through Maryborough's webOPAC; and a CD-ROM containing a series of photographs on themes (streetscapes, festivals, local people), enhanced with locals telling their own stories about these significant events and special places.

Maryborough Library already had a substantial collection of historical photographs (many donated some years ago by a former Council employee), but with little descriptive detail they

were not well used. The library is working in partnership with the Maryborough District Family History Society to provide more information on these photographs. Jennifer explained that

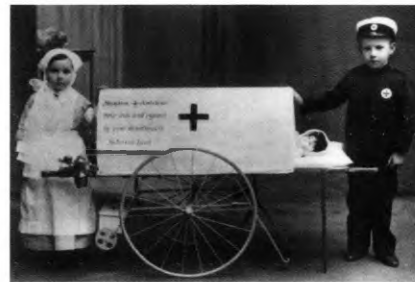
the collection focus was the 'human element of Maryborough's history; the way people lived, the way they farmed the land, (the way they used the river) and particularly festivals.' One gentleman brought photos of a wartime festival for which locals had built a replica of the Arc de Triomphe in the main street to celebrate victory. A wonderful excuse to dance in the street!

Another local gentleman, a man of many stories, related to Robyn an interesting tale of his family's involvement in the little-known charcoal burning industry. News footage covers a popular cycling event, the floods of the 1970s and launching boats from Walkers (an institutional industrial firm in town).

The CD-ROM enhances existing written histories of Maryborough with an interactive medium. Librarians worked with the project technician to make it attractive and user-friendly for all ages, including school children. Jennifer's experience in education has ensured a structure that allows viewers to select particular photos from menus according to their search requirements. The CD-ROM has been distributed to all local schools for use by school children, and is now available for sale.

Maryborough City Library's 'Remember When' project application was one of 33 successful grant applications from public libraries throughout Queensland. The State Library of Queensland Library Strategic Development Grants 2004: Queensland Stories Guidelines are available at http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/word_doc/11819/SDGguidelines04.doc.

Alison Miles is a library assistant at the Maryborough City Library
ph 07 4121 7401, ali.miles@bigpond.com



The Lovell children seeking donations for the Maryborough Ambulance Transport Brigade, 1914.

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Call for expressions of interest ALIA New Librarians' Symposium 4

ALIA would like to receive expressions of interest in hosting the New Librarians' Symposium (NLS4) in 2008 from groups in Australia and the Pacific. The NLS4 organising committee should aim:

- to showcase professional and career development for new graduates;
- to challenge delegates to build new skills;
- to provide a forum to meet and network with other new graduates and leaders in the industry; and
- to generate a financial surplus for the Association.

Interested members and groups can seek advice from the events manager, Jane Hardy, and from previous symposium committees. The organising committee should expect 200-300 delegates. Please contact Jane at ALIA National Office, ph 02 6215 8235 or jane.hardy@alia.org.au for further information and the documentation setting out the points to be covered in the submission.

The closing date for expressions of interest is 1 July 2006. ■