

PLM President's Report 2010

2010 has been a rewarding but challenging year for NSW Public Libraries. It has been a year when Public Libraries NSW – Metropolitan Association has grappled with some big issues in an attempt to ensure the future of the association.

Members of the Executive have met with representatives from Public Libraries NSW – Country to discuss the formation of one association. In September PLM held a Special Meeting and the membership discussed changes to the draft document. This latest draft was sent to PLC last month. We now await their response.

Waverly Council has managed the Inter Library Loans Van Delivery Service since 1973. This year Waverly advised the association of a shortfall in 2010-2011 funds and their intention to cease managing the service before 30 June 2012. The PLM Executive approached the State Library of NSW and Public Libraries Consultative Committee about assisting the association to meet the 2010-2011 budget needs. The association also undertook a review and is currently seeking quotations to outsource the Inter Library Loan Van service in 2011-2012. We thank Waverly Council for its many years of service to public libraries in metropolitan Sydney.

The PLM Executive had done much to foster and improve communication with our state and national colleagues. Lyn Barakat, Jennifer Bice and I sit

on the Public Libraries Consultative Committee - we formed part of a working group which advised the Library Council of NSW on a submission to the Minister about future funding for Public Libraries. As President of PLM I was invited to serve on the ALIA Public Libraries Advisory Committee. This committee has representatives from Library Associations from all Australian States and Territories. It has been instrumental in producing the National Vision and Framework and is working on a number of projects including the National Standards and National Year of Reading.

There has been recognition and achievement for many libraries. Willoughby Council received the LGMA's Management Excellence Award, Special Projects Initiative for their Community Learning (Branch Libraries Project). Randwick Library's publication, *Randwick* was recognised at the prestigious NSW Premier's History Awards, winning the NSW Community and Regional History category. Mosman and the Hills Shire were recipients of NSW Marketing Awards (MAPLs). As a Lane Cove Councillor and member of the Library Fit-out Committee I felt a real sense of achievement when Lane Cove opened our new Library in July 2010.

I would now like to pay tribute to our friend and colleague, Helen Sutherland, Manager, Library Services at Stanton Library who passed away in October.

Helen commenced work at Stanton Library in 2002 and served as Shorelink Secretary that year. In 2006 Helen was pivotal in the smooth transition of

the Shorelink Office from Willoughby Council to its current home in Stanton Library. From 2006 until her passing Helen served as Agent Librarian for the Shorelink Library Network.

During this time Helen made a major contribution to Shorelink Tender Projects including the replacement of Library Management Systems software and the communication network. Helen was a champion of the Shorelink Courier Service which has done much to improve services to Shorelink members. With her practical approach and quick intelligence Helen was an indispensable member of the Shorelink Managers and Shorelink Network Committees.

Helen was a member of the North Region's planning Committee for the 2003 MPLA Conference. Red Hot & Organic was the first PLM Conference to use a Conference Organiser. It proved to be an extremely successful conference which attracted many attendants, strong sponsorship support and generated a profit for the association.

Users of Stanton Library come from all over the Greater Sydney Region. They would recognize Helen's work overseeing the Stanton Library Extension and Heritage Centre project; the interior re-design of Stanton Library; Writers at Stanton programs and introduction of advanced Library technologies. Helen was respected and admired as much for her personal qualities as for her professional skills. She will be much missed by all who knew her.

I would like to thank the many Library professionals and supporters who have assisted me in 2010. PLM's Vice-President, Anne Connon has been a great supporter and sounding board. PLM's Executive Director, Robert McEntyre has worked hard to further the cause of the Association. I would like to acknowledge Jennifer Bice, PLM Secretary for her unstinting support of me both as President of PLM and Mayor of Lane Cove. I would also thank the Treasurer, Susanna Waller and other members of the Executive: Linda Horswell, Lyn Barakat, Cheryl Etheridge, Vicki Edmunds and Mark Norman.

The Association thanks the State Library of NSW staff particularly State Librarian, Regina Sutton; Director, Public Library and Community Learning, Frances Sims; and Manager, Funding and Advisory Services, Cameron Morley. The Public Library Services staff have offered support and advice whenever requested by Library Managers.

Much has been achieved in 2010 but much remains to do. I look forward to 2011 and am sure that we will all work together to improve public library services throughout NSW.