



Everybody's got a story....

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**Partnership and Social Inclusion Projects in Victorian Public Libraries
State Library of Victoria - 19 June 2009**

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What is WikiNorthia?

'WikiNorthia is an online collaboration that provides a snapshot in time of the current lives as well as the recollections and histories of people in the northern suburbs of Melbourne.'

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Project Beginnings

- Project partners interest in working together on a community based collaborative project using social networking tools
- January 2007 Moreland, Darebin and Yarra Plenty library services submitted a proposal to the LBC Demonstration Project for the development of a wiki to document the lives of people living in Melbourne's North
- \$50,000 was granted to the project

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Project Aims

- Bring people together from across the social strata through the sharing of stories
- Forge greater understanding of other perspectives and cultures
- Engage the community in the collection, preservation and dissemination of information and knowledge about the local area

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Project Aims

- Provide a connection into shared local culture
- Develop a stronger sense of being part of the community amongst the socially isolated/excluded
- Develop confidence and community skills in utilising emerging technologies

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Target Groups

- CALD communities
- The aged
- Young people
- Indigenous people
- People with a disability
- People whose life stories and life circumstances are rarely recorded due to their lack of social connectedness

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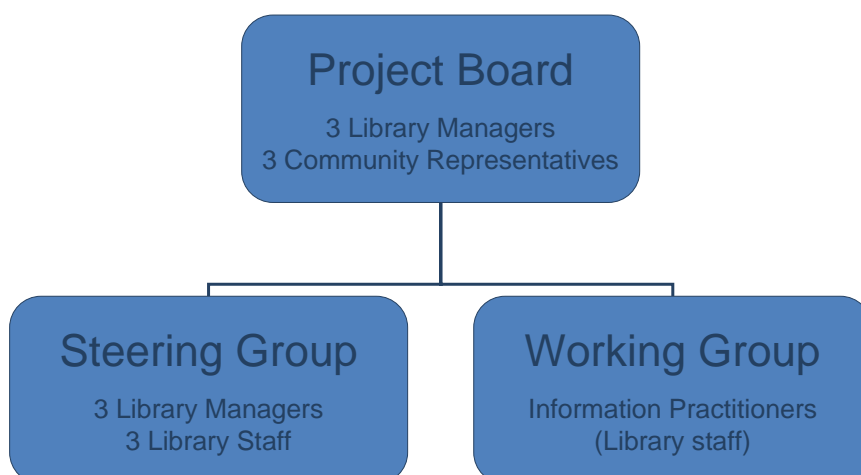
Why a Wiki?

- Enable all community members to participate and contribute
- An alternative solution to the recording of local history and current life stories
- Provide access to the stories documented
- Ensure the collection could continue to grow and develop
- Introduce social networking technologies to sectors of the community

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Governance Structure



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Technology

- Vicnet selected as contractor
- Use of Media Wiki - an open source wiki product
- Minimised ongoing costs such as licensing and mitigated issues surrounding IP

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Management of Content

- The project operates at three levels.
 - Contributors who can add an entry, delete or change their own entries
 - Editors who can add, change, or delete any entries
 - Administrators who have ultimate authority over entries as well as being able to appoint new editors as required

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Issues

- Openness with safeguards
 - Registration of users
 - Moderated content by system administrators
- Legal advice
 - Conditions of use
 - Copyright disclaimer
 - Privacy provisions
 - Legal agreement between the partners

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Statistics and Content

- As of May 2009
 - 143 Pages
 - 2,035 Edits
 - 109 Registered users
 - 131,664 Page views
- Content
 - Text and audio
 - Photographs
 - Maps

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Content Structure



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WikiNorthia

Orient Theatre - WikiNorthia - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by City of Darwin

Address: http://www.wikinorthia.net.au/index.php/Orient_Theatre

WikiNorthia
City of Darwin & Region

Search:

Categories:

- Art & Literature
- Darwin
- Community
- Environment
- Events
- Finance
- Health
- Sports & Recreation
- Transport
- Work & Commerce

Today:

- What links here
- Related changes
- Upload file
- Special pages
- Privacy policy
- Permanent link

Views:

- Article
- Discussion
- Edit
- History

Orient Theatre

The Orient Theatre was the only picture theatre in Heidelberg. It was situated in Yana Street one house block away from Mount Street and the Heidelberg Station. The theatre was independently owned, unlike the Hoyts chain of theatres, one of which was at Innhouse. The Orient opened on 21 December 1933 and closed in 1966.

The décor at the Orient was most impressive. To a child it was an exotic representation of the mystical East. It had red carpet in the aisles and enormous bar-chested Josses sitting cross legged in robes of green and gold adorned the walls in the alcoves. In the early days the usherettes wore the traditional Chinese cheung sam. I think the Depression and World War made this unattractive and they later wore skirts and blouses. The ushers who showed you to your seats wore white shirts with black bow ties and trousers.

The program started at 7.40pm with a news reel followed by comic strips or a short film. We then had interval at 9.40pm after which the full feature film was shown, finishing at about 11.15pm. If I remember correctly, tickets cost two shillings and six pence (25c) for an adult and 1 shilling (12c) for a child.

At interval a lily boy would appear calling 'Ice, Dive, Ice'. He wore a white coat and carried a tray suspended by a leather strap hanging from his neck. He sold ice creams in a wicker cup with a lid on it, and a small wooden spoon wrapped in paper to eat it with. These cups of ice cream were called Dives. Wafers (ice cream) came wrapped in paper and were square and thin and placed between two crisp wafers thin biscuits. He also sold an assortment of fobots and chocolates. The milk bar stayed open late to cater for the picture theatre patrons.

Although the films were run from Monday to Saturday, with a children's matinee on Saturday afternoon, people who lived far away were restricted to a Wednesday or Saturday evening when the Yellow Box company ran two late night buses to cater for the theatregoers. The bus route ran from Innhouse to the Lower Eltham Park, allowing local people to attend the pictures at either the Orient or Hoyts, depending on their choice of film being shown. Apart from these extra Wednesday and Saturday runs the bus service ceased at 7pm on week nights, noon on Saturday, and there was no service on a Sunday.

Some of the pictures I remember seeing with mum and dad on a Saturday night are Gone with the Wind, Pride & Prejudice, The Postman Always Knocks Twice and Told of a Romance (Van Johnson & Esther Williams) plus other Esther Williams films. At the matinee screenings my brothers and I saw the Lassie films, Snow White, The Wizard of Oz and National Velvet. These films had all been shown at the Hoyts theatre in Innhouse before they reached the independent Orient. For many people it was too far to go to the matinees as they didn't have cars and not many had bikes.

The coming of television saw a decline in theatre patronage leading to the closure of many theatres, including the Orient. I often wonder what became of the Josses when the theatre was demolished. They were a sight to behold.

Source [edit]
Looking back: Heidelberg and Rossana in the 1930s and 1940s by Bonnie Bankfield, Joan Hope, Bill and Dorothy Lemin Watsons. Against the Grain publications, 2006

External links [edit]
[Heidelberg Historical Society](#)

([Print/Share/Bookmark](#))

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WikiNorthia

Roberts Street Project - WikiNorthia - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by City of Darwin

Address: http://www.wikinorthia.net.au/index.php/Roberts_Street_Project

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Roberts Street Project


Residents were given their own disposable cameras and also worked with photographer Angela Daley in order to capture their individual and collective memories of their lives, homes and sense of place whilst living at Roberts Street. Between July and October 2007 residents were relocated from their homes. The Estate is to be demolished early in 2009. Many of them hope to return when it is rebuilt early in 2010.



Just below the hustle and bustle of shoplined High Street, Northcote, are two blocks of walk-up flats that comprise the Roberts Street Public Housing Estate. Beyond their weary walls lay home to 47 colourful residents. Old and weathered, after almost 50 years, the Estate is now being laid to rest. This has not been easy news for the residents. Over the years Roberts Street has become a community of sorts and been home to many people, some for a large part of their elderly lives. Friendships have developed, bonds formed, and memories shared. Although residents know the blocks of flats were tired and old, even falling apart in places, laying them to rest seems harsh. For residents, the women in particular, the sense of sadness and feeling of loss in their lives – loss of their homes – was extremely strong. This pain transformed itself into a desire to capture a part of their lives, and the buildings of Roberts Street, before they are lost forever.



This project, conducted by [Women's Health in the North](#), does exactly that. This photographic essay captures the way in which these spirited residents breathe life into a building that, for many a detached onlooker, is nothing more than a dilapidated housing estate. For these residents, their flats, their homes, are spaces to create and a place where their histories and sense of identity belong. Home is at the very heart of expressing who we are, giving shape and meaning and, one would hope, a sense of ownership over our most immediate of environments. For the residents of Roberts Street home is an emotional haven, a place to take refuge from the challenges and demands of life. It is a place of intimacy, anxiety, and comfort. The anguish experienced by residents upon losing this haven, especially at such a late stage in their lives, is why this photographic essay was created. It is intended to capture a moment in history, and to be a tribute to the residents and the spirit they breathed into a building that is to be no more.



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From Theory to Practice

- Incorrect assumptions and stumbling blocks:
 - Strong support and interest does not always equate to action
 - Lack of confidence in using the technology

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Increasing Content

- Three key strategies:
 - Staff and/or system volunteers placing content directly on the wiki
 - Increased training in using a wiki
 - Tapping into other programs to share information and stories

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Training

- Staff training
- Dedicated library PC's and one-on-one training
- Web 2.0 application training with a WikiNorthia component:
 - Finding My Place programs
 - VCAL students
 - Adult Education Centres

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Partnerships

- Establishing partnerships and sharing content:
 - The Coburg Initiative
 - Youth Facilitation Project
 - Annecto – The People Project
 - Local Historical Societies

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Capturing the Here & Now

Black Saturday

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Black Saturday



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Where to From Here?

A state-wide model??

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