

REACHING THE 'HARD TO REACH'

Monday 12 May 2008, 9.00am–4.30pm, State Library of Victoria

9.00am Tea and coffee on arrival

9.30am **Welcome address and launch of *Connecting with the Community* and *Showcasing the Best: Volume 2* reports**

Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, CEO and State Librarian, State Library of Victoria

9.45am **Connecting with the Community – Project overview**

Ian Phillips, Director, I&J Management Services

In 2007, 'barriers to use' of public libraries were explored with five target groups deemed 'hard to reach'. Ian Phillips will provide an overview of the scope of the research, including the methodology and principles of engagement.

10.15am **Connecting with the Community: Horn of Africa Communities – Research findings**

Michael Scholtes, Library Services Co-ordinator, Melton Library and Information Service

10.25am **Refugee advocacy for the Horn of Africa community**

Elleni Bereded-Samuel, Commissioner, Victorian Multicultural Commission

Elleni Bereded-Samuel is an Australian with an Ethiopian refugee background. She has a vision for a fairer and more just Australian society. Recognised for her dynamic leadership and advocacy, Elleni was appointed in 2005 as a Commissioner with the Victorian Multicultural Commission.

10.50am **ELLA: English Language and Literacy Access**

Natalie Brown, Library Services Co-ordinator, City of Greater Dandenong

The City of Greater Dandenong is one of the most diverse municipalities in Australia, with residents from 156 nations and more than half of the population born overseas. English Language and Literacy Access (ELLA) is a free community service provided by the City of Greater Dandenong to help adults learn English or to improve their reading and writing.

11.05am **African adventure**

Liliana Chiriano, Multicultural Services Librarian, Maribyrnong Library Service

In 2005, the Maribyrnong Library Service undertook extensive consultation with African community leaders and Horn of Africa groups to support its development of an African languages collection.

11.20am Morning tea

11.45am **Connecting with the Community: Indigenous Australians – Research findings**

Michael Scholtes, Library Services Co-ordinator, Melton Library and Information Service

11.55am **Koori Library Pathways Project**

Libby Woodhouse, Shepparton Branch Librarian, Goulburn Valley Regional Library Corporation and Raquel Davis, Koori Resource and Information Centre (KRIC)

The Koori Library Pathways Project is focused on strengthening cultural identity, building literacy, knowledge and self-esteem in the Shepparton Indigenous community, the largest in regional Victoria.

- 12.20pm** **Presentation of the 2007/08 Libraries Building Communities Demonstration Projects and the 2008 Pierre Gorman Award**
Hon. John Cain, President, Library Board of Victoria and John Murrell, CEO, West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation
- 12.50pm Lunch
- 1.40pm** **Library services for people with disabilities**
- 1.45pm** ***More than just Equipment***
Colleen McCombe, Project Manager, State Library of Victoria
In 2007, the *More than just Equipment* report was released. The research focused on overcoming barriers to the Internet for people with a disability.
- 2.05pm** **Inclusive Activities in Public Libraries: A Good Practice Guide**
Nella Budicin, Co-ordinator Melton Library and Deanne Spagnolo, Co-ordinator Caroline Springs Library and Civic Centre, Melton Library and Information Service
In 2007, the Brimbank City Council, Melton Shire Council and the Department of Human Services explored access issues to develop a step-by-step guide of how inclusion can work in practice.
- 2.20pm** **Connecting with the Community: Low income families – Research findings**
Michael Scholtes, Library Services Co-ordinator, Melton Library and Information Service
- 2.30pm** **Family Literacy Programs in California**
Anna Boland, Community Literacy and Engagement Officer, Hume City Council
Anna Bolard was awarded the 2006 Barrett Reid Scholarship to fund a study tour of Californian public libraries focusing on family literacy programs.
- 2.50pm Afternoon tea
- 3.20pm** **Connecting with the Community: Disadvantaged young people – Research findings**
Michael Scholtes, Library Services Co-ordinator, Melton Library and Information Service
- 3.30pm** **finding MY place! – the Victorian experience**
Rose Ricchiuti, Children's and Teenage Librarian, Darebin Libraries and Kerri Pleydell-Sander, Reading and Literacy Co-ordinator, Yarra Plenty Regional Library
Darebin Libraries and Yarra Plenty Regional Library have adapted and implemented the finding MY place! program which focuses on 'at risk' students.
- 3.50pm** **From Siege to Sojourn: Youth Strategy at the West Torrens Library Service 2004-2006**
Shane Cathcart, Manager Community Services, City of West Torrens
When the new Hilton Library in Adelaide was opened in 2004, young people were quick to adopt it as their space. However, this was accompanied by a number of behavioural issues that had to be addressed.
- 4.20pm Close