

VICLINK MEETING

Held at 2.00pm on Tuesday December 11th 2001
Kilmore Library

MINUTES

Present:

Lynne Makin (UMRL), Elisabeth Jackson(Hume-Moonee Valley), John Binnion (Eastern), Gay Sussex(Maribyrnong), Bruce Myers (Swan Hill), (Geelong), Graham Dudley and Helen Balcam (Local Govt. Division), Dale Cousens (UMRL), Peter Carter(Casey-Cardinia), Chris Payne (Mitchell), Judy Peppard (Library Network Unit) Neville Humphris (Moreland),, Peter Mansfield(Geelong), Brendan Fitzgerald, Frances Savage (Vicnet), Michael Bertie (State Library), Anne Holmes (Boroondara), Heather Phillips (Frankston), Chris McLaren and John Murrell (West Gippsland), Russ Elwin (Wimmera), Stuart Hall (State Library), Susan Orr (Campaspe), Suzanne Gately (Hobsons Bay), Jenny Ruffy (Monash), Elaine Richmond (High Country), Stephen Dempsey (Wellington), Gary Hardy (CCNR), Angelo Gasparini and Aileen Carter (Darebin) Adele Kenneally (Glenelg), Carole Ingwersen (LaTrobe), Anna Cook (East Gippsland), Craig Anderson (Yarra Plenty), Jan Sutton (Goulburn Valley), Brian Hine (Dept. Infrastructure).

Apologies:

Barbara Horn (Yarra Melbourne), Julie Rae (Bayside), Anne Rasmussen (Stonington), Gabrielle Blair (Brimbank), Colin Morrison (Dept. Infrastructure)

1. Opening and Welcome

Lynne Makin opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Gay Sussex and Judy Peppard were attending their last Viclink meeting and were given presentations and expressions of thanks. Gay's many years on the Viclink Executive were especially noted.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 9th October at the State Library

Moved Heather Phillips, seconded Stephen Dempsey that the minutes of the last meeting be adopted.

1. Correspondence

This was tabled as follows:

- From Minister for Local Government , 28 November 2001 regarding on going consultation with public libraries
- To Minister for Local Government , 5 October 2001 regarding possible quarterly meetings to discuss public library issues
- To Minister for Local Government – thanks for \$20,000 donation to Gulliver
- To Agnes Niewenhuizen and Genimaree Panozzo, 16 October, thanking them for talks at Viclink meeting
- To convenors of subcommittees regarding terms of reference and accountability requirements
- To Local Government Division – response to Draft Public Libraries Policy- joint response with CPLG

Correspondence – Moved Elisabeth Jackson, seconded Susan Orr

3. Treasurer's Report

This was tabled. Viclink has \$15,975.55 in the bank

4. CPLG News

Mobile Library signs are ready for delivery. CPLG meetings will be held on the morning of the same day as Viclink meetings in future.

5. Responses to Draft Public Library Policy

Viclink/CPLG response was read out.

6. State Library – Library Network Unit Report (Circulated)

Judy Peppard reported that the DX Courier contract has been renewed until the end of the financial year.

John Binnion expressed concerns about a number of matters concerning the State Library. The following specific issues were raised:

- The filling of Judy Peppard's position on a 6 month secondment basis and the large number of positions in the LNU filled in this way
- The responsibility for the Draft Public Library policy resting with DoI rather than the State Library
- Changes to the Vision program without consultation with public libraries.

John proposed the following motion (seconded by Peter Carter):

That Viclink ask the CEO of the SLV, in writing, the following questions:

- 1. Can the Library Board of Victoria provide definitive statements of what is its ongoing role and responsibility for Victorian public libraries?*
- 2. Does the Library Board of Victoria consider that the current legislation is appropriate? If not, what amendments could be considered?*
- 3. Can the State Library provide a definitive statement of its ongoing partnership role, commitment and responsibility with public libraries?*
- 4. What does the State Library of Victoria consider that public libraries collectively could or should contribute to the partnership of the two spheres of library services for the public?*
- 5. Could the State Library of Victoria please clarify its specific ongoing plans, commitments or concerns in regard to Library Network Unit and associated funding and projects?*

Michael Bertie made some comments on the motion and the concerns raised.

The existing legislation does not specify the relationship between the Library Board and public libraries. This is an issue of concern for the Board.

Victorian Library Network Committee held a planning day recently and this looked at broader library issues. The VLNC will be holding a planning workshop next March and hopes to discuss the issue of its relationship with public libraries and come to an understanding about what it should do.

All positions in the Library Network Unit are funded one year at a time. Filling positions by secondment is useful in that it brings in people with public library knowledge and experience.

State Library recurrent funding is being reduced and LNU may not always exist in its present form.

After further discussion it was resolved (with the agreement of the mover and seconder of the motion) that a joint Viclink/CPLG letter would be sent to the Library Board expressing the concerns and requesting a meeting.

7. Department of Infrastructure Report

Graham Dudley introduced Brian Hine from the Bendigo DoI office.

The Minister and Premier have signed off on the first round of Living Libraries grants and announcements will be made over the next few days.

Graham is pursuing the idea of cooperative purchase of library systems and had attended a meeting of metropolitan regional libraries to discuss this.

It is acknowledged that good communications are the main priority for rural areas.

The next step is to engage someone to write a proposal for library system requirements – working with CPLG and Viclink.

Five Libraries (which were named) have not yet submitted their Annual Survey.

Bibliostat Connect is now available in a we-based form. Nada will provide information about this.

8. Viclink Subcommittees – Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference have been drawn up for the Children's, Reference and Collections Subcommittees

9. Gulliver – Proposed Memorandum of Understanding

This has been drawn up for consideration by the Executive.

10.COMMITTEE REPORTS

VICLINK Executive

The Viclink Constitution has been revised and checked by solicitors.

Writers on the Road has received an Arts Portfolio Award

Public Libraries Australia (of which Lynne is a member of the planning committee) is looking at the CASL recommendations and has given itself 18 months to get a national organisation established.

Following the Ideas Forum after the Public Libraries Conference, Lynne had met with Don Schauder and Fran Awcock to discuss education for librarianship.

It is suggested that some research be commissioned to look at the education needs of library managers and that \$100,000 of Statewide Projects money be used to get this started and to attract other funding.

There was some interest in this proposal at the meeting although some members felt that the education needs were in the area of base-grade librarians rather than library managers and that persuading the tertiary institutions to include more subjects relevant to public libraries in the courses has a higher priority than research at this stage.

A more detailed proposal will be developed for discussion at the February meeting.

Gulliver

A report had been circulated earlier.

Reference Co operative

Report circulated with agenda

Collection Development

Report attached to minutes

Children's Services

Report attached to minutes

Libraries on Line

Vicnet, DoI and other groups are looking at a joint funding submission to the National Communication Fund.

A supplier has been appointed for the printers project

Rural Libraries on line

There will be a change of Internet service provider from 31/12/01. Letters are being sent advising of this.

Rural libraries will stay on the same satellite and metro regions will move to this one also. Other libraries will move to a different satellite. There will be routing changes for all introduced between Christmas and New Year.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

None

13. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday February 12th 2002. Venue to be determined.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm