



# part 1

## Introduction

# Vision

Enriching the lives of Queenslanders

# Mission

Creatively linking Queenslanders to information, knowledge and each other

# Values

- Respect for people and knowledge
- Commitment to lifelong learning for all
- Integrity and efficiency of service



## The State Library of Queensland

The State Library has been providing free library services to the people of Queensland since the foundation of the institution in 1902.

The State Library's role is to ensure that Queensland's documentary heritage is collected, preserved and made accessible to the public.

The State Library is also a major research centre and an advocate and financial partner of Queensland's public library network and Indigenous Knowledge Centres.

The State Library:

- collects, arranges, preserves and provides access to Queensland's documentary heritage
- provides free access to books, journals and magazines, newspapers, audiovisual material, family history resources, maps, music, ephemera and electronic resources
- provides free reference and research services to all Queenslanders
- provides access to specialised collections, including the John Oxley Library, the State's premier library for material documenting the history of Queensland, and the Australian Library of Art
- provides Indigenous library services, including the establishment of Indigenous Knowledge Centres in Cape York, Cherbourg and the Torres Strait. The State Library also offers employment and training opportunities for Indigenous Queenslanders interested in a career in the library sector
- funds and supports services to Queensland public libraries. The State Library organises outreach programs for public libraries staff and the general public. These programs are offered in the areas of research, literacy, internet training and digitisation
- addresses the needs of our multicultural community, children and young people
- uses technological innovation and collaborative partnerships to ensure that Queensland's heritage is collected, organised, preserved and made accessible to the widest possible audience
- offers public programs and exhibitions, including exhibition loans to schools, public libraries, museums and other community organisations.

In 2007-08, the State Library continued its remarkable achievements in creatively linking the Queensland community to information, knowledge and each other.

2007-08 marked the first full year of operations since the opening of the redeveloped State Library in 2006. Public support for our award-winning building, programs and activities has been overwhelming, with visitor numbers exceeding 1.2 million in 2007-08. It is rewarding to know that so many Queenslanders are benefiting from the rich resources and creative programs of the State Library.

I would like to acknowledge gratefully Emeritus Professor Roy Webb, AO and all the outgoing Library Board members for their leadership and vital contributions to the State Library's accomplishments under their tenure.

Professor Webb served two terms as the Chairperson of the Library Board of Queensland, from 2002-08, a period of immense change to the State Library's strategic direction and operations. His distinguished service saw an ambitious redevelopment of the State Library building as part of the Millennium Arts Project and its transformation into an award-winning cultural destination. Professor Webb's commitment to the cultural mission of the institution greatly contributed to the successful realisation of the redevelopment project.

The ongoing support of the Honourable Rod Welford MP, Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts, has enabled the State Library to contribute to the realisation of the Government's Smart State objectives. The Minister's advocacy of our programs has promoted the State Library as a centre of cultural and learning activities for all Queenslanders.

The Library Board of Queensland would also like to express our appreciation of our main strategic partners, the Queensland Government and Arts Queensland, for their active support and interest in the undertakings of the State Library.

Public libraries in Queensland have been significantly affected by the reform of Queensland's local



government system in 2008. I acknowledge the work undertaken by the State Library, in partnership with the Local Government Association of Queensland and the Queensland Public Libraries Association, to assist public libraries in adjusting to changes resulting from the amalgamation of local councils.

The Queensland Library Foundation expanded its funding programs to maximise the opportunities made available by our award-winning building. One of its most popular and enduring programs, Partners of the State Library of Queensland, raised significant funds for the purchase of the manuscript collection of Ray Barrett, one of Australia's much-loved actors.

The passionate commitment of Mr Neil Roberts and the Foundation Council has attracted significant gifts from members of our community. Our individual and corporate donors have shown great generosity towards one of the State's most vibrant public institutions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Queensland Library Foundation's Patron, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce, AC for her support of the State Library.

I congratulate the winners of this year's State Library of Queensland Awards, the Winifred Fisher Indigenous Knowledge Centre in Cherbourg and the *Nambour Chronicle* digitisation team for their contribution to preservation of Queensland's historical heritage. I would also like to congratulate the recipient of the 2008 John Oxley Fellowship, heritage consultant Mr Gordon Grimwade.

The continued commitment and support of the Library Board over 2007-08 has enabled the State Library to realise its goals. I would like to thank the State Librarian for her leadership and enthusiasm and the staff for their dedication to the State Library's vision.

I look forward to the coming years and the exciting new opportunities that await the State Library.

**Jane Bertelsen**  
Chairperson



## The State Library has had an extraordinary and exciting year in 2007-08.

On 25 November 2007, the redeveloped South Bank building turned one, which we celebrated with an Open Day filled with events and programs for all ages. Throughout the year, our award-winning building and our creative activities and programs have continued to attract record numbers of visitors. The new State Library was awarded the Royal Australian Institute of Architects Brisbane, Queensland and Australian *Building of the Year Awards* in 2007 and I extend my congratulations to Donovan Hill and Peddle Thorpe Architects for the great achievement.

To further engage with the Queensland community and maximise opportunities resulting from the State Library redevelopment, we created the Public Programs directorate in October 2007. The new unit enabled us to profile State Library's rich resources, engage with our clients and new audiences more effectively and make information more accessible to the wider Queensland community.

Over the year, we presented a number of exciting exhibitions in our galleries, including *Studio: Australian painters photographed by R. Ian Lloyd*. This touring exhibition from the National Portrait Gallery showed 61 of Australia's most acclaimed painters and their studios. During the summer we presented *Paradise*, an exhibition which explored the many notions of paradise through art, historical objects and memorabilia, and particularly how paradise has been represented in the history of Queensland.

During summer, The Edge program for children and young people led a very successful and busy season of holiday events. *An Unexpectedly Mind-Boggling Adventure*, created by State Library with Backbone Youth Arts, was presented to more than 8,000 visitors in January 2008 and is just one example of the great success of The Edge program. Visitor and audience numbers for the summer program, both onsite and online, were far above expectations, and introduced many first time visitors to our new program for children and young people.

I am pleased to announce that the redevelopment of The Edge reached the completion of the initial planning and design stage during 2008. Much work is to be undertaken from now until The Edge facility opens to the public in late 2009. The Edge will be a unique space aiming to deliver innovative programs onsite and online to promote, support and facilitate the holistic development of children and young people.

In 2007-08 the State Library implemented two new strategic policies, *Enriching the lives of Queenslanders: Strategic directions for the State*

*Library of Queensland towards 2012 and Expanding Horizons: positioning Queensland public libraries for the future. Enriching the lives of Queenslanders* is the culmination of an extended appraisal of our past achievements and builds on the accomplishments of the previous strategic policy, *Smart libraries build smart communities: Future directions of the State Library of Queensland*.

*Expanding Horizons* further develops our important partnership with public libraries and local government. The policy, a joint initiative by the State Library of Queensland, the Local Government Association of Queensland and the Queensland Public Libraries Association, identifies key guiding principles for Queensland public libraries: fostering the love of reading in our community, promoting community engagement and upholding the civic value of equity of access.

We also have continued our key strategy to improve library services and collections for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders across Queensland. Indigenous Knowledge Centres now operate in 17 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, including those established on Iama (Yam) Island in July 2007 and Kubin at Moa Island in May 2008, both in the Torres Strait.

Throughout 2007-08, we formed fruitful partnerships with a number of institutions. In September 2007, the State Library was host to the 2007 *Brisbane Writers Festival*, a five day event attended by more than 25,000 people. Our partnership with Griffith REVIEW, an award winning literary and public affairs journal, brought to the State Library Marcia Langton, one of our leading scholars, to discuss a new agenda for Indigenous relations.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Emeritus Professor Roy Webb, AO and all the outgoing members of the Library Board. Their outstanding work and dedication greatly contributed to the success of all our endeavours. I would also like to welcome our new Library Board, led by Ms Jane Bertelsen. I look forward to our work together with a sense of enthusiasm and anticipation.

Finally, I would like to thank all State Library staff for their commitment and professionalism throughout the year. The vital contributions and dedicated work of our staff and volunteers have supported the achievements which mark 2007-08 as an exceptional year for the State Library.

**Lea Giles-Peters**  
State Librarian

2007-08  
State Librarian's year in review