

3 January 2012

### State Library staff member celebrates 50 year anniversary

Assistant conservator Sidney Furber has celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary working at State Library of Queensland.

Carina Heights resident 'Sid' Furber commenced working at State Library in 1961 and was the first apprentice hand bookbinder/finisher ever recruited by the library.

He is now the longest serving staff member of State Library.

State Library Acting CEO Helen Brodie said that Sid has seen a lot of changes in the last 50 years.

"Not only have there been incredible technological advances in the past 50 years, but the scope of libraries and the role they play in our community has significantly changed," Ms Brodie said.

"Sid's role has changed from simply binding the book collections of the State Library to preserving Queensland history, playing an important conservation role in exhibitions and facilitating children's workshops in constructing their own books.

"The career of this dedicated family man is a perfect example of how far the State Library has come."

Along the way, Sid has grasped the opportunity to learn new skills and knowledge in his role and has become well-known and respected in Australia as an expert tradesman hand bookbinder.

"With Sid at State Library, the preservation and conservation of Queensland's memories continues to be in the best hands, and he has been passing on and sharing his craft through mentoring other State Library staff members," Ms Brodie said.

Sid has seen three State Libraries in his time, including the William Street building in Brisbane's CBD, the previous South Bank building prior to the Millennium Library Project and the new look, refurbished current State Library, which opened in 2006.

Sid celebrated his special day with a morning tea, surrounded by his wife, children, grandchildren and fellow staff members, as he spoke about how much he loved the library.

"As things have changed over the years, what remains constant is memories and family," Sid said.

#### Media contact:

Amanda Edwards, Communications, State Library of Queensland  
3842 9803 [amanda.edwards@slq.qld.gov.au](mailto:amanda.edwards@slq.qld.gov.au)