Public Libraries Consultative Committee

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 1 December 2014 State Library of NSW 1pm to 3pm TRIM File No: 32540



| 1. | Present: Jan Richards (Library Council – Chair), Alex Byrne (State Library), Rob Thomas (Library Council), Andrew Tink (Library Council), Frances Sims (State Library), Michelle Simon (NSW MPLA), Clr Graham Smith (PLNSW), Keryl Collard (PLNSW), Clr Julie Hegarty (LGNSW), Robert Knight (PLNSW), Noel Baum (LGNSW), Natasa Mitic (Office of Local Government), Cameron Morley (State Library – Minutes) | |
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| 2. | Apologies: Susan Doyle (Library Council), Paul Scully (NSW MPLA), Clr Veronique Marchandeau (NSW MPLA) The Chair welcomed new PLCC member Natasa Mitic to the meeting, along with NSW Public Libraries Association observers Clr Linda Gill and Adele Casey. | |
| 3. | Confirmation of previous minutes 14 July 2014: The Minutes of the 73rd meeting held on 22 September 2014, which had been circulated, were confirmed and accepted as a true record. | |
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| 4. | Business Arising from previous minutes: | |
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Application forms for 2014/15 Subsidy and DGA payments were dispatched to NSW councils on 12 September. This includes the Statement of Library Operations form which has been revised this year to reflect recent changes to accounting standards. Forms were due on 24 October 2014, and payments to councils are made as forms are received and assessed.

As at 24 November applications have not been received from 34 councils. The outstanding councils will receive reminders shortly.

Twelve libraries are yet to lodge their 2013/14 public library statistical returns.

Public Library Infrastructure Grants

The Public Library Infrastructure Grants program was opened on 15 September 2014. Online applications were due on 31 October 2014.

Demand for grants in this first year of the program has been strong, with applications for projects totaling \$6.7M.

The March 2015 NSW Election has necessitated a revision to the Public Library Infrastructure Grants program timetable. Grants announcements must occur prior to caretaker period that commences in March 2015.

Accordingly, the Library Council Grants Committee will convene on 10 December 2014 to form its recommendations for the consideration of the Library Council. It is expected that the Library Council will forward grant recommendations to the Minister for the Arts by the end of January 2015.

Revitalising Regional Libraries

The following councils will receive their \$16,000 RRL grants this year:

Bombala, Coolamon, Cooma-Monaro, Cootamundra, Corowa, Dubbo, Goulburn-Mulwaree, Greater Hume, Gundagai, Junee, Lake Macquarie, Liverpool Plains, Lockhart, Narrabri, Narromine, Shellharbour, Snowy River, Tamworth Regional, Temora, Tumbarumba, Tumut, Upper Lachlan, Uralla, Urana, Wagga Wagga, Walcha, Warrumbungle, Wellington.

To date the State Library team has conducted needs assessments at approximately half of these councils, with the remainder to be visited in the new year.

As at 24 November, 117 rural and regional libraries (out of a possible 139 sites) have been supplied with WiFi Hotspots under the Hotspot roll-out component of the program. The program received a NSW Premier's Public Sector Award (Revitalising Regional NSW Category) in November.

| | Recommendation The Public Libraries Consultative Committee NOTED the update on the implementation of the 2014/15 Public Library Funding Strategy. | |
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| 6. | NSW.net Service Delivery Strategy 2013-16 Progress Report – July to December 2014 | |
| | Joyce Azzopardi attended the meeting and described the key NSW.net achievements for the period, which included: | |
| | Negotiations are in progress with PACNET, iiNet and Broadband Solutions for the provision of 50/20M and 100/40M NBN services with a 1TB and unlimited monthly download Completed 31 upgrades of new and existing internet services Commenced Year 4 and the final year of the rollout of the Revitalising Regional Libraries program. WiFi hotspots deployed so far this year include Dapto, Dungog, Werris Creek and Quirindi. Other WiFi hotspots to be deployed shortly are for Helensburgh, Unanderra, Bundarra, Mungindi and Urana. Conducting a trial of the American Library Association eBook publications. Released opt-in offers for Atomic Training and Digital Classroom. Conducted 15 eLending Kit learning programs which | |
| | were attended by 74 public library staff eContent Management Platform gathering momentum with a press statement released by Odilo in the US and a local stakeholders media statement released in Australia receiving positive feedback from the PLN | |
| | The statewide rollout of access to the State Library's eResources is imminent. Signed agreements have been returned by 65 library services and promotional pull-up banners have been sent to these libraries. The rollout has been scheduled to commence in December 2014. | |
| | Recommendation | |
| | The Public Libraries Consultative Committee ENDORSED the NSW.net Service Delivery Strategy 2013-16 Progress Report – July to December 2014 | |
| | 6.1 Libraries Act! Card Project Joyce Azzopardi updated the Committee on the project's progress. | |

Background

At the Public Libraries NSW AGM in 2012, a motion was endorsed to pursue a partnership with the State Library to explore the potential for public library members to access the State Library's resources with public library membership cards.

On 3 December 2012, the Public Libraries Consultative Committee (PLCC) endorsed further scoping of the concept with a view to piloting dual access to the State Library's eResources for State Library and public library members.

The State Library formed a project group in March 2013 to investigate options for the project. Investigations involved an environmental scan of joint membership models operating in state libraries across Australia.

An approach of access to the State Library's eResources for public library clients using membership cards issued by the local library was adopted.

Following a gala launch, Randwick and Great Lakes library services participated in a six month pilot which commenced in October 2013 and ended in March 2014. The pilot was evaluated and feedback received was positive.

As the pilot was deemed successful, the project group worked towards a statewide rollout of this access to all NSW public libraries with an announcement to be made at the Gala event of the 75th Anniversary of the Library Act on 17 November 2014.

The PLCC noted progress at the 15 July 2014 and 2 December 2013 meetings.

Progress

- Registration form developed for the State Library website and access conditions reviewed for appropriateness.
 Form tested internally and externally with nominated public library staff.
- Meetings held with key vendors to inform them of the new registration process to enable public library clients to easily become State Library members.
- Letter/agreement sent to the General Managers of 151 Councils advising them of this access and to obtain agreement to participate in the initiative – 65 of the 102 NSW public library services have to date opted to participate.
- The letter of invitation has prompted queries from some Sydney metropolitan library managers seeking clarification on the initiative. An FAQ document is being developed and will be shared with the network.
- Promotional material pull up banners and web graphics. Pull-up banners sent to all participating libraries. Web graphics to be sent with link to State library webpage prior to rollout.

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| | Communications plan developed. Press release completed and PLNews article to be written. State Library investigating the provision of public library member registration statistics NSW.net developed a form on NSW.net website for public library barcode membership changes/updates. Following successful external testing, access will be rolled out to participating public libraries during December. Joyce Azzopardi was congratulated on her achieving the prestigious NSW Premiers Award in the Revitalising Regional NSW category and was also commended for the great work NSW.net is doing for public libraries. | |
| | Recommendation The Committee NOTED the progress of the Libraries Act! Card project, a 75 th Anniversary of the Library Act 1939 initiative. | |
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| 7. | LIAC and Drug Info @ your library Update: | |
| | Philippa Scarf attended the meeting and informed the Committee of the Legal Information Access centre (LIAC) operational plan 2014-15, and provided a progress report for the drug info @ your library service.A revised LIAC service model was necessitated by the decision of the Trustees of the Public Purpose Fund to cease funding the | |
| | LIAC service beyond 30 June 2014. | |
| | The revised LIAC service model delivers a specialist information service that provides quality, plain English legal information to the NSW community through the public library network, the dedicated <i>Find Legal</i> Answers website and by working collaboratively with legal agencies including Courts and Tribunal Services, LawAccess, Legal Aid NSW and Corrective Services NSW. | |
| | LIAC Operational Plan 2014-15 The LIAC Operational Plan outlines activities to be undertaken in 2014-15 to fulfil program service requirements and is aligned with the State Library Strategy Plan 2012-15 and the Public Library & Learning Services Divisional Plan. In particular the strategic priorities of Great Public Library Network, Regional and Community Engagement, Highly Collaborative, Accessible Content and Excellent Information Services are reflected in the LIAC Operational Plan. | |
| | The programs for LIAC are 1) the <i>Find Legal Answers</i> service in public libraries, 2) <i>Find Legal Answers</i> online and 3) <i>Partnerships</i> . | |
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The *Find Legal Answers* service in public libraries supports and enables public libraries to provide a high quality, plain English legal information service for communities of the 367 public libraries across NSW through the provision of legal information resources including the *Find Legal Answers* Tool Kit, supported by the *Find Legal Answers* website, collection management advice, training and promotion.

Find Legal Answers online delivers high quality, plain English legal information online across NSW via the Find Legal Answers website to meet community needs, including the needs of public library staff and their clients, legal researchers, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

In 2013-14 the Find Legal Answers website had 533,615 visitors/sessions representing a 65% increase on the previous year. Mobile phone usage increased 225% from previous year. Overall mobile devices are now used for more than 28% of all sessions. Sessions/visits to Legal Books online (now Tool Kit online) has increased markedly and represents 82% of total traffic. (Source Panalysis Legal Answers Annual Report 2013-14).

Partnerships include working collaboratively with key government agencies such as Courts and Tribunal Services (CaTS) and Corrective Services NSW, the legal sector and community service organisations to provide access to and promote high quality, plain English legal information with a focus on support for economically and socially disadvantaged individuals across NSW. Specific programs include:

- Courts and Tribunal Services (CaTS): local courts public libraries project deliver the legal information workshop to up to five regional and five metropolitan local courts.
- Corrective Services NSW: provide collection advice and legal information support across 36 correctional centre libraries; provide digital content for the Prisoners' Legal Information Portal including the updated Tool Kit and *Hot Topics: Domestic Violence*.

Drug Info Progress Report

The key performance indicators for the drug info @ your library service as outlined in the partnership agreement between the State Library and the Ministry of Health include:

• Increase usage of drug info @ your library web service. Website usage for the period 1 July to 24 November 2014 was 74,354 visits representing a 59% increase on same period last year.

| | The website was updated to include statistics from the National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2013. In addition the Staying safe at schoolies downloadable factsheets were developed for parents and young people Increase number of public library events and activities held to promote drug info @ your library locally demonstrating increased promotion of the service in communities across NSW. Develop and implement training and communication strategies for public library staff to increase the capacity of librarians to assist communities to use the drug info @ your library collection The PLCC Chair noted the large increase in the usage of both services. Alex Byrne advised that the State Library has met with the Chief Justice and Attorney General about the LIAC service and will continue to advocate for partnership support. Philippa Scarf was congratulated for her professional management of the LIAC service during the transition to the revised service model. Recommendation | |
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| | the drug info progress report. | |
| 9 | Statowido Projects Undate | |
| 8. | Statewide Projects Update Cameron Morley updated the Committee on current statewide projects. | |
| | Three major statewide projects managed by the State Library on behalf of the public library network are in progress: 1) Early Literacy Framework Research 2) Regional Library Models Research 3) Mobile Libraries and Outreach Models Research | |
| | Early Literacy Framework The project will develop a context-sensitive model for benchmarking and designing effective early literacy programs in NSW public libraries. The State Library engaged Dr Emilia Djonov from the Early Childhood Institute at the Macquarie University assisted by Dr Jane Torr and research assistant Lien Pham to deliver the project. | |
| | The methodology includes 3 phases: | |
| | Statewide public library survey: multiple choice and short answer questionnaire, designed with assistance from librarians | |

| | Review of research on early literacy Close observation and analysis of early literacy programs in 24 NSW public libraries representative of the diversity of settings and programs across NSW: | |
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| | a. video recording of sessions b. interviews with library staff engaged in those sessions c. voluntary questionnaire for parents and families | |
| Proare | ss – Stage 1: | |
| • | Research ethics approval was granted, effective 4 th September 2014 in line with the requirements of the <i>National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human</i> <i>Research (2007).</i> The project used a reference group of NSW children's librarians who volunteered to review and test the draft survey, providing valuable feedback for the researcher in the survey design. The survey has been distributed to stakeholders (library managers, children's library staff, team leaders and branch library staff involved in presenting early literacy programs). Survey data collection has been completed and the results are being analysed. It is anticipated that the report will be available by the end of December 2014. In Stage 1 libraries were asked to nominate if they wished to participate in Stage 2. | |
| Progre: | ss – Stage 2: | |
| | A second research ethics application is in progress to film library staff delivering story times and baby bounce programs in the libraries and to interview the parents in attendance and the library staff members to further inform the research. Advice has also been sought from library managers re: the information and permissions process they require for onsite filming. Some support from library managers will be required in distributing the surveys and | |
| • | permission forms to participating clients a week ahead of the observation and filming sessions. Dr Djonov has allocated time in semester 1 in 2015 to complete the observations and it is anticipated that the Literature Review will be available by the end of January 2015. | |
| The UT | nal Library Models IS Centre for Australian Local Government Excellence en appointed to assist with this project. | |
| | rvey phase took place in November. All NSW public managers were invited to participate in an online survey. | |

| Responses have been received from 23 standalone libraries, 14 regional libraries, 12 cooperative libraries and 5 "other". | |
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| In addition the State Library sought copies of current regional and cooperative library agreements, including those not promulgated under the Library Act. A wide range of agreements have been submitted, which will assist the researchers to define agreement typologies. | |
| Analysis of the results and agreements is under way at present. | |
| Robert Knight noted that he had advised UTS that joint organisations of councils may be an example of an alternate arrangement for investigation. | |
| Graham Smith suggested that a briefing on the final report is provided to the Minister to inform him of the existing collaboration between public libraries. | |
| Mobile Libraries and Outreach Models Research The State Library on behalf of the NSW Public Library Network Research Committee, has commissioned a project to research Mobile Library and Outreach Models, to gain an understanding of current practice with a view to establishing good practice guidelines. Roger Henshaw Consultancy Services (RHCS) have been appointed to run the project. | |
| The research will: | |
| Identify the range and scope of NSW public library mobile and outreach service models, including an overview of the historical development of these models. Explore the strengths, weaknesses, costs, benefits and opportunities of different outreach models used within NSW public libraries. Develop good practice guidelines for NSW public library mobile and outreach services. | |
| Surveys were sent to all NSW public library Managers in September 2014. RHCS are currently analysing the data received, and are working on detailed case studies on nine different services. | |
| It is expected that the final report and draft best practice guidelines will be brought to the PLCC in March 2015 for consideration. | |
| Plan of Action Further updates will be brought to the Committee as the projects progress. | |
| Recommendation The Committee NOTED the progress of the current statewide projects. | |

| 9. | Library Act Anniversary November 2014 Edwina Duffy attended the meeting and delivered a presentation on the activities that had taken place as part of the 75 th Anniversary of the Library Act 1939. The following highlights were noted: | |
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| | NSW public libraries host celebration events on 3 November 2014 | |
| | Over 20 libraries hosted a range of events from cake cuttings to BBQs to zumba to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the passage of the Library Act on 3 November. | |
| | A sample of the activities include: the State Library hosted an afternoon tea for staff, the Library Council visited Bankstown Library, Hunter and Central Coast libraries hosted a simultaneous cake cutting, ABC Central West broadcast from Central West Libraries in Orange with guest speakers and a tower of cupcakes, and Willoughby City Library made a display of famous people born in 1939 and books published in 1939. Libraries shared photos of their events on social media using the hashtag #libraryact75th. Events were covered in local media from the Maitland Mercury to the Wagga Daily Advertiser to ABC Central West radio. A more detailed summary of celebration events, social media activities and media coverage will be completed in December. | |
| | Online and social media activities The #libraryaday campaign, launched on 1 October, featured each NSW public library service on Twitter, via the SL Twitter account @statelibrarynsw, and on the Libraryact75th blog http://libraryact75th.tumblr.com/, throughout the month of October in the lead up to the anniversary of the Library Act on 3 November. The hashtags #libraryaday and #libraryact75th were promoted. There was a very positive response from public libraries to this campaign, with libraries tweeting about their own library services, other library services and the anniversary of the Library Act. The #libraryaday campaign was mentioned in ALIA weekly e-newsletter on 1 October and made it to 15th on the list of Great Oz Government Tweets on 1 October. The Celebrating 75 Years Pinterest board http://www.pinterest.com/slnswpls/celebrating-75-years/ now has 167 followers, and more than 15 libraries have shared 120 of their own photos. Libraries shared photos of celebration events in their libraries on 3 November on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and the Libraryact75th. | |
| | A more detailed summary and analysis of social media activities will be completed in December. | |

| Gala event at the State Library on 17 November 2014 | |
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| The State Library hosted a gala event to celebrate th 75th anniversary of the Library Act and 75 years of publ libraries in NSW on 17 November in the Friends Room | ic |
| State Librarian Alex Byrne announced the statewic rollout of the State Library and NSW public librarie eresource initiative, enabling public library clients to access the State Library's eresource collection with the local library cards. | es to |
| PLCC Chair Jan Richards spoke on behalf of NSW publ libraries and Geoff Provest, MP and Parliamental Secretary to the Deputy Premier, spoke on behalf Deputy Premier Troy Grant. | ry of |
| The event was attended by over 70 guests, includin members of the Library Council, the State Librar Executive and Foundation Board, library dignitaries an key stakeholders from the NSW public library networ such as members of the PLCC and library managers. | ry Id |
| The 11 th Australian Library History Forum: Libraries for th People at the State Library on 18-19 November 2014 | <u>e</u> |
| The 11th Australian Library History Forum was held at th | e |
| State Library on 18 and 19 November and was attended by 80 delegates. The Forum was a great succes highlighting the significance of the NSW Library Act and the growth of free public libraries across the state, and Australia that occurred as a result. | ed s, id |
| The theme for this year's Forum, co-convened by Dav Jones and Anne Doherty, was Libraries for the People and focused on public library development in Australia 28 speakers from NSW, Queensland, Victoria, Sout Australia and the ACT presented papers on a range topics from the Munn-Pitt report of 1935 to a history of readers' advisory services, and from the Melbourn Athenaeum Library to the globalisation of the publ library. | e, a. :h of of ie |
| Papers will be collated and published online on the Stat Library's website by the end of the year. The 12th Australian Library History Forum will be held a the State Library of Queensland in 2016. Feedback from this year's Forum will inform the planning of the 201 Forum. | at m |
| Building on the Bookends Scenarios A half-day seminar was held at the State Library on October with 15 representatives from the State Librar and public libraries to further develop the strateg implications raised in the Future of Public Librarie Forum held on 29 August. Delegates discussed the strategic implications that has | ry ic es |
| been raised, how they might be implemented and wh might implement them. Facilitator Oliver Freema compiled a draft summary of the session. | |

| Oliver Freeman will write a Building on the Bookends Scenarios report, which will be published in early 2015 and outline the process we have undergone to review the Bookends Scenarios 2009, which scenarios are emerging, and strategic options for libraries. | |
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| Oral history | |
| Following the oral history training day held at the State Library on 16 September, libraries are carrying out oral history interviews with former library managers and staff to capture their memories of NSW libraries over the last 75 years. | |
| Libraries will donate a copy of their oral history to the State Library to create a legacy 75th anniversary of the Library Act oral history collection. | |
| • Oral histories will be shared on the libraryact75th blog | |
| <u>http://libraryact75th.tumblr.com/</u> The deadline for libraries to submit their oral histories to the State Library is 31 November 2014. | |
| Activities over the next four weeks will focus on summarising the activities that have taken place, reporting on project management plan objectives and the planning of legacy activities. Actions include: Development of a report outlining the 75th anniversary celebration events, social media activities, media coverage and library engagement will be completed in December. Collation and publication of papers presented at the Library History Forum on the State Library's website by 31 December 2014. Oral histories will be featured on the Libraryact75th blog and collated in a legacy 75th anniversary of the Library Act oral history collection in early 2015. Liaison with Oliver Freeman in the writing and publication of the Building on the Bookends Scenarios report, to be published in early 2015. | |
| public libraries in the future. The State Library will develop strategies with stakeholders to address the identified scenarios. | |
| Promotion of the 75th Anniversary brand for use in joint State Library / public library activities over 2015. | |
| The Committee congratulated Edwina on her professional coordination of a rich suite of activities. | |
| Recommendation The Committee NOTED the update on the 75th Anniversary of the Library Act activities. | |

| 0. | Update on Tech Savvy Seniors | |
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| | Anne Doherty attended to present the paper. | |
| | The Committee noted that the program is entering its third year in partnership with the Office for Ageing and Telstra. | |
| | To date 17,000 training sessions have been supported through this program, with 11,500 places being offered by the 34 community colleges and 5,500 places being offered by the 61 NSW public library locations involved. Telstra has provided \$200,000 in direct library grants so far. | |
| | To date, library locations have been predominantly regional and rural and libraries have been selected so to complement the offerings via the community college network. | |
| | The State Library has managed the call for applications for public libraries to apply to participate in the program. | |
| | It is planned that the next phase of Tech Savvy Seniors will be offered as a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) program, predominantly to NSW metropolitan libraries, with two options for libraries. | |
| | Option 1. Libraries will be asked to facilitate the setting up of training sessions with the trainer (7 languages will be offered) to be provided by the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW (funded by Telstra) | |
| | Option 2. Library staff will train clients in community language/s with funding to support this provided by Telstra. | |
| | A suitable Western Sydney public library will be approached to host the launch of this phase in 2015. | |
| | Invitations will be sent to NSW public libraries in December 2014 for participation in the 2015 program. | |
| | The University of Melbourne has been contracted to undertake a review of the program. | |
| | Recommendations The Committee NOTED the report. | |
| | The Committee Chair also noted that Anne Doherty would be retiring in December 2014. The Committee thanked Anne for her contributions over many years and wished her well in retirement. | |
| 11. | Representative Reports | |
| | Clr Graham Smith presented the NSW Public Library Association Report. | |

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| | The report noted that the inaugural AGM of the Association was held in Mudgee on 14 November 2014. | |
| | The Executive of the Association is as follows: President: Clr Graham Smith (Cessnock) | |
| | Vice-President (Metropolitan): Clr Julie Hegarty (Pittwater) | |
| | Vice-President (Country): Clr Linda Gill (Great Lakes) | |
| | Secretary / Treasurer: Adele Casey (Bland) | |
| | Library Manager representative (Metropolitan): Michelle Simon (Canterbury) | |
| | Library manager representative (Country): Robert Knight (Riverina Regional Library). | |
| | It was agreed that the members listed above would be recommended to the Library Council of NSW as the 2015 members of the PLCC, replacing the previous membership of the former NSW Metropolitan Public Libraries Association and Public Libraries NSW Association respectively. | |
| | Recommendation The Committee NOTED the report. | |
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| 12. | Other Business | |
| | Rob Thomas, AM The Chair recognised Library Council President Mr Rob Thomas, AM who was in attendance at the meeting, noting that Rob's term as President ends in 2014. Rob's great contribution to the Library Council, the State Library and the NSW public library network was noted and applauded. | |
| | Keryl Collard Outgoing PLCC member Keryl Collard's work for the PLCC was acknowledged by the Chair. | |
| | Annual meeting with the Library Council A meeting with the Library Council was scheduled to commence at the conclusion of the Committee meeting. | |
| | The following agenda for the meeting with the Library Council was circulated and discussed: | |
| | 1. Welcome and introductions Jan Richards, PLCC Chair | |
| | 2. Evolution of the public library funding model Frances Sims | |

| | Principles for a future model Cameron Morley NSW Public Library Association presentation on funding campaign Clr Graham Smith Discussion and Close | |
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| 13. | Points for Communication It was agreed that a summary of all agenda items apart from 4.1 can be circulated via a Points for Communication email to NSW public library managers. | |
| 14. | Dates for 2015 | |
| | Monday 23 March 2015 at State Library | |
| | Monday 20 July 2015 (at a public library to be confirmed) | |
| | Monday 28 September 2015 (at a public library to be confirmed) | |
| | Monday 7 December 2015, 1pm – 3pm at State Library, followed by meeting with Library Council | |
| | The meeting closed at 2.50 pm | |