



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

SUMMER PROJECTS

NEWSLETTER

LIBRARY SERVICES

ACADEMIC DIVISION

SUMMER 2007/08

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The new Auchmuty Library foyer

From the University Librarian

New Roof for the Auchmuty Library – Flowers Reading Room

The roof over the Flowers Reading Room is over 40 years old and has developed serious leaking problems which can only be addressed with a major re-roofing and refurbishment project. Other improvements include an upgrade of the Post Graduate Room, additional group study facilities, new carpet and furnishings as well as replacement of the lights and ceiling panels. Due to Occupational Health and Safety requirements, the journal collection will be temporarily re-located to the Open Stack area on Level 1 of the Auchmuty Library. It is anticipated that the collection will be relocated in January and remain in the Stack area until the completion of the project in July

2008. Additional study places will be available in other Reading Rooms during the course of the project.

Offsite storage

The collections currently in Open 'Orange' Stack are closed runs (i.e. cancelled subscriptions) of very low use journals. We propose to relocate these to Hunter Records Storage at Thornton so we can keep the higher-use Flowers Room collections in the Auchmuty Library, as well as provide space for much needed collection growth.

We already have collections of records and archives at Hunter Records Storage which can be recalled as needed, quite often on the day that the request is lodged. The same system will operate

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From the University Librarian (cont.)

for the low use journals, although other options are available. For example, articles can be copied and emailed to any staff or student's email account, or to one of our libraries. An electronic requesting service will be available through the Library's NEWCAT system.

Many of our print journals have also been available online for many years and the library will continue to purchase electronic backfiles as they become available. For further information about this project, please contact Marion Wilson on ext.15824 or your Faculty Librarian.

Ourimbah Library shelving upgrade

During the summer vacation, the shelving layout in the Ourimbah Library will be modified to improve access for wheelchairs, improved lighting and additional space for the expanding monograph collection. Five rows of shelving will be relocated to the upper level. The remaining rows will be moved to increase the width of the aisle from 850cm to 1200cm. Additional bays will be added to provide expanded shelving capacity for collection growth. Plans are also underway to provide additional seating and workspace with the removal of several walls on the upper level. It is anticipated that this work will be completed by the beginning of Semester 1, 2008.

Greg Anderson



The Governor's visit

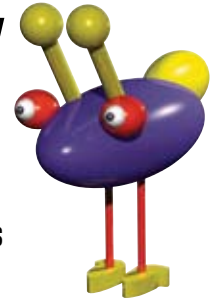
Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir, AO, Governor of New South Wales visited the Auchmuty Library on 18th October to launch *A French General and a Scots Colonel*, the book by Professor Ken Dutton. This book is a transcription of a manuscript held in Cultural Collections. The manuscript has at one end a French military notebook, written by General Jarry, dating from the Napoleonic era. Turning the manuscript around, we find it used as the diary of Colonel Charles Gray during his time as a settler in Port Macquarie in the 1840s. Professor Dutton's work in ascertaining the origins and authors of the manuscript was a scholarly detective story in its own right.

Her Excellency gave an entertaining and knowledgeable talk on the story of the book, and this, combined with Professor Dutton's witty insights, made for an extremely appreciative audience.

An exhibit of rare books newly purchased through the Hartley Bequest, relating to the subject matter of Professor Dutton's book generated considerable interest. One of particular interest is Maurice Comte de Saxe's *Memoires sur l'art de la guerre*, which contains the bookplate of Colonel Charles Gray. Another exhibit was of photographs of previous Vice-Regal visits to the University of Newcastle.

Visit uoncc.wordpress.com/2007/10/15/the-jarry-gray-manuscript/ for a slideshow of the event, and details on the book and its provenance.

Huxley library happenings



Huxley library entrance and foyer is being renovated.

The library will soon have an automatic door, carpeted foyer, new slim-line loans desk and LCD monitor to advertise and promote library services. The work started in September and is expected to be completed soon.

Huxley's IT infrastructure is being upgraded as well. Over the summer break new data cables will be replacing existing ones allowing for more PCs to be installed in the library and also providing faster network speed.

We are also in the process of relocating our maths and toy collection. This collection will now be housed upstairs near short loans and will be available for loan to all students. We have revamped the collection with a new look and purchased new resources to keep the collection current and relevant to students' needs.

The laptop area downstairs continues to be a popular place for students to work quietly and independently. This area has wireless access for students with laptops and the wireless extends to upstairs in the library.

Lastly we have relocated our Art Prints to the Huxley Stack. They now have their own room and are on display as a unique collection.

A NEW FOYER FOR AUCHMUTY

The renovations to the foyer on level 3 were completed in late September.

The area is very popular with students. In fact, as the computers were being relocated students were sitting down at the new desks and starting work.

The new foyer has provided a comfortable environment for students to work and meet. The 'New Book' display has also come back to level 3. The new books are located opposite the entry gates and there is an area where people can sit and browse. The new loans desk was well received by library staff and users alike. The staff are providing the same excellent service, but in a much more practical environment. The new self check machines are proving popular with the library clients. The machines are easy to use and mean that students don't have to queue to simply borrow library material. The art work mounted at the back of the area is eye catching and thought provoking and has polarised opinion. The mural features two members of the library staff, Fatu Kigbo and Susan Zhang, as well as students of the University. Student feedback on the area is plenty and very positive. The students have requested more computers and a different chair to replace the small stools. In response to this request two new chairs have been tested by users. The preference is for the 'red chair'. The new chairs have been ordered and will be here for the beginning of semester one 2008.

As a way to obtain feedback on the new area, staff placed an electronic whiteboard in the area, hoping that students would provide input. The whiteboard has been a great success with students happy to fill it everyday with compliments and comments. The whiteboard will now remain in the area and we are exploring the possibility of using the concept in the reading rooms.



REFURBISHED LIBRARY AT THE PORT MACQUARIE CAMPUS

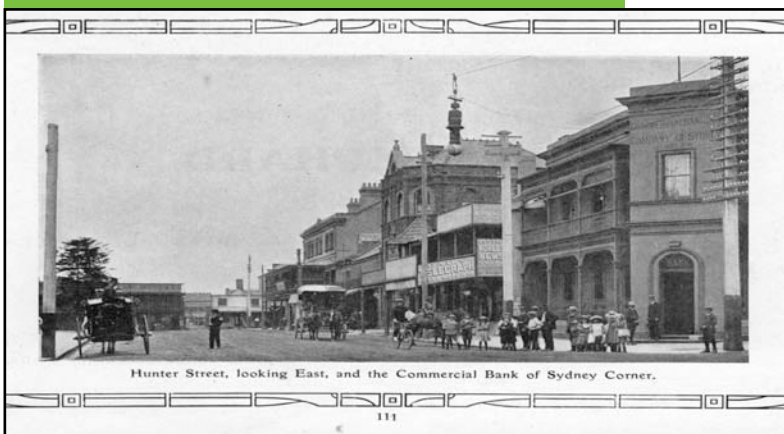
During 2007 a CDP grant of \$3.47m financed a number of projects, including extensions and modifications to the Library and Learner Support Centre at the Port Macquarie Campus. Using the Auchmuty Information Common as a reference point, additional space for collaborative learning facilities, including computer work stations and casual seating, as well as the provision for 25 new computers, have been incorporated into the new library. There is also provision for laptop connections and enhanced group study areas.

New shelving has been provided to support the University's ever expanding collections. To date, 1642 items have been purchased to support the study and learning activities of students enrolled at the Port Macquarie Campus. Our TAFE library colleagues will also enjoy improved work areas and are looking forward to the relocation of the collection for the demountable classrooms from the 1st December. The revamped library will be open to the public from the beginning of February 2008.

CHRISTMAS in Newcastle 1852

The end of December was approaching, and the weather was very sultry, with occasional hot winds from the north west; provision, however was made for the enjoyment of Christmas by every one, more or less.

A large warehouse in front of our hut was tastefully decorated with the green bushes of the gum-tree, and hung round with flags of all kinds procured from the ships lying in the harbour. These preparations were made by a baker, called Gardiner, who intended to treat the inhabitants to a ball on Christmas Eve.



From *Beautiful Views on the Northern Line from Woy Way to Armidale*

The day before Christmas came, and with it an exceeding hot wind from the north-west. At noon it had increased to a gale; the sand was blown about in clouds, and facing the wind was like fronting an oven. A broad track of country in the direction of Maitland was on fire. In the distance, the flames shot upwards like vast forked tongues of fire, with a red and lurid glare. Smoke and ashes were tossed to and fro by the wind.

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About nine o'clock, the people began to throng towards the ball-room. The principal dancers on the male side were the sailors. The females were mostly natives of the colony; and lovely did the currency lasses look on that occasion. What with white dresses, artificials, jewelry and bright eyes, the sight was perfectly dazzling; and they were famous dancers; no kind of figure seemed to come wrong to them.

In front of the wide doors, which were left open, stood a group of natives, a number of Chinese coolies and many others, who did not choose to join in the dance. The black fellows and the gins kept laughing and shouting "budgereee white fellow" at the end of the every dance. And the Chinese made a continual chattering of "chow chow", during the whole time the ball lasted.

Christmas Day came. Our Christmas dinner was to be held at the house of Mr Michael Dwyer, Mrs Rogers's father, the principal undertaker in the city. Rogers took his seat at one end of the table, and Mr Dwyer at the other. The fowls were placed before them; but these almost defied their skill, they were so tough and stringy. Judge of our disappointment, when we discovered that the fowls were only half roasted.

A general attack was next made on the roast beef, which fortunately proved eatable. The plum pudding presented an uninviting appearance, and was quite a failure. It was nearly as tough as the goose, and would have been rather a dangerous charge to have met coming out of the mouth of a cannon. It was soon removed to make way for the dessert, confectionery, fruits, wines and other drinks.

The conversation now became more animated, and the former failures were for the moment forgotten. At this crisis, a young Irishwoman, whose husband had just expired, came in, and amid her many tears, ordered a coffin for her beloved. She was only gone a few minutes when a working-man came in to order a coffin for his child. These two solemn incidents threw another chill over the spirits of the party; a few minutes afterwards, the company was dispersed over various parts of the city, searching after some more lively entertainment.

This passage is taken from *A voyage to Australia & New Zealand including a Visit to Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Hunter's River, Newcastle, Maitland, and Auckland. By a Steerage Passenger, John Askew.* A full transcript of the pages relating to Newcastle, Maitland and the Hunter is available at www.newcastle.edu.au/service/archives/chrp/pdf/Askew_ocr.pdf

The book itself is available for viewing at Cultural Collections.

