

Phase 2 of the Development of Public Libraries Australia

The Interim Steering Committee is currently working on establishing Public Libraries Australia as a separate legal entity. 'Public Libraries Australia' has been reserved as a business name and it is expected that the organisation will be registered as a Company limited by guarantee within the next two months. The constitution is also being worked on and is ready for submission for ratification by the Interim Steering Committee. A bank account for Public Libraries Australia has been established at the Hume Building Society in Albury Wodonga. A seeding fund of \$55,700 has been created from contributions by a number of supportive organisations.

The seeding fund will allow moving the project into the next phase. This will involve Lynne Makin working in the capacity of Interim Administrative Officer with the Libraries Alive Pty Ltd consultants. Within the next four months, i.e. till the end of December 2002, Libraries Alive! will:

- work with Interim Executive Officer to formalise a membership/financial model for Public Libraries Australia and determine a strategy for promotion to different member groups.
- develop membership classes including fees and actively seek subscriptions;
- develop branding for Public Libraries Australia including logo and letterhead;
- review, identify and recommend project opportunities. Interim Steering Committee to evaluate and decide on what projects to be activated;
- facilitate the formalisation of the relationship between Public Libraries Australia and Australian Local Government Association;
- facilitate the formalisation of the relationship between Public Libraries Australia and Australian Library and Information Association.

The most recent developments include:

- preparation of a submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Role of Libraries in the Online Environment (see <http://www.nla.gov.au/apln/submissions.html> for details);
- invitations for Public Libraries Australia to participate in two important initiatives: ALIA Forum on Purchasing Agreements, and the Coalition for Information Literacy; both of these invitations have been accepted.

Lynne Makin
Interim Steering Committee Chairperson
& Interim Administrative Officer
Public Libraries Australia

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