

OUTSTANDING SERVICE RECOGNISED BY STATE LIBRARY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

From time to time the Library Board of Western Australia confers the award of Fellow to someone who has made a meritorious contribution to the work of the Board and, by their outstanding efforts, has furthered the cause of library services in Western Australia. Patricia Gallaher OAM and Dr Lynn Allen will be presented with their Awards this month.

Patricia Gallaher OAM

Pat devoted almost 30 years to delivering exceptional public library services in regional Western Australia, including 20 years as the regional librarian for the Town (later City) of Geraldton. During this time she contributed to many professional groups and working parties that explored the delivery of new services. Following her retirement from the library she was elected to the City of Geraldton Council, and she also served a four year term on the Library Board of Western Australia from 2002 to 2006. Pat has a long and outstanding record as a member of the ALIA in Western Australia and has done much to encourage access to the arts in regional Western Australia.

Dr Lynn Allen

Dr Lynn Allen was Chief Executive Officer and State Librarian from 1989 to 2001, the first female to hold this role. This was a period of tremendous growth in technology for libraries, and under her leadership came significant improvements in the provision of access to the state's collections through technology and also to information policy. A significant achievement was the increasing recognition of the importance of the State's government records, culminating in the passing of the State Records Act in 2000, after 10 years of planning. In a professional capacity Lynn was State and National President of the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), worked on the organizing committee of the 1990 ALIA Conference in Perth, and was Chair of the Council of Australian State Libraries for two years.

Margaret Allen

Chief Executive Officer and State Librarian
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ALL TOURS START AT THE LIBRARY



Ready to roll

The Mount Gambier Public Library has been described as the best small city library in the world. This new library on South Australia's Limestone Coast opened in December 2009 and was immediately embraced by local residents, with a big increase in memberships and high levels of usage by the community. After a year of operation the library has introduced a new service – free bicycle hire – and is

possibly the first public library in Australia to do so.

The idea came about when Anna Lambden, City of Mount Gambier Sustainability Officer, began to think about ways to promote sustainable transport and create active workplaces. After consultation with council staff, a free bike scheme seemed the ideal way to achieve this. The library was chosen as the best site to operate the scheme because of its central location, its prominence as a community hub and its seven day per week opening hours. And, after all, don't libraries know best how to lend things?

A local bike shop assisted with the selection of good quality urban-style bikes to minimise the chance of mechanical problems. Four bikes (one with a child seat) are available, equipped with three gears, adjustable seats, basket, lock and helmet. Anyone can borrow a bike with proof of identity and a credit card impression for security. So far the scheme has been well received with publicity through the local press and television. The bikes are being used regularly by both residents and tourists. Supporters include local and state government agencies, Friends of the Library and a number of local businesses and individuals.

www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au/library/docs/bikehire-brochure.pdf

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