



## **CAMPAIGN FOR A BETTER LIBRARY**

### **AN APPEAL FOR VICTORIAN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP**

#### **FINISH THE JOB OF LIBRARY REFURBISHMENT**

During the last two decades the State Library of Victoria has taken over the whole of the Swanston Street complex it once shared with the National Gallery of Victoria and Museum Victoria. All governments since the mid-1980s have contributed to the gradual refurbishment of the buildings on site, now complete except for the final stage: Queens Hall (the original library, behind the columns on Swanston street) and the Little Lonsdale Street frontage, including Barry Hall. But the current Government appears to have lost impetus in pressing on with the completion of the refurbishment.

**LET'S FINISH THE JOB. LET'S FINISH THE REFURBISHMENT.**

#### **RETURN THE YET TO BE REFURBISHED AREAS FOR LIBRARY USE**

The Library Board and management are seeking paying tenants for Barry Hall and paying users for Queen's Hall, despite the need for more desk space for readers (especially at examination times) and the need for more research material on open shelves. Library Users oppose the commercialisation and privatisation of the Library, and call on the Library to return these historic areas to library use.

**RESTORE PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE GRAND STAIRCASE AND ITS CELEBRATED MURALS. RETURN QUEEN'S HALL AND BARRY HALL TO THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH THEY WERE BUILT - CORE AREAS OF A PUBLIC LIBRARY.**

#### **MAKE THE STATE LIBRARY A FREE LIBRARY**

The State Library is the only public institution that charges a fee for visitors who come to read books, view the picture gallery or visit exhibitions, and who have to leave coats and bags. Visitors to the National Gallery, the Public Record Office, the Museum of Victoria, the Immigration Museum, the Arts Centre and the Australian Archives do not have to pay for lockers. Library Users call on the Library to abolish this de facto entrance charge of a locker fee, and reintroduce either a free cloakroom service or coin return lockers.

Library management and the Library Board justify the locker fee as an example of 'user pays'. Library Users assert that, as our taxes pay for the State Library, an entrance fee is unwarranted.

**A LIBRARY ENTRANCE FEE = A POOR PRACTICE AND A BAD PRECEDENT.  
ABOLISH LOCKER FEES AND RESTORE A FREE LIBRARY!!**

## RESTORE LIBRARY HOURS

During 2006 a History summit at Canberra concluded that the teaching of Australian History should be central to secondary schooling.

But the State Library of Victoria has reduced access to most of the Library's books by ten hours a week, and closed its Australiana reference desk and reference collection from 6.00 pm. Most books are in the closed stacks, and books cannot be retrieved from these stacks after 6.00 pm, although the Library closes at 9.00 pm. During these hours the Australian history reference collection is locked away.

Library management and the Library Board say that reduced access is caused by low demand. Library Users maintain that reducing access and service frustrates and then kills demand.

LIBRARY USERS WANT EFFECTIVE LIBRARY HOURS RESTORED BY  
REINSTATING STACK RETRIEVALS AND STAFFING THE AUSTRALIAN  
COLLECTION REFERENCE DESK TO 8.00 PM

### **State Library Users Organisations Council Inc**

**Representing:** Australasian Association of Genealogists & Record Agents Inc, Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies Inc, Genealogical Society of Victoria, Victorian Association of Family History Organisations, Australasian Society for the Study of Labour History, Victorian Working Party, Australian Dictionary of Biography, Professional Historians Association (Vic) Inc, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Department of History, University of Melbourne, Royal Australian Institute of Architects, National Trust of Australia (Vic), Book Collectors Society of Australia, Library Users Group, Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria Inc, Victoria Theatres Trust.

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*SLUOC – MAKING A GREAT LIBRARY GREATER*

