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Speakers at the Science Library opening. L to R: Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson; Nobel Laureate, Professor Barry Marshall; Governor of WA, His Excellency Dr Ken Michael; retired University Librarian, John Arfield. (Photos: Kael Driscoll and Lindy Brophy)

Opening up new pathways for scientific discovery

The completed Science Library was officially opened on February 24th, providing services for the Faculties of Life and Physical Sciences; Engineering, Computing and Mathematics; and Natural and Agricultural Sciences.

Located at the southern end of campus, the \$30 million project is a significant investment for the future, collecting all the University's scientific material into one place. One of the most advanced university science libraries in the country, it boasts almost 11km of books; more than 900 study spaces; 13 sound-proof group study rooms; a grid classroom that allows tutorials to be shared with teachers and students in remote sites and overseas; and access for people with disabilities.

Stage 1 was in operation during second semester last year while work continued on the refurbishment of the original Biological Sciences Library building (Stage 2). These areas are now integrated into a coherent whole, creating a major focal point for student learning and world class scientific research.

Almost 200 people gathered in the open atrium area for the ceremony. A clarinet duo from the UWA Music School played a selection of classical pieces, the music floating up into the bookshelves on the three floors above.

Winthrop Professor George Stewart, Dean of Life and Physical Sciences, acted as the MC for the event. Professor

Stewart opened proceedings with an acknowledgement of the Science Library being situated on Noongar land before introducing the arrival of the Chancellor of UWA, Dr Michael Chaney, AO, and the Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency Dr Ken Michael, AC.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, welcomed all the guests and spoke of the how the Library is "a facility of the calibre found in one of the world's top 50 universities, as our University aims to be by 2050." Professor Robson explained that like many of these highly ranked university libraries, the Science Library has "learning spaces that are flexible and networked, bringing together formal and informal activities" as well as "providing a hub where people can work, study and socialise." He also thanked Gus Ferguson from Ferguson Architects for his innovative vision for the Science Library, which even extended to collaborating on the design of the unique furniture and artwork.

Nobel Laureate, Professor Barry Marshall recounted his days in the library as a medical student and the difficulties faced in locating relevant literature, emphasising the importance of going back to the original printed sources even though so much is now available online. Professor Marshall said that he always considered librarians to be "partners in research" and encouraged researchers to approach librarians for help with learning the secrets of "deep searching" in the quest for new and original

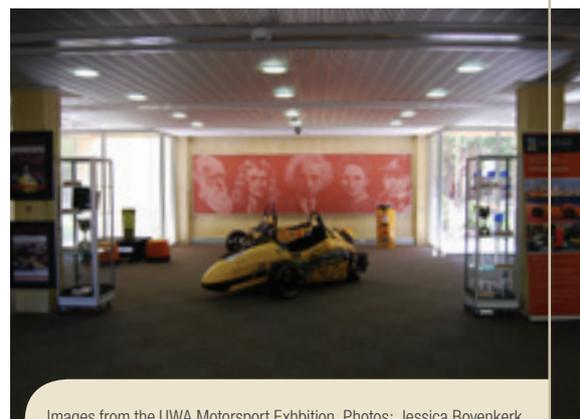
ideas. "This new facility is one of the most advanced university science libraries in the country, if not the world," Professor Marshall said. "This new Science Library is not just a resource for the University and Western Australia, but for the whole nation."

His Excellency Dr Ken Michael spoke passionately about the role of science in extending our knowledge "from the beginnings of the universe, to the behaviour of particles in the sub-atomic world... from the solution of complex medical problems, to providing practical answers to problems facing industry and business." Dr Michael pointed out that the Library is "much more than a storehouse for books - it is in fact symbolic of the importance of science." As a UWA Engineering graduate himself, Dr Michael compared the study spaces of his days at UWA with those seen in the Science Library. "All styles of working and learning can be accommodated here," Dr Michael said. "This new Library provides a model for other learning spaces in our State."

The Governor then unveiled the plaque to officially open the Science Library.

To finish the ceremony, Sarah Whyte and Madeleine Markham provided a student perspective on the benefits of the new facilities. They also joked about their new-found notoriety on campus after writing, recording and placing on YouTube a tribute song to the wonders of the Science Library.

Finally, Mr John Arfield, the recently retired University Librarian, spoke of his pride and satisfaction in seeing this project to completion, and thanked all those who had been involved over the years, especially Library staff.



Images from the UWA Motorsport Exhibition. Photos: Jessica Bovenkerk

Science Library exhibitions

The new Science Library provides wonderful opportunities to communicate and showcase science and engineering at UWA.

The current exhibition in the main foyer is provided by UWA Motorsport, an industry-supported, hands-on project run by a team of dedicated students who work to design and build a new race car each year. Since its launch in 2001, UWA Motorsport has competed in many competitions both nationally and internationally and received numerous awards and accolades. One of the teams biggest achievements came in 2008 when they were crowned the world champions after winning the international Formula SAE competition.

The exhibition features the team's trophies; cars from the past nine years; diaries of competitions, written by the student project managers; photos and media clippings from throughout the years, and much more.

Forthcoming exhibitions include Food Science, and a Biodiversity display in support of 2010 being the United Nations International Year of Biodiversity.

Science Library facilities

Designed by Ferguson Architects, the 8,000 square metre Science Library provides a variety of purpose-built learning spaces and environments for today's students. With carefully designed furnishings and equipment, it showcases contemporary thinking about academic library design.

The wide range of study areas have proven to be extremely popular with students. Some are drawn to the collaborative flexible study areas while others prefer the quiet and silent spaces on the top floors.

The new Guild operated Science Cafe on the ground floor is already buzzing with students and researchers socialising and sharing their knowledge.

The Library offers students and visitors use of the latest technology, including:

- more than 200 computers
- 900 study spaces in total, with 300 of those having access to power and data for laptops
- 13 soundproof group study rooms with electronic white boards and large flat screens for working collaboratively on documents and student assignments
- four multimedia suites providing access to a range of specialist software and equipment
- an Access Grid classroom that will allow classes to be shared in remote sites and overseas over high speed networks.



John Arfield retires

John Arfield recently retired from his dual role as University Librarian and Director, Information Technology Services. We asked him to write a few words of farewell:

After 13 years – can it really be that long? – at UWA the time has come to hang up my boots and to start the next chapter in my life. Moving on is something that I shall do with no small regret. A lot has been achieved in those years: libraries have moved; two new libraries – the Medical & Dental Library and the Science Library – have been built and all the others have been refurbished to one degree or another. Rapid advances have been made into the digital environment, and the close relations which the Library now enjoys with teaching and learning, research and, particularly now with Information Technology Services provide exciting new possibilities for the Library. We have a vibrant staff, full of enthusiasm, skill, ability and ambition. The future is bright, and the Library is as alive and well as it has ever been.

I take this opportunity to thank all my many friends and colleagues, in the Library and the wider University community for your support. It has been a privilege to work with you, and I shall continue to follow the progress of the Library with the closest personal interest.

We wish John all the best in his retirement and thank him for his vision and support.

Farewell to Carol Newton-Smith

Carol Newton-Smith, Manager of the Medical & Dental Library, recently retired after a career in the University that spanned more than 23 years – with 12 of these spent working in the Library.

Carol came from Curtin University in April 1998 to take up the position of the Business Librarian, and in November 2001 she became the Manager of the Medical & Dental Library. Carol has played a vital role in the Reader Services division of the Library, and has had a significant impact on services to students and staff.

One of Carol's defining strengths was her focus on outreach – meeting with Library users to find out their needs in order to provide better services and promoting what the Library has to offer. Carol always collaborated closely with Library colleagues and Faculty staff, with a strong emphasis on research-based practice. Carol has also been a mentor to a number of Library staff, and her recent appointment as a local ALIA representative in Western Australia will continue her contribution to her profession. Carol takes with her our thanks and very best wishes for the future, especially the extra time she can spend with her grandchildren (who call her "Apples", as she is "Granny Smith"!)

Margaret Jones – Associate Librarian (Reader Services)

After 15 years at Murdoch University, most recently as Director of Library Services, Margaret Jones has re-joined The University of Western Australia Library as Associate Librarian, Reader Services.

By chance, she and Liz Burke, the former Associate Librarian Reader Services, have swapped jobs, with Liz becoming Director of Library Services at Murdoch in mid-2009.

Margaret's return to UWA on 17 August 2009 was slightly confronting, coinciding with duckling season on the Reid Library moat, and the announcement of the imminent retirement of the University Librarian, John Arfield. On a more sustainable note, it also coincided with the introduction of the new Science Library, a wonderful example of new ideas in library design.

Margaret looks forward to contributing to the Library's support for learning, teaching, and research.

Currently, Margaret is acting in the role of University Librarian. She will remain in this position throughout the selection process.

Teresa Chitty – Associate Librarian (Information Systems)

Teresa completed her librarianship training in the UK at Ealing College in London where she was part of the first group to undertake the newly offered BA in Librarianship.

Shortly after completing her degree she moved to New Zealand where she spent the first few years of her career at the University of Canterbury Library working in the serials department. She then spent some time working in a variety of positions in the public library system before returning to the University of Canterbury as Serials Team Leader and then Collection Services Manager. From there she was appointed as University Librarian at Lincoln University.

Although a frequent visitor to Australia for a variety of professional activities, Teresa is pleased and excited to have the opportunity to be more closely involved in discovering more about academic librarianship in the Australian and UWA contexts.

Teresa's first visit to Perth was when she came for her interview but she was given good reports about the city by several people in New Zealand who had either lived in Perth at some time or who had family living here and she hasn't been disappointed. She is enjoying the weather and daily swims at Trigg Beach with her son Scott and is looking forward to exploring more of the WA coastline as well as the local wine regions.

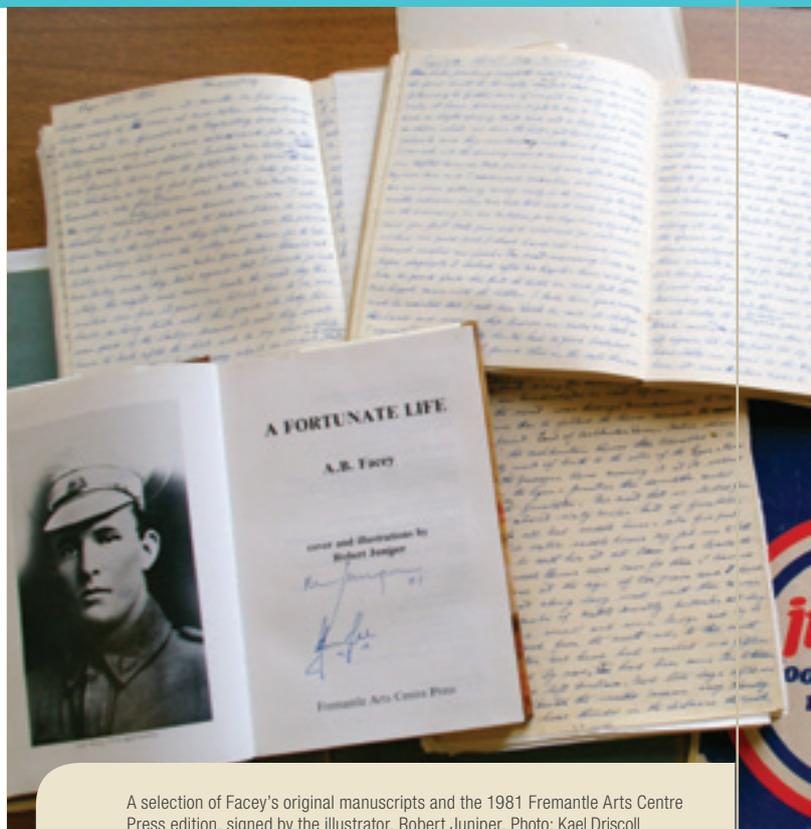
Ebooks: online, all the time

During Semester 1, 2010 the Library will conduct a pilot to evaluate user selection of electronic books on the Ebook Library (EBL) platform. UWA staff and students will be able to actively select and purchase e-books from the Library catalogue. EBL is an online product offering a large number of titles in all disciplines from many leading academic publishers. UWA users will be able to select from over 110,000 titles.

EBL items can be browsed for five minutes free of charge. Once the five minutes is up the user will be asked to download the title and the Library will be charged approximately 10% of the overall cost of that item for unlimited access for the next 24 hours. Once the item has been downloaded 3 times it will be automatically purchased for the Library collection.

Statistics will be gathered during the pilot and evaluated in order to make recommendations about whether to proceed with this type of collection development.

The Library is very interested in what you think about the pilot project. Please send your feedback to EBL_feedback@library.uwa.edu.au



A selection of Facey's original manuscripts and the 1981 Fremantle Arts Centre Press edition, signed by the illustrator, Robert Juniper. Photo: Kael Driscoll

Treasures of the Library, no. 1: *A Fortunate Life*

This is the first in a series highlighting treasures from the Scholars' Centre Special Collections.

A.B. Facey's autobiography, *A Fortunate Life*, is an Australian classic. It recounts his childhood on farms in the Wickepin area of Western Australia, and the many difficulties he overcame during his early life – including being badly wounded at Gallipoli.

Published by Fremantle Arts Centre Press in 1981, it was later adapted for the stage and turned into a feature film. In 2004 it was voted no. 10 in an ABC poll to find Australia's favourite books.

The UWA Library holds the original hand-written version of *A Fortunate Life*, contained in eight notebooks and exercise books. We also have the typescript subsequently made from this hand-written manuscript. They were acquired on indefinite loan from John Rose, A.B. Facey's grandson, in 1985.

A.B. Facey (1894-1982), *A Fortunate Life*, c. 1980

Holograph manuscript (8 vols.), University of Western Australia Library, Scholars' Centre, Manuscript Collection MS0046, acquired 1985.



The Editorial team: Lucy Cammell, Kael Driscoll, Aik Aung

Editor's note

Library News Editorial Team members Lucy Cammell and Aik Aung are both having their first babies, and they have now headed off on maternity leave. We wish them and their husbands all the best with parenthood. Their enthusiasm and skill will be sorely missed by the Editor!

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