

**St Marks National Theological Centre
Library Consultative Committee
Library Report
March, 2017**

St Mark's Library staff commenced 2017 with several planning meetings. Each staff member will focus on a particular task in addition to daily routines. Sylvia will complete a stocktake of the Rare Journal collection, and add the Tippet Journals to the catalogue. Thyme's focus is to become a proficient cataloguer. Sylvia and Alison (volunteer) have been assisting, however Thyme will undertake some formal study this year through ALIA, and possibly CIT. In addition, Thyme has undertaken Archiving duties for St Mark's. Susan is currently planning several exhibitions that will take place throughout the year.

Staff Activities

Sylvia and Thyme have chosen several professional development conferences and courses in 2017. Sylvia attended ALIA online 2017 in February, returning with much enthusiasm, and new inspirations and ideas for the library. Thyme will attend the ANZTLA Perth conference in July. Both will attend various ALIA sponsored training sessions throughout the year. In addition Sylvia and Thyme have commenced attending St Mark's planning Days and weekly faculty / staff meetings.

Sylvia and Thyme continue to work with Chevelle (marketing officer) on the library home page and a revised library handbook.

A St Mark's planning day was held in late February. Susan will continue to work with Andrew and Kevin to resolve the issue of electronic access for RTO students.

The review, weed and relabelling of the Reference collection was completed in December, Susan and John Cannings have now embarked on the same process for the Folio collection and expect this to take most of 2017.

Given the many boxes of donations received near the end of 2016, with more arriving already, checking for duplicates and selling surplus has to remain a 2017 priority. Nicole Wiencke has returned and will continue duplicate checking.

Exam invigilation has begun again.

Susan has commenced a revision of the Collection Development Policy, a draft will be circulated for the meeting.

Susan has also worked closely with John Harris in preparing the Reformation exhibition. All books have been accessioned and listed. Some will require protective boxes for travel.

Residential classes were held over four weeks in February, with many new students exploring the library. In addition, a number of members of the public joined the library. The Queanbeyan Baptist Church has joined the growing number of Baptist congregations that have very active members borrowing from the library.

Conferences, Displays, Exhibitions

The current exhibition compliments St Mark's Commencement Lecture on 27th February featuring Meredith Lake speaking on 'the good book under the gumtrees : the Bible in Australian culture'. The exhibition features Bibles that represent many fields of Australian life and culture including Bibles from our convict and pioneering past, Indigenous scripture translation, sporting and business bibles, and bibles carried into military conflict.

The 50th anniversary of Bishop Ernest Henry Burgmann's death will be commemorated this year, and Susan will shortly mount a small exhibition of his written works, and artefacts held at St Mark's.

In addition, St Mark's is planning an event to celebrate St Mark's 60th anniversary. A service followed by a public lecture book display are planned for May this year.

This year marks significant milestones in the Christian Church. It is 500 years since the Reformation. October 31st commemorates Luther nailing his Ninety Five Theses to the

Castle Church door in Wittenberg. St Mark's library will feature exhibitions of works pertaining to the period throughout the year culminating in an exhibition to be held in Sydney in conjunction with the Bible Society.

The Lutheran Church in Canberra are preparing a Luther celebration with a public lecture and tree planting at St Mark's.

The Bible Society in Australia is commemorating 200 years in Australia. The Biblical Society of NSW was formed in 1817 making it the first and oldest Society in the colony. St Mark's holds Cowper's bound copy of the minutes of this meeting, which lists a 'who's who' of the most prominent names remembered in earliest Australian history: Reverend Marsden, John Oxley, Governor Macquarie, Redfern, Reverend Cowper, Reverend Hassall to mention a few.

In April, Susan and John Harris will travel to Albury to mount a small exhibition of bibles at a rare book expo.

Volunteers and Special Collections

The library as well as all of St Mark's, benefit enormously from the efforts of volunteers. Susan is currently part of a Senior Leader Team organising formal training for Faculty and Staff in volunteer management, and will with the assistance of the Anglicare Volunteer Manager, create a policy and procedure. Hopefully a session for volunteers will also take place soon.

Susan and John Harris have selected a box of Indigenous and islander scriptures to give to the new 'Museum of the Bible' being completed in Washington DC. The Bible Society are in the early stages of discussions with this wealthy philanthropic organisation. The museum is nearly complete and will hold approximately 1,000,000 million bibles.

Alan Horner is assisting John Harris researching in selecting significant Reformation bibles and commentaries from the collection held by the Bible Society and by St Mark's. These bibles will be on exhibit later this year.

Toni Ralli and Susan spent a most profitable day with Nigel and Melanaite Statham examining the Wood Ellem collection. The Statham's were missionaries in Tonga, and apart from knowing Elizabeth Wood Ellem well, have a comprehensive knowledge of Tonga. The entire collection was assessed, with particular attention to the Wood Ellem Files, which were deemed 'extremely rare and priceless'. Likewise many of the photograph collection are unique. Susan will consult with an Archivist from the NLA to discuss management of this collection. The collection has now been shelved in a dedicated room. It will need air conditioning if the collection is to remain there permanently.

Lorraine Macknight has been a wonderful addition to the Volunteer Team bringing years of library expertise to bear. Lorraine has already almost completed a check and review of the liturgical and hymnal collection, resulting in weeding, reclassification and rearranging shelving. She has identified rare items to be put in the rare collection. In addition, Lorraine is currently assisting St Mark's to formulate an Archival policy that complements the CSU policy with unique features pertaining to St Mark's archives.

Donations

The Bible Society collection has been enriched with the addition of a Bible that has flown in active combat missions in Iraq in 2016. This was presented to the Bible Society's John Harris at St Mark's by Chaplain Robyn Kidd, AIF.

Building Issues

Library Doors: Quotes are currently being assessed to replace locks or doors, and to comply with fire regulations.

Library Statistics

Library Statistics to March 2017				
	2017	2016	2015	2014
All Loans	607	9,612	10,194	9,359
Community Borrower loans	73	793	929	882
Inter Library Loans	3	38	64	81
Scan / Copy	46	372	400	561
Distance loans	462	6,823	5353	5,249
Total Circulation	1,632	31,512	29,769	28,390
Postage		\$14,040	\$13,765.60	\$16,664
Acquisitions	\$6,614	\$39,000	\$39,292	\$38,000
Items purchased	64	728	725	783
All Items added	187	1,667	1,603	1,621
Donations	123	941	828	854
E Book expenditure (CSU)		\$19,380		
Total Items main collection	68,708	68,342	66,878	65,487
E-journals / Databases	14	14	11	9
Current Print Journals	90	90	106	95
Library Training	3	68	107	