

Notes from Library Assistants Meeting

at new premises – 46 Delaware St Chermside

on Friday 23 September

From Dette Glenday, LA Roster Coordinator

In addition to discussing important updates to the Library Assistants Manual, placement of the front desk & lockers were hot issues in the new premises for LAs.

From Allana O’Kane, President

A range of floorplans were on display to illustrate the different options for layouts of the new research centre. They show the development of ideas & illustrate the activities that are important to the Society. It is, of course, a type of jigsaw puzzle & the Society is fortunate to have an architect on the Management Committee whose expertise has been much in demand – thank you to Chris Gibbs for his patience & (so far) nine versions of the floorplan.

Library Assistants were shown a selection of colourful options for carpet & chairs – some of them very colourful indeed! All were encouraged to set aside their personal preferences because we are not laying carpet for a residence – we are creating a public space. The result we want to achieve is a space that is light, bright, interesting & comfortable, with appropriate furniture & work areas suitable for our tasks.

The interesting thing about introducing colourful carpet is that it allows for a range of complementary colours to be used for chairs & tabletops. We think we may have had enough of beige & mission brown!

None of the carpets will be available in the timeframe we must work within - most of the colourful carpets that received the most positive response from the LAs must be imported so not available for 10-12 weeks. However, there are a few options in carpet tiles that we are investigating – made in Australia, so the delay is not significant.

Most of the armchair fabrics shown (all used in Brisbane City Council libraries – a riot of colour!) will be a little too wild for our tastes but these are the items that can add a burst of colour here & there in our new premises without being overwhelming.

Vice-President, Alex Daw, sent her apologies as well as a presentation of Library Design Elements – available to view on the website premises page. Alex provided a feedback form & asked the LAs to indicate their preferences regarding colours or shelving, the style of seating, whether laptop tables would be useful, & the all-important reception/help desk. The feedback form is available to download from the website premises page - let us know what you think by emailing your form to newpremises@gfhs.org.au

Family History conferences are back! And that means QFHS can take the Society into the community once more. Having an interesting & informative exhibition/display at these conferences is crucial for reaching ‘our tribe’ (ie those most likely to be interested in researching their family history). If we are to spread the word about the wonderful array of

resources & assistance that membership of QFHS provides, it's just smart to be where the interested people are & have a range of benefits to introduce to a new audience.

The Sands of Time family & local history conference will be held over two & a half days, FRI 21-SUN 23 OCT, at Redcliffe & we are **asking for volunteers** to assist the Society at our exhibitor's display stand. Library Assistants will be emailed with the details.

The meeting concluded with Chris Gibbs conducting a tour of the new premises, talking about each of the spaces & the activities accommodated in each.

Thank you to Management Committee members; Caroline Brudell for arranging morning tea & Chris Schuetz for saving the day with technology. And thank you to the 25 Library Assistants who were able to attend the meeting at the new premises & offer their opinions & suggestions.