

Moore College Library Sesquicentenary

Julie Olston

On the calendar of Moore College events to celebrate 150 years since the College's founding, July 1st was known as Library Day. The day began with a Service of Morning Prayer and Holy Communion sponsored by the Prayer Book Society and held in a packed Cash Chapel. Next, Sir Marcus Loane launched Dr Marcia Cameron's biography of a former principal of the College entitled *An Enigmatic life, David Broughton Knox: father of contemporary Sydney Anglicanism*.

Then it was the turn of the Library to celebrate one hundred and fifty years of library services to the College and to the wider community. Some one hundred and eighty friends heard about the Library's collection strengths and contribution to scholarship in a series of short talks chaired by the Archbishop of Sydney, Dr Peter Jensen.

In the opening talk, Dr Peter Bolt of the Moore faculty worked with a packet of material from the Samuel Marsden Archives to solve a riddle and to show that the College's benefactor, Thomas Moore, purchased some of the first merinos to come to Australia. Peter was followed by Dr Geoff Treloar, Head of Basser College, University of New South Wales, who spoke of his thirty years' study of eighteenth century church history and of the way in which the Library's collections and staff have supported his work. Dr Ian Young of the Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies, University of Sydney acknowledged the depth of the Library's holdings in a wide variety of fields and pointed out that a good library budget is essential to the health of an educational institution.

Mr Kim Robinson was Chief Librarian at the college for some thirty years and has had a substantial role in building the library collection to what it is today. Kim now has the role of Senior Librarian, Acquisitions. In his talk, he referred to some of the treasures of the Library, many of which were on display

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in cabinets in the foyer of the lecture theatre.

As one way to mark its sesquicentenary, the Library has begun a project of digitalizing the Sydney Diocesan Directory from its first issue in 1881. In 1922 the publication changed title to become the Yearbook of the Diocese of Sydney. CDs of the issues are produced as a joint venture with Archive CD Books. The Library Manager, Ms Julie Olston, launched the first CD and the new library website. She spoke also of the opportunity members of the public have to become library members. Present and past members of the Library staff then blew out the birthday candles.

The final talk was by the Chair of the Library Committee, Dr Andrew Shead. Andrew focused on new directions that we would like to take. He spoke about a need and an opportunity. The collection is able to sustain doctoral research in subject areas including Biblical studies, Reformation history, and Anglicanism. However, we lack a large body of research students who can identify gaps in the collection and build relationships with those who will become their academic peers around the world. The opportunity is for the forging of a community of scholars with the Library as their home. Andrew looked for the day when a fully-fledged graduate studies centre is part of the work of Moore.

The Chairperson of the Prayer Book Society, NSW Branch, Dr Ruth Frappell, marked the occasion by presenting the Library with a copy of *An Anglican Treasure : the 1662 Book of Common Prayer in the 21st century* which was published this year by the Victorian Branch of the Prayer Book Society in Australia.

The celebration ended with afternoon tea, time to feast upon the treasures of the Library and enjoy lively exchanges between new and old friends.



Bibliography:

An Anglican treasure : the 1662 Book of Common Prayer in the 21st century. Heidelberg, Vic. : Prayer Book Society in Australia, Victorian Branch, 2006.

Cameron, Marcia Helen. *An Enigmatic life : David Broughton Knox : father of contemporary Sydney Anglicanism.* Brunswick East, Vic. : Acorn, 2006.

Sydney Diocesan Directory. [Adelaide] : Archive CD Books Australia, 2006

