

MEDIA RELEASE

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Bequest to fund new Learning Centre at the State Library

A generous bequest of \$100,000 from the estate of former Director of the State Library, the late Dr Bronwyn Halliday was gifted to the State Library yesterday.

At a small ceremony at the Library, the cheque was presented to the current Director, Mr Alan Smith, by Dr Halliday's husband, Judge Simon Stretton. This will be used to create not only a permanent memorial to Dr Halliday, but also a project that is closely aligned with her personal ethos and strong passion for the value for learning.

"Bronwyn always had a passionate interest in reading and the life-long value it provides children in their education, and throughout their life", said Judge Stretton.

During her directorship at the State Library in 2002-04, the period of the redevelopment of the Library as we know it today, Dr Halliday continued to influence the Library in not only providing library services, but also reaching the community through new innovations, and technology.

"It is a fitting tribute to a former Director, and champion of the importance of education, that the Library honors Bronwyn, her work, her commitment, her passion for education and her wonderful generosity, by establishing a Learning Centre on the ground floor of the State Library", said Alan Smith, Director.

"Bronwyn was an astute financial manager, proudly delivering the redevelopment of the Library on budget and on time, and we will be applying her example as we now research further the best development approach for the Learning Centre", said Mr Smith.

The ***Dr Bronwyn Halliday Learning Centre***, as the suite at the Kintore Avenue end of the ground floor Hub will be known, will include new technologies that will encourage, stimulate and support learning for all members of the community. Training tools, and interactive components, will be used by children of all ages, adults from all walks of life and staff for ongoing professional development and training.

“We will be aiming to reach as many people in the community as possible through the new facility, to ensure the generous gift will benefit the people of South Australia, and the spirit of learning and connecting through learning is an ongoing reminder of the generosity of a former and much loved and respected Director for generations to come”, added Mr Smith.

“I would like Bronwyn’s bequest to be a reminder to the community of the importance of bequests, and how they can bring a value to the lives of many that may not have been possible during the life-time of the donor.

I would like to urge people to seriously consider making a bequest to this most important of institutions that benefits so many, particularly children, students, retirees and lower income people who do not always have easy access to the wonderful research facilities, access to knowledge resources, literature and the treasure trove of South Australian historical material possessed in this great state institution”, said Judge Stretton, in his closing comments yesterday. Alan Smith said that anyone who would like to discuss a bequest to the library is most welcome to call him. Mr Smith has already ensured that one tenth of his own estate will be bequeathed to the State Library.

For Media Enquiries contact:

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Images attached:

1. ***Portrait: Dr Bronwyn Halliday - (Photograph Searcy 2003)***
2. ***Presentation of bequest at the State Library on 30 June 2015, left to right, Mr James Bruce AM, Chair of the Libraries Board of SA, Mr Alan Smith, Director, State Library of South Australia, Judge Simon Stretton.***