



## Library Update



Hello and welcome to the September issue of the Mathew Hale Public Library Newsletter, in which we have

some exciting new developments to report.

Firstly, the library has recently purchased one of only a thousand copies of a book by Bishop Hale entitled *The Aborigines of Australia: Institution for their Education*, which was published by SPCK in London in 1889. Bishop Hale had a deep concern for the welfare of the Aborigines of Australia and this book is a wonderful addition to the library. Dr Michael Gourley is busy writing a booklet about Bishop Hale, and we are most grateful to Michael for his research. (Incidentally, in Hay Street in Perth, a bronze statue of the Bishop has been erected by Old Boys of the Hale School there.)

Here at the Mathew Hale library we are also actively supporting Ridley Melbourne's distance learning program, e-Ridley. It is gratifying to report that a number of people are borrowing books from the library to use in their study for the online courses established by Ridley and the Bush

Church Aid Society of Australia.

The Principal of Ridley, Dr Peter Adam, was our guest speaker at a very successful conference on Preaching we hosted in July, attended by 30 people who thoroughly enjoyed his words and advice about finding the central ministry purpose of a particular book of the Bible as an important element in preaching and its pastoral application to people.

The Simeon Association's book *Please! No more boring sermons* was short-listed for an award with the Australian Christian Book of the Year Awards announced on Wednesday 27 August at an event in Sydney. The results were not known at the time of this newsletter being printed.

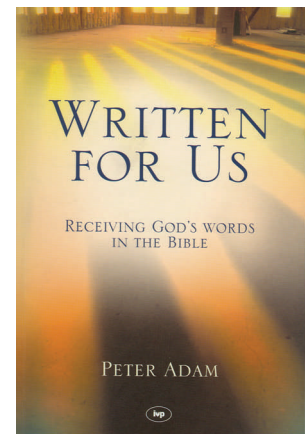
Librarians Sue Lockeridge and Robin Lake report pleasing signs of progress with the easy-to-use web-based library system. Within a few months they hope to have many more books of the collection available on the web.

Finally, we are pleased to announce an exciting upcoming lecture by Reverend Rhys Bezzant entitled "A Reformation Tour" on Tuesday 11 November at 7:30 pm. Entry is by gold coin donation.

Thank you for your interest in the Mathew Hale Public Library. We look forward to your continued patronage and support.

With best wishes,  
Dr Keith Weller

## Book Review: Written for Us by Dr Peter Adam



This is Peter Adam's third book about God's words. His first, 'Speaking God's Words' examined the theology of preaching, his second, 'Hearing God's Words' explored biblical spirituality. 'Written for Us' provides an in-depth study of, using Dr Adam's own words, "a summary of what the Bible claims about itself". This is achieved through increasingly

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*\*Note that the library is currently open only for advertised events and every Tuesday from 3.00 to 6.00pm and by appointment.*

detailed phases of exposition on a summary statement of biblical theology “Receiving God’s words written for his people by his Spirit about his Son”. The difference in this book is that Dr Adam uses actual words of Scripture to illustrate the Bible’s inherent theology. This might sound extremely academic but in reality is intensely practical.

Whilst not an easy bedtime read, this book has value to Christians of all maturity levels. Here Dr Adam spans the entire breadth of the Bible to examine his theme. In typical fashion, he forces us to think and be engaged. For the new Christian therefore there is value in discovering what the Bible says and how to use it – for this book should not be read without a Bible at hand to examine the many references in Dr Adam’s book. For those well versed in scripture, including ordained ministers, this book challenges the reader to re-evaluate what the Bible is – God’s Words of self revelation for our salvation. This has implication for the way we should read the Bible (utter attentiveness and very frequently) and its use for ‘teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work’ (2 Tim. 3:16&17).

Within the exposition Dr Adam includes many gems such as “Ten keys to the useful application of the Bible”, comments on the corporate nature of scripture and the use of Hebrews to illustrate the whole theme of “Receiving God’s words written for us by his Spirit about his Son”. Peter Adam’s deep

faith, care for others and utter conviction that scripture is God’s (living) words, so evident to those that have either met or heard him preach, shines through this brilliant book. There was so much to gain that I read it twice in quick succession to make sure I heard at least some of what Peter Adam is teaching.

Would I recommend this book, absolutely, and if I could, I would make it **compulsory** for all to read for it points to the words of life – the Bible, “written for us”!

*Jim Smith*

*St Andrews Anglican Church*

*South Brisbane*

## Vale David Williams

The Revd Dr David Williams, vice-principal of Ridley College 1982-1998, died in May after a fight with cancer. He was an internationally recognized New Testament scholar who was loved by his students, writes Jonathan Wei-Han Kuan.

In David John Williams the Church was blessed with a man of gentle godliness, integrity, scholarship and great faithfulness. For half a century his name has been associated with Ridley College. He was an internationally acknowledged New Testament scholar, serving on the translation committee for the New International Version of the Bible and author of commentaries on Acts and 1 & 2 Thessalonians. His magnum opus was Paul’s Metaphors, a study of Pauline metaphors in their first-century contexts.

David was a quiet, shy and gentle person concerned with the advancement of the kingdom of God and not at all interested in self-promotion. David’s students remember him as a godly softly-spoken teacher who loved the New Testament and who had an encyclopedic knowledge of the first-century context. He had voluminous folders of careful Greek New Testament translation notes in his office. The publication of Paul’s Metaphor’s shortly after his retirement was a fitting capstone to a lifetime devoted to careful analysis of the biblical text. David was loved for his pastoral heart. He was always there with a genuinely concerned enquiry and ready with a kind word of encouragement.

David was acting principal of Ridley on no less than six occasions. He once applied, unsuccessfully, for the job but readily admitted that God made the right appointment. Typically self-effacing, David commented that Maurice Betteridge was exactly who the College needed after Leon Morris. It was Betteridge who appointed him Vice-Principal, a post he held from 1982 until his retirement in 1998. He remained active, teaching and deputizing for Ridley up to 2004.

David John Williams exemplified the gospel that he preached and taught to generations of Ridley students.

*We acknowledge the kind permission of the Melbourne Anglican to print this article.*

## MHPL Online

The MHPL Website is available 24/7. Online you can view full details of upcoming events, search the catalogue, and listen to previous talks.

You can access the website at [www.mathewhalepubliclibrary.com](http://www.mathewhalepubliclibrary.com).

## Upcoming Events in 2008



**Rev'd Rhys Bezzant,**  
**Lecture: A Reformation Tour**

### 11 November: 7.30pm

Join us at the Mathew Hale Public (7.30PM) Library for a fascinating lecture by Rev'd Rhys Bezzant on "A Reformation Tour". Entry by gold coin donation..

Please visit our website for further information regarding this event.

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## Support the Library

The Mathew Hale Public Library relies completely on gifted financial support to continue its ongoing ministry. Please consider making a tax deductible donation.

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