

# Regionalisation in Victoria Libraries & Learning Communities

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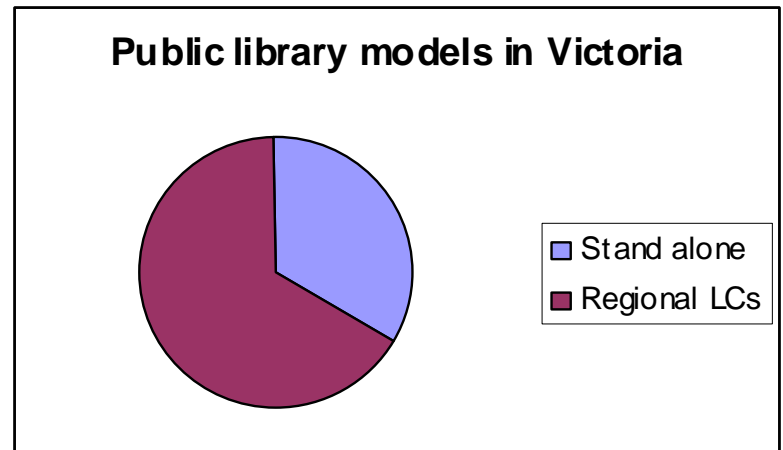
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**Glenelg Libraries**

*Explore, Discover, Connect*

# Regional Libraries

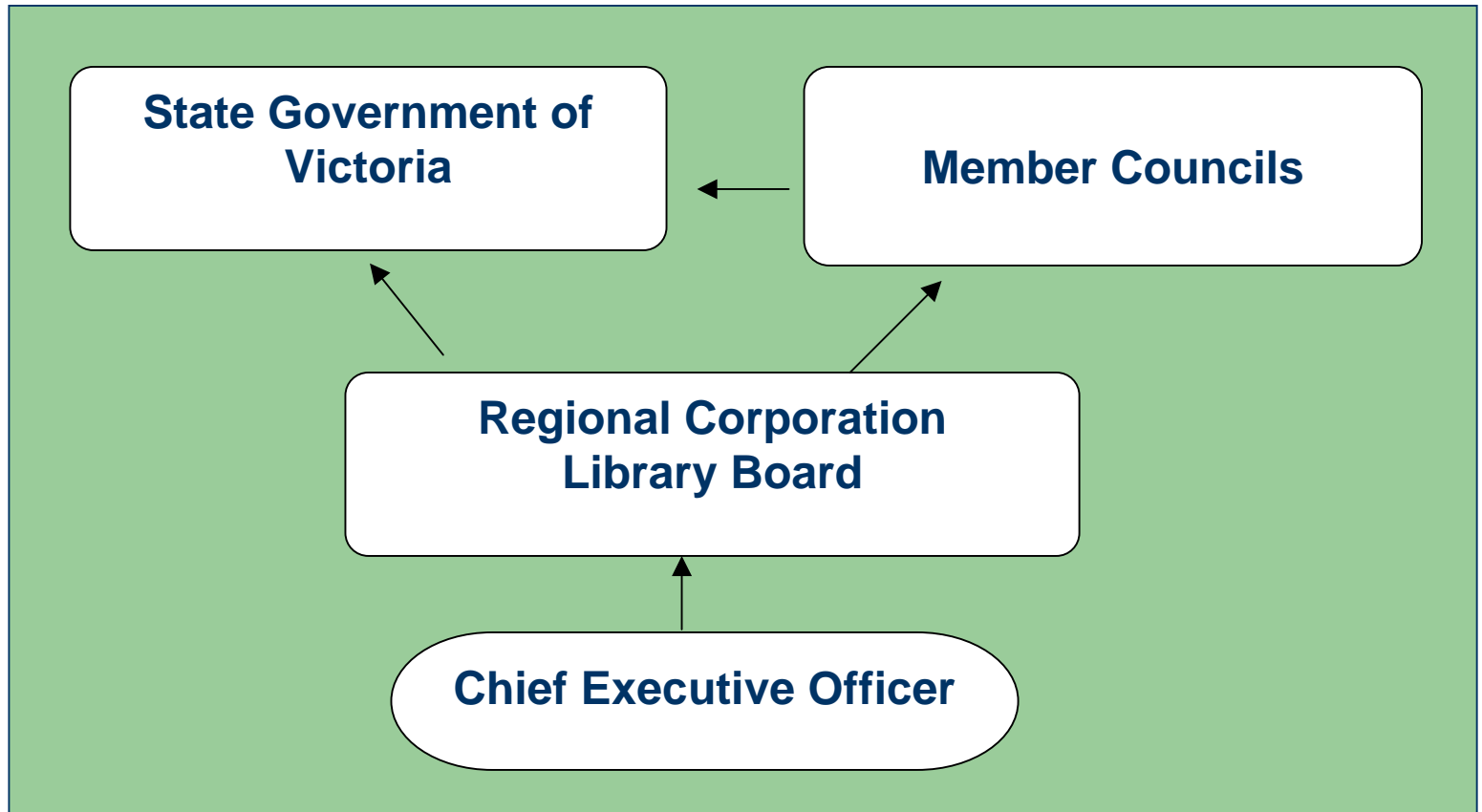
- Victoria is the only state to legislate for regional libraries
- 78 local government authorities
  - 26 stand alone library services
  - 52 participate in regional library corporations
- 15 regional library corporations
  - populations vary from 385,000 to 52,000



# Regional Library Corporations

- Legislated under Section 196 of the Local Government Act (Victoria. Parliament 1989)
- Online at: [www.doi.vic.gov.au/localgov](http://www.doi.vic.gov.au/localgov)
- Body corporate with 'perpetual succession'
- May sue or be sued
- must abide by all legislation which bodies corporate may by law do and suffer.
- Many provisions of the Act apply to the regional library as if it were a Council.
- Separate legal entities

# Reporting responsibilities



# Framework for collaborative action

Defines the way in which the Library Board of Victoria, through the State Library, will work with Victoria's public library network over the next five years.

Available online at:

[www.slv.vic.gov.au/about/partners/partnerships/vpln.html](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/about/partners/partnerships/vpln.html)

# Library Board

Responsibilities include:

- Balancing the budget
- Reporting to the government
- Ratification of Library Policy
- Passing of Local Laws
- Establishing strategic direction



# Chief Executive Officer

Has responsibility for:

- Production of Plans, Budgets, & Reports
- Formulation of local laws and policies
- Compliance with legislation
- Timely and strategic advice
- Implementation of Board decisions
- Financial operations
- Day to day management

# Strengths of Corporation model

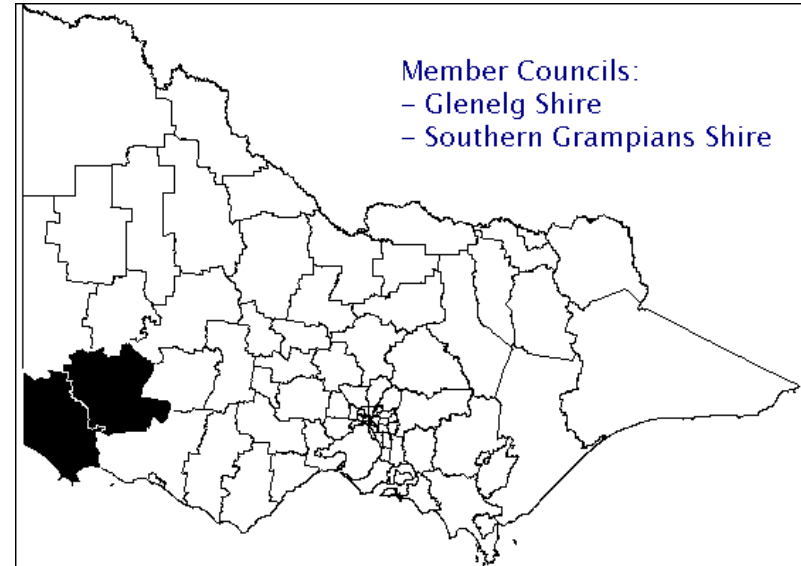
- Economies of scale
- Efficiencies – resource sharing, etc
- Enhanced planning and coordination of services
- Access to larger collection and greater range of resources
- Access to specialist staff
- Opportunities for multi skilling
- Financial capacity

# Limitations of Corporation Model

- Loss of autonomy
- Distance from local community
- Uniform level of service
- Lack of ownership
- Distance from local government planning & operations
- Rigid and inflexible structures
- Management overheads

# Glenelg Regional Library Corporation

- Rural library corporation
- Partnership between Glenelg and Southern Grampians Councils
- Population of 36,000
- geographical area of 13,011 sq. kms
- 4 branch libraries and a mobile library with 22 stops
- 10.8 EFT staff  
FT staff



# What went wrong?

- Declining population - less gov't funding
- Communities wanted same level of service
- Operational deficit - cash flow problematic
- Cost shifting to council
- Strategic Review in 2003
- Councils opted for different directions
- Corporation wound up on 30 June 2005

## Other models

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- Service contract  
e.g.. Swan Hill & Buloke Councils
- Corporation under Companies Act  
Upper Murray Regional Library Corporation

# Service Delivery Models

- Joint use libraries
- Integrated libraries
- Virtual Libraries
- Co-location

# Public Libraries & Learning Communities

A learning community can be defined as:

*The term “learning community” is defined as any city, town or village, and surrounding area, that using lifelong learning as an organising principle and social goal, promotes collaboration of the civic, private, voluntary and education sectors in the process of achieving agreed upon objectives related to the twin goals of sustainable economic development and social inclusiveness.*

*(Faris, Ron, Learning communities: cities, towns and villages preparing for a 21st century knowledge based economy, 1998)*

# Hume Global Learning Centre

- Rooms and spaces for hire
- Computer training room
- Computer training laboratory
- Seminar rooms
- Executive Chamber Meeting Room
- Function Room
- Meeting Room
- Equipment for use
- Exhibition spaces
- E-play and internet café
- The Age Library

Further information online at: [www.hume.vic.gov.au](http://www.hume.vic.gov.au)

# Gleneig Televillage Project

*“A televillage is a virtual community of people, firms, government, schools, libraries, health-care providers and others connected through a common vision and linked through telecommunications information resources and shared services”*

(Kentucky Science and Technology Council Inc.)

# Potential televillage outcomes

- Development of new skills and abilities
- Employment opportunities
- Greater community participation in new information age opportunities
- Business development
- Investment in enhanced technologies
- Enhanced ability to engage in civic debate
- Access to ICT by socio-economically disadvantaged
- Aggregation of telecommunications – lower cost
- Elimination of distance barriers

# Portland Televillage Project Vision

***“Through communications and information technology the Portland community becomes an information enabled community resulting in new business and employment opportunities, enhanced community well-being and an environment of collaboration, innovation and adaptability.”***



# Portland Telecommunity & Technology Centre

Community identified need for a PTTC in 2000

A “community owned” shop front technology facility that accelerates public access to and adoption of new technology and applications

Scoped and costed at \$250,000 for establishment. Sustainability?

# How did it happen?

- Living Libraries funding (\$400,000 from State Government)
- Library redevelopment to incorporate the Telecentre concept
- *'A state of the art facility providing a range of learning, teaching and recreating experiences around the themes of information technology and multi-media'*
- Building works completed in February 2004

# DiscoverIT Centre



- Library
- Learning laboratory
- Community room
- Public access room
- Office space for fledgling IT businesses
- Foyer / gallery space

# 12 months on.....



- Loans up by 10%
- Visitors up by 20%
- New members up 25%
- Price review
- Marketing strategy
- Promotion & networking
- Business Plan
- GCTI

# Community Information Plan

- Integrated televillage concept into Glenelg Libraries
- Community Information Centres at Heywood and Casterton (merged with customer service centres)
- Flexible Outreach Services
- Library resources (12.5% of collection replaced pa)
- Enhanced broadband telecommunications
- Plan online: [www.glenelg.vic.gov.au/libraryservices](http://www.glenelg.vic.gov.au/libraryservices)

# Challenges for the future

- Roll out of project to Heywood, Casterton, Nelson and Dartmoor (community politics)
- Timeliness – meet gov't targets
- Community expectation – it's been 5 years
- Sustainability – equipment, etc
- Resources: staffing, skills, etc
- Scepticism – council officers & councillors

# Public Libraries can provide:

- Lifelong learning
- Source of recreational reading
- Source and point of referral for community information
- Equity of access to information and IT
- Informed participation in democracy
- Cultural enrichment
- Economic development and activity
- Organisation, facilitation and dissemination of information



**“Institutions are characterised by dynamic conservatism - a tendency to fight to remain the same” - R. Martin, Changing the mind of the corporation, 1993**