



Who's where

Barrie Mitcheson has been appointed Acting Assistant Director, Educational Services at RMIT from 1 December 1986 — 28 February 1987. A number of subsequent acting appointments follow this: Sue Moore as Acting Institute Librarian, Andrew Jephcott as Acting Associate Librarian, Ann Wilson as Acting Reader Services Librarian and Bronwen Merrett as Acting Senior Reference Librarian.

Dr Ross Harvey and Mary Ronnie have been appointed lecturers at Monash University's Graduate School of Librarianship. Dr Harvey will teach in the areas of technical services, information management and retrieval; Ms Ronnie will teach in the areas of reference services, national planning and networks, public librarianship etc. Brian Haratsis has been appointed as a part-time lecturer and will cover library management and economics.

Ove Arup Consulting Engineers appointed Marianne Shepherd as Chief Librarian late last year. Marianne has a solid background in special libraries and two year's experience as chief cataloguer. She will be implementing online searching facilities and automating the card catalogue. Ove has offices throughout Australia and in New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. The company is a member of the ACCESS network.

Mr John Illy has joined Idaps Information Services' Libramatics Division as Manager, Sales and Products. He will be responsible for sales and marketing and for new product development. One of his first priorities will be to work with the company's Senior Library Consultant, Barbara Palmer, to recruit additional library consultants to the Libramatics team.

In brief

M has released its new 'Tattle-Tape' 1355 unit which is designed around a micro-processor. It offers improvements such as increased detection rate, greater alarm reliability, ease of installation and a reduction in servicing requirements.

The 'Tattle-Tape' range of electronic detection systems is already used in over 200 university, college, school and council libraries around Australia.

Now that a micro-processor has been added to 'Tattle-Tape's' capabilities, the new 355 unit bears greater resemblance to a computer than an alarm centre. In incorporates an operational status display window — (a self-diagnostic feature located out of public view) which assists in identifying discrepancies in the system's operation therefore reducing servicing time. The 1355 adjusts itself to the environment created by other technology with the unit continually responding to any changes. Advances in the overall design of the 355 results in the unit being more effective in both the areas of detection and alarm accuracy.

Freelance Library and Information Services Pty. Ltd. (FLIS) has registered a new company to run its expanding locum services for libraries in Melbourne. The company, Library Staff Employment Agency, will provide library and information personnel to cover staff shortages and will operate from the same address, 27 Kasouka Rd, Camberwell (03) 813 1925.

Illusion and reality

The Alexander Library Building in Perth is to be the venue until 8 March for *Images: Illusion and Reality*, one of the most important photographic collections ever assembled in Australia. The exhibition has come to Perth via Brisbane and Melbourne.

Exclusive features for the Perth showing will be the world premiere of both the first moving image hologram and the world's biggest hologram. Also having its first public exposure will be the J. S. Battye Library's own collection of photographic originals by J. Fox-Talbot and Leach Maddox.

A stunning collection of more than 250 French historical photographs and early cameras loaned by the Societe Francaise de Photographie, coupled with the contemporary photographic artistry of Australian scientists, will also be on show.

Conservation on the move

The schedule for the Mobile Conservation Laboratory for 1987 is:

- 9 February — 6 March, Penrith
- 10 March — 3 April, Wollongong
- 7 April — 6 May, Shoalhaven
- 11 May — 5 June, Wagga Wagga
- 9 June — 4 July, Albury
- 4 August — 29 August, Sydney (S.H. Ervin Gallery)
- 1 September — 3 October, Manly
- 6 October — 31 October, Bathurst
- 6 November — 3 December, Broken Hill

For further information contact: Catherine Lillico-Thompson, Regional Galleries Association of NSW, C/ Art Gallery of NSW (02) 225 1719.

VALA Award to Vision Hotline

Each year the Victorian Association for Library Automation (VALA) makes an award to the library or information centre which has made the most innovative use of technology to improve service to users, through provision of new or upgraded facilities or through increasing the efficiency of its support operations.

In 1986, the Association for the Blind was selected as the award winner for its Vision Hotline which provides a modern information service to visually impaired people. The Hotline uses a mix of technologies that enable users to access computer based voice communication.

Blind people in Victoria and Tasmania can quickly receive information in print, braille or audio cassette. The computer has a talking facility, (miniature inquiry terminal), and can be used from a telephone to assess information.

The system uses an IBM-AT micro-computer with 20m bytes of RAM, also a hard copy printer, a braille embosser, cassette decks and other associated peripherals. The system can be linked to local and overseas data bases of materials on visual impairment.

Vision Hotline integrates a range of technology which with associated software provides a modern information service to a specific community group.

The VALA Award panel was also impressed by the Greek online catalogue developed by Stowe Computing in association with Marrickville Public Library (NSW) and recommended the presentation of a certificate of merit.

Disaster Management Planning: the manual

The Advisory Committee on National Collections, a body which provides the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment with advice on matters affecting the Commonwealth national collections, has developed a *Counter-Disaster Management Planning Manual*.

The manual was developed as a comprehensive guide for such national collecting institutions as the National Library Australian National Gallery, Australian War Memorial, National Film and Sound Archive and National Museum.

This resource is likely to be useful to State and regional libraries, museums and archives in preparing plans to meet fires, floods, natural hazards, protective security or toxic spillage. It contains the latest information prepared by the Commonwealth Fire Board, ACT Emergency Service, Natural Disaster Organisation, and Commonwealth Dept. of Housing and Construction.

The manual is available in loose-leaf format for \$30 from the Dept. of Arts, Heritage and Environment GPO Box 1252 Canberra 2601. Further information is available from the Dept. on (062) 46 7211.

Courting disaster

Roll over Margaret Moxom — the NLA T-shirts have been spotted! The prize for best PR T-shirt in 1986 had to go to the delightfully tacky ones worn by contestants in the SA Barbara Cartland Book Throwing Contest organised by Margaret Moxom.

However, *InCite* has noticed the NLA 'disaster' T-shirts/sweatshirts which display the rather 'Rambo'esque slogan on the back — WE SURVIVE FLOOD AND FIRE. No reports have been made of NLA staff confusing 'go ahead make my day' for 'have a nice day' but the PR department does report sales of around 400 shirts, most going to overseas visitors.



The shirts combine corporate image promotion with staff motivation for disaster preparedness?! Shirts are available from the NLA Sales Dept. on (062) 62 1646.

Of course the LAA is no 'slacker' when it comes to promotion — new stocks of the Darwin conference bark painting T-shirt are in and our dancing crocodile shirts (available in L and XL), red logo stick-pins, 1987 diaries, and buttons are also available. Orders can be placed with Sheree Brown by phoning (008) 221481