

## AFFB

An extensive program of readings, workshops and discussions marked Victoria's contribution to the inaugural Australian Feminist Book Fortnight (AFFB) during the first 2 weeks of September.

As part of these activities, Northcote Library highlighted the work of local women writers. As well as displays of recent publications, on 13 September, the public had the opportunity to meet 3 poets in person, when Kerry Loughrey, Claire Gaskin and Liz Hall read a selection of feminist verse at the Community House Library Branch in Fairfield.

The readings were extensively advertised through handbills, displays in local shops, community radio spots, local writers' groups, and women's learning centres, and met with an enthusiastic response from the participants who braved a cold and rainy evening to attend.

*Roger Coleman*

## Serials

The Information Services Unit (ISU) of CSIRO at 314 Albert Street, East Melbourne (VS:CL) is currently reviewing its holdings of serials titles. This is resulting in a large scale transfer of titles from CSIRO. The ISU would like to inform libraries that ABN and SSAL are therefore currently unreliable for VS:CL holdings. Records on ABN will be updated as time and resources permit.

## in Cite has impact

The good news for all those members who are concerned about the environmental impact of *inCite's* packaging is that biodegradable plastic should be available in about 12 months time.

Meanwhile investigations into alternatives have shown that suitable recycled paper packaging would not only be more costly but would hold up distribution by 3-4 days as insertion would be by hand rather than machine.

*InCite* is presently packed in 35 micron plastic bags, the lightest acceptable to Australia Post.

## Film heritage damaged

The cause of blemishes found on colour film of national significance, in the custody of the National Film and Sound Archives (NFSA), is being investigated.

The NFSA has custody of some 29 million feet (40 000 cans) of colour film, being the original negatives and duplicating master of some 14 000 titles. These films are held on behalf of about 1300 producers/owners.

The colour film collection represents the bulk of the output of the film industry from the 1950s to date, and includes the cream of Australia's recent film input, including many internationally acclaimed titles.

### Blemishes revealed

The problems were first revealed in July 1989 when the routine handling of a film in the collection housed in an air-conditioned vault (at the National Library of Australia), revealed blemishes which were potentially worrying.

A technical examination of a significant sample of films in the vault was instituted, which indicated that a number of films were affected by one or more of the following forms of blemish:

- **Ferrotyping** - an irregular glaze on the emulsion surface;

- **Mould** - in most cases superficially on the outside of the reel, in some cases on the film image;
- **Emulsion adhesion** - in a few cases the emulsion had become tacky;
- **Magnetic stripe lifting** - some television news footage with magnetic sound track exhibited a lifting of the magnetic oxide.

Mould growth can occur in a wide range of circumstances, but is most prolific in an environment of high relative humidity. Emulsion adhesion, ferrotyping and magnetic stripe lifting, are also related to conditions of high relative humidity, but tend to require also that the film be very tightly wound.

Many films in the collections are tightly wound (the normal condition for transporting a film); this situation has existed for perhaps 30 years without any difficulty arising. It is believed that for a period during 1989 the relative humidity level in the vault was unusually high.

Until 1989 the NFSA was unable to examine and re-wind (and retension) films on receipt and was unable to establish the condition of films at the time of entry to the collection.

