

Time: 9.30-4pm. Cost: \$75 ALIA members; \$95 others. Morning/Afternoon tea and lunch included. Contact: Colin Bates, ph (052) 272 713, fax (052) 272 000, e-mail colinb@deakin.edu.au.

• **7/10 Disabilities interest group and state advisory committee on library and information services for people with disabilities joint breakfast meeting** — speaker tba. Atlantic Restaurant, 54 Fitzroy Street, St Kilda. For further information contact: Jillian Morley (03) 9521 3400.

• **7/10 ALIA acquisitions national section: Current issues in collection management workshop.** 10-4pm, Melbourne. Further details to be announced. Contact: Sue Clarke, e-mail sclarke@rmit.edu.au.

• **7/10 ALIA acquisitions national section: Accessing information 2001 — the role of acquisitions librarians in the new millennium seminar and workshop.** 9.30-4pm, Bridge Room 2, Centra on the Yarra. \$50 (section members), \$70 (others). Program and booking details to be announced in inCite events and mailed to members.

• **7-11/10 Winning bids: a two-part workshop Learn from Library Leaders,** Port Phillip's in-house team, the first to win a CCT contract. Pt 1: Preparing your bid (7/10) 9am-12.30pm. Pt 2: Delivering contracted services (11/10) 1.30-5pm. \$130 (\$70 per workshop). Contact: Pat Mitchell (03) 9209 6666.

• **8/10 ALIA acquisitions national section: Biennial dinner.** River Seafood Grill, Mid-level Southgate (opposite Yarra Footbridge), 7pm. \$40 (plus drinks). Enjoy the company, the view and the food. Bookings essential. Contact: Louise Russell, DA Information Services, 648 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham 3132, ph (03) 9210 7777.

• **8/10 ALIA biennial conference public libraries section dinner** Double-decker bus leaves World Congress Centre at 7.30pm to an amazingly eclectic pub — the Commercial Hotel in Yarraville — with great food and music. Cost \$50. Contact: Alison Trembath, ph (059) 860 347.

• **11/10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander library and information resource network (ATSILIRN) post-conference seminar.** Current issues in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues for library and information services. Time and venue: 9-12pm, 115 Fitzroy Parade, Fitzroy. Further details contact: alana.garwood@alia.org.au.

All inCite Events are limited to 40 words maximum and must include: date, name of Division, title of event, theme and key speaker (if relevant), venue, time, costs, and a contact name with phone and fax numbers.

ALIA divisions should mail or fax details of forthcoming events to the address shown below.

Non-ALIA entries: Send (at a cost of \$40 for 40 words) with your complete billing details to inCite Events, ALIA, PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600; fax (06) 282 2249. An invoice will be sent to the address indicated with your entry. For a small additional cost, your event may be listed on our World Wide Web site. Please call for details.

• **bullets indicate activities organised by ALIA Divisions**

## Victorian Hansard on the 'net

Jon Breukel reports on exciting developments in current political information

Victorian Hansard is now available as a searchable full-text database on the Internet, called *VicHansard*. *Victorian Hansard* was officially launched on the Internet by Victorian Treasurer and Australia's first Minister for Multimedia, Alan Stockdale MLA at the Victorian Parliamentary Library on 5 June.

The full-text of *Victorian Hansard* is available from 1991 onwards in a remarkably easy to use database utilising KE Texpress software developed by Knowledge Engineering. The availability of *Hansard* on the Internet has set national standards which other Parliaments around Australia are keen to follow. Over the years the database has proved extremely useful in locating relevant information quickly and the Internet version will take this one step further. All those with Internet access will be able to access a database which, until now, has only been available to ministers and selected clients.

Users are able to search under specific ministers names, second-reading debates, ad-



Jon Breukel helps Lorraine Elliott, Victorian MLA look up her contributions in the Victorian parliamentary debates

journalment and grievance debates, questions on notice, questions without notice, ministerial statements, personal explanations, petitions, papers and business of the house.

*VicHansard* has been made available on the Internet through the VICNET server located at the State Library of Victoria — click on the Hansard button on the Parliament of Victoria's world wide web home page: <http://www.vicnet.net.au/vicnet/vicgov/parl/parlia.htm>.

## Internet access in public libraries

Kirsty Williamson, RMIT

Will some community groups, such as older people, be disadvantaged by the increasing use being made of the 'information superhighway'? A PhD study, I recently completed investigated the information, communication and telecommunications needs of older people. It was an extensive study of the use of sources of information, including the mass media and libraries, as well as of telecommunication use. The study found that there were low percentages of ownership and 'good understanding' of new telecommunications equipment amongst the sample of 202 respondents, aged sixty and over. It also found that many respondents were adamant that there is no role for computers in their lives.

Building on the PhD study, the telecommunications needs research group at RMIT is undertaking a project which focuses on barriers to use of the Internet and/or VICNET in places of public access. The major purpose of the study is to investigate how access to new technology can be improved. The findings of the project will be reported at the ALIA conference in October.

Two age groups are involved: an older group (aged fifty and over) and a younger group (aged fifteen to thirty). The study will investigate the problems people encounter using the Internet within those age groups, and ways of reducing those problems.

Public libraries, which are being funded by both Federal and State governments to provide public access to the Internet, will be the major focus of the study. Three public libraries will be involved — Brighton, Box Hill, and Hamilton. Other public access points, such as cyber- or Internet cafes and telecentres, will be included in order to find out who is already using these access points, what problems exist for present users, and what barriers exist for non-users. The investigation will ask questions such as: how can the software be improved to provide easier access? What can public libraries do to improve access? What training may be needed and how should it be delivered?

The project is being generously funded by the Telstra Fund for Social and Policy Research.