

Sad loss for Queensland libraries

Cathy Campbell, Queensland Department of Primary Industries

The Queensland Department of Primary Industries lost a valuable staff member on 14 June when Dr Christine Cannon passed away suddenly at her home, aged only 52.

Chris started work in the Department of Primary Industry as a librarian at Indooroopilly and many officers remember her as being hard working and very obliging. Nothing was too much trouble for Chris. She was a much liked and highly respected colleague and friend to many of the staff at the Department of Primary Industry.

At one stage Chris was acting librarian in charge of the Department of Primary Industry library service. Chris took the opportunity of a new career move into establishing the FoodInfo

service at the Centre for Food Technology in 1993 and became well-known to many in the wider food industry for her friendliness, reliability and efficiency.

Chris would have preferred to be Queensland's first zoo librarian but unfortunately the zoo did not eventuate.

Chris completed her PhD in Zoology at the University of Queensland. Her research topic on parrots involved a lot of field work, some of it undertaken at the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary. She was head of the wildlife unit at Currumbin for some time. As opportunities to pursue a career in biology were limited, Christine made a career change and became a librarian, bring-

ing a wealth of scientific knowledge with her when she joined the Department of Primary Industries libraries at Indooroopilly.

Chris was also a major force behind the new Department of Primary Industries Infosearch service, a customised information search service for Queensland's primary industries, completing the implementation report shortly before her death.

With her knowledge of the Queensland food industry and information sources, her network of colleagues, skills in retrieving information, analytical, methodical, innovative approach to her work, and openness to new ideas, Chris is irreplaceable, and will be deeply missed. ■

Who's where...

Eric Wainwright, who has been deputy director-general at the National Library of Australia since March 1988, and was formerly university librarian at the University of Adelaide, will be returning to the university sector in August as pro-vice-chancellor (academic support) at the James Cook University of North Queensland.

His new responsibilities will include libraries, information technology, flexible learning, academic development and the university's quality assurance program.

He will also act as reactor of the relatively new and rapidly developing campus at Cairns, an international holiday destination given some attention in the past few months by visits from both the president of the United States of America, Bill Clinton, and German Chancellor, Herman Kohl.

ALIA Vice-President, John Shipp, is on the move after twenty years at the University of Wollongong. John has been appointed to head the University of Sydney libraries. He commences his new duties on 11 August.

During his time as university librarian at Wollongong, John has steered the library through some difficult but exciting times. The library now has a reputation for quality, client service and operational efficiency through team-based management. In 1996, these efforts were recognised by the Australian Quality Council.

As well as his duties as university librarian, John has been committed to improving collaboration between libraries. He has been involved in a range of activities in the library community including a four-and-a-half year term as president of the Council of Australian University Librarians.

The move to the University of Sydney comes at a time when higher education is undergoing radical change. John will have the task of guiding the library on a course which combines the best of the past with that of the future.

Ian McCallum has resigned from Ferntree Computer Corporation (now GE IT Solutions) to set-up a specialist library consulting company called Libraries Alive! A former president of ALIA, Ian said he was looking for more subject and less management content in his work — more bridge-building than fence-mending.

He wanted to move from the information technology industry to the library world, from selling to helping with purchasing. So he started Libraries Alive! to deliver the skills of a group of people with experience in library and information service development and delivery. Already he has completed

assignments for government and commercial organisations. Contact Ian at ian.mccallum@alianet.alia.org.au.

Following the 1996 library review, the new Australian National University Library executive committee has been formed as follows: Colin Steele, university librarian; Michael Evans, director, academic services; Kerrie Basman, director management and information services; Mechthild Guha, manager Asia/Pacific; Helen Roberts, manager, law; Rosalind Goodwin, manager, science; Margaret Henty, manager, social sciences and humanities; Gerald Tippett, manager, corporate support; Erin Brent, manager, networking and workstation support; Judy Churches, manager, technical support; and Jenny Edwards, manager, Infoplace. ■