

newmandk@acslink.aone.net.au. RSVP by 2/10.

VIC

• **1/9-8/12 Vic Special Libraries section committee meetings.** Venue to be advised, 5.30pm. (1/9; 13/10; 10/11; 8/12). For further information contact: Anne Sedgley, ph 03 9655 9770, fx 03 9655 9720.

• **2/9 Geelong Regional group.** *Tour of the CSIRO — Aust Animal Health Laboratory and Library.* CSIRO — AAHL Geelong, Portarlington Highway (Melways Ref page 228J3). 6pm. Contact: Peter Macauley, ph 03 5227 8246, fx 03 5227 8000, peterm@deakin.edu.au.

• **8/9 ACLIS Victoria.** *Winning package workshop by Meg Paul of FLIS.* Venue: State Library of Victoria, Seminar Room, La Trobe Street. 9.30-5pm. \$200 ACLIS members, \$250 ALIA members, \$300 non-members. Contact: Florence Olsen, ph 03 9669 9961, fx 03 9669 9607, florence@newvenus.slv.vic.gov.au.

• **8-12/9 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars.** DIALOG Web Workshops (8/9 pm), Introductory DIALOG (9/9), Beyond the Basics (11/9), DataStar Web Workshop (12/9 am). Melbourne contact: 02 9212 2867, krinfo.uts.edu.au.

• **10/9-10/12 Vic Branch Council meetings dates.** State Library of Victoria, 4th floor seminar room, La Trobe Wing, (entrance from La Trobe Street) (10/9, 8/10; 12/11; 10/12). Contact: Janette Gribble, ph 03 9669 9722, alia@slv.vic.alia.au.

• **11/9 Vic Branch.** *Mentoring social evening.* Swinburne Uni of Technology, Hawthorn Campus, Library, Level 5, Staffroom. 6-7.30pm. Contact: Eva Fisch, Reference Librarian, La Trobe Uni, Borchardt Library, Bundoora 3083, ph 03 9479 2926, e.fisch@latrobe.edu.au.

• **18/9 FLIS Training Pty Ltd.** *USMARC.* Monash Uni Conference Centre, 30 Collins Street, Melbourne. 9-12pm. Cost \$70. Contact: Elizabeth Yates, ph 03 9813 1925, fax 03 9882 4274, libflis@vicnet.net.au.

• **23/9 Vic Cataloguers section.** *News and views hot from the 12th National Cataloguing conference.* RMIT City Campus, Meeting Room C, Building 8, Level 3 (next to RMIT Union Shop), Swanston Street. 6pm. Contact: Lyle French, ph 03 9269 1361, fx 03 9269 1540.

• **24/9 FLIS Training Pty Ltd.** *Customer service skills.* Monash Uni Conference Centre, 30 Collins Street, Melbourne. 9.15-5pm. Cost \$170. Contact: Elizabeth Yates, ph 03 9813 1925, fax 03 9882 4274, libflis@vicnet.net.au.

• **13/10 Home Library Services Special Interest group meetings.** 10am, Glenroy Library, 737 Pascoe Vale Road, Glenroy. RSVP: Sheena Daniel, ph 03 9817 4566

• **14-15/10 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars.** Introductory DIALOG (14/10), Biomedical (15/10). Melbourne contact: 02 9212 2867, krinfo.uts.edu.au.

• **20/10 Christian Librarians' Network.** *A case of curiosities.* Speaker: Len Woodley, Church of Christ, Chapel Hall, corner

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A very 'special' special librarian retires

Suzie Davies Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Library, Townsville

Pat Kirkman, the librarian at the Townsville City Council Corporate Library retired from her employment recently.

Pat was a driving force in special librarianship in North Queensland for nearly two decades. Pat came to the profession from a career as a draughtswoman. Her first employment in libraries was at James Cook University Library. However, her technical background enabled her to move into specialised work when, in 1980, she took the position of librarian at the Technical Library of Townsville City Council. Through Pat's tireless endeavours the library developed into a truly corporate library service for the Council, providing access to a range of traditional and electronic information resources, covering the many fields of local government.

Pat has shown admirable commitment to our profession through her activities within ALIA. Pat keenly understood the issues of isolation often felt by special and regional librarians. She applied her practical skills to establishing a special librarian's network aimed at providing peer support, and professional and social opportunities within North Queensland. This network

became known as the 'Townsville specials' Group. Pat was the driving force behind its activities over the next fifteen years. Pat was determined that the group's activities remain relaxed and informal, whilst providing rock-solid peer support. The group was always welcoming of new members. Feelings of isolation and loneliness were often overcome by contacts made through the group. Many North Queensland librarians have gained great support and comfort in difficult times through that network.

Pat was also a strong ambassador for special librarianship in regional Australia. She was North Queensland's voice for the Queensland division of the Specials section of ALIA. Hardly an issue of *Extra Special* was published without some contribution by her. Pat strove to provide fair and responsible representation for her colleagues and was a brave spokeswoman when she saw injustice.

Pat's contribution to librarianship is acknowledged by her many friends and colleagues throughout Queensland. She has much to be proud of. We will miss that contribution, but wish her every happiness in the next part of her life. She is truly a very 'special' special librarian! ■

UNESCO's World Information Report

The *World Information Report 1997/1998*, published by UNESCO, has just been released. This 390 page book is meant to provide a 'comprehensive and topical worldwide picture of archive, library and information services on the five continents'.

In part one, library and information services and archives are presented in thirteen chapters, each devoted to a particular region; audio-visual archives are the subject of one worldwide chapter. Part two reviews the infrastruc-

tures for information work with five chapters devoted to computer developments, multimedia technologies, telecommunication technologies, the Internet, and design criteria for large library buildings.

Part three offers eight chapters in covering a number of issues and trends: the information society, information highways, economic intelligence, book publishing, access to archival holdings and unique library materials, presentation of archival holdings and unique library materials, copyright in the electronic age, international co-

operation and assistance.

Orders for the publication can be made through UNESCO Publishing (<http://www.unesco.org/publishing>) or through local distributors [Educational Supplies Pty Ltd, PO Box 33, Brookvale 2100, fax: (02) 9905 5209; Hunter Publications, 58A Gipps Street, Collingwood 3066, (03) 9417 5361, fax: (03) 9419 7154; Gray International Booksellers, 3/12 Sir Thomas Mitchell Road, Bondi Beach 2026, fax: (02) 9130 4116.] ISBN 92-3-103341-7; price 275FF plus 30FF surface mail. ■