

ACT

• **6/7 Science Librarians' lunch:** *Visions vs reality — what is happening in libraries now?* Roxanne Missingham, Rosalind Goodwin and Wendy Pang. Alanya Restaurant, Style Arcade, Manuka (upstairs). 12:30pm, \$15 (for banquet), everyone welcome. *RSVP by 2/7 to:* Jeanette Regan, ph 133 139, jeanette.regan@anu.edu.au

• **8/7 ACT Special Libraries section.** *Librarians Libations at PJ O'Reilly's, new venue!* PJ O'Reilly's is located at the corner of West Row and Alinga Street, Canberra City. For additional information contact: Julie Phillips, ph 02 6208 5112, j.phillips@nma.gov.au

• **13/7 ACT Special Libraries section.** *An opportunity to see the collections of the Canberra School of Arts, including their CD-ROMs and multimedia.* Meet at the Library at Institute of the Arts, ANU campus, 4:30pm. *RSVP:* Julie Phillips, ph 02 6208 5112, j.phillips@nma.gov.au

• **14/7 ACT UCRLS section.** *Dr Paul Turnbull, Acting director, Centre for Cross Cultural Research, The Endeavour Project, a web-based hypermedia project pursuing new lines of research into James Cook's first Pacific voyage.* McDonald Room, Menzies Library ANU, 12:30pm. Contact Nancy Clarke, ph 02 6209 1117, n.clarke@signadou.acu.edu.au

• **14/7-8/12 ACT Branch Council meeting.** 4th Floor Conference Room of the NLA, commencing at 5:30pm (unless otherwise announced). 14/7, 18/8, 15/9, 13/10, 17/11, 8/12. Contact Branch secretary: Sally-Anne Leigh, ph 02 6201 5522, sal@isd.canberra.edu.au

• **22/7 APSIG.** *Chinese banquet and talk by Susan Prentice: Looking at flowers on horseback again — personal reminiscences of China and its libraries.* Dinner/talk in a private room at the New Shanghai, 23 Woolley Street, Dickson, 7:30pm. \$25 for a Chinese banquet. *RSVP by 20/7 to:* Marie Sexton, ph 02 6262 1519, msexton@nla.gov.au

• **28/7 ACT Special Libraries section.** *ALIANet. Ivan Trundle will take us through the warp and weft of weaving ALIANet — a chance to see how your web site is put together.* ALIA House, 9-11 Napier Close, Deakin, 5:30pm. *RSVP:* Julie Phillips, ph 02 6208 5112, j.phillips@nma.gov.au

• **5/8 & 2/9 ACT Special Libraries section.** *Librarians Libations at the Hyatt.* For August and September we go back to the Hyatt. Come and relax with library colleagues. For details contact: Julie Phillips, ph 02 6208 5112, j.phillips@nma.gov.au

• **11/8 ACT Health Libraries section meeting.** *Guest speaker: Suzanne Hannan from NSW Health Dept, on the Southern Area Health Service, CIAP and distance library services in health.* 12:30pm, National Library. Contact: Sandra Henderson, ph 02 6262 1523, shenders@nla.gov.au

• **18/8 COLUG presentation on multimedia with Vickie Richardson from NetImpact.** The Santamaria Room (ground floor), 38 Sydney Avenue, Forrest, 12:30pm. *RSVP to:* Karna O'Dea, ph 02 6271 1939, karna.odea@dcita.gov.au

• **31/8 ACT Branch.** *Mid-winter dinner and presentations by Warren Horton.* Details: tba. Contact: Branch secretary Sally-Anne Leigh, ph 6201 5522, sal@isd.canberra.edu.au

• **8/9 APSIG.** *An Indian dinner, with Royce Wiles, well-known library traveller in India.*

continued next page...

A tiring, but satisfying week...

Majella Pugh, North West Hospital Library

North West Hospital is an aged care and rehabilitation specialist institution with nine sites in the Melbourne metropolitan area. The library is run by a full-time librarian and a one-day-a-week assistant. To help market the library service we decided to go all out for Australian Library Week.

The events were publicised with global e-mails to staff, a notice on the cover of the monthly 'What's new in the library' bulletin, and coloured fliers were distributed to all sites.

Four events were held: a literary launch, a book stall, a book give-away, and internet/database training sessions. The literary lunch was a huge success. Sue Hunt spoke of her experiences with the process of authorship, with respect to chapters, co-authorship, and co-editorship of books. She spoke of experiences with publishers, from writing the original proposal, to cover design, and writing the publicity materials when the book was completed. She ended the session by dra-

matically ripping open the Australia Post bag which contained the unseen published tome!

A book stall was set up in the hospital cafeteria over lunch hours during Australian Library Week. The stall contained new books, and I was available to take orders and recommendations from staff who walked by. It was a very useful exercise, as I gained a lot of feedback concerning the strengths and weaknesses of the collection. The Library Week balloons, and old CD-ROMs flashing as they swung in the breeze catching the light, attracted much attention and comment.

The lure of free books brought a number of staff into the library, and engendered positive feelings towards the library. Although I offer internet and database training throughout the year, I took the opportunity of promoting this service during Australian Library Week.

Though tiring for a one-person operation, I cannot recommend highly enough the active participation of library staff in Australian Library Week. ■

Special libraries celebrate Australian Library Week

During Australian Library Week, much of the focus is on public libraries as they are what the public tends to think of when they are asked to think of a library. The Special Libraries Section in Tasmania attempted to change that and raise public awareness of special libraries.

Special libraries are generally housed in government agencies, corporations, businesses, museums, hospitals and consultancies. The libraries are generally for use by the organisation's staff, however in the case of government department libraries and others funded from public monies, they may be open to

the general public, with limitations.

Special libraries can be characterised by the following:

- They are often staffed by only a few people.
- Their collections can be very specialised, on particular topics, in more depth than can be offered by a public library: the Workplace Standards Tasmania Library manages the largest collection of occupational health and safety resources in the state. The collection is available for reference to the public and for loan to businesses and educational institutions.
- The collections can contain very valuable historic data not available else-

where, for example the Mineral Resources Library has an invaluable collection of Tasmanian geological data, dating back to the 1860s. The Antarctic Division Library holds historic information and artefacts on past expeditions.

- They maintain and update public information web pages, for example the Supreme Court Library updates court sittings and judgements on the web.
- They provide valuable information to those making policy decisions in government.
- They are an important repository for an organisation's data, research and archives. ■