

- **26/10 Vic Library Technician section.** *Post-conference meeting.* Our Student Library Technician conference grant winner, Helen Page will be making a presentation, along with a panel of library technicians who attended the Fremantle conference. Box Hill Tafe, Nelson Campus, New wing, upstairs Room 222, 6 for 6:30pm, light refreshments provided. *RSVP:* Kerrie Kelly, ph 03 9669 9721, kerriek@slv.vic.gov.au

- **Nov Ballarat Regional group.** *AGM.* Details: tba.

- **10/11 Vic Branch/VicLIS Forum.** more details later!

- **3/12 Victorian Branch.** *Christmas party.* Celebrate the events of 1999 with colleagues and friends. Details and flyer to follow. Contact: Trevor Wakely, t.wakely@bom.gov.au

- **6/12 Home Library Services SIG meeting.** Williamstown Library, 104 Ferguson Street, Williamstown, 10am. Contact: Marie Boyd, ph 03 9932 4171.

WA

- **15/9–19/10 WA Library Technicians section meeting.** Venue: tba. Meeting dates: 15/9*; 19/10. Contact: Wendy Monaghan, ph 08 9427 3267, wmonaghan@mail.liswa.wa.gov.au (* date subject to change due to Library Technician conference 8–10/9.)

- **17/9 WA Special Libraries section.** *Bi-monthly breakfast, guest speakers Cheryl Hamill and Ritva Matero* speaking on electronic serials and the special library scene. Othello's, 221 St Georges Terrace, Perth, 7:30am. Cost: \$15.50. Contact: Annette Carter, ph 9483 2081, annette.carter@au.arthurandersen.com *RSVP by 10/9.*

- **16/11 WA Library Technicians section.** *Monthly meeting and AGM.* LISWA, 5:30pm, dinner to follow. Contact: Wendy Monaghan, ph 08 9427 3267, wmonaghan@mail.liswa.wa.gov.au

National

- **6–8/9 Reference and Information Service section conference.** *1999 and Beyond — Partnerships and Paradigms.* Hilton Hotel, Sydney. Contact: ACMS Conventions & Exhibitions Pty Ltd, PO Box 468, Paddington 2021, ph 02 9332 4622, fx 02 9332 4066, raiss99@acms.com.au <http://www.csu.edu.au/special/raiss99/>

- **8–10/9 10th ALIA National Library Technicians Section conference.** *Projections reflections.* The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Western Australia. Contact: Anne Nicolay, Keynote Conferences, PO Box 1126, West Leederville 6001, ph 08 9382 3799, fx 08 9380 4006, keynote@ca.com.au

- **13–15/10 13th National Cataloguing conference** *Charting the*

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Making news around Australia

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

Cutting-edge library

Cairns Post, 6 July 1999

More than \$250 000 of a \$700 000 state government grant will be spent on interior fittings and technology for the Cairns City Library. And as part of the council's buying policy, most of the furniture and equipment will come from local suppliers, giving a boost to the local technology industry.

Boys' own tales

The Sydney Morning Herald, 26 July, by Bronwyn Donaghy

Many boys struggle with reading and writing. The implications concerning boys and literacy will be examined as part of a national study by the Australian Centre for Youth Literature and the Audience Development Division of the Australia Council.

The common misconception that boys read less because they are more 'active' than girls can be easily disproved — many girls are also very active, but they still find the time to read. Many believe that poor literacy in boys is societal — girls are praised for sitting still and reading, boys are not; boys are encouraged to reject anything 'feminine'.

What were the most influential works of fiction?

The Age, 31 July 1999

The Age and *The Sydney Morning Herald* published a 'Poll of the century' questionnaire in April. Readers were asked to select the leading people, events or aspects of popular culture in the 20th century in twenty categories. The following were ranked as the most influential Australian works of fiction:

1. *My brilliant career*
2. *Power without glory*
3. *The thorn birds*
4. *The magic pudding*
5. *Seven little Australians*
6. *The chant of Jimmy Blacksmith*
7. *The harp in the South*
8. *My brother Jack*
9. *Voss*
10. *Oscar and Lucinda*

Included on the list of the world's most influential works of fiction were: *1984*, *The lord of the rings*; *Ulysses*; *Brave new world*; *Catch-22*; *The grapes of wrath*; *The great Gatsby*; *Sons and lovers*; *Heart of darkness*; and *Lolita*.

Floating library steams into port

The Courier Mail, 31 July

The *MV Dulos*, the world's largest floating

book-shop, cruised into Brisbane recently. The *Dulos* was built in 1914 and began service as a cargo vessel. It has sailed as a luxury liner, an immigrant ship, and a troop transporter in both world wars. It is now operated by the German charity, Books For All.

The ship has stopped at more than 400 ports around the world offering humanitarian aid and books to residents. The ship's pool and casino were removed to make room for a library which holds about 5000 books. The library, and other sections of the ship, are manned by more than 300 volunteers.

Community service rewarded

Berwick Leader, 20 July

Elizabeth Stewart has been awarded the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Scholarship for academic excellence and community support. The scholarship recognises the qualities of academic prowess and community spirit. Ms Stewart is a volunteer for the Casey-Cardinia Library Corporation's home library service at Narre Warren.

Ryan launches new mobile library

Yarram Standard News, 21 July

Wellington Shire has a new mobile library valued at more than \$250 000. The mobile library came about after the shire received a \$134 000 grant as part of the 'Mobile libraries — moving into the new millennium' program funded by the State Government Community Support Fund. Wellington Shire contributed further funds to purchase the library trailer unit, and the prime mover was provided through the generosity of Wellington Wide Services.

Wimmera Regional Library Corp and GEAC Computers announce business partnership

Nhill Free Press, 21 July

The Wimmera Regional Library has recently signed a network agreement with GEAC computers to provide an enhanced online library service. The new network will provide online access to more than two million items.

Library a vision for millennium

Latrobe Valley Express, 22 July, by Megan Wheelhouse

The new library at Monash University's Gippsland campus has been described as a great boost for Gippsland. The library is twice the size of the previous facility, and features an electronic resources area, an information technology training room, staff offices, and an extensive book collection.

The building has received the building award from the Master Builders Association of Victoria South Eastern Region for projects over \$2 million.

Monash University librarian, Professor Edward Lim, described the facility as a 'library of the future'.

Statistics show increase in library patronage

Coonabarabran Times, 15 July

Moving the Macquarie Regional Library to newer, larger premises has resulted in increased patronage according to librarian Gary Furnell. Gary is very pleased with the numbers who have expressed interest in the new facilities that the library now offers.

Circulation is third highest

Merimbula News Weekly, 14 July

The Bega Valley Library has the third-highest circulation of any public library in country New South Wales according to the latest issue of Public Library Statistics. Library material per capita was also seventh-highest in the state and well above the average. The results are all the more remarkable given that the library's expenditure on library materials per capita was one of the lowest in the state.

Bobbing up with arms full

The Newcastle Herald, 29 July, by Emilie Manning

New South Wales premier Bob Carr was very busy during a recent visit to the Lower Hunter region. He officially opened the new Thornton Library, saying: 'The importance of libraries can not be overstated because every second person in the state belongs to one...'. While in the region he also laid the first pipe for the Lower Hunter Pipeline project, and opened the recently-upgraded Paterson Rural Fire Service Station.

Rates rise in Mt Barker 'catch up' budget

Mt Barker Courier, 28 July

Rates in the Mt Barker Council are set to rise by six per cent in a bid to catch up after two years of rate-capping. Among other things the additional income will be used to extend the services of the community library, the most extensively-used facility provided by the council.

Library plans 'sham'

Heidelberg, 28 July, by Jodie Guest

State Labor MP Craig Langdon recently criticised Banyule Council over its library redevelopment review, describing it as a sham. Mr Langdon criticised the review as the council's budget papers indicate that funding decisions were made before the review took place.

Councillor John Schuller defended the council saying that the review process had been totally transparent. All three libraries in the area will receive funding, the Watsonia Library has been identified as being in most-

immediate need and will be 'first cab off the rank'.

Clarinda Library a hive of languages

Chelsea Independent, 26 July

The new Clarinda Library is a revamped and larger library with an emphasis on community languages. The library will have CDs and videos in languages other than English, as well as more than 200 books and magazines in a range of languages, with emphases on Chinese, Vietnamese, Greek and Italian.

The library will also provide free internet access.

Net users oppose filtering

The Australian (Computers), 3 August, by Brad Howarth

A recent survey of 3200 organisations conducted by Morgan & Banks has revealed that Australian internet users are strongly opposed to government-imposed censorship of the internet. More than fifty-eight per cent of those surveyed were against government-imposed censorship.

Child protection guide

The Australian (Computers), 3 August

Walt Disney, America OnLine and other internet-related companies and groups have launched the 'GetNetWise' campaign to teach parents how to protect their children from objectionable material on the web. The campaign will provide parents with information about content filtering tools, websites specially designed for children and related information.

Advertise on book cards

Comment News, 27 July

Gosnells City Council will allow local businesses to advertise in library books. A local marketing company will provide due-date cards at no cost to the city's three libraries. The cards will feature advertising from local businesses.

The arrangement will not provide major cost cuts, but will help the library in future sponsorship arrangements.

Library service finds better way to go surfing

Geelong Advertiser, 31 July

Geelong regional library users will soon be able to take advantage of a new internet access satellite. The satellite enables the Belmont Library to receive internet data directly from the United States. The pilot project in conjunction with the State Library of Victoria is the first in Australia in which public libraries use direct satellite connection for internet access. The aim of the project is to provide cheaper, more reliable and more effective internet access to library users. ■

Information Universe. Carlton Crest Hotel, Brisbane. Contact: Intermedia Convention and Event Management, ph 07 3369 0477, fx 07 3369 1512, cat99@im.com.au <http://www.alia.org.au/sections/cat/conferences/>

• **12-13/11 2nd Local Studies conference.** *Post haste the millennium: opportunities and challenges in local studies.* Contact: Jenni Woodroffe, convenor, ph/fx 08 9367 4759, jenni@omen.net.au

• **14-17/11 Public Libraries Conference.** *How far have we come... how far can we go?* Organised by ALIA WA Public Libraries section. Sheraton Perth Hotel, Perth. Contact: Promaco Pty Ltd, ph 08 9332 2900, fx 08 9332 2911, promaco@promaco.com.au URL <http://www.promaco.com.au/conference/1999/alia>

• **3-4/12 ALIA Information Literacy SIG and the University of SA Library joint conference.** *Concept, challenge, conundrum: from library skills to information literacy.* Keynote speaker: Professor Ken Haycock. Uni of South Australia City West Campus. Contact Irene Doskatsch, ph 08 8302 4447, fx 08 8302 4754, irene.doskatsch@unisa.edu.au

• **10/12 ALIA2000 conference** call for papers deadline. Contact Conference Solutions, PO Box 238, Deakin West 2600, ph 02 6285 3000, fx 02 6282 2249, e-mail ALIA2000.conference@alia.org.au

• **23-26/10 ALIA2000 conference:** Capitalising on knowledge: the information profession in the twenty first century. National Convention Centre, Canberra. Contact Conference Solutions, PO Box 238, Deakin West 2600, ph 02 6285 3000, fx 02 6282 2249, e-mail ALIA2000.conference@alia.org.au

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