

Making news around Australia



Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

6022, fx 03 9820 1335,
mmellars@vicnet.net.au

• **7/8 Home Library Service SIG meeting.** St Kilda Library, 150 Carlisle Street, St Kilda, 10am. Contact: Kinta Walker.

• **2/10 Home Library Service SIG meeting.** Caulfield Public Library, Corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield, 10am. Contact: Julie Thomas.

WA

• **14/3–12/12 WA Public Libraries section.** Meeting, all members welcome! Morley Public Library, 7 Dewar Street, Morley, 4pm on the second Tuesday of each month (14/3, 11/4, 9/5, 13/6, 11/7, 8/8, 12/9, 10/10, 12/12). For further information contact: Judi Willmott, ph 08 9354 5327, fx 08 9354 5953, jwillmott@canning.wa.gov.au

• **15/3 WA Local Studies section.** Visit to *The Genealogy Centre* at the Alexander Library Building. Sue Sondalini will demonstrate wide range of genealogical tools for researchers, tour of genealogy area will follow. Commences 5:30–6pm. RSVP: Julie Zuvella, ph 08 9442 3562, fx 08 9389 8742, jzuvella@nedlands.wa.gov.au

• **15/3–14/11 WA Library Technicians section.** General meeting. Venues: tba. (15/3, 17/4, 16/5, 14/6, 17/7, 15/8, 13/9, 16/10, 14/11). Contact: Brenda Ellen, ph 08 9266 4183, ellenb@boris.curtin.edu.au for future meetings information.

• **20/3 WA Specials Libraries section.** *Sunset Soirée, speaker on the history of the Park.* Kings Park, rotunda to the right of War Memorial, 5.30pm. \$12 members, \$15 non-members, \$20 if you pay on the day, includes finger food and cold drinks. Contact: Carmen Romano, ph 08 9274 9246, <http://www.party.onwa.net/alia2003.htm> RSVP by 15/3. Cheques to PO Box 7582 Cloisters Square WA 6850.

• **5/4–6/12 WA Children's and Youth Services section.** Meeting, the more the merrier! Brass Monkey in Northbridge, 6:30pm. (5/4, 3/5, 7/6, 5/7, 2/8, 6/9, 4/10, 6/12). For further information contact: Hilary Hatfield, ph 08 9411 3494, fx 08 9411 3493, hilaryh@cockburn.wa.gov.au

• **11/11 WA Children's and Youth Services section.** AGM. Venue: tba. For further information contact: Hilary Hatfield, ph 08 9411 3494, fx 08 9411 3493, hilaryh@cockburn.wa.gov.au

• **14/11 WA Public Libraries section.** AGM, all members welcome! Venue: tba. For further information contact: Judi Willmott, ph 08 9354 5327, fx 08 9354 5953, jwillmott@canning.wa.gov.au

continued next page...

Plain speaking on the law 1

Central Coast Express Advocate, 10 December

Access to plain-English legal information is now easier than ever, with the opening of the Legal Information Access Centre at Gosford Library, a joint project of the Law Foundation of NSW and the State Library of NSW. The centre's resources include 'Legal Tool Kit' (a collection of plain language books answering many everyday legal questions), updates on recent changes and debates, a comprehensive collection of legal publications and access to current legislation.

Plain speaking on the law 2

The Canberra Chronicle, 7 December

A similar development at Queanbeyan City Library now provides residents with easy and free access to the most current legal information. The Legal Information Access Centre (LIAC), a joint initiative with the Law Foundation of NSW and the State Library of NSW, offers an up-to-date collection of books, brochures, pamphlets and other legal resources including access to the internet. Specially trained library staff can assist community members to use the collection.

Buloke library wins top award

Wimmera Mail Times (Horsham), 1 December

Buloke Shire and Wimmera Regional Library Corporation have won a major prize in the 1999 National Awards for Innovation in Local Government. The shire and library corporation won the rural section of the award for information technology and organisational practices. Their project for delivery of library, government and commercial services to people living in isolated, rural communities was described as a world first. Of the 338 entries, thirty-four were from rural councils. A summary of the award said that Wimmera Regional Library Corporation was one of the first library services to offer internet access via a mobile library. As the lead agency, Wimmera Regional Library Corporation will further map the project and test the service with stakeholders and rural communities in the region.

Early start

Monash Journal, 30 November

A new junior literacy collection at the Glen Waverley library will be used by young and old. The collection aims to support parents in teaching their pre-prep and primary school-aged children how to read and offers a series of colour-coded readers to help children develop skills in sequential steps from prep to grade six. The collection was paid for through a State Government local priorities funding grant.

Library forced to pass ILL fee on

Caboollure Near North Coast News, 1 December

A rise in the cost of inter-library loans will force Caboollure Shire's Council libraries to pass this cost on to those requesting the items. Council is charged \$12 by institutions such as university and specialist government libraries for every item borrowed by them for the use of Council Library members. The fee had previously been 'absorbed' by Council for the

benefit of its members, but the latest rise, in addition to a forty per cent increase in inter-library requests, had forced the change in policy. However, inter-library loans requested from Queensland State Library and Queensland Public Libraries will remain free.

World recognition for local firm

The Advertiser (Adelaide), 25 November, by Jill Pengeley

Gemplus Tag Australia is a small Adelaide electronics firm employing twenty people. It has just won a prestigious award for excellence in innovation. The development, an electronic tagging system, is expected 'to revolutionise the way libraries work'. Books which bore the flat, silicon-chip-based tags could be borrowed and returned without ever having to be handled by librarians. Dropping them down a return chute which was fitted with a reader would automatically log them back into a library's catalogue.

Aborigines top of the class

The West Australian, 25 November, reports by Keryn Ashworth

Aboriginal primary students were the only group to record significant improvements in this year's WA literacy tests, according to results released last November. It is an encouraging sign, but Aboriginal students' overall performance remained well below that of non-Aboriginal students — only fifty-five per cent (forty per cent last year) compared with 80% for non-Aboriginal students. The Year 5 literacy results were slightly lower than the Year 3 results, but for both year groups, eight-seven per cent exceeded levels expected of them in numeracy. And while private school students performed only marginally better than public school students, the results continued to show that students in country and low socio-economic areas were outperformed by the better-off city counterparts.

Library literary prize

Moreland Observer, 7 December

The story of a young soldier in Kosovo won a Campbellfield girl the youth short story section of the Hume-Moonee Valley Regional Library competition. Sladana Subotic, 16, was one of several young Hume writers to win awards in the competition. Tullamarine's Don Armstrong won the poetry section. More than 500 entries were received in the awards. All winning entries can be read at any branch of the Hume-Moonee Valley library network.

City heritage grant winner

Ballarat Courier, 8 December

Research librarian Edith Fry travelled to Canberra recently to receive a Community Heritage Grant. Ms Fry, research librarian at Central Highlands Regional Library Corporation, attended the Community Heritage Grant presentation ceremony at the National Library. Member for Ballarat Michael Ronaldson said Ballarat's documentary heritage was vital to understanding the district's history. However irreplaceable records are fast deteriorating. The Central Highlands

Library was one of only twenty-two organisations allocated funding nationwide. The grant will provide for a significant assessment and preservation survey of the large quantity of maps in Ballarat, including street plans, architectural drawings of municipal buildings and amenities, and parks and garden designs. The project will ensure the collection of maps will be preserved and made readily accessible.

New access to historical records

Merimbula News Weekly, 8 December

The Bega Library has been selected as one of 39 'community access points' across New South Wales as part of a State Government initiative to provide people in regional and rural areas with better access to the State's archives. The new resource kit will contain 595 reels of microfilm and 728 microfiche of copies of early records. It will build on a genealogical research kit issued in the 1980s and already held by some of the community access points. It will include explanatory material and links to information available on the State Records' website.

Bankstown City Library

Bankstown-Canterbury Torch, 8 December

Bankstown City Library has recently recognised the need to improve and widen its collection of Arabic language resources. A launch at the library last week, saw an Arabic Video Collection introduced, with more than 300 Arabic language videos. The Arabic speaking population in the Bankstown Local Government area is large and diverse with a 1996 report (latest figures available) showing that there were 18 600 Bankstown residents who spoke Arabic at home.

Novelist welshed on his own story

The Age (Melbourne), 6 December, London

Richard Llewellyn, whose novel *How Green Was My Valley* was made into an Oscar-winning film, was neither born in Wales, as he claimed, nor called Llewellyn. His real name was Vivian Lloyd and he was born in the London suburb of Hendon, the son of a Welsh publican. The author claimed until his death in 1983 to be the son of a Welsh miner, but his first job was washing dishes at Claridges hotel in London and his knowledge of mining came from stories he heard from a family that ran a bookshop in London's Charing Cross Road. The facts behind the fiction were discovered by researchers looking into ways to mark the book's 60th anniversary. They found a forgotten archive of Llewellyn's papers, including his birth certificate, at the University of Texas, proving that 'most of what Llewellyn told the world about himself was a load of baloney.'

Heritage make-over

Herald Sun, 4 December, by Scott Thompson

The Victorian State Library and Royal Melbourne Zoo are among historic places to share \$3.4 million under the State Government's public heritage program. Planning Minister John Thwaites has announced round one of funding under the program at Footscray Park, which will receive \$160 000 for works to its fountain and water garden. The grants, from the \$15 million public heritage program administered by Heritage Victoria, would be spread among almost 40 projects, most in rural and regional Victoria. The State Library will receive \$800 000; Echuca Locomotive Shed \$300 000; Maltzahn's Farm, Lalor \$216 000; the Zoo

\$300 000; and Rushworth Shire Hall \$130 000.

Access centre helps the visually impaired

Toowoomba Chronicle, 4 December by Jason Kehl

The Toowoomba City Library has a wide range of equipment to help their handicapped readers. This includes a Kurzweil reader, which scans text on a printed page and reads it back. There is also a closed circuit TV, used to magnify material such as bills, legal documents, photographs, handwritten letters. This has enormous potential for elderly citizens and visually impaired people who rely on large print or talking books for information. A computer sitting on a height-adjustable desk that suits most wheelchairs has a large monitor and an 'IntelliKeys' keyboard for people who have limited hand movement or a vision impairment. People with special needs can now access CD ROM, the internet, word processing and various other programs. There is a TV, video and CD and cassette player, and a pay phone with a keyboard device beside it — a TTY phone (telephone typewriter) for people with hearing and speech impairment. Incorporated in the Access Centre is a comfortable meeting area where community groups with special needs can relax and enjoy using the library's resources and equipment.

Maroochy Library Service wins heritage award

Sunshine Coast Daily, 4 December

Maroochy Library Service has received a Community Heritage Grant award for its work in preserving and copying the colour negatives segment of the Bill Robinson Negative Collection. The award is a \$4500 grant to help continue with the important work that the library service has been carrying out. The collection was presented to the library a few years ago and included about 75 000 black and white and colour negatives of local interest. Since then, library staff have been cleaning and culling the negatives to about 30 000 images. Maroochy Library Service was the first public library in Australia to digitise photographs and make them available to the public via a computer.

The art of valuation is priceless

Financial Review 1st Edition, 21 December 1999, by Tony Harris

Professional valuation of library, museum and art gallery collections has shown what treasures are in store. The collections of the Australian Museum in Sydney have been tentatively valued at \$3047 million; the Powerhouse Museum collection is thought to be worth \$1530 million; and the NSW Library's books, letters, diaries, and paintings, among other items it holds, are valued at \$2089 million. Only marginally less valuable are the collections of the National Gallery and Library in Canberra, worth about \$1026 million and \$1317 million respectively. The National Gallery of Victoria, the Art Gallery of NSW, Canberra's War Memorial and its new National Museum of Australia each have holdings with an average value of over \$500 million. The Art Gallery of NSW regularly assesses its holdings so that works no longer meeting its collection criteria can be sold. Probably in all these cases management should review collections to ensure they fit with the institution's changing vision and to make better decisions about the stewardship of their collections.



... from previous page

NATIONAL

28/3-16/5 Copyright Seminars in State capitals, given by staff lawyers, covering everything from clearances to scanning. Three sessions: Introduction, Print Resources, Internet. \$50 per session. Melbourne: 28/3, Sydney 16/5. Contact: Ph 02 9318 1788, fx 02 9698 3536, sales@copyright.org.au, http://www.copyright.org.au

CONFERENCE

3-7/7 21st Conference of the International Association of Technological University Libraries. *Virtual Libraries: Virtual Communities*, hosted by QUT Library, Brisbane, Australia. Well known overseas/local speakers. Contact: Barb Ewers, b.ewers@qut.edu.au For regularly updated information see: http://www.lib.qut.httpedu.au/IATUL

15-18/10 LIANZA Conference for 2000. *Exceeding expectations*. Christchurch Convention Centre. Conference convenor: Gail Pattie, deputy university librarian, Uni of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch New Zealand, ph +64 3 364 2055, fx +64 3 364 2007, g.pattie@libr.canterbury.ac.nz

• **23-26/10 ALIA2000, 6th Biennial conference**. *Capitalising on knowledge: the information profession in the twenty-first century*. National Convention Centre, Canberra. Conference organiser: Conference Solutions, Brigitte Gunn, ph 02 6285 3000, fx 02 6285 3001, alia2000.conference@alia.org.au http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/alia2000/

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, e-mail or fax details of forthcoming events to the address shown below, or use our website electronic form on ALIANet.

Non-ALIA entries: Send (at a cost of \$40 for 40 words) with your complete billing details to **inCite Events**, ALIA, PO Box E441, Kingston, ACT 2604; fax 02 6282 2249, or e-mail **events@alia.org.au**. An invoice will be sent to the address indicated with your entry. For a small additional cost, your event may be listed on our website. Call for details.

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