

# Improving access to public library collections

## Two more libraries join the Murraylink network

The Wimmera Regional Library Corporation and Goulburn Valley Regional Library Corporation have just significantly increased their internet service by installing permanent connections to the internet and making their catalogues searchable over the internet via the Murraylink network.

A permanent connection to the internet has been in each case made possible only after extensive upgrading of local networks to accommodate the technological requirements. In addition, to effect a secure permanent connection to the internet, both library services have installed a firewall on the library's network.

For each library service, funding permanent internet access will require a commitment to meet an annual cost for the connection, which is equivalent to more than seven per cent of the library materials budget.

Permanent access to the internet not only provides vastly increased availability of the internet for public use, it has made available the catalogues of Goulburn Valley and Wimmera Regional Libraries for searching over the internet through the Murraylink Libraries Inc. network, at <http://www.murraylink.vic.gov.au>.

Goulburn Valley and Wimmera Regional Libraries are the newest members of the Murraylink network bringing the number of co-operative libraries in the group to eight.

Particularly in rural areas, the ability to search the local library catalogue over the internet provides the community with a dramatic increase in ease of access to local information resources as well as the resources of other libraries when libraries group together to maximise service provision with limited resources.

The Murraylink Libraries Inc network is based on a co-operatively owned and oper-

ated webserver, which provides the interface between the internet and the library database servers of each member library.

Launched in 1996, Murraylink Libraries Inc is a co-operative effort with a vision to create a network of Victorian public libraries along the Murray River from Echuca to the South Australian border. With the addition of Goulburn Valley and Wimmera Regional Libraries the network now serves a population of over 203 000 over an area of 46 308 square kilometres.

The Murraylink concept originated with a primary goal to improve access to the collections of the co-operating libraries, particularly through enabling remote access to library catalogues for library customers. Achieving this goal required the upgrading of the system hardware, software and communications networks of each of the four founding member libraries. Initial funding for the project was granted by the Victorian Department of Infrastructure, Office of Local Government. Member libraries plan to cover ongoing costs through the creation of new services and products, which enable an element of self-sufficiency.

A long-standing spirit of co-operation within rural public libraries in Victoria has seen this expansion of membership, and a continuing expansion of the services which member libraries share.

Murraylink Libraries Inc services now include a web presence, a shared multi-media collection, increased inter-library loan traffic, a co-operative buying scheme for new materials, a communications equipment pool, shared cataloguing resources and the sharing of in-house and out-sourced technological expertise.

Susan Liepa, project manager, Murraylink Libraries Inc



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Smith Library, 4-6pm. Cost \$1, \$2, \$5. Contact: Stephen Leahy, ph 08 8302 26219, [s.leahy@unisa.edu.au](mailto:s.leahy@unisa.edu.au)

## TAS

• **1/4 Tas Library Technicians TALIATecs Conference committee meeting.** Roberta Blackwood-Beattie on her experience in Sri Lanka. Phil Leonard Room, Launceston City Library. Meeting: 10am, lunch 12pm, bring a plate. General meeting will follow. Contact: Glencye Surtees, ph 03 64215571, [surteesg@tafe.tas.edu.au](mailto:surteesg@tafe.tas.edu.au)

## VIC

• **3/4 Home Library Service SIG meeting.** RVB Library, 85 High Street, Prahran, 10am. Contact: Janine Smith, ph 03 9521 3400, [smithja@rvbtbl.vic.gov.au](mailto:smithja@rvbtbl.vic.gov.au)

• **4/4 Vic Library Technician section.** Committee meeting. State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, meet in foyer at 6pm. For details contact: Kerrie Kelly, ph 03 9669 9721, [kkelly@sl.vic.gov.au](mailto:kkelly@sl.vic.gov.au)

• **13/4 Vic Special Libraries section.** Celebrate International Special Librarians' day with a visit to the National Meteorological Library, 150 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne (nearest station: Parliament Station). 5:30 for 6pm, followed by dinner at Café K, 35 Little Bourke Street. RSVP by 10/4 to: Clare Body, ph 03 9669 4471, [library@bom.gov.au](mailto:library@bom.gov.au)

• **18/4 Geelong Regional Group.** Guest speaker: Trevor Wakely on The professional Association in the new century. Deakin University, Woolstores Campus, Level 3, Library meeting Room, 1 Gheringhap Street, Geelong, 5:30 for 6pm. RSVP by 12/4 to: Tony Cavanagh, ph 03 5227 2718, [tonyc@deakin.edu.au](mailto:tonyc@deakin.edu.au) or Shirley Gilmore, ph 03 5278 9999, [gilmores@kardinia.vic.edu.au](mailto:gilmores@kardinia.vic.edu.au)

• **20-21/5 Joint Vic & NSW Library Technician sections.** Mildura weekend workshop. The Grand Hotel, Mildura. Contact: Kerrie Kelly, ph 03 9669 9721, [kkelly@sl.vic.gov.au](mailto:kkelly@sl.vic.gov.au) For registration information see: <http://www.alia.org.au/events/national.html>

• **5/6 Home Library Service SIG meeting.** Vision Australia Library, Glenferrie Road, Kooyong, 10am. Contact: Mieke Mellars, ph 03 9867 6022, fx 03 9820 1335, [mmellars@vict.net.au](mailto:mmellars@vict.net.au)

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

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

## WA

• **5/4-6/12 WA Children's & 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@coodburn.wa.gov.au](mailto:hilaryh@coodburn.wa.gov.au)

• **11/4-12/12 WA Public Libraries section meeting.** All members welcome! Morley Public Library, 7 Dewar Street, Morley, 4pm. Second Tuesday of each month, 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](mailto:jwillmott@canning.wa.gov.au)

• **17/4 WA Library Technicians section meeting.** Inglewood Library, 895 Beaufort Street, Inglewood. For further information contact: Brenda Ellen, ph 08 9266 4183, [ellenb@boris.curtin.edu.au](mailto:ellenb@boris.curtin.edu.au)

• **19/4 WA Branch CPD committee.** ALIA CPD program workshop. Facilitated by Branch CPD committee. Pamela Room, City of Stirling, Municipal offices, Civic Place, Stirling, 2-4pm, \$5pp. Contact: Ruth Schofield, ph 08 9370 5366, [schofieldruth22@hotmail.com](mailto:schofieldruth22@hotmail.com)

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