

Making news around Australia

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

tee. Esther Darby Theatre, TL Robertson Library, Curtin University, Hayman Road, Bentley, 5:30–8pm, \$5pp. Contact: Bonnie Bruce, ph 08 9266 2442, Bruceb@boris.curtin.edu.au. Kindly supported by Curtin University Library.

• **19/4 WA Specials Libraries section.** *Speaker on records management.* Upstairs Valentino's Café, Corner Lake & James, Northbridge, 7:30am, \$15 AIAA members, \$18 non-members. *RSVP by 12/4 to:* Carmen Romano, ph 08 9274 0246, <http://www.party.onwa.net/alia1904.htm> Cheques to PO Box 7582, Cloisters Square WA 6850.

• **28/4 WA Local Studies section.** *Launch of the Proceedings of Post Haste the Millennium.* Rose & Crown Hotel, Swan Street, Guildford, 5 for 5:30pm start. For further information contact: Jenni Woodroffe, ph 08 9367 4759, jenni@omen.com.au

• **9/5 WA Branch CPD committee.** *Managing electronic serials workshop.* Facilitated by AIMA/EBSO. Alexander Library Room 2.9, 9:30–12:30pm, \$100pp or \$85pp for groups of +3 from same organisation. For a registration form contact: AIMA, fx 03 6230 1690, info@aima.org.au See WAIN for more information.

• **10/5 WA Branch CPD committee.** *Serials solutions workshop.* Facilitated by AIMA/EBSO. Alexander Library Room 2.9, 1:30–4:30pm, \$50pp or \$45pp for groups of +3 from same organisation. For a registration form contact: AIMA, fx 03 6230 1690, info@aima.org.au See WAIN for more information.

• **16/5 WA Library Technicians section.** *Library Week Dinner.* Guest speaker & venue: tba. For further information contact: Brenda Ellen, ph 08 9266 4183, ellenb@boris.curtin.edu.au

• **21/5 WA Local Studies section.** *Journey to Joondalup,* including Peter Cowan Writers Centre at ECU Campus, including BYO picnic in grounds, Joondalup Library Local Studies Collection. *RSVP by 12/5 to:* Julie Zuvella, ph 08 9442 3562, fx 08 9389 8742, jzuvella@nedlands.wa.gov.au

• **31/5 WA Branch CPD committee.** *GST legislation update seminar.* Hosted by CAVAL. Speaker: Anton Gaudy, director, GST Made Easy, Great Southern Room, Alexander Library, 9:30–12:30pm, \$95pp. Contact: Sue Henczel, CAVAL, ph 03 9459 2722, fx 03 9459 2733, sueh@caval.edu.au See WAIN for more information.

• **31/5 WA Branch CPD committee.** *Copyright legislation update seminar.* Hosted by CAVAL. Speaker: Eve Woodberry director library services, Bond University, Great Southern Room, Alexander Library, 1:30–4:30pm, \$95pp. Contact: Sue Henczel, CAVAL, ph 03 9459 2722, fx 03 9459 2733, sueh@caval.edu.au See WAIN for more information.

• **14/6 WA Library Technicians section meeting.** CSIRO Library, corner Underwood Avenue & Brookway Road, Floreat, 5:30 for 5:45pm start. For further information contact: Lynley Thornber, ph 08 9333 6720. *Please note: change of venue.*

• **17/7 WA Library Technicians section meeting.** Reid Library Building, Library Training Room, Ground Floor, UWA, Stirling Highway, Nedlands. For further information contact: Judy Smith, ph 08 9380 2348.

• **15/8 WA Library Technicians section meeting.** Australian Society of CPAs, Australia Place, Level 1, 15-17 William Street (Corner William & St Georges Terrace). For further information contact: Bev Dallas, ph 08 9322 2242.

• **2/9 WA Local Studies section.** *Workshop at National Archives day workshop covering records relating to buildings, installations and people; opportunity to use Record Search, the National Archives database.* 10–4pm, \$50 AIAA members, \$60 non-members. Enquiries: Julie Zuvella, ph 08 9442 3562, fx 08 9389 8742, jzuvella@nedlands.wa.gov.au

• **13/9 WA Library Technicians section meeting.** Venue: tba, by the Mentoring Group, 5:30 for 5:45pm start. For further information contact: Brenda Ellen, ph 08 9266 4183, ellenb@boris.curtin.edu.au

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\$3m library top of Mayor Langford's Albury wish list

The Border Mail, 25 January, by Michael Lowe

A new library tops Albury City Council's budget planning for 2000 with spending on neighbourhood centres a close second. The budget, released in June, should include \$3million for a new library.

Council will have to decide if the library will be part of a cultural precinct as suggested in a report to council.

Downsizing a civilised society

The Advertiser (Adelaide), 3 February, by Dean Jaensch

Dr Dean Jaensch, professor of politics at Flinders University is concerned by the proposed \$400 000 funding cuts to public libraries in South Australia. He considers easy access to good libraries as one of the key indicators of a civilised society, and that the use of public money to guarantee this is not only justified, but essential. State government funding only makes up about twenty-five per cent of the cost of local libraries, with the balance being made up from local governments. Before locals complain about their next rate notice they should check out their local libraries — if the services offered are of a high standard, then some of their rates are being well used.

Librarians geared for new challenges

Moree Champion, 25 January, by Ros Ingham

Northern Regional Library and Information Service recently ran a two-day staff development program at the Moree Town Library. Seven branch librarians from four shires travelled to participate in the intensive training session. The training program was designed to help the librarians update their skills in areas such as making grant applications, library promotions and research techniques.

Library funding to assist blind

Wangaratta Chronicle, 21 January

Murraylink Library Group's service to users with a print disability will benefit from \$60 000 funding. The funding would contribute specifically to the Murray River Roving Talking Book Collection. The funding was announced by Minister for Local Government, Bob Cameron.

Frogs 'read-it' at Joondalup library

Wanneroo Times, 28 January

It appeared to be raining, not cats and dogs, but frogs at the Joondalup City Council li-

brary after the latest unseasonal summer downpours. Hundreds of amphibians infested the library's underground car park. Librarians took to the reference shelves to determine what type of frogs they were and where they came from. According to 'A guide to the reptiles and frogs of the Perth region' the frogs are Sandplain Froglets, just how they got to the library's carpark remains a mystery, though one wag said the frogs were heard to say: 'Read-it, read-it, read-it...'

\$1 million for library: Cameron

Castlemain Mail, 4 February

MLC Bob Cameron visited Castlemain to formally announce the state government will proceed with the Castlemain Library upgrade. \$1 million was pledged as part of Labor's election platform, for re-development of the library.

Online library intends to add 200 new books a day

The Canberra Times, 21 February, by Michael Conlon

A new website is the ground floor of a growing electronic library containing the full texts of more than 10 000 books. NetLibrary plans to add approximately 200 books a day in the near future. The site offers about 2800 books in the public domain. Users can also access thousands more titles still under copyright through the site and through academic and other libraries to which the company sells the electronic versions.

Audit to measure academic efforts

The Australian, 23 February, by Dorothy Illing

A recent symposium in Sydney examined the issues involved in the first review of the relative funding model for allocating university finance. Measuring how academics spend their time will be part of an audit of teaching costs in universities, as will the cost of libraries, information technology and other services. The Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs has commissioned KPMG Consulting to examine the cost of teaching and research training per student on the basis of field, method and level of study.

Concern is growing about how the data will be used and its potential for manipulation.

Libraries hit by cut in Govt funds

Stirling Times, 8 February

Stirling libraries are suffering from a shortage of new books and the council is spending more on library services because of declining state government funds for libraries. Kay Poustie, council manager for libraries, arts and culture said that local government is paying a tremen-

dous amount for library services and the state government isn't paying its share.

Australia seen as 'hacker's haven'

Financial Review, 28 February, by Brendan Pearson

American software and recording industry groups have launched an attack on proposed reforms to digital copyright in Australia. The groups believe that the legislation will create a black-market in decryption devices, password sniffers and similar cyber crime technology. The concerns stem from a loophole in the draft legislation which allows for the sale and distribution of 'hacker's tools' on the condition that the purchaser agreed to use the tools only for one of several permitted purposes.

Australia: a nation on the net

The Age, 2 March, by Garry Barker

One in four Australian households has access to the internet, an increase of almost thirty-seven per cent. It is one of the fastest growth rates in the world and puts Australia well up in the top half-dozen of the most wired-up countries.

The statistics, published by the ABS, suggest that many people still depend on access to the internet from work. According to the survey the sites of internet access most likely to be reported by adults are: work and home; a friend's or neighbours house; TAFEs or other tertiary institutions; public libraries; shops, stores or tele-cafes; schools; and government agencies or departments.

Eyah wins access to Chinese wisdom

The Australian, 2 March, by Nic Hopkins

Eyah.com, a Sydney-based company, has snared the rights to provide internet access to China's massive National Library. Trent Huang said he would soon be providing access to the library's contents to web surfers in Australia and New Zealand — rights to markets outside Australia and New Zealand have yet to be granted. The agreement is the first time the Chinese government has offered online access to the library.

Catholic database is online

The Australian, 1 March

The Australian Catholic University is providing the first web-based searchable database of resources held by Catholic organisations. CathLINK Australia's database includes online access to religious communities, Catholic universities, colleges and seminaries, counselling and pastoral institutes, diocesan agencies and Catholic education offices. Each library and agency listed on the site has its own profile with online library catalogue links. The site

provides annotated links to national Catholic web sites and selected international sites.

Ozbooks in a hurry to be known

The Sydney Morning Herald, 1 March, by Kirsty Needham

Ozbooks, the first pure internet book retailer to launch in Australia, has announced that it needs to raise approximately \$5 million to compete in the local e-tail market. Most of the funds will need to be spent on marketing the service. Since the service was launched in 1998 it has sold goods to 10 000 Australian households.

Consortium aims for cheaper books

The Australian, 1 March, by Diana Thorpe

Six Victorian university libraries and the State Library of Victoria have formed a consortium to purchase books. The consortium should save the libraries thousands of dollars. The Victorian Academic and Research Libraries Consortium is a two-year agreement for the supply of current English language books, as well as the provision of electronic cataloguing records and processing. Two tenders by the consortium have already been let — to James Bennett Library Services for supply of books from Australia and New Zealand, and to YBP for overseas books.

Bookmarks in time

The Age, 12 January, by Jennifer Verrall

Jennifer Verrall profiles Dianne Reilly, La Trobe Librarian at the State Library of Victoria. Dianne has been with the State Library since she left school, starting out as a library trainee. She now presides over the special collections division — making her custodian of some of the State's most valuable historic treasures.

Library becomes a zone for homework

Area News — Griffith, 23 February, by Kurt Webb

Students in Griffith will get free help with their homework and assignments as part of a unique State Library of NSW project. Griffith was selected as one of three regional libraries to pilot the Reader's Digest 'Homework Zone' program, that has been designed to improve the educational resources and services offered to young people in regional New South Wales.

The \$75 000 program will see the library 'Homework zone' equipped with a computer with full internet and CD-ROM access, as well as numerous reference works. Also provided will be a part-time after-school tutor over a three-year period. The Homework zone is targeted at students in Year 5 through to Year 12. ■

- 16/10 WA Library Technicians section meeting. Deacons Graham & Jones, Boardroom, Level 31, Bankwest Tower, 108 St Georges Terrace, Perth. For further information contact: Sharon Beccaria, ph 08 9426 3254.

- 11/11 WA Children's & Youth Services section. Annual General meeting. Venue: tba. For further information contact: Hilary Hatfield, ph 08 9411 3494, fx 08 9411 3493, hilaryh@coodbum.wa.gov.au

- 14/11 WA Library Technicians section. Meeting/AGM/dinner. Venue: LISWA, 5:30 for 5:45pm start. For further information contact: Brenda Ellen, ph 08 9266 4183, ellenb@boris.curtin.edu.au

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

National

11-14/5 Children's Book Council of Australia Fifth National Conference. *The Third Millennium — Read On!* National Convention Centre, Canberra ACT. Early Bird Registration closes 24/3. Further information is available on the following site: <http://www.schools.ash.org.au/stubbs/cbonational/conference.htm>

- 16/5 National Library Technicians day. Events will be organised by Technician groups in all States and Territories. For more information contact: Kathy Sharrad, president, National Library Technician section, kathysha@tafe.sa.edu.au or the president of the Library Technician section in your State or Territory.

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.edu.au/ATUL>

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

- 23/10 Australian Serials Special Interest Group. *Serials 2005-future directions*. National Library of Australia. For more information contact: Jenni Jeremy, ph 08 8302 6720, jenni.jeremy@unisa.edu.au

Conference

- 23-27/10 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 URL <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.

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