

For more information contact: Tricia Murray, secretary, ph 03 9925 2063, patricia.murray@rmit.edu.au

• **5/5-18/8 Vic School Libraries section.** *General meeting.* Santa Maria College Resource Centre, 50 Separation Street, Northcote, 9:30am. All members are welcome. (5/5, 2/6, 21/7, 18/8).

• **4/6 Home Library Service SIG.** *General meeting.* Fitzroy Library. Contact: Nahum Hall, ph 03 9249 4296, fx 03 9311 0048, nahumrh@brim.vic.gov.au

• **7/7 Vic Library Technicians section.** *Techs on tour.* A look at library technicians' work. Tours of SLV, keynote speaker, special library visit and lunch. State Library of Victoria, 9:30am. Cost: ALIA members \$10, non-members \$12. Contact: Kerrie Kelly, ph 03 9669 9037, kkelly@slv.vic.gov.au

• **6/8 Home Library Service SIG.** *General meeting.* Kingston Library Service. Contact: Nahum Hall, 03 9249 4296, fx 03 9311 0048, nahumrh@brim.vic.gov.au

• **1/10 Home Library Service SIG.** *General meeting.* Royal Victorian Institute for The Blind. Contact: Nahum Hall, 03 9249 4296, fx 03 9311 0048, nahumrh@brim.vic.gov.au

• **20/10 Vic School Libraries section.** *General meeting.* Venue: tba, 9:30am. All members are welcome.

WA

• **9/4-15/10 WA Library Technicians section.** *General meeting.* Venue: tba, 5:45pm start. (9/4, 14/8, 12/9, 15/10). *RSVP contact:* Sandra Wilson, s.m.wilson@curtin.edu.au

• **15/5 WA Library Technicians section.** *National Library & Information Week.* Venue: tba, 5:45pm start. *RSVP contact:* Sandra Wilson, s.m.wilson@curtin.edu.au

• **20/5 WA Local Studies section.** *Visit to Perth Mint.* Breakfast 7:45am, tour 9:30am, Gold Pour 10am, talk by Anthea Harris. *RSVP:* Jan McCahon, ph 08 9361 1977 fx 08 9470 5802, jmccahon@vicpark.wa.gov.au

• **13/6 WA Library Technicians section.** *Annual General meeting.* Venue: tba, 5:45pm start. *RSVP contact:* Sandra Wilson, s.m.wilson@curtin.edu.au

• **14/6 WA Local Studies section.** *Annual General meeting.* *Guest speaker: Fay Overheu* on Lotteries funding programs covering cultural heritage, grants, etc. National Archives, commencing 5:30pm. *RSVP to:* Julie Zuvela ph 08 9330 5537, jzuvela@ozemail.com.au

• **9/7 WA Library Technicians section.** *General meeting.* Host: Judy Clayden. School of Computer & Information Studies, Edith Cowan University, Mount Lawley Campus, 5:45pm start. *RSVP contact:* Sandra Wilson, s.m.wilson@curtin.edu.au

• **16/8 WA Local Studies section.** *Advance notice: Museums assistance programme, guest speaker: Ros Brown.* Venue: tba. Contact Julie Zuvela, ph 08 9330 5537, jzuvela@ozemail.com.au

National

• **14-20/5 Library and Information Week.** *Libraries 2001: knowledge outlook.* 4-page brochure of products available in the March issue of *inCite*. Further information is available from ALIA National Office, PO Box E441, Kingston 2604, ph 02 6285 1877, fx 02 6282 2249, enquiry@alia.org.au, <http://www.alia.org.au/alw/>

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Making news around Australia

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

Library staff take dispute to court
Illawarra Mercury, 7 February,
by Lisa Sewell

Library staff from the Illawarra Institute of TAFE held a stopwork meeting to have their dispute over the termination of temporary employees heard at an Industrial Commission hearing. Claiming the terminations were in breach of Department of Education and Training and TAFE policies, the Public Service Association (PSA) demanded the reinstatement of the four temporary staff, who had been relieving in vacant permanent positions. The PSA said that the staff cuts were the latest in a funding crisis, which had resulted in severely reduced library services across most campuses within the Illawarra Institute, including a 9 per cent budget cut over two years.

Koori community goes online
Port Macquarie News, 7 February

Kempsey Koori Community Network is one of a number of community organisations to go online as part of the NSW Government's Rural Link program. NSW Information Technology Minister, Kim Yeadon, said Rural Link would see the State Library and the Department of Information Technology and Management work together to provide online access to branch libraries, councils and community technology centres. Ninety regional towns across NSW and the ACT will receive online access through Rural Link, providing free internet and computer training for small communities.

Study into library revamp
Shepparton News, 9 February

Echuca's library could undergo a full revamp as part of a twenty-year strategy for library services in the region. Campaspe Shire Council has launched a feasibility study to assess redevelopment. The inadequacies of the present library are well documented, with the current floor space of 350 square metres falling well short of the 1300 square metres recommended by a recently published guide for public library buildings.

Networking rural communities
Great Southern Herald (WA), 14 February

The delivery of online local government services in regional Western Australia will soon become a reality following a \$6 million grant from the Federal Government's Networking the Nation fund. The two funded projects — 'Linking Councils and Communities' and 'Community Access to the Information Age' — will result in a co-ordinated and integrated approach to the delivery of online services in rural WA.

The Linking Councils and Communities project aims to develop community-focused

online services for delivery by individual local governments. Initial funding of \$1.2 million was granted for project planning, with a further \$4.4 million set aside for implementation.

The Community Access to the Information Age project focuses on community access to online technology via the internet through selected rural public libraries and council offices. It received funding of \$230 000.

E-books a Victorian library first
Diamond Valley News (Nillumbik),
14 February

Plenty Valley Library Service, which manages libraries in Nillumbik, Banyule and Whittlesea, has bought its first 'softbook', a hand-held device that can carry up to sixty books in their memory. At the leading edge of technology, the 'softbook', a type of electronic book, or 'e-book', is a first for Victorian libraries. Weighing little more than a kilogram, each device costs about \$1000. The Victorian Libraries Board has awarded Plenty Valley librarian Pam Saunders a scholarship to research e-books and the impact they will have on library use. She hopes to travel to the US this year to continue her research.

Cash-strapped library service
Hamilton Spectator, 15 February

Glenelg Regional Library has made a plea for a substantial injection of funds from Southern Grampians and Glenelg Shires if current service levels are to be maintained. Southern Grampians Shire spends 3.3 per cent of its rates on library services and Glenelg 3.1 per cent. Other councils spend up to 9.7 per cent. Glenelg Regional Library is hoping both councils will increase their contribution by at least 12 per cent to enable it to weather the current crisis. Another \$48 000 is needed to reach the state average. The library has averaged an annual \$65 000 loss over the last four years.

Library lovers on the increase
Mudgee Guardian and Gulgong Advertiser,
16 February

Figures tabled at a recent Mudgee Shire Council meeting show a leap of more than 80 per cent in loans from the Mudgee Shire Library, compared with figures for the previous year. Library membership has also skyrocketed. Since 1998, membership at the Mudgee branch has increased 89 per cent, while membership in Gulgong increased 59.5 per cent. Borrowings increased at Mudgee by 44 per cent, with a 15 per cent increase in bookmobile usage. Library staff put their success down to an increase in services and an associated shift in people's perceptions of what a library is.

Overhaul results in closures

Geelong Independent, 16 February,
by John van Klaveren

Three Geelong libraries will close under a sweeping redevelopment program that will cost the City of Greater Geelong an extra \$60 000 a year. While branch libraries at Newtown, Grovedale and North Geelong will close, councillors voted to build a new library at Lara, to investigate the potential for another at Waurin Ponds, and to upgrade or relocate libraries at Geelong West, Corio and in the City of Geelong. The review process involved more than twelve months of community consultation. The restructure would add \$60 000 to council's \$2.2 million contribution to the Geelong Regional Library Service.

Primary internet training

Queensland Times (Ipswich), 17 February

Ipswich Library staff will give students the skills to use the vast resources of the internet for their school assignments in a new training program to be offered to students in Grade 4 and above. The 'Researching School Projects on the Web' program will give students the opportunity to work on homework or specific school projects, or to develop their internet searching skills. Training sessions will include internet awareness for beginners, communicating on the internet — web-based electronic mail, introductory internet sessions for languages other than English, web-based home page construction, and online shopping.

New talking books

Queanbeyan Age, 19 February

The NSW State Government will provide the Bega Valley Shire Library with \$25 916 to improve services and public access to the library's collection. The money will enable the Bega Valley library to improve services for the aged and disabled, by meeting the cost of replacing the existing talking book collection.

What's in a name?

Age, 20 February, by Jenny Sinclair

Competition in Australian domain names should be open to all, according to a recent report from a panel of leading internet authorities and industry representatives. The long-awaited competition model report says that new registrars would be allowed to sell names in all the second-level domains (com.au, net.au, org.au) except for 'closed' spaces like gov.au. AuDA would be responsible for ensuring that accrediting registrars met technical and business standards and complied with auDA naming and disputes policy. AuDA has not set a firm date for introducing competition, but it is expected by the end of this year.

Call for more funds

Guardian Express, 20 February

A campaign by WA's public libraries has been mounted to restore new book alloca-

tions for library users. A WA Local Government Librarian Association (WALGLA) spokeswoman said State Government funding barely represented 50 per cent of the new book input to meet accepted standards of stock. The spokeswoman said that this year local government would cover more than 75 per cent of the financial burden of public libraries in WA.

Libraries likely to be shelved

Emerald Hill Times, 21 February

The future of the Emerald Hill and Middle Park libraries looks grim, following a damning review which found that the continued operation of Port Phillip Council's two small libraries could not be justified. The review panel favoured concentrating resources on the three larger libraries — Port Melbourne, Albert Park and St Kilda — with a view to maximising space, consolidating collections and developing value-added services. The panel recommended that Middle Park Library be used as a newspaper reading room with a 'grey net' service, where older people could learn to use the internet. It also suggested that the Emerald Hill Library in South Melbourne be transformed into an externally funded Urban Heritage Centre, where historical materials could be housed and people could research their family history.

Longer opening hours

Blue Mountains Gazette, 21 February

Residents of Lawson will soon be able to take advantage of longer opening hours at their local library, thanks to extra funding allocated by Blue Mountains City Council. A total of \$16 000 will be added to the 2001-02 budget to enable the Lawson library to open every Wednesday for seven hours, bringing the total days of operation for the branch to six. An extra \$10 000 will also be included in the budget for the purchase of library materials.

Funding boost for libraries

Armidale Express, 21 February

Libraries at Guyra, Inverell and Tenterfield have received a \$53 000 boost in funding to upgrade their facilities. Projects receiving funding include new air-conditioning for the Guyra Shire Library, access improvements for the Inverell Shire Library involving the installation of automatic sliding doors and a newly designed and located customer service desk, and new books and resources for the elderly at the Tenterfield Public Library.

New Torquay library

Geelong Advertiser, 26 February

Torquay's planned new public library is to receive \$63 000 from the Victorian Government's \$12 million Living Libraries fund. The money, from the Community Support Fund, will go toward the \$260 000 construction costs for a new library shared by the Torquay Primary School. The new building will enable the library to extend its opening hours from 13 to 29 hours per week. ■



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- 14/5 Library and Information Week. *Information rights day.*
- 15/5 Library and Information Week. *National Library Technicians day.*
- 16/5 Library and Information Week. *Thank you day.*
- 17/5 Library and Information Week. *National simultaneous storytime.*
- 18/5 Library and Information Week. *Libraries online day.*

Conference

- 21-24/8 11th National Library Technicians conference. *An information odyssey.* The Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart Tas. Conference organiser: Mures Convention Management, ph 03 6234 1424, fx 03 6234 4464, conventions@mures.com.au, <http://www.alia.org.au/sections/libt/conferences/2001/>
- 26-29/8 9th Special, Health & Law Libraries conference. *Rivers of knowledge.* Melbourne Convention Centre, Melbourne Vic. Conference secretariat: The Meeting Planners, ph 03 9417 0888, fx 03 9417 0899, adocherty@meetingplanners.com.au, <http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/shllc/2001/>
- 12-14/10 2001 RAISS conference. *Revealing in reference 2001 — reference and information service section symposium.* Symposium themes: share the best; learn the new; make the difference. VUT Conference Centre, Melbourne. For more information please visit the Revealing in Reference web site <http://raiss2001.monash.org/>
- 21-23/10 2001 National TAFE libraries conference. *Passion power people — TAFE Libraries Leading the Way.* Sheraton Hotel, Brisbane Qld. Conference organiser: Organisers Australia, PO Box 1237, Milton, Qld 4064, ph 07 3369 7866, fx 07 3367 1471, vanessa@orgaus.com.au <http://www.alia.org.au/sections/tafe/conferences/> Please note: correct dates above.
- 7-9/11 14th National ALIA Cataloguing conference. *Seachange: cataloguing in a dot com world.* Deakin University, Geelong Waterfront Campus. Conference chair: Ebe Kartus, ph 03 5227 8228, kartus@deakin.edu.au
- 12-14/11 Public Libraries national conference. Melbourne Vic. Conference chair: Julie Rae, jrae@bayside.vic.gov.au

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