

# Who's Where

## Recent movements in the library and information sector

### Royal Botanic Gardens

**Roberta Cowan** has taken a number of years to complete her library qualifications and will have a master's degree in information management, from Curtin University, Department of Information Studies midway through 2003. Next year is also important in Roberta's life because she has been selected as the Australian Botanical Liaison Officer (ABLO) at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (RBGKew) (London) for twelve months. Dr Cowan is the first librarian, the first marine botanist (her doctorate was on red seaweeds), the first person from a university and the seventh woman ever to take up the role. During the twelve months at RBGKew, Dr Cowan will start work on a twenty-five-year project, Taxonomic Literature Cryptogamia (TLC) a bibliographic database of non-flowering plant information.

Since the 1930s, an ABLO has been appointed annually to work at the Herbarium, RBGKew. Charles Gardiner, the Government Botanist, WA was the first ABLO in 1937 and this position has been held subsequently by many prominent Australian botanists. The ABLO services botanical enquiries from Australian and New Zealand sources, particularly but not exclusively from botanists working in State and Commonwealth herbaria, using the facilities at Kew, the Natural History Museum, London, and where necessary, other European herbaria. These enquiries may involve using the plant collections, archive collection and library collections. For more information on the ABLO and how to access information through the position visit <http://www.ea.gov.au/biodiversity/abrs/about/training/ablo/index.html>.

Roberta is taking a leave of absence from her part-time position as information resources officer, East Metropolitan Health Service: Population Health Unit and from her work as Research Fellow with Curtin Business School, Curtin University. Both of these positions have allowed Roberta to build up her library research skills and will make the work for TLC much easier. At the end of the twelve months she will return to both positions.

### One Umbrella

The One Umbrella Brisbane office has relocated to brand new and larger premises and also has a new telephone number. Here it is for your records: 07 3394 2899. The Brisbane team also welcomes a new team member, **Cerita Larmour**, who has just transferred from the Sydney office. See the

website for more details: <http://www.oneumbrella.com.au>.

### EBSCO Information Services welcomes Deirdre McNally

EBSCO is delighted to welcome **Deirdre McNally** as national sales manager and sales representative. Deirdre's extensive experience in the information industry, and her knowledge of the Australian library market in particular, will be a welcome asset to EBSCO's sales force in Australia. Deirdre will be based at EBSCO's Melbourne office and will be looking after special, public, TAFE and school libraries in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. 'I will also be visiting some academic libraries in Tasmania and parts of Victoria, as I'm keen to maintain my contacts in this sector too,' she said.

Deirdre's first job in Australia — fresh from Ireland in 1972 — was in the books department at Farmers Department Store on George Street, Sydney, and she has remained in the industry every since. She has worked in the acquisitions and cataloguing departments at ANU and for publishers, book and subscription agents. After many years at Blackwells focusing on books and journals, she began concentrating on serials when Swets and Blackwells merged in 2000.

Deirdre is well known in ALIA circles having served as an office bearer of the Acquisitions section, Special Libraries section (Vic) and the Victorian Branch Council. She is a regular presenter at ALIA events and an enthusiastic participant at conferences. Deirdre's considered comments and willingness to work with conference committees have helped shape the form and flavour of some of our trade exhibitions and her humour has added much to some of the extra curricula (and memorable) activities surrounding conferences.

'The combination of this newly created position and the introduction of EBSCO's new electronic journals service makes this an exciting time to join the company. It also means I'm now part of the biggest locally based team of any subscription agency in Australia,' she said.

### Books Alive reference group

**Sandra Yates** has accepted the position of chair of the Books Alive reference group. Sandra has been involved in mass communication throughout her career, particularly in the magazine industry. She was publisher of *Time Magazine* from 1990 to 1993, and was responsible for turning the magazine into the No 1 news and business maga-

zine in Australia.

Sandra also has a long history of working with the Fairfax organisation, culminating in setting up Fairfax Publications in the United States in 1987. In 1988, with her then business partner, Dr Anne Summers, she founded Matilda Publications Inc, which published a magazine for teenage girls, *Sassy*, and the feminist icon *Ms*.

In 1994/95, she chaired the Australian Council for Women, the Australian Government's advisory body for the 4<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on Women held in Beijing in September 1995. In this capacity, she was a government adviser and delegate to the conference.

She is also a passionate music-lover, who has recently acquired a harpsichord, and is now deeply immersed in the works of Bach and Scarlatti. In 1999/2000, she led the Saatchi & Saatchi research project for the Australia Council for the Arts, which culminated in the widely acclaimed report, *Australians and the Arts*, and which documented for the first time Australians attitudes to the arts.

In June 2002, she was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for services to women's organisations, vocational education and training, and the advertising industry.

### Appointments to

#### Privacy Advisory Committee

**Dr John O'Brien, Mr Peter Coroneos and Associate Professor Kathy Alexander** have been appointed as part-time members of the Privacy Advisory Committee until 30 June 2005.

The Privacy Advisory Committee advises the Federal Privacy Commissioner on matters relevant to his functions, recommends material for inclusion in the Commissioner's guidelines and engages in community education.

Dr O'Brien is a senior lecturer in industrial relations at the University of New South Wales. In 2001, he was a visiting research fellow at both Cardiff University and the University of Sydney.

Mr Coroneos has been chief executive of the Internet Industry Association since 1997 and has held a variety of high level advisory and consultative appointments.

Associate Professor Kathy Alexander is the chief executive officer of Women's and Children's Health in Victoria. She has worked in public health as a chief executive officer in community health, as a hospital board member and as an educator of health professionals since 1983. ■