

Making news...

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazine in recent months

Fifth-time lucky for department merger

Canberra Times, 14 August,
by Verona Burgess

The three 'service departments' of Parliament House — the Joint House Department, the Parliamentary Library, and the Department of the Parliamentary Reporting Staff — will merge into one department. It is believed that the merger will save between \$5 million and \$10 million per year. The position of the parliamentary librarian will be established at a senior level within the amalgamated departments. The Parliamentary Library will be granted independence by Charter from the presiding officers. This will be reinforced by strengthening the current terms of reference for the joint Library Committee.

Home for tomes

Bulletin with Newsweek, 12 August

When the founders of South Australia arrived at Port Misery (now Port Adelaide) in 1836 they had with them a trunk of books — the beginnings of a library. Some of that first collection is now held in the newly-refurbished Spence Wing of the State Library of South Australia. On the first day of opening, more than 7000 people visited the refurbished library.

**Vibrant but still serene,
our libraries keep on coming up trumps**
Sunday Canberra Times, 10 August,
by Renee Cutrupi

Renee Cutrupi talks to the general manager of ACT Library and Information Service, Merrilee Pigram, and discovers that the old stereotypes of libraries and librarians are long gone. On average more than two million visits are made to Canberra's public libraries each year. Merrilee believes that part of the reason that ACT libraries are so popular is that they have kept up with changes in technology and customer needs.

**Take a leaf from Kennett's book,
library advocates urge the state**
Melbourne Times, 6 August, by Clay Lucas
Barbara Horn, CEO of Yarra Melbourne

Regional Library Corporation says that over the past twenty years, state government funding of libraries has fallen from fifty per cent to ten per cent. And while the Bracks Government has spent big on capital works, Ms Horn is worried that the day-to-day running costs have to be met by cash-strapped local councils. The government argues that it has actually increased library funding each year since it was elected, but Yarra Councillor Jackie Fristacky says that the government has not taken into consideration the increased running costs of libraries.

Library eats into rates: state subsidy shrinking

Bayside Leader, 4 August, by Kate Williams

Bayside Council has blamed dwindling state government funding for library services for increased council rates. Ian Wilson, Bayside Council CEO, said that the state government now covered less than twenty-five per cent of the library service's running costs. He said that despite state government funding failing to keep pace with increased costs, rigid guidelines still had to be met — such as free entrance, and access to the internet — to be eligible for grants.

Fees, charges set to rise at libraries

Bayside Leader, 4 August

Bayside Council has released a new schedule of fees for library services. While internet access will remain free, the cost for having books home-delivered will rise from \$66 per year, to \$110. Some fees and charges have been reduced, such as the cost of a replacement library card and the price of computer disks.

Library at risk from funding shortfalls

Lilydale and Yarra Valley Leader, 4 August,
by Andy Drewitt

John Binnion says that Lilydale Library cannot continue to operate viably without extra state government funding. State government library funding has been falling in real terms over the past seven years, and as a result staffing levels have dramatically

continued next page... ▶



... from previous page

377, short_courses@apesma-ed.com

9-10/10 APESMA: short course.
Risk management. Brisbane. Cost: members \$650, non-members \$750. Contact: APESMA Management Education, ph 1300 853 377, short_courses@apesma-ed.com

• **15/10 QLD OPAL.** *General meeting.* Hopgood Ganim Lawyers, 141 Queen Street, City, 12:30-2:00pm. Host: Helen Gambley, heg@hopgoodganim.com.au

• **20/11 Quorum Group.** *General meeting.* Brisbane City Council Central Library Theaterette, 5:00pm for 5:30pm. A gold coin is requested to cover the costs of light refreshments. Contact: Joy Goldsmith, joy_goldsmith@hotmail.com

SA

8-9/9 APESMA: short course.
Finance for non-financial people. Adelaide. Cost: members \$650, non-members \$750. Contact: APESMA Management Education, ph 1300 853 377, short_courses@apesma-ed.com

• **15/9 SA Library Technicians.** *General meeting.* The Left Bank, 165 Pulteney St Adelaide, 6:00pm, all welcome. Contact: Fairlie Sampson, library@tauondi.sa.edu.au

• **20/10 SA Library Technicians.** *General meeting.* The Left Bank, 165 Pulteney St Adelaide, 6:00pm, all welcome. Contact: Fairlie Sampson, library@tauondi.sa.edu.au

21/10 Australian Copyright Council. *Training day:* Basics \$66; 11:00am Text & Images, \$88; 2:00pm AV resources: videos DVDs, CDs, \$66; 3:30pm Internet & Digital Licences \$77. Art Gallery of SA. 9:30am. Details at <http://www.copyright.org.au>, ph 02 9699 3247.

21-22/10 APESMA: short course.
Negotiation skills and dispute resolution. Adelaide. Cost: members \$650, non-members \$750. Contact: APESMA Management Education, ph 1300 853 377, short_courses@apesma-ed.com

• **17/11 SA Library Technicians.** *General meeting.* The Left Bank, 165 Pulteney St Adelaide, 6:00pm, all welcome. Contact: Fairlie Sampson, library@tauondi.sa.edu.au

TAS

9-10/10 APESMA: short course.
Project management. Hobart. Cost: members \$650, non-members \$750. Contact: APESMA Management Education, ph 1300 853 377, short_courses@apesma-ed.com

VIC

• **5/9 National Acquisitions.** *Seminar: Collaboration in Acquisitions: changes in the way we work.* State Library of Victoria Theaterette, Entry 3 La Trobe Street, Melbourne, 9:00am-4:30pm. Cost: \$100 ALIA members,

continued next page...

Flexible knowledge management solutions

Start small and develop at your own pace.

From simple cataloguing to complete knowledge management on your intranet, Maxus can supply the solutions and has the resources to support your system as it grows, right across Australia.

Inmagic DB/TextWorks[®] solutions from Maxus.

For free demonstration software or further information contact Maxus on (03) 9646 1988 or your local representative:

WA Infodata (08) 9433 4992
QLD Resource Options (07) 3849 1383



PO Box 727 South Melbourne
Victoria 3205, Australia
maxus@maxus.net.au
www.maxus.net.au
(03) 9646 1988



... from previous page

\$130 non-members, \$50 students. Contact: Robert Elson, ph 08 8204 0487, robert.elson@courts.sa.gov.au

16–17/9 APESMA: short course. *Managing consultants and contractors.* Melbourne. Cost: members \$650, non-members \$750. Contact: APESMA Management Education, ph 1300 853 377, short_courses@apesma-ed.com

23–24/9 APESMA: short course. *Strategic asset management.* Melbourne. Cost: members \$650, non-members \$750. Contact: APESMA Management Education, ph 1300 853 377, short_courses@apesma-ed.com

29–30/9 APESMA: short course. *Strategic marketing for technical people.* Melbourne. Cost: members \$650, non-members \$750. Contact: APESMA Management Education, ph 1300 853 377, short_courses@apesma-ed.com

7–8/10 APESMA: short course. *Contract management.* Melbourne. Cost: members \$650, non-members \$750. Contact: APESMA Management Education, ph 1300 853 377, short_courses@apesma-ed.com

• **25/10 Schools Victoria.** *A celebration of best evidence-based practice.* Learn more about best evidence-based practice, determine future directions and develop a framework for ongoing collegial support. Contact: Kris Johnstone, ph 03 9885 4501, kris.johnstone@sacrecoeur.melb.catholic.edu.au

• **25/10 Schools Victoria.** *Committee meeting.* Santa Maria College Library, Northcote, 9:30am. All members are warmly welcome to attend. Contact: Anne Girolami, secretary, ph 03 9851 1525, anneg@marcellin.vic.edu.au. The meeting will follow the PD activity organised for that day.

• **27/10 Schools Victoria.** *School libraries day dinner.* joint dinner with SLAV is planned to celebrate School Libraries Day. Contact: Kris Johnstone, ph 03 9885 4501, kris.johnstone@sacrecoeur.melb.catholic.edu.au

11–12/11 APESMA: short course. *Project management.* Melbourne. Cost: members \$650, non-members \$750. Contact: APESMA Management Education, ph 1300 853 377, short_courses@apesma-ed.com

• **15/11 Schools Victoria.** *Committee meeting.* Santa Maria College Library, Northcote, 9:30am. All members are warmly welcome to attend. Contact: Anne Girolami, secretary, ph 03 9851 1525, anneg@marcellin.vic.edu.au.

18–19/11 APESMA: short course. *Risk management.* Melbourne. Cost: members \$650, non-members

continued next page...

Making news continued...

dropped. He said that libraries in the group also have less money to purchase library materials.

Many more stories appeared in local Victorian papers about this issue, including 'Library funding irks councils' by Andrew Webster in the *Diamond Valley Leader*, Banyule on 30 July, and 'Libraries seek balance' by Andrew Webster and Jamie Duncan in the *Heidelberg Leader* on 29 July.

Council's 'user-pays' library system questioned

Wentworth Courier, 30 July, by Nick Olle
Woollahra Council has moved to discontinue the \$50 000 annual contribution to Waverley Library, and has made a submission to the Minister for the Arts to introduce a user-pays library system. Waverley councillor Sam Einfeld says he has a 'philosophical objection to charging for library services...'

Libraries fall short — report

Knox Leader, 29 July, by Shannon Norris

A State government review of the Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation has found that four of Knox Council's libraries rate lower than the state benchmark in several categories — the eastern region's rate of membership is the lowest in the state, the library members borrowed fewer books than the average, staff numbers are lower, the number of public access computer terminals and the number of books available are all lower than average. The local council wants the state government to provide more funding so that services can improve.

CQU joins national library survey

Daily Mercury (Mackay), 28 July

The Central Queensland University's Mackay Campus is undertaking a survey of library users to determine the overall level of satisfaction with the service. The survey is conducted in most Australian universities, and the results are benchmarked against other academic libraries. CQU Library is also participating in an Australian Research Council grant for the development of an Australian Academic Research Library Information Network (AARLIN) portal for research sharing.

Phonic youth

Age, 28 July, by Alice Russell

An in-depth article about the advantages of using phonics to teach children to read. Professor Kevin Wheldall from Macquarie University's Special Education Centre in Sydney says that there is not sufficient attention being given to literacy. He is concerned that too many children still have trouble learning to read.

Valuing learning for its own sake

Age, 28 July, by Alice Russell

A small group of academics from a va-

riety of backgrounds share the view that the modern university has gone too far down the corporate, vocational, student-as-customer path. The group, Akedemos, is registered as a co-operative and offers education that values learning for its own sake, and the only 'fees' are the purchase of a \$20 share.

What have they done to our library

Age, 26 July, by Rachel Buchanan

Rachel Buchanan likens sitting in the refurbished Domed Reading Room of the State Library of Victoria to being 'trapped inside a gigantic pavlova. It is a space that is sweet and light and fluffy.' She believes that the room is now too light and there is too much white. She says that the room is 'exquisitely beautiful ... but that does not mean it makes a good reading room'.

Move to standardise libraries

Portland Observer, 25 July

The Library Board of Victoria has proposed a state-wide standardised research and library circulation system, SWIFT. The Board believes that the SWIFT initiative will result in a single strategy to manage libraries' resources and bandwidth requirements across the state. The Board will approach the Victorian government for funding for the initiative later this year.

Literary history in the making

North Shore Times, 25 July,

by Scott Howlett

David Jones, from the State Library of New South Wales, was in Chatswood, the birthplace of free library services in New South Wales, talking to residents about the Civic Place re-development, which includes a new library. Dr Jones said that there is no better time to invest in libraries.

Mystery of tome set in stone

Newcastle Herald, 24 July,

by Carly Hennessy

A donation of an unusual artifact to the Newcastle University Library has generated much debate. There are several theories on the possible origins of the stone book. Gianni Di Gravio, Auchmuty Library archive officer believes that it could have been a stone missal that acted as a substitute for a bible for someone who could not read. Another theory is that it is a memorial for the dead.

Residents petition to keep library open

Advertiser, 24 July, by Louise Treccasi

1130 residents of Charles Sturt Council have signed a petition against the closure of Henley Beach library. A report by council chief executive officer Peter Lockett suggests closing the Henley Beach and Findon Libraries and substituting them for a new site. The report raises the possibility of running fewer libraries to save costs and improve services. ■