

Making news...

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

New-age librarian facing the challenge of modern world

Maitland Mercury, 13 October, by Stephen Bisset

Peter Woodley, librarian at Maitland Library, challenges the stereotype of librarians. He believes that libraries and librarians are the most progressive agents embracing new technology, and if anything, libraries are more important in the digital age. He said that a love of books helps if you want to be a librarian, but it is more important to love what books are about.

Judiciary fears cut in funding for library

Courier Mail, 13 October, by Steven Wardill

The Supreme Court Library Committee (Queensland) is not happy with the new *Legal Profession Act 2004* which effectively halts the library board's practice of taking a percentage of interest from solicitors' trust funds and admission fees which it then used to maintain the library's collection. Chairman of the Library Board, Justice Kenneth Mackenzie said that the new funding arrangements threaten the integrity of the library.

Never too early to start reading

Shepparton News, 12 October, by Trevor Clarke

Best Start Baby Book Bags will be distributed across the Greater Shepparton region to new parents through maternal and child health nurses. The bags include a hard-cover book, information about choosing books for babies and children, a library membership form, and toddler storytime and library brochures.

British library starts a literary and scientific e-mail archive

Australian, 12 October (from *The Times*)

The British Library is creating an archive to store the e-mails for the nation's top authors and scientists. The new digital archive will compliment the library's existing paper-based correspondence. The library has appointed the world's first digital manuscripts curator to collect important material that would otherwise be lost, and is appealing to authors and scientists to store their correspondence in a way that will allow future generations to see their work.

Introducing young children to reading

Yass Tribune, 6 October, by Jane Nauta
Professor Belle Alderman, the only professor of children's literature in Australia,

recently spoke to staff and patrons at the Yass Library. Belle spoke about introducing young children to reading and encouraged parents to encourage reading from a very early age. Simple things like reading labels, street signs and names of houses as one passes helps a child to recognise the power of language, and builds the desire to learn to read.

Library a no-go zone for youth

Kiama Independent, 6 October

A recent survey has revealed that forty-four per cent of young people in Kiama have rarely, if ever, set foot in Kiama Library. A further thirty-two per cent of respondents only visited the library a few times a year. The extended Kiama Library will include a specially-designed area for young people, and the purpose of the survey was to find out how young people use the library and what other services they would like to see in the library.

Literacy skills essential

Adelaide Matters, October

There is more to literacy than reading and writing. Susan Hill, associate professor in early childhood education at the University of South Australia, says that while new technologies and entertainment rely heavily on visual cues, they also require a high degree of literacy from users. Dr Hill, with Professor Nicola Yelland from RMIT, recently undertook a two-year research project into children using information and communication technologies in the classroom. The project found that children collaborated when using new technologies, and that this peer-to-peer method of learning was fun and non-threatening.

Councils take steps to boost locals' fitness levels

Sunshine Coast Daily, 2 October

Now available for loan from Caloundra Libraries — pedometers! The pedometers were used by Caloundra Council staff members who took part in a 'steps' challenge. While the challenge is over, the pedometers are now available for locals to borrow.

Why this bad book is good

Sun Herald, 3 October, by Sally Loane

Yet another children's book has raised concern and is in danger of being removed from library and booksellers shelves. *The Bad Book*, by Andy Griffith has been removed from the nation-wide Children's Summer Reading Catalogue, and has been removed from some libraries and bookshops in the eastern states.

There has been lively debate about the book in a number of papers — Christopher Bantick, who condemns the politically correct thinking behind the decision to ban the book, has articles in the *Courier Mail* ('Book ban bad news', 2 October), the *Canberra Times* (Children's book seen as worse than its title admits', 1 October), and the *Age* ('The dangers of making children's reading a fun-free zone', 30 September). Kim Macdonald also came out against the ban in the *West Australian* on 30 September ('Bad book is just too bad for some'). James Hall, in his article 'Kids' author in the bad books' (*Weekend Australian*, 25 September) quotes from the author and illustrator's written response to claims that the book 'gives children permission to speak and behave in a manner which is vulgar, violent and disrespectful'. Griffiths and Denton argue that many adults 'seem to labour under the mistaken idea that if something is fun then it is somehow of lesser value than something which is serious'.

The greatest, even in print

Launceston Examiner, 29 September, by Carol Marshall

A Tasmanian sports enthusiast has purchased a copy of *Greatest of all time*, a massive book celebrating the life of Muhammad Ali. Only 9000 copies of the book exist, and only 200 copies have been released in Australia. The book measures about 48x48cm, and some of the 800 pages are in gold leaf. The book tells the story of Muhammad Ali's life and sporting career in words and pictures.

Coffee and a novel, anyone?

Parramatta Sun, 29 September

The Parramatta central library is about to receive a mammoth face-lift as part of what is being described as 'Australia's biggest urban renewal project'. The redevelopment will convert a three-hectare block of council and privately-owned properties into a gateway to the Parramatta CPD. It will include retail, commercial, residential towers, improved public plazas and community facilities.

Monash improves its e-learning curve

Australian Financial Review, 28 September, by Ben Woodhead

Monash University is about to undertake a major revamp of its online learning system. The university will also completely replace the custom-built open-source system it uses to run its central website. Many of the university's depart-

ACT

17/11 PiCS Pty Ltd. Information risk management. This workshop gives a theoretical and practical overview of the critical risks in managing corporate information and the tools to assist in minimising them. Melbourne 10/11; Canberra 17/11; NT 24/11. Contact: Alan Moor, ph 03 9835 8900, pics@bigpond.com, <http://www.pics.com.au/>

• **24/11 APSIG visit to the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau, ANU.** Visit the HQ of the PMB followed by a talk by Prof Brij Lal on Pacific researches and use of the microfilm produced by PMB. Asia Bookroom \$50 book voucher door prize. Meet in the foyer, Coombes Building, ANU, 4:30pm for 5:00pm, refreshments. Contact: Deveni Temu, ph 02 6273 1040, dtemu@csu.edu.au *Please note: new date.*

• **14/12 APSIG. Christmas lunch.** Asia Bookroom \$50 book voucher door prize. Zenyai Thai Restaurant, 111 London Circuit, Civic, 12:15pm. 3-course banquet with tea/coffee and orange juice. BYO (bottle shop next door). Cost: \$24 ALIA members, \$24 non-members [GST incl]. *Booking essential by 10/12 to:* Christina Flynn, christina.flynn@anu.edu.au

NSW

5/11 Cultural Planning with museums, galleries and libraries. *Keynote speakers include: Donald Horne and Deborah Mills.* The seminar will highlight strategies for developing cultural plans that reflect the planning needs of museums, galleries and libraries. To be held at Mosman Art Gallery. Cost: \$110 ALIA members, \$125 non-members [GST incl]. Contact: Kristen Henry, ph 02 9339 9902, programs1@mgfns.org.au, booking form: <http://www.mgfns.org.au/resources/Forms/CulturalPlanning.pdf>

18-19/11 Unlocking intellectual property: a conference that centres around discovering the value of IP, copyright information and recent developments in these fields. Contact: Meredith Graham, ph 02 9715 8982, conference@aesharenet.com.au, <http://www.bakercyberlawcentre.org/unlocking-ip/>

• **23/11 NSW New Graduates Group.** *Librarians in the pub:* come and join the NSW Mentoring group for our regular informal gathering. All library-types welcome! Special guest Michele Gorman, 'Wired for youth librarian'. 1st floor bar, Agincourt Hotel, corner Harris and George Street at Railway Square, 6:00pm. Contact: Alyson Dalby, ph 02 9256 5413, alyson.dalby@racp.edu.au

NT

10/11 PiCS Pty Ltd. *Information risk management.* This workshop gives a theoretical and practical overview of the critical risks in managing corporate information and the tools to assist in minimising them.

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ments have been using e-learning in their teaching, and in some departments, including economics and business, it is mandatory for some units to be completed online.

Kids get 'best start'

Upper Yarra Mail, 28 September

Sharing Stories and Songs is a new program being run by the Eastern Regional Libraries aimed at making it easier for parents to help their children learn to read. The program encourages a positive attitude towards books and reading to children, and provides opportunities for parents to develop the skills and techniques needed to help their children to read. Sharing Stories and Songs will involve four special fairy tale performances held at playgroups in the Upper Yarra area during Children's Week in October.

\$11.5m library annex for uni

Ballarat Courier, 23 September, by Jeff Whalley

Victorian Premier, Steve Bracks announced that a library storage facility will be built at Ballarat University. The special storage facility will house more than half of the State Library of Victoria's newspaper and serials collection. The special climate controlled facility is designed to preserve documents for up to 400 years.

Internet taking over as children's playground

Australian Financial Review, 29 September, by David Crowe

Almost two-thirds of children aged 5 to 14 are internet users, and the frequency of their use is also on the increase. The Australian Bureau of Statistics report, *Household use of information technology*, reveals that over fifty per cent of all Australian children aged 5 to 15 had used the internet from home during the past year. Internet access through the public library network was at four per cent for the same demographic.

School's stunning numbers

Community News — Moonee Valley, 21 September, by Robert Fedele

St Therese's School in Essendon (Victoria) is one of only four Victorian schools to receive

a \$2000 award for outstanding work in numeracy. School principal, Chris Gleeson, said that the recognition gave an insight into how the school ranked against national benchmarks.

Parents urged to read to their kids

Mudgee Guardian & Gulgong Advertiser, 21 September

The Mid-Western Regional Council has encouraging all parents to read to their children. A new campaign launched by the council's library service includes Baby Book Packs which are designed to help parents enjoy books with their very young children. The Baby Book Packs are free to borrow from the library and are available for babies aged 0 to 12 months, toddlers from 12 to 24 months, and for older toddlers.

Best in country

Tenterfield Star, 21 September

The Tenterfield Public Library has won the Tenterfield Shire Council a national award for Information Services in the 2004 National Local Government Awards. The council is now a finalist for the major National Awards for Innovation and Excellence which will be judged in mid-October.

Troy has a magical way of encouraging kids to read

Maitland Mercury, 20 September, by Stephen Bisset

Troy Murphie, a local Maitland magician, says that being able to give kids the desire to pick up a book is just magic. Troy highlights the importance of literacy and numeracy by explaining to the children in the audience that everything that he has learnt about magic, he learnt through books. Troy would eventually like to take his educational show to local schools as part of literacy program.

Wagga library cranks up

Daily Advertiser, 16 September

Libraries are Loud returns to Wagga Library in September. Three local bands provided the entertainment, and patrons were fed, refreshed and supervised for just \$2 per head. ■



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