

ACT

• **4/10 APSIG** *Visit to Historic Bibles display.* Outstanding display from 1495 including Aboriginal and Asian-Pacific languages. Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, 15 Blackall St, Barton (cnr Kings Ave), 5:00pm. Contact: Deveni Temu, ph 02 6273 1040, dtemu@csu.edu.au

• **11/10 Library Technicians online chat.** See *National events for more details.*

• **25/10 ACTIVE ALIA.** *Business language initiatives in Dept of Employment and Workplace Relations.* Joint ALIA/AGLIN Information Sharing Forum. Speakers: Karna O'Dea and Tori May (DEWR). NLA, 4th Floor Conference Room, 4:30pm. RSVP required for numbers to: Sherrey Quinn, ph 02 6257 9177, sherrey.quinn@alianet.alia.org.au

1/11 2006 Clare Burton Memorial Lecture. *Jobs, care and justice: A fair work regime for Australia.* Professor Barbara Pocock. Great Hall, University House, Balmain Crescent, ANU, 6:00pm for 6:30pm dinner Hosted by ACT Universities. Contact: Kate Janssens, ANU, ph 02 6125 3539, kate.janssens@anu.edu.au

NSW

• **11/10 Library Technicians online chat.** See *National events for more details.*

• **25/10 Mentoring NSW.** *Library Folk in the Pub.* Catch up with old friends or meet new ones at Library Folk in the Pub (LFIP). October's meeting is at the Glasshouse Bar in the UTS Union, Broadway, Level 3 of the tower, the basement level, 6:00pm. Contact: Julian Sortland, ph 0429 470 672, julian@sortland.co.uk

2-3/11 Metropolitan Public Libraries Conference. See *National events for more details.*

8/11 2006 Clare Burton Memorial Lecture. *Jobs, care and justice: A fair work regime for Australia.* Professor Barbara Pocock. Training Room, Level 6, Building 10, Jones Street, Broadway, 6:00pm. Hosted by University of Technology, Sydney. Contact: Kate Wilson, ph 02 9514 1081, kate.wilson@uts.edu.au

8/11 Copyright Conference. See *National events for more details.*

• **11-12/11 River of opportunities IV, Albury workshop.** See *Conferences for additional details.*

• **22/11 Far North Coast NSW.** *Meeting with ALIA President – Dagmar Schmidmaier.* Manning Clark Room at Southern Cross University, Lismore. Institutional members to meet at 4:30pm, followed at 5:00pm by drinks and nibbles, and an informal meeting with all other library folk (including potential members!). Contact: Lainey Furness, ph 02 6620 2445, laineyf@nrhs.nsw.gov.au

• **29/11 Mentoring NSW.** *Library Folk in the Pub – pre Christmas event.* Join us at Thali restaurant and bar, 116-118 Wigram Street, Harris Park from 6:30pm for drinks and an informal meal. They serve south Indian food, and a local and Indian beers and soft-drinks,

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Making news...

Selected items of library interest from the Asia-Pacific

Korea eyes nurturing digital libraries

Korea Times, 21 September, Seo Dong-shin

South Korean officials and library science experts are pinning their hopes on the congress of the world's libraries to improve local libraries and information distribution and promote the nation's digitalised infrastructure. Only three of the 72 annual World Library and Information Congresses (WLIC) have been hosted in Asian countries – Japan, China and Thailand. The organisers hope to raise public awareness of library conditions, as many believe that South Korea is not equipped with library facilities to match its economic status. In 2005 South Korea had one public library per 94 000 people, comparing poorly with other member nations of the OECD. Germany, for example, has one library for every 9000 residents, the United States one for every 30 000, and Japan one for every 48 000.

Preserving information, not formats

D-Lib Magazine, Vol 12 N° 9, September

Eliminating large quantities of print material in favour of online materials? This editorial refers to Scott Carlson's article, 'Library Renovation Leads to Soul Searching at Cal Poly: Professors and librarians complain about a shift from print to online materials' in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 1 September 2006, and suggests that the important question to ask is 'What needs to be done to make sure that the changes do not result in a serious decline in services?'

A new chapter for booksellers and bookbuyers

The Canberra Times, 16 September, Colin Steele

Global forces and technologies increasingly impinge on the worlds of Australian bookselling and publishing in ways that might make the 1970s and 1980s, as described in *Paper Empires*, seem like a golden age. Edited by Craig Munro and Robyn Sheahan-Bright, this book's ambitious goal is to cover the history of the book in Australia from 1946 to 2005. With 67 contributors in 81 essays and case studies, it makes 'extensive use of oral history, and memoir, taking core samples from the different strata of book production, selling and reading'. This lengthy review considers the book and how well it summarises the Australian experience. (Also reviewed in *The Australian Literary Review*, 6 September 2006, by Jacqueline Kent.)

Book bans spread

Herald Sun, 15 September, Mark Dunn

Several Australian universities are matching the University of Melbourne's decision to remove some Islamic jihad books from their libraries because they may breach censorship or new sedition laws. But despite federal bans on two radical books, Attorney-General Philip Ruddock said researchers and lecturers were able to refer to extremist ideology in teaching an academic understanding of militant Islam. Mr Ruddock said sedition laws included a 'good faith' de-

fence, which states that a person must intentionally urge the use of violence to be prosecuted.

The Classification Review Board in July banned the extremist books *Join the Caravan* and *Defence of the Muslim Lands* because they incited terrorist acts. Both those texts and *The Lofty Mountain*, by the same author, Abdullah Azzam, have been taken from the general access shelves at Melbourne University's Baillieu library. While the banned books should not be 'disseminated' by the university, lecturers were free to use them as part of lectures if they were not used to incite terrorism, Mr Ruddock's spokesman said. Although Deakin, Victoria and Monash universities said they had not banned any books because of the laws, it is understood specific departments at a number of universities are reviewing access to some texts. (See p 10 of this issue of *inCite* for more details.)

Escape no longer a literary option

The Australian, 9 September, Rosemary Neill

Last year, in *The New York Times*, Rachel Donadio argued that 'when it comes to illuminating today's world most vividly, nonfiction is winning'. The flight to nonfiction is confirmed by figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. ABS figures show that sales of adult fiction fell from 29 per cent of book sales in 2002-03 to 25 per cent of book sales in 2003-04.

Australia's literary novelists are just starting to address the terrorism theme. Andrew McGahan's *Underground*, part satire, part thriller, featuring an Australia rendered unrecognisable by the war on terror: Canberra has been liquidated in a nuclear attack, suspect minorities have been herded into ghettos and no one wants to play cricket with us any more. Richard Flanagan has titled his take on terrorism *The Unknown Terrorist*. Few mass market Australian novelists have tackled terrorism. Sandy McCutcheon's recent thriller *Black Widow* looks at the aftermath of the 2004 Beslan siege, while his latest, *The Cobbler's Apprentice*, published this month, follows a terror suspect who leaves Guantanamo Bay and becomes an agent of mass destruction.

Cultural baggage

South China Morning Post, 1 September

What defines a nation? It's a question that Australia, as a young country, is constantly trying to answer. An exhibition that just opened in Sydney attempts to explore how Australia's past has forged its present. 'National Treasures' is a collection of nearly 200 manuscripts, drawings, maps and objects gathered together from state and territory libraries. Starting with the very earliest depiction of the Southern Cross constellation, by a Spanish explorer in the 16th century, it gallops through Australia's convict origins to the present day. Whether a collection as varied as a cricket bat once owned by sporting hero Don Bradman, wine labels from the 1970s, and paintings on Japanese toilet paper by prisoners of war truly encapsulate the 'Australian charac-

ter' is questionable. But the exhibition features much of the collective cultural baggage that looms large in the minds of most Australians.

Crook cooks booked: Classic recipes N° 1 for literature thieves

Herald Sun, 26 August, Holly Ife

An 1100-page recipe book as thick and heavy as a house brick is the volume most often shopped from bookstores across Melbourne. *The Cook's Companion*, Stephanie Alexander's best-selling tome, is among a range of titles popular with light-fingered literature lovers. True crime novels – including the Chopper series – and travel guides were also high on the stolen list. It's ironic that crime books are particularly popular with pilferers, who are also partial to science-fiction. Two years ago, a *Herald Sun* survey of libraries found Chopper Read books were among those most commonly stolen from libraries.

Best leave the young to their own devices

The Australian, 26 August, Matt Price

For hundreds of years, one of the central planks of a decent education was being taught how to find information. In barely half-a-dozen years, the internet has made this skill all but obsolete. Suddenly it's sorting information that's become crucial – learning to identify flecks of gold among the hectares of bullshit. Critical, sceptical, analytical thinking has never been more important. Whether we like it or not, Google has permanently and profoundly changed education. What a joy it presents for curious, conscientious students with fingertip access to the world's best libraries, newspapers, literature and music. Equally, the potential for teenagers to be waylaid by bottomless pornography, frenzied gossip and incalculable misinformation is harrowing.

Vlamingh charts see light of day

The West Australian, 24 August, Martin Philip

For almost 100 years, the Dutch explorer Willem de Vlamingh's charts of the WA coast lay hidden. British-born book collector Edward Augustus Petherick bequeathed the de Vlamingh charts to the Commonwealth in 1911, along with more than 1200 maps and more than 300 atlases by well-known Dutch, British and French cartographers up to the 20th century. These ornate 300-year-old maps could be the oldest hand-drawn records of any part of Australia existing outside Europe – and they have been gathering dust in the National Library of Australia for

nearly a century. The charts were made after a 1697 voyage along the WA coast during which de Vlamingh named the Swan River and Rottnest Island. The maps, both named 'The South Land explored by Willem de Vlamingh in January and February 1697', came to light almost by accident. National Library of Australia map curator Martin Woods read of the location of the hidden treasures, valued at more than \$1 000 000, in a book by Dutch academic Professor Gunter Schilder.

Reading program hit with kids

Townsville Sun, 23 August, Casey-Ann Seaniger

Townsville's mobile library storytime program has been an outstanding success bringing storytelling to kids and families who can't make it to libraries. Townsville's Library Service has created an Australian first with a service that takes story telling for children out into the suburbs. The program goes to kindergartens, childcare centres and playgroups to encourage children to read.

Confidence in resolving library row

Maroondah Mail, 22 August

Staff members of the Eastern Regional Libraries are optimistic that their dispute with the management over relocations will soon be resolved. The dispute emerged in early July after the eastern suburbs library service planned to relocate some staff to new branches. The recent meeting follows ERL management's earlier claims that all staff issues had been resolved.

Look online for best kids' books

Townsville Bulletin, 21 August

Knowing which books are the very best for your child can be difficult. You can use the internet (choose the sites with care: .gov or .edu are less likely to be commercial) to find current and past recommended and award-winning books for children. Your local public librarian for young people or your child's school librarian are an excellent resource. They can help you access lists of good books and tell you which titles are the most popular. This week is Children's Book Week across Australia when school libraries and public libraries all over the country put on displays and activities to celebrate. Dive into your local library to check out which books were nominated for the awards this year and to scrutinise the books that actually have won. You can be the judge, or even better, let your children decide the best books. *



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and wine. About \$20. Train, bus, T-Way, or on-site parking. Contact: Julian Sortland, ph 0429 470 672, julian@sortland.co.uk

30/11 How to be a relaxed overachiever workshop. Learn to counter stress triggers, develop a relaxation ritual and put your priorities in order. Reconnect with your own big picture and walk away with a practical action plan. Scientia, UNSW, 1:20–4:30pm. Cost (GST incl): \$60 ALIA members; \$65 non-members; \$85 non-delegates. PD points: 3. Contact: Geraldine Barkworth, ph 02 6685 1917, geraldine@boldwomenbigideas.com.au

NT

• **4/10 Top End Group.** Copyright presentation by Moyra McAllister, Copyright Adviser. ALIA NT Library, Parliament House, 5:30pm; drinks and/or dinner at the Deck Bar, 6:30pm. Contact: Linda Marchesani, ph 08 8999 3929, linda.marchesani@nt.gov.au

• **11/10 Library Technicians online chat.** See National events for more details.

• **13–14/10 4th ALIA Top End Symposium 2006.** See Conference events for additional details.

• **25/10 Top End Group.** Presentation and meeting. Donation of artwork to Palmerston City Council Library in memory of Lyn McIntosh. Presentation: 5:00–6:00pm; Group meeting: 6:00–7:00pm. Contact: Linda Marchesani, ph 08 8999 3929, linda.marchesani@nt.gov.au

QLD

• **3/10 ALIA Quorum.** General meeting. 19th floor, conference room, State Law Building, Corner Ann and George Streets, Brisbane, 5:00 for 5:30pm. Gold coin donation to cover light refreshments. RSVP by 2/10 to: Claudia Davies, ph 0407 964 967, claudia.davies@alia.org.au

• **11/10 Library Technicians online chat.** See National events for more details.

• **11/10 QLD OPALS.** General meeting at Brisbane Catholic Education Centre, 243 Gladstone Road, Dutton Park, 4:30–5:30pm. Host: Denise Cadman. Contact: Denise Cadman, ph 07 3840 0446, dcadman@bne.catholic.edu.au

18/10 Australian Copyright Council. Seminars in Brisbane: experienced ACC lawyers present sessions for librarians, copyright and compliance officers, digital rights managers and collecting institution staff. Find out how the law works and what's in the pipeline – keep up to date! Contact: Copyright Council, ph 02 9699 3247, info@copyright.org.au, <http://www.copyright.org.au/>

7/11 2006 Clare Burton Memorial Lecture: Jobs, care and justice: A fair work regime for Australia. Professor Barbara Pocock. Owen J Wordsworth Rooms, Level 12, S Block, QUT Gardens Point, 6:00pm. Hosted by Queensland University of Technology. Contact: Kym Mayers, ph 07 3864 4174, k.mayers@qut.edu.au

SA

• **2/10–6/11 ALIA SA.** General meeting. All SA ALIA members welcome! We meet on the

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