



IN THE NEWS

A Voice for NSW Local Government Librarians

The Association of Local Government Librarians in New South Wales is looking for new members and a more up-front image for the Association in the 1980s.

As well as participation in the Albert Mainard Local Government Scholarship Fund (the main impetus for the foundation of the Association in 1959) currently members are serving on various Local Government Association and other Committees and Working Parties, and generally endeavouring to forge closer ties with the LGA.

The display 'The Library and Information' at the recent LGA Annual Conference, the work of the Chief and Deputy Librarians' Group on Award matters, and the compilation of 'A Career in Local Government Libraries' for the LGA are a few of the activities in which ALGL members have recently been involved.

A watching brief on current developments and problems such as 'User Pays' and active co-operation with the LAA's Public Libraries Section (NSW Group) and the Metropolitan Chief Librarians' Committee are other objectives of the Association.

The public meeting on 21 September (see last *InCite*) to support North Sydney residents and the 'Keep Stanton Free Committee' was a joint effort; the referendum challenges the principle of free libraries for all.

There is a great deal of work to be done and a need to maintain a strong 'presence' in the local government field as the President, Dr Chris Henderson, stressed in the first issue of the Association's *Newsletter* last month.

If you would like to know more about the ALGL contact any of the following: Dr Chris Henderson (Lane Cove) 427 5194. Cec Hurm (Bankstown) 709 4255. Carol Gerard (Manly) 977 1211. Lorrain Vass (Clarence) 42 2266. Sue Tomkins (Mosman) 60 0970. Joan Barry (Orange) 62 1169. Cathy Hurst (Maitland) 33 6952. Diana Oliver (Sutherland) 521 0353.

Special grant for library service

The Mildura Regional Library Service is one of four Victorian libraries to receive special projects grants totalling \$15,000.

The grants were announced in late April by Minister for the Arts, Mr Race Matthews; Mildura's grant of \$2000 was to support a programme of publishing.

The publishing projects are the *Murray River Monitor*, a Local Government information service to four municipalities and an ongoing comprehensive bibliography of the river trades. Mr Matthews said the projects were selected for their originality, administrative soundness and potential usefulness to other libraries.

Historic miniature pamphlet reproduced

One of the rarest items in the National Library of Australia – a miniature pamphlet containing the earliest description of Botany Bay – has been re-published by the Library as a limited-edition facsimile.

The pamphlet, which has eight pages and measures only 13.5 cm by 11 cm, is entitled 'A description of Botany Bay on the east side of New Holland in the Indian Seas'. It was published anonymously in England in 1787. Based on material from Captain Cook's first voyage, it was intended to provide information on the country to which convicts were to be transported.

Only two copies of the original pamphlet are known to have survived: the National Library's copy and the other in the British Library.

The facsimile, a limited edition, has been published to mark the sixth David Nichol Smith Memorial Seminar and Eighteenth Century Studies, being held in Melbourne.

The photograph below shows the National Library's Director of Publications, Mr Alec Bolton, holding one of the facsimiles.



Luther exhibition

Celebrations are being held around the world to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the birth of Dr Martin Luther. (Born 10 No-

vember 1483 – Eisleben, in the south-west of Saxony.)

As part of the world-wide celebrations, a special display will be mounted at the State Library of South Australia, containing a collection of rare items reflecting aspects of Luther's life.

A large collection of commemorative coins and medallions issued over the centuries are a highlight of the exhibition. Stamps from all around the world also commemorating Luther are included.

Luther's first published German translations of the Bible will be displayed, and other publications include a selection of volumes from the Weimar Editions of the complete works of Martin Luther (there are only two complete sets in Australia). The public can also see a complete set of English translations of Luther's work as well as many recent publications on his life.

Home computers for loan

Earlier this year there was an announcement in the Connetquot Public Library newsletter (Bohemia, New York) that the library would have three personal computers available for loan.

The librarians were overwhelmed by the response – 150 reservations were made immediately. Three more home computers were ordered, but there's still a waiting list of more than a hundred people.

Other libraries in the New York metropolitan area are experiencing a similar wave of enthusiasm as they provide people with a chance to find out what home computers are all about. More than 100 New York libraries have microcomputers for loan and about 50 other US libraries have take-home computers.

Hundreds of other libraries have larger, more complex models to use in their buildings and some libraries are building disk collection, with programs for video games and word processing.

STOP PRESS!

Susan Acutt has just been appointed Director, Management Services, State Library of Victoria. She will take up her new position on November 28.

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Australian Academic Libraries in the Seventies, Essays in Honour of Dietrich Borchardt. Edited by Harrison Bryan and John Horacek. University of Queensland Press, Aust., due January, 1984. ISBN 07 0221883 9 ARP. \$30.00.

This volume discusses the achievement and the problems faced by those libraries that constitute Australia's major bibliographic resource.

The authors pay tribute to Dietrich Borchardt. In his distinguished career he gained international reputation as a university librarian and as a bibliographer.

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