



## Motley mottoes

I have always had a soft spot for mottoes, which seem to crop up pretty often at reference desks, and enjoyed trying to track them, their owners and the origins down. Until now Australian mottoes have been problematical. Many, of course, are borrowed or inherited from overseas, and British and American mottoes dictionaries are of some help. But there are many of the elusive, home-grown variety, adopted by schools and colleges, government instrumentalities, branches of the armed forces, individuals, companies, local

authorities. Some 2000 mottoes in use in Australia are included in Vivienne Sigley's *Australian mottoes*, which ALIA Press published in 1989.

Mottoes in the English predominate, together with Latin, and a sprinkling of Aboriginal languages, French, Gaelic, German, Greek, Hebrew, Indonesian, Welsh and even Morse. Positive sentiments are the order of the day: salvation, excellence, wisdom, duty, happiness and harmony. Sometimes tinged with caution ('Trust, but be careful whom', a good motto for a wine company), whimsy ('Nothing but the best for Gympie West'), humour ('Fer fax lucem', the Fairfax motto).

Entries are arranged by categories, each with the motto and its translation, if appropriate, its owner and frequently with a note explaining the motto's origin. There are full motto and name indexes. Sigley has neatly filled a gap in the ranks of Australian reference works with this compendium of authentic Australian mottoes, wisely leaving it to the harmless drudge who wrote her foreword to explain the meaning of the evergreen *Nil illegitimi carborundum*. *Australian mottoes* was published by ALIA Press in 1989, is printed on archival quality paper and costs \$45 (\$35 to ALIA members). (ISBN 0 86804 256 0).

## AUSTRALIAN MOTTOES

Vivienne Sigley

'Now we can for the first time unlock with ease the secrets of thousands of mottoes created and used in our country, thanks to Vivienne Sigley's remarkable research. I Warmly commend this splendid reference book to you, for information, inspiration and sheer entertainment'.

David J. Jones  
Foreword

### Available from:

Australian Library and Information Association  
PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace, Barton ACT 2600  
Ph: (062) 851877

From 19 .....

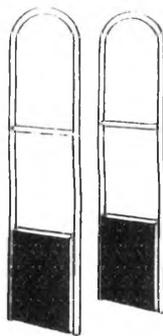
ing on the outstanding collections of the British Museum (Natural History), National Maritime Museum, Royal Anthropological Institute, Hydrographic Department, Cambridge University Library and Rhodes House Library. Local repositories are already very well represented in the AJCP, but further searching and filming is planned in record offices and libraries in northern England, Wales and Scotland.

Any suggestions concerning records of Australian interest that might be filmed should be sent to the Manuscript Librarian, National Library of Australia, Canberra, A.C.T. 2600.

Graeme Powell  
Manuscript Librarian  
Australian Collection  
and Services  
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