events

• **21/8 Qld public libraries section**. *Competitive libraries*. Speaker: Rob Carter. Central City Library Theatrette, City Plaza, Cnr Ann, George and Adelaide Sts, Brisbane. 6.00pm for 6.30pm, members $10, others $15. Contact: Brenda Simpson ph (07) 3403 8621 (b/h).

• **21/8–18/12 Qld public library section committee meetings**. Committee will meet on the third Wednesday in each month, with a Section activity held on alternate months. Full details will be revealed in Quill and through mail-outs. Meeting dates: 21/8, 16/10, 18/12(AGM). Contact: Brenda Simpson, ph 07 3403 8621

• **30/8 Qld RAISS section**. *Designing instructional materials*. Dr Yoni Ryan. 1–5pm QUT Kelvin Grove, Brisbane. ALIA members: $50, others $60. Contact: T McCall, ph (07) 3864 5547, e-mail t.mccall@qut.edu.au.

• **23/9 Qld library technician section** — *Hands-on technology workshop*. Anglican Church Grammar School, Oaklands Parade, East Brisbane, 5.30–8pm. Limit — 20 persons, Cost: $20. RSVP by 17/9. Contact: Elaine Mortimer, Aust Catholic Uni, PO Box 247, Everton Park 4053, ph (07) 3855 7152.

1–3/10 Insearch/Knight-Ridder information seminars. *Chemical searching for non-chemists* (1/10), *Introductory DIALOG* (2/10). Brisbane contact: (02) 212 2867.

• **16/10 Qld public libraries section**. *Library users with special needs*. 6.00pm for 6.30pm, members $10, others $15. Central City Library Theatrette, City Plaza, Cnr Ann, George and Adelaide Sts, Brisbane. Contact: Del Simpson ph (07) 3403 9511 (b/h), e-mail simpson@gil.com.au.

• **18/12 QLD public libraries section**. *The great debate: censorship on the net*. 6.00pm for 6.30pm, members $10, others $15. Central City Library Theatrette, City Plaza, Cnr Ann, George and Adelaide Sts, Brisbane. Contact: Del Simpson ph (07) 3403 9511 (b/h), e-mail simpson@gil.com.au.

SA

14–16/8 Insearch/Knight-Ridder information seminars. Patents (14/8), Introductory DIALOG (15/8), DataStar/ProBase Workshop (16/8 am). Adelaide contact: (02) 212 2867.

TAS

• **12/8 Tas northern areas regional group**. *Trends in health libraries and the future of special libraries*. Speaker: Kathy Saurine. Venue: Library, Launceston General Hospital, Charles St, Launceston. Time: 6.30pm, Contact: Leonie Prevost (003) 362 639.

• **24/8 Tas Library technician section general meeting**. Devonport (venue to be announced). Contact: Kerrie Dick, ph (004) 286 062.

• **Sept Tas northern areas regional group**. *Tendering for library services part 2*. Speaker: Karen Bell. Venue: La Cantine, George St. Date and time: to be advised, Contact: Leonie
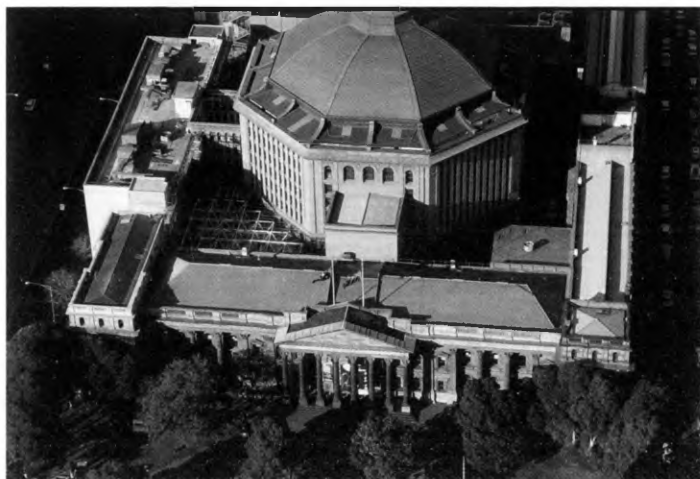
The *Great libraries of Melbourne* tour

Cathy Miller, State Library of Victoria

READING

The State Library of Victoria needed something different to celebrate *Australian Library Week*, coming as it did shortly after the two-week Victorian Heritage Festival. The idea of a tour of the 'great' libraries of Melbourne was discussed with the education officer from the Parliamentary Library with the Supreme Court Library also very keen to be involved. The libraries were chosen because of their interesting histories (all were established in the 1850s), and spectacular architecture.

The State Library of Victoria

The tour was organised so that three groups of 'tourists' (primarily public and State Library users) were on the move at any one time — attending a short tour (approximately thirty minutes) of a library, then moving on to the next library via the free City Circle tram. Each tour group was fully booked (fifteen per group) and accompanied by two staff or volunteers from the State Library, whose main responsibility was to move the group from one place to another on time and without losing anyone!

With very minimal advertising — a mailout to all public libraries, fliers at the State Library and a bit of free advertising in the entertainment section of *The Age* newspaper — we had an excellent response rate, and were very pleased to give the library public an opportunity to see inside at least two institutions which are normally not open to the public — the Parliamentary Library and the Supreme Court Library. Our tourists enjoyed themselves immensely. ∎

'Networking Victoria' celebrated in Library Week

The launch of the 'Networking Victoria' initiative was celebrated by public libraries during *Australian Library Week*. An impressive number of library services were involved in the celebrations.

Networking Victoria is being achieved through VICNET; VICNET's strategic alliance with an Internet Service Provider (ISP), Access One; and a significant grant from the Victorian State Government's Community Support Fund. The project is being overseen by a steering committee comprising representatives from VICNET, Viclink and the Office of Library Services.

By the end of this year all public library services will have an ISDN line from their main library to an ISP. In the case of non-metropolitan libraries, Access One is installing an ISDN line, and providing two free dial-up accounts for each service. Metropolitan libraries are using a mix of solutions. By the end of next year, public access terminals should be available at most public librarys.

Promotional material encouraging use of the Internet has been commissioned by the Office of Library Services, and has been distributed to all public libraries.

The launches took place at Eltham (Yarra Plenty Regional Library), Ballarat (Central Highlands Regional Library), Pakenham (Dandenong Valley Regional Library) and Bendigo (North Central Goldfields) Libraries. They were presided over by a variety of government ministers and members of parliament, including the Minister for Local Government and Planning, Robert Maclellan, who is now the Minister responsible for public libraries in Victoria. ∎