

ACT

• **5/9 Librarians' Libations** celebrate the first payday of the month. Do so with the specials, 5.30pm at the Hyatt. Any questions to Libby Coates, ph (06) 266 2346.

• **9/9 APSIG** lunchtime talk by two speakers from *Fiji, Lalita and Mohan Lal*, who are studying at the Uni of Canberra. NLA, 4th floor, conference room. Contact: Elizabeth Watt, ph (06) 262 1642, e-mail ewatt@nla.gov.au.

• **11/9 ACT Branch: Professional perspectives lecture.** 'Operating professionally in the political arena'. Professor Don Aitkin, Vice-Chancellor of the Uni of Canberra, Lecture Theatre 2B11, Uni of Canberra. Contact: Tracey Batchelor, ph (06) 201 2312, fax (06) 201 5119, e-mail tracey@comserver.canberra.edu.au.

• **18/9 ACT UCRLS.** Elizabeth Orna, an independent information consultant will speak on *How organisations manage their information products*. NLA, 4th floor, conference room. Contact: Judy Churches, Secretary UCRLS (ACT Group), ph (06) 249 3443, e-mail judy.churches@library.anu.edu.au.

• **20/9 ACT Branch.** Uni of Canberra LIS short course on *Thesaurus Construction*, presented by Joan Jensen. One full day, cost \$120. Contact: Tracey Batchelor, ph (06) 201 2312, fax (06) 201 5119, e-mail tracey@comserver.canberra.edu.au.

24/9 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars Introductory DIALOG. Canberra contact: (02) 9212 2867.

• **25/9 Canberra Online Users Group.** Lunch with Katie Blake, SilverPlatter's regional manager with news of SilverPlatter's ERL (Electronic Reference Library) and other recent developments. University House Common Room (ANU). 12-2pm, \$20 for buffet lunch. Contact: Joanne Hooper, ph (06) 217 2105 or Liz Thompson, ph (06) 217 2119 by 18/9.

• **18/10 ACT Library Technicians Section.** Dale Chatwin (ABS) will talk about *Electronic Journals* 5.30pm CIT, Building D, Reid. There will also be an update of progress towards the 1997 conference. Drinks and nibbles will be provided. Contact: Edith Hackworthy, ph (06) 268 8120, e-mail e-hackworthy@adfa.oz.au.

• **11/11 APSIG.** Lunchtime talks — *Great travellers' tales from around the region*. NLA, 4th floor conference room. 12.30-1.30pm. Contact: Marie Sexton, ph (06) 262 1519, e-mail msexton@nla.gov.au.

14-15/11 World 1/ABN Annual Users' meeting. Venue: National Convention Centre, Canberra. Registration: \$80, optional cocktail reception \$27. For further information contact the Help Desk, ph (06) 262 1691, toll free 1800 026 155, fax (06) 273 1180. Please note revised date.

• **29/11 ACT UCRLS AGM** will be held at lunchtime. As usual, there will be a short meeting, a relaxing lunch and an entertaining speaker. Details to follow — meanwhile note the date in your diaries! Contact: Judy Churches, ph (06) 249 3443, fax (06) 249 4063, e-mail

continued next page...

Saving our past for our future

Deirdre Brocklebank, Department of Communication and the Arts

Have you ever thought about preserving cultural heritage and information about your community? Or what sort of message you will be leaving future generations about our world?

Our museums, libraries, archives, art galleries and individual collections provide a collective memory of a community's past. The cultural heritage and information stored in these institutions help us to understand the world around us. They tell us where we came from and what formed our values, and let us see how our political, economic and social systems have developed.

Local communities often hold a wealth of objects which need proper care if they are to survive. In the Mackay district, for example, a recent three-month pilot heritage conservation project surveyed ten local museum and library collections. Many items of cultural significance were found, including a flag of the Amalgamated Worker's Association which dated back to 1911; Aboriginal stone axe heads, grain grinding stones, and ceremonial carved trees; early diaries from Mackay district pioneer John Cook; an impressive toy collection from the historic

Greenmount Homestead; and a message book used in World War II by the 11th Squadron Leader, containing top secret messages.

As part of the pilot project, conservator Lynda Black advised local curators on how best to preserve heritage objects and what factors can lead to deterioration. She developed draft conservation strategies for each collection, and provided advice on a range of issues including collection management, staff training, storage and cleaning.

All over Australia, there are significant objects and collections in need of attention. On 30 October, the Conservation Working Party of the Heritage Collections Committee is holding a free public forum in Sydney to develop a national strategy to actively improve the conservation and preservation status of our cultural heritage collections. If you would like to participate in the forum or receive discussion papers, contact me by 11 October at the Department of Communication and the Arts, GPO Box 2154, Canberra ACT 2601, telephone (06) 279 1679, fax (06) 279 1687, or e-mail dbrockle@dca.gov.au.

Keeping specials in touch with issues

Meg Paul, Freelance Library and Information Services

Special librarians are often too busy servicing clients to look after their own professional needs. *The Australasian OPL* aims to fill this gap and provide a platform for news, events, the transfer of ideas, initiatives and practical articles to keep librarians in touch with what their professional colleagues are achieving both in Australia and New Zealand.

With editorial consultants from New Zealand, each Australian state and the Australian Capital Territory, the aim is to enrich librarians' professional reading. *The Australasian OPL* is not a competitor to *Australian Special Libraries* — it is a monthly publication with a

completely different slant — try it and see.

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