

6-7/5 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information seminars. Introductory Dialog (6/5), Hot Business Topics (7/5 am). Hobart contact: (02) 9212 2867, krinfo.aus@uts.edu.au.

VIC

3/4 FLIS Training Pty Ltd. *Career options for library staff.* Monash Uni Conference Centre, 30 Collins Street, Melbourne. 6-9pm. Cost \$60. For a training brochure contact: Elizabeth Yates, ph (03) 9813 1925, fax (03) 9882 4274, libflis@vicnet.net.au.

• **14/4-8/12 Vic Special Libraries section Committee meetings.** Venue to be advised, 5.30pm. (14/4; 12/5; 2/6; 14/7; 11/8; 8/9; 13/10; 10/11; 8/12). For further information contact: Anne Sedgley, ph (03) 9616 8011.

• **17/4 Vic Special Libraries section.** *Special Librarian's Day dinner: make and renew contacts.* Lanna Thai Authentic Thai Cuisine, 65 Flemington Road, North Melbourne, 6.30pm. BYO licence, \$1 corkage. Special \$20 menu. RSVP to P Fanning, 20 Loemaris Road, Bulla 3428, ph (03) 9339 6029 by 11/4 (with payment).

17/4 Blackwell's technology evening. *Overview and demonstrations of new WWW systems: Electronic Journal Navigator, Serials CON-NECT and Collection Manager for Monographs.* Savoy Plaza International, 630 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, 4pm. Contact: Margaret Shoebridge or Rhonda Lelliott, ph (02) 9948 7300, 1800 251 699, shoebrige@blackwell.com.au, lelliott@blackwell.com.au. RSVP 14/4.

23-24/4 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information seminars. Introductory Dialog (23/4), Hot Business Topics (24/4 am). Melbourne contact: (02) 9212 2867, krinfo.aus@uts.edu.au.

26-27/4 Mobile libraries and beyond: outreach services of the future Conference hosted by Country Public Libraries Group of Victoria for librarians and mobile vehicle operators at: Hamilton Victoria. Enquiries to: Adele Kenneally, ph (03) 5572 3277, fax (03) 5571 2310, adelek@h140.aone.net.au.

• **6/5 Vic Cataloguers section.** *From videodisc to multimedia source and the web: cataloguing pictorial material at the State Library.* Speaker: Priscilla Warr, State Library of Vic. Venue: State Library of Vic Theatre. 6pm. Contact: Lyle French, ph (03) 9270 1361, fax (03) 9270 1540.

continued next page...

Not so isolated

Lisa Darby

Many will be surprised at the number and diversity of libraries in the Central Australian region — when the Tennant Creek and Yulara regions are included there are approximately forty libraries in the region, with at least one more on the cards with the development of Larapinta Primary School just coming on-line.

Special clients, special collections

The special libraries in the Centre maintain strong co-operative links with other libraries in the region. These links are so strong that a few years ago they enabled the librarians of the one-person libraries maintained by the Department of Mines and Energy and the Parks and Wildlife Commission in Alice Springs to swap jobs without any fuss or bother. These two libraries are fairly typical of their ilk. Their collections reflect the concerns of their departments and their researchers with a strong bias towards Central Australian themes — Mines and Energy concentrates on mining and exploration, and the Parks and Wildlife library collects mainly in the areas of arid zone, environment, flora, fauna, soils and national parks and reserves.

Public services

There are three public libraries in the Central Australian region — Yulara Community Library, Tennant Creek Public Library and the Nevil Shute Memorial Library in Alice Springs. Yulara is one of the few libraries in the Territory to open seven days a week. It has a book count of approximately 3000 and two part-time staff. Yulara offers a range of services including facilities for antenatal and sewing classes. The Tennant Creek Public Library has had a colourful history starting with its opening as a reading room run by the Australian Inland Mission in 1935 and continuing with only a slight hiccup during the war years to its current incarnation in the town council building. It has two full-time staff and a stock of approximately 10 000 books, seventy journal titles and various audio visual items. The largest library in Central Australia is the Nevil Shute Memorial Library, otherwise known around town as Alice Public or the Town Library. Librarians in the Alice were extremely chuffed last year when the then town librarian, Roslyn Cousins, won the Library Manager of the Year Award. Nevil Shute Library has approximately 36 000 items in its collection and offers a wide variety of services to its clients including services to house-bound users and the 'Old Timers' retirement village.

Providing resources to indigenous people

There are several Aboriginal association libraries in Central Australia providing re-

sources in the areas of land rights, sacred sites, Aboriginal and cross-cultural education, health and media. One of these organisations is the Central Land Council, a statutory authority operating under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*. The library is operated by two full-time staff and has a stock of approximately 4000 items which are of limited access to the general public out of respect for the traditional owners' cultural sensitivities. Another library with a strong Aboriginal collection is that of the Institute for Aboriginal Development, an Aboriginal controlled and community-based organisation. The library's collection was developed to back-up the Institute's primary role of adult education and resource provision. Again it is governed by respect for traditional values. The library has two staff members and approximately 7500 items. It recently expanded its reading space and work areas making it a pleasant venue for research and study.

Serving the needs of students

Centralian College was created in 1993 by the amalgamation of the Alice Springs College of TAFE (ASCOT) with the Sadadeen High School. The College occupies a somewhat unique position in that it offers programs for senior secondary through TAFE, to higher education. This creates some interesting circumstances for the library which must cater to the whole range of students. The amalgamated library is housed in the old ASCOT library which was extended in 1994 to house the expanded collection. There are five full-time staff and one part-timer; two librarians, two library technicians and two (including the part-timer) studying to be library technicians. The library houses approximately 24 000 books, 1000 videos and 200 journal titles making it the second largest library in Central Australia. The library also offers audio visual equipment and computers for student/staff use, some of which can be hired by outside organisations as well as rooms for use as classrooms and conference venues. A new development this year is access to the Internet for students and staff, which is also available to non-College people after school hours.

Central Australia has active branches of both SLANT and ALIA with libraries and librarians maintaining both formal and informal links with each other. Once upon a time the libraries of the Centre felt very isolated from the rest of the profession and compensated by developing close ties within the region. The isolation is disappearing on a wave of electronic communication but the regional ties remain strong. ■