

Making news...

Hungary honours author who calls Australia home

From the *Sunday Canberra Times*, 8 June 1997, by Graham Cook

Egon Kunz was recently honoured with one of Hungary's highest awards, the Officer's Cross of the Order of the Republic of Hungary. It was made in recognition of his activities to preserve the identity of the ethnic Hungarian community in Australia, his studies on the role and place of this community, and his publications on the history of the immigration of Hungarians and their influence on, and life in, Australian society.

Dr Kunz came to Australia in 1949 as a 27-year-old under contract, bound to work as directed for two years. He worked in Adelaide potteries and a series of factory jobs in Sydney. He was able to take a library assistants' course at the State Library of New South Wales, and was offered a position there.

Soon after he was transferred to the Mitchell Library where he remained for seventeen years, rising to become head of the manuscript department. A chance discovery at the Mitchell Library led to a fourteen year quest for information on Hungarians in Australia, the publication of a number of books, and the offer of a job at the Australian National university as a senior fellow working in refugee research.

[Editor's note: We regret to inform our readers that Dr Kunz died shortly before this issue was printed. An obituary will follow in the next issue of *inCite*.]

\$300 000 for library

From *The Bussleton/Margaret Times*, 19 June 1997

The Vasse Primary School will get \$300 000 for a new library resource centre as part of a \$1.2 million program to provide facilities in Western Australian schools. Work on the computerised library centre is scheduled to start in the 1997-98 year.

Gates creates library foundation

From *The New York Times*, 24 June 1997

Microsoft chief executive Bill Gates is making a personal contribution of \$200 million over five years (matched by a contribution from the Microsoft corporation of software) to give public libraries in lower income areas computers, software, training, and Internet access.

As many as half of the country's public libraries may eventually benefit from the newly established Gates Library Foundation, which will have as its president Patty Stonesifer, a former Microsoft senior vice president. Unlike many large gifts, the \$200 million is not an endowment set up to generate interest-income for the recipient, but rather a five-year spending total.

Information

From the *South Western Times*, 19 June 1997

Bunbury will benefit from Federal Government funding to enhance access to on-line services at public libraries, Senator Alan Eggleston said.

\$200 000 will be used to provide the first points of public access to on-line services at eleven regional public libraries, including Bunbury. People will be able to access on-line technologies through the new facilities and training provided by the program.

Library resource centres to go ahead

From *The Wagin Argus*, 19 June 1997

Lake Grace and Newdegate have been allocated funding as part of the Statewide \$1.2 million library resource program. Lake Grace has been allocated \$250 000 in this allocation. The new library/resource facility will rationalise a range of services in Lake Grace and provide an improved working environment and operating efficiency. Newdegate Primary School will receive \$30 000 towards a school/community library project.

Library link-up will mean high service level

From *The Advocate — Hepburn Shire*, 11 June 1997

The Central Highlands Regional Library Corporation has been formed to provide services to the areas covered by Hepburn, Ballarat, Ararat, Central Goldfields, Moorabool and Pryenees Councils. The six councils have agreed to operate twelve branches and one bookmobile in the municipalities.

Unsung toilers for justice

From *The Advertiser* (Adelaide), 3 June 1997, by Chris Oaten

The defendants, victims and legal counsel who appear before the Supreme Court are often featured in newspapers and on television, but there are many others who keep the wheels

of justice turning at the Supreme Court of South Australia. Ms Rosemary Hocking is head of the Sir Samuel Way Library. She provides a 'comprehensive reference, research and information service' to participating South Australian courts, other law libraries and government agencies. With the development of information technology, an increasing amount of the research required by the judiciary can be found on CD-ROM or via on-line services such as the Internet. Ms Hocking says she derives personal and professional satisfaction from working closely with the library's users.

Libraries get \$7million boost

From the *Courier Mail* (Brisbane), 5 June 1997

After receiving a record \$11.4 million for capital expansion last year Brisbane's libraries will receive another capital boost of \$7.3 million in 1997-98. \$120 000 will be spent to expand Internet access to Bracken Ridge, Ashgrove and Inala libraries. \$2.9 million will be spent on more library materials including new books, talking books and CD-ROMs, and \$80 000 has been set aside to set up 'Youth Spaces' at Chermide and Garden City libraries following the popularity of the Youth Space at the Mount Ommaney library.

Ensuring political literacy

From *The Western Advocate — Bathurst*, 29 May 1997, by Jo Hassan

If you would like current information on the Federal parliamentary process, look no further than your local library. New information kits, supplied by Member for Calare, Peter Andren, have been issued to Bathurst, Orange and Lithgow libraries, plus Blayney, Oberon, Yeoval Central, Kandos and Canowindra high schools. Mr Andren said that as a former teacher and journalist he was mindful of the need to ensure young people have access to accurate information.

The Royal Web Page and The Nakina Public Library

From *Feliciter*, May 1997

The Queen of England exchanged the first official e-mail communication by a British monarch on 6 March through the Nakina Public Library's LU-Net Internet server. The Queen exchanged greetings with students at the Nakina Elementary Public School, located in Makina, a small town near Geraldton, Ontario Canada. ■