

# Making news around Australia

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months...

## **Library staff surf the Internet**

by Scott Anderson, *Western Advocate* — Bathurst, 29 July 1997

Suzanne Newton, from the Internet Training Institute, said recently that there is a need to teach people how to best navigate the net. Ms Newton was in Bathurst to help organise the establishment of the Bathurst City Library as an accredited Internet Training Centre.

Bathurst is the first inland centre in New South Wales to boast a training centre approved by the Internet Training Institute. The training will encompass both introductory courses in using the internet and more advanced courses teaching people how to search for specific subjects. Ros Dorsman, Bathurst city librarian said that the Internet had already proved popular at the library, attracting people who would probably not normally go there.

## **Library upgrade in state TAFE**

*Observer (Gladstone)*, 2 August 1997

TAFE Queensland will spend \$5.6 million this financial year to upgrade its library system. The new system will link all the TAFE Queensland libraries in a single state-wide catalogue.

## **Internet van grant sought**

*Hamilton Spectator*, 7 August 1997

Glenelg Regional Library is seeking a \$100 000 grant to give residents in the outlying areas of Southern Grampians and Glenelg shires access to the Internet. The money would be used to buy a transit van fitted out with computers. It would have the ability to access power points and telephones in remote areas and smaller centres. The first application for funds from Vicnet and Multi Media Victoria were rejected, but another application will be made in October.

## **Council proud of Lestricia**

*News Mail (Bundaberg)*, 11 August 1997

Library assistant Lestricia Little is set to compete for Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year after completing a twelve month traineeship with Bundaberg City Council.

Ms Little completed the traineeship in the council's library before beating more than sixty applicants for a full-time job as a library assistant. Ms Little said she never expected to work in a library, but now says it is a really good job. She said the traineeship helped her to learn new skills, upgrade her current skills and exposed her to new technology, including the Internet.

## **Libraries hit by swing to hi-tech**

by Erica Cervini, *The Age* (Melbourne), 12 August 1997

An image of the librarian hunched over dusty tomes is being replaced by the 1990s 'navigator of knowledge'. In the techno-world of the university library, the talk is of digital libraries and electronic document delivery.

It is common in universities throughout Victoria for students to have to reserve time to use computers for CD-ROM searches. Libraries are seriously moving towards electronic information and students need computers. New technologies are ineffectual unless people know how to use them. University students and staff alike need support and training in using electronic forms of information retrieval.

## **Hospital prescribes books as best medicine**

By Matthew Spencer, *The Australian*, 15 August 1997

Already boasting an art gallery, Sydney's new Children's Hospital now boasts the Book Bunker, a multi-media library. Hospital chief executive John Yu said it was important for children in hospital to explore new worlds and enjoy life as much as children who were not sick. The library, the first of its kind in Australia, can carry up to 20 000 books donated from publishing houses throughout the nation, as well as offering CD-ROM, audio and Internet access.

## **Library services review to follow overseas study tour**

*Tumut and Adelong Times*, 22 August 1997

A shake-up of library services in the Tumut Shire has been proposed by li-

brarian Lyn Quince in a bid to strengthen the partnership between libraries and the community. One of the most significant changes would be the introduction of a mobile library service to the region.

Speaking to the Council on her return from a fact-finding trip to England, Ireland and Canada, sponsored by the inaugural Blakeney Millar Churchill Fellowship, Mrs Quince said a mobile library would be linked to future planning and needs assessment of the shire.

Other proposals include providing free access to the Internet, establishing an interactive home page, and enlarging rate notices by photocopier free of charge for the visually impaired.

## **Funding shocker**

*Knox Post*, 27 August 1997

A libraries lobby group will investigate why eastern regional libraries receive some of the lowest funding in the state.

Anne Patch, president of the Friends of the Eastern Regional Libraries group said that when it comes to funding, libraries seem to be right down the list, despite them being a hugely important resource for learning, recreation and mental well-being of the community.

## **Library threatened**

by Jodi Pine, *Northcote Leader*, 20 August 1997

A Darebin Council shake-up of library services could see the closure of the Thornbury branch and the introduction of private sponsorship of libraries. The recommendations have outraged the Friends of Darebin Library Service.

## **Libraries go hi-tech**

by Greg Russo, *Malvern/Prahran Leader*, 20 August 1997

Stonnington's libraries are to undergo a major technology shake-up. Council will spend \$500 000 in a computer system upgrade, starting by replacing run-down equipment.

A major initiative will see an Internet line linking Toorak-South Yarra Library with the Vicnet supplier to speed up access for library users. ■