

Making news around Australia

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

Library tribute for Hawke

Luis M Garcia, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 December 1997

Former prime minister Bob Hawke is set to become the first living Australian leader to have his own prime ministerial library and research centre. The University of South Australia is establishing the centre, which will become the permanent repository for Bob Hawke's personal papers, letters and diaries. In addition, the Hawke Institute — which will conduct research into a number of issues such as the future of unionism, democratic citizenship and reconciliation — will form part of the centre.

Australia has one other prime ministerial centre, the John Curtin Centre at Curtin University, which officially opened on 27 November 1997.

Will the future leave history on the shelf?

Steve Dow, *The Age*, 5 December 1997

Discussions in Melbourne are underway regarding the plans for the State Library of Victoria's renovation and expansion. The redevelopment plans, drafted by Sydney architects Archer, Mortlock and Woolley, have the library taking over what was previously used as Museum of Victoria exhibition space. The plans will turn Barry and Bindon Halls into a high-tech centre, music room, rare books hall and temporary exhibition space. The plans do not specify whether these spaces will be created in the existing buildings or in new ones, but state librarian Fran Awcock is in favour of a new five-level building, with two storeys below ground.

Discussions regarding the future of the State Library are currently underway, but no endorsement of plans will occur before February 1998.

New library in Murrumbateman

Yass Tribune, 26 November 1997

Murrumbateman's new public library is due for completion before Christmas 1997. The 1500-strong community has worked together to bring about the completion of this facility, which is to be housed in the Old School House.

Community groups, including the Agriculture Bureau and the Murrumbateman Lions Club, will be holding a working bee on the grounds of the new library to ensure its completion by Christmas, while computers, phones and furniture have been provided through local organisation's donations.

Opening of library was a joyful occasion

Gill Kenay, *Macleay Angus-Kempsey*, 25 November 1997

Amid much local fanfare, NSW state librarian Dagmar Schmidmaier officially opened Stuarts Point new public library on 20 November while Kempsey mayor John Bowell, officially opened the new extensions to the Stuarts Point Hall where the library is housed.

The volunteer librarians, who have operated the library from the Uniting Church Hall for many years, said that they were delighted with all of the attention this move has received, and with the attendance of seventy locals, officials and school children.

New library a first

Wellington Times, 21 November 1997

For the first time in Australia, two organisations have collaborated to provide mobile library services. The Western Institute of TAFE and the Macquarie Regional Library's joint venture will provide a library on wheels to a large area of western New South Wales. The library will service more than twenty towns, including Lightning Ridge, Goodooga, Enngonia and Grawin.

The mobile service was officially welcomed to Stuart Town on 18 December, where it received a champagne christening.

University library on target for 1998

Belinda Saban, *News Mail*, 27 November 1997

Central Queensland University's long-awaited second library building is due for completion early in the new year. The new facility, which includes a library, two electronic teaching rooms, three clinical suites and a Water Resources Research Centre room, was

begun in September of this year. Costing \$2 million, the new Central Queensland University facilities will be officially opened in February 1998.

Research around the Pacific

The Canberra Times, 26 November 1997

The Australian National University Library has joined forces with libraries in San Diego, Taipei, City Tokyo, Singapore, Beijing, Vancouver, Berkeley, Hong Kong, Seattle and Guangzhou. This consortium, or Alliance, gives Australian National University access, through digital networks, to the research materials available in institutes throughout the Pacific rim.

Both new and traditional library functions will be supported through this alliance, with specific activities including a multi-lingual online catalogue, document delivery via the Internet and personnel exchanges.

The digitisation and merging of primary source material relating to the exploration of the Pacific is one of the earliest projects. The Alliance, in collaboration with the Council on Library and Information Resources in Washington and the University of California, San Diego, will, by digitising these collections, allow world-wide access via the Web to this vast range of material.

Proust... with fries, sir?

Minh Bui, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 November 1997

Glebe, in Sydney's inner west, is set to become the site of the first Australian book 'superstore'. Collins on Broadway, scheduled to open in early March is the first Australian example of a trend in bookselling that has swept through North America during the past few years. This new superstore will sell more than 90 000 titles and will house a multimedia section, a coffee bar, Internet access and an antiquarian department.

These 'superstores' have been dubbed the McDonald's of bookstores, offering such 'specials' as long opening hours, reading sofas and author events. Local small bookstore owners have expressed concern that the new store will cut profit margins, forcing them out of business.

Environmentally-sound library store starts from a solid base

Ben Jhoty, *The Canberra Times*, 19 November 1997

In the biggest single pour of concrete ever conducted in Canberra, construction of the National Library of Australia's new depository began on 18 November.

More than 850 000 books and thirty kilometres of shelving will be housed in the new depository, due for completion in January 1998. The low-energy, climate-controlled building, with its 7.2 metre-high shelves and hydraulic stockpiler, will solve the library's storage problems for the next five years.

Auction houses battle with artists over copyright fees

Geoff Maslen, *The Age*, 24 November 1997

Under a scale of fees proposed by Viscopy, a company set up two years ago to ensure that visual artists receive fees every time their work is reproduced, art auction houses will have to pay up to \$2000 per illustration to reproduce the work of artists in their catalogues.

While the *Australian Copyright Act* has been in place for more than thirty years, copyright fees have never been paid to artists whose work is shown in art auction catalogues.

Viscopy's executive director, Anna Ward, says that the work of visual artists, including painters, sculptors and photographers, is covered under the Act, and salesrooms must comply.

The fees proposed are \$2000 for a

catalogue cover, \$1000 for a full-page, full-colour illustration and up to \$500 for a quarter-page illustration. Christie's painting department head, Kathie Sutherland, warned that should Christie's have to meet the above costs, only very highly-priced works would be illustrated.

Library honour

Whitehorse Post, 10 December 1997

The Judah Waten National Story Writing Competition, held in honour of former Box Hill resident Judah Waten, was held at the Box Hill Library this year. Also launched at the awards ceremony was a book containing the winning entries and reports by two of the judges, authors Sonya Harnett and Maurilia Meehan.

Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation Board chairman, Kevin Abbott, said that this event is the corporations most significant annual event, with 886 entries in three categories from around Australia.

Council to decide fate of libraries

Howard Jones, *The Border Mail*, 20 November 1997

Decision time has come for Albury City Council, who are poised to decide whether to start an independent library system or become part of a revamped Upper Murray Regional Library. If they chose to become part of the whole, Albury will no longer oversee the financial management of the new company. If they decide to be an independent system, both parties could face large start-up costs, while a big sale of library equip-

ment and vehicles, belonging to the old regional library, could be necessary. A delegation from Albury's neighbours will visit Albury city councillors on 8 December to ask them to remain with the Upper Murray system.

Maybe we're not so nuts about the 'Net after all

John Davidson, *The Financial Review*, 15 November 1997

According to a recent report from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, fewer than two per cent of Australians access the Internet from home.

The household use of information technology survey, released on 14 November, indicated that only 300 000 of the four million Australian personal computer owners use them to access the Internet, while only 200 000 used e-mail. These figures are at odds with surveys conducted by Roy Morgan and AGB McNair, which place the number of Internet users between 1.4 million (those who use the Internet regularly) and three million (those who use it at all).

The differences between these private surveys and the ABS survey could be accounted for by the number of people who use the Internet from work or universities, which the ABS has not yet measured.

Of those Australians who access the Internet from home, the heaviest users (forty-one per cent) are aged five to seventeen. Baby boomers were the next largest group (twenty-five per cent of users) and those aged twenty-five to thirty-nine represented twenty-three per cent of home users. ■

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