

# Focus on Asia



*Jim Potts, director of the British Council in Australia; Joyce Allan, library manager of North Sydney TAFE; Mr K Sivakumar, deputy director of Northern Sydney Institute of TAFE; and Lucy Hill, Northern Sydney Institute librarian admiring some of the Focus on Asia collection at the handing over ceremony*

The British Council recently donated a wonderful collection of British publications — *Focus on Asia* — to North Sydney TAFE library. The collection consists of over 200 books on a variety of topics covering the Asian scene: commerce and economics, cultural studies, political and strategic studies, visual and performing arts, and literature.

A handing over ceremony was held at North Sydney TAFE library in June. Present were the director of the British Council in Australia, Jim Potts, and the exhibitions coordinator, Elizabeth Ramsay. During the ceremony the deputy director of North Sydney Institute of TAFE, Mr Sivakumar, paid tribute to the British Council for their generosity.

While the majority of the items in the *Focus on Asia* collection will remain at the North Sydney campus library, those titles already held by the library will be shared amongst the other Institute libraries. Through the TAFE Library Network these resources will also be available to other libraries throughout Australia via inter-library loan. ■

## Encyclopaedia Britannica standard edition released

Encyclopaedia Britannica (Australia) Inc has released Britannica CD 98 Standard Edition. The single-disk, CD-ROM encyclopaedia operates on Macintosh, Windows 3.1x and Windows 95 platforms.

The Standard Edition offers Britannica's complete authoritative digital text database and, now that it's Macintosh, Windows 3.1x and Windows 95 compatible, the Britannica Standard Edition is designed to reach a broader consumer and business user-base.

Featuring a new interface, the Standard Edition contains more than 72 000 articles, 4000 photos and graphics, 1200 maps and more than 15 000 related internet links. Both Britannica CD 98 Multimedia and Standard Editions use Britannica's natural-language search engine along with index and dictionary search tools as well as Britannica CD applications such as Compass, a map and geography feature, and Spectrum, Britannica's outline of knowledge, for topical browsing.

For students and families who are interested in a broader exploration of Britannica's

knowledge database, the Multimedia Edition's two-disk format offers additional applications. These include audiovisual capabilities and special tools such as Analyst, Spotlights and Timeline which enable users to navigate information and compare socioeconomic and historic information from countries and periods throughout history.

The Britannica Standard Edition includes an optional connection to Britannica Online, which is revised continuously. With Britannica Online users can find the most up-to-date information available from Britannica. Britannica Online also includes a variety of special features such as current-events information, classic articles by famous contributors from previous editions of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, special-topic databases, the biographies of notable people arranged by date of birth, and the brain-bending word game, Hapax Legomena.

Britannica CD 98 Standard Edition is also available in a 'networkable' version for schools, libraries and businesses. Contact Britannica on 1800 801 001 for details and prices. ■



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members, \$10 non-members. The tour is free. Contact: Kerrie Kelly, ph 03 9669 9037, kerriek@slv.vic.gov.au.

• **12/10 ALIA Home Libraries Special Interest group meeting.** Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds. 10am. Contact: Colleen O'Brien, ph 03 9370 5144.

### WA

• **2/9 WA Local Studies section.** Visit to the National Archives of Australia (Perth). Contact: Julie Zuvela, ph 08 9386 6230, jzuvela@nedlands.wa.gov.au.

• **4/9 WA Special Libraries section.** Bi-monthly breakfast. Speaker: Peter Forrestal, editor of *The Wine Magazine*. Venue: Hotel Grand Chancellor, 707 Wellington Street, Perth. Time: 7:30am, cost: \$15. Contact: Elfrida, ph/fx 08 9383 3869, millross@wantree.com.au. RSVP by 31/8.

• **16/9 WA Library Technicians section meeting.** Venue: LISWA at 5:30pm. Contact: Wendy Monaghan, ph 08 9427 3267, fx 08 9427 3256, wmonaghan@mail.liswa.wa.gov.au.

• **23/9 & 30/9 WA Special Libraries section.** Two evening Seminar/workshop: Contract negotiation. Speaker: Ray Fells, Industrial Relations and Negotiation Lecturer, UWA. 6-8:30pm, \$81.00. Alexander College, Lecture Theatre 1, 8th Floor, 95 St Georges Terrace. Contact: Gaynor Deal, ph 0414 275 754 (mobile), dealgp@net1.nw.com.au. Cheques to: ALIA Special Libraries Section WA Group, PO Box 7582, Cloisters Square, WA. RSVP by 15/9.

• **24/9-22/10 National Special Libraries section.** Committee meetings dates. Location: Room G2, Alexander Library Building, Perth, WA at 5pm on 24/9 and 22/10 in 1998. New committee members and/or observers/visitors to Perth are welcome. Contact Joyce Steveni ph 08 9366 4746, fx 08 9366 4779, stevenij@eec.com.au.

• **28/9-16/11 WA Special Libraries section.** Committee meetings. 5.30-6.30pm. Venue: To be advised. 28/9, 26/10, 16/11. Contact: Ling Heang ph 0418 941 861, HEANGSL@bigfoot.co

• **20/10 WA Library Technicians section meeting.** Venue: Hollywood Private Hospital Library at 6pm. Contact: Wendy Monaghan, ph 08 9427 3267, fx 08 9427 3256, wmonaghan@mail.liswa.wa.gov.au.

• **4/11 WA Local Studies section AGM.** Guest speaker: Dr Jan Ryan on Chinese immigration in Western Australia. Venue: Chung Wah Association, North-

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