

Encouraging cross-sectoral co-operation



Adrian Cunningham and Katherine Dan from the Australian Society of Archivists at a meeting with ALIA staff, Jennefer Nicholson and Rosemarie Sebastian-Pillai. The meeting was held to discuss the Australian Society of Archivists' involvement in ALIA's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment strategy for the library, information and archives sector

Discovering democracy in libraries

The Australian Library and Information Association is currently represented on the advisory committee for the *Discovering democracy learning circle project*, one component of the *Discovering democracy* program, administered by the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs. *Discovering democracy* arose out of the 1994 Federal Government Civics Expert Group's report *Whereas the people... Civics and citizenship education: ALIA's submission* to this report emphasised that the public library, as the pre-eminent community facility in most towns, performing important social, educational and cultural functions, can be an excellent resource for the provision of civics education. *Whereas the people...* subsequently highlighted the role of public libraries as 'settings for discussion of civic issues, access to information and other citizenship initiatives'.

The advisory committee is responsible for the development of two learning circles for the

adult and community education sector. Learning circles, also called study circles, are focused courses for community groups, with all participants using a common resource. The aim is to provide specific outcomes for participants which will have an impact on their engagement with the wider community.

Libraries — and particularly public libraries — are involved in learning circles on a number of levels. Libraries sometimes provide the physical location for a learning circle and commonly provide additional information resources to participants. A potential outcome of one of the *Discovering democracy* learning circles, currently entitled 'Citizenship and public life', is increased awareness amongst participants of the magnitude of information provided by libraries. This learning circle explores levels of participation within the civil community in Australia, and the groups and processes which influence the Australian community. The other learning circle, 'The Australian nation', focuses on the evolution of Australian nationhood, the role of people within the Australian concept of nationhood and the unique symbols and celebrations of our nation.

Both learning circles are in the preliminary stages of development and are expected to be launched in the first half of 1999. Through its representation on the advisory committee, ALIA is emphasising the role of libraries as key centres of access to information and education, enabling citizens to understand and participate within Australian society. Throughout the advisory committee process, ALIA members will be consulted as appropriate. If you would like further information, contact Alison Batterham at ALIA National Office, phone 02 6285 1877, e-mail alison.batterham@alia.org.au



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strong, ph 08 8274 3360.

28-30/10 Train the internet trainer. Nationally recognised short course from the Internet Training Institute. Adelaide contact: Else Paeglis, ph 1800 039 038, info@iti.com.au <http://www.iti.com.au/TTT/>

29/10 RMIT Publishing. *Informit Online-Information Sessions.* Replacing NLA's existing Ozline service, Informit Online provides access to over 50 databases via the Internet. Venue: South Australian Museum. Two sessions available: 10am and 2pm. No cost, but registration essential. Contact Kathy McBrien, kathym@rmitpublishing.com.au or fx: 03 9349 4583.

• **2/11 & 9/11 SA Library Technician section.** *Internet workshops, beginners and advanced session for Library Technicians and techs-in-training.* Contact: Kathy Sharrad, ph 08 8207 8652, fx 08 8207 8434, kathysha@tafe.sa.edu.au. Places are limited.

• **16/11 SA Library Technician section AGM.** Guest speaker: Christine Cother on her recent trip to Africa. Gekko's Restaurant Bar Landing, War Memorial Drive, North Adelaide. Time: 6:30pm. Cost \$24. For bookings please contact: Jennifer Bodey, ph 08 8341 0244.

• **18/11 SA UCRLS section.** *AGM presentation of student award and Garry Benson on Communication.* Details to be advised. Contact: Carol Dungey, ph 08 8302 3413, fx 08 8302 3382, carol.dungey@unisa.edu.au

• **24/11 SA Branch.** *AGM.* Contact: Janine Tan, ph 08 8303 5225, fx 08 8303 4369, jt@library.adelaide.edu.au.

• **25/11 SA Information Sciences section.** *AGM.* Contact: Janine Tan, ph 08 8333 8443, fx 08 8331 9211, sarah@ncver.edu.au

• **2/12 SA Special Libraries section.** *AGM.* Contact: Clare Aitken, ph 08 8303 8859, clare@cobweb.com.au

• **3/12 SA Cataloguers section.** *AGM.* Details to be advised.

• **26-27/2/99 SA Library Technician section.** *4th weekend workshop* to be held at Clare, SA. Further details TBA. Contact: Kathy Sharrad, ph 08 8207 8652, fx 08 8207 8434, kathysha@tafe.sa.edu.au

Tas

• **21/10 ALIA/ACLIS Tas Branch.** *Conservation and Preservation techniques workshop.* Presenter: Bob Broughton. Hands on workshop in repairing materials and information about preservation of rare books. 6:45-10pm, Uni Tasmania (Morris Miller Library). \$5 members, \$7 non-members, includes cost of materials and supper. RSVP Meredith Newman, ph 03 6232 5258, fx 03 62325103, newmanm@h130.aone.net.au. Numbers strictly limited to 12.

4-6/11 Train the internet trainer. Nationally recognised short course from the Internet Training Institute. Hobart contact: Else Paeglis, ph 1800 039 038, info@iti.com.au <http://www.iti.com.au/TTT/>

• **9/12 ALIA/ACLIS Tas Branch.** *Xmas dinner — Ausmas menu.* Baker's Restaurant, corner Barrack and Macquarie Streets, Hobart. \$25.00 per head. For further details or tickets contact: Meredith Newman, ph 03 6232 5258, fx 03 6232 5103, newmanm@h130.aone.net.au

Vic

• **3/10 Vic Library Technicians section.** *State Library of Victoria tour.* Come and see the latest renovations, a behind the scenes tour to see the work of library technicians. 2-

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