

Making news around Australia

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

Library wins top architecture award

Erle Levey, *Sunshine Coast Daily*, 15 November 1997

The Sunshine Coast University Library has won Australia's top architectural award for public buildings. The Library, recipient of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects' Sir Zelman Cowan Award, is one of only two Sunshine Coast non-residential buildings to be recognised with such an award. And, it was the only new building to win a major architectural award in 1997. The Sunshine Coast University Library was designed by Lawrence Nield and Partners and Sunshine Coast-based group, John Mainwaring Associates.

Library staff look forward to a dry spell

Kirsten Mulley, *The Newcastle Herald*, 17 December 1997

The John Hunter Hospital's Gardiner Library ten million-dollar collection has

been threatened by a combination of mould and marsupials.

Last summer's humid conditions are believed to have contributed to the growth of mould, which has spread across more than seventy-five per cent of the library's collection of more than 100 000 volumes. Sagging ceiling tiles caused by the weight of moisture and possums were also a concern.

Using the library now involves a medical procedure for medical staff, as they must wash their hands with an anti-septic solution before leaving the premises, in order to protect patients.

An \$80 000 clean-up is to commence in the new year, which will remove the fungus from books, light fittings, walls, air conditioning vents and shelves, replace ceiling tiles with tiles which have a vapour barrier, and clean the ceiling cavity, air ducts and external brick walls. However, an internal report suggests that a further investment

of \$14 000 in a dehumidification system is needed to control the infestation and prevent regrowth.

Library staff in pay-rise action

Linda Barrow, *Bendigo Advertiser*, 17 December 1997

Bendigo Library staff have voted to take industrial action in an attempt to change their status as the lowest-paid library workers in Victoria. Australian Services Union representative, Danny Harris, said that the staff had been trying to negotiate an enterprise bargaining agreement with the North Central Goldfields Regional Library Board since 1994.

Mr Harris said that the staff had negotiated 'in good faith' but that they had now reached an 'impasse'.

'The management is pushing for a lessening of award conditions — no other library in Victoria has done this', he said.

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The action is to be low-key over Christmas, stepping up to a fully-fledged campaign in the new year.

One in three Australians work in 'culture industry'

Luis M Garcia, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 December 1997

The 'culture industry' is now as large and economically valuable as the more 'traditional' industries, such as road transport, residential building and education. More than 250 000 Australians work in the 'culture industry', which includes producing goods and services such as films, television, plays, music, books and newspapers worth an estimated \$19.3 billion a year.

The new Australian Bureau of Statistics report also showed that the most common type of occupation among those directly employed in a cultural activity is graphic designer (13 000), followed by architect (9900) and librarian (9500).

Do-it-yourself history

Alison Barclay, *Herald Sun* (Melbourne), 23 December 1997

Historian Sue Hodges is the new manager of the Public History Centre in Alice Springs. Her aim is to sift through the area's conflicting and hidden stories and get them ready for her travelling exhibition, *Raiders of the lost archives*. Sue Hodges brings to this task all the experience of eight years as a field historian for the State Library of Victoria.

Government archives at risk, report warns

Hans van Loewen, *Financial Review*, 5 January 1998

A report from the Australian Law Reform Commission recommended a new archive authority be formed, warning that unless record-keeping practices were improved Commonwealth Government records could be lost. The review found evidence of poor and inadequate record-keeping across many departments and agencies.

As an increasing amount of government activity is recorded electronically in the computer age, new and effective systems need to be developed to ensure that the records are preserved for the requisite 30-year period before being released to the public.

The report of the ALRC proposes the following:

- the National Archives of Australia be changed into an independent statutory authority to set and enforce legally-binding Commonwealth paper and electronic record-keeping standards;
- funding to come from low-level charges for access to the NAA's reading room and full-cost charges to those people using NAA resources for financially-driven projects;
- fewer categories of records (nine instead of fifteen) should be exempt from the 30-year rule, thus giving the public greater access to records;
- exemptions only to apply if the record was not deemed to be vital to the public interest and if proof of real harm would result to a person or business if the record was released to the public.

Public comment on library crucial

Warragul Gazette, 30 December 1997

The public in the West Gippsland Region will soon be able to comment on proposed models of library service produced from the areas current library review. Noel Maud, chairperson of the review, stated that similar public consultation in Warragul, Korumburra and Wonthaggi had provided valuable ideas.

Writer funding call renewed

Annabel Hepworth, *The Canberra Times*, 9 January 1998

Bob McMullan, Shadow Minister for Communication and the Arts, and Canberra writer Marion Halligan, have

called upon the Federal Government to introduce Education Lending Rights in time for the start of the 1998 academic year.

The Education Lending Rights scheme, first introduced by the former Keating government but never implemented, would compensate Australian writers for the loss of royalties of books held in reading rooms and libraries of educational institutions.

The Minister for Communications and the Arts, Senator Richard Alston, indicated that the Government was considering the proposal, which is estimated to cost \$17 million. ■

Errata

In the January issue of *inCite*, we incorrectly listed the following library suppliers' details. Please amend your supplier information to include the following:

Blackwell's ANZ office, Margaret Shoebridge ph 02 9986 7080 fx 02 9986 7090
shoebridge@blackwell.com.au

James Bennett Pty Ltd, Justine Sneddon ph 02 9986 7000 fx 02 9986 7030 info@bennett.com.au

Also, our abject apologies to Sunshine Coast University Library for neglecting to include university librarian Heather Gordon in our listing. Ms Gordon's details are:

Sunshine Coast University, Heather Gordon (university librarian and director of information services), Locked Bag No 4, Maroochydore South 4558 ■



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