

Obituary — Margaret Bell

Noted librarian, Margaret Elizabeth Bell from the State Library of South Australia died on 15 September after an eleven month battle against cancer.

Margaret was born in 1940 and was educated at Unley High School and at the University of Adelaide, where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree. She held the Registration Certificate of the Library Association of Australia (now ALIA) for whom she served on many committees as an office bearer.

Early in her career she worked in most sections of the State Library of South Australia and in the libraries of the Institute of Technology and the Engineering, and Water Supply Department. From 1972 until 1982 she was in charge of the Adult Lending Services at the State Library which were in the vanguard of library developments in Australia. During Margaret's dynamic leadership specialised outreach services — such as books for prisoners, the aged, the blind and ethnic communities — were developed as well as those for the disadvantaged.

In 1974 she became one of the two first women on the Libraries Board of South Australia. These appointments were considered worthy of note because it was the first time that the Board had members who were professionally qualified in librarianship. Margaret's appointment was of further significance because it was the first time that a



Margaret Bell

staff member had been appointed to the Board.

Later, Margaret devoted her considerable talents and energy to developing library services for the disadvantaged and for multi-cultural communities. She was on the South Australian Advisory Committee on Library Service for the Disadvantaged and was chair of the South Australian Working Group on Multi-cultural Library Services. She edited journals encompassing these interests and produced nationally-accepted standards for them. She was for a time a part-time lecturer in library studies at the Institute of Technology. Her considerable experience and expertise have greatly benefited the library community of the state and beyond. ■

Launch of online tool for high-school students

Students from Queensland secondary schools are finding it easier to research their assignments online through a University of Queensland Library (UQL) initiative. UQL last year successfully piloted a project known as 'Cyberschool' to give secondary students a taste of university research skills. This year it has opened access to all Queensland high schools.

Vice-chancellor Professor John Hay said the project was designed to help smooth the transition from school to university. University librarian, Janine Schmidt said the university began work on the UQL Cyberschool early in 1998 in partnership with international database publisher, Information Access Company. She said the UQL Cyberschool was a web 'place' where high-school students could go to do online research using state-of-the-art electronic databases and information tools.

Queensland education minister, Dean Wells launched the UQL Cyberschool on 2 August. Mrs Schmidt said in tandem with Cyberschool, the library developed a UQL Cyberschool website [<http://www.library.uq.edu.au/schools>] to provide schools with a gateway to databases, and access to the library's online catalogue and information-finding tools.

The Cyberschool uses Expanded Academic ASAP, an international database offering balanced, full-text coverage of a full range of subject disciplines — from advertising and microbiology to history, political science, and art history. It also incorporates many interdisciplinary journals and national news magazines. The database currently contains approximately 1600 indexed and 750 full-text journal titles including Australian journals. Additional titles are being added with the goal to bring the product to 1000 full-text journals. ■



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5:30pm, all welcome. Contacts: Yvonne Brock, 1999 president, ph 07 3896 2229, yvonne.brock@acgs.qld.edu or Mary Harlow, correspondence secretary, ph 07 3237 1702, mary.harlow@publicworks.qld.gov.au

• **17/11 Qld Special Libraries section.** *AGM and breakfast.* Denison's, Sheraton Hotel, 249 Cabot Street, (above Central Station), 7 for 7:15am. \$20 per head, prepayment is required! *RSVP by 12/11 to:* Helen Laurelin, ph 07 3848 3980, laurbegg@bit.net.au See enclosed *Quill* (Nov p2), for further details.

• **25/11 (Note change of date) Qld RAISS section.** *RAISS-A-MATAZZ trivia night of the year.* The Ship Inn, Atrium Room, Corner Stanley & Sidon Streets, Southbank Brisbane. 6:30 for 7pm trivia start, \$35 (2 course buffet, free drink upon arrival), join or organise a team, 8 per table. Contact: Sharan Davison, ph 07 3403 0105, therese.egan@detir.qld.gov.au, k.harbison@qut.edu.au *RSVP by 18/11.*

• **26/11 Qld Public Libraries section.** *AGM dinner and guest speaker.* Venue: tba will be a restaurant in Brisbane. Contact: Chris Gissing, president, ph 07 3403 0559, cde@brisbane.qld.gov.au

• **26/11 Qld Darling Downs Regional group.** *AGM dinner and Christmas party.* For venue and further details contact: Alison Hunter, president, ph 07 4631 1524.

• **18/12 North Qld Regional group.** *Christmas breakfast* Aqua Restaurant, Sheraton, Sir Leslie Thiess Drive, Townsville. Contact: Carolyn Kenny, Australian Institute of Marine Science, ph/fx 07 4753 4231, c.kenny@aims.gov.au *RSVP by 10/12.*

• **28/1/2000 Qld Public Libraries section.** *Committee meeting.* Caloundra, further details: tba. Contact: Chris Gissing, president, ph 07 3403 0559, cde@brisbane.qld.gov.au

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• **5/11 SA Acquisitions section.** *Beyond the basics: Acquisitions in the new millennium.* Sunnybrae Restaurant and Function Centre, Cheese House, Tikalara Street, Regency Park, 8:45-4:30pm. For information and registration contact Caroline Barter, Elizabeth Campus Regency Institute of TAFE, Woodford Road, Elizabeth, SA 5112, ph 08 8297 9737, fx 08 8207 9715, caroline.barter@regency.tafe.sa.edu.au

• **10/11 SA UCRLS section.** *AGM, Learning in the real world of Libraries.* Representatives of our past UCRLS prize winners recount their experiences in the workplace as trainees, interns and employees. How did the Library and Information Studies course prepare them for librarianship? Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library, 5:30 for 6pm. Contact: Carol Dungey, ph 08 8302 3413, fx 08 8302 3382, carol.dungey@unisa.edu.au

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