

Making news around Australia

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

bers welcome! Morley Public Library, 7 Dewar Street, Morley, 4pm on the second Tuesday of each month, 13/6; 11/7; 8/8; 12/9; 10/10; 12/12. For further information contact: Judi Willmott, ph 08 9354 5327, fx 08 9354 5953, jwillmott@canning.wa.gov.au

• **14/6 WA Library Technicians section.** *Committee meeting.* CSIRO Library, corner Underwood Avenue & Brockway Road, Floreat, 5:30 for 5:45pm start. Contact: Lynley Thorner, ph 08 9333 6720 for future meetings information. *Please note: change of venue.*

• **26/6-27/11 WA Special Libraries section.** *Committee meeting.* Café at LISWA, 26/6; 24/7; 28/8; 25/9; 23/10; 27/11. Contact: Pauline Sawyer, psawyer@agric.wa.gov.au

• **17/7 WA Library Technicians section.** *Committee meeting.* Reid Library Building, Library Training Room, Ground Floor, UWA, Stirling Highway, Nedlands, 5:30 for 5:45pm start. Contact: Sandra Wilson, wilsons@boris.curtin.edu.au or Judy Smith, ph 08 9380 2348.

• **15/8 WA Library Technicians section.** *Committee meeting.* Australian Society of CPA's, Australia Place, Level 1, 15-17 William Street, Perth, (Corner William & St Georges Terrace), 5:30 for 5:45pm start. Contact: Sandra Wilson, wilsons@boris.curtin.edu.au or Bev Dallas, ph 08 9322 2242.

• **2/9 WA Local Studies section.** *Workshop at National Archives:* the workshop will include records relating to buildings, installations and people and the opportunity to search on the National Archives of Australia Database, Record Search. National Archives, 384 Berwick Street, East Victoria Park, 10-4pm. Cost: \$50 ALIA members, \$60 non-members, includes lunch. *RSVP:* Julie Zuvela, ph 08 9442 3562, fx 08 9389 8742, jzuvela@nedlands.wa.gov.au

• **13/9 WA Library Technicians section.** *Committee meeting.* Venue: tba by the Mentoring Group. 5:30 for 5:45pm start. Contact: Sandra Wilson, wilsons@boris.curtin.edu.au

• **16/10 WA Library Technicians section.** *Committee meeting.* Deacons Graham & Jones, Boardroom, Level 31, Bankwest Tower, 108 St Georges Terrace, Perth, 5:30 for 5:45pm start. Contact: Sandra Wilson, wilsons@boris.curtin.edu.au or Sharon Beccaria, ph 08 9426 3254.

• **11/11 WA Children's and Youth Services section.** *AGM.* Venue: tba. For further information contact: Hilary Hatfield, ph 08 9411 3494, fx 08 9411 3493, hilaryh@cockburn.wa.gov.au

• **14/11 WA Library Technicians section.** *Meeting/AGM/dinner.* LISWA, 5:30 for 5:45pm start. Contact: Sandra Wilson, wilsons@boris.curtin.edu.au

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It's a knockout

Western Weekender, 31 march

The Penrith City Council chose an interesting way to celebrate National Heritage Week recently when they decided to put on an exhibition of sporting memorabilia from more than twenty different sports. Every item had connections with Penrith City, including an 1892 cricket bat used in a game between the Nepean local team and an English XI, led by Lord Sheffield, the originator of the famous Sheffield Shield name.

A similar story also appears in the *Penrith City Star* on 4 April, by Jeff McGill.

Records for all

Daily Liberal — *Dubbo*, 4 April, By Cynthia Foley

An initiative announced by Premier Bob Carr will see people in regional and rural NSW have better access to the State's archives. Thirty-nine community access points, mostly based in public libraries, will hold a new archival resources kit containing 595 reels of microfilm and 728 microfiche copies of early records. The archival resources kit builds on a genealogical research kit issued in the 1980s and includes explanatory material and links to information on State Record's web-site.

Keep GST off council services

Parramatta Sun, 5 April

A recent conference between Parramatta Council and the Federal Shadow Minister for Local Government, Senator Sue Mackay, raised issues surrounding the GST. The council is lobbying to have council services, such as swimming pools, school holiday programs, and library fees and services, GST exempt.

Education vital for viability

Moranbah and Miners Midweek, 5 April, by Davide Rosario

Librarian Anne Robbie is proposing that a community enrichment centre be established to provide tertiary education, among other things. Her proposal suggests that the centre house the Moranbah Town Library, Central Queensland Institute of TAFE-Moranbah annex and video-link centre, Queensland Open Learning Network, tourist information centre, art gallery, museum, multi-cultural and education centre, public meeting rooms, parenting and disabled facilities, and an area for bus users.

The plight of public libraries

Bellinger Courier-Sun, 5 April

Public libraries have appeared on the agenda for two consecutive Bellinger Council meetings. In particular the meeting discussed the erosion of State financial support for public libraries. The Country Public Libraries Association asked that the Council support the Association at all its meetings.

Academic institutes combine for e-library

The Australian (Computers), 11 April

Six British and United States centres of learning have teamed up to form an online public library that will bring the rarified world of academia to the internet. The London School of Economics, Cambridge University Press and the British Library have launched fathom.com, in league with Columbia University, New York Public Library, and the Smithsonian Institute.

The interactive knowledge site puts the libraries of all six institutes online, complete with research, lectures, specialised periodicals, textbooks, individual articles, interviews and discussion forums.

Story also appeared in *The Age*, 11 April.

Outcry on X-rated plans

The Age (Vic edition), 11 April, by Jenny Sinclair

The Australian Broadcasting Authority has asked Electronic Frontiers Australia (EFA) for more than \$4000 to cover a freedom of information request. EFA asked for details on web-sites that have been banned or the subject of complaints — information which is currently secret. Dale Clapperton, EFA board-member, said that those details were made public for all other media except the internet. EFA has appealed against the fee saying that it is an unreasonable amount for documents which probably duplicate each other, and that it is in the public interest to release the information.

Library closure a 'great loss'

Wentworth Courier, 12 April, by James Wilkinson

Waverley Council's branch library on Bondi Road will close in June. Staff and resources will be moved to the Central library in Denison Street, with extended opening hours on Saturday afternoon the trade-off. In a report to Council, the director of library and community services, Janette Wright, said that over the past two years, numbers of visitors to the branch library had declined, as had the number of loans made from the branch library.

Chief censor

The Canberra Times, 13 April

A new chief censor was appointed yesterday, ending a seven-month search. Desmond Clark was deputy chairman of the Australian Film Commission.

Trial on kiosks for net

Mornington Peninsula Leader, 18 April, by Donna Kelly

Internet kiosks, offering access to the internet as well as e-mail facilities, will be installed at Rosebud, Mornington and Hastings libraries for a three-month trial period. Users will pay a minimum of \$1 for every 15 minutes they stay

online. The kiosks will not be open to advance bookings. The trial is in response to problems of free internet access terminals being used for e-mail and chat rather than research. It is proposed that once the kiosks are in place that access to e-mail and chat rooms be blocked on the free internet terminals in the libraries.

Also story in the *Southern Peninsula Local* (Rosebud) 25 April.

Librarian honoured

Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser, 19 April

A new section of the Phillip Island Library has been opened. The section is dedicated and named in honour of former Phillip Island librarian, Yvonne Hancock. The section, which boasts locally crafted shelving, will house the local history collection and bound newspapers.

Library reduces internet access

Alpine Observer, 19 April, by Jenny Bouda

Available internet hours at the Bright Library have been cut to an average of two hours per day. Bright librarian said the demand for research on the internet was fairly limited at this time, and that the big demand was for e-mail, a non-core activity.

It is hoped that the reduction in service will be temporary. There is a major rural libraries online project being rolled out which will improve internet access.

Book tax bonus for students

Herald Sun, 19 April, by Clinton Porteous

Students will escape a GST price rise on textbooks after the federal government announced a discount scheme. All students will receive an instant eight per cent reduction on the cost of books when they pay at the cash register. The scheme will run for four years and be open to more than five million students attending schools, universities, TAFE and other institutions. Students will need to show their student identification at the sales counter to receive the discount.

It's time for Gough, man of many letters

The Newcastle Herald, 20 April, by Helen Signy

A collection of Gough Whitlam's private papers will be given to the University of Western Sydney and kept for posterity in a research institute and library. The Whitlam Institute will focus on greater western Sydney and the role of urban regions in the 21st century. The university's Parramatta library will be renamed the Whitlam library.

Also story in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 April

10 000 oppose libraries budget

The Advertiser, 20 April, by Andrew Gavin

More than 10 000 people have signed petitions opposing new arrangements for public libraries funding in South Australia. Councils are protesting against the reallocation of \$1.2

million unspent funding under a new one-year interim public libraries funding agreement.

Novel bookworm-free library has only tools

Brimbank Messenger, 25 April

The Western Regional Community Tool Library stocks tools of all kinds so people on low incomes can fix their houses or cars at low cost. Library chairman Neil Dillon is on hand on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday mornings to help home renovators or amateur mechanics find the tools they need. The library was established five years ago to help the unemployed and others who did not have money to spend on expensive tools.

Spreading the word on web's wonders

The Age (Vic edition), 28 April, by Steve Stevens

Sandie Downey, co-ordinator of the Skills.net roadshow, has driven more than 150 000 kilometres, visited 830 communities and introduced more than 25 000 people to the wonders of the internet since July 1997. Skills.net is an initiative of Multimedia Victoria, a branch of the Department of State and Regional Development, and its goal is to demystify the workings of the internet and encourage people to communicate online. The Skills.net program provides free training and access to the web to people who may not otherwise have access.

Time to bring Olsen to book

The Advertiser (Adelaide), 4 May, by Dean Jaensch

The storm over government funding for the local council library system in South Australia, could have electoral implications for the Olsen government. Local councils are angry over a proposed \$1.2 million cut in library funding. The government claims that there is no cut, and that there is actually increased funding. It bases this on the fact that there is a 'large sum of State government funds sitting idle' in the local government's library account. According to local councils, however, this money has already been committed (and the spending authorised by government authorities) for the purchase of books and other library materials. ■



• **14/11 WA Public Libraries section.** AGM, all members welcome! Venue: tba. For further information contact: Judi Willmott, ph 08 9354 5327, fx 08 9354 5953, jwillmott@canning.wa.gov.au

National

3-7/7 21st Conference of the International Association of Technological University Libraries. *Virtual Libraries: Virtual Communities*, hosted by QUT Library, Brisbane, Australia. Well known overseas/local speakers. Contact: Barb Ewers, b.ewers@qut.edu.au For regularly updated information see: <http://www.wlib.qut.edu.au/IATUL>

• **10/7 Australian Serials Special Interest Group.** *Serials 2000-changes in the new millennium.* State Library of Queensland theatre, 9-4:45pm, \$77/\$99/\$30. Contact: Nathalie Schulz, ph 07 3875 5242, n.schulz@mailbox.gu.edu.au

15-18/10 LIANZA Conference for 2000. *Exceeding expectations.* Christchurch Convention Centre. Conference convenor: Gail Pattie, deputy university librarian, Uni of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch New Zealand, ph +64 3 364 2055, fx +64 3 364 2007, g.pattie@libr.canterbury.ac.nz

• **23/10 Australian Serials Special Interest Group.** *Serials 2005 — future directions.* National Library of Australia. For more information contact: Jenni Jeremy, ph 08 8302 6720, jenni.jeremy@unisa.edu.au

Conference

• **23-27/10 ALIA2000, 6th Biennial Conference.** *Capitalising on knowledge: the information profession in the twenty-first century.* National Convention Centre, Canberra. Conference organiser: Conference Solutions, Brigitte Gunn, ph 02 6285 3000, fx 02 6285 3001, alia2000.conference@alia.org.au URL <http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/alia2000/>

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