

Making news...

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

We still love our library

Western Advocate, 6 September,
Nikki Joyce

Recent figures from the Bathurst Regional Library show visits have increased by 41 per cent in the last four years. Loans have increased as well, with their annual circulation count up by more than 15 378 since last year. Local users love the range of recreation available, local students appreciate the reference and research assistance.

Magic formula

Herald Sun (Weekend), 3 September,
Blanche Clark

Simon Coronel is one of a privileged few to access an amazing magical collection buried in the heart of Melbourne. Perhaps what makes Coronel such a master is that he has read every trick in nearly every magic book. His obsession was like that of 1930s Melbourne magician the Amazing Alma, whose fanatical collection he stumbled across on the State Library of Victoria's website.

The WG Alma Conjuring Collection contains more than 3300 books, 60 magazines, 1500 photographs, 250 posters, hundreds of files on individual magicians, scrapbooks, programs, letters and other magic memorabilia. William George Alma bequeathed it to the library on the condition that only magicians and genuine researchers could access his models and magic instructions. He died in 1993, aged 89. Now mere mortals can view some of the collection at the library's exhibition, *The Changing Face of Victoria*. (Dome Gallery, Level 5, Entry 1, 328 Swanston Street) Free entry.

Australia to fund PNG library facelift

ABC Premium News, 1 September

Australia is to fund the refurbishment of Papua New Guinea's national library as part of the country's independence anniversary celebrations. The national library in Port Moresby was Australia's gift to Papua New Guinea on independence in 1975. Now, as part of 30th anniversary celebrations, the federal government will pay for the refurbishing of the library. This will ensure a collection of rare materials from the early development of PNG will be maintained.

Call for help

Southern Star, 31 August

The Red Cross is looking for volunteers, particularly retired librarians, to help out in a few weeks time. Australian Red Cross Queensland is shifting from Adelaide Street, which it has called home for more than 50 years, to Park Road, Milton. Executive director Greg Goebel said mountains of memorabilia had been accumulated over

that time and some expert archiving assistance is needed. Phone 1300 55 44 19.

Kids pick their year's top reads

Courier Mail, 30 August

Children in Queensland have had the opportunity to vote for their favourite books in the BILBY awards. Last year's winners were *The Cat in the Hat* (Dr Seuss), *Just Disgusting* (Andy Griffiths) and *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* (J K Rowling).

The awards, run by the Children's Book Council of Australia (Queensland branch), were founded in 1990 to encourage reading and give children a collective voice. The 2005 winners will be announced on Friday (International Literacy Day) at St Finbarr's, Ashgrove. Queensland Governor Quentin Bryce and 'bilby man' Frank Manthey will be guests. [<http://www.pa.ash.org.au/cbc/bilbyawards/>]

News Bytes

Gold Coast Bulletin, 30 August

Queensland schools, teachers and students are to get access to 4000 education videos, a library of 40 000 topic-specific video clips and 20 000 royalty-free curriculum images through a new web-based 'video on demand' system. Designed by Marcom Digital, the technology is already in use in 43 000 schools in North America and has been adapted to suit the Australian curriculum. [<http://www.shellgraphix.com/Mediaroom/>]

NLB chairman hopes Bras Basah-Bugis area will attract performing arts

Channel News Asia, 29 August

The Chairman of the National Library Board of Singapore, Ms Lim Soo Hoon, hopes the Bras Basah-Bugis district will be an incubator for the performing arts to flourish. The re-opened National Library in the Arts, Culture, Learning and Entertainment hub complemented the various schools, museums and arts groups housed in the area. Ms Lim was speaking at a book presentation ceremony by the Australian High Commission's International Cultural Council on Monday. She said the gift of books was an extension of the excellent spirit of collaboration between Australia and Singapore. Such donations help widen the scope, variety and coverage of National Library Board's collection, and would have a far-reaching impact on the local performing arts scene. *CNA/de*.

Dutch library offers more than talking books

West Australian, 26 August

A public library in the Twente region of the Netherlands has been swamped with requests after releasing plans to 'lend out' living people. The volunteer 'loan items' will

be borrowed by users from the Almelo library, who can spend an hour in the library cafe asking their new resource whatever questions occur to them. The people-lending project is a local initiative to help break down prejudice and put people in touch with ethnic minorities and other marginalised members of society.

Positive role in the community PM's accolade for our Big Book Club

Advertiser, 25 August, Cara Jenkin

The *Advertiser's* Big Book Club has won a federal government award for encouraging reading. The partnership between the *Advertiser* and the Public Libraries of South Australia was one of five state winners. Each month in the *Advertiser*, the club launches a new book which can be bought by readers at a discounted price. Metropolitan and regional events also are held to meet the author and talk through issues raised by the book. Public Libraries of South Australia executive director Tania Paull said the club had generated sales of 1000 books a month.

Old tree takes a bow

Southern News, 25 August

An ancient tree, believed to be the oldest poinciana on public land in Queensland, has been preserved as part of the Millennium Arts Project at South Bank. The tree, which sits in an alcove outside the State Library, has been propped up by poles and nurtured by arborists during the library's redevelopment as part of the \$277.3 million Millennium Arts Project at the Queensland Cultural Centre. The poinciana, which is estimated to be about 100 years old, was incorporated in the library's original design. Arts Minister Rod Welford said the poinciana would form a central feature outside the redeveloped State Library.

Book characters take to the street

Western Advocate, 25 August

More than 1000 children marched in a Book Week parade in Bathurst. They dressed as characters from their favourite books, and the general popularity of J K Rowling's Harry Potter series was clear.

Cultural capitals also the stingiest

The Australian, 24 August,
Katrina Strickland

Victorian politicians boast about Melbourne being the nation's cultural capital, but when it comes to backing their claim with hard dollars, they are the tightest lot around. NSW, the other state that regularly claims cultural superiority, does not do much better. Figures released yesterday by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that Victoria spent the least per person of any state or territory government on culture

in 2003/04. But the state and territory governments were more supportive of cultural activities on aggregate in 2003/04 than their federal counterpart. State and territory spending grew 3 per cent to \$2.36 billion, while federal government spending rose 2 per cent (a little less than the 2.1 per cent inflation rate) to \$1.69 billion.

Library boost

Cairns Post, 24 August

The Queensland government has contributed \$193 000 towards a \$1 million extension of the Dorothy Jones Library in Tully, Cardwell Shire's main library. Local Government Minister Desley Boyle said the former shire council offices in the town were being converted into a library and the cultural heritage of the building retained.

Plans for a cultural festival

Sunbury Macedon Regional, 23 August

The Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games will be the biggest event staged in this state, so why not hold Australia's largest ever cultural festival at the same time? The state and federal governments launched Festival Melbourne 2006 at Federation Square on Saturday. Venues across Melbourne have been earmarked for exhibitions and performing arts programs, as well as regional cities.

The State Library of Victoria will host the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for contemporary fiction writing before the Games get under way. Every Festival Melbourne 2006 event will be free during Games time. For more information, visit <http://www.dvc.vic.gov.au>.

Booked out in Africa

Courier Mail, 16 August, Cindy Lord

When Jane Kennedy arrived in Tanzania in January 2004 she faced a mammoth task — turning a jumbled mountain of thousands of donated books into a school library. By the time Book Week rolled around last year, the teacher-librarian had catalogued 10 500 books at the Australian-run School of St Jude. Ms Kennedy, a teacher-librarian at Kurwongbah State School, Petrie, north of Brisbane, volunteered after seeing an ad in a professional magazine.

The School of St Jude is in the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro and is attended by about 500 children from the area surrounding the village of Moshono. The school was established three years ago by an Australian teacher, Gemma Sisía, and is funded by donations and sponsorship from overseas. [<http://www.schoolofstjude.co.tz/>]

Life's a garden for Territory library folk

Northern Territory News, 14 August

A garden party was the perfect setting for a function for members and guests of the Australian Library and Information Association of the Top End. More than thirty people attended the event, which was held at the Chinese Gardens at Charles Darwin University's Casuarina campus. ALIA is a professional association for people involved in the library and information sector.

Libraries do well in survey

Messenger, 10 August

A survey has shown more than 90 per cent of Campbelltown residents are happy with their

libraries. Forty per cent of residents were satisfied with library services, while 51 per cent were highly satisfied. The figures support the demand from some residents for the council to scrap plans for a cultural and leisure centre including a central library and instead to upgrade its libraries at Athelstone and Campbelltown. A 435-signature petition to maintain and upgrade the Athelstone Library was lodged with the council in June. Petitioner Julie-Ann Bennett said people were satisfied with their two local libraries. Feedback to the council's own community consultation had shown the proposed \$14 million centre was the preferred option, backed by 41 per cent of 1500 respondents.

\$6 billion of national treasures at risk: auditor

Canberra Times, 10 August

About \$6 billion worth of national treasures stored at Canberra's cultural institutions is being put at risk by security shortcomings and poor storage, an audit report reveals. The Auditor-General has investigated the safety and accessibility of collections held at the National Museum of Australia, National Library of Australia, National Archives of Australia and Australian War Memorial. In the report tabled in Parliament yesterday, the Auditor-General made fourteen recommendations for improvements that were broadly backed by the institutions. The Auditor-General was concerned that inappropriate storage was a drain on resources, did not effectively stave off the deterioration of items and undermined conservation work.

Digital future at Fisher

The Australian, 10 August, Bernard Lane

The Fisher Library stacks, those totems of scholarly life at Australia's oldest university, are to be cut down by about 20 per cent, says John Shipp, the University of Sydney librarian. Out-of-date books and redundant journals will make way for a digital-era library and its 'state-of-the-art learning and research spaces', according to Fisher's five-year strategic plan. Some of the condemned books and journals will be warehoused on campus; a few may be pulped; others may be destined for a national repository in the making. Sydney has been in talks with operators of a vast warehouse, based at Melbourne's La Trobe University, which already holds around 500 000 volumes.



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ACT

• **19/10 ACTIVE ALIA.** *Information management in the Parliamentary Library — Info Online 2005 Encore.* Guest speakers: Gaik Khong and Shirley White; and Digital media monitoring for Parliament, Catherine Gilbert. Moving right along: using RFID for collection management at the Parliamentary Library. NLA, Conference Room, 4:00–5:30pm. ALIA/AGLIN Info Sharing Session. Contact: Sherrey Quinn, ph 02 6257 9177, sherrey.quinn@alianet.alia.org.au

• **24/10 National Library Asia Research Forum.** *This one-day forum will discuss changing trends in Asia-based research; how researchers seek information on Asia and what libraries are doing to meet the needs of changing communities of interest.* Free registration, lunch etc provided. Contact: Amelia McKenzie, ph 02 6262 1519, amckenzie@nla.gov.au, <http://www.nla.gov.au/asian/asialforum/asialforum.html>

• **26/10 2005 Clare Burton Memorial Lecture.** *Girls, schools and society: a generation of change.* Guest speaker: Professor Alison Mackinnon, Hawke Research Institute, Uni of SA. Hosted by Australian National University, Great Hall, University House, ANU, 6:00pm for 6:30pm dinner. Contact: Lesley Hayes, ph 02 6125 4649, lesley.hayes@anu.edu.au

• **26–27/10 2005 actKM Conference.** *Managing Knowledge for Better Performance.* Rydges Lakeside in Canberra. Contact: David Williams, ph 02 6121 7022, david.williams@dewr.gov.au, http://www.actkm.com/actkm_2005_conference.html

• **3/11 APSIG.** *After the tsunami: the National Library's books for Aceh project.* APSIG lunchtime talk, Amelia McKenzie from NLA, will describe the book donation program for libraries in Aceh. NLA Conference Room, 12:30–1:15pm. No bookings required. Refreshments provided. Gold coin donation. Contact: Amelia McKenzie, ph 02 6262 1519, amckenzie@nla.gov.au

• **4/11 ACTIVE ALIA.** *Jobs and skill gaps: what the market is looking for.* Panel discussion: Anna-Maria Sviatko (One Umbrella), Megan Curlewis (Informed Sources) and speaker tba (Zenith). AGLIN/ALIA Joint Information Sharing Session. NLA, Conference Room, 4:00–5:00pm Contact: Karna O'Dea, ph 02 6121 6310, karna.odea@dewr.gov.au

• **24/11 ACTIVE ALIA.** *Risk management: theory and practical application in a library context.* Speakers Paul Longley (DEWR) and Margerita Moreno (NLA). AGLIN/ALIA Joint Information Sharing Session. NLA, Conference Room, 12:30–1:30pm. Bring your lunch, but RSVP for tea/coffee catering purposes to: Karna O'Dea, ph 02 6121 6310, karna.odea@dewr.gov.au

NSW

• **19/10 2005 Clare Burton Memorial Lecture.** *Girls, schools and society: a generation of change.* Guest speaker: Professor Alison Mackinnon, Hawke Research Institute, University of SA. Hosted by University of Technology, Sydney, Training Room 1, Level 6, Building 10, Jones Street, Broadway, 6:00pm. Contact: Kate Wilson, ph 02 9514 1081, kate.wilson@qut.edu.au

• **26/10–30/11 NSW Mentoring Group.** *Library folk in the pub.* Come and join us for our regular informal gathering. Chat about work, the profession or whatever. All library-types welcome! 1st floor bar, Agincourt Hotel, corner Harris and George Streets, Railway Square, from 6:00pm. 26/10, 30/11. Contact: John Elias, ph 02 9463 9235, jealias@mla.com.au

• **1/11 Maxus Genie presentation.** *Web Library Management System Live demonstration of In-magic Genie, Web-based Library Management*

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