

• **26/7 Top End Group.** *Presentation and meeting.* Charles Darwin University Library, Casuarina, NT. 5:00pm presentation: Goethe Institute Study Tour; 6:00pm meeting. Contact: Linda Marchesani, ph 08 8999 3929, linda.marchesani@nt.gov.au

• **23/8 Top End Group.** *Presentation and meeting.* Parap School Library. Tour of new library, 5:00pm; meeting, 6:00pm. Contact: Linda Marchesani, ph 08 8999 3929, linda.marchesani@nt.gov.au

• **27/9 Top End Group.** *Presentation and meeting/ Australian Broadcasting Corporation Archives and Library.* Tour of library, 5:00pm; meeting, 6:00pm; social evening, 7:00pm. Contact: Linda Marchesani, ph 08 8999 3929, linda.marchesani@nt.gov.au

QLD

5/7–1/11 How to be a relaxed overachiever. 5 interactive classes by teleconference for LIS professionals. See *National events* for additional details.

• **31/7 Qld Library Technicians.** *General meeting.* All Qld Library Technicians welcome! QUT Library, Gardens Point, V Block, room V711, 5:30–7:00pm. Contact: Trish D'Arcy, p.darcy@mcauley.acu.edu.au

• **1/8 QLD OPALS.** *General meeting at Resource Options.* Unit 6/6, Qualtrough St, Woolloongabba, 7:30–8:30am. Host: Jenny Hale. Contact: Jenny Hale, ph 07 3391 3499, info@resource-options.com.au

18/10 Australian Copyright Council. *Seminars in Brisbane.* experienced ACC lawyers present sessions for librarians, copyright and compliance officers, digital rights managers and collecting institution staff. Contact: Copyright Council, ph 02 9699 3247, info@copyright.org.au, <http://www.copyright.org.au/>

SA

• **3/7–6/11 ALIA SA.** *General meeting.* All SA ALIA members welcome! We meet on the 1st Monday each month. Amore Café, 162–170 Pultney St, 6:00pm for 6:15pm. 3/7, 4/9, 2/10, 6/11. Contact: Helen Kwaka, ph 08 8397 7454, kwakh@cttg.sa.gov.au

• **4/7 Specials Libraries (SA).** *Committee meeting.* Time/location: tba. Contact: Hayley Gamble, ph 08 8204 1305, hayley.gamble@sawater.com.au

5/7–1/11 How to be a relaxed overachiever. 5 interactive classes by teleconference for LIS professionals. See *National events* for additional details.

• **17/7 SA Library Achiever of the Year Award.** Meet the ALIA Board of Directors and celebrate the presentation of this inaugural award, proudly sponsored by Raeco. Contact: Kate Sinclair, ph 08 8201 5183, kate.sinclair@flinders.edu.au

22/11 Australian Copyright Council. *Seminars in Adelaide.* experienced ACC lawyers present sessions for librarians, copyright and compliance officers, digital rights managers and collecting institution staff. Contact: Copyright Council, ph 02 9699 3247, info@copyright.org.au, <http://www.copyright.org.au/>

continued next page...

Making news...

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

Contracts better for men's pay

The Australian, 12 June, Paige Taylor

For Perth library services manager Michelle Brennan, abolishing individual contracts could mean being stuck on lower pay dictated by an award. She is one of many West Australians moving to AWAs or common law individual contracts which, driven by the state's economic boom, often offer much more money, though sometimes with less security. Western Australia is a testing ground for non-award employment, with the highest incidence of individual contracts, and the results have been mixed. The state Department of Consumer and Employment Protection says the gap between women's and men's wages in Western Australia widened after the Court government introduced individual workplace contracts in 1993. The department found the contracts were used extensively to cover workers in the female-dominated industries of cleaning, retail and restaurant work. The report found 56 per cent of all agreements analysed were below award rates. Women are generally disadvantaged, particularly in the lower-paid sectors, through individual contracts, but those in the resources sector, largely covering men, are well paid. There are 544 383 workers on AWAs in Australia.

Take it as read, let's talk

Melbourne Yarra Leader, 12 June

Reading and library use are increasing. The Yarra-Melbourne Regional Library reports rising patronage with more than a million visits in the year to July 2005. The number of loans jumped 5.7 per cent to more than 1.5 million in the year, and there were 264 473 visits to the library website.

National Library archives digital age

The Dominion Post (NZ), 5 June, Reuben Schwarz

The National Library of New Zealand is expanding its archives from books to DVDs, CDs, and web pages. As of 12 August 2006, two copies of all electronic documents published in New Zealand must be sent to the library. One copy will be kept in a permanent archive, the other available for loan. Internet publishers are encouraged to notify the library when new documents are put online, but are only required to help the library get a copy if it wants one. The library expects to collect about 6000 internet documents a year. Bill Hood, executive director of the Video Association of New Zealand, says the country's movie publishers support the new rules and will comply with them.

Libraries support internet findings

Messenger – East Torrens (South Australia), 31 May, Olivia Watson

Local libraries support the findings of a new national survey which states internet access in public libraries is safe for children. The Australian Library and Information Association survey, completed last December, reveals the majority of the 700 libraries surveyed have detailed guidelines and policies for internet use. Association executive director Sue Hutley said public libraries were key players in providing community access to online information.

There have been a lot of similar stories about children's access to and responsible use of the internet – more than one regional paper claims responsibility for an investigation into this topic. Many of the stories mention the ALIA survey. For example, Greg Barila, 'Libraries block porn access', *Messenger – Leader*, p24, 31 May 2006. See also *Australian Bookseller and Publisher*, May/June 2006, p40–41, for a story in a similar, if more sober, vein, with an emphasis on ALIA's work.

Remote control criminals

Courier Mail (Australia), 31 May, Jennifer Dudley

Proposed changes to copyright law may leave TV watchers breaking the law and in the dark, writes Jennifer Dudley. This 1700 word article gives a summary of the proposed changes with FAQ, concluding that some of the changes are confusing and will be impossible to police. A short discussion of developing technology makes the difficulty of policing some of the new laws fairly clear. See also 'Recording TV no longer a crime', *The Australian*, 23 May 2006, James Riley, a short general article summarising the changes to copyright law that reflect new technology and acknowledge the common practice of 'format-shifting' for personal use.

Life in the fast lane

The Canberra Times, 29 May

Down at the drag racing track, she's known as The Librarian. She arrives on a massive black and purple motorcycle, her red ringlets peeking out from beneath her helmet, and takes her place among the field of racers – all men, few smiling, many mean-looking. Breaking 'librarian' stereotypes (well, apart from Batgirl), Heidi Pritchard rides a Hayabusa, also known as the Suzuki GSX 1300R, the largest, fastest road bike ever made. Heidi loves racing, and has had a series of bikes. The first beloved bike was stolen from the basement carpark of the National Library, where Pritchard (who was formerly a teacher) works as the manager of events and education.

HIH crook Adler hits the books in jail

Australian Associated Press, 21 May

Corporate criminal Rodney Adler is reportedly studying a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in philosophy from his Bathurst jail cell, as well as doing a real estate course and running the prison library.

Website provides forum for teens to talk about books

Bowen Independent, 19 May

Australia now has its first website for teenagers to share their enjoyment of books and reading. <http://www.insideadog.com.au>, developed by the Centre for Youth Literature, State Library of Victoria, is a world first that provides a forum for teenagers to talk about books and promotes young adult literature. The name comes from the famous Groucho Marx quote. The site includes reader-written book reviews, moderated discussions, competitions, quizzes and give-aways, sample chapters of new books and news about young adult literature. It went live on Friday, 28 May. ■