

FLIS is ten!

Jenn Evans writes of a decade of service

Freelance Library & Information Services Pty Ltd (FLIS), which provides specialised personnel and consultancy services to the library industry in Melbourne, was born in December 1983.

Since that time the Directors, Meg Paul and Jenn Evans, have interviewed, placed in temporary and permanent positions and had as clients thousands of librarians, library technicians, library assistants and records staff. In the past decade they have seen many changes in the library industry, including:

- increasing difficulty for new library graduates to gain employment, especially in initial training positions;
- acceptance by library managers that using FLIS to help with recruitment of temporary and permanent staff can be time-saving and cost-effective;
- an overall increase in part-time positions,



Meg Paul (on left) and Jennifer Evans prepare for the next decade.

- but a decrease in overall library jobs, especially in the private sector and in government schools;
- using FLIS as the employer of library staff needed on a long-term basis to cope with management-imposed staff ceilings;
- out-sourcing of certain functions (such as cataloguing) as a cost-effective alternative to filling positions within the organisation;
- increasing need for library staff at all

levels to augment their knowledge and skills on a continuing basis (but no easy access to ways of achieving this);

- a need for library staff to gain a high profile and support within their employing organisations and to provide quality services to counter management challenges to the professional perception that libraries are necessary and self-evidently worthwhile.

What an interesting and challenging decade it has been! ■

The Australian Pocket Oxford Dictionary

Throw away that old edition—for under twenty dollars the new one is a winner

It's just a year ago (*inCite* 12, 1992, p14) that we reviewed the *Australian Concise Oxford Dictionary* in these pages. Now the Australian National Dictionary Centre at the ANU has given us a Third Edition of the *Australian Pocket Oxford*, adding thousands of new words to the previous edition, and taking giant leaps forward from the First Edition back in 1976.

As well as containing more words, the 1265 pages are more legible, with a 25% larger format. There are examples and notes in the text to illustrate current usage in vexed cases like that/which, owing to/due to, 'their' in place of his/her, when you can use 'wanker' (*colloq.*, but no longer considered *coarse colloq.*), and so on. The *Pocket* includes words and phrases from 85 different Aboriginal languages (all separately identified, with a map to show where they come from), colloquialisms, names of our flora and fauna, many technical terms and words with historical significance.

'A good dictionary,' says the Preface, 'is a cultural document and should tell us something about the culture it reflects and serves—in this case the uniquely Austral-

ian culture.' The *Pocket* is based on comprehensive current Oxford sources, and also on unpublished material from the ANU Centre's database of Australianisms. It is superbly suited to the common dictionary functions of checking meaning, spelling or pronunciation, but be pre-

pared to lose a little time when your eye catches another entry and you find yourself drawn irresistibly along delightful but quite irrelevant byways...

The Aust. Pocket Oxford Dictionary was edited by Dr Bruce Moore of ADFA and costs \$19.95. Great value! ■

Just in time for Christmas

The Oxford Book of Australian Sporting Anecdotes will be a great stocking-filler

From the busy presses at Oxford comes a slim volume to gladden the heart of every true Aussie sportsperson. Over 250 anecdotes from 1778 to 1992 illuminate just about every sport that we have ever practised in Australia, from surfing (that was the 1778 story, with Captain Cook watching the natives in Hawaii 'catching the waves on boards') to football, cycling, wood chopping and yachting.

Had you heard about how 'Bullock' Dobbs drank the water jug containing the leeches intended for the black eyes he got in a Rugby League game, and then had to drink a bottle of rum as a chaser? About young Lew Hoad's first encounter with a tiny Ken Rosewall? About Merv Hughes's promiscuous kissing, and his moustache that *didn't* attract the ladies (and Honor Blackman's comment that kissing a man with a moustache is like 'kissing your toothbrush goodnight')? There's a smile on every page, but in among the smiles some revealing stories, such as Evonne Goolagong's first encounter with racism on the court, and one or two sad notes as well.

There is an index of names and events, and little icons against each anecdote that identify the sport at a glance. The *Oxford Book of Australian Sporting Anecdotes*, edited by Richard Cashman, David Headon and Graeme Kinross-Smith, is \$29.95.