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Applications

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**Kathy Myrtle, Secretary,
RAISS National Committee,
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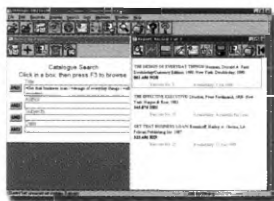
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Endangered places program

Australian Council of National Trusts conservation program

The world wide web is becoming an extremely important medium to display information that is instantly accessible throughout Australia and worldwide.

The Australian Council of National Trusts has established its own website to promote the National Trust and its aims. Apart from providing general information and entry points to state and territory National Trusts, the site provides access to the *Endangered places* program, which has been established to highlight some of Australia's endangered cultural heritage places. Endangered places are not just well-known landmarks but all places that communities value. As an individual or as a group you can nominate natural and cultural heritage places for the database.

The *Endangered places* program sets out to: focus national attention on Australia's endangered places and to increase the awareness of the processes required to conserve these places; improve public understanding and appreciation of Australia's cultural heritage and the need to conserve it; potentially conserve the selected endangered places by encouraging community ac-

tion; and encourage active community participation in nominating endangered heritage places.

You can help save endangered places by working with your National Trust or another heritage organisation or by establishing a local action group to save a place. Libraries are great community focus points to get involved to help save an 'Endangered place' such as the Mudgee Regent Cinema, one of the entries on the first *Endangered places* list.

The Mudgee Regent Cinema typifies the plight of Australia's surviving picture palaces. Major film distributors stipulate that first film releases must run for six weeks, at least three times a day. There is not the demand in country regions for such exposure. The National Trust urges distributors to relax this policy, better suited to modern, multiplex cinemas, in order to save these heritage cinemas. Shorter seasons and fewer daily screenings would allow them a better chance of survival while maximising returns for owners and distributors. Heritage cinemas in towns like Mudgee are often the only venue for films and live theatre and form a vital component of country social life. ■

Winning library service

Local government and the arts leadership awards

Established in 1995, the Local Government and the Arts Leadership Awards recognise best practice management and innovation in cultural development within Victorian local Government. The awards complement the state government's *Arts 21 Leadership Strategy*, and are a joint initiative of the Victorian Ministers for the Arts and Local Government.

This year the Bayside Library Service won the 'Best practice management of a library service' award, this is the first year that this category has been included in the awards.

Robert Doyle, MLA, representing the Minister for Local Government, presented the award to Brendan Fitzgerald and Karyn Siegmans on behalf of the Bayside City Council on Tuesday, 23 June 1998.

The award recognises Bayside City Council as an outstanding leader in library services. Significant plans developed by the library management service, and brought to fruition by the hard work of the library staff, include marketing and business plans which have bought a greater community involvement and interest in the library service.

The award also recognises Bayside City Council's active support of libraries and the arts through the refurbishment of the nationally significant building which houses the Council Chambers and the new Brighton Branch library. ■