

ACT

• **1/10 ACT Specials section.** *Early warning: Librarians Libations in October* will be at *The Contented Soul* in Woden Town Square. Contact: Julie Philips, ph 02 6208 5112, fx 02 6208 5149, j.philips@nma.gov.au

• **13/10 ACT Library Technicians meeting** 5:30–7:00pm, *CID Reid, D Block*. Marion Boyd to talk about the COLT Conference (Washington DC) and US/Canadian libraries. Nominations for the 1999 committee. Contacts Margaret Drury (president) e-mail mdrury@agson.gov.au or Marion Boyd (vice-president) e-mail mboyd@hcourt.gov.au

• **14/10–9/12 ACT Branch/ACLIS.** Meeting dates: 5:30pm, NLA, 4th floor conference room. 14/10, 11/11, 9/12. Libby Coates, ph 02 6246 1177, libby@elc.aiatsis.gov.au

• **16/10 ACT UCRLS.** *Online services: how far, how fast? Libraries' transition from print to digital.* Uni Canberra Conference Centre. 9–2pm, \$50 ALIA members, \$60 non-ALIA members (including lunch). More details later. Nancy Clarke, ph 02 6209 1117, fx 02 6209 1114, n.clarke@signadou.acu.edu.au

• **20/10 ACT Special Libraries section.** *Library visit: AIATSIS library at Acton House.* 4:30pm. Visit the AIATSIS library before it moves to its new premises. Libby Coates, ph 02 6246 1177, libby@aiatsis.gov.au *RSVP by 15/10.*

• **27/10 ACT Special Libraries section.** *Library visit the Parliamentary Library.* Enter through the Ministers' entrance. RSVP by 23 October to Judy Philips, phone 6208 5112, e-mail j.philips@nma.gov.au, names are needed for security passes

• **3/11 ACT Library Technicians AGM** 5:30pm, *CIT Reid, D Block*. All positions declared vacant. Returning officer: Ursula Macdermott, e-mail ursula.macdermott@dpmc.gov.au Contact Margaret Drury (president) e-mail mdrury@agso.gov.au

• **4/11 ACT Special Libraries section.** *Library visit: AGSO library — second visit, by popular request, and lunch.* Library visit starts at 10:30am and lunch at 12:30pm. Ground Floor, AGSO Building, Symonston. Enter from Jerrabomberra Avenue. RSVP to Jeanette Regan by 30 October, phone 6249 0226 or e-mail jeanette.regan@anu.edu.au

11–13/11 Train the internet trainer. *Nationally recognised short course* from the Internet Training Institute. Canberra contact: Else Paeglis, ph 1800 039 038, info@iti.com.au <http://www.iti.com.au/TTT/>

• **12/11 ACT Special Libraries section.** *Librarian's Libations.* Every first payday of the month. Come along to the Hyatt Hotel at 5:30pm.

• **12/11 ACT UCRLS.** *Andrew Wells, director, Kinetica Implementation, NLA, on 'Kinetica, the strategic context' — the background and issues faced in this implementation, and the role research libraries will play.* 12:30–1:30, NLA 4th Floor conference room. Contact Nancy Clarke, phone 6209 1117, e-mail n.clarke@signadou.acu.edu.au

• **19/11 ACT Special Libraries section.** *Christmas drinks at Dunroon House,* Royal Military College of Australia. RSVP Karyn Hall by 16 November, phone 6265 9694, fax 6265 9052.

• **27/11 ACT Special Libraries section:** *AGM and BIG breakfast at the Red Belly Black, Stromlo Observatory.* Breakfast RSVP to David Bradley by 20 November, phone 6266 4134, e-mail David-Bradley@hr-m.b.m.defence.gov.au. AGM nominations or enquiries to Julie Philips, phone 6208 5112, e-mail j.philips@nma.gov.au

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Self-promotion: getting it right — a best-practice example

Anne Sedgley, Department of Infrastructure

The new Victorian Department of Infrastructure library, InfraLib, in Collins Street, Melbourne is a classic example of how libraries can sell themselves to their parent organisation.

The library's re-structure and move could have been a major disruption, and possibly a bad public relations exercise, but for the careful planning of the library manager, Jillian Hiscock, and her dedicated staff.

The library staff organised a farewell party before the move. They made sure everyone in the department knew that the library was moving, and invited everyone to attend the farewell. They were rewarded by a great crowd, with the director of the EPA officially farewelling the library, and emphasising the value of the library and how much they would be missed.

There was a short interval when the library took up temporary residence in a building at the other end of town. The library maintained its services, and high profile, by making weekly visits to the Department. The staff would come in with their trolley of books and journals, set up shop in the most prominent area, and chat to everyone.

Jillian maintained excellent relations with the architect in charge of planning the new library. The new library was restricted in the number of book-stacks and compactus due to concerns about floor-loadings — Nauru House was not designed for taking libraries! The limitations were turned into advantages by careful weeding of the library's contents, and creating an open, spacious library with wonderful calm spaces between the book stacks.

To celebrate the move into the new library, the library staff held an opening party that all department staff were invited to attend. The principal speaker at the opening was Dr John Paterson, the secretary of the Department, proving the importance of in-



The strong, bright and cheerful decor makes the library an attractive place to visit. Visitors are impressed with the innovative use of colour and unusual furniture — the chairs are more comfortable than they look!

formation in the eyes of the organisation. Library staff were at the door to welcome guests to the new library and direct them to the areas in which the celebrations would take place. The catering was set up at the opposite end of the library to the entrance, preventing the usual tendency of guests to cluster at the front entrance and venture no further.

Features of the new library include a pair of new-look swan's-neck monitors with the new flat screens. They generated a great deal of comment, and help make the library appear leading-edge. The decor is strong, bright and cheerful, with wonderful use of colour and unusual furniture (including a leopard-skin lanceolate backless couch!).

During the opening Jillian addressed those gathered to talk about the move, the new features of the library, the services available from the library, as well as the importance of user feedback, encouraging staff to have a sense of 'ownership' of the library.

The new Department of Infrastructure Library, InfraLib, is a great example of how dedicated library staff with flair and initiative, can turn what some could view as adversity, to their advantage, strengthening the library's place in the parent organisation.

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