

Cost \$24. For bookings please contact: Kathy Sharrad, ph 08 8207 8652, fx 08 8207 8434, kathysha@tafe.sa.edu.au

• **17/11 SA Branch.** Council meeting dates. Uni of Adelaide, Barr Smith Library, Seminar room B, 5:30pm. Contact: Janine Tan, ph 08 8303 5225, fx 08 8303 4369, jtan@library.adelaide.edu.au

• **18/11 SA UCRLS section.** AGM presentation of student award and Garry Benson on Communication with comedy. Details to be advised. Contact: Carol Dungey, ph 08 8302 3413, fx 08 8302 3382, carol.dungey@unisa.edu.au

• **24/11 SA Branch.** AGM. Contact: Janine Tan, ph 08 8303 5225, fx 08 8303 4369, jtan@library.adelaide.edu.au

• **25/11 SA Information Sciences section AGM.** Guest speaker: Steve Cramond (Information Infrastructure Liaison, Standing Committee on Information Policy, AV-CC) on Access to electronic information resources. 5:15 for 5:45pm, Uni SA Library, City West Campus, room 5-25. Contact: Janine Tan, ph 08 8333 8443, fx 08 8331 9211, sarah@ncver.edu.au

• **1/12 SA Acquisitions section.** AGM, guest speaker: Karen McDowell, Aviation Library, Parafield Airport. Details to be advised. Contact: Jenni Jeremy, ph 08 8302 6720, jenni.jeremy@unisa.edu.au

• **2/12 SA Special Libraries section.** AGM and dinner. Contact: Clare Aitken, ph 08 8303 8859, clarea@cobweb.com.au

• **3/12 SA Cataloguers section.** AGM. Details to be advised.

• **21/12 SA Library Technician section.** Meeting — new committee. Contact: Kathy Sharrad, ph 08 8207 8652, fx 08 8207 8434, kathysha@tafe.sa.edu.au

• **26-27/2/99 SA Library Technician section.** 4th weekend workshop to be held at Clare, SA. Further details TBA. Contact: Kathy Sharrad, ph 08 8207 8652, fx 08 8207 8434, kathysha@tafe.sa.edu.au

Tas

• **9/12 ALIA/ACLIS Tas Branch.** Xmas dinner — Ausmas menu. Baker's Restaurant, corner Barrack and Macquarie Streets, Hobart. \$25.00 per head. For further details or tickets contact: Meredith Newman, ph 03 6232 5258, fx 03 6232 5103, newmanm@h130.aone.net.au

Vic

• **9/11-14/12 Vic Special Libraries section.** Committee meeting dates for 1998. Venue: Heart Foundation, 411 King Street, West Melbourne at 5:30pm (unless advised otherwise). 9/11; 14/12. Contact: June Hooper, ph 03 9329

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Dear Max... I would like to introduce 'Ern'

Max Harris would grudgingly approve, Patrick White might grind his teeth, and Charles Darwin would probably view it as an evolutionary process which takes place after a couple of hundred years — the publication of an anthology of personal letters by a remarkable cross-section of people who have each contributed in their own unique way to Australian history.

The *Oxford book of Australian letters*, co-edited by John Thompson of the National Library of Australia, and Brenda Niall, a Melbourne-based writer and a former Reader in English at Monash University, was released by Oxford University Press in October.

John is well-known to many in the profession as a leading expert in Australiana.

According to the publisher, this anthology of two-hundred letters from explorers, convicts, painters, musicians, journalists, scientists and many others will fill a gap on Australian shelves.

While many of the letter writers are well-known, the anthology also represents those who made no special mark on history but whose letters illuminate a particular aspect of the national experience.

The letters are intense, witty, political, satirical and mournful, with pioneers expressing their sense of dislocation in a new land, men and women affected by the experience of war and Aboriginal men and women whose lives were abruptly transformed by European settlement.

Others include the 'diabolical' letter from a certain 'Ethel Malley', modestly introducing Max Harris to the work of her late brother 'Ern'. It was this letter which kicked off Australia's legendary literary scandal; Patrick White's incomparable description of a luncheon on board the royal yacht *Britannia*; and Charles Darwin writing to his sister about the surprising level of culture and civilisation in a convict settlement in Tasmania during his visit on the *Beagle* in 1836.

Darwin wrote:

At another very pleasant house, where I dined, they told me, at their last dancing party, ninety-six was the number. Is not this astonishing in so remote a part of the world.

According to the editors, one of the revelations in this anthology is the willingness of Australians to express themselves emotionally, tenderly and needfully.

In the *Editors acknowledgments* (and at the launch of the book in Canberra on 14 October), tribute is paid to the work of Australian librarians and archivists in collecting and preserving Australia's historical record.

Mr Thompson said that in preparing the anthology, he and Ms Niall owed a large debt not only to many individual and family custodians of letters but also to the librarians and archivists in Australia and overseas who helped with ideas, advice and practical help.

A range of library programs

I can do that! Programs for children, teenagers and their families in libraries

Gosford City Council has recently published *I can do that!* by Heather Fisher, children's and young adult librarian at Gosford City Library. *I can do that!* is the product of an ALIA Travel Grant where Heather travelled to Canada and the United States of America to gather data from thirty-two public libraries. The data related to children's and young adult programs of all kinds and to family literacy initiatives. Source libraries covered all scales from the smallest booth library in a shopping mall in Cleveland to the large Public Library in Chicago.

The publication covers programming for infants to teenagers, as well as summer reading programs, and family outreach ideas.

You can purchase *I can do that!* from Gosford City Library, PO Box 21, Gosford NSW 2250, for \$20 (postage included).

