

Skeletons of the past discarded

ACT

• **2/12 Canberra Online Users Group.** *AGM, Annabelle Herd, ACLIS Copyright research officer, on 'Libraries, digital resources and copyright'. Australian Heritage Commission, MTIA House, 3rd Floor, Conference Room, 39 Brisbane Avenue, Barton. 5:15pm. RSVP to: Susan White, ph 02 6205 0391, susan_white@dpa.act.gov.au or Felicity Butler, ph 02 6261 2737, felicity.butler@dfat.gov.au for catering purposes.*

• **3/12 ACT UCRLS.** *An elegant breakfast at Chats, following a brief AGM, with a talk by Bob Hefner, literary editor of The Canberra Times, on the role of the literary editor. 7:30 for 7:45am. Cost \$15. Contact Nancy Clarke, ph 02 6209 1117, fx 02 6209 1114, n.clarke@signadou.acu.edu.au Note change of date.*

• **5/12 ACT Library Technicians.** *Christmas party. Join us and celebrate another successful year and toast our new venture in 1999. Ainslie Football Club, 52 Wakefield Avenue, Ainslie. 7pm. Contact: Ursula Macdermott, ph 02 6271 5668, ursula.macdermott@dpmc.gov.au or Marion Boyd, mboyd@hcourt.gov.au RSVP by 1/12.*

• **9/12 ACT Branch Xmas function.** *Drinks and nibbles as a Happy Xmas wish from the Branch to you. 5:30pm at ALIA House. No charge! But RSVP (vital, or we might run out of goodies) to ACT Branch Secretary Libby Coates, ph 02 6246 1177, libby@aiatsis.gov.au*

• **27 March 99 ACT Library Technicians plan a big celebration.** *1979-1999 20 years of library studies in Canberra. All who have attended or taught any Library Studies courses at ACT TAFE or CIT or work in ACT Libraries are invited. Further details will follow as they come to hand.*

NSW

• **1/12 NSW School Libraries section.** *Committee meetings. Venue: Joint council rooms, Leichhardt Primary School, Corner Norton and Marion Streets. Time: 6-8pm. Contact: Andrew Barber, ph 02 9519 1544, library@newton-pah.dse.nsw.edu.au*

After a year of debate and discussion regarding the direction of the Association, ALIA NSW Branch is inviting all members and friends of ALIA and ACLIS to come together to celebrate a new beginning.

Following the very successful Australian Library Week Breakfast, the tradition continues with a cocktail party celebrating the end of the year on 15 December in the Skeleton Gallery at the Australian Museum. As part of the celebrations, NSW Branch has decided to recognise a number of deserving members via the presentation of ALIA Merit Awards. The Merit Award allows us say thank you to people in our state in a variety of sectors who have given outstanding support to ALIA and the industry.

Come and spend an evening networking with colleagues in the best possible way in amongst the Terrorsaurus exhibition, complete with eight moving and roaring robotic dinosaurs and thirteen interactive exhibits. There is even a fifteen metre running track

where you can race a dinosaur and see who comes first — an opportunity to prove that librarians are far from extinct!

The cost of the cocktail party is \$45.00 (discount for groups of 10) Time: 6.00 for 6.30 Venue: Skeleton Gallery, Australian Museum, Sydney. RSVP and prepayment essential. Contact Joanne Fuller or Heather Black, ALIA NSW Branch Local Presence, PO Box 246, Artarmon NSW 2064. Phone 02 9906 6000, fax 02 9906 5987 or e-mail jojo1@ozemail.com.au ■

Local history goes global with new discussion group

Bill Lamble

The Social Sciences Section of the IFLA Division of Special Libraries held a preparatory meeting to form an international discussion group on genealogy and local history at the IFLA Conference in Amsterdam on 16 August 1998. The meeting was facilitated by Mel Thatcher, acquisitions librarian for Asian and Pacific materials of the Society of Genealogists, Salt Lake City, Utah. Also in attendance was Mr Brent Griffiths, director of the Society's library.

Nine countries, including Australia, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, were represented and sufficient signatures were obtained from associations represented to form a discussion group. I was the only representative from Australia.

Librarians who provide family and local history services and other interested persons are invited to participate in this discussion group, the formal name of which is the Family and Local History Discussion Group.

Under the auspices of IFLA a virtual discussion group will be created on IFLANET. A meeting will be organised for for IFLA '99 in Bangkok at which national reports for the Asia/Pacific regions will be presented. A workshop on reference services has been

proposed for the IFLA 2000 conference in Jerusalem. There is a possibility that the theme for the open papers session of the Social Sciences Section (jointly with the Geography and Map Section) will be genealogical services in libraries.

I recommend participation in this group and hope that more Australians will find their way to Bangkok next year as well as to Jerusalem the year after. For more information about the group contacted me at wlamble@iinet.net.au ■

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