

# Making news around Australia

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months...

## National Library lightens up with some pulp fiction

Bob Heiner, *The Canberra Times*,  
15 February 1998

The National Library of Australia's newest exhibition, *Pulp fiction in Australia* features the Library's recently-acquired books, journals, artwork, diaries, letters and photographs of Clive Bleeck.

Bleeck, a prolific Sydney writer of pulp fiction and short stories, wrote up to four 22 000-word novelettes every two months at the height of his career in the 1950s. When he died in 1971, Bleeck had penned more than 350 short stories and novelettes.

Richard Stone of the National Library says that Bleeck's career particularly thrived in the 1940s and 1950s when import-licensing restrictions prevented the import of American magazines and books.

*Pulp fiction in Australia* will be displayed in the visitor centre until the end of June.

## Text keeps time

Rosemary Sorensen, *Courier Mail*  
(Brisbane), 12 February 1998

The State Library of South Australia's website has become the first in the world to display a complete, full-colour illuminated manuscript. The library's antiphonal, a 360-page, thirteenth-century music manuscript has been painstakingly restored and is on display at the Telstra Adelaide Festival as well as online. Curator Jenny Tonkin describes the antiphonal as an 'inspiring manuscript' and says that by making a digitised version of the manuscript available, the State Library has helped usher in a new age for the custodians of rare books: 'No appointments, no white gloves, no waiting for the rare books librarian!'

## Collection hits crowd for six

Brady Haran, *The Advertiser*  
(Adelaide), 9 February 1998

In just over a week the collection of memorabilia donated to the State Library of South Australia by cricket legend Sir Donald Bradman has had more than 3000 visitors.

Sarita Chadwick, the exhibition manager, says that she was surprised by

the number of interstate and overseas visitors and that the exhibition is proving to be most popular with adults — not cricket-crazed children.

'Everyone who has been in has something to say... Many say that they have seen him bat and feel like the collection is part of their life', she said.

The collection, opened by prime minister John Howard on 29 January, contains an assortment of bats, balls, trophies and other trinkets.

## Be patent, fees being cut

Glenn Mulcaster, *The Age*  
(Melbourne), 3 February 1998

The Australian Industrial Property Organisation (AIPO) has reduced a number of its fees and abolished others. AIPO, better known as the National Patents, Designs and Trademarks Office has reduced most of its fees by an average of ten per cent, while simplifying or eliminating others.

Acting AIPO director-general, Ross Wilson, said that the cuts were made partly to keep pace with overseas industry property registrars and partly because aggregated cost-savings over the past five years justify cuts. Improved information technology usage, better data storage and streamlined filing processes, possible because of new legislation, made it easier to reduce costs.

Convenor of the public relations committee of the Institute of Patent Attorneys of Australia (IPAA), Caroline Bommer, said that smaller companies and inventors will benefit the most from these cuts, because government fees are only a minor component of legal bills levied by patent attorneys.

The AIPO, which will unveil a new agency name this month, operates on a full cost-recovery basis, employing more than 700 staff in Canberra. It has offices in every state.

## Yarra Plenty computerised

*Diamond Valley News* (Nillumbik),  
28 January 1998

In an Australian first, the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service has introduced a new computerised cataloguing system.

The Sirsi/Unicorn catalogue program allows library patrons to use the mouse to select icons when searching the catalogue. In addition, customers

outside the library will be able to reserve books, renew borrowings, ask questions of staff and obtain directions to Internet sites.

The new catalogue, worth more than \$500 000, began operating in all Yarra Plenty libraries on 27 January.

## Family history project now on the Internet

*Hamilton Spectator*, 27 January 1998

The Victorian state government's launch of the *First families 2001* initiative will provide a user-friendly database for people to record and share details about the earliest person in their family known to have lived in Australia. This initiative is to supplement the information already available in the genealogy centre of the State Library of Victoria.

Member for Geelong, Ann Henderson, said, '*First families 2001* has the potential to be the online Australian equivalent of the English Doomsday Book of 1082, in providing a unique document about the people who are the history of this country'.

The Internet address for *First families 2001* is <http://www.vicnet.net.au/family/>.

## Library dispute settled

*Bendigo Advertiser*, 7 February 1998

This week the Industrial Relations Commission heard submissions from the rowing Bendigo Regional Library staff and the board. Both sides in the dispute were very pleased following the hearing.

Australian Services Union industrial organiser Danny Harris said, 'As the result of the hearing, the Union and its members now have more input into the restructure of the North Central Goldfields Library... In addition the board has belatedly committed itself to an enterprise bargaining agreement.'

Library board chair, John Brooke, said the board was pleased that the commission approved the restructure.

'This will allow for positions to be advertised which will meet client needs... and for revised opening and closing times which will better suit the needs of the public', he said, adding that the board will negotiate new salary arrangements with staff when the restructure is complete. ■