

tact: Wendy Monaghan, ph 08 9427 3267, wmonaghan@mail.liswa.wa.gov.au (*date subject to change due to Library Technician conference 8-10/9.)

• **4/8 WA Local Studies section.** *Advance notice of visit to National Archives. Hands on workshop, commencing 5pm for 5:30pm. Details TBA. Contact: Julie Zuvella, ph 08 9386 6230, fx 08 9389 8742, jzuvella@nedlands.wa.gov.au.*

ALW

• **17-23/5 Australian Library Week 1999.** *Libraries: explore and discover. See the 4-page brochure of products available in the March issue inCite. Information from ALIA National Office, PO Box E441, Kingstons 2604, ph 02 6285 1877, fx 02 6282 2249, enquiry@alia.org.au, www.alia.org.au/alw/*

• **13/5 ACT Special Libraries section.** *Pre-ALW drinks at Duntroun House. 5:30pm. Relax and chat to colleagues in front of a log fire. Bar will be open and nibbles provided. RSVP by 10/5 to Karyn Hall, ph 02 6265 9694 or fx 02 6265 9052.*

• **15/5 ACT Library Technician section.** *Celebrating 20 years, 1979-1999. A celebration dinner will be held at the start of ALW for all who ever participated in the course, as teachers or students. 7 for 7:30pm, at the Hellenic Club of Canberra, cost \$26. RSVP by 30/4 to Beth Clary, ph 02 6234 2225, beth.clary@radford.com.au or Marion Boyd, ph 02 6270 6912, mboyd@hcourt.gov.au*

• **16/5 Qld Branch ALW launch.** *Special guest: best selling author Nick Earls. Official guests: Jim Soorley, Lord Mayor and Des Stephens, State librarian. Giveaways and official opening of ALW, all welcome. Contact: Robyn Gattera, ph 07 3403 5941, cra@brisbane.qld.gov.au*

17-23/5 RMIT Publishing Library Week *Special Offer. Free access to selected databases on the Informit Online Internet service — sport, tourism, hospitality, historical records, genealogy, current affairs, and more. Ph 03 9349 4994, info@rmitpublishing.com.au*

• **19/5 Tas Branch.** *ALW seminar. Making electronic resources accessible. Venue: CSIRO Marine Laboratories, Castray Esplanade, Hobart. 9-1pm. Contact: Richard Dearden, ph 03 6226 2132, fx 03 6226 7817, Richard.Dearden@utas.edu.au*

19/5-21/5 Kapunda & Light Public Library Service. *Storytelling for preschoolers, 10-10:30am, Kapunda Library (19/5); 10-10:30am, Freeling Library (21/5).*

19/5-22/5 Kapunda & Light Public Library Service. *Face Painting, 5-6pm, Freeling Library (19/5); 4-5pm, Greenock Library (21/5); 10:30-11:30am, Kapunda Library (22/5)*

20/5 Kapunda & Light Public Library Service. *A science show put on by the 'Investigator Science Centre'. Freeling Library, 5-5:30pm; Kapunda Library, 7-7:30pm.*

23/5 Kapunda & Light Public Library Service. *Stall at the Kapunda Swap Meet, selling books, library merchandise and giving away Library Week promotional material, 8-5pm*

National

2-4/6 Australian Book Fair. *The leading trade event for the publishing industry in Australia brings together publishers, booksellers, authors, librarians and educators. Contact: Expertise Events, PO Box 547, NSW 1655, ph 02 9977 0888, fx 02 9977 0336, expertiseevents@bigpond.com, www.expertiseevents.com.au*

22-23/7 The Vital Link: Library Staffing

continued next page...

Making news around Australia

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

Opposition to library Bill

The Kalgoorlie Miner, 6 March

Kalgoorlie-Boulder Mayor Ron Yuryevich is rallying against the State Government's *Culture, Library and Arts Bill* now under consideration by parliament. The Bill will give the Arts Minister the power to over-ride decisions of advisory panels.

The WA Municipal Association, of which Mr Yuryevich is president, is concerned at the significance of the Bill to the public library service. Mr Yuryevich said that the Bill has been developed without the input of local councils who are the major financial contributors to local libraries.

'One of our major concerns with the Bill is that ownership of the state-wide public library collection will vest in one person and this person will ultimately control what appears on our public library shelves' he said.

Bill aims to annex power over libraries

The Melville Fremantle Community, 9 March

Melville-Fremantle Libraries are very critical of a proposed arts bill. Melville Mayor Katie Mair said 'The City of Melville would urge the state government to enter into full and proper dialogue with local government'.

Fremantle City librarian Betty McGreever said that the proposed legislation failed to recognise the stake local governments had in libraries. She said 'At the moment the Library Board is a statutory body with real clout. The Bill would see the board replaced with an advisory body with no real power. It would be a toothless tiger'.

Censorship fear for local library

By Helen Allan, *The Busselton Margaret Times, 18 March*

Censorship and lack of financial support for libraries are some of the issues Sally Hays, Margaret River librarian, fears will come from the *Culture, Library and Arts Bill*.

Ms Hays said that the bill would give extraordinary powers to the arts minister and gives no set financial support for libraries.

Cultural Czar

By Victoria Laurie, *The Bulletin, 23 March*

Western Australian arts minister, Peter Foss, plans to 'streamline' the arts agencies in Western Australia. His legislation, called the *Culture, Libraries and the Arts Bill 1998*, aims to centralise the state museum, Western Australian Art Gallery and the Library and Information Service of WA — bringing the three separate entities into one 'super ministry'.

Under the proposed changes, boards of directors will be relegated to an advisory role and the arts minister can choose to heed or ignore their advice.

Opponents of the legislation are concerned that the minister could become the state's arbiter of taste.

Libraries need money

By George Cattermole, *Cobram Courier, 10 March*

Goulburn Valley Regional Library will have to increase its fees next financial year to ensure that the libraries' computers are Y2K compliant and keep up with information technology.

Kyabram library scoops awards

Tatura Guardian, 9 March

The Shire of Campaspe awarded four of its six regional library certificates to the Kyabram library. The library was awarded for Outstanding team performance 1998; Highest reference inquiries increase 1998; Highest children's membership increase 1998; and Highest circulation increase 1998.

Communication in technology's spell

By Neil McLean, *The Australian, 17 March*

Neil McLean reports on the 'Australia's information future — innovation and knowledge management for the 21st century' workshop held in Canberra recently. See p21 of this issue for more details.

Too sordid for school

By Jill Pengelley and Scott Monk, *The Adelaide Advertiser, 19 March*

Nikki Gemmill's novel, *Cleave*, has caused a storm in South Australia. A twelve-year-old girl borrowed the novel from her school library for a book report, but when she complained to her parents that she could not understand some of the language they discovered that the book contained sexually explicit passages. Their discovery has prompted calls for a 'pornography audit' of school libraries.

The Department of Education already has guidelines which outline what is appropriate reading material for young people.

Don't publish — and be damned

By Bonnie Collier, *The Australian, 17 March*

There are many reasons for the demise of the scholarly monograph — university presses blame declining subsidies, decreased library purchases and increases in editorial and production costs; libraries blame budget cuts, increases in the cost of books and serials, and increases in the cost of information tech-

nology. Whatever the reason, scholars are the ones suffering. Until now, the publishing has been a standard measure of a scholar's merit, affecting pay, tenure, and promotion.

Another, significant, concern is the importance of monographs to research and academic literature. Ms Colliers surveyed 600 books to determine trends in the kinds of materials scholars cited, and how much they relied on monographs — monographs constituted thirty-three per cent of the bibliographic citations charted, compared to books which constituted twenty per cent.

Town & country/Librarians

By Sophie Douez, *The Sunday Age*, 21 March

Country: Donna Van Loenen runs the Golden Plains mobile library. Donna spends three days a week driving between Geelong and Ballarat, seeing on average 350 people per week.

Town: Fran Awcock, is chief executive officer and state librarian at the State Library of Victoria. Fran spends at least an hour a month on the front desk at the library. This gives her insight into where problems may arise. One of the library's responsibilities is preserving the history of the people who make up Victoria.

Librarians 'can't read every book'

By Bronwyn Hurrell, *The Adelaide Advertiser*, 19 March

Adelaide literary figures have defended a school for allowing students access to the novel by Nikki Gemmill, *Cleave*.

Children's Book Council spokeswoman Katharine England said it was impossible for school librarians to read every book they put on the shelves, but most tried to be informed. She stressed the importance of having books in libraries that appealed to more mature readers.

School librarians are in the difficult position of providing reading material for children in a wide age range, with a range of experiences.

What a welcome site for parents and students

Verona Burgess, *The Canberra Times*, 27 March

Are you a slave to your children's homework? Then you should visit a new web-site set up by the ACT Library Service. Homework Help provides a variety of research resources for students, parents and teachers. The site uses 'information literacy principles to guide students to resources within ACT libraries and to internet sites selected for their educational soundness and age suitability. The site is at www.library.act.gov.au/homework.

Course eases culture shock

By Guy Healy, *The Australian*, 31 March

First-year students at RMIT University will be offered a non-compulsory, one-year orientation program entitled RMIT 101. The program aims at ensuring students have the skills to succeed at university. Included in the course are library searching, internet searching and how to evaluate the merits of material found on the internet. Other skills include active learning, effective reading, essay and report writing, oral presentations, and note-taking.

New skills via e-mail

Sherbrooke Free Press, 24 March

Plans for the e-skills@Swinburne project were announced recently. The project will allow residents of Melbourne's outer-east to log onto virtual courses in small business, tourism, and literacy and numeracy. The network will operate from Belgrave Public Library, Coonara Community House, and the Croydon, Lilydale, Wantirna and Healesville University's TAFE Division.

in the 21st Century. City West Campus, Uni South Australia. Contact Ann Luzeckyj, Research and Development Librarian, Uni SA, Holbrooks Rd, Underdale 5032, ph 08 8302 7040, fx 08 8302 6756, ann.luzeckyj@unisa.edu.au

Conf

• 18-20/7 National TAFE section Biennial Conference. *TAFE Libraries — Adding Value*. Focus on how TAFE libraries add value to vocational education and training. West Point Convention Centre, Hobart. Contact: Mures Convention Management, Victoria Dock, Hobart 7000, ph 03 6234 1424, fx 03 6234 4464, conventions@mures.com.au

• 22-26/8/1999 8th Asian Pacific Special Health and Law Librarians conference. *Strait to the future*. West Point Hotel Casino, Hobart. Contact: Mures Convention Management, Victoria Dock, Hobart 7000, ph 03 6234 1424, 03 6234 4464, conventions@mures.com.au <http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/strait/>

• 6-8/9/99 Reference and Information Service section conference. *1999 and Beyond — Partnerships and Paradigms*. Venue: Hilton Hotel, Sydney. Contact: ACMS Conventions & Exhibitions Pty Ltd, PO Box 468, Paddington 2021, ph 02 9332 4622, fx 02 9332 4066, raiss99@acms.com.au <http://www.csu.edu.au/special/raiss99/>

• 8-10/9 10th ALIA National Library Technicians section conference. *Projections reflections*. The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Western Australia. Contact: Anne Nicolay, Keynote Conferences, PO Box 1126, West Leederville 6001, ph 08 9382 3799, fx 08 9380 4006, keynote@ca.com.au

• 13-15/10 13th National Cataloguing Conference. *Charting the Information Universe*. Carlton Crest Hotel, Brisbane. Contact: Intermedia Convention and Event Management, ph 07 3369 0477, fx 07 3369 1512, cat99@im.com.au <http://www.alia.org.au/sections/cat/conferences/>

• 12-13/11 2nd Local Studies conference. *Post haste the millennium: opportunities and challenges in local studies*. Contact: Jenni Woodroffe, convener, ph/fx 08 9367 4759, jenni@omen.net.au

• 14-17/11 Public Libraries conference. *How far have we come... how far can we go?* Organised by ALIA WA Public Libraries section. Sheraton Perth Hotel, Perth. Contact: Promaco Pty Ltd, ph 08 9364 8311, fx 08 9316 1453, promaco@promaco.com.au <http://www.promaco.com.au/conference/1999/alia>



NEW!

ALIA greeting card packs

ALIA has launched a fabulous collection of greeting card packs featuring the theme — *Pathways to knowledge*.

The packs are elegantly wrapped and make a perfect gift. The vibrant posters are suitable for display in a range of environments.

There are eight cards per gift pack [four of each image]

Members price: \$15 per pack, \$40 special offer for three packs

[Non-members: \$17 per pack, \$46 special offer].

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• bullets indicate activities organised by ALIA Divisions