

# Making news



... from previous page

• **18/6/2001 SA Library Technician section.** *AGM.* Venue/time: tba. Contact: SALT secretary, Jackie Williams, ph 08 8226 2890, fx 08 8226 2199, williams.jackie@saugov.sa.gov.au

## VIC

• **4/12 Home Library Service SIG meeting.** Yarra Plenty Regional Library, Ferris Boulevard, South Morang, 10am. Contact: Marie McMahon, ph 03 9401 0725.

• **11/12 Vic Special Libraries section. Committee meeting.** 5:30pm. All members and students are welcome, should any observers wish to attend meetings we require at least 72 hours advance notice. Contact: Janet Lindner, secretary, ph 03 9253 6135, Janet.Lindner@team.telstra.com

• **7/2/01 Vic Library Technician section.** *Committee meeting, everyone welcome.* State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, meet in foyer at 6pm. For details contact: Kerrie Kelly, ph 03 9669 9721, kkelly@slv.vic.gov.au

• **6/3/01 Vic Library Technician section.** University library visit and committee meeting. Deakin University Library, Waterfront Campus, 3rd floor, 1 Gheringhap Street, Geelong (parking available opposite library and in Gheringhap St). RSVP: Pippa Read, ph 03 5227 8234, readp@deakin.edu.au

• **17–21/4/01 Vic Library Technician section.** *Canberra visit.* This four-day bus trip includes visits to a number of unique libraries. For more information contact: Kerrie Kelly, ph 03 9669 9721, kkelly@slv.vic.gov.au

## WA

• **6/12 WA Children's and Youth Services section.** *General meeting.* The more the merrier! Brass Monkey in Northbridge, 6:30pm. For further information contact: Hilary Hatfield, ph 08 9411 3494, fx 08 9411 3493, hilaryh@cockburn.wa.gov.au

• **12/12 WA Public Libraries section.** *General meeting, all members welcome!* Morley Public Library, 7 Dewar Street, Morley, 4pm. For further information contact: Judi Willmott, ph 08 9354 5327, fx 08 9354 5953, jwillmott@canning.wa.gov.au

## Conference

• **16–18/1/2001 Information Online 2001.** *Tenth conference and exhibition.* Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour. Contact: Online 2001 Secre-

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## Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

### Statistics available to help develop business ventures

*Stonnington Leader*, 27 September

Library staff at Stonnington can help local businesses create demographic profile to market their services. Census data is available from the library in print or on CD-ROM. By taking advantage of the statistics specialists at the library, even clients who are initially daunted by statistics soon get the data they need.

### Redressing an imbalance

*The Sun* (Townsville), 27 September

Townsville and Thuringowa council libraries will share a \$638 000 state government grant with a percentage of the money earmarked to aid the reconciliation process. Part of the money will be used to expand library services to include Queensland's indigenous communities. In addition, \$300 000 has been allocated for the Indigenous Libraries Unit in Cairns.

### Gold medal deal for regional Queensland

*Access*, Volume 8, Number 4

The State Library of Queensland and Telstra have announced an internet access group plan to benefit regional public libraries throughout Queensland. All libraries participating in the new plan will combine their internet usage in order to receive a reduced Telstra Big Pond rate. State librarian Des Stephens said, 'This plan is the result of a State Library initiative and is the first in the country tailored specifically for public libraries. It gives regional Queensland a cost-effective option to access Telstra's Big Pond'.

'This new plan is the natural progression for our ongoing Online Public Access in Libraries (OPAL) project. Through OPAL, seventy-five per cent of Queensland libraries are now connected to the internet and we are working to ensure that internet access and communication remains affordable and of premium quality,' he said.

### Book bans are biting

*Yarra Leader*, 2 October, by Sherele Moody

Library staff at the seven Yarra Melbourne Regional Library Corporation branches have refused to answer phones, take bookings for facilities and equipment or handle cash transactions. The Australian Services Union-backed action follows six months of enterprise bargaining with management. The employees want a fifteen per cent pay rise over three years. They are also angry that management have received significant pay increases in comparison to what is offered to front-line workers, according to Megan Jenner, union industrial officer.

### Literacy loses out to alcohol

*The Northern Territory News*, 4 October, by Melanie van Helvoort

Carol Banks, chief librarian at the Katherine Public Library said that there has been an eighty per cent drop in the number of Aboriginal readers after restrictions on the purchase of take-away liquor were relaxed. In January, restrictions were placed on the hours that take-away liquor could be purchased. Mid-year these restrictions were relaxed.

Ms Banks said that the incidence of vandalism to the library also dropped significantly while the liquor restrictions were in place. As soon as restrictions were lifted, the vandalism began again.

### Coin-in-the-slot net

#### filling up Stonnington down time

*Stonnington Leader*, 4 October, by Mike Bruce

West Australian-based pieNetworks has installed internet kiosks in the South Yarra/Toorak, Prahran and Malvern libraries, as well as in laundrettes, a car wash and a noodle restaurant. The kiosks operate on a coin-operated, pay-as-you-go basis, much the same as a public phone booth. The Stonnington kiosks are among 450 installed nationwide in service stations, airports, shopping centres, hospitals and hotels.

### Library staff in pay protest

*Whitehorse Journal*, 4 October, by Laurie Finco

Library workers at Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation have staged a walkout in protest over working conditions and pay. The action resulted in seven of the corporation's eight libraries closing for part of the day. About fifty library workers met at the Nunawading branch to discuss their enterprise agreement. The dispute centres around the corporation's offer of a three per cent pay increase, with a further three per cent in a years time. Workers are concerned that this will not cover the increased cost of living.

### Young readers' choice deemed too feral for award

*The Age*, 12 October, by Peter Wilmoth

*Feral Tracks* has been removed from the Western Australian Young Reader Book Award short list because it was considered unsuitable for a lower secondary school audience. Euan Michell, the book's author, said he wrote the book to break the mould of young adult books — which he found too often patronised and preached to young readers. He was not sent notification that the

book had been removed from the list, and was not able to say what had prompted the book to be removed from the short list.

**Speed limit slows country traffic on the information superhighway**  
*Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 October, by Andrew Stevenson

Internet services are growing in popularity in rural areas, however many users cannot fully utilise the internet and all it has to offer because of slow exchanges and high rates for STD phone calls. Many people in rural areas are confined to using the internet late at night when phone calls are much cheaper. Coonabarabran computer dealer Mr Damir Santek described Telstra's service as 'shocking'.

**Lenin Library shelves the idea of progress**  
*The Canberra Times*, 14 October, by Francesca Beddie

Francesca Beddie gives us a glimpse into the workings of the Russian State Library (formerly the Lenin Library). Her tale is predominantly of waiting in queues — from checking your coat and hat, depositing your bags and printed matter, to waiting for your books to arrive after depositing your request. There is hope however. In 1999 an internet room was established with about twenty computers and access to the net — she didn't wait to see if the connection actually worked! — and in December 1999 the library announced a new service: an electronic lending system set up thanks to a grant from Hewlett-Packard.

**In the driver's seat**  
*The Age*, 14 October, by Carolyn Rance

Heather Carroll is doing her bit to break the stereotype 'twin-set and pearls' librarian. She is one of the five Casey-Cardinia Library Corporation staff licenced to drive the corporation's mobile library. The work brings a whole new meaning to the term multi-skilling: Heather performs the usual stock check and rotation, and troubleshooting is part and parcel of keeping the vehicle on the road. The library is used by about 7500 people a month, who borrow about 15 000 items each month.

**Coles opens its archives**  
*Geelong Advertiser*, 14 October,

The State Library of Victoria has just received a donation of the Coles Myer archive. The collection includes women's fashions from the turn of the century, old-style cosmetics, a 1960 Coles cafeteria uniform and one kilo metre of business records. The collection includes items of popular and retail culture such as films and audiotapes, advertisements and photographs. The collection will be available for research and study and has made the library a centre for the study of retail and business history.

**Publishers embrace the e-book**  
*The Financial Review*, 21 October, by Andrew McCathie

If the Frankfurt Book Fair is anything to go by, the publishing industry is embracing e-books to help cut production, distribution and storage costs. It is estimated that by 2005, twenty-five per cent of all book sales in the United States will be via the internet.

**Three years jail for art book thief**  
*West Australian*, 21 October, by Brownyn Peace

Following up on a story we reported in the September issue [Charges over art book scam, *The West Australian*, 3 August, by Vivienne Stanton], Adrian Curtis Oh has been jailed for three years for stealing art books worth \$44 200 from libraries and selling them to second hand book dealers.

**Fear of freedom**  
*The Australian*, 24 October, by Karen Dearn

Karen argues that librarians are in a good position to access the impact of internet content management on civil liberties and intellectual freedom. She says 'today's library staff are among the most passionate defenders of online freedom of speech, have taken up the fight against censorship, and are tireless crusaders for publicly funded internet access'. Dearn goes on to interview Ann Symons, a speaker at the recent ALIA2000 conference. ■



ariat, Tour Hosts Pty Ltd, ph 02 9262 2277, fx 02 9262 3135, online2001@tourhosts.com.au <http://www.csu.edu.au/special/online2001/>

• **21–24/8/2001 11th National Library Technicians conference.** *An information odyssey.* The Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart Tas. Conference organiser: Mures Convention Management, ph 03 6234 1424, fx 03 6234 4464, conventions@mures.com.au <http://www.alia.org.au/sections/libt/conferences/2001/>

• **26–29/8/2001 9th Special, Health & Law Libraries conference.** *Rivers of knowledge.* Melbourne Convention Centre, Melbourne Vic. Conference secretariat: The Meeting Planners, ph 03 9417 0888, fx 03 9417 0899, adocherty@meetingplanners.com.au <http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/shllc/2001/>

• **11–14/10/2001 2001 RAISS conference.** *Revelling in reference.* VUT Conference Centre, Melbourne Vic. Conference convener: Margaret Smith, ph 03 9669 9726, MSmith@slv.vic.gov.au, URL <http://raiss2001.monash.org/>

• **29–31/10/2001 8th National TAFE libraries conference.** *Passion, power and people: TAFE libraries leading the way.* Brisbane Qld. Conference chair: Anne Floyd, ph 07 3215 1360, mobile 0408 762 547, anne.floyd@detir.qld.gov.au

• **12–14/11/2001 Public Libraries national conference.** Melbourne Vic. Conference chair: Julie Rae, jrae@bayside.vic.gov.au

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