Brisbane libraries meet e-learning demand with Monash LearningFast

Monash LearningFast recently announced that Brisbane's network of public libraries will use its online learning solutions to deliver training to more than 5000 library users and staff. The web-based training solutions will form part of the libraries' efforts to provide convenient and affordable access to computers and computer training.

Brisbane City Council Library Services Manager, Christine Mackenzie, said that Monash LearningFast's products had been chosen as they provided an efficient and cost-effective structure for internet and computer training suitable for the general public and library staff.

'One of the chief aims of all Queensland libraries is to tackle the 'digital divide' and provide computer access and training for those who don't normally have such access.

'Monash LearningFast products provide a self-paced environment where users can access information and training where and when it suits them, without the need to enrol in often expensive organised training courses,' she said.

Brisbane libraries will offer a range of Monash LearningFast programs including the *ICT Skills Benchmark* and *TeachMe* (interactive learning tools for popular computer software) and the online reference tool *Electric Library Australasia*.

On successful completion of each individual course, students will be provided with Monash LearningFast achievement certificates.

Ms Mackenzie said the Monash LearningFast training programs were also ideal for professional development providing staff with the skills required to work efficiently in the information age.

'With the focus of education moving towards information and computer literacy and providing a foundation on which people can build evolving skills sets, it's important for library staff to remain up to date with new technology,' she said.

Monash LearningFast's managing director, Richard Siegersma, said that Brisbane's public library network was the first to make the company's resources available on a large scale.

'The decision by Brisbane's libraries to utilise our flexible e-learning solutions is proof of the growing acceptance of e-learning and e-training in the community.'

'This type of delivery provides the economies to make learning accessible for all Australians, and public libraries are an ideal access point,' he said

The Monash LearningFast programs deliver interactive training to the desktop with no plugins or downloads making them faster and easier to use than many competitor products. ∎

... from previous page

Cornish, evec@caval.edu.au, register online at http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego_form.html

• **25/7–20/11 Children & Youth Services (NSW)**. *General meeting.* Venue tba, 6pm. 25/7; 17/9; 20/11. For more information contact: Mylee Joseph, ph 02 9777 7900, mylee.joseph@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

• **1/11 Children & Youth Services (NSW)**. *Children's library management seminar.* Burwood Council Chambers, Conder Street, Burwood NSW (5 minutes walk from Burwood train station), 9–4:30pm. For more information contact: Mylee Joseph, ph 02 9777 7900, mylee.joseph@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

• **March 2003 Children & Youth Services (NSW)**. *Switching them on to reading.* Books and young children: a one day seminar featuring bestselling children's author Mem Fox giving the Nancy Booker Honour Lecture. The aim of the seminar is to explore both the theories behind pre-reading and early reading activities and to look at practical examples of programs for preschoolers. Date: tbc. State Library NSW. For more information contact: Mylee Joseph, ph 02 9777 7900, mylee.joseph@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

NT

• **19/6 ALIA NT Library & Information Workers**. *Monthly meeting.* Defence Library Service, Building 7201, Robertson Barracks, Winnellie, 5pm. Contact: Barbara Cotton, ph 08 8946 7870 (w), 08 8988 1557 (h), cottonballs@bigpond.com *Please note: RSVP's essential for June meeting.*

QLD

• **4/6–3/12 RAIS Qld**. *General meeting.* Library services meeting room, 14th Floor, BAC (Brisbane Administration Centre) building, 69 Ann Street, 5:15–6:45pm. 4/6; 2/7; 6/8; 3/9; 1/10; 5/11; 3/12. For further information contact: Kirsty Hamilton (secretary), ph 07 3237 6636, khamilton@sppcpm.com

5/6 Trimagic Software. *DB/TextWorks introductory training.* To register please contact: Tara Lord, ph 02 9880 8666, tara.lord@trimagic.com.au

6/6 Trimagic Software. *DB/TextWorks advanced training.* To register please contact: Tara Lord, ph 02 9880 8666, tara.lord@trimagic.com.au

7/6 Trimagic Software. *DB/TextWorks webpublisher training.* To register please contact: Tara Lord, ph 02 9880 8666, tara.lord@trimagic.com.au

• **13/6 ALIA Queensland OPALs**. *General meeting.* Qld Competition Authority, Level 19, 12 Creek Street, Brisbane. Time: tba. Contact: Bev Peake, ph 03 3222 0540, bec.peake@qca.org.au

• **21/6 ALIA Queensland Health Libraries/NICHE**. *Breakfast on Consumer Health Information* featuring Jill Buckley Smith of HealthInsite. Trout Confer-