

Your voice

Libraries can be fun ... seriously!

As an outcome of an appeal through *inCite*, over the past two years I have continued to receive cartoons and humorous quotations about libraries and the profession for a fourth volume of *LIBLAF: cartoons for libraries*.

Preparation of that fourth volume will commence soon, and any additional items for inclusion in it would be greatly appreciated. Send your contributions to: LIBLAF, University of SA Library, Holbrooks Road, Underdale SA 5032 or alan.bundy@unisa.edu.au.

Alan Bundy, compiler and editor, LIBLAF

Early reading

I write further to Alan Bundy's Frontline column 'Shouldn't we start at the beginning?' [*inCite*, March 2002].

One of my earliest memories is of my mother taking me into her double bed in the 1930s, and reading aloud from one of Hugh Lofting's *Doctor Dolittle* books.

Once, when she flagged with tiredness, I pointed to the right spot, and she said, 'You can read!' And that was the end of my joy at being read to when I was little.

More recently, I was told about a fellow speaker of Esperanto, the universal language, and how she used to read esperanto stories to her unborn baby. After such a

beginning, it was no wonder that her child made rapid progress in the language.

Arthur Mortimer, Largs Bay

About those gnomes...

Good morning ALIA staff.

I'm intrigued by the reference on the ALIA 2002 yearly calendar (that was included in *inCite*) to 'Return of Lost Garden Gnomes Day' on 9 April 2002. I cannot find a reference to this anywhere and would appreciate your source please.

Many thanks

Wendy Hansard, Library Manager, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Garden Gnome Liberation Front

[27 March 2002]

Dear Wendy

Thank you for your enquiry about the ALIA2002 calendar. It is encouraging to see that the calendar is being used, and read.

As part of the worldwide support of the International Association for the Protection of Gnomes, a day was set aside by the Garden Gnome Liberation Front (GGLF) to recognise and celebrate the liberation of garden ornaments.

In a show of solidarity, the GGLF — which was assumed to be dormant after a northern French court handed down a suspended prison sentence and fine to a GGLF ringleader in 1997 — organised a mass liberation of gnomes on 9 April 2000 during a daring

night-time raid of a Paris exhibition. It was reported on CNN TV news broadcasts by 13 April of the same year.

Other GGLF chapters have come out in support of the event by posting horrific pictures of gnomes held in captivity and to protest for the release of all gnomes back to their own gardens.

An example of the amount of suffering that the wretched creatures have had to endure can be found through the European Gnome Sanctuary's website, at <http://www.barganews.com/gnomes/page9.html> — but be prepared for some gruesome images. The mass suicides of 1998 (eleven were found hanging from a bridge outside Lyon) have thankfully abated, but the good fight goes on.

Since this time, the Front de Libération des Nains de Jardin has relocated some 6000 gnomes to the forests, and cells have appeared across Europe, in America, and in Australia. The last-recorded activity in Australia involved 150 garden gnomes depositing themselves on the steps of the Central Bank in Sydney.

April is most certainly the busiest time for gnome relocation. Reports suggesting that police in the Northern Territory netted a cache of stolen gnomes during a drug raid around 1 April 1998, and to a gang that liberated 100 gnomes from a private garden in the Netherlands around 3 April of the same year — all point to a desire to celebrate

on or near this chosen day.

The next phase of the GGLF's action plan is to fight for true integration of the garden gnome community into society, and representations are being made to the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the International Court of Justice in the form of petitions and awareness-raising events. The GGLF is committed to enhancing the partnership between gnomes and humans, and to promote higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development.

Ivan Trundle

A noble cause

[1 April 2002]

Dear Ivan

Many thanks for your very prompt and informative response. I'm proud that I can do my part to support this noble cause by publicising these atrocities in the Department's weekly newsletter, for which I have editorial responsibility (and am always searching for a weekly theme).

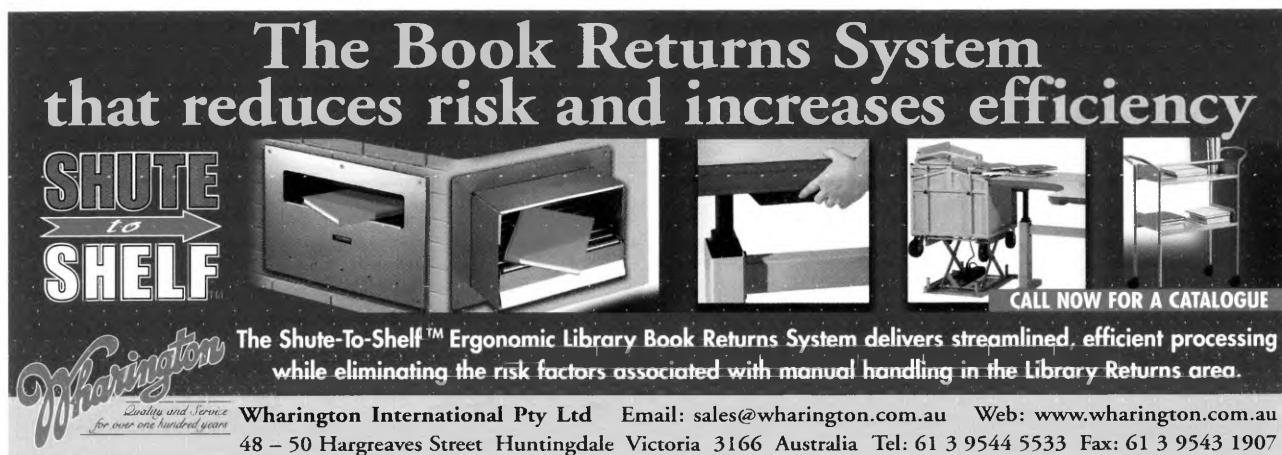
Wendy Hansard

Your letters on any issue of relevance to the library and information sector are welcomed.

All letters should be addressed to the *inCite* editor and may be e-mailed to incite@alia.org.au, or faxed to 02 6282 2249, or posted to: *Your voice*, ALIA, PO Box E441, Kingston ACT 2604. Please include your name and postal address with your letter or e-mail.

Letters will be accepted for publication until the 18th of the month.

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