

National simultaneous storytime

Library and Information Week 2001

Following the highly-successful Statewide Storytime in Victoria during ALW2000, the Library and Information Week (LIW) committee and ALIA would like to invite all public library services and primary and pre-school libraries to participate in a Nationwide Simultaneous Storytime during Library and Information Week 2001.

The aim of the National Simultaneous Storytime is to organise a session to be run simultaneously across interested library services, that is, the storytime will be on the same day at the same time with the same book. This event also provides the opportunity to promote the value of reading and literacy, the value of books, and to promote an Australian writer and publisher.

Our target audience for this activity is community and school groups, parents, teachers, pre-school and kindergarten age groups — three to eight year olds.

The LIW committee have determined that Thursday 17 May at 2.15pm would provide the most convenient time to run the storytime session. This time unfortunately will not suit all services but seems to cover most library services opening hours.

Further information will be placed on ALIANet, where we will provide sample media announcements and a sample storytime session to those library services interested in participating. We also hope to be in a position to provide bookmarks for participating children, and an advertising flyer to those libraries interested in participating in this exciting national event.

Please discuss the National Simultaneous Storytime at your next children's/youth services team meeting and register your interest and participation on the form on ALIANet at <http://www.alia.org.au/alw/>.

Library and Information Week pro-

vides a fantastic opportunity to promote your library and the wide range of services offered to children, and we encourage you to become involved in this event. Further information and updates are available at <http://www.alia.org.au/alw/> or contact your state LIW committee member or Amanda Jacobsen at ALIA National Office. ■



For the hopeless romantics...

Forget the flowers and chocolates this Valentines Day and say it with a sonnet instead. Or better still, get someone else to say it for you.

Say it with a Sonnet will call your loved one on 14 February and recite Shakespeare (or a poem of your choice) to them. This service normally costs \$39, but *inCite* readers can send a sonnet anywhere in Australia for the special price of \$29.

Call Say it with a Sonnet on 0500 828 008. Pick a poem, add a personal message and give them your loved one's address and contact number. Nothing could be more simple!

Building smarter communities

State Library of Queensland discussion paper launched in December

Building a smarter Queensland is the thrust of the State Library of Queensland's discussion paper recently approved by Cabinet and launched in December. The paper, *Building smarter communities: the future direction of the State Library of Queensland* documents the library's role in advancing the State Government of Queensland's *Smart State* agenda.

The discussion paper was developed after the Library Board discussed the State Library's extended role in the social, cultural, educational and economic development of Queensland. Some conclusions from the discussions were:

- that it is imperative that the government and community re-examine the role of major public institutions such as the library to ensure that these institutions effectively service the Queensland population;
- that libraries are the most democratic of all public institutions, supporting people of all ages, backgrounds and cultures in all parts of the state; and

- that advances in technology provided by the State Library have the potential to improve the economic well-being and strengthen social networks and cultural diversity.

The library plans to undertake extensive community consultation regarding the discussion paper in the first half of 2001. The results of this community consultation will be fed into the redevelopment plans. A policy submission for consideration by State Cabinet will follow in September 2001.

Des Stephens, state librarian, said that the library in the new millennium will be:

- a dynamic community hub providing a venue for formal and informal learning, social interaction, cultural development, creativity and fun;
- an intellectual powerhouse focusing on discussion and debate on social and contemporary issues; and
- a virtual library to access the rich information resources provided by the internet, particularly Queensland's unique historical and cultural resources. ■