

# Making news

Selected reprints from newspapers and magazines in recent months

## Literature guiding youth

*Daily Examiner*, 23 November,  
by Chris Tolhurst

Richard Nichols, the Clarence Regional Library's regional librarian urges users of the nine Clarence Valley Regional Libraries to support public libraries on 13 December when they protest over shrinking state government support for libraries. Nichols says it is inconsistent for Premier Carr to talk about developing New South Wales as a smart state and then inadequately fund libraries.

## Library protests

On Friday 13 December, libraries around New South Wales demonstrated against the state government's reduction in real terms of funding for public libraries. The day seems to have generated a great deal of media interest, articles covering the day of protest included: 'Library 'crisis'', *North Coast Advocate* (19 December); 'Library campaign' in the *Advocate* on 13 December; 'Library books funding' in the *Daily Examiner* (13 December); 'Grave day for public libraries' in the *Lower Clarence Review* (13 December); 'Day of library protest' in the *Byron Shire Echo* (10 December); 'Free cuppa, look at library woes' in the *Great Lakes Advocate* (11 December); 'Literati protest party takes to the streets' in the *Byron Shire Echo* (17 December); and 'Fair go: our libraries need help' in the *Port Macquarie News* on 16 December.

## New buildings, new roles: the boom in library redevelopment

*Australian Bookseller and Publisher*,  
1 November, by Tracey Crisp

Tracey Crisp looks at the current boom in library redevelopments and examines the reasons behind it. But more than providing more space for new technologies, the redevelopments are redefining library space, the use of libraries and the work of librarians. Crisp examines the University of Technology, Sydney Library, the Marion Public Library and the State Library of Queensland re-development to illustrate.

## AskNow! — But wait for the answer

*Online Currents*, 1 December,  
by Dianne Tillotson

Dianne Tillotson delves in to the new AskNow! collaborative reference service. AskNow! is a real time reference service where a user can log on and submit an enquiry, receive an answer from a reference librarian from one of the participating libraries, and further queries and explanations can be carried out as an electronic conversation.

One of the benefits of the service

is that transcripts of the entire conversation are logged, and are automatically e-mailed to the inquirer at the conclusion of the session, combining the interactivity of a phone call with the tangible record of a written or e-mail reply.

## Library one in a million

*Monash Journal*, 17 December

More than one million visits have been made to the Monash Public Library Service in the past year, and the service is celebrating! Manager of community information and arts, Jenny Ruffy said that the milestone demonstrates the valuable role played by the library service to the community.

## Librarian snares award

*Queensland Times*, 18 December,  
by Yvonne Gardiner

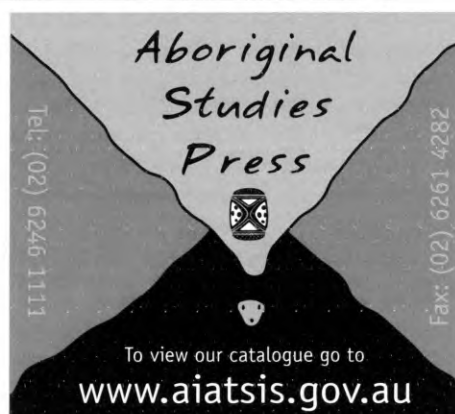
Jenny Stubbs has been awarded the national Dromkeen librarian's award for 2002. Jenny is the first Queenslander to win the award which recognises an individual who creates enthusiasm in young people to read. Jenny was the brains behind 'Book raps', online book discussions enabling children across the nation to respond to a certain book or perhaps talk to the author. A profile of Jenny also appeared in the *Moreton Border News* on Friday 20 December under the headline 'Jenny receives national librarian award'.

## Scientific journals face online challenge

*Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 December,  
by Amy Harmon

A group of scientists is mounting an electronic challenge to the leading scientific journals. The group, supported by a \$US9 million grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, have announced the creation of two peer-reviewed online journals on biology and medicine, with the aim of placing the best scientific papers in the public domain. The Public Library of Science is a product of several years of friction between scientists and publishers

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## ACT

**10/2 PEARLS.** *BOOKPLATE* at National Library (new venue) for coffee, cake and conversation, 2:30pm. All retired library people and those about to retire are welcome. Contact: Eileen Mills, ph 02 6262 4105, warndon@optusnet.com.au

## NSW

• **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. Date: tbc. State Library NSW. For more information contact: Mylee Joseph, ph 02 9777 7900, mylee.joseph@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

**23-24/4 NSW & Vic Library Technicians' be prepared...** for the 2003 Techs on Tour to Canberra. Visit the National Library of Australia and other sites along with a chance to hear inspiring speakers. A social dinner with the ACT Library Technicians is being planned. Stay tuned for updates about the program or contact: Kevin Dudeney, convenor, NSW LT Group [kdudeney@graeae.unilinc.edu.au](mailto:kdudeney@graeae.unilinc.edu.au) or Kerrie Kelly, convenor Vic LT group [kkelly@slv.vic.gov.au](mailto:kkelly@slv.vic.gov.au).

**12-13/9 Australian Society of Indexers, Sydney.** *Indexing the world of information: an international indexing conference.* Carlton Crest Hotel, Sydney. Contact Glenda Browne, ph 02 4739 8199, [webindexing@optusnet.com.au](mailto:webindexing@optusnet.com.au). More information <http://www.aussi.org>

## QLD

• **12/2 Qld Library Technicians.** *General meeting. Guest speaker: Kim Sutcliffe,* Morningside TAFE, will speak on resumes, selection criteria and interview techniques. State Library Theatre, 5:30pm for 6pm start. Contact: Jennifer Parker, ph 07 3244 5656, [jennifer.c.parker@det.qld.gov.au](mailto:jennifer.c.parker@det.qld.gov.au)

## Vic

**4/2 Vic Library Technicians'.** *Committee meeting.* State Library of Victoria. Please meet us in the Swanston Street Foyer at 6pm. Everyone is welcome, no charge, light supper provided. *RSVPs essential contact:* Tricia Murray, [patricia.murray@rmit.edu.au](mailto:patricia.murray@rmit.edu.au)

**22/2 Vic Library Technicians'.** *Tour of the Mornington Peninsula Library, Rosebud Branch.* Tour begins at 10:30am and includes a visit to the Toy Library. Lunch at delegates own cost. Everyone is welcome, no charge. *RSVPs essential, contact:* Kerrie Kelly, ph 03 8664 7129, [kkelly@slv.vic.gov.au](mailto:kkelly@slv.vic.gov.au)

**6/3 Vic Library Technicians'.** *Committee meeting and library tour.* Mill Park Branch, Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service. Please meet us in the

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Foyer at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome, no charge, light supper provided. *RSVPs essential* contact: Tricia Murray, patricia.murray@rmit.edu.au

**23-24/4 Vic & NSW Library Technicians'.** *Canberra visit.* Behind the scenes tours of a number of unique Canberra libraries. Everyone is welcome, no charge for the tours. For a registration form contact: Kerrie Kelly, ph 03 8664 7129, kkelly@slv.vic.gov.au

## National

**March 2003 Australian Computer Society.** Ireland's Gerry McGovern, author of *Content Critical* and the *New Thinking* e-mail newsletter, is conducting one-day workshops on Simplicity in Information Architecture design: how to design a simple, yet robust information architecture. Perth, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Canberra For more details contact: gerrym@acslink.net.au, full brochure at <http://www.acs.org.au> A special discount is offered to ALIA members.

• **12-18/5 Library and Information Week 2003.** More information in the coming months!

• **5/9 National Simultaneous Storytime** will take place during Literacy and Numeracy Week, in libraries throughout the country at 11am AEST.

## Conferences

**7-8/3 The National Scholarly Communications Forum** invites you to attend *Death of the book?: Challenges and opportunities for scholarly publishing.* National Maritime Museum, Sydney. For more information go to: <http://www.humanities.org.au> or contact: Justine Molony, ph 02 6125 9860, fx 02 6248 6287, aah.office@anu.edu.au Sponsors: Australian Academy of Humanities, National Scholarly Communications Forum. Supported by The Australian Research Council.

• **25/7 ALIA ACOC seminar.** Wesley Conference Centre, Sydney. Further information contact Peter Haddad, ph 02 6262 1496, phaddad@nla.gov.au

• **24-27/8 10th Asia Pacific Special Health and Law Librarians conference.** *celebrate the future.* Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide. Contact: Festival City Conventions, ph 08 8363 1307, fx 08 8363 1604, librarians@fccconventions.com.au, <http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/shlic/2003/>

• **9-12/9 12th National Library Technicians conference.** *Bridging services: embracing reality.* Brisbane Qld. Contact: Organisers Australia, PO Box 1237, Milton Qld 4064, ph 07 3369 7866, fx 07 3367 1471, mail@orgaus.com.au <http://www.alia.org.au/groups/libnat/conferences/2003/>

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## Making news continued...

over who should control access to scientific literature.

### Senior librarians help celebrate an Australian first

*Bega District News*, 22 November

The Bega Valley Shire Library is the first library in Australia to make Libero Open Search available to its members, and to celebrate senior librarians from around Australia gathered in the region. Council's library services manager, John Scotte, said that the new software allows people to search multiple sources on the internet at the same time.

Mr Scott said that Bega Valley Shire Library staff would continue to look at ways of making library services available to local residents. He said it was important in regional areas for people to have access to the right tools to help them overcome feelings of isolation and the library had an important role to play.

### Get the best of the top shelf

*Coburg Moreland Leader*, 23 December, by Tamara Heath

Moreland Library collection manager John Radford selects the best fiction and non-fiction available in the library for the *Coburg Moreland Leader*. The list was compiled from the statistics of the most popular books last month and Radford warned readers to book early to avoid missing out on some of the top titles.

### RMIT saves film institute library

*The Age*, 24 December, by Carolyn Webb

The RMIT University has rescued the Australian Film Institute library, which was due to close in December after the Australian Film Commission stopped its funding. The library will now be housed at the School of Applied Communication at the RMIT University. The RMIT rescue means that two full-time librarians will be employed, and opening hours will be extended to three days a week for the public and two days by appointment.

### A treasure chest awaits discovery

*Advertiser*, 27 December, by Tony Baker

2003@your library is the brainchild of Bronwyn Halliday, director of the State Library of South Australia, and Alan Bundy from the University of South Australia Library, and was inspired by the Year of Reading initiative in the United Kingdom. Baker describes the public library as one of the great liberating inventions, but warns that while most people know about public libraries, they are too easily overlooked.

### More members but fewer books read

*Warrnambool Standard*, 28 December, by Jaclyn Densley

The Corangamite Regional Library has recorded an increase of 1855 registered borrowers over the past financial year. But despite the increase in members, loans,

reservations and requests have dropped. The libraries internet facilities have been popular, with usage tripling over the last year.

### Government, companies not taking full advantage of internet, specialist warns

*The Canberra Times*, 30 December, by Wendy Levy

Elizabeth Swan, freelance researcher and convenor of the 11th Australian Information Online conference warns that much of the information on the web is out-of-date or simply incorrect. She says that some organisations are making decisions based on information they find on the web, without first ensuring that the information is reliable. Elizabeth compares free versus fee searching — she argues that when you pay to search you can access a much wider and greater depth of information, and the information is more likely to be verified.

### Keith's words on wheels

*Herald Sun*, 4 January, by Neil Kearney

A profile of Keith Ridout who has been operating the East Gippsland Mobile Library service for the last 40 years. Keith travels 60 000km a year to provide library services to residents in rural Victoria. He tells of helping a horseman in Omeo to read, assisting an intellectually disabled girl in Cabbage Tree Creek develop her literacy, and of the Swanson family in Goongerah who regularly loaded up the wheelbarrow with books. Then there was a Dutch family living in a derelict house near Simpson Creek who did not have a vehicle to travel to the designated exchange site. Keith bent the rules by dropping off books for the kids — the kids grew up to become a nurse, a radiologist, a chiropodist and electrician. Keith's dedication was rewarded in 2001 when he was crowned the Mobile Library Operator of the Year.

### Elsevier's vanishing act

*The Chronicle of Higher Education* [<http://chronicle.com>], 10 January, by Andrea L Foster

Elsevier Science is under fire for removing articles from ScienceDirect. Scholars and librarians are concerned because they say that removing articles without explanation (apart from a short notice saying the article has been removed for legal reasons) could leave researchers ignorant of why articles were considered questionable, and may even lead to poor medical treatments and faulty scientific research. Scholars are also arguing that part of the historical record is highlighting missteps and unethical behaviour. They argue that the papers should be retained in the database with a correction that explains why the article is in error. In that way, a search for the article brings up the erratum or retraction notice. ■