

ACT

• **5/6 See stars with the specials** at the Mount Stomlo Observatory library, long established and very special. Ring David Bradley on (06) 266 4814 to say you're coming and to get a map.

• **7/6 APSIG Karl Lo**, Uni of Cal at San Diego, is visiting Australia to work on the National CJK project, and will talk about East Asian librarianship in the USA. Contact: Marie Sexton on (06) 262 1519.

• **12/6 ALIA ACT branch council** in the NLA 4th floor meeting room, 5.30 pm. All members welcome.

• **13/6 ACT cataloguers group. Demonstration of Innopac.** 12.15pm at the ANU Library. Please book by contacting Judy Churches, Ph: (06) 249 3443, Fax: (06) 249 4063, e-mail: judy.churches@library.anu.edu.au.

• **13/6-8/8 Librarians' libations once again libate** regularly on the first payday of the month, at 5.30pm at the Hyatt.... Roll up and toast the specials and all other toastables on 13/6, 11/7, 8/8 and so on. Any questions to Libby Coates on (06) 266 2346.

• **20/6 ACT library technicians will celebrate Cool Yule.** A delicious Christmas-style menu will be offered. Cost: \$20.00pp, drinks available at the bar. 7.00 for 7.30pm. Venue: Henry's Function Room, Woden (next to the NRMA). RSVP to Marion Boyd by 14/6, Ph: (06) 270 6912, fax (06) 273 2110, e-mail: mboyd@hcourt.gov.au.

• **25/6 Canberra Online Users Group. Roxanne Missingham** will speak about *Indexing the Internet: Pinning Jelly to the Wall?* at the Conference room, 3rd Floor, Australian Heritage Commission, MTA House, 39 Brisbane Avenue, Barton. 5.15-6.30pm, wine, cheese and orange juice will be available. For further information contact Liz Thompson or Joanne Hooper: on (06) 217 2111.

• **25/6 UCRLS ACT Group Midwinter festivities.** Join us for mince pies, mulled wine and cheese and to hear a talk by Warren Horton, Director-General of the NLA. NLA, 4th Floor conference room at 4.30pm. Contact: Judy Churches, Ph: (06) 249 3443, Fax: (06) 249 4063, e-mail: judy.churches@library.anu.edu.au.

• **25/6 APSIG Dine with the Canberra librarians** who attended CONSAL X in Kuala Lumpur in May (including George Miller, Dorothy Polonyi, Adrian Cunningham and Robyn Stokes). Brief reports on their experiences and much good food. Contact: Marie Sexton on (06) 262 1519.

• **16-17/7 World 1/ABN annual users' meeting.** Venue: National Convention Centre, Canberra. Registration: \$80, Optional cocktail reception \$27. Registration forms available early May. Contact the Help Desk on: Ph: (06) 262 1691, toll free: 1800 025 155, Fax: (06) 273 1180.

NSW

• **5-27/6 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars.** Introductory DIALOG (5/6), Introductory DIALOG (27/6). Sydney contact: (02) 212 2867.

• **11-26/6 Cataloguing courses:** Cat-

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In the news



At the recent steering committee meeting were (l-r, standing): Kay Robinson, Jennefer Nicholson, Melissa Jackson, Roy Sanders and Lyn Ella, (sitting): Alana Garwood, Isabel Tarago and Bill Humes

Equal opportunity strategy

Alana Garwood, national co-ordinator, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recruitment and career development strategy for the library and information sector



ALIA, in conjunction with the Department of Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (DEETYA), has developed a sector-wide recruitment and career development strategy in response to the Commonwealth Government's *Aboriginal employment development policy* (AEDP) launched in 1987.

As Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are the most disadvantaged group in Australia in terms of health, housing, education, employment and development, the AEDP was designed to assist in overcoming these disadvantages by providing them with greater access to education and employment.

The strategy will provide permanent employment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within the library and information sector, and encourage the library and information sector to become more accessible to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Participation in the strategy will provide benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

people and for the library and information sector.

The co-ordinators of the strategy will be encouraging libraries to access DEETYA resources which include cadetships, traineeships, Training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders programs and work experience programs to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be employed and to gain experience.

The strategy commenced in January 1996 with myself as the national co-ordinator and Lyn Ella as the assistant coordinator — both of us work from ALIA National Office. In the first year we will focus our efforts on implementing the strategy with the library and information services in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory and Queensland. However, if libraries in other states are keen to participate sooner in the program, they will be encouraged to do so.

As part of the strategy a questionnaire will be sent to libraries in the strategy's target areas, to survey the num-

bers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples currently employed in libraries and the employment strategies already in place. This questionnaire will provide ALIA with information vital to the planning and implementation of the strategy.

There is already good support for the strategy. I have received a number of enquiries from libraries seeking information about having cadets or trainees, as well as people interested in being a cadet or trainee.

The first steering committee meeting for the strategy was held in Canberra at ALIA House on 28 March 1996. The steering committee members are Isabel Tarago (chair), Queensland community representative; Melissa Jackson co-ordinator of ATSLIRN; Matilda House, ACT community representative; Bill Humes, ATSLIC representative; Alex Byrne, ALIA representative; Roy Sanders, ALIA executive member; Kay Robinson, DEETYA; Jennefer Nicholson, ALIA; and Alana Garwood, national co-ordinator. ■