



Biblia

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NEWSLETTER OF ALIA WEST

The online version of Biblia is available at
<http://alia.org.au/aliawest/biblia/>

December 2005

Welcome to the final issue for Biblia for the year. I hope that as the year draws to a close you will feel satisfied with how your year has gone, either professionally or personally. My thanks to Sharon for picking up the Biblia reins in the last few months so that I could concentrate on a fairly heavy study load. My family are most appreciative! I am also very thankful as I was able to complete my studies and still take up a much needed opportunity to tread the boards in an amateur production of Terry Pratchett's 'The Truth' ! One of my roles was Cherie Littlebottom (a dwarf) - those who have met me may think that this is not much of a stretch to play (I am not known for my imposing height!) But I assure our readers that the beard was definitely fake!

In this issue we provide you with a couple of book reviews, some interesting biographical information about the namesake of the TL Robertson Library and an informative account of the inaugural WALT group library bus tours. I have shared my experiences from the 12th National Library Technician Conference recently held in Sydney and of course there are the usual events and exhibits to attend.

I wish all our readers a happy and restful holiday season and look forward to producing a bumper issue in February, full of the doings of the library community over the holiday break. I myself am heading off for a holiday to New Zealand with the family, and am so excited I can hardly speak! Apparently there is a library in New Zealand that offers wine with the books, so I will definitely be trying to track that one down! ☺

Happy Reading!

Bonnie Bruce
Editor.

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ACN 090 953 236

Australian Library and Information Association

WA Library Technicians Group bus tour 2005

Michaela Shepherdson (Library Technician, Curtin University of Technology)

On November 5th, the WA Library Technicians Group (WALTG) ran our first bus tour. It is hoped that this can become an annual event, with each year based in a different metro area. The 2005 tour focussed on the Eastern suburbs, starting at Guildford Grammar School then onto Narkaling Audio Books in Midland before finishing at Curtin University. Of course, there was also a stop for a yummy lunch and some networking at the Balmoral Hotel in Vic Park!

Guildford Grammar is a beautiful school with impressive grounds. We were able to look at the chapel between weddings then walked over the the school museum which has many interesting items on display. We then headed over to the library for a tour and some morning tea before getting back on the bus to Midland.

Narkaling Audio Books is located in a heritage building in the centre of Midland. Narkaling produce audio books that differ from the usual in that they are read at slower speeds. These are particularly useful for ESL students, adult learners, reluctant readers and people with learning disabilities. It was very interesting to see the production area and the studio where the audio is recorded. Reading books at the slower speeds is certainly a skill!

After Narkaling, we headed out to lunch then on to Curtin University where we toured the main library building then the Resources & Access Unit (technical services). The group was introduced to "Bony Tony", a half-size skeleton belonging the Teaching Resources Library (TRL) and learnt about some of the main tasks undertaken by this unit, including cataloguing and acquisitions.

The bus tour was an enjoyable day and we look forward to seeing more libraries and publishers in the future.



Judy Allan gets cosy with "Bony Tony" at the Teaching Resources Library Curtin University.



The WALT Group at Guildford Grammar School



The Chapel at Guildford Grammar School, a popular place for weddings!



The Western Australian Library Technician Group on Tour!

May and Herbert Gibbs Art Collection Exhibition 24th October to 13th January 2006

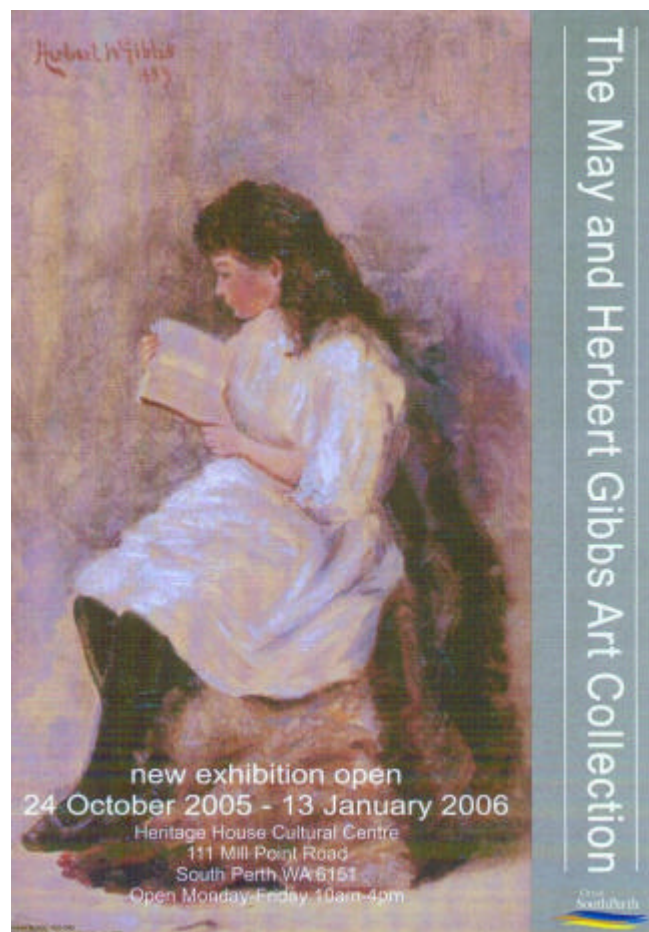
The City of South Perth is pleased to advise that its comprehensive collection of artworks by May and Herbert Gibbs will be on display at Heritage House Cultural Centre between Monday 24th October and Friday 13th January 2006.

This is a delightful exhibition of watercolours, oils and pencil drawings including portraits, landscapes, seascapes, wildflowers, caricatures and cartoons.

The May and Herbert Gibbs Collection has been described as of considerable significance not only for its artistic value, but because Herbert Gibbs and his daughter May, are recognised as "important players in the history of the visual arts in the state" as well as "part of a defined artistic community in South Perth in the early days" of the twentieth century.

This collection, owned and managed by the City of South Perth, has not been exhibited in its entirety since 1999.

We look forward to welcoming you to Heritage House Cultural Centre to view the exhibition which will be open between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday, 24th October to 13th January 2006. Please note these opening hours may be subject to change over the Christmas/New Year period.



Curtin's History Uncovered

Who was T.L. Robertson?

Anyone using the main library at Curtin's Bentley campus will know that it is called the T.L. Robertson Library. But who was T.L. Robertson and why is the library named after him?

Thomas Logan Robertson is best known as the Director-General of Education in Western Australia, a position he held from 1951 to 1966. Robertson reorganised and modernised the state's education system in the post-war period when Western Australia was seen as the "Cinderella state". As Sir Charles Court stated, he "passionately believed in the role of education to better the lives of individuals and to enable individuals, communities, states and nations to achieve their true potential".

Robertson's influence on educational planning and development at a national level resulted in Commonwealth funding for state education in the 1960s. By the time he retired in 1966, Robertson had reorganised secondary schooling, initiated curriculum and examination reforms and negotiated the establishment in 1966 of the Western Australian Institute of Technology (WAIT) which later became Curtin University of Technology.

After retirement, among his many other activities, Robertson remained deeply involved with the development of WAIT, acting as Chairman of the Council until his untimely death in September 1969.

The WAIT Library was opened in 1971 and named the T.L. Robertson Library in recognition of the vital role Thomas Logan Robertson played in the establishment of WAIT and Curtin University.



Vice Chancellors' memories bring the story of Curtin University of Technology to life

The story of the establishment and growth of Curtin University of Technology has been brought to life in a recently completed series of oral history interviews of the university's Vice Chancellors. In keeping with its role in supporting research within the university, the Library and Information Service, through the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library (JCPML), took on the management of the oral history project.

Respected West Australian oral historian, John Ferrell, recorded interviews with Don Watts, Director of the Western Australian Institute of Technology (1980-86) and first Vice Chancellor of Curtin (1987), and with Vice Chancellors John de Laeter (1987-88), John Maloney (1988-97) and Lance Twomey (1997-).

The memories and reflections of the Vice Chancellors about their appointments and achievements during their time at Curtin paint a fascinating picture of the development of the university and provide first hand insights into significant people and events in the Curtin story.

The interviews are available for researchers to access at the JCPML and the T L Robertson Library.

Book Reviews

The following book reviews were kindly provided by Paul Genoni of Curtin University. If you have read a good book, used a resource or discovered a useful website, share your discovery with your colleagues! Put a few words down and send them to the editor at b.bruce@curtin.edu.au

Austin, Brice. *Reserves, Electronic Reserves and Copyright: The Past and the Future*. Binghamton: Haworth, 2004. 106p. US\$19.95 soft 0-7890-2797-6; US\$39.95 hard 0-7890-2796-8.

Reserve collections in academic libraries have reached something of a crossroad. On one hand the advent of electronic reserve collections has provided vastly improved accessibility and equity of access which has substantially freed these collections from some of the more restrictive notions implied by the term 'reserve'; on the other hand the overwhelming availability of electronic/digital text from other sources has removed the need for many items to be 'reserved' at all.

For most academic libraries, however, the reserve collection remains a feature of their services, and one that has undergone rapid transformation in recent years as it has gone 'electronic'. The rapid shift from print to electronic reserves has made this area of professional practice a focus for professional development and workplace learning as staff have been required to gain new skills and knowledge. One area above all else has been of concern in this transition, and that is the issue of dealing with copyright matters in the electronic environment.

In *Reserves, Electronic Reserves and Copyright*, Brice Austin (Head, Circulation and Interlibrary Loan Services, University of Colorado, Boulder) provides a compact introduction to the intersection between the practice of reserve librarianship and copyright law. He does this by briefly tracing the history of reserve collections (back to the 1870s); reviewing major changes to copyright legislation and subsequent court cases from the 1970s-1990s; and tracing the development of electronic reserves over the last decade. Austin concludes by considering three possible, alternative futures for electronic reserves. Appendices reproduce the appropriate section of the US Copyright law, and several model documents incorporating policies that can be used to regulate reserves and associated copying within academic institutions.

It needs to be pointed out that the context for this book is derived from US Copyright legislation. This does not, however, negate its use in other countries and jurisdictions. The discussion around the concept of 'fair use' will have resonance elsewhere, as will Austin's argument that librarians need to take a leading role in debates about the need to amend copyright laws in a way which keeps pace with technology. This compact, practical and easily-read book would make a good starting point for staff required to undertake learning in this area of practice.

Reserves, Electronic Reserves and Copyright has been published simultaneously as *Journal of Interlibrary Loan, Document Delivery & Electronic Reserve*, Vol. 15, No. 2.

Orna, Elizabeth. *Making Knowledge Visible: Communicating Knowledge Through Information Products*. Aldershot: Gower, 2005. 222p. pnds29.95 soft 0-566-08563-1; pnds65.00 hard 0-566-08562-3.

Elizabeth Orna has established an enviable reputation for her lucid writing on the subject of information and knowledge management. In her most contribution to the field, *Making Knowledge Visible*, Orna introduces the concept of 'information products' as a new means of conceptualising and negotiating the tri-partite relationship between information; information managers, and information users.

Orna defines 'information products' as, "the products, print on paper or electronic, through which information is presented for use. They embody the results of the transformation of knowledge into information ... and are an integral blend of content and container" (12). She also describes information products as the "essential carriers by which knowledge gets from one human mind to another" (17).



Orna argues that information products need to be considered as part of the "overall information strategy" of an organization. She contextualises her discussion by starting with the organization itself (what is its existing 'information culture'?); considers the function of information products in adding or subtracting value to the organization; looks at the role of various internal and external stakeholders who potentially derive benefit from the information products; and discusses the various types of management and technology support needed in order to enhance the potential of information products. A final section of the book reflects on the well-established role of the information audit as a means of building a foundation for maximising the benefits of information products.

Although *Making Knowledge Visible* is based on – and incorporates – Orna's research outcomes it is designed for an audience of practitioners. The book incorporates numerous examples of particular, named corporations and their information/knowledge management practices, and includes selections from interviews conducted with information professionals. In this way *Making Knowledge Visible* is closely aligned with the practical interests and needs of those who need to manage corporate information. Accordingly Orna delivers the text in a readable and attractively presented manner that facilitates both exhaustive and/or selective reading.

The validity of 'knowledge management' as the basis for corporate information management practice could be (and has been) debated at some length. Notwithstanding one's views on this matter, however, there is little doubting the commonsense approach Orna adopts to the role of 'information products' in the information life cycle of an organization. *Making Knowledge Visible* can be recommended to all those who have the task of dealing with corporate information, and would make useful reading for established practitioners who feel the need to reinvigorate their approach to their work.

Those interested in investigating this title further can go to www.gowerpub.com for free sample chapter downloads.

Paul Genoni
Department of Media and Information
Curtin University of Technology



ALIA 2006 Biennial Conference
Perth Western Australia
19-22 September 2006

Early Bird Registration

It's not often that the ALIA Biennial Conference comes to Perth, so make the most of it and come along! This is your best chance to network with colleagues from all over Australia (and maybe some international ones), exchange ideas, hear thought-provoking and inspirational papers, all in the comfort of your own city.

Early Bird Registration closes on **June 30, 2006**. Prices are:

Early bird registration (ALIA member): \$ 807

Early bird registration (non ALIA member): \$1,023

Student registration: \$404

Act now to reserve your place. More information is available on the website: <http://conferences.alia.org.au/alia2006/>

**2005 National Library Technicians Conference, 6-9 September 2005
Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre Darling Harbour. NSW**

The theme of the 12th National Library Technicians Conference was eXcellence, eXperience and eXpectations and the papers presented at the conference certainly illustrated these themes.

As a speaker I was impressed with the support given to the speakers by the organizing committee and the conference facilitators. We had a speakers room where we could go to organize and check our notes before our talk, and the technical support was superb. Almost (but not quite!) enough to encourage me to leave one or two of my four back up disks at home!

The library tours program was well planned and placing it at the beginning of the conference meant that we were able to attend many more libraries than usual. My personal favorite was the library at the Royal Botanical Gardens, which holds historical and scientific material back to the 1800's. Like many libraries the Royal Botanical Gardens library is working hard to try and save and preserve some of its older material and relies on a group of highly skilled and dedicated volunteers to achieve their goals.

The 2005 conference committee also made use of a highly motivated band of volunteers in their student helpers who were the 'hands and feet' of the committee during the five day conference. The volunteers were library study students who gave their time and energy to assisting the conference delegates in return for free entry to the conference on a designated day. This arrangement allowed students to attend a national library conference and engage in useful networking as well as gaining an insight into the industry they were planning to join. A most commendable concept and one which the Victorian Library Technicians Group intend to continue.

The Conference Committee invited delegates to "join us in celebrating our knowledge, share in the spirit of our community and return home to continue sharing at work, at home and in our wider community" and this spirit of cooperation and exchange was certainly very much in evidence at the conference. Business cards were exchanged at a rapid rate as old friendships and contacts were renewed and new ones forged. I am always delighted and inspired by the warmth and friendliness in evidence at a Library Technician's conference, and the alacrity with which members share their experiences and knowledge.

The papers are now available at the Conference website, simply navigate to the programs page from <http://conferences.alia.org.au/libtec2005/>. Papers which I can recommend include -

**MULTI-SKILL ME : SECONDMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND ISSUES AT
QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY LIBRARY**

S. Uthmann

The Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Library offers opportunities for multi-skilling through secondment. Through secondment, staff have an opportunity to learn new skills, gain from new experiences and work in different teams, resulting in a "big picture" view of the organisation. This paper presented an overview of the secondment experience of staff who have taken part in a secondment opportunity, Issues such as benefits for the individual and the organisation were covered, as well as the effects on supervisors, management and other team members who then need to cope with constantly changing staff and new team dynamics. Whilst researching for this paper Sharon decided to apply for (and win) the 2005 Dunn and Wilson Scholarship which supports research into practices and issues relevant to library technicians. Sharon proposes to research secondment opportunities in other states and produce a directory for library technicians interested in pursuing secondment opportunities.

EXotic EXperiences in Circulation Desk Management

S. Gissing and R. Hazlett

I had the great joy of being on the stage with Sally and Robyn as they presented their paper. Their sense of fun and passion for their work was infectious and a welcome departure from the more serious papers presented that day. Their paper was well based in fact and it was evident that they had done their homework. Their presentation focussed mainly on the design (or lack thereof) aspects of circulation desks and produced a number of dramatic photos of circulation desks gone wrong. The paper goes some way to capturing their sense of humour and flair but is also a well thought out representation of the special skills and attributes that lending and collection staff must have to survive on the 'coal face' of the library. Here are some of my favourites from their *List Of Special Skills Needed By Lending Services Officers*

.. **Superior communication skills.** First, foremost and most important. We are the face of the library we work in to most patrons and we have to communicate with them.

.. **The patience of a saint.** How else do you deal with a patron who cannot understand why in a small engineering library the books on concrete are in three different places not all in one place, as you explain it one more time!

.. **You must enjoy dotting the i's.** There is a place for everything on a Lending Services Desk. Why do Information Services staff not realise this?

.. **Attention to detail needed.** No point in loaning out a sound book with the cassettes missing from the case.

.. **Great sense of humour needed.** The never ending excuses as to why a book is damaged, lost or otherwise not in the patron's possession. Why they need a computer now and cannot wait until one is free.

.. **Flexibility.** We bend, we stretch, we reach – are we merely Lending Services Gumbys?

Unfortunately for the third speaker that day, Ian Brewster, an architect from Brewster Hjorth, disparaging references were made to architects who were more interested in design than functionality! Even more unfortunately, his paper came after mine, in which many of his 'futuristic' proposals for libraries had been shown to have already been well and truly implemented. A timely reminder to us all of the benefits of industry research!

And finally, a session that I was not able to get to, but have been reliably informed was not only informative but also entertaining as the presenter had delegates up dancing and singing in a simulated 'story time'.

ONCE UPON A TIME...THE MAKING OF A LIBRARY STORYTIME

Margaret Redrup-May

The paper looks at outreach activities for the library's youngest customers, looking at why they are important and examining what the library needs to improve, develop and promote to present to young customers, and their drivers, a product which can only be described as "simply the best" The paper discusses factors that will assist libraries to develop a storytime that will exceed customers' expectations. In developing raving fans management will also see Storytime as a crucial promotional activity that requires more time, more budget, and more credos to those who run the programme.

The overriding impression I gain from Library Technicians conferences is passion and enthusiasm - passion for our profession and an enthusiasm to continue to learn and share and grow within our industry. Gillian Hallam also referred to the passion and enthusiasm of technicians in her presidential address to the conference, declaring the technician's conference as 'one of the best she had attended'.

This is just a small selection of the excellent papers available. I invite you to explore the rest of the offerings yourself. You won't be disappointed!

Bonnie Bruce Curtin University.

Upcoming events

The Local Studies Practitioners Group is touring Battye Library on Wednesday 14th December 2005 at 3.30 pm. Bookings to Dawn Palm 9446 6615 or palm.dawn@stirling.wa.gov.au

The Academic and Research Libraries (WA Group) ALIA

Cordially invites members and guests to the 2005 AGM
and Christmas Dinner



When: 7pm, Tuesday 6th December 2005

Where: Viet Royal – Fine Vietnamese cuisine
Shop 4/81 corner Royal and Plain Streets

EAST PERTH

Choose the Banquet:

Entrée: Spring rolls; Wrap bacon and tiger prawns

Mains: Lemongrass chicken; Chili beef; Prawn basket; Vegetable bean curd; Viet Royal special fried rice; fruit salad; Tea or coffee.

OR: Order from the menu.

The restaurant is BYO.

Cost: Banquet \$30 per person. Or set menu prices.
Individual payment to the restaurant on the night

RSVP by: Tuesday 29th November 2005

To: Gaye Sweeney gsweeney@liswa.wa.gov.au

Editors note: *I must apologise that Biblia was not published in time to rsvp to this event, but thought I would keep it in as a reminder of upcoming Christmas festivities.*



BIBLIA DECEMBER 2005**DIARY DATES****DECEMBER**

DATE: 1ST (THURS)

EVENT: ALIA West End of Year Breakfast

SPEAKER: Richard Sayers, CAVAL

VENUE: Chifley on the Terrace
185 St George's Terrace, Perth

TIME: 7:15 for 7:30am

COST: \$20 ALIA members, \$25 non-members, \$10 students

RSVP with payment by 24/11/05 to

Jeanette Hill jeanette.hill@landcorp.com.au

Jeanette Hill

Treasurer, ALIA West

38 Griffell Way, Duncraig WA 6023

DATE: 1ST (THURS)

EVENT: State Records Office of WA Christmas Round Table

VENUE: South West Room, ground floor
Alexander Library Building

TIME: 12:30 - 1:30pm

BOOKINGS: 9427 3360 sro@wa.gov.au

DATE: 2ND (FRI)

EVENT: RMAA Christmas Party

VENUE: Perth and Tattersall's Bowling Club
2 Plain Street, East Perth

TIME: 3pm

COST: \$5 member (event), \$10 member (event+bowling)

\$20 non-member (includes bowling)

RSVP and payment by 23/11/05

Send registration and payment to

GPO Box 1059

Brisbane QLD 4001

1800 242 611 admin@rmaa.com.au<http://www.rmaa.com.au/docs/events/seminars2005/wa/051202/index.cfm>

DATE: 4TH (SUN)

EVENT: ASA WA Branch Christmas Breakfast

VENUE: Boatshed Restaurant

Coode Street Jetty, South Perth

TIME: 9am

COST: \$33.55

RSVP by 28/11/05 to Marelda Kelly

mareldakelly@hotmail.com

DATE: 6TH (TUES)

EVENT: AGIA (Australian Geoscience Information Association) Christmas breakfast

VENUE: Bell Café, Barrack Street Jetty, Perth

TIME: 7:30am

RSVP by 1/12/05 to Sue Grennan

sue.grennan@bhpbilliton.com

DATE: 6TH (TUES)

EVENT: WA Kinetica User Group meeting

VENUE: Great Southern Room, 4th floor

Alexander Library Building

TIME: 9:30am

RSVP: Jane Jones jjones@liswa.wa.gov.au

DATE: 6TH (TUES)

EVENT: Academic and Research Libraries (WA Group)
Christmas dinner

VENUE: Viet Royal, Shop 4/81

Corner Royal and Plain Streets, East Perth

RSVP by 29/11/05 to Gaye Sweeney

gsweeney@liswa.wa.gov.au

DATE: 7TH (WED)

EVENT: IIM Christmas Lunch

VENUE: Hotel Grand Chancellor

Wellington Street, Perth

TIME: 12 - 2pm

COST: \$30 IIM, \$39.50 non-members

Registration form:

<http://www.iim.org.au/perth/resource/Xmas2005Rego.doc>

Register and payment due by 25/11/05

http://www.iim.org.au/perth/html/christmas_lunch_20005.cfm

DATE: 7TH (WED)

EVENT: ALLG(WA) AGM

VENUE: Central Park Theatre

152 St George's Terrace, Perth

TIME: 5:30 - 6pm

DATE: 7TH (WED)

EVENT: ALLG(WA) Christmas Dinner

VENUE: Pacific International Hotel

BIN 305 Restaurant

305 Murray Street, Perth

TIME: 6pm

COST: \$40 members, \$50 non-members

RSVP by 14/11/05 to Cassie Jones

cjones@claytonutz.com

Payment required by 18/11/05 to

ALLG(WA) Treasurer

PO Box 7116

Cloisters Square WA 6850

DATE: 7TH (WED)

EVENT: WALTG End of Year dinner

VENUE: Broken Hill Hotel, 314 Albany Hwy, Vic Park

TIME: 6:30 for 7pm

RSVP by 5/12/05 to Narelle Beebe 9442 1520

n.beebe@westnet.com.au

DATE: 9TH (FRI)

EVENT: FIRK (Fellowship in Information and Record Keeping) breakfast

TIME: 7:30am

DATE: 9TH (FRI)

EVENT: Jan Partridge's Retirement Dinner

VENUE: Curtin on the Park, Curtin University

TIME: 7:30pm

COST: \$38

RSVP by 2/12/05 to Kerry Smith K.Smith@curtin.edu.au

Payment on the night - cash or cheque
Payment in advance:
Cheque to Curtin SILS Alumni
Kerry Smith
Information Studies
Curtin University
GPO Box U 1987
Perth WA 6845

2006

DATE: 19 - 22 Sept 2006
EVENT: ALIA 2006 Biennial Conference



From the editors

The deadline for copy is the 25th of the month.
Articles and photos about recent events, news
about upcoming events, suggestions for columns,
and contributions from groups maybe sent to
Bonnie-Rae Bruce at b.bruce@curtin.edu.au