

## Riverina College of Advanced Education

**R**iverina College of Advanced Education . . . that's the place that runs the external courses in librarianship'. Most librarians could brand Riverina in this way – perhaps I should have said 'classify Riverina in this way', but when in the country do as the 'cockies' do!

Incidentally, does 'cocky' derive from 'cockatoo'? Perhaps we should be glad that the local saying for a number of galahs was not used or another quaint Australian expression might have been used for us. Yet a further aside (after all you are in the country now) the *Concise OED* defines cockatoo as a colloquialism for 'small farmer' which makes me think of leprechauns or, even worse, 'one who farms children' (shades of Gilbert and Sullivan?) This actually brings me back to students and the Riverina CAE.

### Students

The student body at Riverina CAE in 1980 has grown to over 400 for the first time. Only 10 percent of these are reared at the College on a full-time basis, although all periodically muster at Residential Schools. Virtually all of the new intake of external librarianship students are working or have worked in libraries.

The growing demand for in-service educational opportunities is caused by a number of factors, eg the phasing out of registration examinations by both the LAA and the LA; less desire/opportunity to leave a full-time job for full-time study; increased 'commuter' problems for those attending part-time studies in metropolitan centres; other commitments which preclude full or part-time study whereas the external student enjoys greater freedom of choice by being able to select his/her time and place to study, and to select the most desirable individual rate of progress; fewer opportunities in other careers so a decision is made to qualify in librarianship.

In short, external study has a vital role to play in raising the educational and professional level of those working in libraries or desiring to do so.

A national seminar on External Studies in Librarianship, to be held on 15-18 July, will cultivate these ideas with Dr Neil Radford, Margaret Trask, and experts in external studies, planting or sowing thoughts which could germinate into a rational plan for external studies. The three-day seminar with full board will cost \$100 (\$30 for the seminar without country 'vitals' and bed). Contact Syd Davis for further details.

### Staff

Ever thought of living in the country? If you are talented, bred as a librarian, strong as an ox, vigorous, productive, then tend to this call (*not* of nature); round up your thoughts and consider working in the field of external studies in librarianship at Riverina CAE. Seriously, opportunities do exist because of our 'growing' situation.

News of the existing staff is:

**Dr Edwin Brooks**, Dean of the School of Business and Liberal Studies, has agreed to resume his previous role as Chairman of the Department of Library and Information Science. He will serve until July when it is planned to graft the Department on to the Information Resources Centre with a Director responsible for both the IRC and the library school. This position will be advertised in May probably. This sapling (or is it sucker?) arrangement will be unique in Australian

library schools, I believe, although precedents have been seen in the past at UNSW, Adelaide University and in New Zealand.

**Edward Reid-Smith**, founder chairman of the Department, has been transplanted from the Library Science Department to a new External Studies Co-ordination Unit of the College. He is still a very active member of the local Riverina Branch of the LAA.

**Syd Davis** has pruned his administrative branch and hopes to concentrate on his teaching duties. He helped lead a two-day cataloguing seminar in conjunction with Keith Davison last October; this will be repeated as a one-day sole act for school librarians in the Griffith area on 6 June.

**Brian Howes** continues to plan the study visit program. During 1980, students will have the opportunity of studying libraries in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane and Adelaide.

**Christine Frey** has industriously prepared

the ground for new undergraduate students with a four-day residential school which concentrated on the role of media in libraries, held in Wagga in February.

**Peter Williams** will be visiting many libraries during 1980 as he is in charge of the library field-placement program. Many thanks to all the libraries who co-operate with the Department in this way – it is considered an essential part of the student's course and educational experience.

**John Mills** is actively collecting reference, bibliographical and cataloguing materials for the Library Science workroom and offers of further items are always welcome.

Other hands are being appointed, eg **Roy Sanders** from New Zealand will be joining the College shortly, and some vacant positions remain unfilled until suitable applicants apply. Perhaps this article has brought our need to your attention.

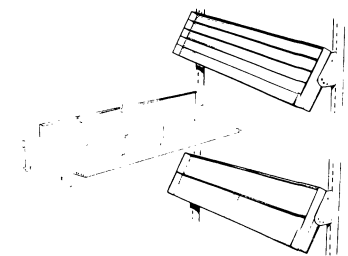
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