

# News from the Divisions

## NSW BRANCH

### Information Technology Week (NSW) 7-13 August, 1983

The NSW Branch Council hosted a stimulating address by Dr Ellen Baker (Senior Lecturer, NSWIT) at a Special Information Technology Week meeting on the evening of 10 August in the Galleries, State Library of NSW.

In her address on the topic 'The New Technologies — Uses and Users', Dr Baker posed that people still aren't clear about how they themselves would use new technologies. This is not an Australian problem, it is universal.

She stressed the necessity for a task focus, not a technology focus; user needs input in the early stages of identifying which of the new technologies will be needed in the library and needs assessment techniques, including needs assessment seminars designed to obtain information from actual users.

In describing some of the new technologies and their uses, Dr Baker tried to pick out those relevant to libraries and their traditional functions, and those likely to be used by people who are presently heavy users of library services:

- Mainframe computers;
- Microcomputers;
- Books and discs, noting that we are in a period where written material and documents are actually easier to produce than they were, and the paperless office is a long way off;
- Audio and audiographic systems, including telephones and other voice-based communication systems;
- Full motion video, including television, films and videotapes;
- Teletext;
- Videotex/Viewdata;
- Facsimile.

New uses are emerging from the users themselves. Future uses will be 'ex post facto observable'. But are all potential users accepting the challenge? For example, an important issue that is emerging is 'Girls, Boys and Computers' — will boys use computers more than girls?

There are other reluctant user groups. Although the new microcomputer systems are intended for managers, professionals, and white-collar workers, many among these groups avoid using them. Psychiatrists specialising in computer neuroses among executives are signing them up for special 'computer camps' — away from the eyes of their subordinates.

In conclusion, Dr Baker stated that when introducing new technologies — to yourself or to other users — accept the fact that change will be incremental, dynamic and often irrational. Systems need to be compatible, convenient, flexible and integrated.

Janette Parkinson  
State Film Library

## SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION VICTORIAN GROUP

The Specials have held further successful meetings. 80 people attended a general meeting on the 8th June at the Australian Institute of Management, where the Director spoke on AIM and Judy Phillips described the ANBAR abstracting service.

Mr Gary Hocking from OTC addressed our September meeting on the topic of 'Accessing Overseas Databases'. Gary highlighted OTC's role and spoke about some of the lesser used systems available via MIDAS. Despite bad weather some 50 people attended and the State Electricity Commission of Victoria provided an excellent venue and refreshments.

Another popular event was our August Seminar on 'Overseas Sources of Information'. 58 participants heard speakers address the problems facing smaller libraries in obtaining overseas information and shared their experiences and solutions. As this was a workshop no official proceedings will be published. However, individual papers will be submitted to ASLN for publication.

The Committee is currently looking at the feasibility of producing a small newsletter for special librarians to cover matters not suitable for *InCite*, *ALJ* or *ASLN*. Another project is a survey on the collection strengths of Victorian special libraries which will complement information in directories. The questionnaire will be mailed soon and your co-operation would be greatly appreciated. It is hoped that the results of the survey will encourage smaller libraries to use each other and to ease the pressure on 'net lenders'.

## SCHOOL LIBRARIES SECTION

### Loughborough '83 at Aberystwyth

The 16th Annual International Seminar on Children's Literature, in August 1983, had a very Welsh flavour. The College of Librarianship, Wales, at Aberystwyth was an eminently suitable site for the 160 delegates, in a magical part of Britain where wizards and the mythological past are never forgotten.

Half the programme was devoted to lectures on the Medieval Welsh tales, the *Mabinogion*, Welsh publishing, folk collections, Welsh writers and visits to the National Library of Wales and the Welsh National Centre for Children's Literature.

The Welsh theme was continued by Anglo-Welsh writers such as Alan Garner, Susan Cooper, Alison Morgan and Nancy Bond. Only on the final day's programme were there speakers without any over Welsh connection, such as Patricia Cramp ton, translator, Elaine Moss, reviewer, and Charles Keeping, illustrator. Marcus Crouch, librarian, critic and reviewer, spoke at the final dinner of his experiences in Ken and the Welsh connection persisted since he has retired to Wales.

All was not serious, and music, food and drink were abundant. The harpists of Wales were memorable, as were storytellers such as Eileen Colwell. One afternoon was spent in a coach making a circuit of grand country near Aberystwyth, known for its association with such authors as Nancy Bond, Susan Cooper and Alan Garner.

Since there are no future plans for Loughborough and it would be a pity were it to be no more, are there any sections who feel capable of hosting Loughborough '85? It seems that many Americans will travel cheerfully to the remotest corners of the world but other nationals were not as confident.

Barbara Crompton  
President  
School Libraries Section

## PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION VICTORIAN GROUP

### Sharing our skills conference

This national conference for those interested in the provision of public library services is being conducted by the Victorian Group of the Public Libraries Section at a Normanby House, Monash University from 4-7 November, 1983. It will be opened by Harrison Bryan, Director-General of the National Library of Australia and the keynote speaker will be Erik Östling, Library Advisor, Swedish National Council of Cultural Affairs. The other overseas speaker is Mari Zielinska, Multicultural Biblioservice, National Library of Canada. Papers and discussion will cover literacy, community information, library services to ethnic minorities, relevance of public libraries to Australian Aborigines and recent research in reference work, music resources and the use of fiction.

The fee is \$95.00 and accommodation a \$20.50 per night is available at Normanby House. Applications close on 14 October 1983. Ansett Airlines is the official carrier and the Williamstown Travel Centre, 2 Douglas Parade, Williamstown, 3015 is the official conference travel agent. Please direct enquiries to Jill Angourias at Williamstown Travel at (03) 397 5282 or Lee Ellis, Conference Convenor at (03) 380 3278.

L.H. Ellis  
President  
see also page 1

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### PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION QUEENSLAND

The Queensland Public Libraries Section has of late been working quite steadily behind the scenes. The submission to Government was finished just before Queensland's political turmoil; it was to have been submitted to the Treasurer but events overtook when there was some dispute over who was to hold the Treasury keys. Submissions have now been presented to our four political parties and personal discussions are being arranged. Public Librarians throughout Queensland are being urged to discuss the matter with their State Members or Parliament and local candidates. To assist in this a 'kit' is being prepared to provide helpful information and advice for those librarians needing it. It is hoped that the members of our next parliament will have a greater knowledge, appreciation and understanding of the problems facing the modern library.

Not all our time can be directed to this programme; we are also faced with deadlines for a number of projects: ALIC suggestions; LAA grants; New Horton Report proposals and '84 Conference planning. A questionnaire is being prepared for statewide distribution to Public Libraries to help assess the strengths and weaknesses of the various library services available in Queensland. It is at present in a final draft and will be distributed in the next few months, possibly with the second issue of our new newsletter.

We had time to reflect on another state's accomplishments when Professor Amey (Canada) came to Brisbane and gave a 'spy's report from SA' in August. He was very impressed with much of what he saw and communicated his enthusiasm to us with the aid of slides.

*Tonia Walker*

### SUNRAYSIA LIBRARIANS GROUP (NW VICTORIA/SW NEW SOUTH WALES)

Two successful gatherings of librarians have been held in Mildura recently.

On 25 July, some 15 library staff from throughout Sunraysia gathered at the New Sunraysia College of TAFE Learning Resources Centre in Benetook Avenue, Mildura. Following a general meeting, Tonia George, Librarian of Sunraysia College of TAFE, showed the group over the splendid new Learning Resources Centre and explained its function. Visitors were most impressed by both the new college and Learning Resources Centre.

Monday 19 September saw another meeting of Sunraysia Librarians Group, when 14 people met at the recently established Dr Tom Yates Medical Library at Mildura Base Hospital. Librarian Les McLean introduced the group to the mysteries of Index Medicus and the various areas of knowledge required by medical, nursing and paramedical staff.

Again a most enjoyable meeting allowing librarians from many different types of libraries, the opportunity to learn something about other fields of librarianship.

Sunraysia librarians are planning a Christmas function on 28 November

*Bruce Turner*  
Group Correspondent

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Deadlines  
No 19 October 18  
No 20 November 8  
No 21 November 22

### The University of Melbourne Library WOMEN GRADUATE CENTENARY — 1983

The University of Melbourne Library is preparing a checklist of publications written by women graduates and diploma holders of the University of Melbourne from 1883-1983. It is hoped to issue the checklist to coincide with the centenary of the first woman's graduation in December, 1983. The University is particularly interested in tracing books by early women graduates. If you can provide any details of authors' names, publications and dates for inclusion please write to **Miss Mary Lugton, University Bibliographer, University of Melbourne Library, Parkville, Victoria, 3052** or telephone (03) 341 7257.



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**CORRECTION:** Interlibrary Loan Form prices published to Delegates to National Interlending Conference Aug 31-Sept 2 were incorrect.

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