

News from the Divisions

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL GROUP

The Annual General Meeting of the Regional Group was held on November 4, 1982, in Armidale, NSW.

A Committee was elected for 1983 consisting of the following office-bearers:

President: Karl Schmude

Secretary/Treasurer: Judith Furnival

Committee: Mary Ann Lea, Eunice Fletcher, Jill Harrington

The meeting, attended by more than 20 people, was addressed by Mr E. Flowers, University Librarian of the University of Newcastle.

He chose the topic, 'University Libraries — Who Needs Them?', and presented an assessment of the various roles performed by such libraries in Australia, not only on behalf of their particular clientele, but also in terms of services to the wider community.

Karl G. Schmude

VICTORIAN BRANCH

Office Bearers for 1983

President: William Linklater, Swinburne Library, Hawthorn.

Vice President: Keith Davison, Dept of Librarianship, Ballarat CAE.

Secretary: Jan Lindner, Swinburne Library.

Treasurer: Ivars Avens, South Melbourne Public Library.

Branch Councillors: Angela Bridgland, Melbourne CAE; Margaret Findlay, Australian Council for Educational Research; Jim Badger, Footscray College of TAFE.

General Councillor: Carmen Hannaker, Moonee Valley Regional Library.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES SECTION WA GROUP

Thank you for sending your nominations for the West Australian Young Readers' Book Award.

The 1983 Book Award lists are coming! Watch out for the April issues of RB Rotal and Biblia.

For further information contact PO Box 259, Claremont WA 6010.

Shirley Campbell

LERN all about it in the Hawkesbury

THE LOCAL Educational Resources Network (LERN) can best be described as a part of the Hawkesbury Shire Council library service that specialises in education. The Hawkesbury Shire covers about 2,900 square kilometres 50 km west of Sydney and, more to the purposes of LERN, includes 32 schools within its boundaries.

The object of the service is to provide co-operation between educational institutions (of which the public library is one) with particular emphasis on the sharing of resources and expertise on all aspects of education.

A full-time co-ordinator was appointed in January, 1981 and by June he was joined by an assistant and a one-tonne van was purchased.

Initially the network was seen as a resource sharing group and although this credible aim has never been questioned, it was obvious that a strong foundation was needed for such a scheme. It was felt that confidence in the venture would grow if the library service offered a good central collection of materials and the means to get them to the users.

This has proved to be the case as all the schools in the Hawkesbury Shire have joined the network. In essence LERN has 33 members that include state and private schools, a CAE, field stations and the public library. A central collection of predominantly non-book materials is housed at Wilberforce and includes realia, biological models, artifacts, art reproductions, slides and so on. LERN uses a classified catalogue and the materials are a closed access collection.

The courier run is based on the Sydney public libraries interlibrary loan van and LERN visits each school every week of the school year.

The establishment of a credible central collection with a reliable courier service was the first stage in setting up the network. A more important second stage is the resource sharing component implicit in the service's formation.

A good deal of information (rather than materials) is carried between the schools at the moment — for example on inservices, list meetings and so on — but borrowing from the central collection far outweighs inter-school lending of materials.

To encourage inter-school lending a KWOC union list is being compiled using the facilities of Kuring-gai's Library and Information Science Unit. Funding for the first KWOC list has been provided by the Public Libraries Division of the State Library.

The PLD also contributed significantly (\$14,000) to the establishment of the central collection, and the schools pay an annual subscription which varies according to their size (\$100 maximum down to \$25). The rest of the funding (salaries, collection vote, van) are paid for by Hawkesbury Shire Council.

One of the great pleasures associated with such a scheme is the generous amount of help and information given by a sympathetic Council and colleagues in a whole variety of libraries, and the Department of Education; special collection librarians in universities and teachers colleges, together with the local district inspector, principals, teachers and teacher librarians and other public librarians, without whose support the establishment of the network would have been a daunting task.

Peter Poulson
LERN Co-ordinator

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