

..... News from the Divisions

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Library trivial pursuit!

On Wednesday, 11 June, over 50 people attended the Queensland premiere of 'Librarians', the LAA video and heard pre-dinner speaker and LAA Executive Director, Jenny Adams, talk on the recommendations of the Corporate Plan and Review Committee.

The light entertainment for the evening was 'Library Trivial Pursuit' which was played, by table, throughout a delicious dinner. Competition between the four large tables was fierce with the eventual winners (University of Queensland Staff) only 2 points ahead of a combined QIT/BCAE Table. Questions were on logic, mathematics, literature, LAA general knowledge and pure trivia (such as 'What was the shortest reign of any monarch?')

Peter Pal Library Suppliers donated prizes for 'Library Trivial Pursuit' and for individual winners of a competition to name the titles of various Pulitzer Prize winners.

A great time was had by all, and the Branch hopes it may recruit a few new members who enjoyed our 'memorable' evening.

Sue McKnight

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL GROUP

On Tuesday the 27 May the second meeting of the New England Regional Group was held at the Armidale RSL Club. It was attended by approximately 35 local librarians and budding historians.

The guest speaker was Dr Lionel Gilbert, writer and historian who spoke on the topic 'Some thoughts about books and those who look after them'. Dr Gilbert gave a stimulating, amusing and a sometimes controversial address which looked at issues such as conservation, selection and deselection, the use of alternative media and genealogical research. Dr Gilbert was, until his retirement, Deputy Principal of the Armidale College of Advanced Education and Director of the New England Historical Resources Centre.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION NSW GROUP

Archives Workshop

The NSW Special Libraries Section is running a one day workshop on Thursday 24 July to introduce the principle of archives management to non archivists. The workshop will be held jointly with the Business Archives Special Interest Group of the Australian Society of Archivists and should be of interest to corporate managers, librarians, and information officers responsible for the management of archives in their organisation.

Topics covered include the appraisal of business archives, their arrangement and description, basic conservation, selling the idea to management and how to make a start. Speakers include Keith Anderson, Chief Manager - Methods; Peter Moore, Manager Legal Records, Allen Allen and Hemsley; Barbara Reid, Consultant Archivist; Michael Saclier, Archives Officer, Archives of Business and Labour, ANU; and John Davies, Curator of Conservation, Archives Office of New South Wales.

The cost will be \$50 which includes lunch and morning and afternoon tea. For details see Happenings in this issue of *InCite*. Enquiries Graham Whittall (02) 235 8527.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION NSW GROUP

Half yearly update

The first half of 1986 has indeed been a busy time for the group. We began the year in February by combining our Annual General Meeting with the Annual Dinner and enjoyed a delicious Thai banquet at the Siam Restaurant. Later in the month we held the first of our evening/full day 'No Frills Supervision' Workshops conducted by Marilyn Bryce and George Campbell. Due to heavy demand this workshop was repeated at the end of May. (A more detailed report has already appeared in *InCite*.)

In early April we were treated to a fascinating evening at Lane Cove Public Library when we were fortunate to have as our speaker the recent Albert Mainera Scholarship winner Alan Flores. His talk, which gave us much to think about, was entitled 'Marketing the Public Library' and was accompanied by slides from many of the libraries Alan had visited on his recent trip to Europe and America. There was also a display of publicity material which Alan had collected in his travels.

We organised tours of the Mitchell Library for two consecutive Tuesday nights in April. Those who attended found this a worthwhile way to refresh their memories and bring us up to date on the latest happenings in our State Library.

On 2 June our Annual Delegation once again met with the Premier, Mr Wran. This year our delegates were Alison Crook, LAA NSW Branch President, Lorraine Vass, Chief Librarian Lane Cove Municipal Library and Graeme Deutscher, President Metropolitan Chief Librarians Committee. A full report of this is to appear separately in *InCite*.

Our tour of the NSW Parliamentary Library on 4 June proved to be a most interesting and informative evening. Dr Cope, the Parliamentary Librarian, first introduced us to the library in general and then we divided into four groups, each led by a staff member, to look at the workings of the library in closer detail. If you missed out on this tour, as we had many more people wanting to go than could be accommodated, you will be pleased to know that we are hopeful of running it again in 1987.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances our next advertised activity 'User Computers and Catalogues' has had to be postponed. Instead our next meeting will be 'Better Library Service for the Disabled' at which Val Moon, who has recently returned from a study tour of Canada, USA and the UK is to be our speaker. This will be held at Strathfield Library on Wednesday evening, 3 July. (See 'Happenings' for further details.)

Margaret Whittake

See also page

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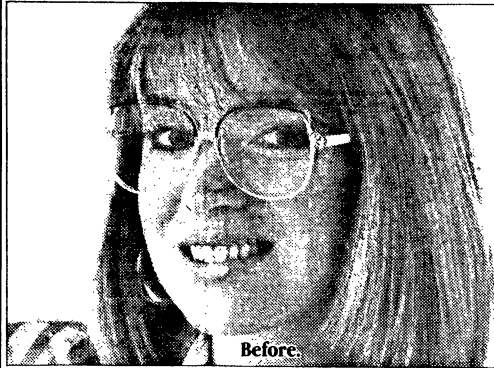
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How we turned a quiet librarian into a wild seductress.



Another advertisement casting librarians in a quiet and timid role appeared in *The Sun-Herald*, June 29, 1986. But perhaps librarians should take a positive approach this time — rather than protesting to the advertisers over the presentation of a 'librarian stereotype', how about suggesting that members of the community eagerly seeking wild seductresses need look no further than their local library?

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TASMANIAN SPECIALS

INMAGIC demo

On Thursday 8 May, the Special Libraries Group in Tasmania held its monthly meeting at the Library in Transport Tasmania. Host for the evening was Bert Elson, Transport's Information Officer, who had arranged a demonstration of the INMAGIC software package he is using to develop an extremely flexible information system for his users.

Speaking to a packed audience Bert outlined how he acquired his micro and software package late in 1985. It was one of those cases where there was money to be spent, and hardly any time in which to do it. Bert was given just two weeks to choose and buy everything. While such a task would have daunted most librarians, Bert merely shifted into higher gear and met his deadline. The decision on what software package best suited his needs came down in favour of INMAGIC.

And if you think such a speedy decision might have left him with a heap of problems, forget it. Several months later Bert is still waxing enthusiastic about his acquisitions and one evening was hardly enough for him to demonstrate what he is doing and to answer the numerous questions thrown at him.

Like a lot of special libraries and information centres, the library at Transport Tasmania deals with a great variety of information, much of which does not fit into conventional library classification schemes. Bert has found INMAGIC to be extremely efficient in managing and retrieving the more awkward types of information he deals with as well as standard items such as monographs, serials, etc. Some of the features of INMAGIC: variable length fields; user defined data structures and report formats; keyword or term indexing on any field; use of Boolean operators to connect, expand or limit search requests; no limit on the number of records in a database; and a flexible report generator. These allow the special librarian to design and create their own forms for inputting information, extreme flexibility in retrieving information and the ability to produce snappy looking acquisitions lists or library bulletins from the existing database records.

The evening was such a success that we will be organising another meeting later in the year, based on a practical demonstration of using both micros and word processors in the library environment.

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