

FEEDBACK

TASMANIAN BRANCH

Children's Library Services In Tasmania

Are Tasmanian children being short-changed in the area of library services? The Tasmanian Branch of the Library Association of Australia held a meeting on Wednesday, 8 April to debate this question. A panel of three speakers addressed the well-attended meeting.

Panel members were Ms Lyn Calitz and Mr Ray Bartle of the State Library of Tasmania, and Mr John Levett, Head of the School of Librarianship at the University of Tasmania. Included in the audience were Mr Val Smith, Chairman of the Tasmanian Library Advisory Board and Mr Warwick Dunstan, State Librarian.

Mr Ray Bartle, Derwent Regional Librarian, opened the discussion with a brief outline of the present state of children's services in the State Library system. This was followed by an assessment of the findings of the recently published Trask Report on children's library services in Tasmania.

Mrs Lyn Calitz, from Hobart's children's library, gave a first-hand account of the difficulties facing librarians involved in the provision of children's services in the State Library system.

She pointed to the fact that there is no structure for children's services and there are no designated children's librarians positions.

This has resulted in a lack of any specialist expertise being built up. She saw the need for the appointment of a children's library services co-ordinator as vital.

The final panelist, Mr John Levett, provided a point of view from someone vitally concerned through his responsibility for the education of the State's future librarians.

Following the presentation by panel members, the meeting was opened for discussion and comment. There were a wide variety of responses to the findings and recommendations of the Trask Report. It was accepted that staffing and resources were key elements in any future planning. There is a need for 'catch-up' funding to restore children's services to an acceptable level. Various strategies for obtaining such funding were discussed.

Mr Val Smith stressed the need for the State Library to liaise with school libraries to ensure that scarce resources were spent in the most effective way. School libraries were seen as being an important resource, but limited by their restricted opening hours.

The meeting concluded with a resolution to write to the Tasmanian Minister for Education and the Arts, seeking his support in the area of improving the provision of children's services as outlined in the Trask Report.

Welcome to new members

On 25 March the Tasmanian Branch held its annual Welcome to New Members Dinner at the University Club. Over 40 people attended and six new members were signed up on the night, largely due to the energetic efforts of Branch President, Jill Adamski. Those people who joined on the night were eligible for the New Members Prize, a bottle of champagne. The lucky winner was Ingrid McKenzie, Library Officer at the Commonwealth Joint Law Courts Library. Karen Wilson of the Education Department won the door prize for members, a LAA Diary.

The speaker for the night was Ross Gibbs of Carrington Library in Victoria and his subject was 'Lobbying and the LAA'. Ross delivered a thought provoking speech, outlining the strategies behind the various lobbying campaigns with which the LAA has been associated in the past few years. Included in his presentation were some video clips of Victorian librarians involved in the SOLV campaign. The blockading bookmobiles were certainly

an impressive sight as they rolled up to Parliament House in Melbourne, making their presence well and truly felt.

The evening closed with a lively question session. Ross gave more details about the expansion of library activities at Carrington and elsewhere. The idea of using libraries as sales outlets for AGPS publications provoked some soul-searching discussion on the role and objectives of libraries. While the conditions under which libraries operate in Victoria are quite different in many ways from those in Tasmania, there was general agreement that there were lessons for Tasmania to learn in looking at the Victorian experience.

ACT BRANCH

Hands on the buzzer — LAA quiz night

Do you know the meaning of triskaidekaphobia? What is a warb? How many of John Creasey's pseudonyms can you remember (under pressure)? These were some of the questions asked at the Quiz Night following the LAA ACT Branch's Autumn Dinner, held at the Belconnen Town Centre Library on 8 April.



Setting questions and general administration were ably handled by staff from the ACT Library Service, with the ever-impartial David Barron acting as referee. Twelve teams competed over six rounds of general knowledge with extra questions on word meanings and identification of celebrities from photographs of their eyes. This last category resulted in spirited debate within the teams. Who would have thought that Bill Cosby, Casper Weinberger, Frank Sinatra and Robert Holmes à Court bore such a resemblance to Yasser Arafat?

The competition should have finished after all that, but two teams had tied — Gordon Bower's 'Expert Systems' and the 'Grand Nationals' from the National Library. The sudden-death John Creasey play-off question was then asked. The result: a further tie.

Then came the final question: triskaidekaphobia. While Expert Systems deliberated, the Grand Nationals streaked in with the correct answer. And a most enjoyable night was over.

Kerry Webb

LIBRARY TECHNICIANS SECTION NSW GROUP

Jean Bailey, editor of *LIB TEC*, reports that she is delighted with the amount of input received for the current issue of the newsletter. It will be ready for distribution by the middle of April. If you aren't receiving *LIB TEC* and would like to be on the mailing list, please contact Jean on (02) 476 5113 (evenings). She will also be pleased to receive contributions on subjects of interest to technicians for inclusion in the next issue.

Jan Harris

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RIVERINA REGIONAL GROUP

Preserving our papers from the past

On Friday and Saturday, 15-16 May, the Riverina Regional Group will be sponsoring a conservation workshop as a part of the 'Conservation on the Move' project. It is unlikely that this style of presentation will be offered anywhere else in the region in the foreseeable future.

One of the problems with the conservation and preservation of materials on paper is understanding the factors involved so damage to records or exposing them to unnecessary stresses can be avoided. The emphasis of the seminar and workshop will be on preservation techniques. As places are limited we hope to attract people responsible for the preservation of paper records.

The first day will be a seminar, the second a workshop. Attendance will be accepted either for day one or days one and two, (but not for day two only).

The cost for LAA members will be \$18 Friday Seminar only; \$36 Friday and Saturday. For further information contact Carol Mills, Institute Librarian, Riverina-Murray IHE (069) 23 2332.

Carol Mills

thrusts of the Section during this year were in the areas of lobbying and communication, professional development and publications. Later, Gary Johnston, Inspector (English/History) from Strathfield Education Centre, launched the Section's latest publication, *Supporting the curriculum: policies, perspectives and programs*, the fruit of one of the Section's highly successful seminars last year.

Rounding off the evening, the gallery's curator, Margaret Meagher, outlined the gallery's policy and spoke about several recent exhibitions including one from the Holmes à Court collection and the successful exhibition of the works of E. H. Shepard together with Ginger Meggs illustrations and realia.

She also gave details of a display of early Australian colonial art from the Mitchell and Dixson collections of the State Library which the gallery mounted last year, and provided most interesting background information on the current exhibition of Banks' Florilegium, engravings depicting flora collected by Sir Joseph Banks on Cook's first voyage to Australia. Mrs Meagher mentioned that the Gallery tries to mount at least one exhibition each year of particular interest to children and stressed that gallery staff are happy to cooperate in any educational ventures.

New publications

The School Libraries Section (NSW Group) has over recent months pursued its active seminar and publication programs as evidenced in the appearance of two new publications.

Children's literature for multicultural Australia by Judy Crewe originated as part of her work towards a Master of Arts in Migration Studies at Macquarie University. The School Libraries Section decided to publish a major portion of the work which Judy substantially revised and updated as it deals with an area where little published material is available. Judy's approach has been to examine over 50 Australian children's literature items most of which have been published in the last 15 years, exploring particularly the presentation in them of themes such as conflict, cultural differences, alienation, loneliness, homesickness, and acceptance and rejection.

Judy's work is the first in a series of occasional papers 'Issues in information services to young people'. The series aims to provide a forum for the publication of a variety of top-

ics of wide interest from a range of writers, researchers and practitioners. The Section is aiming to publish a number of items in the series each year. Potential contributions should be forwarded to the Section's publications coordinator, Murray McLachlan, at 35 Mitchell Street, North Sydney, (02) 925 8136.

Supporting the curriculum: policies, perspectives and programs brings together papers originally presented at the School Libraries Section seminar of the same title held in 1986. The seminar's aim was to examine the policies, educational perspectives and specific programs which affect the broad curriculum within schools. Particular emphasis was given to the role of the teacher-librarian in these areas. The publication is a significant achievement as it gathers together information vital to effect curriculum implementation by teacher-librarians in New South Wales schools.

Copies of both publications (\$6 for LAA members; \$9 non-members plus \$1.50 postage) are available from LAA House.

Murray McLachlan

SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION TAS GROUP

Sylvia Webb address

Members of the Special Libraries Section Tasmanian Group settled down to talk business on 1 April 1987. Mrs Sylvia Webb, Head of Business Information at Stoy Hayward of London, had flown into Hobart for a 17 hour visit, during which she delivered a most impressive lecture on 'Managing Library and Information Services' to Section members as well as other librarians and information professionals.

Sylvia's talk focused on a number of points: conducting an information needs analysis, constant monitoring of services provided, personal presentation and the need to develop the ability to respond to changing information needs. The details of the service she provides at Stoy Hayward gave a fascinating insight into how the library and information service could become a pivotal part of the organisation, in close contact with top management, and ever ready to think of new services which the library could provide.

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SCHOOL LIBRARIES SECTION NSW GROUP

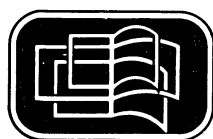
Annual General Meeting

A goodly array of our membership gathered in the Blaxland Gallery Auditorium for the Annual General Meeting of the School Libraries Section (NSW Group) on 18 February. The executive for 1987 comprises Christine Hingerty, President; Mary Jane Stannus, Past President; Merran Dawson, Vice President; Sheila Hawkins, Secretary; and Alison Glassock, Treasurer. They are supported by 25 Committee Members, five of whom are new.

Mary Jane gave an interesting and impressive account of the Section's activities and achievements in 1986. The three main

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Report of the Board of Education

Council endorsed a recommendation of the Board of Education that the Graduate Diploma in School Librarianship from the School of Information Studies, Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education be recognised by the Association. The recognition is for a period of five years to 31 December 1991 which will allow a reassessment of the course to coincide with the Institute's other course reviews.

Council elected Janette Wright to the Board for a further term to 30 April 1990.

Formation of Divisions

Council approved the formation of the LAA Conservation of Library Materials Special Interest Group. The request came from the participants of a seminar on the conservation of library materials held at Sydney University and organised by the UCLS.

Election Returns

The low return in national LAA elections has been of concern to Council for some time as it has rarely been greater than 10% of membership. Council has established a sub-committee, convened by the Queensland Councillor, Barbara Paton, to look at ways in which the rate might be improved. The use of Freepost and the cost implications will be considered. The sub-committee will report back to the September meeting.

Commonwealth Library Accommodation Guidelines

The Special Libraries Section (ACT Group) has prepared Commonwealth Library Accommodation Guidelines because the present Commonwealth Office Accommodation Guidelines provided little guidance to staff in planning library accommodation. Council has endorsed the guidelines and is urging the National Office Accommodation Consultative Committee to adopt them.

Jenny Adams
Director

STOP PRESS: Special Librarians make sure you 'dazzle' in DASL - the LAA's Directory of Special Libraries. Contact: Jo-anne Fuller at Head Office now! Call (02) 692 9233 or (008) 22 1481.

FEEDBACK Cont'd

Special Libraries Section (Tas Group) - Sylvia Webb address

Those who attended the Tasmanian lecture were given a glimpse of the exciting prospects for librarians prepared to cast aside their traditional passive image and to become active information disseminators.

Following Sylvia's presentation and a brief question time, three Tasmanian librarians, Tim Meredith, Bert Elson and Glen Pullen spoke briefly about the Tasmanian scene and experiences before breaking for refreshments and a general discussion.

The National Specials Section is to be congratulate for organising Mrs Webb's tour.

TAFE SECTION

Appointment of State Co-ordinators

To facilitate communication between its members, liaison with the National Committee, and to assist in overcoming professional and geographic isolation, the TAFE National Section Executive Committee has appointed State Co-ordinators. Their role will include:

- promotion of communication among members at the State/Territory level;
- organising attendance of a representative at Branch Council meetings in their State/Territory, where possible;
- providing input to the National Executive Committee on matters of policy, interest, or concern;
- suggesting continuing education activities;
- assisting the editor of the TAFE Section Newsletter by suggesting topics for inclusion, or possible contributors.

Check the list for the Co-ordinator for your State/Territory:

ACT - Rhona Denyer, Office of ACT Further Education, PO Box 826, Woden ACT 2606 (062) 83 7777

NSW - Kathy Wood, Sydney Technical College Library, Building D, Mary Ann St, Ultimo NSW 2007 (02) 217 3222

NT - Jackie Miller, Community College of Central Australia Library, PO Box 795, Alice Springs NT 5750 (089) 50 0229

QLD - David Bratchford, Division of TAFE, TAFE Administration Building, 59 Peel St, South Brisbane QLD 4101 (07) 840 4853

SA - Elizabeth Scholefield, Croydon Park College of TAFE Library, Goodall Ave, Croydon Park. S.A. 5008. (08) 45 9044

TAS - Jillian Abell, Division of TAFE, Education Department, 73 Murray St, Hobart TAS 7000 (002) 30 7118

VIC - Tim Clubb, Collingwood College of TAFE, 20 Otter St, Collingwood VIC 3066 (03) 419 6666

WA - Jim Downing, 27 Jimbell St, Mosman Park WA 6012 (09) 335 4633.

For further information contact Judy Engall, Secretary, TAFE National Section, 188 Castle Hill Rd, West Pennant Hills 2120. (02) 634 6907

VICTORIAN BRANCH

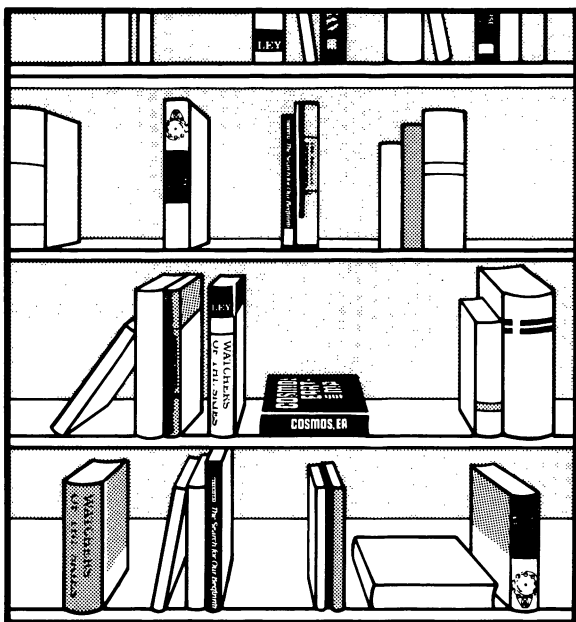
Branch Executive

Office bearers for 1987 are: Ann Forbes (President), Bev Kirby (Secretary), Rod Blacker (Treasurer), Ross Gibbs (Past President and General Councillor), and Bruce Davidson (Vice-President).

Annual General Meeting

The AGM which is usually held in February will be held in May this year. The speaker will be Mary Ronnie (formerly National Librarian of New Zealand and a past President of the New Zealand Library Association), now a lecturer in the School of Librarianship at Monash University.

The meeting will be held in Room S819/820 in the Science Block at Melbourne CAE on Wednesday 20 May at 5.30pm for 6.00pm. Items for the agenda should be with the Branch Secretary, Bev Kirby, by 15 May.



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Alwyn Campbell, Teacher/Librarian.

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