



FEEDBACK

LIBRARY TECHNICIAN SECTION — NATIONAL

During April, I had a whirlwind tour of Tasmania and Victoria in order to see library technicians, and speak to them about some of the problems they are facing; we were also able to discuss our present challenges, and the benefits of belonging to our professional association, the LAA.

After a couple of hours delay at Tullamarine Airport (where I bided my time talking with Kay Rowan, a library technician from Melbourne), I eventually got to Devonport where I was met by my host for the day, Cheryl Rodgers, who had organised my schedule. I had a very interesting meeting with Len Hanavy of the Mersey Regional Library, then an informal get-together with library technician graduates and students. I was really heartened by the number who had been able to come out on this Saturday afternoon for this visit.

On the Sunday it was off to the Launceston area where my host was Carol Down, who had also organised a meeting of graduates and students. Again, I feel that a lot was accomplished by seeing these people, and I was very appreciative that they put time aside to discuss issues with me.

Monday morning consisted of many visits and meetings — places seen included the Tasmanian State Institute of Technology, St. Patrick's College, The Australian Maritime College Library, the Launceston College of Technical and Further Education, and the State Library. My thanks go to Roberta Talbot for escorting me around those places.

That afternoon it was on to Hobart where I addressed an informal evening meeting.

Tuesday my hosts Brigitte Russmann and Luanda Nanadan had arranged visits to the Hobart Technical College Resource Centre, the State Library Morris Miller Room (where a meeting on industrial issues took place), the Education Department to see the Supervisor of Libraries, the Resource Centre, and the Multi-Media Centre. That evening it was on to Melbourne to talk with the Victorian Library Technicians Group, arranged by Julie Gooding — I hope I was able to give them some insight into our difficulties, and offer some positive ways of overcoming obstacles that we faced.

Although it was certainly a whistle-stop trip for me, I was really pleased to have met technicians in Devonport, Launceston and Hobart, and feel that Tasmania need to be given support and encouragement. Again, my thanks go to Cheryl Rodgers, Carol Down, Brigitte Russmann and Luanda Nanadan who either arranged visits, meetings, or offered beds! Well done! Also, back on the 'mainland' my thanks go to Julie Gooding and Margaret Munro who did like-wise.

To further our cause it is very important that both graduates and students become members of, and take an active part in, the LAA. If any of the people I met on this particular visit have any further questions, please contact me.

Leigh Evans

National President

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES SECTION — NSW GROUP

The Annual General Meeting and one-day conference of the Children's Libraries Section (NSW Group) was held on 18 March. With so much attention being given to Australia's history this year, the theme of the conference — 'Bringing the past to life: Australian history in children's books' — was a very fitting one.

Marjorie Lobban from Library Services, Department of Education, set the tone for the conference exceptionally well with her paper, 'Selection and review of historical fiction and non-fiction'. Marjorie pointed out the elements which make up a good historical book, whether fiction or non-fiction.

She also noted some of the inherent difficulties and drawbacks in reviewing and selecting books in an area which may not be a field of expertise. Marjorie pointed out that fiction

can be just as valuable as non-fiction in revealing the past to a child. The successful selector of historical books for children needs to be able to judge the author's honesty and integrity if they are to be provided with books that are historically correct.

The second speaker of the day was Jennifer Peasley who is the newly appointed Education Officer to Schools for the State Library of NSW. Jennifer outlined what the position entails, then explained how she uses a variety of primary and secondary sources available in the State Library. She is anxious to make Australian history alive and interesting for children. History is about real people and the examples of the materials she uses certainly reflected this. Jennifer then explained how she would use these items with class groups, encouraging them to look for details in the materials which will give them information about the lifestyles of people.

Libby Gleeson, author of *Eleanor, Elizabeth* and *I am Susannah* was the first speaker of the afternoon session. Libby was a thoroughly entertaining and interesting speaker who revealed the trials and tribulations of writing a first novel — which happened to be an historical one.

She was obviously influenced by her own family's history which seemed to form much of the base for her novel. Libby stressed the importance of historical accuracy, particularly when writing for children. In the case of *Eleanor, Elizabeth*, what started as a short story actually took three years and nine attempts at rewriting before Libby felt it was publishable. (See Libby's full paper in the May issue of *Orana*.)

The last speaker at the conference was the illustrator Donna Rawlins who echoed the sentiments of the previous speakers. To explain the importance of historical fact and making history real and relevant, Donna used the example of her own book *My place*, co-written with Nadia Wheatley. Donna and Nadia were very concerned that every detail in the book was historically correct.

Both believe that children understand history better if they move from what they know and can relate to, to events set further away in time. *My Place* reflects this belief in its time sequence which begins in 1988 and moves back to 1788.

The general feeling was that the conference was a success, addressing an issue relevant to all children's librarians this year. It was very gratifying to see such a large contingent of librarians from country areas and the ACT attending the conference as well as a wide representation of Sydney libraries.

Julie Taylor

Bankstown City Library

STATUS OF WOMEN IN LIBRARIANSHIP SIG

Speaking to the public: this is one of the things that we, as library and information professionals, are called upon to do from time to time — at meetings, conferences, dinners, and social occasions. Yet, how many of us wish we felt more confident about speaking in public? How many avoid putting ourselves forward in the first place for fear of not quite measuring up to the task?

It was with such considerations in mind that the Group organised a one-day seminar called 'Speaking up — being heard' on 16 April. The seminar, run by Janet Keefe and Patrice Teague from the organisation Speaking Out, was considered highly successful by the 19 participants.

The morning sessions had public speaking as their focus with Janet Keefe and Patrice Teague outlining in detail the skills one must

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Why not visit the James Bennett Library Services stand at the IFLA/LAA Conference. Talk to our helpful staff and see the computer system in action. You'll see for yourself that we are at the forefront of technology, leading Australian libraries into the 21st century.

AGM Notice

Divisions are reminded that the LAA's AGM will be held on 27 August from 2.30 pm — 4.30 pm at the University of NSW. Divisions should not schedule other conference activities to conflict with this time.

develop to be an effective speaker. Of course, the essence of speaking in public is communication: having something important to say and getting one's message understood by others. Emphasis was on the interaction of the speaker with her audience, and the responsibilities the speaker has to her audience.

The information on speaking skills was particularly helpful because of its very specific and practical nature, ranging from how to handle losing your place in your notes to testing the microphone in a room prior to speaking and understanding how to adjust the microphone's placement. Janet Keefe and Patrice Teague not only explained what to do, but also how to do it, illustrating their presentations with vivid and often humorous examples.

All participants had the opportunity to put into practice what the Group had heard when, before the lunch break, everyone was given a topic and asked to stand up in front of the seminar and speak for two minutes. Following the effort, each participant was given constructive criticism by Patrice Teague and other group members.

The skills, handy hints, and dos and don'ts can be abbreviated into the neat easy-to-remember acronym, SPEAK: *Speak*, don't read, to the audience; *Pace* your delivery; *Emphasise* points with visual aids; *Attract* the group's attention; *Kind* speakers don't bore.

The afternoon sessions dealt with meetings; speaking at meetings and understanding meeting procedures. The duties of various office bearers were examined and the qualities desirable in a good chairperson were discussed. The session closed with some helpful hints on the proprieties of introducing and thanking a speaker.

The venue was one of the classrooms at Carlingbush Library, a public library in Richmond (an inner-city Melbourne suburb). The space was private and conducive to the Group's working productively. In summary it was a day well spent; the knowledge gained will produce practical and positive outcomes for all participants.

Eve Stocker
Committee Member

The seminar will be held on Friday, 1 July 1988 in the Drawing Room, University House, ANU commencing at 9.00 am. Fees are \$55 for LAA members and \$80 for non members.

Further information from, or enrolments to, Mr Alex Byrne (062) 688 114 or Ms Janet Perfrement (062) 688 101, c/- Library, Australian Defence Force Academy, Northcott Drive, Campbell. ACT 2600. Cheques should be made payable to LAA Acquisitions Section ACT Group — numbers are limited by the size of the room so book early, by 23 June at the latest.

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL GROUP

The New England Regional Group conducted a well-attended one-day workshop on 4 May. The workshop entitled 'Marketing and Promoting Your Library' attracted 30 participants from public, academic, school and special libraries.

Keynote speaker was Michael Rakusin, Senior Consultant from Edelman PR Pty Ltd in Sydney. Other speakers included Claire Campbell, lecturer in communication from Armidale CAE who spoke on 'Communicating Your Message' and Aileen Stevenson, Head of the Information Resources Centre at Hawkesbury Agricultural College. Elizabeth Smart, teacher-librarian from Hillvue School in Tamworth also led a workshop session for librarians from one-person libraries.

Present efforts of the New England Group are directed toward discussion of the draft papers for the Library Summit. The next major activity for the group is a joint seminar on serials. Planned for Friday 30 September, this seminar will be sponsored jointly by UCL and the Australian Serials Special Interest Group.

V. Williamson
Secretary

PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION QUEENSLAND GROUP

The Public Libraries Section was very fortunate to have Ross Gibbs address its April meeting. Ross gave an excellent insight into the Victorian SOLV campaign which showed just what can be done when librarians work together to prevent erosion of library services. Also Ross addressed the topic of the Australian Libraries Summit with regard to issues concerning public libraries. This was particularly worthwhile and relevant as little information has so far been provided about the needs, problems and possible future directions of public libraries throughout Australia.

R. Pestell
President

BOOKMOBILE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

A special committee has been formed to organise a mobile libraries conference in Queensland. Planning is well underway and the 'Mobile Muster' will be held on the weekend of 3 — 4 September at Maleny. Maleny is just north of Brisbane, overlooking the spectacular Glasshouse Mountains of the Sunshine Coast. It will also be an excellent opportunity to visit the World Expo. Further details may be obtained from R. Pestell, Public Libraries Branch, State Library of Queensland (07) 358 4588.

R. Pestell
Convener

UCLS/ACQUISITIONS ACT GROUPS

Taxation incentives

The ACT Groups of UCLS and the Acquisitions Section are combining to present a seminar on 'The Taxation Incentives for the Arts Scheme: who benefits?' which will be of interest to libraries and other institutions which participate in the scheme as well as potential donors and accountants. The aims of the seminar are to provide participants with an opportunity to discuss the operation of the scheme, and to provide others with information about the scheme.

Speakers will include Mr John Thompson, Director, Australian Collections and Services, National Library; Mr Lynn Hard, Chief Librarian, Australian Defence Force Academy; Mr Peter Clayton, Associate Librarian, Canberra College of Advanced Education; Ms Moira MacKinnon, Reader Services Librarian, Griffith University, who is a member of the TIAS committee; and Mr Laurie Fitzhardinge, an approved valuer under the scheme.

In recognition of the fact that it is not just libraries that benefit from the scheme, there will be a speaker from the Australian National Gallery, Mr John McPhee, Senior Curator, Australian Art. There will also be representatives from the Australian Taxation Office and the TIAS Secretariat as well as several donors.