

Feed-back

Victorian Branch

A year of living dangerously?

Not so! The Victorian Branch local office recently celebrated one year of service to the Victorian membership (and prospective membership). The office is located at Technilib, 123 Dover Street, Richmond (telephone 03 427 0071). Technilib is a cooperative network of Victorian public libraries (see article by Hans Groenewegen this issue) and its central location in Richmond is ideal. The office is staffed by Micheline Anderson who divides her time equally between ALIA and Technilib duties. In 1988, the office was attended 9-5 Monday to Friday, but during 1989 office hours will be 9-3.30 and we will use an answering machine to cover the other times.

As the year progressed, the office became progressively busier. Things started slowly but with the listing of the telephone number in the new white pages use of the services developed rapidly. The office provides membership information (including membership forms), course information and a referral service for more difficult enquiries about salaries and awards. There is a display of ALIA publications, a meeting room and the office provides secretarial assistance to the Victorian branch. The office is accessible, it raises the profile of ALIA in Victoria, there is the knowledge to respond quickly and accurately in local

matters and it gives a much more personal response to membership enquiries. During the second half of 1988 the office sent out seventy membership forms to individuals who made enquiries about membership. We hope to follow up on these to see how many actually joined.

The Branch Office has also been invaluable in the provision of information about continuing education and social events being run by the Victorian Branch.

We are looking forward to an even more successful year in 1989, and are constantly examining ways the office can better serve the membership. Anyone with ideas for new services should contact the Victorian Branch Council at the local office address.

Bruce Davidson
General Councillor

Notes from Branch Council

1989 Office-bearers

President for 1989 is Bev Kirby, Vice-President Ray Price, and Past President Bruce Davidson. Secretary is Deborah Lisson, with Jane King as Treasurer. Other members of the Branch Executive are Margaret Smith, Helen Sweeney and Christine McLaren, and Max Borchardt has been co-opted.

Meet the Minister for the Arts

Unfortunately, this meeting organized for mid February had to be cancelled because of the resignation of the Minister in late January. Branch is trying to arrange a similar meeting with the new Minister, Evan Walker, but no date has been set as yet.

State Library Development Council

A number of staff of the State Library organized a meeting which brought together representatives of various groups interested in the future of the

Library. As a result, the State Library Development Council has been set up. The Council includes historians, architects, librarians, archivists, photographers, writers and general users. The aims and objectives of the Council are to be formulated by a working party led by Branch President, Bev Kirby. The Government has established two consultative groups—the Libraries Advisory Board and a Library Buildings Group—and the new Council will work with these groups on the State Library development plan.

Libraries Bill

The Bill passed through State Parliament in early December. There were several minor changes to the original draft including the removal of the clause that allowed the Treasurer to demand a dividend from the State Library. The major thrust of the new Act remains the same, namely the creation of a State Libraries Board under the control of the Ministry for the Arts, and the creation of a new State Library Council with responsibility for just the State Library. The Council and the Board will each have a Branch nominee, chosen from a group of three names selected by the Branch.

Ray Price
Vice-President

Cataloguers and Information Science Sections NSW Groups

Thesaurus Construction Workshop

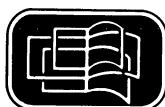
On 20 January 1989, at the State Library, 36 people attended a workshop on thesaurus construction, conducted by

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James Bennett Library Services

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David Batty, a prominent information scientist. The workshop featured lively discussion amongst the members of small working groups.

The steps involved in thesaurus construction were revealed progressively in lecture and discussion sessions followed by practical exercises.

During the lunch break a demonstration of thesaurus software was given by Graeme Whittal, using software called *TINterm*.

Through participating in the workshop all who attended gained the basic skills needed to create a thesaurus and were issued with a document which outlines the thesaurus construction process as a sequence of logical steps.

David Batty's skill, experience and sense of humour made this learning experience a very enjoyable one.

Catherine Bright
Committee Member
Cataloguers Section
NSW Group

Public Libraries Section National

Australian Council of Local Government Officers

On Wednesday 1 February, I attended a meeting of the Australian Council of Local Government Officers (ACLGO) at the Office of Local Government in Canberra.

This was the first ACLGO meeting at which librarians in local government had been represented. Our representation there came after more than a year of investigation and negotiation, particularly on the part of Ron Butler at Burnside Library in South Australia who is a member of the Institute of Municipal Management (the 'parent' body of ACLGO).

The membership of ACLGO comprises local government professional bodies which operate at the Federal level and which are recognised as having a general role in the operation of local government.

The aim of the Council is to enable one voice to be expressed on issues of national importance and in relation to management related and professional issues.

The other professions represented on ACLGO are town clerks/CEO's (IMM), engineers, town planners, building surveyors, health surveyors and community service workers.

Issues

The key issue was the ongoing *National Review of Local Government Labour Markets*: the poor response from local government thus far raises the concern that the outcomes will be dictated to, rather than arise from, local government. Each member association of ACLGO (including

the Public Libraries Section of ALIA) was urged to get a submission into the review before mid year.

Linked to the labour market review, the Executive Officer of the National Local Government Training Council addressed the Council on the proposed restructure in local government award classification in line with the ACTU's present submission to the Arbitration Commission. Local government would be condensed into six strands with libraries seeming most likely to fit into the community services or recreation strands (if not both). The stress was on flexibility and portability in qualifications and jobs.

I was able to report on the compatibility of library qualifications in all sectors and in all States, though we do have difficulties in common with other local government officers (lack of portability of superannuation, sick leave, etc).

There was also discussion on local government insurances and the proposal to establish a 'compulsory national insurance scheme for local government' providing professional indemnity and public liability insurance.

Concerns

1. It was immediately apparent that on this peak Council for local government professions there was no female representation (perhaps Librarianship could in future seek to redress the balance a little).

2. There are difficulties for local government librarians in being represented on the Council: (i) does ALIA Public Libraries Section adequately represent local government library managers? and (ii) how do we fund the attendance of our representative at the meeting?

3. The crucial concern for us though, is that local government library managers just *have* to be represented and involved in ACLGO if we are to be seen to have an equal claim to management status within Council and local government industry. This is what the Canberra meeting provided for us above all else.

Ross Gibbs
President

Library Technicians Section NSW Group

Compiling a procedures manual

Have you been asked to write procedures for your department, or for a particular task, and you don't know where to start? Alison Johnson, Dean of Health Studies, University of Western Sydney, Nepean Campus, can help you, with a plain English framework for compiling a procedures manual. A

two-hour seminar will set out all you need to know, so book your place now by ringing Jan Harris on (02) 699 1855. Venue: Deloitte Haskins & Sells, Level 12 Conference Room, 255 George Street, Sydney. Please come at 6pm, with seminar to begin at 6.30pm on Wednesday 12 April 1989. Remember, bookings are essential and cost is \$25 for ALIA members, \$35 for non-members.

Health Libraries Section NSW Group

The Section ended 1988 on a high note with an enjoyable and well attended Christmas dinner at the Sydney Rowing Club.

The one-day workshop 'Managing Yourself and Others', postponed from November, was held on 17 February 1989, with participants attending from many different types of city and country libraries. The day proved both educational and entertaining and it is hoped that another workshop can be offered in 1989.

Future events planned for 1989 include: a seminar on AIDS education and resources, with guest speaker Alison Bellamy, Head of the AIDS Education Unit for Western Sydney (to be held on 27 April at Westmead Hospital following the GRATIS meeting); and Ethics and medical information—a proposed joint meeting with the Public Libraries Section on 14 June.

Linda Mulheron
President

The Fifth World Conference in Computer Education (WCCE/90)

THIS CONFERENCE, organized under the auspices of the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP), will be held in Sydney from 9–13 July 1990. WCCE/90 will be a conference for all aspects of computer-related education in all education environments. Draft papers will be required by 1 October 1989. For further information, please contact: WCCE/90, PO Box 319, Darlinghurst, NSW 2010.

FOR SALE: Computer industry periodicals library with subject index.

ACID (Australian Computer Industry Digest) — A monthly abstract of articles in the computer press (*ComputerWorld*, *Computing Australia*, etc, etc), January 1987 to date, plus a complete set of all of the abstracted newspapers and magazines from May 1987 to date. Complete runs of more than 12 titles.

Enquiries: Tasker Rylie (02) 27 3439.