

FEED BACK

Distance education librarians in the Murray Valley

A Round-table in Numurkah, Northern Victoria, on 30 March, attracted twelve librarians, at least one from each tertiary library in the Bendigo-Albury-Wangaratta-Shepparton orbit.

Planning by phone and circular letter enabled us to identify the topics which local Distance Education SIG members wanted to talk about. Richard Leadbetter (Bendigo CAE), Pat Pettit (Wangaratta TAFE), and Heather Drew (Charles Sturt University, Wagga) introduced to the various sessions, and discussion took off spontaneously — more like a dinner party than a meeting.

Among the points made were: the possibility of conducting reader education in provincial centres where there are established libraries, giving hands-on practice in online searching and the use of reference tools. Eventually we might hope for the development of regional reference libraries.

The 'extended campus' experiment from Bendigo CAE is reducing the culture shock and expense to country students by contracting the first and sometimes second year of a course to local TAFE colleges. The course is then completed in Bendigo, giving the student the experience of on-campus study and living away from home.

The battle for a fair share of the money for the library goes on, and several members spoke of the need for adequate funding for library resources before a new course is offered.

Shirley Cohen, a long-term local resident, gave an outline of developments in education in the Murray Valley and suggested areas in which cooperation with existing educational facilities might be most fruitful.

Copies of the Round-table report may be obtained for \$2 including postage from Shirley R Cohen, 66 Paterson Street, Numurkah, Vic 3636.

A Round-table for distance education librarians in the Sydney area is being planned by Pam Pitkeathly, telephone (02) 646 6486.

Victorian Branch and UCRLS Winter Christmas Party

Over 50 ALIA members from all sectors of the profession, celebrated Christmas in Winter on the night of the winter solstice, Thursday, 21 June, at a cocktail party at 'Restaurant Clichy'.

The function was organised by the Victorian Branch Council and University, College and Research Libraries, Victorian Section (UCRLS). Special guest was Warren Horton, Director-General of the National Library, who gave an entertaining talk about how he came to join the LAA and the personal benefits of being a member of ALIA. Excellent wines, good food, a roaring fire, and good company was the order of the night. Christmas in winter was enjoyed by all who attended.

Status of Women in Librarianship Special Interest Group

Since its inception in 1983, this Special Interest Group's national coordinating committee has been located in Victoria. Attempts to set up committees in other States proved to be unsuccessful.

The National Executive has been responsible for many activities in the last 7 years, including publishing a very well received bibliography *Sharing our words*, producing seven newsletters, conducting sessions at the LAA conferences, the most ambitious of which was the running of the successful 1-day seminar prior to the Sydney IFLA/LAA conference.

It is now time for the election of the 1991 Executive. What started out in 1983/4 as a twelve member executive, has shrunk to four persons. In the past the call for nominations has fallen on deaf ears, with nobody nominating and the previous year's executive feeling obliged to continue. This year notice is being given to the 180+ membership that the present members of the Executive are not standing for re-nomination and will resign at the end of the year, regardless of whether other nominations are received or not. The present members feel that they have 'done their bit' and need a rest.

The Executive is asking members of SOWIL to consider whether they want the group to continue. If the answer is negative the Executive will plan a decent wake, but if some members do feel that it is important for SOWIL to have a future please nominate for the Executive.

In the meantime the current executive is planning to run a workshop on Assertive Communication Skills on 25 August and also plans to produce a newsletter in October (the last??)

Tribute to Patricia Ward

A tribute evening to Patricia Ward was held on Thursday, 28 June 1990 at the State Library of NSW. It was organised by the NSW Branch Council of ALIA so that colleagues and friends of Patricia's might share a necessary part of their grieving process.

The course of the evening was described in a program card designed by Joanne Fuller and funded by S & M Pty Ltd. Music by two musicians from the Conservatorium of Music greeted the 130 guests. The President of the NSW Branch, Julie Young, welcomed colleagues to an evening of tribute to colleague, friend, mentor and a person who prodded, coaxed and encouraged us, as necessary.

Maurice Saxby, Jean Hart assisted by Miriam Butler, Sue Phillips, Judy Washington, Ken Cable, generously shared their experiences of Patricia. Guests were asked to take refreshment

and to share their memories with each other.

It was announced that NSW Branch Council will be establishing a memorial fund to provide a tangible remembrance of Patricia.

The evening was one tinged with sadness; one which provided opportunities for laughter; one during which people looked back at the extent of Patricia's vitality, energy and involvement. It was an evening of which everyone felt Patricia would have approved.

In the closing words of Ken Cable 'A good and gracious lady has been untimely taken from us. But she will be always with us, not only in our hearts but in the gratitude of future generations. Of which of us may the same be said?'

A record of the evening will be available shortly for viewing by those interested. Watch inCite for details.

NSW Group and BRS/Maxwell Online

Early in July our members were guests at an excellent presentation by Michael Kay of BRS/Maxwell Online. It seems that BRS are working hard to attract health librarians to use their services and we were shown many features such as the Core Medical Library and the ease of transferring to full text databases.

NSW Health librarians are being offered a special deal by BRS, and Michael has promised follow-up library presentations for interested members — feel free to contact him at any time.

The first issue for 1990 of the twice-yearly *HLS Newsletter (NSW)* was posted out to members in May. Librarians will be kept informed by items appearing in the *HLS Newsletter (National)* in July and again in September/October.

Health Libraries Section National Group

The National Executive have now received a reply to their submission to the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards *Accreditation Guide*, a copy of which appears in the latest *National HLS Newsletter* (No. 17 just distributed).

In summary, ACHS have accepted all our recommendations, except that we be considered a Core Service. They also thanked us for the effort that was put into the submission. We would like to thank all those who attended meetings and/or sent in their comments to us on this matter as well as to Monica Davis (Biomedical Librarian, University of NSW) who represented us on the Working Party.

Preparations for our joint Conference with the Special and Law Librarians in Canberra from 1-5 September 1991 are well underway and the first brochures are currently being distributed. The theme of the Conference is 'Achieving Excellence' and the call for papers will be issued shortly. All members are encouraged to consider presenting a paper and attending what will surely be a very interesting, educational and enjoyable conference.



VALA AWARD

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