

# Train Line



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When the orchestra tunes up prior to a much anticipated concert, I feel a great bubble of excitement mixed with content rise within me. It was with this same feeling that I heard so clearly the voices of people, fellow librarians, scattered across the continent, during the recent teleconferences, as they joined the network in turn.

What a wonderful experience it was for us all! In a process which began last September with the distribution of the PD Survey to all Association members, the Board's Training and Development Committee has been systematically

collecting the ideas, attitudes and opinions of members on the topic of training and development. The teleconferences were the culmination of this process.

Prior to the first teleconference in early June, each Branch PD Officer consulted with the Sections in her/his State. These views and experiences were then shared with the other Branch PD Officers and members of the Training and Development Committee.

A week later, most of the Association's Regional Groups joined the committee and expressed their viewpoints on the same topics. The committee is now in a position to formulate proposals for the national program based firmly on the consensus of members' opinion. It has done this at the Board of Education meeting on 25/26 June in Melbourne during the teleconference. Apart from the information exchanged in the teleconferences, what I particularly valued was the enthusiasm and commitment that flowed so vividly across the networks. At least one person had driven for 2 hours to participate in the teleconference, and faced another long journey home.

It became clear that for the groups operating in the sparsely populated regions, such travel as this is the norm

and, more importantly, people happily make this commitment for worthwhile training and development. People in larger centres face different difficulties, but are equally committed.

Once again I am overwhelmed by the diversity of needs. The Association cannot fulfil every expectation. But now, thanks to the generous input of so many members, the Association is positioned to use what resources are available as effectively as possible.

I believe that this is the first time the Association has used teleconferencing for its formal business. It certainly is a viable alternative to personal contact in some situations. Perhaps we could use it more often, for training and development, or for Branch/Regional Group contact, or for election campaigns by presidential or Board of Education candidates?

For anyone interested, there are summaries of the two teleconferences available from me at the National Office.

I would like to thank once again all members who responded to the survey, and all who contributed to the teleconferences. I believe it has been a most worthwhile process and I hope you do too.

*Carol Kenchington*

## Robert James Scott 1953–1991 MLib, BA, DipLib, DipEd, AALIA

Rob Scott died on 26 April 1991, aged 38. He was Curriculum Materials Librarian and then Reader Education Librarian at Burwood State College 1978-82, and Branch Librarian of the Burwood Campus of Victoria College 1982-84. He joined the University of Sydney Library in 1984 as Social Sciences Librarian, and became Lending Services Librarian in 1986 and Information Services Librarian in 1989. He retired on medical grounds in November 1990.

While working full-time in a demanding job Rob studied for the Master of Librarianship at the University of NSW. His workload was enormous, and the temptation to give up, as many others had done, was considerable. But he stuck to it and completed the degree in 1988. He was a very determined and professionally committed person.

His MLib studies awakened an interest in research into library problems and, while Lending Services Librarian, he designed and supervised a comprehensive study of the physical condition of the collections in Australia's oldest and largest university library. His paper in the Proceedings of the 1990 ALIA Biennial Conference is a major contribution to the literature of this important problem area.

Rob's interest in library management



was reflected by his involvement in the Australian Information Management Association, which elected him to its Board of Directors. Rob was greatly respected by his staff as a caring and stimulating manager who sought their opinions, listened to their advice, and took their problems seriously. He had the gift of carrying his staff with him as a team with high morale and a commitment to high quality in their work.

Rob Scott's future in the profession would have been a bright one. We can ill afford to lose talented and committed librarians of such high calibre.

*Neil A Radford*



### ALIA Study Grant Awards for 1992

Applications for the ALIA Study Grant Awards for 1992 should reach the Division Support Officer, ALIA, PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600 by 1 September 1991. Application forms are available from the ALIA National Office, telephone (06) 285 1877 or (008) 02 0071.



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