

Australian Library Week in Geelong

Australian Library Week was celebrated in Geelong with two major events, a professional meeting followed by a dinner for members and guests, and a display in Geelong's busiest shopping plaza promoting libraries and information services, which focused on the public and academic libraries in the region. This enabled us to preach to the converted as well as promote libraries within the community.

Con Lannan, the recently appointed manager of the Geelong Regional Library Service, spoke to over 30 librarians and library technicians on new and proposed developments for the recently merged library service serving the City of Greater Geelong, the Borough of Queenscliffe and parts of the Surf Coast and Golden Plains Shire. He spoke enthusiastically of the services and facilities provided by the 16 static and three mobile libraries which serve the region. However, his presentation highlighted that uncertainties with Victorian local government reforms and the implementation of compulsory competitive tendering are providing enormous challenges for public libraries in Victoria.

The Library Week display at

Bay City Plaza was a huge success. For twelve hours, members of the Geelong Regional Group of ALIA handed out hundreds of *Destination information* balloons and specially printed bookmarks. Opening hours brochures for the Geelong Regional libraries, the Gordon Institute of Technology and Deakin University were very popular. It was an opportunity to explain to members of the public that they could browse the collections of the academic libraries and, for a small fee, obtain borrowing privileges. The interest in library services was welcomed as was the many positive comments received on how important people valued access to a library service. Reference questions (and there were a few) were answered from *Encarta*, a multimedia CD-ROM encyclopedia which had been lent by Deakin University Library for the day. A PC had also been set up to demonstrate the information superhighway despite the lack of network connection. While there was interest in the Internet and all its resources, most people said they still wanted to read a book!

*Sue McKnight, President
Geelong Regional Group*

Australian Library Week Olympian effort

Australian Library Week 1995 was well and truly celebrated this year in the Riverina: both cities of Albury and Wagga participated. Staff from all of the libraries in Wagga became involved in the many activities.

In Wagga, a double page spread in the local free weekly paper, *The Riverina Leader* had information and photos of staff, library activity and services. Sponsors were found among local businesses which serviced the libraries. The local radio commercial station 2WG ran spot promotions all week which included library statistics and trivia, for example famous librarians — Chairman Mao, Clover Moore, Casanova. Interviews were given by the Director of the Riverina Regional Library, Robert Knight on the local TV stations; some clients were interviewed — on camera one elderly woman client commented 'I'm here because I love to read'. Radio interviews were given on ABC and the local community radio by the Chief Librarian of Bland Shire, Neil Bartlett and the manager of library services, Riverina Institute of TAFE, Marion Bannister.

Addresses, displays, book readings, competitions....

How they celebrated Australian Library Week in North Queensland

Senator Margaret Reynolds addressed local librarians and friends at the North Queensland Division's first 'Nearly the Australian Library Week dinner'. The evening was held on 23 May and provided a fitting conclusion to several weeks of hectic activity within the region. Senator Reynolds' speech covered a fascinating range of topics, including the issue of censorship and the Internet. Drawing from her parliamentary experiences as chairperson of the Senate Select Committee on Community Standards Relevant to the New Technologies, Senator Reynolds provided many thought-provoking and entertaining observations about the culture of the Internet. Those present were also able to engage in some gentle lobbying over coffee.

The Division also organised a

store-window display in Townsville's Flinders Mall. The window's theme, *From yellow brick road to information super highway*, incorporated ALIA publicity materials and artefacts from all library sectors. Toys depicting Dorothy and her companions striking out into the world of information technology proved very popular with the next generation of library users. The success of this activity has led to a return booking for 1996.

Public libraries throughout the region celebrated the week with book readings, displays and workshops for writers. Hinchinbrook Shire Library in Ingham incorporated ALW into celebrations for the Australian-Italian festival. In Townsville, sporting celebrities from the North Queensland Cowboys (rugby league) and Townsville Suns (NBA) traded places with staff

at the Thuringowa Central Library. This activity was covered by local media and helped establish a positive link between sport and literacy.

Special libraries celebrated ALW with an eclectic mix of awareness activities and competitions. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) library conferred a range of prizes at a happy hour for clients on 12 May. With awards going to the 'most bizarre request', a management book entitled *Because no bastard ever asked me*, and the 'library's lost soul', ALW 1995 will not be forgotten hastily by GBRMPA staff!

With another successful Library Week over, the North Queensland Division is now looking ahead to VP50 celebrations in Townsville, 11-12 August.

*Richard Sayers, Editor,
InformALIA*