

NT Branch

The NT branch has a small membership and many of our members live in relatively isolated areas. This year NT Branch meetings were held to coincide with the regular visit to Darwin of librarians from the regional centres. Roslyn Cousins from Alice Springs, Adele Gooden from the Jabiru Public Library, Mary Storey from Katherine, Maggie Travers from Nhulunbuy and Shelagh Walsh from Tennant Creek were regular participants.

Staff development is a high priority for members in the NT but for many of our members the costs involved in travelling to attend conferences or staff development activities is very high. In an effort to alleviate this problem the Branch has developed guidelines as to when it will provide funding assistance for members. The first person to receive funding assistance under this initiative was Lisa Darby from Centralian College in Alice Springs, who attended the *Techs at the top* conference in Darwin. The NT Branch also provided \$500 towards the cost of bringing one of the Indonesian delegates to Darwin for the conference.

Two outstanding students received awards this year. Elizabeth Roberts received the award as the outstanding



Some of the international delegates at the *Techs at the top* conference in Darwin. (L-R) Mr Mukhtar Dolle, Hasanuddin University, Ujung Pandang; Mr Amin Baco, Hasanuddin University; Ms Sarah Wirawan, Director General of Higher Education; Ms Etty Hoesein, University Pattimura, Ambon; Ms Silvia Rogi, University of Sam Ratulangi, Sulawesi; Mr A C Sundgkana Hadi, University of Cenderawasih, Iran Jaya; Mr Mustafa, C V Toko Buku Tropen, Jakarta; Ms Ratnaningsih, Airlangga University, Surabaya.

graduate in the Associate Diploma in Library Practice and Lynda Wedding the award as the best graduating student from the Bachelor of Library and Information Management.

The major event for the year was the *Techs at the top* conference. The conference committee, with some assistance from the Northern Territory University, sponsored five delegates from Jakarta, Iran Jaya, Ujung, Pandang, Surabaya and Sulawesi. The Northern Territory Government sponsored three delegates from Jakarta and Ambon. The close proximity of Darwin to Southeast Asia provided a good opportunity for Australian library technicians to ex-

change ideas with their Southeast Asian colleagues.

On the industrial front, we welcomed the opportunity to meet with Phil Teece in June to discuss industrial issues. A particular concern was the salary classification level for library technicians in schools. The Library Technicians group, with assistance from the Community and Public Sector Union and ALIA (Phil Teece), finally won a four year battle in September to have library technicians in schools recognised as library technicians, rather than classified as 'School assistants'.

Frances Roberts
and Kaye Bartlett

Public Libraries Section (WA)

In Western Australia the Public Libraries section has had an active year.

In June the section presented a seminar on enterprise bargaining with ALIA personnel and industrial services manager Phil Teece. Approximately 60 people listened to Phil talk about the changes in industrial relations practices in Australia and the challenges posed by these changes. Discussion ranged on issues of workplace reform, flexibility in working arrangements, family issues and productivity. Phil spoke on the mechanics of putting together an enterprise agreement, items for inclusion in the agreements as well as strategies on how to compile the best agreement possible for your staff and organisation.

Laurie Boyd, principal consultant from Muni Solutions, facilitated a stimulating seminar on *Competitive tendering in the library context* at Morley library on Friday 20 October. Thirty people, mainly librarians and other local government managers attended the full day workshop. Sessions included an explanation of competitive

tendering in local government, a presentation of models from Australia and around the world on developing competitive tendering, developing a strategy, business units, costing for contestability and the specification and tendering process. Laurie's experience in the area of competitive tendering in local government provided a valuable introduction and insight to the challenges in the area of competitive tendering facing local government librarians in Western Australia.

This year the section's AGM was combined with the presentation of the Jean Ryding Award at a breakfast at the Matilda Bay Restaurant on Friday 10 November. This is an award for excellence presented to a librarian completing their first four years of work as a public librarian.

The *Union list of periodicals* covering the holdings of all Western Australian Public Libraries will be updated in 1996.

Sue North
Committee member

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