

Literacy Section (NSW)

The NSW Literacy Section held a range of activities during 1995.

We had a meeting at the NSW Adult Literacy Information Office where we heard about the 1-800 help line for people looking for assistance with their literacy. This is a free Australia-wide service and has shown a strong demand for literacy assistance in the community. We also looked at the ALIO Library which has combined with the Multicultural Access Unit Library and is primarily focussed on professional development material for teachers.

Hornsby library was the venue for the September meeting. The library's recently developed literacy collection has been so popular there was very little on the shelf to look at! Students regularly visit the library, which is also used as a venue for classes.

We held a seminar on workplace literacy with speakers from the Adult Migrant English Service (AMES) and workplace literacy providers in local government. Janice Bevan from Maitland library also spoke about their successful application for funding for a workplace literacy program for Maitland Council. The library was heavily involved in the application process and library facilities and re-

sources are being used as part of the program that is being run by AMES.

The Windsor library meeting focussed on resources and was held as a workshop with participation from local literacy teachers. This was run along similar lines to workshops held in previous years and provides a valuable staff training opportunity.

The idea of producing a set of guidelines for literacy services in libraries is moving along slowly, with draft documents being produced in two areas, *Housing literacy collections* and *Training*. Areas still to be covered include liaison and promotion.

Margaret Whittaker and Sue Scott from the literacy section are members of a task force set up by ALIA to look at national issues relating to libraries and literacy.

Plans for 1996 include a seminar on adults with learning difficulties and the production of a generic leaflet on literacy and libraries.

Providing services to clients with low literacy continues to be a rewarding, if challenging, area and the Literacy Section gives people a valuable opportunity to compare notes, share ideas and get inspiration. You're more than welcome to join.

Sue Scott
Secretary

Local Studies Section (SA)

1995 has been an interesting year as the SA Local Studies Section has sought to provide information and guidance to local history workers. Because local history officers often work in isolation, our aim has been to provide support through shared experiences, and to create networks of useful contacts.

Accordingly, the first meeting of the year, *Reaching the community with local history*, was a program-planning and information sharing meeting which gave an insight into the variety of work being undertaken by local history workers, such as publishing books, participating in LEAP projects with historical emphases, conducting family history forums and generally reaching the community with historical information.

Other events during the year included a meeting with the Aboriginal project officer from the

State Records Office. Here we explored not only the suitability and possible sensitivity of various materials to be included in local history collections, but also sources for aboriginal people to use in research of their own history. We also visited the Royal Geographical Society and were impressed by their 'fabulous originals', and 'Wilmar', a private library with interesting strengths.

Finally, an evening of information on applying for community heritage grants has generated enthusiasm for developing preservation projects!

The South Australian Section is continuing its efforts to identify needs and provide appropriate support to workers in the local studies field, and plans for the new year are already in place to address these.

Pam Low,
Secretary

Special Libraries Section (NSW)

NSW Specials have again had a very busy year. Having the *Information online and on disc* conference and the sixth Asian Pacific Specials, Health and Law librarians conference in Sydney the same year, as well as NSW Specials' own activities have left this librarian's head buzzing with ideas, talk, inspiration and quite possibly exhaustion!

Our networking lunches and dinners have been a popular way for people to get together informally to chat, and exchange gossip and other information over a meal. We have had a yum cha lunch, a pasta dinner, a bistro lunch and a buffet dinner; and just for something different, to celebrate International Special Librarians Day on 13 April, forty people attended a champagne breakfast and listened to Ione Deane speak on the day's theme — *Mastering global information for a competitive edge*. Our mid-year Maria Gemenis Award dinner was well attended, the winner being David Hawkins who has certainly made an outstanding contribution to special librarianship in his 35 year career.

So far, it may sound as if NSW specials have had one year-long round of partying. On the serious side, our educational program has also been very successful, covering a broad range of topics. We have had a seminar on collection development; Library Locums expounded on their salary survey; a full-day workshop on *Managing the library as a business unit*, facilitated by Brenda McConchie of AIMA; and we had to turn away people from our seminar on business resources on the internet as the attendance figures reached more than a hundred people. We have had a forum on document delivery services with Andrew Wells, State Library of NSW; and Briony de la Motte of the National Library gave a talk about the UnCover table of contents redistribution service.

Moya Lum
President