

Opportunities for professional development

Linda Winzar, secretary, North Central Victoria Regional Group

Providing opportunities for professional development and networking was the main aim of the North Central Victoria Regional Group executive committee for 1996. To achieve this, six events were held during the year.

The year began with an Australian Library Week function in May. The Bendigo Public Library hosted an evening where sixteen prominent local personalities spoke about their most memorable books. It was a light-hearted entertaining evening followed by dinner.

A Surf the 'net training session allowed participants to learn more about the latest addition to their professional search tools

and provided an opportunity to surf.

Helen Tait and Philip Kent were our guests at a mid-winter dinner. They explained what types of things ALIA regional members can take advantage of, and wine and dined with us. The theme for our September event was 'Virtual libraries' where we visited the Heyward Library at La Trobe University (Bendigo) and the Bendigo Health Care Group's Library and looked at their innovative ideas for using technology.

Putting a leash on the Internet illustrated the ways in which the Bendigo Senior Secondary College has harnessed the capabilities of the Internet and we also toured their multi-media facility. A Christ-

mas dinner and the Annual General Meeting will take place in December.

1996 has been a successful year for us not only because of the efforts of the committee but because several people have volunteered their time and expertise to show us around their libraries and share their ideas with us.

We owe it to these individuals who have co-operated with us, and also to the participants who turned out in large numbers and made the events so worthwhile. Several ideas for the 1997 program are already being considered and I encourage members to contribute ideas they have, or to be an executive committee member. ■

Cataloguers' network

Margaret Waller, secretary, Cataloguers Section, Victoria

Our first meeting for 1996 was held in May, when Faye Pattinson spoke on the introduction of the SIRSI Unicorn system to the Holmesglen College of TAFE library and the implications to the cataloguing process there. Over thirty people attended the meeting.

In July, the group in conjunction with the RMIT Department of Information Management and Library Studies and Deakin University Library, ran two workshops on USMARC and Format integration. Both workshops were fully booked and provided positive feedback and suggestions for other activities.

Arising from a suggestion from one of the workshop participants, the concept of a 'Cataloguing network' has been developed. By linking individuals with the same interests/expertise/problems the network aims at sharing expertise, developing members' knowledge, providing ongoing avenues for problem resolution and helping to overcome isolation of cataloguers working in small libraries. The network was formally launched at a general meeting held on 29 October after over fifty expressions of interest were received. Any person interested in joining or finding out more on how it is intended the network will operate can contact Margaret Waller telephone (03) 9669 9049, fax (03) 963 1480 or e-mail: mwaller@slv.vic.gov.au.

The final meeting for 1996 will be held on 4 December at Bailleau Library, University of Melbourne. The CD-ROM version of DDC21 will be demonstrated by a representative from DA Information Services together with an overview of the changes in the schedules by Lyle French from Northern Institute of TAFE. ■

Joint meetings productive

Meredith Newman, president, Specials Section, Tasmania

1996 has been a quiet year for the Tasmanian Special Libraries group, with the emphasis on fewer activities, with a larger attendance, rather than many activities which people sometimes find difficult to attend.

This year has also seen the development of several interest groups, including the Inmagic Users Group, chaired by Melissa Martin from the Information Strategy Unit, which has monthly meetings.

Because the member base in Tasmania is small, several of the activities which the section has undertaken this year have been collaborations with ALIA Tasmanian Branch, a successful initiative, and one which may continue.

In May, one of these combined activities was a seminar led by Guy St Clair, on the topic 'Performance evaluation and effectiveness measures'. Many issues were discussed, and the day was very successful.

In June, there was a combined meeting with law and health librarians to discuss the 1999 Specials, Health and Law librarians conference which will be held in Hobart at the Wrest Point Hotel Casino. Our principal committee members were elected, and several interesting ideas for themes were put forward. We hope to carry the momentum and enthusiasm for this major undertaking into 1997 and beyond.

Another successful activity was a luncheon meeting in August, where Lynn Davies, from the University of Tasmania Scitech Library talked about the networks which have been set up worldwide amongst librarians working in the area of polar and cold regions research.

In October, we visited ANM library to view their new library software, Horizon. Library visits are very popular activities, particularly as special librarians do not often have opportunities to see other libraries. ■