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Mini-conference for TALIATecs

Kerrie Dick, secretary, Technicians Section, Tasmania

Mooring Cafe, Barrack Street Jetty. Time: 7.30am. Contact: Tracy Gerritsen, ph (09) 366 4737.

• **24/3/97 WA Special Libraries Section Committee meeting** Time: 5pm. Contact: Tracy Gerritsen, ph (09) 366 4737.

National

20/1/97 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information. UPDATE 97. Hotel Inter-Continental, Sydney. Contact: ph (02) 9212 2867, e-mail krinfo.uts.edu.au.

• **21-23/1/97 Information Online & On Disc conference.** Online, On Disc, On the Net. ALIA Information Science Section. Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour. Contact: Wael Foda, ACMS, ph (02) 9332 4622 fax (02) 9332 4066, e-mail whfoda_acms@interconnect.com.au.

29-31/1/97 History Institute Vic Summer School of Historical Research. Visit eight archival repositories in Melbourne, guided by archivists and historians. Cost: \$250 (all three days), \$100 (selected days). Details: History Institute, 254 Faraday Street, Carlton 3052. Ph/fax (03) 9344 6209.

13-16/3/97 The 1997 Somerset celebration of literature. This nationally recognised festival, which features children's authors, will be held for the fourth year at Somerset College. Confirmed authors to date include Colleen McCullough. Contact: Graeme Gardiner at Somerset College, Somerset Drive, Mugeeraba 4213.

• **23/8-7/9/97 IFLA Study Tour** Draft itinerary available from ALIA National Office, PO Box E441, Kingston 2604, ph (06) 285 1877, fax (06) 282 2249, e-mail enquiry@alia.org.au.

11-12/9/97 12th National Cataloguing conference. New opportunities for cataloguers. Paper sessions and workshops. Contact: Prue Deacon, ph (06) 289 7062, e-mail prue.deacon@hhlgcs.ausgovhcs.telememo.au.

• **24-26/9/97 Library Technicians conference** InterACTION. Venue:

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Past and present TALIATecs committee (left to right) Roslyn Dockliff, Robyn Parker, Glenyce Surtees, Kerrie Dick, Angela Oackford, Avril Flewellen, Liz Bullman, Margot Graeme-Evans and Marg Mallet

The Tasmanian group of the ALIA Technicians section (TALIATecs) held a mini-conference and annual meeting at Ross, Tasmania on 21 September 1996. The conference was opened by Dr Andy Smithies who spoke about ALIA and his role on General Council. He then provided a short history on how library technicians in Tasmania have pushed for recognition of their qualifications since the early 1980s. He ended his talk by predicting very favourable outcomes for library technicians' in the future.

Prior to the lunch break Glenyce Surtees, president, commented on the aims, ideas and objectives of the group. Recognition of library technician qualifications in Tasmania is again a major issue and participants from TAFE, the education department and the State Library gave updates on the current situation in their respective areas.

Roberta Talbot, Launceston Institute of TAFE Library Technician Co-ordinator gave a talk on the latest developments in the course in Tasmania. She focused on RPL, flexible delivery and the differences between the previous Associate Diploma, the new Certificate III and Diploma in Library and Information Studies.

Keynote speaker at the conference was Diana Harrison from RMIT. Diana gave a very interesting insight into RMIT in general, followed by the Carlton Library in particular. Diana's topic 'The trials and tribulations of working in an inner-city library' was cleverly-expanded upon to provide us with a great deal of information about TAFE in Melbourne, and reminded us of the wider opportunities available in the sector.

After a short break Glenyce spoke of her visit to the 1995 ALIA Library Technicians conference in Darwin. There were just two Tasmanian repre-

sentatives, Karen Marriott being the second, but enthusiasm is building which will ensure a much larger contingent travels to Canberra in 1997. Early next year our group will hold a meeting with a major discussion being centred on travel arrangements to Canberra. Glenyce and Karen both spoke of the benefits of attending a conference of this size and assured all those present that the effort is very worthwhile.

An important part of the conference was the convening of six sector meetings (TAFE/university; health/specials; public; primary schools; high schools; and students). All participants joined a discussion group with colleagues from similar working areas which led to an exchange of ideas and sharing of similar problems. A representative of each sector reported back to the main group to enable everyone to receive some feedback and discover what was important to each sector.

Chris Richardson, ALIA Tasmania Branch president, was our final guest for the day and she spoke of the importance of continuing to build upon the enthusiasm generated from the day, and about the many benefits of being a member of ALIA.

Office bearers for 1997 were elected during the conference. The committee in 1997 will be: Glenyce Surtees, president; Angela Oakford, vice-president; Kerry Dick, secretary; Robyn Parker, treasurer; Rebecca Evans, publicity officer; and Margo Graeme-Evans, Avril Flewellen, Marg Mallett, and Liz Bulman.

It was pleasing to meet so many technicians, students and librarians from around the State and judging by the comments received at the end of the day, the networking opportunity and the information provided by the guest speakers combined to make the day a very successful one. ■