

ACT

• **4/3 ASSIG Seminar** — The future of serials speakers include Octover Ivins, North American Serials Interest Group and Will Wakeling, UK Serials Group. \$95 ALIA, \$45 students, \$125 others. Contact: Dale Chatwin (06) 252 6605. Registration forms: Alfred Gans (07) 3371 7500, fax (07) 3371 5566, e-mail: alfred@isa.com.au.

• **5/3 ALIA ACT Branch.** Mike Keller will talk on 'Redesigning the acquisitions-to-access process: the Stanford Uni Libraries Experience'. NLA 4th floor Conference Room. 5.30pm. Free.

• **6/3 Joint AIMA/UCRLS function.** Breakfast with Mike Keller at Chapters Restaurant, NLA. 7.30-9.30am: AIMA/ALIA \$50, others \$60. Registration forms: AIMA, (06) 262 1233, fax (06) 257 1703, e-mail aima@nla.gov.au.

• **14/3 Librarians' libations** are now in disarray! But meet the ACT Specials at the Hyatt 5.30pm. After that on 11/4. Further details are unpredictable but will be announced. Contact Libby Coates on (06) 266 2346.

19-20/3 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars. Introductory DIALOG (19/3), Patents (20/3), DataStar (21/3), Pharmaceutical (22/3). Canberra Contact (02) 212 2867.

• **29/3 ACT Library Technicians Group.** Social function in Restaurant 2, CIT, Reid. Guest speaker Bob Pymm from the National Film and Sound Archive. 7pm for 7.30pm. Contact Marion Boyd on (06) 270 6912.

NSW

Wollongong City Library is planning a staff reunion and is interested to hear from any former members of staff. Please register your interest with Graeme Deutscher on (042) 277 409.

• **1/3 NSW Public Libraries Section.** *Being competitive — an introduction to the competitive environment.* Presented by Chris Aulich, Uni of Canberra. 9.30am-1pm. Practitioners 2-4.30pm. Randwick City Library. \$45 members, \$55 others. Contact: Diana Oliver (02) 710 0353, fax (02) 710 0597.

• **6/3 ASSIG Seminar** — *The future of serials* speakers include Octover Ivins, North American Serials Interest Group and Will Wakeling, UK Serials Group. \$95 ALIA members, \$45 students, \$125 others. Contact Lionel Robson (02) 385 2656. Registration forms: Alfred Gans (07) 3371 7500, fax (07) 3371 5566, e-mail: alfred@isa.com.au.

• **7/3 Information Science Section.** PCAUSTATS, TRADSTAT and Victorian Uni of Technology. Import/Export statistics - What

continued next page...

In the news

Highly educated, rat-cunning or parish-pump politician?

Joye Volker, institute librarian, Institute of the Arts, Australian National University

These are the descriptions of the three types of ministers according to Ellnor Grassby, a flamboyant ex-politician in the ACT. Ms Grassby was a guest speaker at the *Lobby for libraries* seminar held for ALIA ACT Branch in December 1995. Her advice was humorous and straightforward, with a variety of possible actions for lobbying.

Her advice for approaching a Member of Parliament included:

1 *Do your homework:* get the party platform; identify the key people; ascertain if the Minister knows his portfolio; uncover the background of the Minister and determine type of Minister (as above) for appropriate approach; prepare a short clear simple submission of about a page and a half and target a particular issue.

2 *Meet ahead of time:* nominate a spokesperson; inform the Minister's office of the names and titles of those who will be attending the meeting.

3 *At the meeting:* expect a half-hour maximum; present the written brief and address

each of the issues in more detail; ensure you provide solutions to the problems. Make sure that the information is correct.

4 *Follow-up:* prepare a summary of the issues and the outcomes of discussion; provide the solutions with the summary or recommendations for further exploration; keep in touch with the Minister's staff; ensure that material is sent that could be used in Parliament; flatter!

Her final piece of advice was to ask politicians to make a statement in writing — perhaps in reply to a letter. The document could be strategically useful in future negotiations.

Ellnor also confirmed that she sewed all of her politician husband's ties — which certainly reflect her colourful personality.

The members of ALIA ACT Branch who attended the seminar found it valuable — not only for electoral issues, but in many other areas utilising presentation skills such as radio and television interviews. In summary, it was particularly useful for practical tips in dealing with politicians and the media in an informed and effective manner. ■

Librarians lobbying locally

A lobbying workshop, presented by Virginia Walsh, at Westmead hospital for thirty librarians was very well-received by participants. The presentation was professional and focused on aspects of particular interest to librarians involved in lobbying.

The workshop was enhanced by the inclusion of a politician, Mark Latham, member for Werriwa, who delivered a succinct and extremely relevant presentation on the issues to be considered when talking to

politicians. This was further enhanced by the presentation of the ALIA video on lobbying which addressed in an amusing but very considered way, the rights and wrongs of media presentations.

Virginia's presentation was very polished and obviously based on an in-depth knowledge of the lobbying arena. Perhaps the only criticism was the lack of time available to workshop some of the issues with the participants. As it was, the brief discussions which involved the participants

brought out some local issues which were very useful to the audience.

I would encourage ALIA to continue the workshops across Australia and to, as is intended, involve local presenters. I would stress that the inclusion of a sympathetic local politician is a necessary addition to the workshop, as a way of ensuring relevance to the particular geographic area in which the lobbying is being conducted.

*Craig Grimison,
NSW general councillor*