

Joint mobile library a first

Robyn Schwartz, institute librarian, Western Institute of TAFE

An exciting new venture is now being developed in Western New South Wales by the Western Institute of TAFE in co-operation with the Macquarie Regional Library. A new mobile information service is being developed to provide support to people in rural and isolated areas, and in particular, aboriginal people in the far West of New South Wales.

The concept was first discussed with Macquarie Regional Library in 1995 when the Western Institute of TAFE sought funding for a mobile library unit to service some of its students in remote locations, especially aboriginal students in isolated areas. Dallas Curry, the regional librarian at the time, was very keen to pursue a partnership with the Western Institute to enable them to better service some of the smaller towns in their region. In 1996 funding sufficient for one mobile unit was provided by TAFE. Jennifer Goud, then acting and now recently appointed regional librarian of Macquarie Regional Library, was approached to find out if the library was still interested in a partnership with the Western Institute to

provide a mobile library service. With enthusiasm Jennifer and the Regional Library Committee affirmed their interest. A committee comprising representatives from both organisations has been planning the service and library staff from the Dubbo TAFE library and Macquarie Regional Library are working hard with this committee to make the service a reality.

The Mobile Library and Information Unit has been constructed and is now being painted and fitted out with the necessary equipment. The Unit itself consists of a ninety-eight tonne truck with a specially constructed body to house stock and equipment for the service. The Unit will contain a video unit, CD and tape player, a computer with CD-ROM drive and printer, a photocopier and fax/phone, plus approximately 3000 stock items including books, periodicals, videos, CDs and tapes.

The Western Institute of TAFE is providing the Mobile Unit, an operator for the Unit, equipment and stock, while Macquarie Regional Library is providing some stock, the automated library sys-

tem, and loading and storage facility for the mobile stock. Both TAFE and Macquarie Regional Library will provide professional library support for the service.

It is planned to base the Unit in Dubbo. TAFE will service towns in the more remote areas, such as Enngonia, Weilmoringle, Grawin and Lightning Ridge every four weeks, and Macquarie Regional Library will service those such as Stuart Town, Peak Hill and Tomingley, every two weeks. Initially there are twenty towns on the three routes where the Unit will visit. Routes and schedules may be varied if the need arises in the future.

A preliminary visit was recently made to each location where the Mobile Library will stop. Some will be TAFE campuses, some schools and even clubs such as *The Club in The Scrub* on the Grawin Opal fields. The reaction from the people in these communities was very positive and they are looking forward to the commencement of the service, which we believe is a 'first' joint mobile library service between TAFE and a public library. ■



Australian
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Election of vice-president 1998 (president-elect 1999)

Call for nominations

Nominations are called for the position of vice-president 1998 (president-elect 1999). Nominees must be financial members of the Association.

Candidates and nominators should read the relevant regulations carefully. Please note that nominations must be in writing, be signed by 2 financial members of the Association, include the consent in writing of the nominee and be accompanied by a 100-word current *curriculum vitae* (giving full details of academic and professional qualifications) and a 100-word statement of professional concerns. The *curriculum vitae* should be arranged under headings of Present Position, Previous Positions and Professional Activities.

A colour portrait photograph must be included.

Nominations close at 5pm on 1 August 1997 and should be sent to the executive director, ALIA, PO Box E441, Kingston, ACT 2604, e-mail: enquiry@alia.org.au

Further details are available from the ALIA executive director, or from <http://www.alia.org.au/nominations/vice.president.html>



Australian
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Board of Education

Call for nominations of 3 members

Nominations are called for 3 positions. Nominees must be financial members of the Association at the time of nomination, however they need not be professional members.

There are ten members of the Board of Education, seven elected by members of the Association and three by General Council. At least seven members of the Board must be professional members, the president of the Association is ex officio and the executive director is a non-voting executive member.

There shall be a minimum of 3 practitioners (persons working in the field of libraries or information services) and 3 educators on the Board (persons teaching library or information science). Terms of office of 3 members of the Board end on 31 December 1997. 3 members are to be elected to the board, 2 by members of the Association and 1 by General Council to hold office from 1 January 1998 to 31 December 2000.

Nominations must be in writing, be signed by 2 financial members of the Association, include the consent in writing of the nominee and be accompanied by a 100-word current *curriculum vitae* (giving full details of academic and professional qualifications) and a 100-word statement of professional concerns. The *curriculum vitae* should be arranged under headings of Present Position, Previous Positions and Professional Activities.

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