

A busy year

Philip Kent, 1996 Victorian Branch President

The ALIA Biennial Conference was a highlight of this year and involved considerable planning and contribution from a wide variety of members. Feedback has been positive and our labours worthwhile. Thanks to Helen Tait and her team for steering the conference so ably.

Australian Library Week would not have been so successful without the energy and enthusiasm of Margie Anderson. The linkage with internet launches in public libraries, the opening of Australian Library Week in Parliament House with the assistance of the Treasurer and Minister for Multimedia, the inaugural ALIA/FLIS awards for innovation, the full page in the Sunday Herald-Sun and the Prusak/Mattarazzo seminar were highlights of a busy week.

In June the Branch hosted a joint meeting with the Australian Society of Archivists and the Records Management Association of Australia. Speakers included a lively representative of the Australasian Computer Society.

The meeting began an ongoing dialogue with our fellow information professionals and an opportunity to capitalise on our areas of commonality. The Victorian Branch also continued our tradition of close cooperation and joint activities with ACLIS and supported the review of national co-ordination activities.

The mentoring scheme continues to provide practical support to our new professionals and is an incentive for membership. Demand continues to outstrip supply and we have become a model for similar initiatives in other states.

Visits to regional groups, the revised *BranchOut*, attendance of branch representatives at sectional activities and talks to students at schools of librarianship improved communication and brought the wider branch together.

We are proud of our members in



Margaret Findlay, Angela Bridgland and Jennefer Nicholson at the ALIA Biennial Conference where Angela received her Fellowship award

Victoria, particularly those honoured by national ALIA awards. Congratulations to our newest Fellow, Angela Bridgland and the ALIA Manager of the Year, Clare Body.

1997 will be a busy year and I am delighted to pass the Presidential baton to Margie Anderson! ■

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