

# Encouraging participation

Kerrie Kelly, president of the Victorian Library Technicians section

This has been a very successful year for the Victorian Library Technicians section. The committee holds monthly meetings to organise activities and discuss topical issues. We encourage all library technicians to attend, both members and non-members alike.

Our aim is to hold at least three activities for the general membership during each year. The first topic for 1999 was 'Employment prospects for library technicians in the library and information industry' presented by Margie Anderson from One Umbrella (who is also a past-president of the ALIA Victorian branch). Margie is a great speaker and was able to provide some very practical advice.

On Saturday 3 July we hosted a day of library visits, 'Techs on tour'. The day was a behind-the-scenes look at the work of library technicians. It was enormously popular, more than sixty delegates visited the State Library of Victoria as well as a special library of



Techs on tour in the State Library of Victoria. The participants enjoyed a behind-the-scenes look at the work of library technicians

their choice. Delegates could visit either *The Age* editorial library, the library of the Parliament of Victoria, or the Melbourne Athenaeum Library. The organising committee are very grateful to all the libraries involved and the volunteers who gave up part of their weekend to make the day a success. 'Techs on tour' has been so successful over the past two years that we hope to include it in our program of events for next year. The tour will incorporate visits to different libraries as well as a variety of speakers, ensuring there is something new for everyone.

Demonstrating that it is truly a national conference, the 10<sup>th</sup> National ALIA Library Technicians Conference in Fremantle has also brought about extra activity here in Victoria. For the past two years the section has been raising funds to provide the inaugural Student Library Technician Conference Grant. Helen Page, a library technician student from Box Hill Institute of TAFE won the inaugural grant for her essay on the topic 'What do you consider to be the benefits of ALIA membership for library technicians?' Helen will present a post-conference paper to a general meeting of the section in October. Also on our list of conference activities was an afternoon tea on Sunday 29 August. It provided an opportunity for Victorian delegates to meet and plan for the conference.

Included in our regular program of

events is an annual visit to the student library technicians and staff at the University of Ballarat. Over the past three years we have had the opportunity to visit their weekend classes in Horsham, Mildura and Ballarat. These visits have given us a great opportunity to gain valuable feedback on a variety of issues and information on continuing education topics.

During 1997, the section published a newsletter to ensure that members were kept up-to-date with the Canberra conference plans. The newsletter was very successful and we decided to continue its publication. It is now published quarterly with the unique title, *Technotes*. As our country membership continues to grow, *Technotes* has proven to be a great way to keep everyone informed of the latest news and activities. We eagerly seek contributions!

Looking to the future, a joint workshop is planned with the New South Wales group in early 2000. The workshop will be held in Mildura, and we hope to attract delegates from southern New South Wales, north-western Victoria and northern South Australia. We are looking for ideas and speakers, so if you have any suggestions please contact us.

For details on our activities please check the events columns of *inCite*, or our website: <http://www.alia.org.au/sections/libt/vic/>. ■

Australian Library and Information Association

## NOMINATIONS FOR FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowships are awarded to recognise a members distinguished contribution to the theory or practice of library and information science. Nominees must have a minimum of eight years standing as an Associate or Library Technician member, be a minimum of 30 years of age, and a personal member of the Association. Fellowships may be conferred throughout the year. Members should note that any recommendation for Fellowships must be made in strict confidence.

Nomination forms are available from  
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