

Territory busy in 1999

Theresa Jude, president, ALIA Northern Territory Branch

1999 has been a productive and busy year for ALIA in the Northern Territory. Due to the efforts of many people we have had varied activities which have suited many people and interests. We have also tried to involve other places in the Territory and, whilst only a small start, we did have ALIA activities in Katherine, Nhulunbuy and Humpty Doo. The Centralian group had their usual compliment of activities and some of these were in tandem with guest speakers and presenters arranged for the Top End group.

Professional development

Financial support was given to members who attended the Library Technicians' Conference in Perth and the Specials Conference in Hobart.

Awards

The Library Awards in Australian Library Week were popular with increased nominations. The winners this year were Freida Evans, Lorraine Vass and Robin Hempel. The (then) Minister for Corporate and Information Services, Daryl Manzie, presented the awards at a function at the Civic Centre in Darwin.

Events and happenings

April ALIA national president, Craig Anderson visited both Alice Springs and Darwin and presented a talk about 'Metadata', and also attended the very special dinner saluting two members — Colleen Pyne for her Order of Australia Award, and Alex Byrne for his ALIA Fellowship.

May Australian Library Week was again successful and many libraries celebrated with various activities, including the Library Awards.

June New South Wales author Bev Harper visited the North and spoke to groups at Katherine, Nhulunbuy, Humpty Doo and Darwin. Her visit was very popular and she was also a dinner speaker for us in Darwin.

July There was a Testimonial Dinner for Lorraine Vass who retired this year and has moved interstate. We have many fond memories of Lorraine and appreciate all she has done for our profession.

Vicki Wilson also presented workshops on teamwork and other team concepts. The feedback from these workshops has been very positive.

September Heather Fisher, a visiting librarian with a passion for family literacy, was a guest dinner speaker. And, after hearing about the 'safe return' of the Technicians from their journey across the *Berrimah Line*, we decided to hold the dinner at Palmerston.

Vicki Hoult spoke on the 'lost generations' at the Northern Territory Library. Her talk was very interesting and enlightening.

Judith Seiss, a one-person library advocate presented a well-attended workshop.

November Our annual general meeting, with special guest speaker, Phil Teece, from ALIA national office.

Other activities of the branch included the presentation of the prize for *The Most Outstanding student in the Diploma of Library and Information Practice* to Liisa Webster (see September *inCite*, p22).

I visited the Library students at

Northern Territory University with the president of the Northern Territory Library Technicians section and discussed how ALIA membership can benefit them.

I attended the first General Council meeting in Canberra this year. It was very worthwhile to see how the process worked and especially good to meet the other branch presidents.

The branch has also been involved with the development of library trainee packages. The packages are almost ready to use. I would like to express my appreciation to CREATE NT for their involvement.

The branch has purchased a digital camera (thanks to Susan Blake's efforts here) and we now expect to have images we can use on the web, in our newsletters and for promotion.

Much appreciation to all members, the committee and especially Rennison Taaffe for her meticulous work as secretary, and welcome to the new committee. ■

Restructure a major focus in Queensland

Christine Mackenzie, president, ALIA Queensland Branch

A major focus of the Queensland Branch in 1999 was the suggestion that the branch split in two — Northern Queensland and Southern Queensland. A ballot was held, and a recommendation that the branch be split was taken to the October General Council meeting. General Council has referred the matter to the Divisional Restructure Subcommittee of the Renewal Working Group.

Both Public Libraries Section and RAISS have been revitalised, and both are enjoying good support, with enthusiastic committees and a good program of events. Local History and the Children's and Youth Services Sections are also emerging.

Queensland Branch was very keen to ensure institutional interests should be represented, and three new positions on Branch were created to

incorporate school, public and academic libraries. Some very successful professional development events have been held, including an electronic licensing seminar which was presented in Brisbane and Cairns by Victorian colleagues; a breakfast featuring psychologist Ian Plowman; and a reception for new graduates. There has also been a session on ethics and a seminar about the *Digital Agenda Bill*. *Quill* continues its highly successful run, and is being published ten times this year. It is a very important vehicle for communicating with members.

We are very proud to have two award winners: Library Technician of the Year, Helen Pickers, and joint Library Manager of the Year, Janine Schmidt. Helen received her award in Perth at the Library Technicians' Conference, and Janine's presentation was held late November. ■