

ALIA TAFE (Queensland) section

Sue Moss, president

On 26 March 1999, a meeting was convened to discuss the current state of the ALIA TAFE (Queensland) Section. There was no president, vice-president or secretary — the only position occupied was that of treasurer and two committee members remained. It was decided to throw open all positions for 1999. Calls for nominations were placed via a mailout to members of the ALIA TAFE Section. Members were also advised via the online Bulletin Board Library Services and mailouts to all Queensland TAFE Institute libraries.

On Thursday 29 April, the following office bearers were elected: president — Sue Moss; vice-president — Helen Martyn; secretary — Brenda Strachan; treasurer — Marilyn Chalmers; and the committee members — Elaine Baker, Janice Cook, Arlene Johnson, Tracey Keates, Cecelia Ryan, Kim Sutcliffe. Committee member Tracey Keates has since resigned as she is no longer working in TAFE.

A successful professional development activity was conducted on 28 June called 'Leaping the levels'. This seminar for library staff from all sections of Queensland Government looked at the process of advancement within the professional and technical streams of the library profession. Speakers included representatives from the State Public Services Federation of Queensland, Human Resources, librarians and library technicians who had successfully gained advancement, and members of interview panels. More than fifty people attended this function and participated enthusiastically in the

closing panel discussion. An interesting outcome of this seminar was the apparent lack of uniformity of the advancement process across the profession. Video tapes of the program were produced and dispatched to requesting libraries.

Sue Moss, as president of the section, attended the 7th ALIA TAFE Section National Conference in Hobart from 18 to 20 July and the ALIA National TAFE Section meeting following the conference. A report on the conference was distributed via the Bulletin Board Library Services and the Queensland TAFE libraries' newsletter. Paper copies of the conference proceedings were distributed to committee members.

Elaine Baker and Helen Martyn will speak to graduating students from the Morningside Library Technician Course at the end of this academic year on gaining employment within TAFE libraries, how to apply for a position, writing to selection criteria and the interview process. Arlene Johnson and Sue Moss conducted similar presentations for graduating library students from the Queensland University of Technology in late October.

An end of year event combining the annual general meeting and dinner was held on Friday 19 November. A final function is planned for the Section in early December which will be a workshop addressing the ways workers can cope with stress.

Minutes of the ALIA TAFE (Queensland) Section are published in the Queensland TAFE libraries' publication, LINC's. ■

Focus on promotion and sponsorship

Yvonne Brock, president, ALIA Library Technicians Section, Queensland

The Queensland Library Technicians Section has had a very busy and productive year. Once again we promoted the Queensland Student Library Technician of the Year quest, which was won by Lesley Hartman from Queensland TAFE. We also presented a nomination for the ALIA Library Technician of the Year Award. Our successful application culminated in Helen Pickers winning the prestigious award.

Activities have included guest speakers who spoke on the topics of interlibrary loans and the Queensland mentoring program.

Our annual workshop covered the issues of 'Health and safety in the library environment: be prepared for the new millennium'. The first session looked at how to identify hazards in the workplace; safety checklists; employee/employer responsibility and work cover background.

The second session was presented by a specialist on rehabilitation. He

spoke on the importance of posture; the manual handling of equipment, such as a trolley full of books; and injuries and their causes and prevention. This session provided a bit of light entertainment as members of the audience were asked to participate. The workshop was specifically designed for the library environment. We have had excellent feedback and would consider doing it again.

The section's committee have also organised trips to the new Department of Employment Training and Industrial Relations Library and the University of Queensland 'Cybrary' with guest speaker Janine Schmidt.

The committee's main initiatives for this year have been focused on promotion and sponsorship. We have been very fortunate to attract Queensland Library Supplies as our major sponsor for the Queensland Student Library Technician of the Year program. Other sponsors have included DANKA Australia, Riverbend Books Brisbane City AIM Bookshop, and James Bennett Pty Ltd.

Members of our section presented a promotional lecture on the value of ALIA membership to TAFE Library Technician students during May. In the September 1999 issue of *inCite*, three Queensland library technician members had articles published: Yvonne Brock, Mary Harlow and Helen Pickers.

Nineteen very keen Queensland members attended the 10th national technicians' conference in Fremantle. Since the conference we have formed an executive committee to prepare and present a bid for the 12th national conference in 2003.

We have welcomed many new faces to our meetings and have gained a trickle of new members. Next year we hope to establish a new Sunshine Coast regional section.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my executive committee for all their support as none of the above would have been achievable without their commitment. ■