

ACT

• **8/12 ACT Branch Council meeting and Christmas Party.** 5.30 pm, probably at ALIA House but confirm in proACTive or contact Branch Secretary Sally-Anne Leigh, 6249 3681, sally-anne.leigh@anu.edu.au.

• **8/12 APSIG. Christmas lunch.** Chairman and Yip, 108 Bunda Street, Civic, Canberra. 12:15pm, booking essential. Contact: Dorothea Polonyi, ANU Library, ph 02 6249 5652.

NSW

• **4/12 NSW Library Technicians section.** General meeting/end of year celebrations. State Library of NSW, Coles Room, Level 11, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 11am. Please bring a plate of goodies, drinks provided. For more information, please contact Stephen Coppins, ph 02 9715 8316, spcoppins@bigpond.com

• **8/12 NSW Special Libraries section.** Annual General Meeting and Christmas function. Le Chifley Wine Bar & Bistro, 6 Castlereagh Street, Sydney (back of the arcade next to Banque Nationale de France.). Commences 5:30pm, cost \$15 per head. RSVP by Friday 3/12 to Jan Titcombe, ph 02 9324 4235, jant@grantsamuel.com.au

• **9/12 NSW RAISS. Information literacy initiatives in USA.** Speaker: Patricia Iannuzzi (ACRL/AASL). Relevant to all sectors. State Library NSW, Metcalfe Auditorium, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 6.30pm, all very welcome. RAISS contact: Linden Fairbairn, ph 02 9351 3190, l.fairbairn@library.usyd.edu.au or Philippa Stevens, ph 02 9351 3629

• **14/12 NSW Branch Council meeting.** State Library of NSW, Sumitomo Room, Level 11, State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 6pm, observers welcome. RSVP to Jo-anne Fuller or Heather Black, ph 02 9906 6000, jojo1@ozemail.com.au

NT

• **Dec Central Australian Regional group meeting.** Annual Christmas dinner. Venue: tba. For further information contact: Carmel Leonard, ph 08 8951 5685, Carmel.Leonard@drme.nt.gov.au

Qld

• **5/12 Qld Library Technician section.** LT's in PJ's christmas breaky. A visit to the new 'Cyberlibrary', Uni of Queensland. Planetarium Gardens Restaurant, 8:30 for 9am. \$16.90pp, \$8.50 for PJ wearers, full buffet breakfast. RSVP 26 November to Elaine West, ph 07 3403 2550, fx 07 3403 2530,

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Is this a first for ALIA?

Tim Eggleston, secretary, Riverina Regional Group

1999 began for the Riverina Regional Group of ALIA with the election of an all-male executive: Chris Griffiths as president, Tim Eggleston as secretary, and Greg Fry as treasurer — this must surely be a first for ALIA!

In March our dinner meeting in Wagga Wagga was attended by ALIA president Craig Anderson, who spoke and answered questions at what was a lively meeting. Australian Library Week 1999 saw an informal gathering of Albury ALIA members (and others) for Friday afternoon drinks at a local watering hole, and a week later the Riverina Regional Group hosted a workshop on ergonomics, presented by a local occupational therapist. In June the group was involved in publicising the visit to Wagga Wagga of Dr Joy McGregor, who presented a workshop on information literacy, and at our June meeting guest speaker Carol Mills spoke about her research into the history of paper-making in Australia.

The latter part of this year has seen us concentrate on two major issues. Our September meeting included a discussion of issues surrounding the GST and libraries — this was primarily a consciousness-raising exercise with a view to holding a more comprehensive workshop early in 2000. We

have also held discussions on the rising cost of producing and distributing our newsletter, *Hinteralia*, and have undertaken a couple of initiatives: one is to seek funding from the New South Wales branch; the other is to consider electronic means of distribution (e-mail and/or web-page) as a means of reducing costs. The final issue of *Hinteralia* will seek feedback from members as to receiving the newsletter electronically.

At the time of reporting, ALIA Riverina Regional Group is preparing to co-host (with Friends of Wagga Wagga City Library) a function at which Professor Bob Usherwood, from the School of Information Studies, Sheffield University, United Kingdom, will speak on 'The value of public libraries and the social audit'.

The group includes members from the library communities of Albury-Wodonga, Wagga Wagga, and surrounding areas. So we continue to grapple with the problems of 'the tyranny of distance' but are still able to present a varied program, and keep members in touch with each other via our mailing list, our newsletter, and updates to our web-pages.

This year we noted with some pride the awarding of an ALIA fellowship to one of our former members, Dr Maxine Rochester. ■

Mapping a path to change

Tracy Gerritson, ALIA Western Australian Branch

ALIA Western Australian Branch started a year that promised much change within the Association by mapping out our own path to change. A very productive series of workshops were held in March, resulting in marketing and strategic plans for Branch (see <http://www.alia.org.au/branches/wa>). Many of the Branch's subsequent activities have been the result of these plans.

Australian Library Week was the focus of great activity in Western Australia with the Branch providing a co-ordinating role as well as hosting a social event for the Western Australian library community. This event provided the opportunity for many of us to get together,

let our hair down and enjoy good food, good wine and interesting speakers. Australian Library Week also saw the launch of the 2000 *Librarians in Focus* calendar (copies are available from Western Australian Local Office for \$5 plus postage).

Other changes this year include the relaunch of the Branch's publication *Biblia* as well as the upgrading of the technology in the local office, thanks to a generous grant from the Western Australian Branch of ACLIS.

The Branch's continuing professional development section recently held a successful event at which various conference papers presented recently by Western Australians were 're-run' to give those who had not at-

tended the conferences the opportunity to hear them.

ALIA Western Australian Branch has invested a great deal of time and effort in lobbying against the proposed State Government *Library, Culture and the Arts Bill*. At this stage the Bill is still in Parliament but the library community, along with other groups affected by the legislation, are striving to have this Bill defeated. Thanks go to all those who have so enthusiastically and passionately expressed their opposition to it.

Finally, looking forward to 2000, it is hoped that the Branch can continue to provide a relevant and dynamic program to Western Australian members. ■