

West Australian Library Technicians celebrate Library and Information Week

The West Australian Library Technicians Section (WALTS) celebrated Library and Information Week with two events this year. The first was a breakfast at Frasers Restaurant, Kings Park to celebrate National Library Technicians Day. About twelve library technicians braved the early morning cold to enjoy fabulous views over the Swan River in Perth and to munch on Danishes and toast whilst enjoying some lively conversation.

The second event was our annual Library Week dinner. Held at Rosie O'Gradys in Northbridge Perth, the audience was treated to an inspiring talk by Marilyn Boydell. Marilyn has worked for the past twenty or so years in education specialising in work with young people. Prior to coming to Perth, Marilyn worked in outdoor education in Britain.

Marilyn has just completed an eighteen month stint with the Antarctic Division as station manager of Casey Research Station. The focus of Marilyn's talk was how to make the most of one's skills to achieve one's dream. In it she detailed briefly her career up to the time she took on managing Casey Station and emphasised the need to be pro-active in one's career development. Marilyn was interested in moving into management but was finding it difficult to find opportunities within the education department. She looked for opportunities outside to expand her skills and options such as studying performance management. Marilyn made the point that in order to succeed you need to market your skills and not undervalue the experience you have gained. Marilyn's talk was very topical, given that earlier in May

WALTS ran a 'Skills audit workshop' which also emphasised these points.

Once Marilyn had explained how she managed to get to Antarctica, she gave a terrific description of life on a research station. As manager, Marilyn was ultimately responsible for everything that took place. Being so far from 'civilisation' means that the station has to provide every service for itself: from producing enough drinking water, to environmentally sound rubbish removal.

As well as an being an inspiring speaker Marilyn is also an accomplished photographer — the audience enjoyed some magnificent slides including majestic glaciers, some absolutely spectacular examples of the southern lights, and frolicking penguins! Interestingly, the Polar Library and the Multimedia Library of the Australian Antarctic Division are on the library tour program for the Library Technicians conference in Hobart in August and I am sure a number of the dinner audience will be visiting these libraries to build on the information presented by Marilyn.

The evening finished with Sandra Wilson presenting our inaugural Student Conference Grant to Mason Clarke. Mason is a first year student at Edith Cowan University studying the Bachelor of Science (Library Technology). The Grant includes \$1000.00 to help in attending a National Library Technicians conference, twelve months membership to ALIA, and a commemorative certificate. Mason will attend the conference and on his return will present a short talk giving his perspective on the conference. ■

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