

Dunn & Wilson update

Kerrie Blyth

As the 2001 winner of the Dunn & Wilson Scholarship I am currently working on the two objectives that were outlined in my project proposal.

- Investigating the courses of study on offer to para-professional library staff in the United Kingdom, the United States and New Zealand, and then comparing these with the current education and training opportunities in Australia.
- Establishing and promoting solid international networks for library technicians around the world to expedite the sharing of ideas, opportunities, skills, education and training.

For the next few months I will be preparing my itinerary for touring the United Kingdom in September/October where I will be on a mission to find out as much as I can regarding how their para-professional staff are educated and trained. At this stage I have eight organisations to visit ranging from universities to private providers of training and I expect to add some more to this list. I intend to interview staff and students and cover topics such as qualifications, training (flexible, on-line, workplace and class-based), resources and technology available and how the students view their employment prospects. Although I will not be able to visit the United States or New Zealand, and will need to rely upon e-mail to continue my investigations of their

courses, I do not see that this will present any problems for my project.

To assist with my second objective I hope to attend a meeting of the Library Associations' Affiliated Members' (they are the equivalent of our LibTec group) where I will have the opportunity to tell them about the many advantages of being an ALIATec and the opportunities open to us. This meeting will also give me a chance to discuss and launch my proposal for establishing a web page for para-professional staff. I propose to organise and administer this website and am asking interested participants to put forward their name, city of residence, state/county and country. Participation is for the purpose of having contacts around the world to assist anyone traveling or seeking information in another area or country. The level of assistance offered is entirely up to the individual — it may be to simply offer advice on travel options within your own city or an offer to guide someone through your workplace should they be visiting. Communication will be only between yourself and the person who has made contact via an e-mail link. I think that simply to make a commitment to provide whatever assistance you wish, is all that will be required to make this network successful. I look forward to answering any questions or receiving suggestions as to the content of the site. Please e-mail me at kerrie.blyth@tafe.tas.edu.au.



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members of the profession in Brisbane! Come along for nibbles, drinks, and a good time with your colleagues. Boulevard Street, Michel, 5:30 for 6pm. Cost: \$5.50 pay at the door, cash bar available. Please RSVP for catering purposes by 21/5 to: Kathryn Harding, twg3@brisbane.qld.gov.au or Monica Hoffensetz, monica.hoffensetz@crsrehab.gov.au. This event is proudly sponsored by Resource-Options.

• **29/5 ALIA Queensland OPALs.** *Kinetica meeting.* Brisbane Catholic Education, 243 Gladstone Road, Dutton Park, 12:45pm. Contact: Denise Cadman, ph 07 3840 0433, dcadman@bne.catholic.edu.au

5/6 Trimagic Software. *DB/TextWorks introductory training.* To register please contact: Tara Lord, ph 02 9880 8666, tara.lord@trimagic.com.au

6/6 Trimagic Software. *DB/TextWorks advanced training.* To register please contact: Tara Lord, ph 02 9880 8666, tara.lord@trimagic.com.au

7/6 Trimagic Software. *DB/TextWorks webpublisher training.* To register please contact: Tara Lord, ph 02 9880 8666, tara.lord@trimagic.com.au

• **11/6 Qld Library Technicians.** *AGM, guest speaker: tba.* Metway Theatre, State Library of Queensland, 5-5:30pm — preceded by drinks & nibbles (gold coin donation appreciated). Contact: Marian Moyle, ph 07 3840 7763, m.moyle@slq.qld.gov.au

• **June Queensland OPALs.** *General meeting.* Qld Competition Authority, Level 19, 12 Creek Street, Brisbane. Date/time: tba. Contact: Bev Peake, ph 03 3222 0540, bec.peake@qca.org.au

• **August Queensland OPALs.** *General meeting.* Host: Susan Oag. Criminal Justice Commission Level 3, Terrica Place, 140 Creek Street, Brisbane. Date/time: tbc (3rd week). Contact: Susan Oag, ph 07 3360 6060, susan.oag@cjcc.qld.gov.au

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2/5 CAVAL training activities. *Preservation of digital resources:* presented by Alan Howell, manager, State Library of Victoria. CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora, 9:30-4:30pm. Cost: \$396 CAVAL/ALIA members, \$440 non-members. Contact: Eve Cornish, evc@caval.edu.au, register online at http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego_form.html

• **4/5-16/11 Schools Victoria.** *Committee meeting.* Santa Maria College Library, Northcote, 9:30am. All ALIA members are warmly invited to attend. 4/5, 1/6, 20/7, 17/8, 19/10, 16/11. For further information contact: Maree McDonagh, convenor, ph 03 9334 0012, maree.mcdonagh@overmewton.vic.edu.au

• **7/5 Victorian Library Technicians.** *International library staff exchanges:* a presentation from Barbara Lerch, New Hampshire (USA) working at the Borchardt Library, LaTrobe University. Barbara will outline how she organised her stay, and the benefits from exchanges. A committee meeting will follow. All welcome, no charge, a light supper provided. RSVPs to: Tricia Murray, ph 03 9925 2063, patricia.murray@rmit.edu.au

14/5 CAVAL training activities. *MARC 21 for cataloguers:* a recommended pre-requisite for Kinetica cataloguers. CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, 4 Park Drive, Bundoora, 9:30-12:30pm. Cost: \$110 CAVAL/ALIA members, \$132 non-members. Contact: Eve Cornish, evc@caval.edu.au, register online at http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/rego_form.html

• **15/5-20/11 Specials Libraries (Vic).** *General meetings.* Swets Blackwell, 4 Bennetts Lane, Melbourne, 5:30pm. 15/5, 19/6, 17/7, 21/8, 18/9, 16/10, 20/11. RSVP: Traci Webb, twebb@au.swetsblackwell.com

15/5 ACER's Cunningham Library: *supporting professional learning*, open day, 2-5:30pm. School

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RAIS revived

The Victorian Reference and Information Services group has been accepted by ALIA and is now operating under the title RAISSEA [Reference and Information Services — South East Australia]. RAISSEA will cover New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

RAISSEA will build on the support and enthusiasm generated at the *Revelling in Reference Symposium* held in Melbourne last year to keep reference issues on the agenda. The group will focus on providing professional development and networking activities.

The first event of the year will be a panel discussion held in Melbourne called *Let's get physical: On desk 2002*. Speakers from a range of libraries will talk about their coping strategies for the reference desk and assisting users visiting the library. It will be held on 28 May 2002 at 5:30pm. The venue and other details will be announced shortly on the ALIA website at <http://groups.alia.org.au/raissea/>.

RAISSEA will also be establishing an e-list so that all members and participate to discussions. You can join RAISSEA from the web address above. Remember group membership is free and ALIA members can join as many groups as they want.

Sarah Hopkins, convener, RAISSEA

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