

Victorian Library Technicians: a year in review

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2006 was a bumper year for the Victorian Library Technicians Group with 11 events held and great developments to the Victorian Library Technicians' webpage. The season kicked off with a visit to the University of Ballarat in February to help library technician students ease into the new academic year. A panel session was conducted, allowing students to hear professional library technicians discuss the real world of libraries (including the importance of ALIA!) and the roles library technicians play in them.

In February we also visited the Mornington Peninsula Library Services Mobile Library. Attendees heard about their floating stock, the Mornington Library network, the satellite communications, and the bus itself. April saw an after-hours, behind-the-scenes tour of the State Library of Victoria's current exhibition 'National Treasures from Australia's Great Libraries'. With SLV's Claire Williamson as tour guide (who also happened to be the curator), delegates had a WOW of a time!!

March brought the 'Hot off the Press' tour. The first stop of the day was at Stomp in Abbotsford, a specialist AV supplier which boasts a large range of music and film titles all at wholesale prices. The second stop was Vision Australia in Kooyong, where we learned about the services provided to clients and the ways in which technology is advancing to better assist the blind with accessing the written word. The afternoon was spent at Raeco in Scoresby, where we were first treated to a delicious lunch. While at Raeco we saw a presentation on the cataloguing of non-book materials by SCIS (Schools Catalogue Information Service), learned about the services that Raeco provide to the library industry, and heard about RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) from 3M Library Systems. The day provided delegates with the opportunity to learn about non-book materials from a variety of angles, including the production, processing, storing and loaning these materials.

May brought Library Week and National Library Technicians Day was celebrated with a visit to library technician students at Victoria University. Again the role of library technicians was discussed, and


the important role ALIA plays in library technicians' lives. That night, library technicians from around Victoria gathered in Melbourne for dinner to catch up with old friends, to meet new ones and to simply chat about life in libraries.

Techs on Tour (in its 9th year) took place in June. It's a behind-the-scenes look at work in libraries with tours of the State Library of Victoria's Genealogy Centre, stacks, Rare Books, Mirror of the World exhibition and an overview of SLV 21st century strategies. Afternoon tours included guided visits to the RACV Library, University of Melbourne Rare Book Collection, SLV Manuscript Collection and RMIT's Greek Resource Collection.

August fast approached and Victorian technicians gathered for their Annual General Meal in Southbank, to catch up at the halfway mark of the year. In October a fully booked tour group

headed to the Public Records Office of Victoria in North Melbourne to learn more about the Victorian Archives and this wonderful resource, valued at more than \$140 million.

The year will round out in November with the 4th 'River of Opportunities' weekend workshop, a collaborative event held by the Victorian ALIA Library Technicians Group and the NSW ALIA Library Technicians Group, in Albury, NSW. A full program with informative speakers in the morning and library tours in the afternoon is on offer. And last but not least, a Christmas dinner in December to simply remember the year that was!

More in-depth articles have been written regarding these events in our quarterly publication *Technotes* and in earlier issues of *inCite*. Check out *Technotes* at: <http://alia.org.au/groups/libtvic/> and while you're there, look up some happy snaps on our social pages! 

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