

Finally.... a New South Wales TAFE Group

At long last a New South Wales Group of the ALIA National TAFE Section has been formed.

The National TAFE Section, formed in 1985, has always been very active. This encouraged the formation of State Groups in Queensland, South Australia, Victoria (in 1992) and now, in April 1993, in NSW.

The need for a NSW Group was highlighted most recently when States were asked to take an active part in the TAFE libraries lobbying campaign.

The Group will benefit members working in the TAFE sector in NSW and will also



benefit ALIA through increased membership. It will provide an effective and cohesive viewpoint on matters which are of interest to TAFE library staff in NSW. The Group will also promote TAFE interests in ALIA through NSW Branch at State level, and through the TAFE Section at the national level.

At present the NSW Group

plans to continue support for the national TAFE libraries lobbying campaign. It is intended to hold an Annual General Meeting and launch of the Group, possibly at the ALIA National TAFE Libraries Conference in Canberra 28-30 September.

TAFE library staff throughout NSW have already been contacted. Anyone interested in NSW TAFE Group activities or wishing to participate in Group Committee work, are asked to please advise Kelly Callaghan, President, telephone (02) 568 0259 or Marianne Nestor, Treasurer, telephone (02) 217 3029. ■

Environment Librarians Network

Roxanne Missingham has just put together its second Newsletter

Roxanne reports that librarians are still joining this group and are keen to hear from their colleagues.

This will be an important year for the environment—following the Federal election and changes to state governments. The environment remains an important issue. Changes to environmental information systems and policies indicate that ecologically sustainable development has high priority and will be the subject of more reports and studies.

At the end of last year Merrilyn Chilvers attended a training course in Nairobi on INFOTERRA, an environmental information network run by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). The network uses as its primary instrument of operation the International Directory of Sources of Environmental Information, a database which gives access to more than 6 000 sources of information in over 1 000 environmental subjects.

The Commonwealth Department of the Environment, in its various guises, has been the Australian member, or National Focal Point, to use the INFOTERRA terminology, since

its inception after the Stockholm Conference in 1972. Australia has also been designated as a Regional Services Centre for SE Asia and the South Pacific.

There are currently 155 members, from developing and developed nations. Over 24 500 queries were handled by the network in 1991, more than half from developing countries.

Some of the queries which came to Australia were on recycling of lead batteries, treatment of waste water

from coal mines, the use of effluent from soya bean curd manufacture, commercial farming of wild animals, urban waste collection, irrigation, salinity in ground water and many relating to air and water quality.

For more information on INFOTERRA call Merrilyn on phone (06) 274 1213. Roxanne will put out an other issue of the newsletter later this year—please send her articles or suggestions fax: (06) 250 0399 tel: (06) 250 0206 or E-mail: rmissingam@anpws.erin.gov.au. ■

APSIG WA established in Perth

That old China hand, Roy Stall, sees an important future for the new group

On the evening of 29 March the WA Branch's Asia and Pacific Special Interest Group was launched by Dr Lynn Allen, the Western Australian State Librarian. Speaking to a small but enthusiastic group of members in the State Library's Theatre, Dr Allen welcomed the formation of the Group and spoke of its timeliness given Western Australia's growing economic links with Asia.

After the official launch, Roy Stall spoke to the group of his recent experiences, while living and working in Hong Kong as

Lending Services Librarian at the Hong Kong Polytechnic. Roy returned in December after four years in Hong Kong, where he took the opportunity to make several visits to the People's Republic of China, including visits to Shanghai, Wuxi, Nanjing, Guangzhou, and Guilin.

The WA Asia and Pacific Special Interest Group has planned further meetings during the year and welcomes new members. Please contact Roy Stall, the Interim Convener on (09) 311 2282 (work) or (09) 384 1022 (home). ■