

Board of Education

Kay Poustie, its Chairperson, saw the Board off to a flying start in 1994

ALIA President Bill Linklater was present at this first Board meeting in his Presidential year. Colette McCool and Alan Bundy attended their first meeting in their new capacity as members of the Board. The Board was privileged to welcome two special guests to address the Board and provide additional insights into issues that concern the profession.

The first of these guests was Robyn McKay, Assistant Secretary, Resources Branch, Higher Education Division of the Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET). The Board invited Robyn to discuss the issue of fees for graduate courses in librarianship arising from DEET's *Guidelines in respect of Post Graduate Courses for which Institutions may change fees from 1994*.

Exemptions from charging fees have been given to courses in nursing and teaching and, following discussions with Robyn, the Board believes that a strong case could be made for post-graduate courses in librarianship also being exempt from fees. The Board drafted a letter for the Executive Director to send to DEET and we will await what we hope will be a positive outcome on this issue.

The second guest was Terry Moran, Chief Executive of the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA). We were joined by representatives of the National Training Board, Arts Training Australia, Australian Information Industries Association and Australian Information Management Association which provided an

excellent opportunity for networking and a discussion of the points raised by Mr Moran which will affect all these related bodies.

Mr Moran explained ANTA's 1994 priorities for the National

and its recommendations will be implemented with a further review in two years' time. ANTA has appointed the Allen Consulting Group to review the structure of the national training reform



At the Board meeting (from left): ALIA Executive Director Virginia Walsh, President Bill Linklater, guest Terry Moran and Board Chairperson Kay Poustie.

Vocational Education and Training System:

- to build a client-focused culture;
- to create and promote opportunities for lifelong learning;
- to advance a national identify for the system;
- reward innovation and best practice.

He said that there were significant problems in the structure for training reform resulting in a lack of communication between programs. The first review of the National Framework for the Recognition of Training (NFROT) has now taken place

agenda by the end of April. The Association will provide a submission to the Review if appropriate. As Minister Ross Free has said, 'But industry and individuals are finding it difficult to come to grips with the complexity of the evolving training system...it is time to cut through the bureaucratic clutter'.

I should like to remind Divisions that we have excellent geographic coverage amongst our Board membership this year. Board members are happy to speak on the role and work of the Board and education and training issues if requested. ■

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