

Geelong Regional Group

The Geelong Regional Group had an extremely active year with 10 events conducted throughout 1995. The events fall into three categories: professional development, promotion of library and information services and staff, and social activities.

Professional development

A workshop and four professional meetings were held on a variety of topics so as to provide a smorgasbord of activities for regional group members. A site visit to the Geelong Hospital library was very popular as members are always keen to look around someone else's workplace. Many members attended the presentation on *The new Geelong Regional library*, perhaps as much from wondering what service they will get as library clients, as well as from a professional viewpoint. The joint ALIA/SLAV meeting on *Collecting science fiction* was extremely popular: entertaining, informative and provocative. *The highs and lows of the book trade* introduced members to the concept of book store franchising and the marketing and buying strategies used by commercial organisations. An internet workshop was conducted to introduce regional library staff to the wonders of the WWW and to provide

handouts so encourage them to 'go surfing'.

Promotion

Twelve hours of non-stop smiles, bookmark and balloon give aways and chatting to shoppers at Geelong's Bay City Plaza marked our Library Week activity. A report on this has already appeared in *inCite*.

Another event that the Geelong Regional Group supports is the local *Careers expo*. Attractive displays, handouts on librarian and library technician courses and friendly members greeted many parents and children who are seeking information on career options. We feel it is vitally important to keep our profession in the public's eye and this is one certain way to do it.

Social Activities

'A group that plays together, stays together'. We have fun. Between a trivia quiz, a theatre party block booking and family bowling we also managed to fit in some good food and great company.

We look forward to another great year in 1996. When a president has a supportive committee, it's easy to organise. I had a wonderful committee in 1995.

Sue McKnight, President

Special Libraries Section (Vic)

During 1995 five successful events were held. In March a group of fifty special librarians visited the State Film Centre Library. Annette Spurr informed visitors of the aims of library and the State Film Centre director provided background information and a short history of the centre. This was followed by a tour of the library conducted by Lynda Bernard and Annette.

In April about 40 librarians attended a function hosted by Marion Nicholson of Library Locums. Marion revealed the results of the Library Locums recent salary survey.

DA Information Services hosted an evening function in June at the National Tennis Centre. Over one hundred special, health and law librarians attended. In between socialising and throwing tennis balls into buckets everyone took the opportunity to catch up with the new products and services available from DA.

For our June function Gary Hardy from the VicNet office gave a lunchtime demonstration of VicNet and outlined the benefits for special librarians. The luncheon was an enormous success with seventy attending.

The Goethe-Institut library visit was another successful library visit which was held in October. Brigitte Doellgast, librarian at the Institut hosted the evening. The library provides information, books, magazines and videos on German culture.

In 1996 we will continue to organise functions that are of particular interest to special librarians. Our program will be a mixture of special library visits and other informative sessions and seminars. Some of our upcoming events include a seminar on subscription agencies, an information session on the Internet and a panel discussion on volunteers in special libraries.

Fiona Salisbury, Secretary

UCRLS (Vic)

This year, the Committee has worked to produce a range of professional activities designed to appeal to as many of our members as possible. Judging from the attendance at our events, we have had considerable success.

The main events for 1995 were total quality service, at Victoria University of Technology in February; *VicNet*, a joint meeting with RAISS held at Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne, in May; the Annual General Meeting in June, followed by information about, and a demonstration of the CWIS at Swinburne University of Technology; *The hypertext electronic library project* at La Trobe University, a joint meeting with RAISS, in August; *Re-engineering technical services*, a full day workshop organised in cooperation with the Cataloguer's Section, in September; and *Electronic reserve*, held at University of Melbourne library in November.

Members of the committee represented the Section at branch council, as well as keeping the committee informed on developments in the mentoring scheme and competencies standards via membership on other bodies.

Co-operation with ALIA sections has been a fruitful process, enabling us to attract a wider audience, as well as providing an opportunity for people from different library sectors to network. Building on this, members of our committee, Bea Donkin, Colin Bates, and Jenny Stocks, are working with a sub group of the CAVAL reference interest group to plan a pre-conference workshop in 1996. The subject matter, performance indicators, will be timely, and the provisional title *Perform or perish* should excite attention.

Our thanks to several long serving committee members resigning at the end of 1995: Jacki Saunders, Helen Armstrong (treasurer) and Bea Donkin (secretary). The UCRLS committee is therefore in need of some new committee members, and of their ideas and enthusiasm. Members of the Section are urged to nominate for the committee, and make 1996 an outstanding year.

*Susan Bray
President*