

Library Technicians Section (Tas)

A major achievement for members in Tasmania in 1995 was the reformation of the Tasmania group of the Library Technicians section.

During the last few years, a number of library technicians on the North-West coast of Tasmania have joined ALIA and have been able to benefit from the information available as well as the opportunity to network with others in the library and information industry.

However we felt the need for a state-wide group of our own. We knew that Tasmania had previously formed library technician groups, one in Launceston and one in Hobart. Each time it seems that sustaining membership numbers had been a problem. After much discussion within our group, and liaison with ALIA, a formal meeting was held on

14 May in Devonport, and the Tasmanian Branch of the Library Technicians section was re-formed.

Office bearers elected at this meeting were Glenyce Surtees, president, Kerrie Dick, secretary, and Robyn Parker, treasurer.

Our immediate aims are to create a solid state-wide body, to encourage current members to become actively involved and to promote membership of ALIA to all library technicians in Tasmania. Although at this point we are centred in Devonport, we will hold meetings in Launceston and Hobart. Up to this point we have concentrated on establishing the foundation for a networking environment throughout the state which will sustain the library technician group in Tasmania for many years to come.

For me personally, another highlight was the opportunity to attend

Techs at the top in Darwin and present a report on behalf of our group.

The conference was of great benefit to me in my work capacity and I was also able to bring back and disseminate information state-wide, on all topics covered at the conference. I have also been able to promote the networking and social contacts made possible by attending, an aspect which I particularly enjoyed.

As the year draws to a close we are considering plans for next year and hoping for input from members as to what they would like to gain from their membership in 1996.

In closing I would like to thank Kerrie Dick, Robyn Parker and Lyn Orr for the work they have put into this new group.

*Glenyce Surtees,
President*

Queensland Branch

The Branch was fortunate in having active and energetic key sub-committees — recruitment and retention; continuing education; the editorial team for the newsletter *Quill* — so that a range of initiatives were undertaken. As well as planning and carrying out activities for the year, Branch Council held a planning ses-

sion for the first half of 1996.

Highlights of the year include:

- financial support from ALIA to bring representatives from remote divisions to branch meetings.
- one year's operation of the new budgetary structure.
- the State Conference held in Rockhampton in July.

- the second awards night, recognising particularly meritorious service to Branch and its Sections and Divisions, held in conjunction with Library Week.
- improvements to the content and layout of the Branch newsletter, *Quill*; the ambition is to have the newsletter of a quality that will induce the Sections and Divisions to abandon separate publications.
- commencement on a home page for the Branch.
- commencement of development of a mentoring scheme, building on experiences in other Branches.
- increase in the prize for the best part-time QUT librarianship student by adding a year's membership of ALIA.
- visits by ALIA President Jan Gaebler and ALIA Board of Education chair Kay Poustie. Jan attended a breakfast function at which Maureen Nagle, membership secretary of the Institution of Engineers spoke about recruitment and retention from another professional body's perspective. People bringing non-member guests were eligible for a luxury weekend at Sanctuary Cove! Kay gave an informative and stimulating address to an evening meeting on the role of the Board.
- some aspirations for 1996 are to: create a more prominent Library Week presence by Branch; create a more visible 'local presence'; hold monthly general evening meetings; increase involvement of new ALIA members in ALIA activities; and get more benefits to remote members.

George Eichinski

UCRLS WA

What are the issues that are of greatest relevance to those in the university, college and research libraries' sector? In 1995 the WA Branch of UCRLS responded to this with a program covering quality management, re-engineering technical and reference services, and document delivery.

The *Quality management* seminar, addressed a critical organisational issue by outlining the essential ideas of the global quality movement as related to the library environment. A number of the underlying themes were revisited in later seminars, in particular, the re-engineering workshop.

Arnold Hirshon, university librarian, Wright State University, introduced the key concepts of re-engineering and stimulated thought on what is necessary for successful re-engineering. Workshop participants were given a brief opportunity to apply the processes in groups that focused on technical

and reference services.

The document delivery seminar brought together those interested in the changes occurring in supply and delivery for a panel discussion and question time. Organisational responses, supply options and service opportunities were discussed, and feedback on the ILL/DD summit provided.

The salubrious surroundings of the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club are the setting for our end-of-year function, Sundowner on the Swan.

UCRLS WA also provided input on a range of ALIA issues during the year and looks forward to presenting the second UCRLS (WA) Award for academic achievement.

The events provide a forum for discussion on given topics and the opportunity to meet colleagues in a casual setting. What would you like to see addressed in 1996?

*Sue Beardman
Secretary*