

ACT

• **9/1–12/6 ACT Special Libraries Section.** *Librarian's Libations* with Specials at the Hyatt, at 5.30pm. Every first payday of the month (9/1; 6/2; 6/3; 3/4; 1/5; 12/6). Contact: Libby Coates, ph (06) 266 2346.

• **6/2 ALIA ACT Branch.** *Launch of the mentoring program.* Regatta Point Visitors Centre. Cost: \$40, including drinks and three-course meal. For bookings contact: Dianne Costello, ACT Branch treasurer, ph (06) 249 2990, e-mail diane.costello@anu.edu.au.

• **12/2 ALIA ACT Branch meeting** For further information contact: Dianne Costello, ACT Branch treasurer, ph (06) 249 2990, e-mail diane.costello@anu.edu.au.

NSW

14/1 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars. Introductory Dialog. Sydney contact: ph (02) 9212 2867, e-mail krinfo.aus@uts.edu.au.

16/1 Doing Research on the Net (half day). Uni of NSW, School of Information, Library and Archive Studies. Contact: Maureen Henninger, ph (02) 9385 3589, fax (02) 9385 3430, e-mail M.Henninger@unsw.edu.au.

20/1 Rights Management Seminar Darling Harbour Convention Centre, Darling Harbour. 1.30–5pm, \$85 AIMA/ALIA members, \$95 non-members. Contact: Rosemary Turner, ph (06) 262 1223, fax (06) 257 1703, e-mail aima@nla.gov.au.

21/1 Blackwell's invites all interested parties to the third UnCover User Group meeting. Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Skyline Room 1, Darling Harbour, Sydney. 3.30–5pm. RSVP by 17/1/97 to Rhonda Lelliott, ph (02) 9948 7300, Tollfree 1800 251 699, e-mail lelliott@blackwell.com.au.

• **5/2 NSW Special Section.** *Chinese New Year Networking Dinner.* BBQ King Restaurant, 18–20 Goulburn Street, Sydney. \$17 ALIA/Specials members, \$18 non-members, 6pm for 6.30pm. RSVP: Christine Benneian, C-AMP Society, ph (02) 9257 7118, fax (02) 9257 7756. Payment in advance by 3/2.

6–27/2 Insearch/Knight-Ridder Information Seminars Introductory Dialog (6/2), DataStar/ProBase Workshop (7/2). Sydney contact: ph (02) 9212 2867, e-mail krinfo.aus@uts.edu.au.

18–19/2 Exploring and Navigating the Internet. Uni of NSW, School of

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In the news...

A presentation with pizzaz

Carole Metcalf

On Tuesday, 21 November, Beverly Dallas — president of the Library Technician Section (WA group) and I, visited the Central Metropolitan TAFE campus, Perth, to talk with the current library and information studies students (library technicians) about the advantages of becoming ALIA members.

We supported our presentation with a computer-generated slide show which Carolyn Cherrett had produced for the Darwin Library Technician Conference. With Carolyn's approval, we adapted and revamped her original program to accommodate our particular audience and we incorporated the latest membership facts and figures into the data. The students were receptive and enthusiastic and related well to this type of presentation.

Beverly put together 'show bags' containing some ALIA information including the ALIA publications list, application for membership forms, a copy of *inCite*, general interest items, and a mentoring application form. These 'show bags' were distributed to the students at the end of our presentation as a tangible reminder of our visit.

We drew upon our relevant experience as members of various committees — including branch council, continuing professional development, publicity and marketing, and mentoring — as well as discussing the FA Sharr Medal, Library Technician of

the Year, and other awards. We also covered competencies, the National Curriculum for Library and Information Studies, and how the branch and General Council operate. On a more local level, we discussed the benefits of networking, and the advantages membership of the technicians section provides, such as monthly meetings incorporating library visits, social events, and workshops. We also discussed how being involved with other sections of ALIA, and how taking part on the various committees, ultimately benefit library technicians, both on a personal and a group level. We talked about the mentoring program and how we hope to run a group mentoring program for graduating library technicians next year, as well as the one-to-one partnership mentoring which is currently in place.

Included in our audience were Ailsa Liddell, (Perth CMC TAFE college library studies lecturer) and Margaret Starr, wearing both her caps — TAFE Program Manager, Information Studies, and that of Western Australian Branch Council vice-president.

We have been invited to return to the college at the beginning of the new course year to address the new library studies students, and we have also been invited to Edith Cowan University. Hopefully, our enthusiasm will instill in the students an awareness and interest in ALIA, and an appreciation of the support and benefits to be gained. ■

Information brokers

Michele McCrea, Geelong Regional Group

Professor Bill Martin, head of the Department of Information management at RMIT spoke to representatives from libraries in Geelong and some students from the University of Ballarat at a dinner meeting discussing 'The future of librarianship'. Professor Martin, with his Irish brogue and sense of humour, provided an entertaining and informative discussion on what libraries have traditionally pro-

vided, how they have changed, what they are offering today and what lies ahead. He felt that there is indeed a future for librarianship, which was very encouraging (especially for the students from Ballarat) and that there will always be a need for libraries. He urged us to see ourselves as 'information brokers', particularly in these times of technology and the information superhighway. He felt that our role is to

integrate resources, whether technological or traditional. Professor Martin promoted maximising the potential of our information and organisational skills as there will always be a need for 'consultants' in this technological world. He said that we needed to become interpreters as well as gatherers of information and finished with the quote 'It's not the knowledge you have, but what you do with it'. ■