

Corangamite is connected

Susan Liepa and Marj Morkham Corangamite Regional Library Corporation

Corangamite Regional Library Corporation provides library services to four shires through ten branch libraries in rural south-western Victoria.

During 1998, the library developed an information technology strategy to move into the new millennium, with its information technology systems and network able to provide universal online access to library resources and the internet.

In the first week of March 1999 the Corangamite Regional Library completed the major development phase in the process of converting its automated environment from a serially connected hub of four branches to a wide area network (WAN) covering all ten of its branches. The new WAN uses TCP/IP, the communications protocol of the internet, to communicate.

As part of the WAN development, within the two larger branches of Colac and Warrnambool local area networks (LANs) have been established and staff are already reaping the benefits of being able to share files, printers and access to CD-ROM based information.

Not surprisingly, the changeover to the new environment was the culmination of months of planning and preparation.

Early in the strategy development process, Marj Morkham, the manager of Corangamite Regional Library Corporation, acknowledged the enormous task ahead for a library service where the majority of branches operated off-line and there was limited information technology skills available in-house.

The Board of the Regional Library decided to put the design, planning and management of the project out to open tender. The tender was won by Comsearch Information Services P/L with Susan Liepa as project manager.

Financing of the project has been assisted by Local Priorities Funding from the Victorian Department of Infrastructure, Office of Local Government to supplement the funds provided by the shires of Colac Otway, Corangamite, Moyne and the City of Warrnambool to the Corangamite Regional Library Corporation.

To achieve this new online operating environment and connectivity, the Regional Library has acquired a new server for its Spydus Library Management System application, upgraded to Spydus, totally re-cabled within the two previously online branches and changed all existing communications equipment to create an ethernet network running TCP/IP.

The implementation of TCP/IP-based communications enables the library to take advantage of an offer from Vicnet to participate as a pilot site for the Victorian Libraries Online Project which will deliver internet access to all branches of the library service — previously only four branches have had access to the internet.

The atmosphere within the library service and amongst its customers is one of excitement at the move from a limited service to universal online operations. The online catalogue is not only available, but is sufficiently flexible to present both a web interface for use with PCs and a character-based interface for use with existing public access terminals. The ability to gradually change from terminals to PCs is particularly important to a rural library with limited funds for new equipment.

The redevelopment and expansion of the Corangamite Regional Library network has revitalised the interest of public and staff of this rural library service with the availability of online catalogue access, and online access to other shared information resources such as those available on CD-ROM. ■

Australian Library Publishers' Society

The Australian Library Publishers' Society has recently produced its fourth catalogue of publications.

The Society was founded in 1988 to promote and market the publications of small library publishers, and to encourage publishing of this type in Australia. Member institutions include university libraries, the National

Library of Australia, library schools, state libraries, ALIA, and small independent publishers of library-related material.

Publications are generally specialist materials and include a wide range of subjects. As is to be expected, Australian and Pacific studies feature predominantly in the listing. The largest category of publications is con-

cerned with history, followed by literature and art.

The catalogue of publications of members exceeds four-hundred titles, and is available by mail or via the internet at <http://library.adelaide.edu.au/ual/publ/ALPS>. Contact Ray Choate, convenor, university librarian, Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide, Adelaide 5005. ■



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School Libraries Association of Victoria. *Leading the way: the information literate school community*. Presenter: Jamie McKenzie. Methodist Ladies College, Kew. 9-4pm, \$150 ALIA members/earlybirds, \$175 non-members. Contact: Karen Marston, ph 03 9626 9424, fx 03 9690 4973, kmarston@distance.vic.edu.au

• **22/5-27/11 Vic School Libraries section.** Meeting dates: 22/5 (Parade College, Bundoo-ra), 26/6, 24/7, 16/10, 27/11 — AGM (9am). (Statewide School Resource Centre, 217 Church St, Richmond), 4/9 (Star of the Sea College, Gardenvale), 9:30am. Contact: Maelor Himbury, ph 03 9336 2555, fx 03 9367 9361, maelor@melbpc.org.au

• **26/5 Vic Library Technician section.** Committee meeting. SLVic, Seminar room, 6pm. Meet Kerrie in the Swanston St foyer at 6pm. Contact: Kerrie Kelly, ph 03 9669 9721, kerriek@slv.vic.gov.au

• **7/6-6/12 Home Library Services SIG** meeting. 10am, Eltham Library, Panther Place (off Main Rd), Eltham. Meetings dates: 7/6, 2/8, 4/10, 6/12. Contact: Marie McMahon, ph 03 9401 0725.

• **19/6 Vic Library Technician section.** Visit to the University of Ballarat student library technicians. We hope to meet our members in the area for dinner — all welcome. Craig's Royal Hotel's Cellar Room, 10 Lydiard St, South Ballarat. Contact: Kerrie Kelly, ph 03 9669 9721, kerriek@slv.vic.gov.au. RSVP by 15/6.

• **22/6 Vic Branch.** VicLIS Forum. Walter & Eliza Hall Institute 5.30pm. Speaker, Warren Horton, director-general, NLA. Contact: Helen Sweeney ph 9816 9404, h.sweeney@c031.aone.net.au

• **26/6 Vic School Libraries section.** Professional development activity: current issues i.e. 'bite', curriculum resourcing and VCE. Venues and cost TBA. Contact: Maelor Himbury, ph 03 9336 2555, fx 03 9367 9361, maelor@melbpc.org.au

• **3/7 Vic Library Technician section.** Techs on tour. Beginning at the SLVic, presentation by Fran Awcock, and a choice of special/academic libraries. Join us for lunch in the SLVic: \$8 ALIA members, \$10 non-members. Contact: Kerrie Kelly, ph 03 9669 9721, kerriek@slv.vic.gov.au

20/7 Australian Society of Indexers. Abstracting and Indexing for Databases/Pictorial Indexing Course. ACER Conference Room, 19 Prospect Hill Rd, Camberwell. Cost: \$100 (\$90 for ASI members). Contact: Max McMaster, ph/fx 03 9571 6341, mindexer@interconnect.com.au

WA

• **2/5 WA Local Studies section.** Visit to Harvey. Stirling's Cottage, May Gibbs Room (lunch \$10), Harvey Historical Society Museum and Harvey Oral History Collection. Details (itinerary and transport) contact: Julie Zuvella, ph 08 9386 6230, fx 08 9389 8742, jzuvella@nedlands.wa.gov.au.

• **17/5 WA Special Libraries section.** Explore and discover: the convergence of the different sectors of the information industry. 5:30pm, The Chamber of Minerals and Energy, Ground Floor, 12 St Georges Terrace, Perth. Cost: \$12 ALIA members, \$14 non-members. Contact: Carmen Romano, ph 08 9274 0246, cromano@lansupport.com.au. RSVP by 11/5.

• **19/5-19/10 WA Library Technicians section.** meeting. Venue: TBA. Meeting dates: 19/5; 15/6; 17/8; 15/9*; 19/10. Con-

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