

Strong women, laughter and alcohol

Dianne Panjari, Yarra Plenty Regional Library

We take Australian Library Week very seriously at Yarra Plenty Regional Library and this year we seem to have hit on the perfect formula for success — strong women, laughter, and alcohol.

Australian Library Week gives us an ideal opportunity to show ourselves off. We have been building on our program for the last two years and place more emphasis on it than Book Week because we feel Australian Library Week is directed at people of all ages and is specifically about libraries. The theme 'Libraries: explore and discover' gave us an open ticket to let our imaginations go and partnered well with the LibrariesVictoria 'Yours to explore' slogan.

Without a doubt our most popular event was the launch of Joan Kirner and Moira Rayner's new book *The women's power handbook*. The foyer at Eltham Library was standing room only and included a few brave men in

the audience. Women of all ages sat in silence, listening to these two women talk about power, how to get it, and how to keep it. It was a truly inspirational talk. I would like to thank the Eltham Bookshop for their wonderful help in organising this event.

The laughter came in the form of Brian Nankervis, better known as Raymond J Bartholomeuz who appeared at Diamond Valley Library. Brian has been seen on television on *Hey, Hey, It's Saturday* and *The Panel* so his is a fairly well-known face. The 110-strong audience ranged from mums and dads with kids, to teenagers, to thirty-somethings and all of them were laughing, loudly. It was the funniest night of our entire week and everyone went home smiling and thinking of the library in a positive, warm-fuzzy way.

Our wine appreciation evening at Rosanna Library was a great success. It has been difficult to attract numbers at

this branch, so we thought about what would attract patrons on a cold Melbourne night — alcohol topped the list. Paddy Kendler, wine writer for the *Herald Sun* newspaper took participants through a range of white and red wines, explaining the nuances of each. And yes, they did get to taste all the wines, but luckily conducted themselves in a seemly manner. We were careful to provide nibblies, water and a slops bucket for those who did not want to drink the entire glass. Alcohol was also provided at a new books cocktail party at Ivanhoe Library. People could look over new titles, enjoy some refreshments and listen to the mellow sounds of our jazz band.

We had the usual author talks, internet demonstrations, clowns, magicians and storytimes as well. And if you are wondering about the costs, we kept it down by working with the local bookshop and calling in favours from around the region. Mostly we find people are happy to help if you ask. ■

Celebrating International Special Librarian's Day

Jason Eyre, Environment Protection Authority library

It seems these days there is a 'day' for everything. Special libraries are no exception to this trend — 15 April is designated 'International Special Librarian's Day'. Is this just another day? Well, that all depends.

At daybreak in Melbourne we treated the staff of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to a slap-up breakfast in honour of a day that virtually none of them had heard of. Many had no idea what the 'special' moniker was meant to signify. Why the distinction? What makes what we do somehow 'special'? So over lashings of fresh coffee, we told them; between croissants, we explained what it is we do; we shared cups of tea as we told them why we do it; we drank juice and

shared our visions for making a difference; somewhere by the muffins we defined our common ground...

International Special Librarian's Day was not just another 'day' because we did not ignore it. More than eighty EPA staff members, including the chairman, lured by nothing more complicated than a home-baked breakfast now know what is 'special' about our library service, and why we are integral to our organisation. Our staff will doubtless anticipate another 'special' breakfast next year, in fact suggestions are already rolling in. In the meantime our profile has been lifted, and hopefully as a consequence our staff are finding it that little bit easier to make a difference. ■



ALIA Board of Education

Call for nominations of 3 members

Nominations are called for 3 positions. Nominees must be financial members of the Association at the time of nomination, however they need not be professional members.

There are ten members of the Board of Education, seven elected by members of the Association and three by General Council. At least seven members of the Board must be professional members, the president of the Association is *ex officio* and the executive director is a non-voting executive member.

There shall be a minimum of 3 practitioners (persons working in the field of libraries or information services) and 3 educators on the Board (persons teaching library or information science). Terms of office of 3 members of the Board end on 31 December 1999. 2 members are to be elected by members of the Association and 1 member by General Council to hold office from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2002.

Nominations must be in writing, be signed by 2 financial members of the Association, include the consent in writing of the nominee and be accompanied by a 100-word current *curriculum vitae* (giving full details of academic and professional qualifications) and a 100-word statement of professional concerns. The *curriculum vitae* should be arranged under headings of Present Position, Previous Positions and Professional Activities.

A colour portrait photograph must be included.

Nominations close at 5pm on **1 August 1999** and should be sent to the acting executive director, ALIA, PO Box E441, Kingston 2604, e-mail: enquiry@alia.org.au.

Further details are available from the ALIA acting executive director, or from <http://www.alia.org.au/nominations/board.of.education.html>

NB: Following incorporation under Corporations Law the current role of the Board may change.