

Library technicians and the library community

The ALIA New South Wales Library Technicians Section Committee

An entirely new committee was elected at last year's annual general meeting of the New South Wales Library Technicians Section. We have begun to build upon the foundation provided by previous committees and started to prepare

England areas. We hope that these representatives will be able to provide the Section with support in setting up meetings and workshops and providing a local presence in their respective areas. These regional representatives will be officially-elected positions from next year.

Vocational training and workshops

As vocational training and continuing professional development become increasingly important in the industry, the need for relevant and regular training seminars and workshops becomes more important.

Unlike many other sections, the Library Technician Section has members in a number of diverse areas, including local, academic, school and special libraries. At the same time, we also have members in a number of specific areas, such as lending services, cataloguing, acquisitions, serials, information technology, children's services as well as library practice students. With this in mind, the New South Wales Library Technicians Section has always been prepared to work with individuals and other sections to provide workshops that will help our members develop their skills and knowledge. For example, earlier this year, we worked with the New South Wales Children's and Youth Services Section to hold a children's story-time and activities workshop at the Stanton Library, North Sydney. This workshop looked at story-telling and story-reading techniques, craft activities and how to prepare story-time sessions. We have already started preparing for a new series of workshops on job application and interview skills which we hope to run later this year or early next year. We also hope to include topics identifying other areas where library technicians can use their skills outside of libraries. Talks have also commenced with the Victorian and South Australian Library Technicians Sections, about running a joint weekend workshop at Mildura, sometime early next year.

The section's long-term plan is to develop relevant and structured training workshops, which could be held regularly for our members around the state.

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An issue that has been on the agenda of many Library Technicians Sections has been the issue of the term 'para-professional' appearing in the ALIA policy statement 'Statement on the role of librarians and library technicians'. The New South Wales Library Technicians Section is keen to help resolve this issue. We feel that the 10th National Li-



Some of the participants of the NSW LT Section's April General Meeting. Back row l-r: Toni Daymond, Kevin Dudeney, Stephen Coppins, Anne Huges, Margaret Kendall, Nina Suprun. Front row l-r: Margaret Daly, Iris Atkinson, Janette Telford, Erica Kearnes

some long-term goals and services. We hope these plans will provide benefits to our members and future members, as we head towards the sections' 21st anniversary next year.

Regional development

One of the first issues our group addressed was the need to develop our services to members and potential members in regional New South Wales.

We have already achieved a number of successes in this area. Anne Huges from the schools library sector in Bathurst, has been appointed vice-president, and a productive meeting was held at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst in April. We have also assisted with the establishment of a Mid-North Coast library technicians group with Jill Baker (from Southern Cross University in Coffs Harbour) as president.

The section has since asked Anne Huges to increase her duties and to become the official representative of the section at the New South Wales Central West Regional Group meetings. We have asked Jill Baker to join the Sections' committee as the Mid-North Coast representative and Louise Somerville from Goonellabah Public Library has recently offered to assist the section in the Far North Coast region. We have also called for assistance from other members to assist us in representing the Section at other New South Wales regional group meetings in the Illawarra, Hunter Valley, Riverina and New

brary Technicians Conference in Fremantle will be a good opportunity for library technicians to express their thoughts and ideas about how we, as a profession, would like to be defined. The conference is also a good opportunity to decide upon a definition which technicians can put forward to the ALIA General Council to consider.

We are very pleased that Margaret Daly, our groups representative on New South Wales Branch Council, has been elected to the position of branch secretary. We believe that Margaret's position with the branch will help promote the activities and goals of the section and to foster a stronger working relationship between the section and the branch.

While we define ourselves as library technicians, we should not forget the other members of the library community. Many library assistants, students, library practice teachers and library officers are also members of our section. The New South Wales Section sees the need to further promote the needs and concerns of these members and the rich source of potential future members. Once again, the section feels that this year's conference will be a good opportunity to develop national strategies in this area.

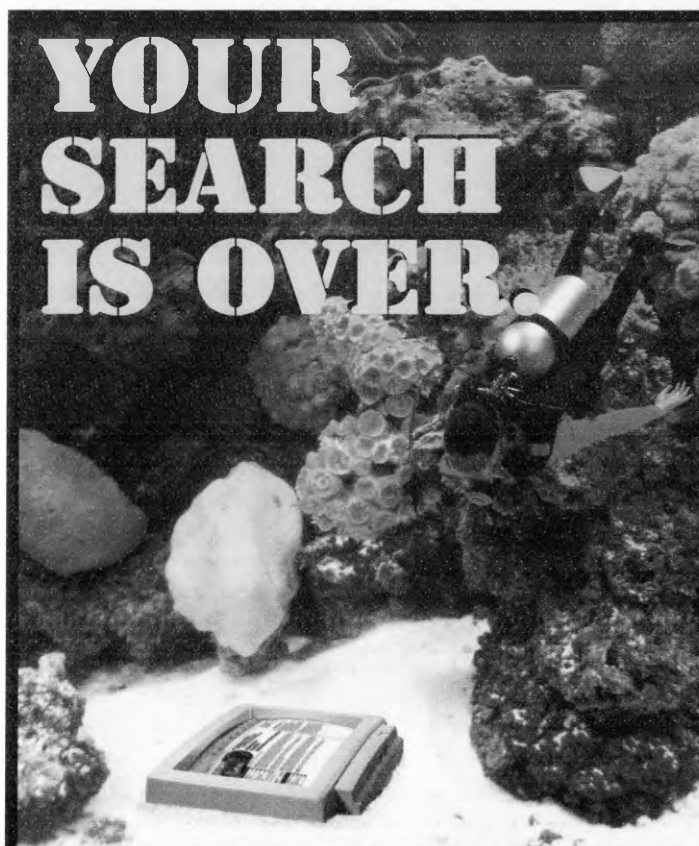
These are some of the issues that we have identified, since taking on the responsibility of representing library technicians and other members of the library community in New South Wales. We look forward to



working towards our goals and meeting any new challenges as they present themselves.

The members of the ALIA New South Wales Library Technicians Section committee are: Kevin Dudeney (president), Anne Hugues (vice-president and Central West representative), Stephen Coppins (secretary), Janette Telford (treasurer), Margaret Daly (New South Wales branch representative), Sris Ponniahpillai (minutes secretary), Jill Baker (Mid North Coast representative) and Louise Somerville (Far North Coast representative).

Participants of the Mid North Coast Library Technicians Group meeting, held 21 June at Coffs Harbour City Library. Back row l-r: Geri Jensen, Debbie Mills, Deb Hughes, Ann O'Brien, Kath O'Mealey, Judy Atkinson. Seated l-r: Jill Baker, Janine Martin, Di Ward.



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