

A loss for the west

Ann Ritchie moves east

Many of you will be aware that Ann Ritchie has decided to leave Western Australia and take up a position as manager information services with AIMA in Canberra. Ann is well known to many West Australian library and information professionals as a result of her commitment and contribution to the profession. Ann has most recently been the librarian at Hollywood Private Hospital (1994–99), and before that she spent time at the PIVET Medical Centre and the Family Planning Association. With her usual passion for getting involved Ann has contributed greatly to the wider health and medical library groups during her time in these jobs.

In particular Ann has been an advocate of the importance of the role of the librarian in the burgeoning area of evidence-based health care. She spent several weeks in Britain earlier this year as the recipient of an ALIA study grant to further her work in this area.

Many will know Ann from her ALIA associations. She has contributed passionately to Branch debate for most of this decade, and in particular has made a significant contribution whenever Branch has revisited its various 'plans' — earlier this year she took a leading role in the re-development of the branch's strategic and marketing plans. Ann's interest in marketing also extended to running professional development courses on library marketing.

Ann was also a particularly energetic and imaginative convenor of the continuing professional development committee (from 1990 to 1992), and more recently has been closely involved with the Branch mentoring programs. Indeed it is with mentoring that Ann has found an outlet by which she has been able to express her interest in, and concern for, the development of the personal and professional skills of her colleagues.

She has been a member of the mentoring committee since 1996, convenor of the committee since 1998, and co-coordinator of the ALIA (WA) group mentoring program since 1996. Mentoring has given Ann the opportunity to share her energy and skills, and the group mentoring program has provided her with the forum in which she can unselfishly contribute her passion, commitment, wisdom and genuine concern for others.

With Paul Genoni, Ann conceived and established the group mentoring program, and developed it to the point where it the concept has now been adopted by several

other ALIA branches, as a means of easing the transition of new professionals into their chosen career. There are now four cohorts of graduates to whom the group mentoring experience has been an essential part of their professional development.

As with everything she tackles, Ann as has approached group mentoring with not only her heart but her mind, and she has applied a high degree of intellectual rigour to the task. She has spread the word about group mentoring through research and publication and by delivering papers at conferences in Australia and overseas. Most recently she became perhaps the first Australian librarian to deliver a paper in Estonia! She also recently graduated from Curtin University with a Master of Science, having completed a thesis on the benefits of the group mentoring experience to participants in the program.

It was a marriage of Ann's interests in marketing and mentoring which led to her close involvement with the conception and development of *Librarians in Focus* and *Librarians in Focus 2000*, the two ALIA (WA) promotional calendars produced as an by-product of the group mentoring program. The success of the calendars is due in no small way to Ann's vision, sense of fun and willingness to get her clothes off! As one colleague has quipped of her appearance as Ms March 1999 'she has never looked back since she hopped in the bath!'

It is hardly surprising that Ann was one of three Western Australians selected to attend the third Aurora Leadership six-day residential workshop in Thredbo in February this year. Here she undertook formal and informal activities designed to explore and extend awareness of leadership styles and potential. It seems that it was also here that those 't'othersiders' recognised her ability and set about luring her to the east.

To mention any more of Ann's achievements would run the risk of this sounding like an obituary. To mention any more of her virtues and it may seem like hagiography. Ann is far too lively for the former and far too level headed for the latter. But on behalf of the Western Australian mentoring committee we wish to say you will be missed by all of those who have benefited from your generous and intelligent spirit, your willingness to get involved and when necessary to lead, and your unbridled enjoyment of a good night on the town.

Janet Megarrity, ALIA Western Australian Branch mentoring committee

- **15/11 SA Library Technician section [SALT].** AGM. Venue: tba. Contact: SALT secretary, Jackie Williams, ph 08 8226 2890, fx 08 8226 2199.

- **17/11 SA Branch.** Group mentorees dinner. Details: tba.

- **18/11 SA Branch.** AGM. Craig Anderson, ALIA president, to speak on: ALIA — where to from here? Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library, 5 for 5:30pm, dinner to follow at a local restaurant. RSVP by 15/11 to: Janine Tan, ph 08 8303 5225, janine.tan@adelaide.edu.au

- **24/11 SA Information Science AGM.** The virtually painless and riveting InfoSci AGM plus outside the blue square: EDS in SA. 10th Floor, EDS Building, 108 North Terrace, Adelaide, 5:15 for 5:45pm. RSVP by 19/11 (names needed to advise security) to: Fiona Thomson, ph 08 8302 6880, fiona.thomson@unisa.edu.au

- **26/11 SA Cataloguers section.** AGM, preceded by a tour of the Central Store facility and demonstration of materials processing for the Store. Underdale campus, Uni of South Australia, 4pm.

- **1/12 SA Special Libraries section.** AGM and cocktails. House of Chow, 82 Hutt Street (Corner Wakefield Street), Adelaide, AGM 5:30–6pm, Cocktails 6–7:30pm. Cost: SA Special members \$20, non-members \$25. Contact: Karen Saxby, ph 08 8222 9325, ksaxby@dehaa.sa.gov.au

- **7/12 SA Combined Acquisitions/RAISS sections.** AGM. Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Library, Room 418, City West Library, 5:30 for 6pm. Contact: Jenni Jeremy, SA Acquisitions secretary, ph 08 8302 0318, fx 08 8302 0280, jenni.jeremy@unisa.edu.au

- **8/12 SA Health section.** AGM. Details: tba.

- **13/12 SA Library Technician section [SALT].** Committee meeting. Fleet Street Café, 162 Pulteney Street, Adelaide. 6 for 6:30pm meeting. Contact: SALT secretary, Jackie Williams, ph 08 8226 2890, fx 08 8226 2199.

VIC

- **Nov Ballarat Regional Group.** AGM. Details: tba.

- **8/11 Vic Special Libraries section.** Committee meeting. Venue: tba, 5:30pm. Contact: June Hooper, ph 03 9329 8511, fx 03 9321 1574, June.Hooper@heartfoundation.com.au

- **10/11 Vic Branch/VicLIS Forum.** More details later!

- **13/11 Vic School Libraries section.** AGM. Statewide School Support Centre, Church Street, Richmond, 9:30am. Contact: Maelor Himbury, secretary, ph 03 9366 2555 (w), fx 03 9367 9361, maelor@melbpc.org.au

- **18/11 VicLIS and CPD committee** Career trajectories. Walter and Eliza Hall

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