

# 1999 in the Australian Capital Territory

Sally-Anne Leigh, secretary, ALIA ACT Branch

The ACT Branch of ALIA has had a very successful and active year with a wide range of activities not only from the Branch itself but many of the interest groups as well. We attracted very lively participation in Australian Library Week by organising activities including a breakfast; Special Libraries Section drinks; the Australian Library Week Oration delivered by Warren Horton; and a wonderful reception and debate, a joint event with ACT Library and Information Services. The Library

Technicians also had a celebratory dinner '20 years 1979-1999'.

An extremely well-attended mid-Winter dinner was held in August at the University of Canberra. Other activities included a plan for a mentoring program in the ACT and a one-day conference on 'The Digital Library' held in November at the National Library of Australia which addressed a range of interesting topics. A very busy and exciting year. ■

## Visits to special libraries a feature

Susan White, secretary, Special Libraries Section — ACT group

Greetings from the National Capital! The 1999 Committee concentrated on a program of visits to many of the diverse special libraries in the Territory. Venues included the National Archives of Australia Library in Barton; The National Gallery; the Department of Communication, Information Technology and the Arts; the School of Art; St Mark's Archives; the Botanic Gardens; the Research Centre at the Australian War Memorial; and the Australian Bureau of Statistics where visitors viewed a demonstration of the implementation of the Lotus Notes application within the library. These visits provide a great

opportunity to inspect how some of our colleagues have adapted to their refurbished premises, and/or how different collections are managed.

In April, we celebrated International Special Librarians Day with a breakfast. The guest speaker, Warren Horton, entertained the audience, with Lake Burley Griffin as a scenic backdrop.

One evening we enjoyed an informative presentation at ALIA House on ALIANet, and we continue to develop the Section's homepage. Our e-list was launched and it continues to increase in popularity.

You may have noticed in the Events column that we have 'Library Libations' on the first payday of each month. This a great opportunity for networking in our busy lives. As well as the social aspect, there is also opportunity for sharing tips on the latest library innovations.

The AGM was held on 26 November, where the Committee for 2000 was announced. ■

## Guest speakers bring new perspectives

Sandra Henderson, Health Libraries Section, ACT group

The ACT ALIA Health Libraries Section held a number of interesting meetings this year.

Most recently we were given a description and demonstration of progress on the 'HealthInsite' project which will give Australian consumers and health professionals information about a wide range of health matters.

Our August meeting featured Suzanne Hannan the librarian for the Southern Area Health Service based in Goulburn. Suzanne spoke about the challenges of her work in the region, and the opportunities offered by the CIAP initiative in NSW Health.

Earlier in the year we were very pleased to have Dr Steve McDonald from the Cochrane Collaboration give us an overview of the work being done by the Collaboration. Steve's presentation was followed up by a half-day hands-on workshop by Saroj Bhatia at the Canberra Hospital — Saroj had attended the Cochrane course run in Adelaide with the intention of providing more training to local users.

Our initial meeting of the year was held at the Canberra Hospital, where Saroj Bhatia gave us a presentation about preparation of a business plan. The business plan for the library at The Canberra Hospital is being used as a model for the preparation of plans throughout the hospital. ■

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