

Supporting the renewal process

Sue Grimes, NSW Branch

Throughout 1999 New South Wales Branch Council has devoted a lot of its energy to considering and discussing the renewal process. We have actively encouraged New South Wales sections and divisions to do the same and contribute to the debate. As part of this support for the renewal process we hosted the ALIA AGM in August, which was attended by approximately fifty people. A number of those attending came from other states and brought proxy votes along with them. New South Wales members came from a range of sections.

New South Wales Branch Council was approached by some of its members to consider bidding to hold the 2002 ALIA Biennial Conference. The bid sub-committee contributed a lot of work to this proposal which was eventually placed before General

Council and was accepted. We were very happy when Dagmar Schmidmaier, State Librarian of New South Wales, accepted the offer to chair the conference organising committee. Organising the conference will be an on-going effort of Branch over the next two years.

We held a number of functions through the year, the most successful being our farewell to Warren Horton. One-hundred-and-twenty of Warren's friends and colleagues gathered at the State Library of New South Wales for a farewell cocktail party. Our gift of appreciation to Warren for his contribution to our profession was a caricature of himself drawn by a local artist. The evening was highlighted by a witty slide presentation of memorable moments in Warren's life. The presentation was the creative genius of the organising committee for the evening

— Julie Young, Caroline Cherrett, Craig Grimison and Jo-anne Fuller.

Two free seminars were organised by the Branch during 1999, with both used to promote membership of the Association. Analysis of the attendance list has enabled us to follow-up potential members. The first of the presentations was in July and drew a crowd of 150 people to the Metcalfe Auditorium at the State Library of New South Wales. The presenter was Phil Teece and his presentation was 'The library and information labour market: the real value'.

The second seminar was a presentation by Karen Coyle, who works in the University of California Library Automation Unit which developed the University's online access system used by the University's libraries across nine campuses. Karen was in Australia as a keynote speaker at the Special, Health and Law Librarian's Conference in Hobart and agreed give a presentation following the conference. Her presentation was called 'There's no government like no government: with a global system like the internet, who gets control and what does it mean for us?' (see full report in next month's *inCite*). New South Wales Branch attracted sponsorship for both activities, the first from Zenith Management Services and the second from EBSCO, both of whom are thanked for their generous support of our activities.

Our final activity, apart from our regular meetings, was our Merit Awards presentation evening. The presentation was held in the Jubilee Room in New South Wales Parliament House and was attended by nearly seventy people. Seven individuals were nominated by their Sections for their outstanding support of their Section, ALIA and the profession in general. The recipients of the awards were Carlyne Cohn (Acquisitions), Susan Campbell (CYSS), Linda Mulheron (Health Libraries), Gary Jones (Hunter Regional Group), Toni Daymond (Library Technicians), Niki Kallenberger (Schools) and Glenda Pryor (TAFE). Branch presented an Institutional Merit Award to EBSCO Information Services for their consistent support of the profession, ALIA and New South Wales Branch in particular. The evening was an early Christmas party and a fitting way to end 1999. ■

A busy year for TAFE librarians

Judy Ryan, president, ALIA TAFE Section, NSW Group

The TAFE Section, New South Wales Group has had a busy and rewarding year. Our first seminar, titled 'Substance in cyberspace: internet content management', was held at Blacktown College of TAFE on 28 May. This seminar discussed dealing with internet content and the experiences of TAFE NSW libraries with student use of the internet — experiences ranging from no problems at all, to the strain of a court case. This seminar was videotaped for the benefit of our rural members.

Australian Library Week was promoted with an advertisement in the *TAFE Gazette*, a journal which is circulated to all TAFE NSW staff.

Several members of the group attended the ALIA TAFE National Conference in Hobart in July. The section sponsored Margaret Mikulin from Deniliquin to attend. We would like to thank Diana Harrison and the Tasmanian team for an enjoyable and valuable conference.

In August, Maureen Henninger from the University of New South Wales addressed a dinner meeting on 'The changing role of librarians'. Maureen gave some interesting points about how our role is not changing — it is just service in a different form, but service nevertheless.

A full-day seminar and workshop aimed at young and new members was held at OTEN-DE on 22 October. 'Set yourself up to succeed: a job application forum for librarians and technicians' presented speakers from varying library backgrounds giving their experiences of recruitment issues and tips and suggestions for success. A practical workshop on job applications followed.

Our annual general meeting and Christmas dinner was held at Old Government House at Parramatta on 7 December. We are looking forward to providing support and encouragement to our members in the year 2000. I would like to thank the 1999 committee for an outstanding effort. ■