SALTy by the sea

Another successful South Australian Library Technician (SALT) weekend workshop was held at Victor Harbor on 2–3 November. The workshop was the fifth arranged by SALT and was attended by thirty-two delegates.

Our speakers gave presentations on e-books, LibTec netiquette, brochures without tears, an update on the renovations at the State Library of South Australia and an insight into its future new look and services.

We heard about the celebrations and activities planned for 2003@your library (I can't wait to be involved in some of the seven campaigns and eight partnership campaigns organised. Check out http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/2003@yourlibrary/ for more details). A session on labels brought home the importance of clearly labelling items. Everyone was excited by the new digital ID tag, used in addition to barcodes, which enables stocktakes without removing books from the shelf!

A murder mystery extravaganza was played out while we ate a delicious dinner. All forty dinner guests quizzed each other to discover who murdered the new state librarian at the opening ceremony of the newly revamped building. She was discovered bound and gagged with tattle tape and book binding tape in the overnight book chute. Was it Idylle Chattre, Ivor Gunn, Dewi Decimalis? We stressed that our characters held no resemblance to anyone living or dead and the whole affair was a hoot.

The next morning we reassembled for a panel discussion on volunteers in libraries, and why more library technicians aren't joining ALIA. Our panel consisted of delegates from as far away as NSW and the West Coast so the views were interesting and varied.

A session on addressing job application criteria will ensure that our job applications will always hit the mark.

Following morning tea members of the South Australian Storytellers Guild entertained us. The stories were captivating, especially the one about the sea, given the views from the conference room.

It was a wonderful weekend full of opportunities to network, learn, share experiences and generally have 'a whale of a time'.

Highlights for me included:

- Inflating the giant killer whale in my motel room and later transporting it to the conference venue, much to the amusement of the other guests.

- Merry Mervyn Murray from 3M singing a ditty about library technicians to the tune of the Monster Mash.

- The generosity of Trevor McCann of Raeco for providing the wine to accompany the murder mystery dinner.

- Watching a video reproduction of a unique 1930's film called *Cover to Cover*. It included interviews with W Somerset Maugham, TS Elliot and Rebecca West, who answered when asked why there were more male than female authors: 'women have other work to do — they have to bring into the world the entire reading public'.

Jackie Williams, convenor, SALT

How you can make the difference

ALIA members are invited to comment on ALIA's draft plan for 2003 and 2004

ALIA: *making the difference* sets out a strategic program for the Association for the two years to the end of 2004. The plan has been developed by the Board of Directors, with input from the 2002 National Policy Congress round of meetings.

The draft plan is available at http://www.alia.org.au/governance/planning/. If you would prefer to receive a printed copy please contact ALIA National Office, phone 02 6215 8222, or enquiry@alia.org.au.

The deadline for comments is 14 February 2003. Members' feedback will be considered by the Board of Directors at its March 2003 meeting, when the final plan will be endorsed. Details of how to respond are given in the draft document. ∎