

Feedback

School Librarians Section

Victorian Group

(Excerpts from the President's Report for 1990)

The committee, particularly Nola Schlegel (Treasurer) and Bev Pianta (Secretary) have made a major contribution to our Section.

But there has been a continuing saga with the Ministry. Not only have we seen threats to the status and positions of teacher-librarians but also a further reduction in support services. This climate does nothing to help the morale of staff or encourage them to take up new initiatives within their schools.

There have, however, been many positive occurrences during 1990. Perhaps the most important among these has been the increasing cooperation between Children's and Youth Services Section and our own.

The executive has once again been involved in the implications of Ministry policy and initiatives on the role of teacher-librarians in government schools and its subsequent flow on to all schools.

It is clear that our campaign must be on-going and that we must rally *all* teacher-librarians to the cause.

Finally I would like to say to all teacher-librarians: BE POSITIVE! May the new year see a more settled climate within education — one in which we can put all our energies into our chosen profession.

Pamela Taylor ■

Home Library Services

Special Interest Group

This Group has been formed recently within ALIA to facilitate information-sharing between librarians and volunteers engaged in providing library services to the homebound, residents of special accommodation centres, nursing homes, hospitals and retirement centres.

The Group aims to formulate standards of service so that the whole community has access to information and materials, irrespective of age or disability, in line with the ALIA policy. It will also seek professional recognition and appropriate

training opportunities for librarians and library technicians active in this field.

The National Group will coordinate information from individual State Groups and will encourage formation of new State Groups where none currently exist. Membership of the Group will be through ALIA for members of ALIA and by direct subscription for non-members, including volunteers.

For further information contact Wendy Baker, Convener HLS-SIG, Moorabbin City Library, 161 Jasper Road, Bentleigh, Vic 3204, telephone (03) 557 2815, fax (03) 557 2814. ■

RAILS

Fifty librarians from all States and all types of libraries attended the first General Meeting of the Reference and Information Services Librarians Section on 3 October 1990 in the Perth International Hotel. Besides the normal AGM business, those present discussed future projects to be undertaken by RAILS and possible themes for the 1991 RAILS Conference.

The organising committee has already begun planning the fourth RAILS Conference to be held in Canberra in late 1991.

The Section is growing by leaps and bounds. Although it was formed only in March 1990, there were already over 237 registered members by October. State Groups have been officially formed in the Northern Territory, where the first RAILS group was formed, and in South Australia. There will be applications to ALIA General Council in March seeking formation of groups in the ACT and Victoria. So be sure to mark RAILS as one of your Sectional memberships on your membership application/renewal for 1991. Remember, membership of one Section is free!

There were two issues of the Section's newsletter *References* in 1990 and it will continue to be published several times a year. The next issue is scheduled for February. Copies of the newsletter are sent to all members of RAILS, free.

Barbara Paton ■

Box Hill Library celebrates its 40th anniversary

A piece of history was created recently. Members of the families of the Box Hill Artists' Camp group — McCubbin, Streeton, Withers, Conder and Abrahams — came together for the first time since their forebears, now better known as the Heidelberg School, had painted in the area 100 years ago.

The occasion was the 40th anniversary of the Box Hill Library. The central feature was an exhibition of the City of Box Hill's art collection, which includes almost a dozen of these artists' works. Also on display were memorabilia of the artists and copies of Andrew Mackenzie's latest and definitive work *Frederick McCubbin 1855-*

1917: the Proff and his art, a collector's edition of only 1000 copies.

The Box Hill Library was one of the first municipal libraries in Victoria to be established under the Free Library Service Board Act of 1946. It began as a modest collection of 8000 volumes housed in a pre-fabricated building on 28 October 1950. The present Box Hill Library, the largest of its kind when built in 1973, is now at the hub of a network of four branches serving a population of 156 000. It is widely regarded as one of the finest municipal library systems in Australia. In 1989 almost 1 million readers were issued with some 1.9 million loans. ■



Left to right: Oliver Streeton (grandson of Sir Arthur Streeton), Andrew Mckenzie (keynote speaker and author), and Peter Dawe (Deputy Regional Librarian) who was responsible for organising the event.

ALIA

your first-*resort* publisher

WANTED

Manuscripts and ideas for publications of interest

(to the library and information professions)

contact ALIA Press (06) 285 1877 or
(008) 02 0071 (tollfree)