

Rural and Isolated Libraries Special Interest Group

ALIA-RILSIG's committee for 1995 consisted of: Felicity Williams, Darwin, (president); Thelma Rungkat, Ballarat, (secretary); Bob Hoffman, Bassendean, (treasurer); Neil Bartlett, West Wyalong; Bland Shire Council Library, (institutional member); Rosemary Blakeney, Leeton; Margaret Clinch, Darwin; Andrew Goodall, Erina Heights; Anna McCormack, Goulburn; and, Pat Gallaher, Geraldton.

The committee meets four times a year by Telelink. A summary of minutes is published in the newsletter *Aphelion* so that general members can be made aware of discussions and plans.

The main priority of the group in 1995 was to issue the newsletter, *Aphelion* and to maintain a reasonable frequency of the publication over the year. The second priority was to en-

sure a realistic program for the following two years, with the major aims of improving networking, using information technology and trying to organise a general meeting of all members as soon as possible.

A priority for 1995 was to bring to the attention of ALIA General Council the particular aims and objectives for rural and isolated library services, which are to:

- 1 Work towards equitable information access for rural and isolated library and information services with costs and facilities on a par with those in city library and information services;
- 2 Plan for a conference, forum or workshop.

The conference sub-committee decided to work towards having a workshop around the ALIA biennial conference in October 1996. The meeting will be a forum for members

with the aim of exploring information technology facilities for their relevance and practical availability to rural and isolated library and information services, their cost, and the special needs of rural and isolated library services for good quality telecommunications to facilitate these services. Other matters of interest, such as topics and techniques for lobbying, visits to local libraries and social 'happenings' will be incorporated into the program, which will be held in Ballarat, Victoria, and run from 11-13 October 1996.

Only six nominations have been received for the new committee. The committee will expect to co-opt more members in the coming year to fill the vacancies with a view to continuity of the newsletter and wider representation.

Thelma Rungkat
Secretary

Promoting the profession

Each year, the Geelong Careers Teachers Association, together with DEET, organise a careers expo in Geelong for local high school students and their parents. The profession was once again represented by the ALIA Geelong Regional Group

who provided information on specific courses available for obtaining qualifications to work in the information management industry whether as a librarian, library technician or library assistant. It was encouraging to meet some young students seriously con-

templating a career in our field as well as adults looking for a change in career.

As was expected, many had not realised the different types of libraries which exist, the range of services libraries offer or the diverse range of skills needed to provide these services. By being there, we were able to use the opportunity to inform a number of people in these areas and to squash that negative stereotype image a little more. For those not interested in working in our industry, we were able to inform them of areas where perhaps libraries will assist them in reaching their professional and personal goals.

With so many other professions/vocations being represented on the night, it was vital that ALIA had the opportunity to show what we are on about. I found it a very worthwhile experience, a time to reflect on my own short working career, those who helped me reach this stage and to offer encouragement to those thinking of taking the plunge. I would strongly encourage others with the chance to get out in the community and spread the word about our profession — there's no need to wait until library week each year, start now!

Fiona Capurro,
Geelong Regional Group

Strategies for coping with technology?

ALIA Schools' Section spent much time in 1995 organising inservice opportunities for teacher librarians stressed by the pressures related to new technology

Our *Coping with techno-stress* conference in May proved so popular it was repeated in September. Celeste McNicholas, Rae Fankhauser, Marion Rehesco and Laurice Brady were selected as conference leaders on the basis of their long-term involvement in the school library scene.

The need for school librarians to be trained in the use of new technologies is matched only by the need to find strategies for implementing technology into current educational practice within the curriculum. The Schools' Section conferences were successful because of the emphasis of technology use in relation to learning and teaching practice.

However, surfing the net and discovering the latest compact disk intricacies does not supplant the need of every teacher librarian for good food and book talk. This need was happily satisfied by a Christmas in June dinner at Chipperfields, Beaumaris with popular Melbourne author, Kerry Greenwood, providing excellent literary accompaniment.

More recently, some members of Schools' Section have been involved with members of the School Library Association of Victoria to produce a 60-page guide entitled *Using the CSF to teach information skills*. This exciting new resource is the only material available to assist teacher-librarians in integrating the teaching of information skills into the Curriculum Standards Framework. The guide will be available for sale shortly.

Nola Smolders,
Schools Section (Vic)