

Challenges keep rolling in

ALIA ACT Branch



The new millennium approaches, we have a new library association, and the challenges for librarians just keep rolling in. The ACT Branch is fortunate to have many active sections — library technicians, UCRLS, cataloguers, specials, Asia/Pacific, ASLA/school librarians, the Canberra online

users group, health librarians, and one person librarians.

A number of key goals continue to be important in 1999:

- recruitment and retention of members to ensure the branch remains active and vibrant, with regular communication to members through the monthly magazine, *Proactive*.
- promotion of libraries and librarians: our program includes new initiatives for Australian Library Week and promoting libraries to senior managers in the public sector.
- fostering activities and active sections: many of the ACT ALIA activities are very successfully provided by sections to meet specific needs. The Branch can assist in coordinating and supporting an overall ACT program.
- addressing issues of concern to members: some of the critical issues facing librarians in the ACT in-

clude outsourcing, reductions in purchasing power, moving to the digital library and skills for the new digital environment.

The new library association is strongly supported in the ACT, offering great opportunities to address local and national issues.

The Branch is keen to encourage all library and information workers to attend the ALIA2000 conference in Canberra.

The incoming president is Roxanne Missingham. Roxanne has worked in special, research, and the National Library over the past twenty years. She has been convenor of the Federal Libraries Information Network (FLIN) for the past three years. Active in library and internet circles, Roxanne has written on the skills required to meet the needs of the digital library, information needs of scientists and issues relating to the internet. Roxanne is currently divisional librarian, CSIRO Wildlife and Ecology. ■

Mixing it in the Territory



Theresa Jude, ALIA Northern Territory Branch president

We in the Northern Territory understand the problems associated with geographical isolation. To address this issue, one aim for the coming year is to hold some branch activities in regional areas, particularly Katherine and Alice Springs. Two such events are a visit from Craig Anderson in April, and to celebrate Australian Library Week in May, a visit from author Beverly Harper.

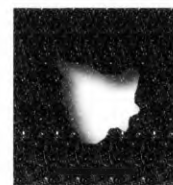
We will have a mix of social and professional activities throughout the year. Some activities will be workshops and some will be guest speakers and we will try and hold some during the day and some in the evening. We will also try to combine with other professional and special interest groups so as to attract events of interest that we may not otherwise see in the Territory.

Any members who have suggestions for activities are most welcome to contact me or any of the committee. Please use the secretary contact — rennison@library.ntu.edu.au

An administrative task for 1999 is the review of the Branch rules. This is a complex task and the committee encourages input from members.

Surging ahead in 1999

Bridget Hutton, Tasmanian Branch Council president



The coming year will be a challenging time for the Tasmanian Branch Council, as it will be for ALIA nationally. The past year was unsettling with the merger of ALIA and ACLIS proving to be a stagnating process rather than an invigorating one. In Tasmania the amalgamation of the two organisations was co-operative and smooth, however, we were disappointed by the difficulties experienced at the national level.

Tasmanian Branch Council looks forward to 1999 being a year of surging ahead. We are very keen to contribute to ALIA's renewal process both at the local level and nationally. When organisations have been in existence for a long period, it is imperative to take the time to critically analyse activities and examine ways of making improvements. It is a time for ALIA to reflect on why we exist and whom we serve.

One of the major challenges will be reaching out to potential members in the library sector and luring back past members of the association. The membership issue is a vital one that appears to be most effectively tackled at the local level. There are many opportunities to broaden the appeal of the Association to all workers in the library and information industry. The Tasmanian Branch is looking to at least maintain its institutional membership and to encourage further participation from para-professionals. In order to do this we need to ensure our activities are relevant to their needs and, indeed, to the needs of all of our membership.

I feel confident that 1999 will see the resurgence of ALIA. If we remain focussed on listening to our membership and remembering just what our organisation stands for, we cannot fail. ■