

ALW has them rolling in the aisles!

Australian Library Week in Victoria

Victorians celebrated Australian Library Week in style with fine food, fine wine and plenty of Fantails and Jaffas. A great art deco theatre was the venue for this combined AGM, awards presentation and night at the movies. A capacity crowd of around 130 celebrated with champagne before getting down to business and recognising the outstanding achievements of Victoria's library and information professionals.

The ALIA Awards for Innovation were presented to recipients in six categories who had demonstrated innovation and best practice in information provision. The ALIA Technician's section presented their Travel Scholarship, enabling a student member to attend the next technician's conference. Finally, our national president, Craig Anderson, presented Helen Hayes of the University of Melbourne with an ALIA Fellowship.

The festive evening was capped off with a private screening of that classic library movie, *The Desk Set*, starring Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy. The crowd cheered as Katharine, librarian extraordinaire, proved that no computer could ever replace her trusty reference team! The film was a great success, thanks to the Gale Group who were our generous sponsors.

'It was the best turn up we have every had for an AGM',



ALIA president Craig Anderson with Helen Hayes

reported event organiser Margie Anderson. 'We wanted to do something fun with a change of pace. It was a great chance to celebrate with colleagues and really mark Australian Library Week.' Choc top anyone? ■

Making electronic resources accessible

ALIA Tasmanian Branch Seminar, Wednesday 19 May

The first of a series of seminars being presented by the ALIA Tasmanian Branch under the collective title: 'Sectors working together' was held during Australian Library Week. The aim of the series is to bring together and share the experience and expertise of library workers in public, special, academic and school libraries.

Making electronic resources accessible attracted more than fifty reference, collection development, technical services and special library workers to find out what is going on in Tasmanian libraries to make electronic resources accessible to library users.

The seminar commenced with an overview of recent State Library developments. Tricia Vierra spoke first on the State Library project to deliver indexes and full-text electronic resources to public library users. Issues discussed included: Wide Area Networking, user interface, electronic reference desk services and changes in publisher's product delivery. Jill Abell presented a different aspect of electronic resources delivery. 'Discover' digital resource database for

Tasmanian schools provides 'net access to resources for teachers, students and parents [<http://www.discover.tased.edu.au/forum>]. Belinda Flowers outlined the range of information tools and resources that the 'New TALIS' will be able to provide access to, also discussing the main considerations in choosing the new system and how to structure access for users.

Outside the umbrella of the State Library are small special libraries grappling with the challenges of delivering information in the changing electronic environment. The main thread of Fiona Preston's paper was the human issue — the attitudes, knowledge, skills, team work and emotional investments that are essential ingredients for dealing with change, maintaining an innovative approach and tackling new projects.

After a noisy morning tea, Graeme Rayner provided a reflective overview of his experience with electronic resources, as an academic collection development librarian. Graeme outlined the complexities of ever-changing formats and hardware needs, user expectations and the range of require-

ments of different publishers and vendors.

The nitty gritty of cataloguing and licensing issues was presented by Linda Forbes and Paul Reynolds. Linda unravelled the 'tricky bits' of cataloguing the electronic journals currently accessible at the University of Tasmania by individual title or in a range of commercially available electronic collections. Paul discussed the kinds of legal fences that librarians have to jump in order to meet the licensing requirements of vendors and publishers.

The final presentation was Julie Boyd from EBSCO. Julie discussed issues that agents such as EBSCO can address as electronic journal aggregators and by continuing their traditional services to libraries in the electronic arena.

Comments from those attended show that people were inspired, informed and entertained by the seminar. Papers are available from Richard Dearden, richard.dearden@utas.edu.au, phone 03 6226 2132. They will be posted on the ALIA Tasmanian Branch website soon. ■