Teamwork pays off

TALIATecs, the Tasmanian group of the ALIA Library Technicians Section

In Tasmania the ALIA Technician Section encompasses the entire state. Regular monthly meetings are shared between the three major regional areas of the south, north and north-west of Tasmania

The group is working on the challenge of hosting the 11th National ALIA Library Technician Conference to be held in Hobart in August 2001. The chosen theme, *An information odyssey*, has recently been approved by ALIA National Office. There will be space at the Fremantle conference trade fair to publicise the 2001 conference. Come along and see what Tasmania has to offer. You could walk away with a hamper of Tasmanian gourmet goodies, or another tempting surprise!

This year's mini-conference and annual general meeting will be held in the historic village of Campbell Town on 2 October. Delegates to the 10th National Library Technicians Conference in Fremantle will each give a

short presentation on a different aspect of the conference. The committee also hopes to have a guest speaker from the Specials, Health and Law Conference, *Strait to the Future* held in Hobart in August, to share some valuable insight and advice on how their conference was received.

Tasmanian technicians receive recognition after twenty years

TALIATecs was re-formed in 1995 to encourage current members to become actively involved in ALIA and promote membership of the Association. The main aim for the last few years was to have a new work classification structure which acknowledges the Diploma and Associate Dipoma Qualifications. Over the years there have been many letters, phone calls and discussions between politicians of all parties, the unions, and library technician groups. Technicians have come and gone, many disillusioned, but some have continued the fight

with new members joining in the cause. With the help of ALIA, the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU), and the Australian Education Union (AEU), the committee's goal was achieved.

A new 'three-stream' classification structure was implemented by the Department of Education and the Arts in accordance with an agreement between the CPSU and the Public Sector Management Office, and was introduced on 11 September 1998. The new salary placement takes effect retrospectively from 7 March 1996. Under the new structure, each position was classified at a specific level. The classification structure recognises not only the technical skills required for positions, but also the competency standards required, together with the minimum qualification of an Associate Diploma. Recruitment in the future will be directed towards employees with appropriate qualifications and skills.

