

# Providing a forum and meeting place

Amelia McKenzie, convenor, APSIG

The Asia-Pacific Special Interest Group (APSIG) continued to provide a forum and meeting place for Australian library and information professionals who work with Asia-Pacific information as well as all those who are interested in co-operation and developments in the region.

A series of lively dinner talks and lunchtime seminars on topics of interest and relevance to members was held in Canberra in 1999. In July, Susan Prentice reminisced about her many years of travel in China in 'Looking at flowers on horseback again'. The group was privileged to welcome the distinguished Burmese librarian U Thaw Kaung in April who gave a well-received talk on the development of Burmese libraries. Royce Wiles recounted his experiences in India (8 September), while the popular 'Travellers tales' series concluded the year's activities with

accounts of travels in China, Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand.

The APSIG newsletter appeared three times during the year under the able editorship of Helen Soemardjo and the Monash University team. The newsletter continues to be a vital conduit of information, not only for the ALIA community but also for Asia-Pacific colleagues interested in links with Australia.

In 1999, APSIG's convenor Susan Prentice stepped down and was replaced by Amelia McKenzie. APSIG records its thanks to Susan for her expertise and guidance during her period of office. ■

# Library students recognised

Awards at Box Hill Institute of TAFE

The Box Hill Institute of TAFE recently recognised the achievement of four of its library technician students. Pictured [below] are: Rhonda Papadimitriou, who won the DA Information Services award for the most outstanding associate diploma student; Margaret Pearce, who won the EBSCO Australia award for the most outstanding diploma student; and Cathy Costa, who won the ALIA Award for the most outstanding overall student. Kim Lewin, who won the LIS Prize for the most outstanding flexible delivery student, is not pictured. ■



At the awards ceremony at Box Hill Institute of TAFE

## Serials in 1999

Nathalie Schulz, Australian Serials Special Interest Group

After a period of inactivity for the Australian Serials Special Interest Group (ASSIG), a new committee was elected in late 1999. ASSIG seeks to inform and educate librarians and information professionals about issues relating to all aspects of serials, including acquisitions and supply. The committee looks forward to providing educational opportunities for serials specialists and serial providers in the new millennium, and is considering conducting a pre/post conference seminar in conjunction with the ALIA2000 conference in Canberra.

Suggestions for relevant seminar topics are welcomed to ensure that we deliver to the profession practical, timely and topical presentations. Please contact the ASSIG convenor, Jenni Jeremy (Jenni.Jeremy@unisa.edu.au) or the secretary, Nathalie Schulz (N.Schulz@mailbox.gu.edu.au). ■

# Improving communication

Damian Tyquin, ALIA Disabilities Interest Group

1998 was a fairly quiet year for the ALIA Disabilities Interest Group (DIG), however 1999 shaped up to be much busier.

DIG is always interested in hearing ideas about projects or ways to improve communication between current and potential members. Earlier this year, DIG produced a newsletter for distribution to members, summarising key activities and projects of interest to those working in the disability services sector, or interested in disability services generally. One idea of the working party is to establish a mailing list via ALIANet, which could provide a useful forum for discussion of various disability service issues. The working party is always keen to encourage new mem-

bers, particularly people who may be interested in planning and working on projects.

A successful training session on working with clients with a hearing impairment was held for Victorian members at RVIB Library and Information Services in July. The session was well attended and feedback from participants was very positive.

Also during 1999, DIG offered a subsidy to assist members interested in purchasing a copy of the *Disability awareness kit: a training resource for public library customer service staff*, available from RVIB Library and Information Services. ■