



Members of WALT took a trip down memory lane at a special 35th anniversary afternoon tea.

BUSY HAPPY YEARS FOR WALT

ALIA Western Australian Library Technicians Group (WALT) recently celebrated 35 busy years. The group began in 1979, the year *Kramer vs. Kramer* won the Oscar for best picture, *Bjorn Borg* and *Martina Navratilova* reigned at Wimbledon, and *Gloria Gaynor's* song *I Will Survive* was a number one hit. Thirty-five years on and WALT too has survived and prospered.

The Group has been very active, facilitating two very successful National Conferences, Fremantle in 1999 and Perth 2011. Both events returned a good profit, with money set aside from the Fremantle conference to establish the Student Conference Grant Award, which provides funding to assist a library technician student or new graduate to attend the biannual national conference/symposium.

The Group also supports students and new graduates at its popular Tech Talk evenings, giving them the opportunity to



Let there be cake! Multi-talented ALIA WA State Manager Noreen Kirkman's amazing commemorative cake.

speak with library technicians working various roles within the industry.

There have also been five fabulous outer city weekend seminars. The first was held in Bunbury in 2002, organised under the leadership of Bonnie Rae Bruce in conjunction with the South West Library Link Group. This event proved very successful and the Group decided to continue to offer a state-based professional development event in the non-ALIA conference years. Seminars have been held in New Norcia, Muresk, Falcon and Kalamunda.

In 2013, the Group presented a popular Career Development Workshop. And in 2014, WALT joined with ALIAWest and the New Graduates to present the ALIA WA Symposium: 'Collaborate. Co-operate. Communicate'.

From mini conference to trailblazing, the Group ended 2014 on the road with Tech Trek – a bus tour visiting three outstanding southwest metropolitan libraries in Kwinana, Baldivis and Rockingham.

In addition to the many events organised over the years, the committees meet regularly, attend industry meetings, organise social programs, distribute communiqués, and manage budgets and records. It is this generosity of time and spirit by countless committee members over the last 35 years that has ensured longevity of the Group, culminating in achievement of this wonderful milestone.

To celebrate, past and present committee members and supporters were invited to attend a 35th Anniversary afternoon tea at the State Library of Western Australia on Sunday 22 February 2015. It was a wonderful afternoon of catching up, sharing memories, enjoying great food and a special birthday cake. A memorabilia table and PowerPoint slideshow showcased past events, and the sweets table added a special touch. Special thanks are extended to Noreen Kirkman for her catering prowess and wonderful cake.

SUSAN COURTLAND ALIATEC (CP)
Deputy Convenor
ALIA Western Australian Library Technicians Group
sjcourtland@gmail.com