

News from the Divisions

GIPPSLAND REGIONAL GROUP

Librarians from as far away as Warragul and Maffra attended the second 1985 meeting of the LAA Gippsland Regional Group. The meeting was held at the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education on the topic Freedom of Information.

Speaker Mary McGlade, from the FOI Policy Branch of the Law Department (Vic.), provided an insight into the provisions and operation of the FOI legislation currently operational, with particular reference to Victorian State legislation. This is part of the commitment to democracy in government and open knowledge of the activities, operations and decision making processes of government.

The Victorian State Act, which became operational in July 1983, covers all Victorian government departments and about 1,000 statutory authorities and semi-government agencies, including schools and hospitals. It excludes local government municipalities, courts and the CIB.

The FOI legislation gives the right of access to all information in documentary form held by a government department, not merely the information produced by that department. When documents requested under FOI are not held by the department or agency approached, then that FOI contact person must establish a location for the documents and transfer the request.

If a request under FOI is denied or only granted in part then there is a right of appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Following this most interesting talk, there was a lively discussion with many questions.

Kay Steel
Hon Secretary

SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION NSW GROUP

The third annual presentation of the Maria Gemenis Award will be held at a dinner on July 10 at the Len Evans Wine Cellars, 16 Bulletin Place, Circular Quay, commencing at 6.30pm.

This Award is presented to a special librarian who fulfils the following criteria:

- willingness to share professional expertise.
- breaking down the barriers of librarians in isolation.
- successful promotion of library or information science, achieving outstanding recognition from the parent organisation.

The Award was presented to Eve Ahearn in 1983, and last year to Kaye Cox.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Rosemary McLauchlan (02) 238 3769 by 5 July.

Also don't forget the Half-Day Seminar and Microcomputer Tours being held at the Institute of Chartered Accountants on July 15. See Happenings for more information.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES SECTION NSW

The first meeting of the reactivated UCLS in New South Wales took place in the seminar room of the newly opened Markets Library of the NSW Institute of Technology on Monday, May 20. There was a very good response from academic librarians, which bodes well for the Section in NSW.

The speaker was Dorothy G. Peake, Head of NSWIT's Information Resources Service. She described how a library building comes into being and explored the process of funding, planning and designing the new Markets Library Building. Dorothy's talk was illustrated with slides of the interior of the building and of the architects' drawings. Afterwards, those attending the meeting went on a 'guided tour' of the library.

Office bearers in UCLS (N.S.W. Section) are:
Chairperson Ms Margaret Sheppard — ph. 517 0647

Deputy Chairperson Dr Neil Radford — ph. 692 2990

Correspondence Secretary Mr Kevin Stapleton — ph. 929 0199

Minutes Secretary Ms Sandra Sullivan — ph. 570 0731

NSW Branch Representative Ms Barbara McLean — ph. 467 9234

Wilga Wilschefski

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL GROUP

The first meeting of the New England Regional Group was held on Tuesday 30 April, at the Dixson Library, UNE.

The meeting, 'A Night in the US of A', was addressed by local speakers, Karl Schmude, University Librarian, University of New England and Vicki Williamson, Senior Librarian Armidale CAE.

Both Karl and Vicki related their presentation to recent trips to the United States, Karl spoke about American librarianship and its impact on Australian librarianship particularly in relation to the areas of buildings, user education and inter-institutional co-operation while Vicki spoke about collection development with particular emphasis on the area of nursing science. Vicki was a recent recipient of an LAA study grant which took her to the United States and in particular institutions which taught nursing science.

The meeting was well attended with members coming from Tamworth, as well as various libraries in Armidale.

Craig Grimison

NSW BRANCH

Wollongong the Brave!

Branch Council is looking forward to welcoming Branch Councillors, office bearers of sectional Regional and Interest Groups as well as other interested people to its second full day meeting for 1985.

This is a good opportunity to join us, on Saturday 13 July at 9.30am at the Wollongong Institute of Advanced Education, and meet the various councillors and office bearers to discuss finances, programmes and other matters of interest. If the weather is kind we'll be enjoying a beautiful Aussie barbecue lunch with the day being rounded off by a sumptuous dinner function arranged with guest speaker, Bob Hudson, his talk entitled 'I'm not a writer, I'm just a kid with a word processor'. This will be at Wollongong City Gallery, 6.30pm for 7pm. The cost will be \$20 per head, which includes food and wine.

Like the other full day meeting in February this is a major one involving budgetary discussions and to which it is hoped most regional councillors will be able to come. Sectional and regional representatives are especially asked to invite other members of their committees as observers for the day.

Wollongong is only one hour's drive from Sydney airport but why not make a weekend of it and enjoy this gateway to Australia's leisure coast? For more details including places to stay and things to do contact Branch Secretary Tanya Whitmarsh on (02) 623 1440 or (02) 630 6867.

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