

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Medical Libraries Section
Victorian Group

Newsletter

November 1987
No. 20

CHRISTMAS PARTY AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Keep Friday November 27th free so you can be sure to join us for the end of the year get-together with your fellow medical librarians and friends. The venue is the beautiful buildings and spectacular gardens of the Abbotsford Campus of the Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences. Facilities are available, both al fresco and undercover, so we can make the most of the evening regardless of the weather.

Details are as follows:

DATE: Friday 27th November 1987.

TIME: 6.00pm for 6.30pm (for security reasons we will need to wind-up by about 9.00pm)

VENUE: Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences
Abbotsford Campus, St.Hellier Street,
ABBOTSFORD.
(Melway ref:44; G5 - ph.Jean Leith
418 6858 if still confused)

COST: \$12.00 - cheque to Andrew Rooke (P.H.H.)
made out to Med Lib Section, Vic Group.

RSVP: Jocelyn Dixon, by Friday 13th November
Ph.419-0031 or to Andrew with cheque.

SPECIAL MEETING REPORT (Friday 25th September).

Andrew Rooke opened the meeting with a welcome and a few points of interest. The University Co-operative Bookshop (NSW) had made available copies of their extensive stock catalogue. The UCB currently print the GRATIS, GRATISSA and GRATISQ union catalogues and has kindly offered to print the GRATISVIC union catalogue once the Victorian GRATIS scheme is underway.

The guest speaker for the evening was Fiona Mackay Picken, one of the visiting speakers at the 7th Biennial Australian Medical Librarians Conference in Adelaide. Fiona had selected a few dozen slides from her extensive collections to illustrate the importance of communication in the world, and so in librarianship.

Before showing the slides, Fiona pointed out how visiting libraries in less developed countries had given her insight into the difficulties faced by librarians in these countries. For example, journal articles are invariably based on procedures and equipment only available at high tech hospitals and large corporations. Articles which are relevant to the resources of less developed countries are few.

Fiona's travel began when she was a student in Denmark. She lived in New Zealand for three years, and has since travelled for the British Council to Iraq, Iran, Sweden, Greece and Nepal.

Fiona had selected various forms of communication for her slide display, including signs and symbols; voice and its projection; meeting places - markets, feasts, palaces, temples, shrines and houses; transport - by foot, donkey, bicycle, rickshaw, elephants, bullocks, scooter, taxi, 4WD, bus, sea, bridges and air. Fiona had chosen all photos from all the countries she has visited in order to draw contrasts and make comparisons.

We were farwelled in the nicest possible way by a group of young Tibetan children with the most cheerful faces.

Following the meeting, a group joined Fiona for a delicious meal at the nearby Onions restaurant.

MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF WAR

The Medical Association for the Prevention of War (Australia) is a national organisation of physicians dedicated to the prevention of war, especially nuclear war. MAPW (Australia) is the Australian affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), recipient of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize.

MAPW produce a quarterly newsletter called MAPW PULSE. The group would like to distribute PULSE to interested medical libraries throughout Australia.

Enquiries: Vicki Standish, MAPW National Office Administration
P.O. Box 2191, WEST ST KILDA. 3182
ph. (03)418 2893 or (03)418 2211

The Summer and Winter issues of MAPW PULSE for 1987 feature the Sixth World Congress of IPPNW held at Koln and the First Asian-Pacific Regional Symposium of IPPNW.

BULLOCK DRAY, CARRIER PIGEON OR CLEFT STICK???

Know the problemyou need tomorrow's article yesterday ...

We've got an idea of how to help.

How about letting us know which journals you currently receive SAL (Surface Airlifted) or airmail. We'll compile a list and make it available for those difficult moments when articles are needed extra urgently.

Please complete the details below and forward to Anne McLean by 30th November 1987. Anne will compile a list from all the responses. Details on obtaining a copy of the list will be given in the first newsletter for 1988.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED AIRMAIL OR SAL

NAME OF LIBRARY:

NUCOM SYMBOL:

ADDRESS:

CONTACT NAME:

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:

FAX NUMBER:

JOURNAL TITLE

AIRMAIL
(Tick)

SAL
(Tick)

Please forward your completed list to Anne McLean, Chief Librarian,
Austin Hospital, Studley Rd., Heidelberg. 3084.

DEADLINE: 30th November 1987

ADELAIDE CONFERENCE

By all accounts, the 7th Biennial Australian Medical Librarians Conference held in Adelaide in September was a great success. As well as admirable organization, stimulating speakers, and marvellous spring weather, North Adelaide proved to be a delightful venue, and delegates were fascinated to stroll through this older part of Adelaide appreciating the preservation of historic buildings and streetscapes.

Some brief items of interest from the ACM:

Queensland MLS will become the National Section for 1988-89.

The 1989 Australasian Medical Libraries Conference will be held in Auckland in November. It is hoped to keep the Registration fee at around Aus \$250.00; airfares should be approx. Aus \$345 - 395.00 on today's estimates. Start planning ...!

The Draft Minimum Standards were passed after several amendments from the Victorian and WA Groups. They will now be presented to LAA General Council for ratification and publication.

The first recipient of the Anne Harrison award is Linda Mulheron, of Westmead Hospital. She will use the award for costs involved in her projected study on user education.

A name change for our section was proposed, subject to a referendum of all members. The new names suggested are either "Health Libraries Section", or "Health Science Libraries Section"

Your Executive Committee has sent a letter of congratulations to the SA Group for their excellent and enjoyable conference.

VOTING RESULTS

After the usual arm-twisting, etc., the following members have nobly assented to working for the good of the Group in 1988.

President: Veronica Delafosse; Treasurer: Andrew Rooke; Newsletter editor: Jenny Bergin; committee members: Jocelyn Dixon, Jan Riches, Anne McLean, and Bill Freeman. (Lucky person to be secretary has yet to be finalised).

Thank you, new Executive Committee members, for accepting nominations. We shall look forward to plenty of action during 1988.

Talking about the Executive Committee - a very special thank-you should go to our 1987 Newsletter Editor, Sue McNair, Librarian CSL, for all her dedicated hard-work in compiling, editing, photo-copying, and distributing our Newsletter. Sue has been a valuable member of our Committee, and we are sad to lose her. However, the mountains of Tasmania are calling her, and she leaves Victoria in early November to face the rigours of the Tasmanian climate at Stanley, in the NorthWest. (Needless to say, this section of the Newsletter has been written by someone else).

Sue's replacement at CSL will be Jan Potts, from the State Forensic Science Laboratory.

UNION NEWS:

4% Wage Increase

Health Unions and the Health Dept Victoria have agreed to an 8 point plan to increase productivity, and a 4% wage increase. The plan includes a review of sickness absence, and the extension of the Royal Women's Hospital Establishment Review to all hospitals. Review teams will be investigating staff resources and work practices, then recommending changes aimed at increasing productivity.

HEF 3

Nominees from our union (VAHPA) have been elected to the Committee of Management of the HEF Number 3 Branch. VAHPA now has access to Federal registration and is assured of continued existence in a climate of union amalgamations and uncertainty.

Professional Rates

Despite a second round of inspections, the Health Dept Victoria have notified VAHPA that they "will not be developing a position" on our claim for professional rates until after discussions are held on professional rates for nurses. This is a back down on their earlier commitment to respond to our claim by 5th October. Librarians' gradings and salary scales now seem likely to be linked to, but not considered in, the rates decided for nurses. The Campaign Committee has recommended that a further stopwork meeting be held on 5th November to allow VAHPA to report on the claim's progress, and to allow members to decide if further action should be taken to support the claim.

The meeting will be held at Victorian Trades Hall, corner of Victoria Parade and Lygon Street (enter from Lygon Street), starting at 2.00pm. The present claim is the only opportunity we have in the foreseeable future to address salary scales and gradings for hospital librarians. If you consider yourself a health professional, make a commitment to your fellow hospital librarians and other health professionals by attending the 5th November meeting. You don't have to be a VAHPA member to attend. Your union representatives, Elisabeth Giddy (ph.344 2398) and Kathy Hutton (ph.345 5109) would be pleased to answer any queries you have on the meeting, or any other union issues.

Christmas Party

All VAHPA members and their families are invited to a Christmas barbecue to be held on 6th December. Contact Kathy Hutton for details (ph.345 5109).

MEDLINE ON CD ROM

A group of librarians and pharmacists recently attended a demonstration of MEDLINE on CD-ROM at the Monash Medical Centre, Clayton. Jenny Casey, from ALDIS (Australian Laser Disk Information Services Pty.Ltd) demonstrated the Silver Platter version of MEDLINE.

A two-page report of this first-time, hands-on encounter is available. The report covers costs, networks, comparisons with Elhill, Silver Platter features, and possible justification for purchase.

For a photocopy of the report, please send one \$6.00 voucher and a return address label to Bronia Renison, Librarian, Monash Medical Centre, Moorabbin Hospital, P.O.Box 72, East Bentleigh 3165. (PEARL contributors need not send voucher).

STOP PRESS

The LAA Victorian Branch will be holding two public meetings to discuss the Geddes (Government Funded Libraries) and the Hancock (State Library Development Study) Reports.

The Geddes Report meeting will be held on 19th November, and will be directed at LAA members, especially those working in Government funded, whether directly or indirectly, libraries.

The Hancock Report meeting will be held on 26th November, and will be in the nature of a public forum. It is hoped to be able to get the journalist, Keith Dunstan, to chair the meeting.

Both meetings will be held in Queens Hall, State Library of Victoria, 6.00 for 6.30pm. They are expected to run until about 8.00/9.30pm and as many interested people as possible are invited to attend. Phone your Branch representative, Sandra Russell, if more details are required (ph.418 2201).

DON'T FORGET - CHRISTMAS PARTY AND AGM 27th NOVEMBER
Send your cheque TODAY!