

**Australian and New Zealand Theological
Library Association
Newsletter 28**

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ANZTLA AFFAIRS

With this *Newsletter*, you will receive registration forms and information about the forthcoming conference in Perth, 10-13 October. From the program of outstanding speakers, with an appropriate emphasis on information technology, and from the arrangements in general, it is obvious that our members in Perth are doing their best to make their first conference a truly memorable one. The day trip to the historic town of New Norcia will be a very special event. Because some members will have difficulty attending because of timing, it is particularly important that those who will be present register on time, to give the planners a clear indication of the size of the group they will have to cope with. If you have any queries about the conference, please contact Lynn White, Baptist Theological College of WA, phone (09) 361 9962, fax (09) 362 1603.

You may recall that, at the last AGM, we decided to investigate the possibility of holding the 1997 conference in Fiji. Unfortunately, it does not suit our colleagues in Fiji, due to the unavailability of accommodation at any suitable time for a conference. Accordingly, the Executive has decided that the twelfth conference will be held in Brisbane in 1997, probably in conjunction with (and, possibly, overlapping) the ANZATS Conference, and probably in July.

Nominations are called for the *Trevor Zweck Award* for 1995. The award is for an outstanding contribution to theological librarianship by a librarian or a non-librarian. It is for one specific contribution, not for years of service. Please send your nomination, with a short paragraph supporting your choice, through your regional chapter, to the Secretary, Val Canty, 20 King William Rd, Wayville SA 5034, fax (08) 373 4874.

The Editor of the *Newsletter* has indicated her wish to relinquish the position at this year's AGM. Please give thought to a possible replacement and offer your services, if you are willing to take it on.

By the time you read this column, all libraries should have received instructions about the updating of the *Australasian Union List of Serials in Theological Collections (AULOTS)*. Libraries in the South Australian chapter, which are acting as a pilot study group, are finding it a sizeable task, requiring a substantial commitment of time and effort. You will hardly need to be reminded,

however, how important a tool this is for resource sharing in Australia and New Zealand, as, indeed, also in other countries.

During the last couple of months, a lot of behind the scenes work has been going on to revise and correct the faulty volume 6 of the *Australasian Religion Index*. As subscribers have been advised, a replacement copy of the complete volume will be despatched from the Centre for Information Studies, when the task is finished. Meanwhile, technical changes are in process for volume 8 (1996); they will not be obvious from the printed edition, but will make the database easier to manage and more flexible to use. The possibilities of publishing a cumulated edition of volumes 1-7, and an electronic version (e.g. CD-ROM or on-line) of the whole database, will be pursued when the work on volume 6 is completed).

I have accepted an invitation to speak at the forthcoming American Theological Library Association Conference in Denver, Colorado, 21-24 June 1996. I have also received funding to visit several libraries in the United States and in Europe. While this will be a good opportunity to create or strengthen links and to see what other theological libraries are doing with information technology, it will also be a good opportunity to strengthen links with theological library associations in America, Britain and Europe. The itinerary includes Minneapolis, St Louis, Columbus, Lancaster, Richmond, Cambridge UK, Louvain, Oberursel, Neuendettelsau, Regensburg and Rome, and will take me away from Australia from 17 June to 29 July.

(Revd) Trevor Zweck
President



ANZTLA NEWS

From New Zealand:

Denise Drake of the Bible College of New Zealand was married in December and is now Denise James. Our sympathy goes to **Helen Greenwood** whose mother died this month in Canada.

From Western Australia:

Trevis Lawton has left New Norcia's Benedictine Library for the coastal town of Mandurah south of Perth to take up the position of City Librarian. An introductory message from Sue Johnson, the new librarian at New Norcia follows:

As a farmer's wife and ex-school librarian, I have been on an almost vertical learning curve in the three months that I have been librarian to the Benedictine community at New Norcia.

It is not the weight of the Benedictine scholarship tradition, but the computer cataloguing programs absent from my previous existence as a librarian, which has unnerved me.

The collection of religious books is huge, collected by the Benedictine monks during the one hundred and fifty years they have been in New Norcia.

Some old and rare books were brought from Spain and Italy last century, and some secular books are rare examples of nineteenth century Australiana. We also acquire a good selection of recently published books and serials.

Trevis Lawton, the previous librarian, set up a structure to classify the entire collection. We have made a good start, with details of over twenty two thousand books already entered on the database. My task is to continue cataloguing and there is no shortage of work for many years.

A visit to New Norcia is on the itinerary for the ANZTLA Conference in Perth in October, so you will have the opportunity to see this famous historic monastic town.

If the library and the monastic life doesn't interest you, then the Spanish architecture will. I look forward to showing the town to as many of you as possible.

From NSW:

Lynette Champion and **Judith Goodwin** are retiring from their positions as office bearers for the NSW Chapter. New Chapter office bearers are **Rhonda Barry** as chairperson, and **Vesna Cosnic** as secretary.

The Rabbi Falk library has joined ANZTLA and the librarian, **Ilana Cohen**, has contributed some information for us about this Library:

The Rabbi Falk Library, The Great Synagogue, Sydney.

A profile by Ilana Cohen

The Great Synagogue, a majestic feature of the Elizabeth Street townscape facing Hyde Park is the best-known Jewish building in Australia. Within its walls are classrooms, a synagogue hall, offices and a library.

The Rabbi Falk Library was established in 1956 at the Great Synagogue, Sydney, 166 Castlereagh St. A large part of the collection is from Rabbi Falk's personal library. It is located on the ground floor of the Synagogue near the clerical and Rabbinical offices. The collection is catalogued using the New York Public Library Jewish cataloguing format. The "English" section includes works in languages with Roman script, including German, Polish and English. The "Hebrew" section includes works where the majority of the script is in Hebrew or Yiddish.

The library includes a microfiche reader and genealogical microfiche. Photocopying is available on request. Inter-library loans are available. Borrowing is limited and most items must be viewed in the reading room.

The Rabbi Falk Library collection provides information on Jewish laws and customs, Hebrew learning resources, modern and historical material on Jewish communities, and novels. It holds Jewish newspapers in hard copy format including the Jewish News and Jewish Times. The collection includes rare and valuable religious books and a collection of Jewish serials.

The collection currently stands at 6500 items, including 3712 English titles. 25 serial titles are held, with 3 currently being received. The Library is staffed by 2 volunteers who maintain and catalogue items for the collection. Clerical support is available from the Synagogue office staff. The Library's reading room is also used for other purposes, including use as a Jewish place of worship, a classroom and as a meeting room.

The Falk Library is essentially a storehouse of rare and valuable Judaica, religious texts, and Hebrew works. Preservation and conservation of these books is the primary aim of the Library.

Enquiries regarding the collection can be made to the librarian, Ilana Cohen, on 02 267 2477 or e-mail I.Cohen@unsw.edu.au

From Victoria:

The Yarra Theological College has closed and the College is now being serviced from St Paschal's Library - more information next Newsletter.

AUSTRALASIAN RELIGION INDEX

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