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## My First ANZTLA Conference

Kerrie Stevens

Harvest Bible College Library, Melbourne

This Conference was amazing! Thank you to the Perth Committee for organising something that far exceeded my expectations of what an ANZTLA Conference would be like.

This is what I feel like while writing this reflection. I have had such a great time and learnt so many useful things, that I can't wipe the smile off my face.



I thought I was sure to get something out of the Conference to bring back to my little Library, but I could never have

imagined just how beneficial the whole experience would be.

Right from the beginning when I was picked up from the airport, I was impressed with the city of Perth and enjoying myself, despite wishing for somewhere to snooze for a while. The time difference for me was only two hours, but I was tired! Now I know why the football teams can't win when they come back from the trip to Perth! The luxury of the accommodation facilities was a nice surprise and, I'm sure, appreciated and enjoyed by all who stayed there.

My Conference experience began at the Cataloguing session which was both very interesting, and a little upsetting – I think I need to rework all my subject headings! But alas, that can wait while I work on my backlog of backlogs.

The opening and welcome was indeed very welcoming with several people I had never met before introducing themselves to me and striking up conversation. Already, I felt as if I belonged.

As part of the Conference programme, a day trip to New Norcia had been

organised. I had been looking forward to this trip since first registering for the Conference, and it did not disappoint.

Our tour was excellent and involved behind-the-scenes areas where the public are not normally allowed. This trip was made all the more memorable by the rides in the rickety old bus which may have been a little daunting but really just added to the whole experience.

Saturday morning's session on the Money Squeeze was extremely useful and I have taken away many ideas for my own situation. The One Person Library Practicalities Session was especially beneficial. Just being able to talk to other people in similar situations is so helpful and everyone is so willing to offer advice and assistance.

The tour and Information Literacy Session at the University of Notre Dame and the free time in Fremantle were great. The sunny weather complemented the whole experience very well.

Having not been to a conference of any sort before, there was one question I did not know how to answer – What do you wear to an ANZTLA Conference Dinner? With that sorted out, it was a nice change to see everyone dressed for the occasion and the dinner was a memorable and thoroughly enjoyable experience.

On Sunday morning, people slowly emerged from their rooms with weary bodies and sleepy eyes, and gradually made it to the first session about Reference In The Digital Era. This again was very helpful and I am looking to implement several of the ideas discussed.

The Interest Spots, provided by Rosemary Watts and Val Canty were extremely interesting and provided a quick look into Trinity Theological College's development and the history of ANZTLA SA.

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In summing up the experience of my first ANZTLA Conference, I would have to say the best bit of all, was just meeting everyone! Being able to put a face to a name on an email, hearing about situations that are similar to your own, and getting advice and offers of future help were so gratefully received. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank every-

one I met on the conference for their helpful chats and useful insights.

And to those of you who haven't been to an ANZTLA conference yet – I encourage you whole heartedly to try to get to Brisbane in 2004 where I'm sure there will be another fantastic conference!

*Kerrie Stevens*

## **TALUA MINISTRY TRAINING CENTRE**

**Vanuatu**

**Cindy Vanuaroro**

Librarian

I would like first of all to express my sincere gratitude on this special occasion to be able to share with you some information about my library and the college. This is the second time I have been able to attend the ANZTLA Conferences. Thank you for the opportunities you give to extending my knowledge of what a library is about.

### **Brief History of the College**

Talua Ministry Training Centre is the amalgamation of two previous colleges namely, the Presbyterian Bible College and Aulua Theological Training Centre.

The Presbyterian Bible College was opened in 1971 on Tangoa Island, South Santo in the Northern part of Vanuatu. This was to provide a two year course to train lay people. The Aulua Theological Training Centre on the other hand was set up in 1977 at Aulua, on the island of Malekula, to train pastors for the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu.

In 1986 the two colleges were combined to form the Talua Ministry Training Centre. The name Talua comes from Tangoa and Aulua, the sites of the two former colleges ('Ta' from Tangoa and 'lua' from Aulua). Talua takes up its mission from the former

colleges to train lay people and pastors, and now priests for the Anglican Church.

Talua is an accredited college of the South Pacific Association of Theological Schools (SPATS) based in Suva, Fiji.

In 1999 Talua offered its first one year Mission Training Course which offers a Certificate of Mission Studies. The mission emphasis is to train indigenous citizens to become mission workers in unreached areas of Vanuatu.

At the end of 1999, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed with the Church of Melanesia (Anglican Church) for the training of Anglican candidates at Talua. In 2000 the first Anglican lecturer was appointed to teach and the first intake of Anglican students commenced their studies.

The college enrolls about 70 students each year, married and single, and both male and female. Wives of students are also trained to be co-workers with their husbands in the church. The colleges employs nine fulltime faculty members who are specialized in different areas as theology, biblical studies, pastoral studies, church history, gospel and culture.

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