Reports from Chapters

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The meeting held on the 19th February was hosted by Lavinia Gent at Luther Seminary. Current activities of the member libraries were discussed. As part of her report Val gave a brief history of ANZTLA, the group then agreeing it would be appropriate for Val to finish as editor of the ANZTLA Newsletter so allowing another group to take over. New office bearers were elected: Pauline Redman to President and Wendy Davis to Secretary for the coming year.

Conference issues were discussed at the meeting on 20th May held at the Underdale campus of the University of South Australia, hosted by Ann Marie Lynch. We were brought up to date with news of what was happening at the campus and how the library was being broken up and relocated. Jo Mason was welcomed as the new resource center manager of the Anglican Resource Centre and with sadness we said farewell to Vivienne Bleby after a long association with the chapter. The good news from Luther was that Blan MacDonagh has started work as Library Manager. It was great to welcome Blan back to the chapter after her previous work commitments meant we had not seen her for a while. Luther also launched it's new website in May (www.alc.edu.au). In other news, the Adelaide Theological Library has joined the ANZTLA consortium for purchase of ATLA and Religion and Philosophy databases. Luther also have subscribed to ATLA Serials and ProQuest. The new Australasian Religion Index automated indexing programme on CD has also been trialled and generally given a good report. The State Library exhibition bay in the Mortlock Wing at the State Library of S.A. was scheduled to open mid-August.

At the August 19th meeting held in the Evangelical Library, we welcomed for the first time Robin Radford from the Anglican Archives, Lyall Kupke (Lutheran Archives) and Sue Ryan (Catholic Archives). Their input will be greatly valued. With the national conference set down for Adelaide in 2006, it was suggested we form a Steering Committee to look at venues/dates etc. and a call for volunteers.

In December we met at the Burleigh College Library and welcomed a new member, Janet Phillips from the Burrow Library at the Bible College of South Australia. Space problems continue to plague several of our member libraries – Tabor, Catholic Resource Centre, Anglican Archives and House of Prayer For All Nations. Pauline reported on the State Library Project, now completed. Lending between ANZTLA – SA libraries was discussed. News from Lohe is that the Australian Lutheran College now has Higher Education Provider status. At the close of the meeting we all adjourned to the Café 'Kibbi's' down the road in Hyde Park to enjoy our Christmas lunch get-together.

The ANZTLA Conference was held in Brisbane with Beth, Wendy, Blan and Jan attending. It was a full conference with highlights being the sessions on disaster planning, Ebsco host, and also information literacy.

We still find the networking and friendship provided by the meetings very useful and supportive. Those of us who are a little less experienced are gaining much benefit from the experience of the others in the sharing of ideas and solutions offered to the problems and hassles as they arise within our individual libraries.

Pauline Redman

VICTORIA

For the first meeting of the year in March the Victorian chapter met at the CAVAL (Co-operative Action by Victorian Academic Libraries) offices in Bundoora in Melbourne's north. CAVAL provided us with a meeting room and lunch. After we had completed our own meeting agenda we listened to presentations from CAVAL staff. Sue Henczel spoke on the services CAVAL provides (see http:// www.caval.edu.au). Members were particularly interested in their training courses and consultancy. LIAM (Libraries of Institutions Associated with the Melbourne College of Divinity) subsequently hired CAVAL to conduct a feasibility study for a union catalogue. CAVAL administers the Victorian union catalogue of major academic libraries and the State Library of Victoria (COOL-CAT). We then had a presentation on disaster management and toured the CARM (CAVAL Archive and Research Materials) centre. This is a single copy repository of low use research materials owned collectively by the contributors to the store. It currently has a capacity for over one million volumes. The Centre contains last copies of valuable but low usage archival and research material. The last copy collection will ensure that good condition copies of tertiary level materials are available for future research. Information about the stored materials is readily accessible on COOL-CAT and Kinetica.

The Chapter's May meeting was held at the State Library of Victoria. The library has recently completed major renovations of its Information Centre and a restoration of the octagonal La Trobe reading room with the central dome ceiling, one of the Library's most spectacular heritage spaces. The Library offered us a meeting room to conduct our meeting and then gave us two presentations covering subjects we had chosen. The first was the AskNow online reference service which we watched in action, as a user and then from the librarian's point of view. The Digitising Initiatives Teamgave the second presentation. They had prepared very useful handouts and encouraged us to come back to them with questions from our own practice in this area.

In August we visited the new site of the Carmelite Library in Middle Park, in Melbourne's inner south. Paul Chandler, the librarian, had prepared a display of some of his newly acquired treasures from the Institutum Carmelitanum in Rome (see article page 18). Those who had attended reported on their highs and lows from the recent ANZTLA conference. It was seen to have been a very successful conference and the consistently high quality of the speakers was much appreciated.

Our final meeting is always a Christmas lunch which this year took place at the café in the grounds of the Heide Museum of Modern Art in Heidelberg. It was a hot day but several members took the opportunity to stroll through the gardens and grounds or visit the galleries after lunch.

Kathryn Duncan

The following is a report from Ian Stoodley, Librarian of Malyon College in Queensland, formerly the Queensland Baptist College of Ministries College.

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Changes all 'round ... except for one.
As fortune has it, at the beginning of this year our college changed both name and location at the same time. This was not done, I hasten to add, in order to escape the long arm of the law. Here is a short account of the library move, with a couple of lessons learned in the process.

On the bright side, we managed to move our 20,000 volumes and were ready for business within the space of three weeks - we had to, because that's when O-week began. At this point, four months later, the appreciative noises I hear when people enter the library make it all seem worthwhile. The most amusing reaction so far has been, "Wow, it looks like a real library!" However, at the time of the move, enduring long days without air conditioning in the grip of a Queensland summer, it wasn't always clear that it was going to come together very well at all.

Immediately after meeting each representative preparing quotes for the move, I knew which one I'd choose. However, the successful bidder was the one who underquoted their competitor to the tune of thousands of dollars ... well, you get what you pay for. In their favour was the fact that they were pretty fast. However, their expertise in library relocation showed early, for example when they were surprised that we couldn't take books out of one location and put them almost straight into the next. Or their astonished statement half way through the move, "Most of your shelving is superseded!" The main point is to say, if you want a library move to be handled without it requiring many hours of work on your own part, both in planning how the hardware is going to be de-constructed at one end and re-configured at the other, and in manhandling and sorting heavy materials (I'm not sure when I was ever so tired), then you'd best employ a re-locator who really knows what they are doing. This should be done well before the move as you will have to convince your administrators to spend the money necessary to do so.

Another lesson learned is what works on paper may not work in practice. On paper our rows of bays fitted perfectly into the space we had. In practice, they were an extra metre long. Some of this was the result of poor planning. My calculations were based on the shelf length, not the bay length (which includes posts); where two bays meet this difference is doubled. In the heat of the move, when books are arriving soon after the shelves and everyone's depending on you to get it right, you have to just put things in place and hope it all works out. Well, it didn't work out, which means I have to re-move about three-quarters of our collection in order to widen the passageways at each end of the rows. Is anyone looking for something to do in June and July? The main point of this is to suggest you get someone practical to double-check your plans before you move and also you have a reasonable amount of time in between the arrival of the shelves and the arrival of the books. In our case, a week would have been good.

I've heard it said that you should make pessimistic timelines, then add 50%. We could certainly have done with 50% more time for our move. Consequently, a few jobs like the after-move shelf check I was planning on didn't get done. However, by God's grace we are in and up and running; at least there's one constant we can count on, despite poor planning or execution.

It's great to have a new facility to work in. Apart from all the other advantages, my office is now several times larger than it was before and the largest in the college, including the principal's. When asked how this happened, I simply point out that the size of the office reflects the amount of work that's done in it. As a result, I might be searching for another library position in the near future! If so, I've already worked out my first question at the interviews: "Are you planning on moving soon?"