NSW Chapter Report 2018

Compiled by Erin Mollenhauer

February Meeting - Christ College, Burwood

Discussion topics – We discussed the conference theme and 'Boundless' was chosen as one which was broad enough to encompass a variety of topics. A graphic designer was engaged to design the logo and the chapter members voted for the current design. Numerous names were suggested as the keynote speaker. The idea of inviting speakers from other faiths was discussed, and although Muslim and Jewish speakers were invited, none responded to our invitation.

Notable library reports – Mount St Benedict library started a street library program; SMBC is preparing for an online postgraduate course; Campion College is working towards self-accreditation.

May Meeting – Campion College, Old Toongabbie

Discussion topics – A conference planning committee was beginning to form itself, with several volunteers. We had invited the State Librarian, John Vallance, to be the keynote speaker and he was considering this. We discussed possible options for the conference dinner as Robert Menzies College is a dry college and ANZTLA members enjoy a drink.

Notable library reports – Catholic Institute of Sydney Library was transitioning from using UNILINC to Ex Libris, and had instituted a 'Friends of the Library' group; Morling College Library has just implemented Open Athens and is planning their new library building; Excelsia College Library was developing library support for a new business course; Catholic Education Centre Bathurst has undertaken a cataloguing project for their special collections.

August Meeting – Moore College, Newton

Discussion topics – Highlights of the Brisbane conference were shared by those members who attended – the keynote speaker Maria Stanton and the session on Evidence-based Librarianship were particularly appreciated. The conference committee for the Sydney conference was finalized (Erin Mollenhauer, Kim Robinson, Kate Scott and Gabrielle Fury), and an interim list of speakers was shared. A call for volunteers to look after the scholarship recipients was issued. Julie Olston (Manager, Moore College Library) suggested targeting the scholarship invitation to Papua New Guinea, since there are numerous theological libraries there.

Notable library reports – Mary Andrews College library has been weeding and re-cataloguing their collection to better suit the students; Moore College Library is considering different consortia options for online resources, and looking at different packages in order to reduce staff time managing the databases and serials; Broken Bay Institute Library is working on their Blackboard platform for online courses.

November Meeting - Mary Andrews College, Sydney

Discussion topics – The ANZTLA board approved the suggestion to invite theological librarians from PNG to apply for a scholarship to attend the conference. Invitations for sponsorship were sent out with little response at this time. The library tours for the Friday afternoon, of the State Library, Caroline Simpson Library and Moore College Library were finalized.

Jacqui Buckland was nominated Treasurer and Keziah van Aardt offered to continue in the role of Secretary, in the absence of any nominations.

Notable library reports – SMBC Library and Campion College Library are both trying to manage lack of space; Broken Bay Institute Library has just joined the Libraries Australia Document Delivery program; Mount St Benedict Library has moved to Glebe and greatly reduced their collection; Moore College Library was planning to move their database from an on-site server to a software-as-a-service platform with SirsiDynix, and had received a Community Heritage Grant from the National Library for conservation projects.

Special thanks go to outgoing Treasurer Kate Scott and Secretary Keziah van Aardt, who have served the NSW Chapter well for several years. Thanks also to the libraries who have hosted our meetings.