



ALLA Vic AGM

9th September 2009

Presidents Report

Membership of the Association reached 202 during the year.

Office holders

The ALLA Vic committee for 2008/9 comprised of:

- Naish Peterson (President)
- Belinda Schembri (Treasurer)
- Marion Randall (Secretary)
- Michael Coats (Membership)
- Anna Griffith (Newsletter editor)
- Catherine Vardy
- Tamara Castagna
- Elisa Quattrocelli
- Soula Stylianou
- Rebecca Dunbar
- Jenna Hildebrand
- Caitlin Nevill

Elisa Quattrocelli, Catherine Vardy and Tamara Castagna are all stepping down from the Committee this year. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank them for all the great work they have done for the association.

Grants

Two grants of \$1500 were offered this year to attend the ALLA 2009 conference held in Darwin in September. These were awarded to Bernard Lyons (Melbourne University) and Lisa Ward (Victorian Legal Aid).

CPD

The following CPD events were held through out the year:

- October 2008 - Moys workshop. Robin Gardner ran a session on the workings of Moys.
- November 2008 - History of the SCV library. Sue Reynolds from RMIT presented a session on the history of our SCV library. This was taken from her thesis on this topic.
- March 2009 - Launch of HAL. The official launch of our new online union list, Holdings ALLA Vic Libraries.
- April 2009 - Implications of climate change. Dariel De Sousa from Maddocks presented a detailed and passionate discussion on the current climate change debate and the legislative measures being taken.
- June 2009 - Legal research skills at Melbourne University. Natalie Wieland ran us through Melbourne Uni's new legal research approach for their students and their "get ready for work" program.
- August 2009 - National model review with Q & A. John Botherway, Sue Woodman and myself provided an update on the current National Model for ALLA project, with questions from the floor and several submitted via email.
- August 2009 - Finding the Law Online workshops. Our popular FLO sessions ran again this year.

Our August national model session was also the first time we have recorded a CPD session. This is currently available on the ALLA website for all to hear.

Unfortunately our May session to be presented by the Victorian Privacy Commissioner, Ms Helen Versey, had to be postponed due to a booking clash at the LIV. We hope to reschedule this for later in the year.

Holdings ALLA Vic Libraries - HAL

March 2009 saw us launch our newly created online union list, Holdings ALLA Vic Libraries - HAL. Designed by ALLA and built at no charge to the association by FIRST Software Solutions, HAL has already proved a vast improvement on the previous site and has been warmly accepted by our subscribers.

When launched, we had about 30 subscribing libraries of which less than half were contributing. In the months since, we have welcomed several new members and are in the process of adding the holdings of even more libraries. Currently we stand at 39 subscribers and almost two thirds of these will be contributing.

Several changes to the service were recently finalised, including a notes field where libraries can display any relevant information about their library (such as opening hours, days of business, etc.) and reporting functionality. Subscribers can now generate usage reports for any selected timeframe and view in either library, title or date order. We hope that these and other new features enhance the usability of HAL.

ALLA WA is now in the process of implementing HAL in WA. While only in the early stages, we hope that within the next year or two we will be combining these databases to allow our members to request from other divisions. It would work by each division searching their own holdings. Only if no results were returned, an option would then be available to search any other subscribing divisions. This feature would be voluntary for

each subscriber as we are aware that some libraries would not be interested in this feature.

We are also hopeful of getting other divisions into the HAL family.

I would like to take this opportunity again to thank the HAL sub committee of Anna Griffith, Michael Coats and Rebecca Dunbar for all the work that has gone into this project over the last year. And to also thank FIRST Software Solutions for helping us build this site at no cost.

National Model for ALLA

Work continues on the proposed national model for ALLA. We have just received the first draft of our new constitution from Arnold Bloch Leibler, who are kindly supply legal advise for ALLA on a pro bono basis.

The next step being undertaken is the formation of a consultative committee that will have one member from each division. I am happy to announce that Alissa Sputore will be the Victorian representative. This consultative committee will work in conjunction with the steering committee that consists of John Botherway, Leanne Cummings, Sue Woodman and myself.

Newsletter

The newsletter continues to be published on a quarterly basis and is always a great and informative read. Many thanks to Anna Griffith for all the work that goes into this publication.

Social functions

Three social functions have been held in the past year.

In December 2008 our Christmas party was held at Collins Quarter. This was a huge success with approximately 80 attendees. Our Publisher friends kindly provided some great door prizes.

February 2009 saw us launch into the year with the "Opening of the legal year" party, held this year at the County Court. In a sign of our economic times though, we attempted to secure funding for this event, but were unable to do so. For the immediately foreseeable future, this is most likely to be the norm. About 50 members were in attendance.

July 2009 was our End of Financial Year Party. This was held at Word Events and was again attended by around 50 members.

In conjunction with our official social functions, we have also started an informal social group. This group plans to meet every one to two months at various venues around the CBD. If you would like to join the mailing list for this group, please contact Rebecca Dunbar.

Naish Peterson

ALLA Vic President