



Branch Report

Geelong Branch

Our first gathering was held on 17th May at Belmont High School. This event included the AGM of which all office bearers for 2018 were confirmed (these are the same as 2017).

Convenor: Leonie Stephenson

Secretary: Rennai McCarthy

Treasurer: Louise Monotti

After the brief AGM, members participated in a writing workshop with Emma Homes (a Geelong based writer who has self-published four e-books and has had experience as a journalist and communications officer). Emma explained the process of creative writing whilst having us participated in activities. These included a 25 word true or false personal story – what a great way to find out more about our members, writing about a character who is important in your life and how to plan using a picture. What is the story you felt the picture was telling us. Start a start with the end in mind. Although some members were much better writers than others, a great time was had by all.

Wednesday 20th June, saw members gather at the Newcomb Secondary College to have a presentation from Kim at QBD Books, Geelong. Kim spoke about what QBD Books can offer schools with service, discount, bringing tubs of books to school (this offer was taken up quickly by member) and then showcased a number of Young Adult novels. This brought about a great discussion from all members.

Our Term 3 meeting had guest speaker, Susan La Marca visit. On August 8th, we ventured to Fisher Library, Geelong Grammar where Susan spoke about SLAV; where they are and what they are planning. She spoke about the partnerships being established and explained how SLAV is currently being run. Susan also promoted the upcoming PD's on offer. It was a great visit from Susan and we thank her for her willingness to visit our branch meeting.

Wednesday 14th November was our final meeting for 2018 with about 30 members in attendance. We ventured to Clonard College and their new Brigidine Centre which houses their new School Library. We explored this new learning environment with fabulous view

across Geelong. And, of course, take back new ideas for our own libraries. We then had a guest speaker, Rebecca Hanson from the Centre of Youth Literature , speak about the updated Inside a Dog website and how we can have our students use it as well as key teen programs ran by the State Library of Victoria, A worthwhile presentation.

During 2018, the SLAV Geelong committee members continue to work professionally to ensure a range of Professional Development was available to all members. I would like to thank the committee for their dedication, hard work and enthusiasm in providing the opportunities to our fellow members.

Leonie Stephenson

Convener, SLAV – Geelong Branch