

SLAV Geelong Branch Annual Report – 2019

Our first gathering was held on 6th March at Geelong Tech School. This event included the AGM of which all office bearers for 2019 were confirmed (these are the same as 2018).

Convenor: Leonie Stephenson

Secretary: Rennai McCarthy

Treasurer: Louise Monotti

After the brief AGM, members were given a tour of the new Geelong Tech School by Leanne Collins, Director of Geelong Tech School. Leanne spoke about the Tech School and how it works with all Geelong Secondary Schools – how it supports STEM within schools, the programs on offer and working with businesses for students to work towards a real life solution, the ways in which schools can use the Tech School, the resources provided to schools from the Tech School, the ways in which the Tech School can provide assistance such as buses, etc to the Geelong Schools. It was an informative and well worth tour of what the Geelong Tech school can offer our own schools.

In May, we ventured to St Joseph's College to listen to Joy Whiteside. Not only were we able to see the changes made by the St Joseph's library staff, we were fortunate to have Joy speak about Purposeful, Proactive Practice. This which was a condensed version of her SLAV presentation. The Zone of Intervention and Harvard Project Zero was where Joy started. She spoke about how she identified an area of intervention, set a goal/s and how she put that goal/s into practice. She discussed what she actually did to achieve this and how this has benefited the library, students and staff. Joy spoke about anticipating what staff need and how that need can be met by the library and its staff. Was an insightful talk which included input from other members on how they are being proactive.

The Geelong Branch organised two activities during term three. In early August, Belmont High School hosted the group and we appreciated the opportunity for our library colleagues to explore and share useful library resources and activities. The topics ranged from accessing inexpensive databases and digital resources, to how to get the best value out of author visits and successful ideas for book clubs.

Four weeks later, St Joseph's College hosted a follow-up workshop focusing on the publishing application Canva. Guided by Joy Whiteside, this hands on opportunity allowed participants to explore the possibilities of creating striking graphics to promote the library. Everyone made a start on designing themed bookmarks, with the impressive finished document (colour printed and laminated) appearing as if they were produced by a commercial printer. No doubt everyone returned to school keen to find time (!) to continue to play with this free and easy to use graphic design tool.

In Term 4 Geelong High School hosted the group to view and wander around their new Library space. And what a great space it is! We then gathered to discuss our top reads. We all shared our top or favourite reads from the past year, reads that had our students hooked especially

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those who classify themselves as non-readers, what's been popular at our schools and books we'd like to read.

During 2019, 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