

SLAV Metro Eastern Annual Report 2019

Prepared for SLAV Annual General Meeting 11 May, 2020

Branch Co-Convenors:

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During 2019 SLAV Metro Eastern Branch held 3 meetings. The participation of members in attending meetings has increased significantly since SLAV Executive Officer Susan La Marca distributed an updated branch member email list. This enables the meeting notification and invitation to be sent direct to individual members. On average, about 20 members attended with the end of year dinner attracting 23 members.

The branch is managed by the three co-convenors who rotate responsibility for organising each of the branch meetings. Collegiality amongst the group has grown since communication has become easier. The Ning was retired as central means of communication in 2019 and will transition to a blog and Facebook in 2020.

Details of meetings:

Term 1

28 February 2019

The Term One meeting was held at Mazenod College Library with attendees represented from Government and Catholic Schools. Guest speaker was Kerry Thomas from Clickview who shared upcoming new features and answered questions. Clickview is now being used by 84% of all P-12 schools in Victoria and will soon transition to a totally browser mode. Kerry gave us tips on using Library Editor, Workspace Sharing Options and Student Interactives.



This meeting was opportunity for members to tour the Mazenod College Library which has been designed and created as a new and dynamic library using the library commons model. Head of Library Camilla Elliott has successfully integrated areas for: reading, research, makerspaces, collaborative work hubs and study areas for senior students. It was evident that the students felt this space is for them and the library is being well-used.

Members enjoyed sharing information about their libraries. It was a great chance to hear about issues or concerns people would like SLAV to focus on in future professional learning forums and in "FYI".

Term 2/3 Meeting

28 August, 2019

Term 3 branch meeting was a tour behind the scenes at REALM, the Ringwood Branch of Eastern Regional Libraries. Fifteen members attended which was very pleasing especially as many were new faces to the branch meetings.

The opportunity to see behind the scenes at REALM attracted a large number of members to the meeting. It was truly enlightening to see the low number of staff employed and the effects of centralised tasks on branches. We were all fascinated with the automated book-sorting process. All stock arrives 'shelf-ready' so the skills required by today's public library staff is very much related to customer relations.



Prior to the tour by REALM Librarian, Felicity McGuire, we had a valuable discussion about the various roles, responsibilities and expectations relating to school library staff. Such grass roots discussions are invaluable for all concerned and help us plan forthcoming professional learning for members. It was strongly suggested that members develop a clear understanding of their employment award and job description.

The presentation by staff member, Jaminda, on the resources available to our school community through the public library system was particularly informing. Access to online training such as Lynda.com and other expensive resources was explained and is invaluable for school budgets. RBDigital provides access to magazines and audiobooks – another fabulous resource.



Term 4 Meeting 7 November, 2019

The End of Year Branch Dinner was held at Bucatini Restaurant, Nunawading as has been the practice in recent years. It was wonderful to have 23 members attending representing a broad range of schools. This meeting is scheduled for early November to avoid the rush towards school closure.

We were pleased to have this opportunity to invite Dr Susan La Marca to the meeting. Members appreciated meeting Susan as she's followed up many member queries during her time as Executive Officer. We listened in envy to her endeavours in attending the International Association of School Libraries (IASL) Conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The conversation over dinner was lively, and amongst the social, was an exchange of ideas on how to manage overdue books and end-of-year returns. We all took something away – whether it be a new strategy, idea, or perspective.

