

BALLARAT COLLEGE OF ADVANCED EDUCATION
GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN TEACHER LIBRARIANSHIP

HISTORY OF THE COURSE

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1. *Initial Impetus*

Why did the Ballarat Teachers College start to think about planning a course for teacher librarians in 1973? The idea came not from any staff at the College, but from the publication of the Karmel Report early in 1973, which, in Chapter 8, stressed the importance of resource centre development in Australian schools and highlighted the need for specialist teacher-librarians to develop and manage educational resources. The Labor Government voted unprecedented funds to allow the recommendations of the Karmel Report to be implemented, including funding for the development of school libraries and the training of experienced teachers as teacher-librarians. The report prompted the then Director of Teacher Education in Victoria, Mr. R. L. Senior, to write to all the Colleges of the newly constituted State College of Victoria asking them to suggest courses for training teacher librarians.

The principal at Ballarat, Bob Croft, responded positively to the letter and replied that the College would be willing to conduct courses in 1974. The Librarian, Mr. Kevin Caulfield, was asked to prepare an educational specification for a Higher Diploma of Teaching (Librarianship) which would stretch over 18 months and include a two semester program with a schools experience program in between. Mr. Warick Eunson, the Registrar of the State College, strongly supported Ballarat's proposal and pressed Ballarat to apply to the Australian Commission on Advanced Education for approval of the course.

By the end of 1973 it was obvious that time was too short for a 1974 beginning, but the College advertised for two lecturer-librarians who would be involved with preparing the course for 1975. These two new staff members, Bruce Widdop and Anne Beggs, both from Canberra, commenced duty in February 1974 and as well as managing the Educational Resource Centre, immediately began work on developing the teacher librarianship course. They visited the Canberra C.A.E. and Melbourne State College, both pioneers in teacher librarianship courses and sought advice for the new course. From these early discussions, it was seen that the co-operation of the Education Department in releasing teachers to do the course was essential for its viability.

The course was re-designed as a 12 months program, and detailed course proposals drawn up. The Senate of the SCV approved the idea of the new course in June 1974, and the proposal then went to the Accreditation and Awards Committee for detailed review. In November 1974, the Committee visited the College to inspect the resources which has been developed during 1974. Advertising went ahead and applicants were interviewed. But in late January 1975 it was decided that the College was still not ready to offer the course.

In February 1975, Anne Beggs was placed in charge of the course, and worked on course outlines. Advice was received in September 1975 that the Australian Council on Awards in Advanced Education had agreed to register the Graduate Diploma in Teacher Librarianship as a PGI level course, and now, with new buildings complete and resources adequately developed, the course was ready to begin in February 1976.

2. Competition, then Co-operation

Before a merger was proposed between the SCV Ballarat and the Ballarat Institute of Advanced Education, both institutions were drawing up courses in librarianship in direct competition with each other. In August 1973 a rather heated exchange took place between the principals of both Colleges. The B.I.A.E. asked the SCVB to withdraw from the area of librarianship studies, something the SCV was certainly not willing to do, especially as a feasibility study of prospective students of librarianship in the Ballarat Region showed that 75% of those interested would be school teachers. So with an undercurrent of hostility, planning continued for the two independent programs.

A quite ridiculous duplication of resources was looming when, in 1974, the idea of a merger between the two colleges began to be discussed. A joint academic committee for Librarianship was set up in September 1976 and broad agreement was reached between the representatives, particularly on the need to share and co-ordinate the development of resources, cataloguing tools and staff. In fact at this early stage a common core was established between all librarianship students, with the agreement that Bibliographical Organisation and Reader Services should be common units to all students. When the Graduate Diploma in Teacher Librarianship commenced in February 1976, some of the lectures were at the Mt. Helen Campus and some at the Gillies Street Campus. The formal merging of the two colleges into the Ballarat C.A.E. was achieved by an Act of Parliament dating from 1st July 1976.

3. Course Development

From the beginning, the course has had as its objective the preparation of teacher librarians who would be capable of carrying out the tripartate role of teacher, librarian and administrator. In fact as most of the students were destined for small primary school libraries where their job description was incredibly varied, the course has had to blend theoretical elements such as preparation of library policy statements or on-line data retrieval with highly practical knowledge like how to cover books, design attractive displays and replace the lamp of a movie projector. Changes in education and technology also mean a constant monitoring of course outlines with periodic deletions and inclusions. However the basic outline of the course as an equivalent 1 year full-time course, consisting of 10 compulsory units and a field experience component, has remained unchanged.

4. *Accreditation*

The course was initially approved by the Academic Board and Senate of the State College of Victoria, and in September 1975 by the Australian Council on Awards in Advanced Education. It is accepted by the various Teacher Registration Boards of the Victorian Education Department as an approved fourth year of study for teachers wishing to work in school library situations and teachers from all three divisions have been awarded study leave to complete the course. The College has sought accreditation from the Library Association of Australia for the course as a specialist school library program.

5. *Students*

Since the inception of the course up until the end of 1981, 58 teacher librarians have successfully completed the course, and gone out to fill positions as teacher librarians in schools all over Victoria, but particularly in Ballarat itself. The following table gives details of each years' enrolments.

Year	Full-time	On Study Leave	Part-time	Withdrawals	Graduates
1976	4	4	3	-	4
1977	8	5	10	4	9
1978	13	12	7	2	15
1979	13	13	7	-	17
1980	12	4	8	7	7
1981	6	4	16	2	6

The first graduates of the course in 1976 were Dianne Burke, Phil Carlson, Anne Jackson and Elaine Roberts, all of Ballarat. All four have rendered distinguished service to school librarianship in Ballarat since their graduation, and all four have contributed very strongly to the practical training of subsequent teacher librarians. 1979 was a high point for the Graduate Diploma, and marked the end of the "golden age" of school library development prompted by the Australian Schools Commission. By 1980 funding for education and particularly for teacher education - both pre-service and in-service - was being severely cut. The Education Department's program of study leave on full pay for experienced teachers began to be wound down. As the building of new school libraries slowed, so the acute demand for teacher librarians that had existed early in the 1970's also dried up. So the intake into the GDTL has changed - from being a course oriented to full-time students, to one oriented to part-time students who are often teachers wishing to pursue studies after school hours.

A remarkable observation about the GDTL over the years has been the remarkably high success rate of students. Withdrawals usually occur very early in the year when students have decided the work load was more than they were prepared to carry. But for those who have persevered, their dedication has been rewarded. There have been tremendous rewards both for staff and students in having such an experienced, articulate gathering in seminars, and much valuable sharing of ideas and experience has occurred.

6. *Relationship to Schools in Ballarat*

Since the inception of the GDTL, there has been a dramatic improvement in the provision of school libraries and trained teacher librarians in Ballarat. In 1976 when the course began, the College was hard pressed to find three primary schools in Ballarat with libraries run by qualified teacher librarians. The first of the "new" libraries had been provided to Redan and Brown Hill in 1975, and Forest Street got its large "Commonwealth" Library in 1976. Also around this time some large Commonwealth Libraries were appearing at secondary schools - Sebastopol Technical and North Technical in 1974, Ballarat High, Ballarat East High and Loreto College in 1975. In all cases the buildings were provided first, the staff were called for when the building was finished.

By the end of the 1970s the building of new school libraries was almost complete. All state schools in Ballarat by 1980 had school libraries and most had qualified teacher librarians either full-time or shared. However, the improvements in private schools have been less dramatic. Although all private schools received substantial grants for resources and in some cases for buildings, these schools have unfortunately not placed much emphasis on the need for specialist staff. Only 2 graduates from this course have been employed as teacher-librarians in Ballarat's many private schools. The staff situation in private secondary schools has been poor, with the notable exception of Loreto College which has always been generous in providing trained library and A/V staff for its resource centre.

Of the more than fifty graduates of the GDTL, by 1981, 20 were employed in Ballarat education libraries. These included 13 at primary level, 2 at secondary and five at tertiary level. Five graduates were in charge of Mobile Area Resource Centres, and many others scattered throughout the country areas of Victoria.

There has been a very close liason between the Ballarat CAE and school libraries in Ballarat. The Teaching Resource Centre of the School of Education has provided a showcase of new curriculum resources for local school libraries, and together with the very vital Ballarat Education Centre and the Public Library's Children's Section, a strong information network in Ballarat. Because so many staff have been associated with the Graduate Diploma in Teacher Librarianship at Ballarat CAE, strong personal links also exist between the school staff.

GROWTH OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN BALLARAT

Year	No. of Prim. Schools	No. of Second/Tech	Private	Total
1976	5	2	2	9
1977	7	4	3	14
1978	13	4	3	20
1979	15	6	5	26

7. *Staff*

Anne Beggs Sunter, Course Co-ordinator and Lecturer	1976 -
Graham Rusch, Lecturer,	1976 -
Catherine Forsyth Goodier, Lecturer	1976-77
Jean Goh, Lecturer	1978 -
Thelma Rungkat, Lecturer	1976 -
Mary Sandow Quirk, Lecturer	1977-1979
Barbara Crump, Lecturer	1980 -
Elaine Roberts, Lecturer	1980 -
Dianne Burke, Lecturer	1981 -