



TIP-OFF

News from the Executive Director

IT IS HARD to believe that this is the last issue of *InCite* for 1982 and that planning for 1983 is well underway. There has been a more than deliberate attempt to inform members of what is going on in the LAA and hopefully the President's Perspective and TIP OFF have aided this endeavour. The Industrial Officer and Continuing Education Officer have also been informing members of items of interest on a regular basis.

Nevertheless, on a recent visit to Tasmania it was found that many members of the Association do not know of, or the purpose of, a range of activities in which the LAA is involved. Examples are, recognition of courses by the Board of Education and what exactly is the General Council of the LAA? As an experiment to remedy the situation in 1983 we propose to have a regular column 'Know Your Association' or an alternative imaginative title. It would be very useful if members could let me know of any subjects, however basic or complex, for which they would like relatively short explanations.

At the same time, those inclined to put pen to paper might comment on their general feelings about *InCite* with appropriate suggestions or criticisms. We are very aware that *Australian Library Journal/InCite* represent a very tangible benefit of LAA membership; therefore it is imperative that *InCite* reflects the needs of our members in terms of a communication and information tool.

Upon reflection, 1982 saw a number of ma-

ior changes and successes for the Association. Most prominent in the minds of a small number of people – the acquisition of an adequate, even comfortable, office. A much larger number will remember the Adelaide conference as an enjoyable highlight of the year. We saw a record number of publications and continuing education activities emanating from Head Office, not to neglect of course our divisions.

Perhaps the membership has actually taken note of these activities, with the above list being by no means exhaustive. The only measuring rod we have is the level of membership. As of November 1, there were 71 financial members fewer than at the same time in 1981. In fact, if no new members joined in the next two months (which is not likely), we will have lost 102 financial members in 1982, a considerable improvement on the 419 lost in 1981.

Let us hope the membership decline is on the way out and at least we can set positive goals for increases in LAA membership. Particular thanks must go to those who have continued to lend their support and particularly those who encouraged others.

Unfortunately, the time is again ripe for an onslaught of renewal forms. Your return of these as quickly as possible will be greatly appreciated.

Happy Christmas and best wishes for 1983.

Susan Acutt
Executive Director

C.E. Charivari

Technical Briefings

Members will have noticed advertisements for technical briefings in recent issues of *InCite*, and may be wondering about their purpose and scope.

They are designed to give members and other interested persons a working knowledge of technological, legal and other developments relevant to library and information management. The first series, to be launched later this month in east coast cities (other centres later) will deal with the Attorney-General's current review of audiovisual law.

The 1983 series will cover a range of topics though many of them will focus on developments in communications technology. If digital data networks on packet switching are still a mystery – technical briefings may be the answer.

For information on the planned program and costs see *InCite* No1 in 1983.

1982 Program

Though there has not been a 'house full' sign every time, response to the national workshops on industrial relations and management has been encouraging. An interesting feature has been the high percentage of non-members attending (up to one-third in some instances) – evidence, perhaps, of the relevance of the Association's services.

1983 Program

A final announcement of national program for 1983 will be made following the General Council Meeting in November.

Courses on different aspects of management will be included along with programs on microcomputer applications and marketing.

As an innovation the Association will make next year's programs available on a 'demand' basis to Divisions and other groups who can guarantee a market. For the time being at least, this will replace the present 'circuit' system which does not allow for the variable rate at which interests and markets develop.

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