

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

THE NATIONAL INFORMATION policy seminar arranged by the ACT Branch in early December was a most useful bringing together of people with different perspectives on the problem. The seminar is reported elsewhere in this issue. Here I would like to highlight the need for a policy and suggest some ways the Association might take further the impetus developed at the seminar, firstly though, congratulations to the ACT Branch for developing this initiative.

The Association's views are published in the information policy statement 'The need to know' (published in the 1981 Handbook, pp.59-60). It seems to me important that all members should be aware of the problem which dictates the need for a policy and should join in developing a national policy together with AACOBS and other interested groups. Librarians have a special concern because many of the issues have already made an impact on us and because we serve all parts of the community we must have a unique corporate view of the issues if we draw it all together.

May I suggest that divisions organise meetings early this year to discuss the issue involving other parts of the information community in the meetings. As an aid to discussion the papers are to be published as soon as possible but in the meantime the reports in the *Canberra Times* on Saturday, 5 December and 8, 9 and 10 December give some indication of what was discussed as does the summary in *Incite*.

Some people questioned the need for a policy. Some thought it was better to tackle each issue as it arose and others thought a plan of action would be more useful. It

seems to me that all are necessary, but without a policy it is difficult to adopt a consistent course of action and ensure that all aspects of the problem are appreciated and followed up. Some people thought that it would be difficult to develop a policy which has more than clichés.

One outcome of the seminar was a suggestion that a further conference be organised by AACOBS who have a draft policy which has been under discussion for some time. (This is AACOBS document S422). The Association has been invited to discuss the matter with AACOBS in February. It would be useful if divisions could have developed a wide ranging discussion prior to such a conference and also have furthered the work of interesting others in the information community (politicians, publishers, public servants and computer people for example) in the problems the information technology revolution is bringing to light. A few of the many issues are:

- the education of the community to cope with and appreciate the potential of the new technology;
- privacy of information about individuals;
- the development of standards to ensure compatibility of systems;
- who are to pay – for what?
- the need to ensure that the information poor don't get poorer.

Also let your General Councillors know if you think the statement 'The need to know' needs revising (their names and addresses are in this issue). Some of the things called for in that statement have or are about to happen.

The Association does tackle issues in this field as they arise. Currently Robert Boot is preparing a draft of an Association submission to the Telecom Inquiry on the Association's attitude. We need people interested in this area to contribute to the submission by examining the draft and suggesting possible additions. If you wish to help and can do so in January please contact me on (062) 621546

Judith A.D. Baskin
LAA President.

published in *Incite* – Councillors commented on initiatives and responses in their Branch or divisions. Further news is elsewhere in this issue.

Legal data bases

The Queensland Branch and the Law Librarians Group had suggested that the LAA should make a submission to State Attorneys-General on the development of computerised legal information systems in Australia. The Executive discussed whether the LAA should prepare a submission and asked the Queensland Branch to go ahead. General Council endorsed this action and resolved that the Branch emphasise in any submission on this issue (a) the fundamental principles of citizens' access to information and freedom of information; (b) that access should be available to libraries, public institutions and citizens; (c) that Australian legislation and associated legal information – both Federal and State – must be given priority; (d) both Federal and State legal information must be available in all States; (e) that access is appropriate through public networks and not by means of dedicated terminals; (f) that present Federal Government policies on publication of government information are for cost recovery and not for profit.

Telecom Inquiry

The Federal Government has appointed a Committee of Inquiry into Telecommunications Services in Australia. Robert Boot from the National Library has been asked to prepare the submission.

Videotex

General Council endorsed the action taken by the LAA in relation to the Government's decision to exclude Telecom from introducing a videotex service to Australia for the time being. Since the meeting of Council there has been considerable coverage of the subject in the press. A full report will appear in *Incite* no2.

Formation of divisions

General Council endorsed the formation of the following divisions of the Association: Medical Librarians Section – NSW Group, SA Group, Vic Group, WA Group. Literacy Section – Vic Group. Special Libraries Section – Tas Group, NT Group.

Awards

General Council received the report of the Honorary Awards and conferred the HCL Anderson Award for 1981 on Phyllis Mander-Jones and the Redmond Barry Award for 1981 on James Allen Crawford.

Board of Education

A report of the Board meeting held on 29 and 30 October appeared in *Incite* No20. A number of items were referred to General Council for discussion and ratification. Council resolved that the revised statements on education for librarianship be adopted as draft statements of Association policy and be published in the 1982 *Handbook*.

Continuing Education

The Continuing Education Officer reported that the one day (copyright) workshops held in Sydney and Melbourne had not attracted large enrolments but had been considered useful by participants.

1982 Programs

Programs in library management and industrial relations are to be mounted nationally

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Report of GC Meeting

AT THE GENERAL COUNCIL meeting held on 27-28 November 1981, the LAA President welcomed Barrie Mitcheson, the incoming Vice President, President elect and Averill Edwards, the incoming General Secretary. Also welcomed were our recently elected General Councillors-at-large, John Levett and Linda Beveridge. This was the first meeting of Council in its newly constituted form. It was very pleasing to see many Section representatives attend as observers.

Copyright

A second meeting has been convened by the Attorney-General's Department to discuss the operation of the amended Copyright legislation. A full report of that meeting appears elsewhere in this issue.

The LAA's Audiovisual Services Committee prepared a submission on the Association's behalf for the Attorney-General's Department Inquiry into copyright in non-book materials. Submissions were to reach the Attorney-General's Department by the end of December.

Manpower project

The Committee conducting the project has experienced delays due to the late return of

some of the questionnaires. The final report should be completed early in the New Year.

Charging for inter-library loans

Following the last meeting of General Council the two papers setting out the cases for and against charging were sent to all divisions for comments. Comments were also invited from members through *Incite*. Of the responses the majority were not in favour of charging. Several divisions commented that a decision should not be made until the results of the Weinstock study of interlending are published.

The following motion was passed UNANIMOUSLY by General Council with little discussion:

'That the LAA endorses the principle that there should be no charge to other libraries for interlibrary loans.'

A motion was also passed to establish a Working Group of Council to monitor developments in interlending, including the Weinstock study. The Group will report briefly in *Incite* of their findings with a major report going to General Council.

Sales tax

Action to the date of the meeting had been

News from the Divisions

VICTORIAN BRANCH

ales tax on books and serials

The Branch has written to all parliamentarians representing Victoria on this issue, and replies have been received from several politicians including the Prime Minister. A letter has also been published by the Branch resident in the Melbourne Age. The Branch is represented on the 'Please Don't Tax Books' campaign committee which is a joint committee of booksellers, publishers and other interested parties. The Branch will also contribute towards the work of the committee.

ookhouse

The Branch has decided to accept the National Book Council's offer of use of the newly established Bookhouse in Carlton for telephone answering, mail, general secretarial assistance and some meetings.

ideotex

The Branch will follow up the Executive Director's protest to the Minister for Communications concerning the Government's decision to exclude Telecom from offering a videotex service, and to rely wholly on private enterprise. There is a serious possibility that public access to videotex services will be impeded. A campaign on this issue will be mounted at the Victorian level.

ensorship laws

Branch Council is concerned at the possible implications of the recent announcement in the Melbourne Age that Australia could soon have a uniform system of censorship laws. A delegation from the Vic Branch will attempt to meet soon with the Victorian Attorney-General, and a formal application will be lodged to have *More Joy of Sex* removed from the list of restricted publications.

oint use libraries

The Branch President will convene a sub-committee to provide input to the Inter-Departmental Committee of the Ministry of Arts and the Education Department of Victoria on library co-operation. The Committee is currently working on standards for joint use libraries.

lections for 1982 Council

Mrs B Fincher will be the Branch President for 1982. In the recent election William Linklater was elected Vice-President and Sean Badger, Margaret Findley and Angela Bridgland were elected Councillors at Large.

ask a librarian

'Ask a Librarian' buttons are available for \$1.00 each from the Branch Secretary, Jan Lindner (phone (03) 819 8407). Proceeds will go towards sponsoring a young New Zealand librarian to attend the next LAA Biennial Conference.

YDP kit

The 'YDP Kit for Libraries' is almost completed and will be distributed free in the near future to all Victorian libraries.

Doreen Parker

MID-NORTH COAST REGIONAL GROUP

Pat Ward, NSW General Councillor, was the guest speaker at the October meeting of the Mid-North Coast Regional Group at Kempsey Shire Library on 25 October.

Several librarians from Kempsey schools, as well as Peter McCormack, School Libraries Advisor for the North Coast Education Area, and Vicki Esmonde-Morgan, Chief Librarian of the Clarence Regional Library Service, joined members to hear Pat speak on a wide range of matters.

Numerous publications and leaflets of interest to the group were also tabled. Letters of greetings to the group from the Australian National Section of IBBY, Children's Library Section NSW Group, and NSW Group of the School Libraries Section were received and greatly appreciated.

Topics which attracted prolonged discussions were: equal opportunity employment in the Education Department; training for library technicians; the LAA's continuing education program; communications within the LAA.

The group has formed an organising committee for a seminar on resource sharing which it hopes to hold in Kempsey in April 1982. Pat Ward's visit has re-inforced how valuable it is to have speakers from Sydney on a regular basis.

Adrienne Crossley

NSW CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES

A large audience attended the Children's Libraries Section NSW Group/Storytelling Guild combined one-day conference entitled, 'Haven't I heard it before — a new look at the same old tale', held at the end of October.

Maurice Saxby spoke about 'The 500 Cinderellas', and traced their history through Perrault, Grimm and others — similar stories and motifs occur from Germany to Vietnam.

Hazel Hume spoke about the use of film in storytelling, and provided an extensive filmography for children and for introducing librarians to children's films.

Jean Chapman, author of *Pancakes and Painted Eggs*, spoke about the impact of children's stories on her childhood, and the problems of writing for the child whom the author never sees and so has no chance to explain her purposes.

We were also entertained by a number of talented storytellers at various stages of the conference.

Rosemary Moon

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL GROUP

Following its reconstitution in September, the New England Regional Group held an opening meeting on 11 November in Armidale, NSW.

The recorded membership of the Group totals 56 and almost 40 people were in attendance. Several of the audience came from other parts of the region — for example, Tamworth — or from adjoining regional group areas — such as Grafton and Coffs Harbour.

The meeting began with an election of office-bearers for 1982. As no additional nominations had been received, the interim Committee elected in September was confirmed for 1982: President: Karl Schmude, University of New England Library; Secretary/Treasurer: Jill Harrington, Memorial Library, Armidale. Committee: Judith Wood, CSIRO Library, 'Chiswick', Uralla; Rosemary Brewer, University of New England Library; and Mary Anne Lea, Armidale CAE Library.

The meeting was addressed by Susan Acutt, (LAA Executive Director), whose topic was 'The LAA — its value for the country-based librarian'.

Susan outlined the broad nature of the Association's activities, many of which benefit all librarians including those outside the metropolitan centres. However she acknowledged that the Association had to make a greater effort to bring continuing education programs to country based librarians in an effort to provide a similar level of value for money as is received by city members.

It is intended that a series of meetings will be arranged for the Regional Group in 1982. Members will be circularised when plans have been formulated.

The Committee would welcome any suggestions regarding potential guest speakers.

Karl G. Schmude

GC Report — continued

in 1982. A successful trial for the management program has been held in NSW and it will be offered in all states and some regional centres late in the year. The industrial relations workshop is being developed for early 1982.

Timing of conferences and seminars

The congestion which occurs in the scheduling of conferences and seminars has been the cause of some concern. The CE Officer has proposed that General Councillors gather information about proposed activities in their areas so that a calendar of events can be published in *Incite*, No2 1982.

Activities involving overseas speakers

A recent visit by an overseas speaker has raised the general issue of the responsibilities of divisions, the LAA Office and the speakers in LAA sponsored activities. The CE Officer has been asked to draw up guidelines for such visits.

Publications Board

A report of the Board's activities in 1981 will appear in *Incite* no2. Other issues discussed by General Council include divisional publications. Council resolved that all proposed divisional publications must firstly seek approval from the Board to ensure acceptable style, format, content and price. At the same time, the Executive is considering the Publications Board's role in divisional publications.

Councillors were reminded that it is obligatory that a deposit copy of all divisional publications must be sent to Head Office.

Office accommodation

This item is reported elsewhere.

Biennial Conference

General Council resolved that an LAA Biennial Conference would be held in Darwin in the next decade.

Susan Acutt

Executive Director,

*The above report contains comments on selected items only. The General Council minutes are circulated to all General Councillors and all Branches and upon request may be consulted by any member of the Association.

AACOBS Index

AACOBS is to shortly publish the *AACOBS documents index 1956-1981* (August to August). The index will sell for \$10.00.