

TECHNICIANS' CONFERENCE IN TASMANIA

News from Grace Nieuwenhuizen, Library Technicians Section

TASMANIA WILL host the Second National Library Technicians Conference on 19 and 20 August at the Wrest Point Federal Casino/Conference complex.

The theme is 'Meeting the Challenge' — the challenge to all library technicians is: Are we professionals? Are we an asset to our employers? Do we complement a librarian's work, or are we a threat to their existence? We will be attempting to answer these questions during the conference and show how necessary we are to the efficient running of any library.

A packed program has speakers from all areas of the library and information world, and will be of great interest to employers and librarians, as well as library technicians.

We begin with a description of 'The History and Development of Library Technicians' by W.L. (Laurie) Brown, State Librarian, Tasmania, who is well qualified to speak on this, being one of the first supporters of library technicians.

Next Martin Stott, a library technician from NSW actively promoting library technicians within the Public Service Association, will be 'defining the library technician' of today.

Following this will be 'Continuing Education for Library Technicians', covered by Ian Miller, convener of the Course Recognition Committee, Board of Education. A good half hour has been set aside for questions and discussion after Ian's talk!

Ian Barton, the chief cataloguer at the University of Tasmania, will speak on 'Computer Technology in the Library' and where the library technician fits in, in this new and developing area. Ian is one of the people currently converting the University's collections to a completely automated system.

Day 2 will begin with an address by Warren Horton, speaking as vice president of the Library Association of Australia.

Alison Crook, Deputy State Librarian of NSW, will speak on 'What does the employer expect from the library technician? She will cover such areas as the type of duties a technician can be expected to carry out, and the level of education a technician should have attained.

Mary Walker, Divisional Librarian, Technical Service, at the State Library of Tasmania, will then speak about 'Library Technicians in Technical Services'. Mary has worked in a variety of positions in the State Library and is president of the State Branch of the Library Association.

After lunch, two specialised library technician areas will be covered. Firstly, Pat Ward, teacher/librarian from Bondi Public School, will comment on the 'School library's need for library technicians'. Pat has held numerous positions as teacher and librarian, and has also lectured in librarianship.

Pat Durrant will then speak on 'Library technicians in Special Libraries'. Pat is

More choice with W.I.P.



A visually handicapped reader (left) is being instructed in the use of a talking book. Such readers will have a wider choice of books available to them in future due to the Works-in-Process scheme introduced by the National Library of Australia. Organisations producing books for the handicapped will be able to check whether the same book is already in production by another organisation, and so avoid duplication — an important consideration when Braille books may cost as much as \$1,500 and talking books up to \$200 each.

librarian for Government Library Services in Tasmania and has served in a wide variety of libraries, both in Australia and New Zealand.

Our last single speaker will be Patricia Scott, children's author from Oatlands (Tasmania), on 'Storytelling and its importance in the library'. Pat is well known to many Tasmanians; besides writing and speaking about children's books, she is also a freelance librarian and a nurse!

Two panel sessions promise to stimulate much interest. On the first day, a panel session of library technicians will talk about their work situations. On the second day, a panel headed by Judith Hill (Industrial Officer, LAA) will include Warren Horton (State Librarian of Victoria), Anne Doherty (Library Technician, NSW), Alison Crook (Deputy State Librarian, NSW), and Warwick Dunstan (Deputy State Librarian, Tasmania). We hope that this will be a lively session with much interaction between delegates and panel.

Registration fees have been kept to a minimum: \$55.00 for LAA members, and \$70.00 for non-members. This includes all conference meals, and a banquet dinner on the Saturday night. Delegates are encouraged to bring a partner or friends to the banquet (at an extra cost of \$15.00 per head).

A wine and cheese evening on Thursday 18 August is being provided by the Library Board of Tasmania, in order to welcome and register delegates. Interstate delegates will be met at the airport and taken directly to Wrest Point.

Friday evening, 19 August, has been set aside as a free evening for delegates to try Hobart's many fine restaurants, sample the night life, and perhaps make their fortune at the casino! Details about restaurants will be supplied upon arrival.



Warren Horton, LAA Vice President and one of the conference speakers

The Annual General Meeting of the Library Technicians Section of the Library Association of Australia will be held in the convention room at Wrest Point on Sunday, 21 August. All delegates are encouraged to attend this meeting, which will be followed by a leisurely drive to Huon Manor, a rustic restaurant overlooking the Huon River. Cost of this dinner is not included in the registration fee (\$12.50 per head extra), and transport will be provided.

To obtain a registration form, contact Maxine Edmonds, GPO Box 1075L, Hobart, Tasmania 7001.