

# News from the Divisions

## TASMANIAN BRANCH

The following press release was issued by the Tasmanian branch of the LAA in November: A meeting of the Tasmanian Branch of the Library Association of Australia today expressed concern over the State Government's attitude to the staffing of libraries. Representations from members of the Association detailing cuts in staffing have been received from several areas. The Government's stated policy of reducing the public service by 2 per cent per annum for five years is likely to have a substantial and devastating effect on a department which has a comparatively small staff. A previous reduction in funding has already resulted in reduced Saturday morning hours. Key personnel have not been replaced, there are significant backlogs of work and service to the public is continuing to fall. The threatened industrial activity by the staff of both the Northern Regional Library and Derwent Regional Library is a reflection of frustration and low morale by a staff who feel they are unsupported in their desire to provide good library services.

The failure to replace a half-time librarian in the Hobart Children's Library during her accouchement leave is to be deplored. Library provision to children is essential today with increasing leisure and high youth unemployment. Productive, creative and independent use of libraries by children will create habits carried into adult life, providing continuity in expanded educational and recreational use. In the past, Tasmania led Australia in the provision of public library services. The members of the Library Association of Australia are dismayed at the current and persistent erosion of staffing levels and the effect on service.

Ian Barton  
Vice-President

## VICTORIAN BRANCH COUNCIL

### Registration Costs for Conference Organisers

The Branch endorses fee waiving in certain circumstances. It was agreed that conference organisers present to their parent committees full financial projections for each activity, lists of organisers and their specific tasks. The parent committee will decide on the basis of this submission, if any, degree of fee waiving is appropriate.

### Workshop on Tasks Performed by Librarians

In March 1983, a working party was set up within General Council to define the tasks performed by librarians; this group reported to the November General Council meeting. The Victorian Branch will review the findings of this working party in February, 1984 with a view to setting up a workshop to explore the issues involved, possibly in March.

### Recruitment Officer

The Branch moved that as from 1984 the position

of Recruitment Officer be assumed by the newly-appointed Vice President for the term of his/her Vice-Presidency. Thus, in 1984, Margaret Findlay will assume this role.

### Funding for Victorian Public Libraries

The President, Bill Linklater, has written to the Minister for the Arts expressing concern at the reduction in State Government Grants to Public Libraries and has requested an interview.

### Executive of Branch 1984

President: Keith Davison (Department of Librarianship, Ballarat CAE). Vice President: Margaret Findlay (ACER). Secretary: Diane Costello (Library, Ballarat CAE).

### Branch Activities 1984

An activities committee has been set up to ensure that there are more general meetings in 1984. The tentative programme at the moment is –

- February – A.G.M. Guest Speaker to be announced
- March – Branch Picnic
- April – Retrospective conversion
- June – Human Rights
- August – The Information Industry and Librarianship
- October – Industrial Relations
- December – Christmas Party

In addition there will be a workshop on microcomputers in the first part of the year. Further details will be provided in Happenings.

### Australian Science Index

A letter of protest over the plan to stop publishing this CSIRO publication (due to lack of funding) has been sent from the Branch to Barry Jones, the Minister for Science and Technology. He will be asked to investigate ways of having resources allocated to ASI either from within CSIRO or from outside sources. The cessation of this publication will mean that approximately 40 per cent of the items currently indexed in ASI will not be covered by any other database/indexing tool. Any librarians who will be affected by this proposal and are keen to see some type of science and technology database and/or index maintained, are urged to write to the Minister expressing their concern.

### Unfinancial Members

The Secretary is to write to unfinancial members (as was done by the Queensland Branch) to ask why their memberships have lapsed. The Branch is hoping to discover reasons for their discontent and to see whether anything can be done to improve the situation.

Angela Bridgland

## A.C.T. BRANCH

### Multiculturalism and Libraries Seminar

Librarians, Teacher Librarians, ESL Teachers and others, about 50 participants in all, attended the Seminar on 18 November to discuss Multiculturalism and Libraries in Canberra.

The keynote address discussed the importance of multiculturalism. The first panel discussed how to fulfil the ideal: the second showed how these needs can be met with an explanation of the Swedish model by Erik Östling, Library Advisor to the National Council on Cultural Affairs and a very practical description by Paul Jones of the co-operative acquisition scheme run by the Wollongong City Library which buys books in other languages for 17 libraries in Australia. All books are bought in the country of origin saving 50% to 100% per title. The final session dealt with the cataloguing of the material once received including that in non-roman script.

After a solid afternoon, at 6.00pm delegates relaxed in the Erindale Library for drinks and the launch by Al Grassby of *Buying Books in Other Languages* by Anne Holmes and Derek Whitehead, published by the National Library.

The seminar was well received as it produced some interesting ideas and questions while dispelling some firmly entrenched myths about migrants.

The Canberra Branch will be following up the resolution passed by the Seminar calling for a working party comprised of a representative group to investigate further the Wollongong Acquisition scheme and the Victoria Co-operative Cataloguing scheme with a view to introducing something similar in Canberra.

# MANNINGS

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