



NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AFTER A REASONABLY tranquil period of settling in during January and February I have now started to visit some of the divisions and make contact with many of you.

During March I visited South Australia, Newcastle, Wagga, Albury and Wangaratta specifically to talk to members and potential members about the activities of the LAA. The most rewarding aspects of these visits for me are the opportunity to get ideas from you (from every visit I've come back with several very good ideas that will solve a problem and improve a service) and the opportunity to gain a broader perspective of the overall library scene in Australia.

I was particularly interested in the joint school/community and TAFE community libraries which I saw in South Australia.

On 30/31 March the first General Council meeting for 1984 was held at LAA headquarters. This was attended not only by the General Councillors but also by all Branch Presidents (with the exception of the Western Australian President who was unable to attend due to ill health). A report of the meeting appears elsewhere in this issue.

I have received very good response to the call for media liaison officers although I have not yet been notified of a contact for each state. There has however been good support for the concept of a higher public image for the LAA.

I promised in an earlier issue of *incite* to let you know the responses received by the NSW Public Libraries Sectional Group to their telegrams to the NSW Premier and NSW Leader of the Opposition re State Government funding of public libraries.

The Leader of the Opposition made the following response:

'I am pleased to inform you that the Liberal/National Party Government will reverse the downward trend for State Government funding for Public Libraries and resume a more responsible funding level. We would aim to achieve about 30% of the total Public Library budget. We also have a specific commitment to increase the provision of library services to country areas in terms of quality, variety and type for both borrowing and reference material.'

No reply has been received from the Premier's Department.

Back to basics

During my travels I have been asked some questions to which, because of my familiarity with the Association, I thought everyone knew the answers. I plan to publish one of these topics from time to time and will also be happy to answer your queries if you would like to send them to me.

Fact: If you have been a member of the Association in the past and wish to rejoin you *do not* have to pay for the past years when you were unfinancial. You rejoin the Association as of the present time.

Jenny Adams
Executive Director

Report of General Council

THE FIRST meeting for 1984 of the General Council of the LAA was held in LAA House on 30/31 March 1984. The following report highlights the major items discussed. Further information is available from your Councillor, Branch Secretary or the Executive Director.

- **Lobbying**
- **Code of ethics**
- **National information policy** — a draft paper has been circulated to Divisions for comment by end April/early May. The paper must be finalised in May.
- **Draft media release policy**
- **Public library standards revision project**
- **Multicultural library services** — draft statement
- **Role of General Councillors** — Council endorsed the statement of duties and responsibilities of General Councillors and General Councillors-at-large. There was some discussion on the effectiveness of General Councillors-at-large. Council felt their role was a fairly new one and that the membership should be encouraged to make more use of their services. Their role will be reviewed in 12 months time.
- **Statement on International Relations** — Council moved that the International Relations Committee utilising existing Association and relevant Government reports, examine the Association's International and

Regional role. Then as a result of this examination, present to General Council a policy statement which delineates these roles and plans to implement these policies, including recommended priorities and resource implications. This is to be brought to December 1984 General Council.

- **Joint Australian Information Council** — It was felt that the formation of JAIC was untimely and instead Council encouraged the formation of the proposed INFORMATION RESOURCES FORUM. This is an informal body of information societies eg. Australian Computer Society, Records Management Assoc of Australia, Micrographics Assoc of Australia, International Word Processors Assoc and the LAA.
- **Volunteer Workers in Libraries** — General Council did not feel that the draft statement clarified what is/is not acceptable as voluntary work. After much discussion Council asked the NT Branch Councillor, Delys Newman to take a new look at the Statement on Volunteer workers in libraries, to review all previous documents and their related comments and to present her findings to December 1984 General Council.
- **Structure of the LAA** — Council moved that Susan Acutt and Barrie Mitcheson's initial review of the LAA Structure be circulated to the Divisions for comment. A motion was passed that General Council establish a Select Working Party to review the Association's present structure and function and seek ways to meet its objectives and develop a corporate plan. As part of the Organisational review the Working party will consider the membership structure. A sub-committee will look at the categories and fees. This report will be brought to General Council at December 1984. The Membership Structure Committee is The General Treasurer, General Secretary, General Councillor at large, Anne Hazell; SA General Councillor and the Executive Director, as secretary.
- **LAA Objectives 1984/85** — The objectives will be published in the next issue of *incite*.
- **Freedom of Information** — Developments concerning freedom of information are monitored for the Association by Jeanette Knox and Merilyn Bryce. Council resolved; that the Association draws the attention

GENERAL COUNCIL
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News from the Divisions

ACT BRANCH

At the end of 1983 the ACT Branch of the Library Association of Australia submitted a grant application under the Community Employment Program. The application was prepared by Maxine Rochester and Maureen Swords with assistance from Diane Dromgold, and a letter of support from the Library Association of Australia was included. It was proposed to set up a Library Employment Centre in Canberra, to provide an employment agency for librarians, library technicians and library support staff, and information workers. It had also been proposed to include a career counselling service, a contact point for job sharing, and a centre for information on continuing education activities.

In March the ACT Branch received notification that the program had not received funding. The principal reason for the refusal was that there were no librarians registered as unemployed with the ACT Branches of the Commonwealth Employment Service. (A similar situation exists for other groups with large numbers of married women, such as teachers and nurses).

GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT

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of the Commonwealth and State (where appropriate) Attorneys-General to the present and potential role of PUBLIC LIBRARIES as agencies for dissemination of government information;

that the Attorneys-General be asked to investigate the feasibility of making PUBLIC LIBRARIES the recipients of deposit copies of government publications (in varying degrees of comprehensiveness);

that, in States introducing FOI legislation, the Association seek the views of Chief Librarians Committees and local groups of the Public Libraries Section on the advisability of public libraries being included in deposit schemes for Federal and State Government publications;

that Council endorse the proposal to have each BRANCH COUNCIL recommend a local FOI correspondent. Each correspondent to keep the Association's FOI monitors informed of local activities and developments.

- **Payment of Fees by Instalments** — Very few members have taken advantage of this option to pay membership fees in two instalments. True figures will not be available until mid-1985.
- **Fee For Members Not Employed in Librarianship** — Council has decided to reinstate the category for members not employed in librarianship while the review on the structure of the Association is being carried out. A base fee of \$75.00 will be charged. Admission to this category will be reviewed by the Executive if necessary.
- **Program Budgeting** — Both the NSW and Victorian Branches have expressed concern to General Council about the lack of evidence of program budgeting being notified

Another reason given was that the Library Employment Service would not provide a broad community service. Funding was going to government libraries already, and increasing employment, under the Community Employment Program. A third reason was that the Library Employment Centre would mostly help people who already had received training.

The message is to make sure you are registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service if you are not employed and seeking a position. One library, with funds available to employ a librarian under the Commonwealth Employment Program, could find no-one registered with the CES in the ACT.

Maxine Rochester President

SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION (W.A. GROUP)

We took advantage of the extra day this year and staged our first meeting on February 29. Held at Kaye Manning's colourful library at the Department for Youth, Sport and Recreation, we saw a demonstration of her online database of indexed journal articles, and praised her initiative in overcoming a few of the many problems which beset large and small libraries.

April 10 was our joint meeting with the Law Librarians Group where it was standing room only to hear Bruce Bott's talk on Statutes, Acts, Regulations, Bills and the like. We all seem to deal with them and were very grateful to Bruce for his elaborations and his comments on common problems.

Kerry Smith
Publicity Officer

to the members. As a result of this discussion a Sub Committee was formed to draw up a program budget based on both 1983 actual figures and the 1984 budget.

- **1988 IFLA Conference** — a report appears elsewhere in *InCite*.
- **LAA Industrial Information Officer** — The Executive Committee reported to General Council that the position of Industrial Information Officer had been reviewed and that the position would now be advertised nationally both through *InCite* and newspapers.

The Association's 50th Anniversary is to be held in 1987. A call for suggestions of ways to celebrate it appears elsewhere in this issue.

Jenny Adams
Executive Director



National Library of Australia

Research and Development

The National Library of Australia has funds for the support of a small number of research and development projects in financial year 1984-85.

Proposals should be submitted on the Library's form of application by 31 August 1984. Guidelines for applicants and copies of the form of application are obtainable from:

Mr G Stipnieks
Secretary, Standing Committee on
Research and Development
National Library of Australia
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600
Telephone (062) 62 1606.



Continuing Education Program
ADVANCE NOTICE

MICROCOMPUTERS

and their Applications in Libraries
22-23 June 1984

Bardon Professional Development
Centre
BRISBANE

The Queensland Branch is sponsoring the presentation of this introductory course which will be of use to librarians and others who want to gain a working knowledge of microcomputer developments, their application to and their potential for use in library and information services.

It is not an advanced course, nor is it a programming course. Its aim is to give participants a sufficient knowledge of the field to assist them to make sensible decisions about the use of microcomputers in their own services.

Sessions will include:

- Selection and evaluation of software and hardware.
- Opportunities to examine some hardware and software systems.

Principal speaker — John Kerrisk, Department of Information Studies, Kuringgai C.A.E.

For Programs/Registration forms see insert next issue or contact: **Glenda Smith, Central Library, University of Queensland, St. Lucia QLD. 4067.**

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