

News from the Divisions

SA BRANCH

Country Conference, Burra, 4th-5th October, 1985

All the thirty plus people who attended this year's country conference held at the Burra Community Library agreed that it was both successful as a continuing education activity and enjoyable as a visit to an attractive and interesting country town. This latter aspect was greatly enhanced by Colin Fidock's role in the National Trust (Colin is the Librarian at Burra). Participants stayed in Paxton's Cottages, built for the early miners of Burra, had an excellent dinner at moderate prices at a local restaurant, enjoyed the setting of the old Burra school building and went on a tour of historic sites.

As well as enjoying themselves as tourists, they had the pleasure of attending interesting and pertinent sessions on a variety of topics. Mr C. Dunnett and two of his staff demonstrated the potential of the DUCT (Diverse Use of Communications Technologies) system to bring resource people 'together' via technology, or to make their knowledge readily available in remote areas. Philippa Middleton discussed the uses of Australian Data Bases. Liz Ho reported on the Jubilee 150 activities of interest to librarians with emphasis on the publications and other information resources being produced. Anne Hazell presented a range of children's books using SA settings and Gillian Pearson outlined the values of a local history collection. Every speaker was able to relate his or her material directly to the needs of country librarians.

Colin Fidock, Ian McBain, and his Committee, are to be congratulated for their hard work and excellent organisation in running the conference.

For a professional development activity that is also an enjoyable experience, I recommend the LAA's SA Branch country conferences.

Maureen Nimon

NSW BRANCH

On 4 October the NSW Government announced that the project Conservation on the Move had been approved as a NSW Bicentennial activity and that a grant of \$500,000 had been allocated (1986-7) from the History and Education project funds within the State Bicentennial Program. The NSW Branch was one of 5 organisations (Regional Galleries Association of NSW; Museums Association of Australia, NSW; Australian Society of Archivists, Sydney; and Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material, NSW) whose applications were coordinated into a joint program. The Branch has applied for a consultant conservator to help and advise on local studies records in public libraries and regional historical societies. This is most significant news for future preservation and conservation of local collections.

The welcome development and the amendment of Local Government Ordinance No 1, the Preservation of Records, will be discussed by a panel of speakers at an evening meeting on 27 November at the NSW State Archives when the Branch will launch the new edition of *Local Studies: guidelines and subject headings for organising and indexing resources* by John Flint and Anne Berry. (See *Happenings*)

Pat Ward and Faye Lawrence

The postal strike

At the time of going to press New South Wales postal services are practically non-existent due to the mail strike which is now in its third week.

In order to overcome the problems as far as we can, arrangements have been made to have *InCite* taken by road to mail centres in other states. This has applied to issues 18 and 19, and the system will continue until the mail service returns to normal.

Naturally there must be many items for inclusion in *InCite* caught up in the huge backlog of mail now waiting in Sydney's sorting centres. Only a tiny trickle of material has been reaching this office.

If mail has started coming through by the time the next issue of *InCite* goes into production, every effort will be made to include all the backlog.

Brenda Pittard
Publications Officer

Magazines for print handicapped readers

Magazines are important in keeping people in touch with the latest developments in many aspects of life. Current affairs, new products sport, hobbies, fashion — all these subjects are extensively covered. Print handicapped readers have the same needs as others in the community, and a growing number of publications are produced in special formats to suit their needs.

A National Library publication, *Magazines for print handicapped readers* lists braille audio and large print periodicals available in Australia. Most, like the *Australian Women's Weekly*, the *Bulletin* and *Choice*, are special format versions of print works of the same title. Others are optional audio or braille works, or collections of extracts from national or regional magazines and newspapers.

Entries are based on responses to a 1984 survey of producing agencies by the Library Services for Disabled People Section of the National Library. Each entry includes producing agency, frequency of publication, format or formats available, price and special conditions of availability, if any, and an indicator of contents.

Magazines for print handicapped readers is not just a selection tool for libraries; it is a convenient reference work in which print handicapped library users themselves can browse, to make their selections. It is available in three formats at the same price — large print, braille and 2-track audio cassette. The National Library intends to revise and update the work at regular intervals.

To obtain copies, send \$6.00 to Sales and Subscription Section, National Library of Australia, Canberra ACT 2600.

Good start for new library supplier

Ten years' experience with a major library supplier gave Steve Healion the background for knowing what makes a good relationship between libraries and the people they buy from. So when he decided to start out on his own a few months ago he knew precisely what was needed to provide a good and efficient library supply service.

And his progress since then suggests that he has got the formula right. Starting his own company, Identic Books, in May this year, Steve has already found that many libraries have been keen to use his expertise, efficient invoicing system and prompt delivery. He has already won a three-year contract with the Canberra public library service. He can supply from local stock or indent if preferred.

Steve describes his highly personalised service as an extension to the acquisitions department, and believes he is offering a level of service provided by no-one else — including no mistake invoices!

Enquiries should be directed to Identic Books at 151 Crown Road, Queenscliff. (02) 939 7024.

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