

FEEDBACK

LIBRARY TECHNICIANS SECTION NATIONAL

Firstly, let me say that I was honoured to be asked to stand as National President this year, and I intend to be very active in furthering the cause of library technicians during this term of office. We are fortunate to have a very committed and caring National Executive.

Secondly, I would like to say how rewarding it was to meet with colleagues when I was on leave in the past month. I now have a much better idea of the concerns of library technicians in Victoria, ACT, NSW and Queensland. I am hopeful that I may be able to visit groups in WA, NT and Tasmania, as I have had very good feedback from the colleagues I saw in the other states.

January was not the best time to find many library technicians at home or work, but I am grateful that a few days hard on the heels of Christmas, I was able to meet with Victorian colleagues who have great hopes for a successful '88. Then it was on to the ACT where about half a dozen of their members discussed their hopes and aspirations with me.

On 4 January I spent a very worthwhile morning with Louise Lansley and Jo-anne Fuller at the LAA office in Sydney, and I discussed many issues with them. In the evening I met with NSW colleagues who gave me an

update on their concerns. On 8 January I spent the day in Brisbane with David Alberti, our National Vice-President. This was a very informative day, and I did enjoy my tour of the Supreme Court Library. I discussed issues with Queensland colleagues in the evening. They are already working hard on the next conference. So for all of you who asked me for information, I'm sure the Queenslanders will be putting out some information soon. The conference co-ordinator, is full of ideas, and she and her team are very enthusiastic!

On my return to Sydney, I had three visitors — Lexie Zantiotis, Jean Bailey, and Marlene Knowles, and they all kindly took time to show me their particular areas. I also stopped in at the Online Information Exhibition. All this plus 26 January on Sydney Harbour etc — what a week!

I would also like to thank those of you who gave me a roof over my head during the time we had meetings. Although I had friends in all those places, it seemed better to spend the time with those of you with whom I needed to discuss business — so, thanks to Margaret Munro, Reina Hill, Ann Dougherty, Jenny Green, and Faye Pattinson.

Because of the concern technicians have shown by approaching me about it, I have asked that the national newsletter that we have been waiting for, be in the hands of the National Executive by 29 February. We now have a new publications officer who is anxious for the newsletter to be distributed soon, and so articles are now sought on topics that you would like to see brought to the attention of your colleagues throughout Australia. We would be grateful for any contributions.

Regarding LAA membership, I was amazed on my travels to find out just how many library technicians do not belong to the LAA yet feel they can ring them up for advice, brochures etc, far greater LAA time is spent on this than pro rata for the number of library technicians who actually belong to the Association. An extensive list of what the LAA does for you was published in InCite No 1, and can be obtained from Louise Lansley at LAA Head Office. Please do the right thing, or we'll never have enough members to make any inroads over our problems.

I am anxious for this to be a very rewarding year for us all, and therefore I urge you to

write to me if you have any matters of concern.

I was very pleased to have met so many of you during the last few weeks, and I look forward to meeting many more of you in the future — especially in WA, NT and Tasmania — but to all of you interested in the work, salary, status, and careers of library technicians, I'm only a phone call or letter away. Please keep in touch.

'88 Executive

National Executive for 1988 is

President — Ms M.I. Leigh Evans Educational Technology Centre, South Australian College of Advanced Education, Kintore Ave, Adelaide, SA 5000, (08) 228 1806.

Vice-president — Mr David Alberti, Supreme Court Library, P.O. Box 13, North Quay, Qld 4000, (07) 227 4373.

Secretary — Ms Vikki Hopwood, Prospect Public Library, 1 Thomas St, Nailsworth, SA 5083, (08) 344 5454.

Treasurer — Ms Margaret Rowe, Mitchell Park High School, Marion Road, Mitchell Park, SA 5043, (08) 276 6200.

Publications Officer — Ms Yvonne Ladd, Adelaide College of TAFE, Light Square, Adelaide, SA 5000, (08) 213 0111.

M.I. Leigh Evans
National President

SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION NSW GROUP

Desktop publishing

Desktop publishing brings the power of publishing to you. Gareth Powell says it is 'the greatest revolution in publishing since phototypesetting took over from hot lead as a method of preparing type'.

Using a PC, a page composition program and a laser printer you too can easily produce high quality, camera-ready copy quickly and inexpensively. Wonderful for library newsletters, accession lists and promotional material. Come and hear about the different methods of desktop publishing, pitfalls and pleasures on Tuesday 15 March at 5.30 pm, 8th Floor, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Martin Place (entry is free!). Contact: Jan Cree (02) 328 6089 or Rosemary McLauchlan (02) 227 3769.

Collections and librarians seminar

Collections and librarians are seen as inseparable but are they? What do they cost? Are they good dollar value?

Managers and librarians both operate by assumptions but technological change silently challenges these assumptions and old ideas can waste your dollars. Your collection for instance, how useful is it and your qualification, how valuable is it to your manager.

NSW Specials are holding a one day seminar on 22 April to examine what happens when:

- there are collections but no librarian (the cost of no librarian)
- there are information officers who use other people's collections (the cost of no collection)
- the librarian is told to decrease costs or decrease space (cost of the collector)
- professionals build up data collections as part of their job and need to manage these collections (usefulness of library qualifications and new employment areas for librarians).

For further details see Happenings.

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VICTORIAN BRANCH

The Geddes report

In December 1986, the former Victorian Minister for the Arts, Race Mathews, requested the Management Improvement Division of the Public Service Board of Victoria to review library services in Victoria. Two terms of reference were provided: (i) to develop options for state government funding of public libraries in Victoria; and (ii) to develop options setting out changes which could improve the cost effectiveness, co-ordination and integration of the delivery of library services throughout state government libraries, the Victorian State Library, public libraries and primary, secondary and tertiary education libraries in Victoria.

This request generated two reports (the Geddes reports, named after the chairman Sylvia Geddes); one dealing with options for new funding arrangements for municipal public libraries and one entitled 'Discussion paper: improving service delivery in publicly-funded library services in Victoria'. The reports, which have been published by the Public Service Board, were obviously put together in haste as they are poorly presented and printed. However, the two reports are important as they may have a lasting impact on all Victorian libraries. (Copies can still be obtained free of charge from the Public Service Board in Melbourne).

There can be no doubt that the major aim of the Minister was to justify a reduction in state expenditure on public libraries. The current Victorian Government's leaning towards the performing arts and the fine arts are well known and there are suspicions that a good number of Ministers and the staff at the Ministry do not read!

First report:

The first report recommends that the respective roles and obligations of state and local government in funding public libraries should be clarified, but says that local government has prime responsibility for the provision of library services. State government's role is seen as supporting the existence of an 'adequate' number of public libraries, assisting and encouraging libraries to be well used and to perform well, and the provision of assistance to libraries with special needs.

A formula rather than per capita approach to the allocation of state funding is recommended. The formula is to be based on a performance/level of use component and a needs

and disabilities component. Introduction over a 3-5 year period is recommended. Receipt of state funding is to depend on local government matching state funding, extension of borrowing rights to non-residents, employment of appropriately qualified library staff, books (only!) being lent free of charge and the submission of annual accountability reports.

The report also recommends that the impact of making funding available only to libraries serving a specified minimum catchment population needs to be researched during the year. The whole report consists of 25 pages of text including the terms of reference, 7 pages outlining the proposed new program and one page listing the action required. Seventy pages of attachments and appendices provide the statistical background to the report, details of the way in which the report was developed plus a few details on current public library service in Victoria and the way in which it is funded, and finally, perhaps ominously, an appendix entitled 'Statements Relating to User Charges'.

Second report

The second report is much more substantial consisting of 104 pages of text, 16 pages of 'attachments' containing library statistics, and 26 pages of appendices giving details of the processes used in developing the report and a reprint of the current legislation for the Library and Museum councils.

The report is divided into three sections, co-ordination (examining the integration of publicly-funded libraries in Victoria), issues and opportunities in other sectors (looking at possible interactions between libraries in other publicly-funded sectors), and system-wide issues and opportunities for the future, which discusses 'challenges which are facing library managers and the library profession generally in the coming years'.

Twenty proposals for discussion are identified and they can be broadly grouped into topics as follows: Government department libraries (5 proposals); library policy and administration at a government level (2 proposals); school libraries (3 proposals), tertiary libraries (2 proposals); public library management (5 proposals); public library funding (2 proposals) and national language policy (1 proposal). The policy proposals include (i) establishment of a Libraries and Information Services and Strategy Unit to replace the Public Libraries Services Division of the State Library, and (ii) establishment of a group to advise the Minister on policy and strategic issues. Other proposals imply that libraries should 'look for new sources of revenue', that public librarians need better management skills, and that government

department libraries really aren't fulfilling their function very well.

Response

To examine the proposals, Pat Stewart, Head Librarian at Preston College of TAFE, was seconded to a position of Executive Officer at the Ministry for the Arts. Ms Stewart set up a series of 7 working parties with between 12 and 22 members to look at the proposals and most of these groups are now reporting on their deliberations.

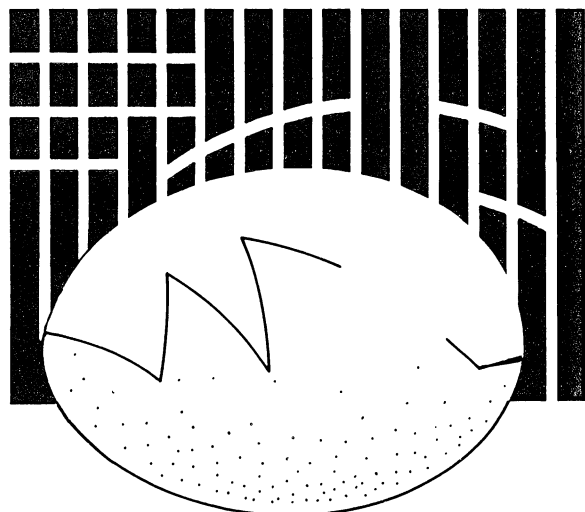
The Victorian Branch of the LAA was invited to send representatives to each of the working parties but Branch Council had great difficulty setting a Branch policy because of a wide divergence of views. On two separate occasions Branch accepted that it was appropriate for members to be on the working parties as individuals but that there was no agreed Branch view and therefore it was not appropriate for Branch Council representatives to attend. Branch has been strongly criticised for its stand at two public meetings, but in the absence of agendas and documentation for working party meetings, has confirmed its stand. A public meeting was organised by the Branch in November last year in an attempt to set a Branch policy but it was not well attended and the level of discussion was disappointing, and opinions did not change as a result.

The next stage

The Victorian State Government is proposing to introduce legislation for a Library Council of Victoria in the autumn session of parliament. On 5 February an open forum was held to discuss the planned legislation. About 70 people attended this meeting and they were told that comments about the proposals presented to them needed to be with the Minister in 10 days time and that the new bill was expected to be operational by July 1988. The proposed Council is to have 17 members including the Chairman, and it is to be supported by a series of four advisory boards of up to 15 members each covering human resources, physical resources and facilities, collections and information resources and organisation development.

The objectives of the new body include 'identification of opportunities' to use libraries in the implementation of state government policies, for co-ordination and cost saving and for funding bodies which will help achieve the Council's aims. Other objectives include providing information to the Ministry, the promotion of information services to industry, the improvement of libraries,

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keep this egg
warm
it's about to hatch.

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and the encouragement of research and library consultancy services. The functions of the Council include advising the Minister on policy and strategic issues, the co-ordination and development of libraries, setting conditions for and allocating monies, and maintaining a register of libraries, and co-operative ventures. It is proposed that the new body would be funded by a levy on all publicly-funded libraries in the state.

The forum was told that the legislation was yet to be drafted but other sources have suggested that it was almost ready and virtually finalised. Much of the discussion hinged on the funding question and that proposal seems

inadequate and probably unworkable in its present form. Membership may also be a problem for the profession as in the worst case it is possible that there could be only one or perhaps two librarians on the Council. The committee structure with the new Council and its four advisory boards plus a reformed body governing the Victorian State Library will mean six committees replacing one, surely a splendid example for C. Northcote Parkinson.

The Victorian Branch has requested the opportunity to see the legislation when still in draft form in the hope that it may provide a better chance to examine the proposals more fully.

A further open forum, which in fact seems to be by invitation only, is to be held on the day that *InCite* goes to press. This forum will discuss the issue of future State funding for public libraries in Victoria. A report on this forum should appear in the next issue of *InCite*.

Roy Price

NSW BRANCH

Policy on CE grants

In an effort to encourage non-metropolitan members to participate in continuing education activities, NSW Branch Council will again make a number of travel and/or accommodation grants available. The following points are provided to assist applicants:

- * available to any non-metropolitan (ie outside Sydney) person
- * applications may be made once every two years
- * maximum grants are \$250 per person to cover travel and/or accommodation
- * valid only for LAA sponsored activities
- * preference given to participation in NSW Branch supported CE activities.
- * payment is made after the activity with invoices to be sent to the CE officer who will pass them on to the Branch treasurer.
- * a brief report (500 words maximum) should be forwarded to the CE officer
- * applicants must demonstrate that funding is not available from employers

To make an application name, address, phone numbers, course details, fee and any course documentation should be included. For further information contact Frank Willems, CE Officer, LAA NSW Branch, PO Box 79, Lawson NSW 2783.

CE program for 1988

NSW members will be able to participate in three programs being offered under National LAA sponsorship. These are 'marketing the librarian'; 'lobby or lose'; 'information skills and co-operative planning and teaching'. A fourth activity, 'managing people at work' has LAA approved status.

NSW Branch seminar topics include copyright, videodisc technology and electronic books, desktop publishing and interlibrary lending. Dates and costs cannot be supplied at this stage but details will appear in *Happenings*.

Frank Willems

Library Association of Australia

LIBRARY MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Nominations are now being called for this award for 1988.

Aim

- To recognise and encourage good management practices within Australian libraries and information services.
- To encourage the development of an organisational climate within libraries and information services which promotes innovation and a better working relationship between managers and their staff.

Eligibility

The award of LAA Library Manager of the Year is open to any member of the Library Association of Australia responsible for the management of a library service, an individual library or information service, or a significant organisational unit within a larger library or information service.

The award is for management rather than supervision, and nominees should be able to demonstrate outstanding performance in planning, resource allocation and the organisation of staff. A nominee will be expected normally to be responsible for the direction of staff including professional staff.

Nominations

Nominations must be proposed and seconded by two members of the staff of, or clients of, the organisation in which the nominee is employed, including at least one person within the library or unit which the nominee is responsible for managing.

Nominations should include:

- Name of nominee.
- Title of position held.
- Name and address of organisation.
- Number of staff whom the nominee is responsible for managing.
- Major achievements of the manager in the previous three years.
- Reasons why the nominee is regarded within his or her organisation as an outstanding manager.

Selection

The award is administered by a sub-committee, consisting of one member of the LAA Board of Education, one member of General Council, and the Past President of the LAA. Criteria which will be considered by the sub-committee in making a recommendation for the award include:

- 1 Demonstrable improvements in service delivered to the library or information service's clientele, as a result of decisions for which the manager is responsible, or through submissions made by the manager to higher funding/decision-making authorities.
- 2 Demonstrable improvements in working productivity obtained in the library or unit for which the manager is responsible.
- 3 Implementation of innovatory approaches to services delivered, or to the organisation of work.
- 4 Improvement or establishment of successful relations between the service and its clientele, the manager and his/her staff, or between units in the service.
- 5 Examples of effective planning and implementation of new services or procedures.
- 6 Demonstrable improvements in decision-making procedures and/or communication (amongst staff or to/from users), in areas for which the manager is responsible.

Nomination forms are available from the Assistant Executive Director, Library Association of Australia, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo 2007, Tel: (02) 692 9233. Toll free (008) 22 1481.

Nominations close on 1 June 1988.



This award is sponsored by
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In 1987, the Australian Library Journal attracted over 2,800 subscribers. At \$15, ALJ is a bargain. If you subscribed in 1987, you will have received as part of your subscription, the special conference issue, containing many of the papers given at the LAA:50 conference in September 1987, including major papers by Professor Whyte and Professor Rayward.

The bargain price of \$15 applies again in 1988. Lodge your subscription now, via your membership renewal form, and be sure of receiving the first issue for 1988, which will include several papers of substantial import. Peter Clayton on the Taxation Incentives Scheme for the Arts, and its advantages for libraries; Toby Burrows on the current situation in British academic libraries; Diana Killen on Information — the new commodity, and Anne Hazell on the National Information Policy and its implications for schools. Plus many reviews and other regular features. Subscribe now!