

Direct Line



Sue Kosse
Executive
Director

The General Council Meeting: 11-12 June 1991

This meeting at the Sydney Hilton Hotel had a full turn-out of the General Council except for the Immediate Past President, Dr Lynn Allen, who had sent apologies and written comments on some of the agenda items.

The statement of income and expenditure to 30 April 1991 was discussed, and the Association is in good shape financially. I spoke about various factors affecting the Association's finances. These included the impact of the recession on advertising levels in *inCite*, changes in the staffing of the conference management secretariat and the lower market rate for leasing floor space in ALIA House. Members were concerned about the income generating possibilities of the conference management function, and the National Office was asked to monitor the situation closely. Members also worried about diminishing advertising revenue from *inCite*, and asked whether ALIA journals were competing with themselves for advertising. The *inCite* Promotions Officer will write a report on the implications of advertising in ALIA journals, for the next General Council meeting.

I also raised the issue of levels of membership fees for 1992. The CPI has decreased and many members are vocal about their unemployed state. Taking these two factors into account, fee increases will be confirmed to a minority of membership categories and all aspects of the situation will be thoroughly reviewed by the Executive Committee.

TAFE National Section — carryover of funds

The TAFE National Section had applied to retain surplus funds of \$7877, to fund its national biennial conference in October 1991. The issue was referred to the President and myself to resolve, consistent with Association policy.

National Office and information systems

Council supported a management review of information systems in the National Office to help improve productivity and efficiency in the National Office.

Australian Library Week

Council gave its endorsement to a proposed joint venture between the Association and RAECO to produce and market a range of library promotion products, for Australian Library Week themes. This agreement will ensure that promotional products will be available to support the 1991 and future Australian Library Weeks.

Proposal to form a North Queensland branch

A working party had examined this proposal and produced a preliminary document in the agenda papers for this meeting. Council also considered letters from the Queensland Branch President, the Northern Territory Branch and the North Queensland Regional Group.

This matter will be deferred until the November General Council meeting, by which time the formal report of the working party will be available for comment by Councillors.

The Council also discussed the proliferation of ALIA Divisions, where a primary concern is their accountability. An examination of the fundamental philosophy underlying the formation of a division, and some comparison with other similarly structured national associations will also be considered by the NSW Branch Working Party investigating this issue for Council.

Economic and social role of public libraries

This report had been commissioned by the NSW Branch, and had been prepared by a private consultant after a survey of public libraries in NSW. The NSW Branch were pleased with the result. They were keen to have copies widely circulated to all ALIA Divisions, and to have it reviewed in *inCite*, advising that copies are available on request.

NZLA/ALIA 1994 Joint Conference, 26-30 September 1994

The detailed financial arrangements for this joint conference were endorsed by Council, with agreement that ALIA's Conference Manager would organise the conference.

Guidelines for the conference are to be developed by ALIA and NZLA representatives.

The first combined meeting of the Joint Conference Committee will be held

in Auckland in September, during the NZLA 1991 Annual Conference. Warren Horton has been invited to chair the Australian Committee.

Continuing education

The Northern Territory General Councillor spoke to her Branch's proposal that continuing professional education (CPE) should receive more focus and resources within the Association. Council discussed the Association's budgeting process and allocation of resources. It was considered that the CPE proposal should go to the Board of Education for its consideration and recommendation, before coming back to Council.

President's report

The President provided a verbal report, with a long list of activities he had undertaken to date on behalf of the Association. These included writing, speaking engagements, many visits around Australia and visits to New Zealand and China.

This latter visit could assist in changing the Association's Eurocentric view of the profession, to one focused more on the Asia/Pacific region. Asian colleagues were particularly interested in acquiring technological assistance from Australian colleagues, mentoring opportunities and job exchange opportunities.

Report from the Chair, Board of Education

The Chairperson spoke to her report, and advised Council of the report of the Graduate Destination Survey. Copies of the report have been circulated to library and information science schools and a summary of responses appeared in *inCite* 13.

Report of the 1990 Conference Committee

The financial report of the 1990 Conference Committee was tabled, with a net surplus to the Association of \$121 576.71. Council offered congratulations to all concerned, and noted that the Conference Committee members had put in long and exhausting hours for no personal financial gain, and now felt frustrated that no direct benefit would reach their Branch.

Any other business

Under this heading, Council discussed:

- the response to the Ross Report on *Library Provision in Higher Education*, coordinated by the ACT General Councillor, with implications for curriculum development for library schools.
- a response to the Jones Report on *Australia as an Information Society*. Some

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Third ALIA Annual General Meeting Held in Sydney on 11 June 1991

The third Annual General Meeting of ALIA was held in Sydney during the period of the General Council meeting, with 25 members present beside the President, Vice-President, General Secretary, General Treasurer and Executive Director.

The meeting approved the 1990 Annual Report and Balance Sheet, which showed an excellent result for the Association, with a surplus after tax of \$40 000. This result had been particularly assisted by a net surplus of \$121 576.21 from the Association's 1990 Biennial

Conference, information that was received with acclamation.

A payout was required to the ACT Government for the concessional land lease for ALIA House in 1991. This would amount to \$191 666.66 and would be made from the Association's reserves.

The meeting heard with acclamation that Margaret Trask had recently received the Fellowship of the University of Technology Sydney. This was only the fourth occasion that this award had been made and Margaret was the first woman to have received it.

Warren Horton presented a special award to Harrison Bryan to commemorate his completion of the 3-volume work *ALIAS: Australia's Library, Information and Archives Services — an Encyclopaedia of Practice and Practitioners*. This work had originally begun as an Australian encyclopaedia of library and information science but grew to a much broader end result. Harrison Bryan conceived the work, organised the contributions and personally wrote a good deal of it. He accepted the award with pleasure. □

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disappointment was expressed with the standard of the report. It was agreed that the Association should convene a national forum in Canberra to examine issues raised by the Report.

• Review of Biennial Conferences: the WA General Councillor, on behalf of the 1990 Biennial Conference Committee, requested re-consideration of the concept of biennial conferences and would prepare

a paper to *inCite* on this matter.

• Public libraries and their funding base: I expressed concern about funding cuts to public library services across Australia and sought the views of Council. Support on this issue is to be sought from the Public Libraries Section.

• Federation 2001: the Commonwealth Government was providing funding for projects to celebrate the centenary of Australia's federation. Suggestions were sought from councillors for a suitable

forward-looking project. This could be a great opportunity for library promotion if the Association is able to do something clever that appeals to be politicians. Council agreed to canvass the views of the membership via *inCite*. It was suggested that the Association offer a prize for the best idea.

The next General Council meeting will be held on Friday, 22 November 1991 and Saturday, 23 November 1991 in Canberra.

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