

The July meeting of General Council

A brief report from the Executive Director

THE ASSOCIATION'S policy-making body, the General Council, held its second meeting for 1992 at ALIA House in Canberra on 24-25 July, to consider issues related to policy, finance, membership and other matters. Part of its work, in relation to policy, finance and membership, was dealt with in greater detail through subcommittees which then made recommendations to the full Council. This approach ensures that all members of the Council are well briefed on key areas of Association activity, and still enables the Council as a whole to deal with the complex and expanding business of the Association.

Policy

General Council considered and endorsed submissions on *Employment related key competencies*, *The role of the Commonwealth in Australia's cultural development*, *Post-compulsory education and training: balance of growth*, *Book Production Inquiry*, *Strategies for early intervention for literacy and learning for Australian children*, and the *Goods and Services Tax*. It also approved a strategy to develop a submission on the *Print-Post* changes.

Derek Whitehead had recommended that the Association change its strategy on the promotion of the role of libraries in an *Australian language and literacy policy* from a national focus to one of working through the Branches and the State and Territory level. General Council endorsed this recommendation. It also supported the Association joining the National Education Forum.

A paper on professional ethics was deferred to the September meeting.

Finance

The Association's income was tracking at less than the expected level for this time of the year, and the General Council spent considerable time in developing a strategy to bring the budget back into balance. The expected drop in interest rates, conference and membership income were the main reasons for the deficit. It was agreed that the General Treasurer, the Financial Services Manager and the Executive Director would make recommendations by the end of August on a total package of changes for Council's consideration.

Council was keen to pursue its objective of achieving a balanced budget, since the Association had major unanticipated expenses in 1992 for income tax and air-conditioning rectification work which would impact upon the Association's reserves.

Council gave its support to advice being sought on tax-effective planning for the Association as a whole. It also noted that ALIA House was now fully tenanted, and approved the work required to bring the building's air-conditioning system up to the required standard.

The Annual Report was accepted as a true and fair view of the Association's business for 1991, and approval was given for its publication and distribution to members with the last issue of *inCite*. It will be considered by the Annual General Meeting on 30 September.

An application for a special grant to support library promotion was deferred until the next meeting of Council.

Membership

Council endorsed the recommendations of the Membership Subcommittee on membership fees for 1992. These include changes for personal, institutional and voucher only members.

The formation of a new Division, the Health Libraries Section, ACT Group, was approved by Council, with congratulations to all those involved. Council agreed not to continue with discussion of the paper on recruitment to the profession, since it was felt that recruitment to the Association was of a higher priority at this time.

Awards

The General Council awarded with great pleasure Letters of Recognition to Pat Stewart and to Irene Meeuwissen, and Library Manager of the Year to Jenny McCarthy. Congratulations to Pat, Irene and Jenny!

Education

The General Council accepted the Board of Education's recommendations in relation to library and information science courses in the following institutions: Charles Sturt University—Riverina, ACT TAFE, and the Queensland University of Technology.

Endorsement was also given to the *ALIA Guidelines on Staff Development* prepared by Jane Hiscock at the University of South Australia, which have the full support of the Board of Education.

The Chair of the Board of Education, Anne Hazell, drew Council's attention to the implications of competency standards for education and training and their possible flow on to the definition and direction of the profession. The Board of Education is developing a short paper for Branches and Divisions, identifying the most important questions in relation to competency standards. Council supported this work and invited the Board to present a discussion paper on competency-based education and training at the Council's September 1992 meeting.

Strategic plan

The Strategic Plan is reported upon elsewhere in this issue.

Other items...

The amendments to the NSW Library Act caused the General Council to re-examine the Association's Statement on Free Library Service to All, and to question whether the Statement required revision, and if so to what extent. The Council was divided on the need for a revision, and decided to seek the opinion of Branches and Divisions before discussing it further.

inCite, as you will have read in your last issue, will continue to appear twelve times a year. It will continue to focus on national issues and will aim to complement the Newsletters already being published by many Branches and Divisions.

Following the receipt of legal opinion that members of the General Council and the Executive Director were personally liable for the management of the affairs of the Association, the General Council will be investigating professional indemnity insurance.

The General Council reiterated its support for the resolutions of the National Library of Australia's conference, *Towards Federation 2001*, and

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► agreed to accept responsibility for continuing to monitor Freedom of Information.

Progress reports were considered from the Library Workforce Project and the By-Laws and Regulations Standing Committee. Council endorsed proposed changes to the By-laws covering life membership, the plebiscite and the definition of 'member'.

Council also gave its support to the Association opposing the proposal to merge

the Bureau of Mineral Resources with CSIRO. (The Federal Government has since dropped this proposal in favour of a review over the next twelve months.)

More information?

If you would like further information on any of the matters considered at this General Council meeting, please contact the Executive Director at the National Office.

The next meeting of the General Council will be held on 25–26 September in Albury Wodonga at the Carlton Albury Hotel. Council meetings are open to all members, except during its *in camera* discussions on Saturday morning. If you are planning to attend this next meeting as an observer, please inform the Executive Director so that appropriate arrangements can be made for seating etc. ■

Training Line



Nora Stewart
Training and Development
Officer

H!! NORA STEWART is my name and I'm the new Training and Development Officer, taking over from where Carol left off. I've been keeping busy over the last six weeks becoming familiar with the job, the issues and the people in the Library and Information industry.

A little bit about myself first—I have an Applied Science degree in Home Economics (QUT) and I'm currently completing a Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management at the University of Canberra. Most of my work experience has been in the retail and service sectors and through that I have gained a good understanding of what helping people is all about. Training and development is a personal and professional interest and, as a sideline, I assist with negotiation skills workshops usually held over two days, which are a lot of fun. I'm also learning to become a cross-country skiing instructor which involves a lot of shouting 'bend ze knees' as beginners come whizzing down the hill!

My extensive travelling has allowed me to become very familiar with most states in Australia (sorry, haven't been to Tasmania yet!). Having lived and travelled overseas for long periods has increased my appreciation for the distances involved. As I settle into ALIA, I learn from and enjoy receiving inquiries from around the country and I would particularly welcome input from people in rural areas and smaller towns. Your comments on the availability of and access to training and education are invaluable to me, and it helps to determine where effort and resources might be most effectively used.

T & D Database update

The first hard copy issue of the training and development database was released in June to ALIA Branches and Divisions and has yet to be updated for the second issue. The current plan for the database is to keep adding updated information and incorporating feedback—thankyou to those people who have contributed.

The database will be available for demonstration purposes at the ALIA stand at the Trade Fair on the 29 September – 1 October in Albury, in conjunction with the ALIA Biennial Conference. If you are attending the Conference, why not come over, say hello and put the computer through its paces? I will be seeking comments, feedback and any other offerings people might wish to make.

The ALIA Guidelines on Staff Development were recently endorsed by General Council and are available through the ALIA National Office. These guidelines are for use in the planning and implementation of staff development programs in the library and information professions.

The document outlines the various issues that need to be considered when initiating and carrying out a staff development program including defining the roles of the people involved. A reminder that another useful source of information when planning staff development activity, *The Training Guarantee Scheme—Guidelines for the Library and Information Industry*, is also available at \$10 (members) and \$15 (non-members) from the T & D Officer, ALIA National Office. ■

**I would particularly
welcome input from
people in rural areas
and smaller towns**

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