

► 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. ■

Trainee 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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