

## Victorian Branch

**Trevor Wakely reports on an AGM with important implications for the future**

Victorian Branch's 1992 AGM was held on 17 March in the State Library of Victoria. Guests of honour included ALIA Past President Bev Kirby; guest speaker Rita Hart; and the recipient of an ALIA Letter of Recognition, Eileen Nelson.

The 1992 President's Report highlighted the formation of a joint Victorian ACLIS-ALIA Library Lobbying Working Party, the successful bid for Melbourne to host the 4th Biennial Conference in 1996, and membership recruitment strategies.

The AGM agenda included a 'Motion on notice' regarding the ALIA Free Library Services statement. Branch



Eileen Nelson

hopes to see the current ALIA statement replaced with a more practical guideline, with a title change to *Free access to public library and information services*.

The proposed statement reads:

'Recognising that the public library

provides resources and services designed to meet the information, education, cultural and recreational needs of the community, the primary responsibility of the public library should be to serve, as a first point of access, for the general public to the national system of library and information services.

As first point of access the public library should provide the following basic services free of charge:

1. Entrance to the library and access to the collection.
2. The loan of any item from the lending collection.
3. Access to and use of the collection regardless of the format in which the item is presented.

For services where direct or additional costs are incurred on behalf of, or at the request of, the client a charge may be applied according to the policies of the individual library.'

There was a great deal of support for the motion, as put, with no one speaking against the change or for the retention of the current statement. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Rita Hart then spoke of her experience of the publishing field for children's books. The audience was surprised to learn that it is not unusual for 2 000 manuscripts to be received each year, of which only three or four may be looked at for further work, and that Australian works are not all that popular on the international scene.

An ALIA Letter of Recognition was then presented by ALIA Past President, Bev Kirby, to Eileen Nelson for Eileen's work and dedication to the services of children's librarianship. ■

## Technicians now eligible for ALIA Fellowships

In a far-reaching decision, the General Council at its March meeting agreed that Library Technician members should be eligible for Fellowships in the same way as Associate members.

In the discussion, the possibility of a special 'Technician' Fellowship (a 'FALIA (Tec)') was canvassed, but this was promptly turned down in favour of a single award that could be con-

ferred on both Associate and Technician members.

The matter has now been referred to the Board of Education, as part of its review of awards criteria. The Board has been asked to advise General Council, by the Council's last meeting in 1993, on the criteria and procedure for extending to the Technician members eligibility for the distinction of Fellow. ■



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