Access: at what cost?

Report of the Access to Heritage Inquiry tabled

he Senate Environment, Recreation, Commuications and the Arts References Committee, in July this year, tabled its report on the Access to Heritage Inquiry. In considering what constitutes heritage, the Committee reported that heritage ought to be defined as those 'things we want to keep, that is things we have inherited and would like our children to inherit'.

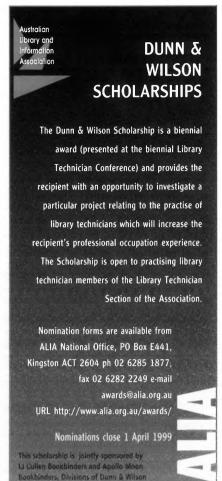
The Committee's report concerns user charges in museums, art galleries and national parks and, to a very limited extent, libraries. Taking into account the present levels of government subsidies, the Committee was asked to examine how costs for maintaining the nation's cultural and heritage assests should be apportioned between government subsidies and user contributions.

The Committee's inquiry did not consider how access and equity in the

public library system would be affected by user charges. They noted that the inquiry had received few submissions on this issue, but acknowledged that the subject is an important one and should receive separate consideration. The Committee did recommend that sponsored research be conducted to investigate the affect of user pays systems on equity and access to services provided by libraries and archives.

The Report also recognises that the socio-economic profile of library users is lower than the average visitor profile for museums and galleries and therefore where libraries concerned, equity and access considerations are different.

In its conclusions, the Committee strongly emphasised that user charges for core and value added services should not be levied if the affect is to discourage wide community access to public places.



ALIA Membership

ALIA welcomes the following new members who joined the Association in November and congratulates those who have upgraded their qualifications

New Members

Kerry Barrett-Lennard WA Vicki Bates QLD

Milagros Bernaldo SA

Paula Callen *NSW* Janet Garcia *ACT*

Tania Gilchrist WA

Ella Gokhmark VIC

Valeria Griadounova NSW

Gaylene Harris WA

Margaret Hunt NSW

Maureen Kattau ACT Anne Kingsun QLD

Karen Mann-Henderson QLD

Pauline Martin VIC

Melissa Michell SA

Rhonda Mitchell VIC

Aleksandra Nikolic NSW

Nigel Poole OLD

Heather Rayment NSW

Alice Ringland SA

Affice Kingland 3A

Kaysha Russell NSW

Karyn Siegmann VIC

Glenyss Steventon SA

Margaret Tinson VIC

Nicole Van Kempen QLD

Karen Waite QLD

New Technician
Janelle Bartolo *QLD*

Sharyn Munro QLD

New Associate

John Banbury SA

Joan Booth TAS

Georgina Buckley ACT

Jan Corey QLD

Roz Davidson SA

Jillian Emery NSW

Deborah Encel NSW

Melissa Gavenlock NSW

Lyndelle Gunton QLD

Christine Haar NSW

Samantha Jackson NSW

Patricia Jameson NSW

Germaine Kampowski ACT

Paula Keyes NSW

Annette Laguna QLD

Amanda Lee ACT

Rae Lorenz *NSW* Sherry Moriarty *NSW*

Henry Owino NT

Marilyn Ralph WA

Caroline Scharrer NSW

John Terrell VIC

Shirley Ward VIC

Upgrade to Associate Vagn Gudiksen *QLD*

