

# NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

## NEW SOUTH WALES

The Branch conducted a seminar on the topic, "To what Extent can Improved Literacy Skills Lead to Reduction in Crime?" late in 1987. The seminar was highly successful. The principal discussion paper has been sent to the editor of the Journal with a view to its possible publication in due course.

In conjunction with the New South Wales Police Department, the Branch conducted a seminar on, "Crime and the Elderly" on the 8th March, 1988. Papers were presented by Dr Jeff Sutton, Director of the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Mrs Lilian Austen a Sydney magistrate and Professor Susan Hayes, Head of the Department of Behavioural Sciences in Medicine at the University of Sydney. These papers, too, have been made available to the editor of the Journal for publication in due course.

*(How delightful it is to be faced with an embarrassment of riches of publishable material — Editor).*

For the future, seminars are planned on "Accommodation for Offenders" and on "Crime Prevention and the Problems of Persons of a Non-English Speaking Background".

## VICTORIA

The Branch has been active in early planning for the biennial conference in 1989. Venues, themes, dates and possible speakers have been canvassed.

On the 11th February, 1988, Dr David Neil, a commissioner of the Law Reform Commission of Victoria, addressed a meeting organised by the Branch on the topic, "Does Victoria Need a Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research?"

The Branch is launching upon a drive to recruit new members.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Branch has decided to take up some of the challenges thrown down at the conference last August. A new committee is being formed to deal with the particular problems of children and crime. A working paper is being prepared with a view to defining the aims and objectives of the Branch over the next few years.

With the conference now behind us, the Branch is seeking to enlist new members with a view to widening public participation in the activities of the Council.

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