

Report of first General Council meeting in 1981

THE FIRST 1981 meeting of General Council was held in Melbourne on 12 and 13 March. Meetings of the Executive Committee and Futures Committee preceded the Council meeting. Some of the main issues considered during the meeting were as follows:

Manpower project

Mr Barrie Mitcheson, Convener of the sub-committee of the Victorian Branch conducting the manpower project, presented a progress report on the questionnaires from individuals, employers and library schools. Analysis of responses to the personal questionnaire has commenced, and the committee hopes to finish the project by mid-1981.

Statement on the national bibliographic organisation of nonbook materials in Australia

To date the national bibliographic control of information published in Australia has been restricted largely to information in print form. The Association's Audiovisual Services Committee believes that it should include all products of the publishing industry. The Committee has prepared a draft statement on the national bibliographic organisation of nonbook materials which has been endorsed by Council as an expression of the Association's views, and will be forwarded to the National Library of Australia for consideration. Particular note has been made of the recommendations relating to MARC formats suitable for use with all media.

Members in isolation

For some time General Council has been investigating the needs of isolated members and the services which can be provided for them. It considers isolation to be more than a matter of distance from a major centre — members who are employed in small libraries, or who are out of the workforce are often as cut off from professional contact as those in Weipa or the Pilbara.

All about the Middle East

ANEW association on Middle East studies is being formed in Australia, the Australasian Middle East Studies Association (AMESA). In conjunction with the formation of this Association the Footscray Institute of Technology Library is producing a monthly current awareness bulletin on the Middle East and conducting a national seminar, 'Sources of information on the Middle East', on Monday, 31 August.

The aim of the seminar is to highlight the resources related to the Middle East available to businessmen, politicians, the media and academics in Australia at present. As well, it is hoped to isolate areas where problems do arise in relation to access to information on the Middle East and to seek means of resolution.

The Library is also conducting a study into Australian holdings on all aspects of the Middle East and would welcome contact with all libraries having substantial holdings in this area.

For copies of the monthly bulletin (gratis) or further information on the seminar contact Fran Hegarty, Humanities Librarian, Footscray Institute of Technology Library, PO Box 64, Footscray, 3011. Telephone (03) 688 4274. Telex FITLEX 36596.

All Branches make special arrangements for their members outside the large metropolitan centres — by recording meetings and speakers and making tapes available for loan, by holding some of their meetings outside capital cities, and by including country centres in the itineraries of guest speakers wherever possible.

Councillors generally felt that there was a need for better communication about all activities of the Association and its divisions, through *Incite*, Branch newsletters and other available media.

Three major activities planned for 1981 are a national conference on 'Libraries in isolation', arranged jointly by the Northern Territory to be held in Alice Springs from 4-6 September, a national workshop on 'Library services in distance education' scheduled for 15 and 16 June in Brisbane, and a North Queensland Regional Group seminar on 'The right to information' to be held in Townsville on 4 and 5 September. Further details of these programs appear in 'Happenings'.

Student fees

The issue of special fees for student members of the LAA was raised by the NSW Branch at the 1980 AGM. That meeting called on General Council to consider reinstating a special fee category for student members, with a fee equal to two thirds of the next lowest membership fee.

After lengthy discussion Council finally resolved that it 'acknowledges its professional responsibility to students of librarianship and the need to involve students in the Association's activities, and as a tangible expression of this responsibility recommends that the fee for student membership should not exceed two thirds of the other lowest fee'.

This resolution will be taken into account by the General Treasurer when framing the draft budget and fees schedule for 1982.

Membership of JSCAACR

In 1979 the Association sought membership of the Joint Steering Committee for the revision of AACR. Australia has now been invited to name one representative to the Committee, with full voting rights. Funding to the level of \$1600 annually has been provided, with the balance of costs to be shared by the LAA and the National Library of Australia.

The Australian Committee on Cataloguing, a body comprising representatives of the Association, AACOBs and the National Library, has been asked to nominate a representative to attend the 1981 meeting of the Joint Steering Committee to be held in San Francisco in July.

Office Location Committee

In 1979 a committee was established to prepare a report on the future location of the Association's head office. Committee members were the then General Treasurer, Barry McIntyre, Brenda Gerrie and Pixie Crook. A detailed 30-page report submitted by Barry McIntyre and Pixie Crook examined the functions performed by the head office, and the implications of the nature of those functions on the location of the office. Particular attention was given to servicing the needs of members, and to lobbying.

The committee considered four options — to purchase a property in Sydney, to lease a property in Sydney, or to lease or purchase in Canberra. Melbourne was not seen to offer significant advantages over Sydney, in view of the cost of relocating staff and property. The committee recommended to Council that

the Association's office should remain in Sydney in premises owned by the Association.

Brenda Gerrie's views were not included in the report, and she was not able to be present at the Council meeting. The ACT Branch President, Averill Edwards, reported on the Branch's behalf. The Branch believed that the committee's report took only a short-term view, and that over a longer period relocation expenses would be lower. It maintained that lobbying could be done most effectively in Canberra, and that a Sydney-based Association may not be able to attract permanent staff from outside Sydney because of the high cost of accommodation.

Council accepted the recommendations of the committee, with all but the Canberra members of Council voting to retain the office in Sydney.

LAA staff

A number of changes have taken place in the LAA staff in the past month. Judith Hill has been appointed as Industrial Officer and Marilyn Bryce as Continuing Education Officer. Both attended the meeting of General Council, gave brief reports on their backgrounds and outlined their preliminary views on their new positions.

The Executive Director, Gordon Bower, who has held that position since January 1978, advised that he had been offered the position of Executive Director of the Australian Gallery Directors Council, and intended to accept the post. He expected to leave the Association towards the end of April. Advertisements would be placed in national papers and *Incite* at the end of March. The present Assistant to the Executive Director, Sue Phillips, will be acting Executive Director from the end of April.

News from Divisions *cont*

NSW INFORMATION SCIENCE SECTION

Chris Sanderson of I.P. Sharp and Ian McCallum of ACI Computer Services will be guest speakers at the meeting of the Section on 8 July at the Archives Office, 2 Globe Street, Sydney. Drinks are served at 6, for the 6.30 meeting.

Both Chris and Ian are excited by the technological advances relating to electronic mail services, which promise to close the time gap between retrieval of relevant references and the subsequent delivery of full documents.

Elizabeth Swan

WA SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Young readers' book award

After a successful launching in 1980, the WA young readers' book award is operating again in 1981. The award is one in which young readers have a major say.

Whether or not you participated last year you are invited to participate in 1981. Nominations of titles have been received from schools and public libraries. Two selection panels have reduced these titles to a list of approximately 50 in each of two sections: Primary (years 4 to 7); Secondary (years 8 to 10).

During 1981 young readers at schools and public libraries will be encouraged to read as many of these books as possible and fill in evaluation forms.

If you wish to participate in this award, contact Leila Hoffman, PO Box 259, Claremont, WA 6010.