

News from the Divisions

VIC BRANCH

State Library

The Working Group formed at the public meeting in January to campaign for a new State Library building is completing a detailed submission in co-operation with the Library Council of Victoria which will be presented to the Minister for the Arts. The submission argues that a new State Library building should be constructed as soon as the Arts Centre is completed, as originally promised and that the needs of the Library for improved accommodation are as great as those of the museum. The draft of the submission does not argue for a particular site but states that the site must be appropriate to the needs of the Library.

Other activities being carried out by the working group include letters to the press, letters to all State politicians and interested organisations and presentation of a petition to State Parliament. LAA members are urged to write to, or telephone, their local Member of Parliament on this important issue.

The LAA has spent approximately \$700 on this campaign to date. The Friends of the La Trobe Library have donated \$200 to the campaign. LAA members who would like to support the State Library by joining the Friends of the La Trobe Library should contact The Secretary, John Holroyd, at the State Library, 328 Swanston St, Melbourne, 3000.

The recent referendum of Victorian Branch members in *Incite* on the State Library's needs for a new building had a very poor level of return. 68 forms were returned with the following responses.

Question 1: *Do you believe that the State Library needs a new building:* Yes 66; Qualified yes 0; No 1; Not sure 1; No answer 0.

Question 2: *Do you believe that the Market car park site is a suitable one for a new State Library building:* Yes 34; Qualified yes 5; No 23; Not sure 4; No answer 2.

Alternative sites that were suggested included the Jolimont rail yards (8), near the Arts Centre (6), the Yarra banks near Princes Bridge (3) and the City Council car park in Little Lonsdale Street/Elizabeth Street (3). Several respondents commented on the desirability of retaining the present building with expansion into the Museum area (5) or onto the Museum Station area (4) or the Queen Victoria Hospital site (2). The need for good public transport, car parking and a central city location were commented on by a number of respondents.

The Branch has issued statements and letters to the media concerning the recent cuts in service at the State Library and has expressed concern to the Minister at the public accusations of mismanagement by State

Library staff. It is our understanding that several attempts were made by the State Librarian to obtain the funds necessary to meet the increased demand for service and that the staff of the State Library had no choice but to make the cuts.

Freedom of Information Bill

The Branch has followed up its letters to all Senators on the proposed Freedom of Information legislation with a letter to all members of the House of Representatives. Most replies were fairly predictable but it is interesting to note that, despite the discussion of the Bill, several members stated that they have no view on the Bill. Some added that they expect to formulate one when the issue is discussed at their next Party meeting!

Technicians Section

A Technicians Sectional Group has now been formed in Victoria and a representative of the group appointed to Branch Council. ALTA will continue to have observer status at Branch Council.

Doreen Parker

NSW PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The Public Libraries Section, NSW Group held its AGM in February at the Royal Blind Society of NSW. The Group were welcomed by Ivan Cribb, the President of the Library Committee of the RBS. At the conclusion of the official business, the librarian at the RBS Pam Beadle, spoke briefly on the history of the Society and its library service.

Following this talk those present were invited on a tour of the library. Interested librarians were able to view the collection of braille books, talking books and a display showing the evolution of the talking-book machine from the phonograph to the present-day cassette player. Problems associated with handling and using materials in braille and cassette format were also discussed.

The facilities for the production of talking-books were being used and those on the tour were able to see the process from the initial recording of people reading books to the 'proof-listening' of the final cassettes.

This was an excellent opportunity to see and hear about a library service provided specifically to meet the needs of a section of the public who because of disability are unable to have their needs met by their local public library.

Grahame Sandry

NSW BRANCH

The Branch's Promotional Committee has arranged its calendar for 1981. Once again, short meetings will be held for students of librarianship at Kuring-gai CAE, University of New South Wales and the Department of Technical and Further Education.

The popular 'new members' night will be on 21 October at the Haymarket Branch, City of Sydney Public Library. Later in the year new members will receive an invitation to this evening. Librarians in the Eastern Suburbs interested in hearing about LAA developments are invited to attend a meeting at the Woollahra Children's Library on 17 June at 6pm. For the first time, the Promotional Committee will venture outside the metropolitan area and will hold a meeting in Wollongong on 16 September.

Sectional and regional secretaries have been sent preliminary information about the meetings and will be contacted as details become available.

For more information contact: Anne Brinson 359 2558; Faye Lawrence 36 7818; Nola Emerson 692 2173; Margaret Simpson 27 6684 or Marea Terry (Convener) 692 2888.

COMIC WORKSHOP

MOSMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY provided the setting for a very successful comic workshop on Saturday, 11 April. It was opened by Ian Gordon (State Library of NSW) who described the relevance of comics to libraries, the different types of comics and possible methods of organising collections.

The main part of the workshop then got underway with comic artists Yaroslav Horak ('Cop Shop' and 'Andea') and Roger Fletcher ('Torkan' and 'Staria') displaying their skills to an audience of approximately 20 librarians and students from Kuring-gai CAE and 60 children between the ages of eight and 12.

The children were then encouraged to do their own drawings using some of the skills the artists had displayed. This involved using basic shapes to create figures and also illustrating a joke or riddle.

The advice and encouragement of Yaroslav and Roger was greatly appreciated by the children and resulted in the production of highly imaginative drawings. The direction and professional knowledge provided by Marion Calvert, the Children's Librarian at Mosman held the workshop together when chaos threatened!

An added attraction was a comic display organised by Gerard Ashworth of the Manly-Corso Bookshop. The success of the day has led to the suggestion that it be repeated at other libraries. If any library is interested in holding a similar function, contact Ian Gordon at the State Library of NSW. *Ian Gordon*

HARRISON BRYAN, the Director-General of the National Library of Australia will attend CONSAL V (Fifth Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians) to be held on 24-29 May 1981 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Mr Bryan has agreed to represent the Library Association of Australia at the Congress.

The Use and Misuse of Statistics An Introduction to Quantitative Techniques

Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education
School of Library and Information Studies
Continuing Education Unit No. 7

May 22 - 23, 1981

The course will be of value to all library staff who collect data on library operations, as well as to persons who are engaged on research projects requiring the use of statistical techniques. It will examine in detail the basic concepts of statistical analysis and will illustrate these with typical library examples. No prior knowledge of statistics will be assumed.

Fee: \$75.00 including meals.
For further details please contact: Ann Enderby,
School of Library and Information Studies,
Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education,
Eton Road, Lindfield, NSW 2070.
Telephone: (02) 467 9261

Small miscellaneous advertisements are accepted at the rate of \$5 per line, \$15 minimum.

Freelance Library Services (Division of Muriel Mathers and Associates) provides a complete range of library staff for full-time, part-time, permanent and temporary jobs. Contact: Muriel Mathers, BA, DipEd, ALAA, 11 Harrison Cres., Hawthorn, Vic 3122. Phone (03) 861 8602.

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