

# Report of second General Council meeting

**T**HE SECOND MEETING of General Council in 1981 was held in Sydney on 31 July and 1 August. This was the first Council meeting to be conducted since the new By-laws had been approved, which exclude Section representation on General Council.

Due to the expectation that the By-laws would not be in operation before the end of 1981 Sections had been led to believe that they had full voting rights until that time. In most cases the implications of the By-laws were not realised, so Council decided to conduct the business of the meeting *in committee* which enabled the Section representatives to take part in the proceedings.

At the end of the meeting all decisions made in committee were ratified by the General Council. The November meeting of General Council will be conducted under the new By-laws with the Sections having observer status.

## Copyright legislation

The Attorney-General's Department convened a meeting to discuss problems being experienced in the introduction of amendments to the Copyright Act. Mr Allan Horton attended the meeting on behalf of the LAA.

Some of the main areas of concern included remote users, the penalties for not complying with the Act, and the copying of a whole microfiche. In relation to remote users a lot of concern has been expressed about the requirement of a request and declaration being received in advance.

The Attorney-General's officers indicated they would be recommending amendment of the Act to the Attorney-General and the views of those attending the meeting were sought.

Librarians have expressed considerable concern at the introduction of criminal penalties into the Act. The Attorney-General's officers are concerned with the reaction to the provision and appear willing to suggest that an amendment to the law be contemplated which introduces civil penalties.

The attention of the Attorney-General's officers was drawn to the problem which librarians have in not breaching the law when they make a microfiche copy of a microfiche which may cover more than a reasonable portion of a work, when the intention is merely

to provide a user with a reasonable portion but where technology prevents this. The matter has been noted and some adjustment may be made eventually.

In addition to the matters for discussion listed by the Attorney-General's officers, Mr Horton was asked to raise the matter of audiovisual copying on behalf of the LAA. There has been a great deal of concern about the inability of libraries to satisfy what they regard as the legitimate demands of their users without breaching the law.

At the time of the meeting a press release was tabled *Review of audiovisual copyright laws*. This was the basis of press reports in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Australian Financial Review*. The LAA and Australian Copyright Council are to continue discussions to further refine areas of agreement.

We are to keep the Attorney-General's Department and other interests informed. The intention is that these consultations will grow to include other interests, such as educational bodies, and become semi-formal as soon as possible.

## Volunteer workers in libraries

Some time ago a discussion paper on volunteer workers in libraries was distributed by the previous Industrial Officer for comment. In view of the wide range of responses, a summary of the responses was circulated to Branches and Sections.

The Industrial Officer commented on the replies and said that no consensus exists as to whether or not there should be a statement on the issue, let alone what goes into it. She recommended to General Council that the LAA should not issue a policy statement on volunteer workers, as she was opposed to issuing a middle-of-the-road statement. Council accepted her recommendations.

## Discussion papers on charging for inter-library loans

Following advice to the Association that the University of New South Wales was introducing charges for inter-library loans, Executive Committee asked Mr Allan Horton and Dr Neil Radford to prepare discussion papers for and against the introduction of charges.

General Council discussed the issues but decided that it was not an appropriate time for the Association to adopt a position statement. Instead, the issues will be ventilated thoroughly with copies of the papers being sent to divisions for comment. The matter will then be discussed at the November meeting of General Council.

## Statement on non-discrimination in the employment of library staff

This statement has been issued by the Association, however Council decided that the Industrial Officer should convene a working group to develop the statement further, and monitor what is happening in various states in relation to anti-discrimination legislation.

## Fellowships

The General Council conferred the award of Fellowship of the LAA for distinguished service to librarianship on the following people: Mrs Hazel Hume, Professor Carmel Maguire, Dr Neil Radford and Mr Denis Richardson.

## Section representation on General Council

Following the passing of the new By-laws which excludes Section representation on Council, this item was agendered for discussion. The Council voted that the By-laws

should remain as they are but Section representatives are welcome to attend as observers.

## 1982 fees and budget

The General Treasurer presented a draft budget and fees schedule for 1982. There was some discussion about various items however the final budget will not be adopted until November. Provision has been made for a full-time Continuing Education Officer. Fees are likely to increase by 7½ percent which is a decline in real terms. The General Treasurer is also looking at making a further step at the top end of the fee schedule to facilitate more equitable distribution of fees.

## Publications Board

The Board's main concerns have been to identify some major publications for production in 1982. People have been approached in a number of areas to determine whether they might be prepared to compile and edit 'state of the art' manuals. The areas of public librarianship, academic librarianship and reference work have been identified as viable publishing ventures. The *List of Australian Subject Headings* and a *Copyright Kit* will be published in the near future.

## LAA22

A draft program for LAA22 in Adelaide was presented to General Council. Professor Donald Stranks, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide has accepted the Association's invitation to present the opening address. All major overseas speakers have now indicated their availability for the conference, and most of the session speakers have been finalised. The Conference Committee expects to be able to set enrolment and other fees shortly.

## International relations

General Council discussed and endorsed a number of proposals which will strengthen the LAA's role in international relations. Firstly, the Association is to invite IFLA to hold its 1988 conference in Australia. The invitation will be extended at the 1981 conference in Leipzig, however a firm commitment will not be received for two or three years.

A draft statement on the South-West Pacific had been circulated to divisions for comment. An amended version was adopted by Council as an LAA policy statement. It was noted that this was intended as the first in a series of statements about relationships with overseas associations.

A proposal for a second LAA China study tour has been accepted, for mid to late 1982. This follows the success of the first tour held in 1979.

Following the combined LAA/NZLA Conference held in Christchurch in January 1981, a joint LAA/NZLA Standing Committee has been set up to consider matters of common interest to both Associations. The first meeting of the Standing Committee is to be held in Wellington in mid September. The LAA will be represented by the Vice-President, General Secretary and Executive Director. Items for discussion were considered at General Council.

This was my first General Council meeting as Executive Director. I think all who attended would agree that it was an excellent meeting in terms of profitable discussion and indicated the strength of the Association in many areas as well as future directions.

Susan Acutt  
Executive Director



## Library Association of Australia Election of General Councillors appointed by the membership of the Association

Nominations have been called for two positions of General Councillor appointed by the membership, and will close on 1 September 1981. (See advertisement *InCite* no13, 7 August, p8).

At its meeting on 31 July and 1 August 1981, General Council resolved that

- The Councillors elected in the ballot closing on 16 November 1981 will take office immediately;
- the term of office of the Councillor gaining the most votes will be to 31 December 1983;
- the term of office of the other elected Councillor will be to 31 December 1982.

Susan Acutt  
Executive Director