

## Barr Smith library closes

# Librarians' strike

**UNPRECEDENTED INDUSTRIAL** action by librarians forced the closure of the Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide, SA, on 3-4 October 1981. Professional librarians went on strike in protest at a pay recommendation handed down by the University's Industrial Matters Committee.

Behind the amazing scenes, which included a Friday lunchtime rally by librarians on the rain-soaked Hughes Plaza, was a long running disagreement on University Council, with some prominent members making it clear they believed it was inadequacies in high administration which led to the dispute's escalation to this point.

At stake is the salary level of the Barr Smith professional librarians. The dispute stems from protracted negotiations between the University and Staff Association over a new industrial agreement for Professional Officers.

Classification criteria were finally agreed which gave all the professionals equal work value. The subsequent recommendation from the University's Industrial Matters Committee (IMC) puts them into the same pay scale as Australian Public Service librarians. This means for them a hefty pay drop of \$2000-\$3000 per year. At the same time the IMC recommends the University's other professional offices, in the Computing Centre and in Administration, retain roughly their present level of remuneration.

At the Friday lunchtime rally, librarians put their views to an assembly consisting mainly of professionals and academics. Circulation Services Librarian Stephen Beaumont stated his 'mixed feelings at the effect the closure had on students' but said that this skilful attempt to erode the position of professional staff must be stopped.

Other speakers stressed the difference between the duties of the Public Service librarian, on to whose pay scale the IMC is attempting to shunt the librarians, and the academic librarian who had a teaching responsibility to students.

'The librarians are conscious of the duties to students and would be extremely reluctant to strike again,' says the Librarians' Staff Association representative, Gillian Currie. 'But the librarians have already fired their main shot and if the University won't budge on the pay issue the determination of the librarians might signal a protracted war.'

The latest news we have is that following the industrial action, agreement has been reached with the University on a common salary structure for all the professional groups in question based on a nexus with Australia Public Service Clerical Grades. Classification standards for the new structure have also been agreed upon.

Taken in part from *On dit* 5 October 1981.



On the Hughes Plaza during the strike are University of Adelaide librarians (l to r) Patricia Scott, Gillian Currie, Alan Keig and Chris Smith. Photograph courtesy *On dit*.

## 'CHALLENGE AND RESPONSE'

**T**HE ORGANISERS OF LAA22 have been working for almost two years now to make the Adelaide Conference the highlight of the Australian library year in 1982. We are well aware that money is even tighter than it was at the time of the 1979 Canberra Conference and that many people could not afford to go to Christchurch in 1981.

To ensure that your 1982 dollar is well spent, we have assembled an exciting array of working sessions and an exhausting social program.

The Conference will begin at the Festival Theatre late on Sunday afternoon, 22 August, with the official opening and an address on one of the major themes, 'Libraries in a time of economic crisis', by Professor Donald Stranks, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide. This will be followed by the opening social function in the foyer of the theatre and later in the evening by an optional supper dance in the Banquet Hall.

For the next four days the Conference themes: 'Libraries in a time of economic crisis', 'Networking', 'Libraries and the community' and 'The new technologies' will be pursued in plenary sessions at the Festival



Don Bosseau, University of Hawaii

Theatre and in parallel sessions and special studies at the University of Adelaide.

The overseas speakers are: Don Bosseau, University Librarian, University of Hawaii; Dorothy Butler, author, bookseller, publisher, Auckland; Patricia Cianciolo, Professor of Children's and Adolescent Literature, Michigan State University; Susan Martin, Director, Milton S. Eisenhower Library, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore; Julie Virgo,

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# BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

**T**HE THIRD MEETING of the Board of Education for 1981 was held in Sydney on 29 and 30 October. The main items considered at the meeting included:

## Course assessments

Since June, professional courses at Kelvin Grove CAE, Queensland Institute of Technology, Nedlands CAE, WA Institute of Technology and Riverina CAE have been assessed by the Course Recognition Committee. Library technician courses at Canberra College of TAFE and Nedlands CAE have also been assessed. The Board is to make recommendations to the November meeting of General Council on these courses.

## Education statements

Over a two-year period the Board has been revising all the Association's policy statements relating to education for librarianship. The views of schools of librarianship, the LAA's divisions, associated bodies and the profession generally have been canvassed in that time. The Board has now finalised new draft statements for ratification by Council.

## Election of the Board of Education

Now that the new By-laws are in operation, seven members of the Board are to be elected by the membership of the Association, and three by the Professional Committee of Council. The Board considered draft Regulations for election of its members, for

adoption by Council. (See call for nominations elsewhere in this issue).

## Fees for tertiary courses

The Association has protested to the Minister for Education at the proposal to introduce fees for students enrolling in second and higher degrees in and from 1982. In view of the discouraging response from Mr Fife, and Parliament's imminent consideration of this issue, the Association's views are to be brought to the attention of all Senate party leaders, Senators Harradine, Jessup, Missen and Mr Hurford.

## Continuing Education

At the request of General Council, the CE Officer has arranged copyright workshops in Sydney and Melbourne in November. The major 1982 CE programs will be in the areas of industrial relations and middle-level management. A trial run for the latter program was held recently in the Hunter region of NSW, and was most successful. Overseas speakers for the Adelaide conference will also be undertaking limited CE activities while in Australia.

*Sue Phillips*



## Library Association of Australia Board of Education

Election of three members by the membership of the Association.

## Call for nominations

Membership of the Board of Education is as follows:

- three professional members elected by the Professional Committee of General Council (these members form the Board of Examiners);
- seven members, of whom at least four must be professional members, elected by the membership-at-large of the Association;
- the President of the Association ex officio;
- the Executive Director as a non-voting executive member.

(By-law 24)

The terms of office of five members of the present Board of Education end on 30 April 1982

To allow seven members to be elected by the membership of the Association over a three-year period, three members are now to be elected by the membership to hold office until 30 April 1985. Two members will be elected in 1983 and a further two in 1984.

The Professional Committee of General Council will elect one member to hold office to 30 April 1985 and will co-opt one member for the period to 30 April 1983, in place of the fourth and fifth members retiring on 30 April 1982. The membership of the Board will then be as set out in the new By-laws of the Association.

Nominations are hereby called for the three vacancies to occur 1 May 1982. Nominees must be financial members of the Association. They need not be professional members. However, to comply with the new By-laws at least two of the three members elected must be professional members.

Nominations shall be:

- in writing;
- signed by two financial members of the Association;
- countersigned by the nominee;
- accompanied by a curriculum vitae (giving full details of academic and professional qualifications) and a statement of concerns, each to be not more than 100 words.

Nominations close with the Executive Director, Library Association of Australia, 473 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010 at 5pm on Tuesday, 15 December 1981.

Board members retiring on 30 April 1982 are Mr E. Flowers, Mr J. Cook, Miss D. Goodman, Mr I. Miller and Mr I. Raymond. Apart from Mr Flowers, all are eligible for re-election.

*Susan Acutt*  
Executive Director

## STOP PRESS

FROM DECEMBER, ON EVERY MONDAY NIGHT AT 8PM on 2SER FM, 107.5 on the FM radio band, you will hear about what's really going on in public libraries.

From Monday 7 December 2SER FM will broadcast a weekly 30 minute magazine program *tlp* about people, services, events, and issues in public libraries.

Items will range from who's reading and listening to what and interviews with prominent people in the library and information world to reviews of recently released print and audiovisual material.

The program is backed by the Metropolitan Chief Librarians' Committee, the group of head librarians who run public libraries. Every Council in the metropolitan area provides a library service, and about 30 percent of the population are registered library users.

Every library worker is invited to submit material for the program.

One of the producers advised:

'You can submit material either on cassette or in writing.

'When preparing an item keep in mind that brevity and clarity are the keys to good audio production. Items should be no longer than 2½ minutes.

'Before taping an item either write it out fully - remembering you're writing to be listened to, not read - or at least make detailed notes about what you want to say.

'Use only good quality cassette recorders and cassettes - cheapies won't do you justice'.

All material may be sent either to Bob Diracca/Stephen Doyle, PO Box 435, Maroubra Junction NSW 2035 or Randwick-Botany Library or Carol Yuen, PLD, 8th Level, CAGA Centre, Bent Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

All material (including cassettes) will not be returned unless provision is made for return either by mail (self-addressed stamped envelope) or the ILL van, in the metropolitan Sydney area (self-addressed envelope) and while all care will be taken, no responsibility will be accepted for loss of or damage to any material.

Contact: Ms Faye Lawrence, Woollahra Municipal Library, 548 New South Head Road, Double Bay, NSW 2028, phone (02)36 7818.

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Executive Secretary, Association of College and Research Libraries, American Library Association; John Yocklunn, National Librarian, Papua New Guinea; F. Curtis May, Director of Library Services, San Mateo County Office of Education, California; Fred Ratcliffe, Librarian, Cambridge University, and Charles Robinson, Director, Baltimore Public Library.

The Conference ends officially on Thursday afternoon, 26 August, with the closing social function in the University Refectory.

Tours of libraries close to the University will be arranged during lunch hours and major tours of libraries outside the city will take place on Friday, the 27th. Travel and sightseeing tours are listed elsewhere in this issue of *Incite*.

The official Conference carriers are TAA who are involved in planning the sightseeing tours and booking accommodation. Reservations have been made in a wide range of hotels and motels, mostly within the city. As many beds as possible have been booked in nearby university colleges but accommodation of this kind is limited. Air New Zealand are the overseas carriers.

Social events are being organised by Sections, Special Interest Groups, students and alumni associations and include nine dinners, five lunches, one breakfast and one wine-tasting. It is planned to use specially bottled South Australian wines (probably red and white) and port.

As in Canberra in 1979, Peter Daniel and Co are organising an exhibition known as 'Second Library and Information Trade Fair' to be held on campus in the Bonython Hall and in Brookman Hall at the South Australian Institute of Technology.

A display competition for South Australian libraries is to coincide with the Conference and photographs of the winning entries will be on show in the foyer of the Festival Theatre.

Enrolment forms and the complete program will accompany the mid-March issue of *Incite* with enrolment closing at the end of May. All tours, social events and accommodation may be booked on the enrolment form.

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