

VIEWPOINT

WHEN AN illustrious previous President, Margaret Trask, assumed office a few years ago she issued a challenge to all of us as members of the LAA to 'Participate'. Through her regular column we were encouraged to practise active membership and to care for the Association as our own. That call was a positive one which, I believe, found a responsive chord if not overwhelmingly then at least to a representative degree.

Many signs suggest that the time is right for a further call for involvement. Our Association is a union of all its members and one in which each has the opportunity and indeed the responsibility to contribute according to his or her talents. In order to be meaningful such contribution or participation requires a mechanism for expression. That mechanism may be any one of a number of means of communication. Hence, may I call upon members to make the key word of 1981 'Communicate', an activity which is basic to any participation or involvement.



Jim Dwyer, LAA President

Numerous members have indicated to me in the past year that they consider an Association can be effective only if its honorary and paid officers are observable performers and not mere figureheads. My reaction is to be in full agreement as, I believe, would be the reaction of each of the officers concerned.

We are the servants of our members and our prime responsibility is to be in effective communication with our membership. Through this column during the year I hope to maintain one of many avenues of communication.

Hopefully you as members will continue to accept and even strengthen the responsibility of personal involvement by active communication at the Branch and Regional levels and at the national level as occasion demands. You have my assurance that your requirements of me will be met whenever reasonable and, where possible, even if unreasonable.

I look forward to a year of service and co-operation, particularly working with the new members of the Executive – Judith Baskin and Alan Bunsell – who are to be congratulated on being chosen by the membership at the recent elections. Finally, I look to the new General Council for sound and effective government of the Association in 1981.

LAA President, *Jim Dwyer*

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Launching of Bookmark 81



Dulcie Stretton, President of the Australian Library Promotion Council, Buzz Kennedy (left), Literary Editor of the Australian, and David McPhee, manager of Henry Lawson's Bookshop, Sydney, seen chatting after Mr Kennedy launched the ALPC's Bookmark 81: Diary and Directory, on 29 November 1980.

News from Headquarters

SEVERAL CHANGES to the Association's staffing took place in 1980. The Association's Industrial Officer, Brian Henderson, resigned in December to take up a position as an Industrial Officer with the Australian Federation of Air Pilots. Brian, who was well known and a popular member of the Association's staff, will be sorely missed. The position was advertised nationally in December and will be filled as soon as possible.

Two membership records staff left during the year – Julie Madden in April and Joan Boyle in December. With the increasing computerisation of the membership records, it has been possible to reduce the staff complement by one (following a reduction in staff members in 1979) and only one new member of staff has been appointed – Tania Mazzoni.

The newly created position of Continuing Education Officer is advertised elsewhere this issue and it is hoped that the successful applicant will be able to take up duties promptly. As soon as an appointment is made, a note will appear in *Incite* and Divisions of the Association will be notified.

Because of delays in the Registrar General's Department over the Christmas break, it has not been possible to complete the settlement of the Association's new property. Details and a photograph have therefore been held over until the next issue of this newsletter when a date for moving will also be given.

If you need to contact someone at the Association's office the following list of staff, as at 1 January 1981, should be useful:
 Executive Director: Gordon Bower;
 Executive Assistant: Sue Phillips;
 Industrial Officer: Vacant;
 Publications Officer: Irene Strachan;
 Publications Assistant: Daveen Temby;
 Secretary: Angela Brommann;
 Bookkeeper: Lynne Ritchie;
 Membership Clerks: Mary Sherwood and Tania Mazzoni.

Gordon Bower, Executive Director

SA TO GO ONLINE

TENDERS WERE called in early December for an on-line circulation system for the State Library and Public Libraries Divisions in South Australia. Euan Miller the officer responsible for implementation told *Incite*. The timetable is scheduled for a July 81 launch, Mr Miller added.

The libraries were interested in a package that could offer a multi-level circulation function Mr Miller said. As well as controlling the lending functions of the State Library presently rating at 1.5 million issues per annum, the system was expected to control both the PLD circulation of materials to public libraries and in turn, local authority library circulation to borrowers.

It is expected that the PLD will act as a bureau for a selected group of metropolitan public libraries in Adelaide, which will use the system to control their own circulation function. Anticipated excess transaction capacity in the system will allow this, Mr Miller added.

Negotiations are being carried out also, through the Local Government Association of South Australia to establish a co-operative that will allow a much larger group of local authority libraries anticipating automated circulation control to establish a duplicate system that will link in with the SLD/PLD data base.

Other automation options being considered in South Australia at present include automated acquisition and cataloguing control for the Public Libraries Division and the extension of the ABN pilot to a recently established South Australian library network.

The SLD/PLD have combined with the Colleges of Advanced Education and the Department of Further Education to establish the South Australian Network Group (SANG). This group has been charged with the responsibility of investigating the establishment of an on-line regional network and have successfully negotiated with the Barr Smith Library, access to the ABN pilot.