

News from the Divisions

NSW BRANCH

NSW meeting for Ratcliffe

NSW Branch Council meet on Wednesday 9 June. The President informed Council that the talents of Dr Frederick Ratcliffe, University Librarian, University of Cambridge, had been made available for an afternoon seminar to be held at the University of Sydney on 11 August.

Dr Ratcliffe has been actively involved in catalogue automation and library design. His address to the Branch will concentrate on Collection Building and Management.

Branch Council hopes that the seminar will prove attractive to members unable to attend LAA22 in Adelaide and to UCLS members, whose section is in recess in NSW this year.

See Happenings for details of the meeting; as numbers are limited, the Branch Secretary, Philomena Lapsley, would appreciate an early response.

Interlending conference

Branch Council discussed further the proposal to hold a conference on the topic 'Interlending in the Eighties' and decided to set up a sub-committee to work on detailed planning.

Anyone interested in being on this committee should contact the President, Marea Terry (02) 692 2888.

Tasks for support staff in school libraries

Council also discussed further the tasks of support staff in school libraries.

The NSW groups of the School Libraries Section and the Library Technicians Section reported to Council on the joint meeting of their committees and it was decided to await further information from these groups.

Standards for public libraries

After some discussion on the proposals to review these standards, it was decided to refer it to the Public Libraries Section for dissemination and discussion.

Membership fees

Some concern was expressed at the structure of membership fees and its likely effect on membership numbers.

Branch meetings

The Branch has continued its programs of meetings to discuss and explain the functions of the LAA to members and potential members.

Thirty people attended a meeting at Campbelltown on 25 May and over 70 people attended a meeting at Kuring-gai CAE on 26 May.

Ian Gordon

ACT BRANCH

Nominations for positions on the 1983 ACT Branch Council will be called for through the *ACT Branch Newsletter*. Nominations will close on 1 September.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES — VICTORIA

Meeting notices and other information from the Victorian committee are mailed to all libraries listed in the Victorian directory. The committee is aware, however, that there are special librarians not connected with these libraries, who would like to be added to the mailing list. Please contact Geoff Lawson at the CSL Library, 45 Poplar Road, Parkville 3052 (389 1233).

Over 50 special librarians listened intently to details of Legal Information Sources at the Victorian June meeting. Yvonne Urquhart, Librarian at Arthur Robinson & Co, gave a clear explanation, from the view of the working librarian, of the foibles and traps of the primary and secondary source material. Butterworths' city representative Marta Anderson told how she, and the firm's other reps, saw her role as assisting librarians in their quest for definitive resources and stressed the two-way flow of information between the reps and the librarians. Barrister Julian Burnside completed the picture with a look into the not-too-distant future, with the use of computerised databanks of legal information.

The Victorian committee's provision of hot gourmet refreshments to ward off the winter chills was well appreciated and will be repeated for the July meeting.

The second 1982 update for the *Directory of Special Libraries in Victoria* has been published and posted to all subscribers. Directory holders who have not yet subscribed are urged to do so quickly to maintain the currency of their *Directory*. The updates for 1982 cost a mere \$5, order from Keith Sandford at PO Box 305, Eltham, 3095.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES DIVISION

The Biennial General Meeting will be held at the University of Adelaide on Tuesday 24 August 1982 at 4.00 pm. Items for inclusion on the Agenda should be sent to the Secretary. Nominations for the Federal Executive 1983/4 were called for in InCite, no. 12 and will appear again in no. 14.

NSW SPECIAL LIBRARIES

NSW Specials have created a position on their Committee of Country Co-ordinator and the Committee hopes to cater more for the needs of Special Librarians who work outside the Sydney metropolitan area.

At present a questionnaire designed to ascertain the needs and desires of 'Country Specials' is being distributed. For more details or copies of the questionnaire contact Sue Black ((02) 44 6682 before 31.7.82) or Sue Brockway (02) 211 2722).

SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION, WA GROUP

The Special Libraries Section, WA Group has held three meetings, so far this year. The first, which included a buffet supper, drew a large number of people.

Louise Jones (Divisional Librarian: Systems Development, Library Board of WA) commenced the business of the evening with the history and development of the Australian Bibliographic Network. Her talk also included an outline of the relevance of ABN to special libraries, and this was most interesting. Tony Barley (Treasury Dept, WA) then talked about his role on the Interim Committee of the proposed WA Library Network, as representative of government department libraries. A lively discussion concluded the evening.

The second meeting, in May attracted a smaller number of people, but those attend-

ing appreciated the opportunity of hearing how librarians, who have had cuts in staff, coped with difficult situations. Their experiences were the basis of discussion on various strategies used and pitfalls to avoid. Some notes were taken, and any one interested in these should contact Judy Morrissey, c/- Library Board of WA, 102 Beaufort St, Perth, WA.

Another very successful meeting was held in June at the Parliamentary Library, and again a large number of people came along. Roslyn Membrey, Parliamentary Librarian, explained the functions and services of the library, and raised the questions of access to WA government publications, particularly the role the Parliamentary Library could play in this.

The Section is planning another four meetings for the rest of the year, and reports will be given of these.

Films and Social Evening

For those who enjoy John Cleese (and even those who don't), come along to our Social Evening which will begin with two training films starring John Cleese. Other films will also be shown.

After the films, we will adjourn to a nearby restaurant for more fun and frivolity. If you are coming, please contact Judy Morrissey on 328 7466 or Ros Membrey on 322 1344.

The date is 28 July, the films will be at the State Film Centre, 160 James St, Perth, 5.30-7.15 pm. Cost of the dinner will be approximately \$12-\$15 per head. Some wine will be provided, but BYO as well. Additional guests welcome.

Zero growth libraries? Myth of the '70s — Necessity for the 80s?

Have your say in Adelaide at LAA 22
August 22-26 '82.

RARA MEETING ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

A very successful RARA meeting was held on 16 June on the topic 'Freedom of Information — local government and the reference librarian'.

Various angles were presented by the four speakers — Bruce Bell (NSW Freedom of Information Council), Janet Howes (Sydney City Council Archivist), Bernard Sargeant (Consultant, Sutherland Shire Council) and Cheryl Neal (NSW Local Government and Shires Association).

One focus of discussion dealt with the degree to which the existing NSW Local Government Act already provides for public access to Council information.

It was noted that, unlike the currently proposed Victoria Freedom of Information Bill, a draft NSW Bill by Peter Wilenski, as part of his 1977-80 review of the NSW State Public Service, specifically excludes local government from the terms of reference.

Other matters raised included the matter of a person's liability in regard to the giving out of incorrect information. The four papers will soon be available on request. Enquiries to Anthony Estorffe, RARA Convenor, LAA Public Libraries Section (02) 299 9488.