

News from the Divisions

ACT BRANCH

The Annual General Meeting was held on 3 December 1981, and annual reports were presented by the President, Treasurer, General Councillor and Section Representatives.

On 5 February a meeting was held to discuss the 1982 program and resulted in a number of suggestions for both professional and social activities. See Happenings for further details.

John Dean, currently Collections Maintenance Officer at the Milton S. Eisenhower library of the John Hopkins University, was guest speaker at a meeting on 5 February, organised jointly by the LAA (ACT Branch) and the ACT Branch of the International Centre for the Conservation of Cultural Material.

An appreciative audience had a great many questions to ask and were very grateful to John Dean for sparing time to be with them from his three days in Australia.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Local history movement

A happy party was held on Friday, 19 February at History House, Royal Australian Historical Society, Sydney, for the launching of two NSW Branch publications.

Local Government Records in New South Wales papers from a workshop and seminar held in October 1981 and jointly organised by the NSW Branch of the LAA and the Sydney Branch of the Australian Society of Archivists, and *Local Studies Collections*, compiled by John Flint and Anne Franklin, were the two important publications that were the reason for the celebration.

About fifty librarians, archivists, historians and local government officials joined in congratulating the authors, editors and compilers.

In launching *Local Government Records*, Associate Professor Ian Jack, University of Sydney, commended the fruitful cooperation of the two Associations and the ongoing work of the Local Government Records Action Committee established at the time of the seminar.

Other speakers were Russell Doust, State Librarian of NSW and Chairman of the LAA Publications Board, who launched *Local Studies Collections*, Tony Mitchell, Convenor, Sydney Branch ASA, Marea Terry NSW Branch President LAA, Patricia Ward and John Flint.

Both publications are now available through LAA, 473 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010.

1982 Council

Marea Terry will be the Branch President for 1982. Aileen Stevenson, Philomena Lapsley and David Hawkins were elected unopposed at the end of last year to the positions of Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Community radio

The Branch has decided to join with the Metropolitan Chief Librarians' Committee

in funding a 15-minute weekly slot on the community radio 2 SER FM. Programs produced will be available for regional use and it is hoped to continue the project beyond the initial six-month period.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Branch will be held in the Galleries of the State Library of NSW on Thursday, 25 March 1982. Guest speaker will be John Levett, editor of *Australian Library Journal*.

National Book Council

The Branch has accepted an invitation to have a representative on the NSW Committee of the National Book Council. Margaret Simpson was elected to this position.

Branch Council

The first meeting of Branch Council for 1982 was held on Saturday, 9 February. The meeting was attended by representatives from 8 Sectional Groups, 2 Special Interest Groups and the 6 Regional Groups. The Annual Budget of the Branch was formulated and Branch and Divisional Programs for 1982 were discussed. Future meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of every month in the Conference Room, Fisher Library at 6.00 pm. Observers are welcome but should contact the Branch Secretary beforehand.

Ian Gordon

VICTORIAN BRANCH

Freedom of Information Legislation

The Branch has appointed a sub-committee to examine the Victorian Freedom of Information Legislation and subsequently to make appropriate representation to the State Government and the Opposition.

Sales Tax

The Government's recent announcement that exempt organisations will pay the 2½ percent sales tax and then claim monthly rebates was discussed. The extra work and increased administrative costs involved for such institutions were noted, particularly when in libraries, as in many other government-funded institutions, staff have been severely cut.

It was decided to bring this to the attention of the Executive Director and to write to all local government bodies regarding the implications of the new sales tax proposal.

Furthermore it was decided that all branch sections be asked to inform their members of the situation; that the President alert the press and that a letter be sent to the Municipal Association of Victoria expressing appreciation of its concern and activities in these matters.

Censorship

The Branch's concern over uniform censorship legislation was largely alleviated by discussions with members of the Victorian Law Department. It was learnt that new Federal legislation is not expected in the near future and that present Victorian standards are not under threat.

Since the current guidelines used by the State Classification of Publications Board met with general approval it was decided to take no further action at this stage.

Book House Beer Seminars

It is planned to run two self-supporting early evening functions at Book House in Carlton featuring stimulating speakers whose topics would interest librarians and booktrade colleagues. Light refreshments (naturally fea-

turing beer) would follow! The first will be in late April.

State Elections

The State's political parties were contacted by phone regarding their policies on public library subsidies and the new State Library building. The results were as follows:

Liberal Party — committed to a programme of continuous upgrading and improvement of public library subsidies. The party is also committed to the construction of a new State Library building on the Queen Victoria Market Site on completion of the Victorian Arts Centre.

Labor Party — supports public library funding being raised so that the 50/50 local and state government balance is restored. This could not, however, be achieved in the first budget. The party is also committed to a new State Library building on the present site of the Queen Victoria Hospital. This would create a cultural complex comprising the State Library, the Museum and the Science Museum. A written confirmation of these views has been sought from the Shadow Minister, Mr I. Cathie.

National Party — policies are being formulated. However, the Branch was asked to supply its views on these issues to help in policy development and this has been done.

Democrats — the only policy available was a very general one concerning the importance of information and education. Some indication on the party's views of the two specific issues was requested but this has not yet been received.

Angela Bridgland

PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION

A one-day conference is to be held on Saturday 27 March, on the subject *Council Amalgamations: What are the Implications for Libraries?*

The special guest speakers will include Allen Hislop, Helen Woodward and Min Tobitt. The conference will be held at Hawkesbury Shire Library, Windsor and further information can be obtained from Colin Gray, LAA NSW Public Libraries Section, GPO Box 2959, Sydney 2001.

Library delegation

The Public Library Delegation 1982 is to meet Premier Neville Wran on 24 May, and ask:

- should we urge the State Government to increase its per capita subsidy (unchanged since 1978)?
- should we seek the establishment of a mechanism to enable annual review of subsidy funding?
- should we see indexation of special grants?

Input on these and other issues is welcomed. Submissions should be sent to: Colin Gray, Secretary, LAA Public Libraries Section (NSW), GPO Box 2959, Sydney 2001. *Please note that the deadline is 12 March.*

Zero growth libraries?

Myth of the '70s — Necessity for the 80s?

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