



## A word from the President

1983 IS NOW settling down and LAA committees are working on their year's activities. General Council has had its first meeting and among other things has accepted the programme of objectives previously circulated to the branches for comment.

The dust raised by the hurley burley of the federal election has settled and we are learning how to work with a new government. The short lead-up time to the election did not unfortunately, give much opportunity for lobbying, but at least some members are more aware of party policies than before. One gratifying aspect of our activity in this quarter was a letter from the National Party of Australia - Queensland asking us to help in the formulation of a policy for the provision of library and information services.

We are now following up on pre-election exercises in accordance with our objectives by requesting interviews with appropriate ministers to discuss libraries and information services. A small sub committee has been formed to review the Horton Report before making representations to the government about this. A briefing paper on the LAA is also being prepared for circulation to members of the government as well as the opposition. Such information will be applicable to the state level if branches are interested.

We look forward to establishing useful working relationships with the new government which, in policy statements at least, is interested in libraries and information services.

Barrie Mitcheson  
LAA President

### Please note!

Will LAA members please note that all mail should be sent to 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007, not to the Post Office box previously used.

Thank you.

# IFLA coming to Australia in Bicentennial Year

AT ITS MARCH 1983 meeting, General Council decided to reconfirm its invitation to IFLA to meet in Australia in 1988. General Council has taken some exciting and onerous decisions in recent years about conferences. The biennial conference in Darwin in 1986 and IFLA in 1988 will be major and unique events in LAA's life, but it's time to say that both carry major financial implications for the Association.

The LAA issued a preliminary invitation in 1981 to IFLA to meet in Australia in 1988 as a result of General Council decisions. The General Council needed to make a final decision at the March 1983 meeting. An Interim IFLA Committee which included President, Secretary, General Treasurer, Executive Director, Nominee of the Director-General of the National Library, Nominee of the State Librarian of NSW, President of the NSW Branch, and Chairman International Relations Committee reported to General Council on organisational and financial aspects.

The Committee met three times in 1982 and reported to the November 1982 General Council. Faced with the considerable financial implications, General Council accepted a recommendation that a Convention Organiser be asked to prepare a draft budget based on the IFLA Conference Manual for the March General Council meeting, before making a final decision. Dulcie Stretton Associates were asked to undertake the task. In the week before General Council, Margreet Wijnstroom, the Secretary General of IFLA was brought to Australia by the National Library to assist in determining the budget and to advise General Council and the executive generally on how IFLA Conferences operate.

A revised draft based on Mrs Stretton's figures but amended by the General Treasurer in the light of discussion with Margreet Wijnstroom was presented to General Council indicating that IFLA could be held provided a conference fee of \$320 in 1988 dollars was charged. While this is substantial it was not considered by General Council to be exorbitant. Charges in 1983 of \$120 for a 1½

day conference and \$600 for a four day live-in conference were quoted. Moreover this budget had made no allowance for Government or commercial sponsorship and the Association intends to seek these vigorously. It was noted that a \$3000 government grant had already been made to bring Margreet Wijnstroom to Australia.

There was some discussion over the question of inviting international involvement in a year that was a specifically Australian celebration and Margreet Wijnstroom commented that the French had invited IFLA to meet in France in 1989, the bicentennial of the French Revolution. *The French Government has already allocated funds for this purpose.*

General Council believed that to bring IFLA to Australia in 1988 would not only emphasise international relations and be of benefit in our growing involvement with the committees of IFLA but would also demonstrate the achievements of Australian librarianship to the world in Australia's bicentennial year and accordingly resolved to confirm the invitation to IFLA.

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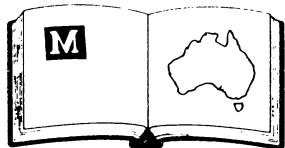
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