

Report of General Council

THE SECOND MEETING for this year of the General Council of the LAA was held in Melbourne on 22 and 23 July 1983. The President welcomed observers, including Doug Down, President of the Australian School Library Association, and a number of Branch Treasurers who were able to stay over following the Treasurers Seminar.

Reports

As is usual practice, the President, Executive Director and Industrial Information Officer presented written reports to Council outlining recent activities. Council also received reports from a number of General Councillors.

Lobbying

Council received a report on the lobbying activities undertaken by the Association. Many of these have already been reported in *InCite*, including the President and Executive Director's meetings with the Minister

for Science and Technology and the Minister for Home Affairs, and the LAA's submission to the IAC Inquiry into the Australian computer industry.

The LAA has made its views known to Government on a large number of subjects since the last meeting of Council. Many of these will be covered in this report and include: freedom of information, national information policy, Australian Federal Libraries Council, Australian Aid Review, copyright, school/community libraries in Australia, national language policy and concessional book postage rates. In a number of these areas the Association is recognised as an authoritative voice whose views are sought. The LAA has registered its interest in being represented at the National Summit on Technology to be held in late September. This was one of the matters raised with the Minister for Science and Technology.

Code of ethics

In November 1982 General Council established a Working Party to prepare a draft code of ethics to be disseminated to the

membership as widely as possible for input and comment. Margaret Cameron was invited to convene the Working Party. A report was presented to General Council. Following considerable investigation of the topic, Miss Cameron felt that the matter should be pursued by someone who is more convinced that a code of ethics is a good idea. General Council reaffirmed its previous resolution that a draft code be prepared and has invited John Balnaves to convene a Working Party to report to Council in March 1984.

Interlibrary lending and document delivery

In November 1982 Council resolved that a move be made to establish a joint LAA/AACOBS Working Party to examine the concept of a centre of first resort. There was considerable discussion about whether this is a suitable project for the LAA or whether it is more appropriately a matter of concern to AACOBS or ALIC. A number of members felt that it was appropriate for the LAA to formulate views on wider issues such as this.

General Council resolved that the LAA establish a Working Party (a) to determine whether the problem is as acute as Foote and Douglas argue (refer *ALJ* v31(1) 1982, pp.33-44; *ALJ* v31(3) 1982, pp.25-30; *ALJ* v31(4) 1982, p.43; *ALJ* v32(1) 1983); if so, (b) to review the cases proposed by Foote and Douglas, and to determine what other possibilities, if any, exist; (c) to evaluate these proposals, and to propose a programme to achieve the objectives of that proposal which the Working Party deems most appropriate. Council has invited a number of people to join the Working Party.

Freedom of information

The Attorney-General, Senator Gareth Evans, has undertaken a review of the Freedom of Information Act 1982. The review of the Act was completed early in May and on 24 May 1983 the Attorney-General issued a press statement outlining the proposed amendments to the Act. On 24 May the Executive Director wrote to the Attorney-General encouraging him in the moving of his amendments to the Legislation, and expressing the Association's wish to comment.

The Executive Committee, at its meeting on 22 April, asked Jeanette Knox and Marilyn Bryce to review the LAA's previous submission, so that another submission can be made to the Attorney-General.

A response was received from Lionel Bowen (Acting Attorney-General) encouraging the LAA to respond.

General Council considered and endorsed the supplementary submission prepared by Jeanette Knox and Marilyn Bryce, which was circulated with the agenda.

- Council resolved to
- request Jeanette Knox and Marilyn

AACOBS approved*

Inter-Library Loan Requests

Closing Date for the next personalised print run is 30th September, 1983 for delivery to you during October. Any order not received by 30th September will be held over until April, 1984.

Minimum quantity for personalising with your library name and address is 1,000 (to be ordered in multiples of 1,000 also).

Should you miss the closing date, but still want your forms personalised, we can overprint Stock forms for you. Delivery time is approximately 5 weeks. Minimum quantity again is 1,000 (to be ordered in multiples of 1,000).

If you don't want your forms personalised we can still supply unpersonalised ones ex Stock - minimum quantity 250.

Price Details:

Personalised forms produced in group run closing 30th September \$46.00 flat charge per order plus \$47.00 per 1,000 (minimum quantity 1,000).

Stock forms personalised by overprinting - \$52.00 flat charge per order plus \$71.00 per 1,000 running time.

Stock forms unpersonalised \$16.00 flat charge per order plus \$47.00 per 1,000 (minimum quantity 250).

Personalising will be in Bold Capitals - 4 lines by 3" wide.

AACOBS have a number of suggested amendments to the design of the Inter-Library Loan Request to evaluate, and if proved viable, will be incorporated at an opportune time.

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INTERESTED IN UPGRADING YOUR QUALIFICATIONS?

At Kuring-Gai College of Advanced Education, holders of the Registration Exam of the LAA or the Certificate in Librarianship from Sydney Technical College (1965-74) may complete the Bachelor of Arts (Library Science) in 3-3½ years of part-time study.

Briefing Session 6.30pm 11 October
Applications close 4 November

Application form and further information from School of Library and Information Studies Phone: 467 9336 or 467 9261.

Bryce to maintain a watching brief on behalf of the LAA and make recommendations for appropriate action to Council when appropriate

- send the submission to the Attorney-General, with copies to all members of Federal Parliament, and to the appropriate policy committees of all political parties
- send the submission to all State Governments, with an outline of the Victorian legislation, asking them to comment on specific points.

Council commended Jeanette Knox and Marilyn Bryce for the excellent work they have done in this area.

Library and Information Research Foundation

An outline of this proposal will appear in the next issue of *InCite*.

Australian Federal Libraries Council

At the November 1982 meeting, General Council rejected a request from the ACT Branch for a grant for research to aid in the establishment of an Australian Federal Libraries Council.

Council asked the Executive Committee to consult with the Branch on future action. Following a meeting, it was decided that a submission based on work already done be prepared for presentation to the Prime Minister.

The submission has been prepared by the Branch, in consultation with the Executive Committee, and has recently been forwarded to the Prime Minister. No response has yet been received.

Australian Aid Review

On 17 April the Minister for Foreign Affairs announced the establishment of a Committee to conduct a review of all aspects of the Australian overseas aid programme. The International Relations Committee prepared a submission on behalf of the LAA for presentation to the Minister. A precis of the submission will appear in a later issue of *InCite*. Members are welcome to request copies from the office.

Horton Report

Following the election to Government of the Australian Labor Party, it was suggested by a number of members that another ap-

proach should be made on the Horton Report. In April 1983 the Executive Committee established a small working party to review the Horton Report and its recommendations, and to advise the Association on appropriate action. The working party, convened by the Vice-President, Warren Horton, consulted with State Librarians, members of the initial inquiry, public librarians and other interested parties.

The almost unanimous view is that there is little sense and no political advantage in arguing for Federal funding to public libraries on the same basis as the Report proposed. While the Labor Party's response to the Ministerial Statement on Assistance to Public Libraries in September 1981 was positive, there is a general feeling that it is unrealistic in the current economic climate to expect any government to be able to fund public libraries to a meaningful level in the manner initially proposed.

The Association believes that the 1975 report should not be the basis of our major thrust in 1983. It believes that it would be better to target particular areas of need and to seek Government commitment and funding for them as specific projects. Such areas would include:

- service to disadvantaged groups (including the problems of multicultural services, to which scant attention was paid in the 1975 Report)
- conservation of library materials
- automation in public library services
- support for ALIC and ABN and other developments in the broad interest.

General Council discussed future action. It resolved that the Public Libraries Section should be asked to identify target areas suitable for Federal funding, and to submit proposals which might be taken up with the Government.

The proposals are to be discussed at the November meeting of General Council. Members are requested to forward comments to the Section or the LAA office by 30 September.

Joint Australian Information Council

At the March meeting of General Council it was resolved that the General Secretary prepare a proposal for presentation to the July meeting of Council, on a joint Australian Council of information services. The Coun-

cil was suggested as a means of bringing together organisations with an interest in the information sector, for regular discussion on matters of common concern. The members could include the LAA, Australian Book Publishers Association, Australian Computer Society, Australian Society of Archivists, Association of Film and Video Libraries, AACOBS and Australian Geosciences Information Association.

In addition to this group other sectors which have an information role, such as the banking, insurance, telecommunications and communications would be included as their activities impinge on library information activities.

For such a diverse group to meet and form a lobbying force to Government would not be possible. These associations have been established for different purposes and their aims and objectives are often in direct conflict.

The virtues of wider discussion of problems may well be overridden by other considerations, such as whether such a Council would be too broad a group for satisfactory discussion, or whether there are sufficient topics of common interest, or perhaps the relationship between these groups as presently exists is more appropriate.

Council discussed the paper presented and issues raised. It was resolved to write to various organisations seeking expressions of interest in the proposed Joint Australian Information Council. The original proposal is to be revised in the light of discussion at Council and resubmitted in November. The revised proposal will be sent to various organisations.

School/community libraries

The Schools Commission released its report on school/community libraries for public comment prior to its preparation of advice to the Government. The Executive Committee invited Doug Down to prepare a response on behalf of the Association. Council considered the response and resolved that it be forwarded with amendments to the Schools Commission.

Formation of divisions

General Council approved the formation of an Acquisitions Section, Victorian Group and an Information Management and Consultancy Special Interest Group.

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Copyright

The LAA has continued to be represented at meetings with the Attorney-General's Department on matters relating to copyright in print materials and nonbook materials. A report from Derek Fielding was circulated for the information of General Council. A major news item on the latest developments will appear in the next issue of *InCite*.

Volunteer workers

The Western Australian Branch raised with General Council the subject of the use of volunteers in libraries. The Association had previously considered the subject in 1981. A draft statement had been prepared and was circulated to divisions for comment. No further position paper was prepared, due to lack of a consensus.

Council resolved that the Industrial Information Officer, Vice-President and Roy Stall prepare a draft statement for consideration by the Executive Committee in the first instance. This will then be circulated to divisions for comment.

Draft Budget for 1984

Council noted the draft budget of the Association for 1984. Divisions are invited to comment on the budget before final approval at the November meeting.

Funding of Regional Groups

Presently Regional Groups are funded directly from the LAA Head Office. The General Treasurer presented a proposal to Council that Branches consider funding Regional Groups directly. This has been circulated to Branches and Regional Groups for comment.

Membership fees for 1984

This will appear as a news item in the next issue of *InCite*.

LAA voucher fund

Council approved a number of regulations relating to the operation of the voucher fund. These will appear in the 1984 *Handbook*.

ALIC issues and objectives paper

The Australian Libraries and Information Council has prepared an issues and objectives paper which sets out the major elements the Council believes would constitute a national plan. Responses have been requested by 1 October. Council resolved that the paper be circulated to Branches for comment. The Executive Director is to prepare a paper, incorporating comments, for discussion at the September meeting of the Executive Committee.

ABN Forward Plan

The ABN Forward Plan has also been distributed to Branches for comment.

Committee to Monitor Library Standards

A report was presented to Council by the Convenor, Linda Beveridge. Copies of stan-

dards, guidelines and any publications relevant to standards have been requested from a number of organisations. Each member of the Committee is appraising available Australian and overseas standards and will recommend whether the appropriate standards need to be written or existing standards may be modified and adopted, or adopted in total from elsewhere.

Council resolved to refer the report to the Publications Board and to request the Committee to present a more detailed proposal for funding to the November meeting of Council.

Election procedures for LAA committees

Council approved a set of procedures to govern the election of members to LAA committees. These will be circulated in full as appropriate to divisions and through *InCite*.

Board of Education

This will appear as a separate report in the next issue of *InCite*.

LAA/NZLA 1984 Conference

Council approved the draft programme for the 1984 Conference. This was published in the last issue of *InCite*.

LAA computer

Following lengthy investigation of the Association's requirements for computing facilities, and an evaluation of the systems

available, Council approved the lease/purchase of a new integrated word processing and data processing system to replace the present system for the Association. A detailed report will appear in the next issue of *InCite*.

LAA office

Council approved funds to be used to replace the existing roof of LAA House, and the installation of a cooling system.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation Advisory Committee

A notice appeared in the press asking for nominations for the ABC national advisory committee and state advisory committees. It was resolved that the LAA nominate a person to the national committee and that Branches be asked to nominate persons for the state committees.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of General Council is to be held at LAA House on Friday, 18 and Saturday, 19 November. The HCL Anderson Award will be presented to Sir Harold White at a function on the Friday evening.

The preceding report outlines the major items discussed at the meeting. Members are welcome to request more information on these items from their General Councillors, Branch Secretary or the LAA office. Full sets of the papers and minutes are also available from the above sources. *Susan Acutt*
Executive Director

SA Library Promotion C'tee active

THE LIBRARY Promotion Committee of South Australia has re-formed after a period of inactivity. Its aim is to promote and publicise libraries and library services, and its main focus for this year will be Australian Library Week, 16-24 September, 1983.

The move to re-form the Committee came from the LAA Branch President, Christine Harrison, and after a meeting with the National President, Dulcie Stretton, it was agreed that a new executive would be elected. The new Chairman is Margaret Sandstrom, Treasurer Colin Lawton (who is also the link with the old Committee), Publicity Officer Laurie McCann and Publications Officer Jill Stevens. A Secretary is yet to be appointed.

Australian Library Week in South Australia will open with a dinner on Monday, 19 September 1983 at the Public Libraries Division, 121 The Parade, Norwood. It commences at 7pm for 7.30pm and tickets at \$10 per head (all inclusive) are available from Colin Lawton (telephone 228 5236) and Mar-

garet Sandstrom (telephone 332 8266). Cheques should be payable to the Library Promotion Committee of South Australia. Guest speaker for the evening will be Arthur Mortimer, BA (Adelaide), ALAA, CROW, part-time lobbyist for better public libraries in Australia and Liaison Librarian for the School of Social Studies at the South Australian Institute of Technology.

Publications of the Australian Library Promotion Council are available from the national office at 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne, 3000, and all orders over \$60 should be sent to them. Individual or smaller packs of items may be purchased through Jill Stevens, Elizabeth West High School, 23 Crafter Street, Elizabeth Field (254 6300) and Avril Way, Gawler High School, Barnet Road, Gawler (085 22 2044) from whom further details may be obtained.

Further information concerning the Committee may be obtained from Ms Margaret Sandstrom, Public Libraries Division, 121 The Parade, Norwood, SA 5067 (332 8266).

MARKETING OF INFORMATION SERVICES: REGIONAL WORKSHOP

University House, Canberra

5/6/7/ December 1983

Information services are often underused, for a variety of reasons, including the obvious ones that potential users do not know they exist, or what they can do. A marketing program is an essential aid to maximising the use of information services. The workshop will deal in a practical way with the component parts of appropriate marketing programs.

A marketing specialist from W.D. Scott & Co. and other speakers from the public and private sectors will address the workshop. Syndicate discussions will identify the principles for the successful marketing of information services.

The workshop has the support of the Library Association of Australia and UNESCO is funding the attendance of some overseas participants.

Registration fee: \$90.00.

Brochure giving full details and registration form available from: Bryan Yates, National Library of Australia, Parkes ACT 2600 (062 621377) and Peter Judge, CSIRO, Limestone Avenue, Campbell ACT 2601 (062 484527)

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