

ALIC ANXIOUS FOR INPUT

SINCE THE last report in *InCite* (Vol. 4 No. 13) the Australian Libraries and Information Council (ALIC) has held a further meeting, in Melbourne on 12 October.

This was expected to be a two-day meeting concentrating on the responses to ALIC's Issues and Objectives paper. As it turned out, the Canberra mail strike caused considerable uncertainty as to whether the handful of responses available really represented a major part of what could be expected. Indeed more than uncertainty, there was a positive, perhaps almost desperate, hope that substantial numbers of replies were buried in the Canberra mail exchange.

The Council does urge all bodies and institutions which have been separately addressed by it to seize this opportunity of contributing to the national planning of Australia's library and information services. It also reaffirms its readiness to consider responses to its discussion paper from any individual or any corporate body not so far addressed specifically. Copies of the Issues and Objectives paper are available from the Secretary of ALIC, PO Box E12, Queen Victoria Terrace, Canberra 2600. Because of the delays in the mails and to encourage the widest response, ALIC has extended the deadline for comments to 31 December 1983, although it would be helpful if they could arrive by 30 November.

While ALIC resisted the temptation to consider in any detail the relatively few responses before it at its meeting, it was clear to all members that some common themes were emerging already. One was the question of the membership of ALIC. ALIC will clearly need to give this close attention and may wish to forward some advice to Ministers, but the Council noted that a major issue which bore on it was the development of more effective processes of communication and consultation between ALIC and the Australian library and information community. A sub-committee was set up to consider this issue.

ALIC also had before it a paper designed to assist it in determining in detail the programme for the Australia-wide survey of conservation needs approved by Ministers at their Conference in June. A further report will be provided to the Ministers.

A further meeting of the Conference of

Commonwealth and State Ministers with responsibilities for Culture and the Arts has been announced to take place on November 18, ALIC gave consideration to the submission of items for the agenda.

ALIC was greatly assisted in its deliberations by the presence of Mr Robert Deane of the Department of Home Affairs and Environment. The original approval for the establishment of ALIC had called for the Department to provide the necessary secretarial support. However, due to staffing constraints on the Department, the National Library has assumed this responsibility to date, at the request of the Department. Recently, the Secretary of the Department (Dr McMichael) announced that the Department could now see its way to relieving the Library of this responsibility in the near future and Mr Deane was able to respond to questions from members on the form and degree of support that might be forthcoming.

Other items discussed by ALIC included a paper by Mr Judge on relationships between the public and private sectors in the provision of information services, proposals for an Australian newspaper index, Australian library statistics, the Australia Bibliographical Network and a national information policy.

Finally, ALIC clarified the terms of office of its Chairman and Deputy Chairman by deciding; first, that they should correspond with the financial year and second, that the existing Chairman and Deputy Chairman, Mr Bryan and Mrs Trask respectively, should remain in office for the remainder of the 1983/84 financial year.

Harrison Bryan
Chairman

Australian Libraries and
Information Council

ALIC

First Annual Report printed.
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For further information contact
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Conference News

THE LAA-NZLA Conference 1984 Committee has come up with a novel way to help young professionals attend the joint LAA-NZLA Conference to be held in Brisbane from August 27-31 next year. This idea has been endorsed by General Council.

Attractive silver and red Conference buttons have been produced to help LAA branches raise funds for sponsorship, as well as to promote the Conference. About 200 of these were sold at the NZLA Conference in Palmerston North last August, and proceeds will sponsor a young New Zealand librarian to the Brisbane Conference.

The Conference Committee recommends LAA branches make their own sponsorship rules. As a guide though, each candidate should have been an LAA member for at least one year prior to December 1983. Candidates may be nominated by friends, colleagues, branch council, or may nominate themselves. A branch may give total proceeds to one candidate or divide that amount between two or more. Student members will not be eligible as they will receive indirect sponsorship through greatly-reduced registration fees.

Sponsorship will be by grant financed from button sales by each branch. One name will be drawn from those eligible, draws being conducted by branch councils at least one month before closing for Conference registration. Winners names are to be supplied to the LAA-NZLA Conference 1984 Publicity Committee Convenor, Rosemary Cullen.

All branches are urged to participate and buttons may be ordered from Rosemary Cullen, PO Box 873, Toowong 4066.

For further information, contact: Christine Crocker, (07) 377 2410.

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