

## TIP-OFF

### News from the Executive Director

AS THIS first issue of *InCite* for 1983 reaches you, most of our members will be returning to work from the traditional Australian summer holiday. I am surprised that more people have not discovered the joys of working in January when most of the population is in a state of slumber; productivity increases drastically, as one can work uninterrupted.

Already the newspapers have said many things about 1983 – mostly in terms of economic crisis, recession, unemployment and gloom.

While the problems are clearly evident it is also common practice for businesses and organisations to take advantage of trends of redundancy in staff. We have seen many cases of record profits but at the same time reduced staffing.

Like most organisations, the LAA will be caught in this gloom – publishing costs continue to rise, all service costs are rising and interest rates (a major source of revenue) continue to fall. In contrast the LAA has made a bargain with its members (and non-members) not to increase fees. The wage freeze will also affect the level of income received as the normal increase in income through 'incremental creep' will not be forthcoming. I therefore urge all members to return their membership renewals (with payment) as soon as possible, at the same time to encourage friends to join. The one thing that hasn't changed is that membership may be claimed as a tax deduction.

We need membership fees to carry out the extensive range of activities planned for 1983. One of the most exciting conclusions to 1982 was the fact that our total membership increased from 1981. Consequently the famil-

iar adage, the more members the more we can do for those members.

At its last meeting General Council discussed objectives for the LAA in 1983. The document outlining these is very lengthy, which is an indication of the high level of activity in the Association. Among the items under consideration are some already mentioned in the General Council Report – Code of Ethics, National Information Policy, continuing consultations with the Attorney-General's Department about copyright legislation, the LAA and information scientists, the legal responsibility of librarians, standards for library services, the large range of issues relating to the library workforce, particularly over-supply, review of the structure of membership fees and a comparison with other associations, participation in World Communications Year, lobbying to further promote libraries and librarianship, and the list continues. The LAA's continuing education programme continues to grow in scope with several programmes planned for 1983. A number of publications are also planned for 1983, including *Reading in Australian Librarianship III: School Librarianship*, a monograph on academic librarianship and Volume 2 of the *Australian Librarian's Manual*. Planning is already well on the way for our joint LAA/NZLA Conference in Brisbane in 1984 and our biennial conference in December 1986. Several sections have planned national conferences to be held in 1983.

As you can see, a very full programme is ahead – your continued support is most welcome. If you wish to contribute further to any of the activities do not hesitate to contact your Branch Secretary.

## Public Library Standards

### Report on Work Undertaken on the Public Library Standards by the Newly Formed Interim Committee

AT A MEETING of various interested parties (including the respondents to the June questionnaire, members of the National Public Libraries Section Committee and members of the AACOB's Working Party on User Needs) held during the LAA's Biennial Conference in Adelaide, an interim committee was established to undertake the task of co-ordinating the development of a new set of standards. The Committee's members are as follows:

Convenor: Ms Gael Fraser, representing the South Australian Public Libraries Section; Mr Laurie Brown, State Librarian, Tasmania; Mr Lee Ellis, Brunswick Public Library, representing the Victorian Public Libraries Section; Ms Marina Garlick, Public Libraries Division, NSW, representing the AACOB's Working Party on User Needs.

The first meeting of the interim committee was held at the Public Libraries Division in Melbourne on 27th September 1982. The committee met to prepare a detailed proposal which was put before the General Council of the LAA at a meeting held on 26th and 27th November, 1982.

The proposal outlined:

- (i) the scope of the project and the anticipated outcomes
- (ii) the process by which the project would be undertaken (including a time line)
- (iii) The Committee membership
- (iv) costing

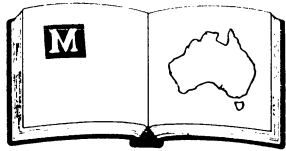
Response to the questionnaire circulated by the National Public Libraries Section emphasized the need for clear policy and performance guidelines. There was also a limited but clearly stated interest in updated input standards. In view of this emphasis the Committee decided that the LAA should consider developing a series of documents, i.e. Policy Guidelines, Performance Guidelines, New Input Standards, Output Measures.

It was recognised that the Association's priorities lay with the policy and performance guidelines, but the Committee felt that a staged approach to producing these could result in the later development of new input standards followed by output measures. The group agreed that the process which the Association used for achieving the first two documents would be critical to their adoption and thus their usefulness.

A Grant-in-Aid of \$9,000 was approved at the General Council meeting to enable the further development of the Public Libraries Standards proposal.

Further reports from the interim committee meetings will be publicised in *InCite*.

Gael Fraser  
Public Libraries Section, SA.



## MANNINGS

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