

Specials Union Registered

On 29 November 1983, the Library and Information Staff Union was registered under the NSW Trade Union Act. This concluded more than 12 months' effort by the Union's Committee of Management.

The Library and Information Staff Union covers people employed in the private sector in NSW in the following occupations:

- librarians
- information scientists
- library assistants
- library officers
- Community information librarians
- indexers
- archivists
- research assistants/officers
- records management officers/librarians

and similar positions. Exceptions to this

membership rule were made for people eligible to belong to a number of unions which already cover library staff. Most of these were in the public sector.

The objects of the Union are:

- To uphold the right of combination of labour and to improve, protect and foster the best interests of its members.
- to watch over and protect the industrial interests of its members and to consider and deal with all matters affecting them in their industrial relations.
- To obtain and secure for its members the best possible conditions and proper and sufficient remuneration, and to guard them against any hardship, oppression or injustice in connection with their employment.
- To ensure that its members enjoy the same civil rights as are enjoyed by other citizens.
- To secure participation in the adminis-

tration and development of institutions in which members are employed.

- To speak authoritatively for members whenever the necessity arises.
- To affiliate with, co-operate with or render financial assistance to any organisation whatsoever having any objects similar to any of the objects of the Association.

The Union was formed on 4 August 1982 at a meeting attended by more than 100 library staff. This was in organised response to requests by LAA members in the private sector throughout the preceding eighteen months. During this time, too, a number of individual librarians had complained to the LAA Industrial Officer about their lack of proper industrial cover. A survey conducted at the 1981 Specials Conference indicated an overwhelming wish for a trade union.

After the formation of the Union came the

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MORRIS WEST: LETTER TO THE AUSTRALIAN BOOK TRADE

Dear Colleagues:

On the day I accepted the office of President of the National Book Council, I made myself the servant of you all.

You are the makers of books. You finance them, you write them, you print them, bind them, pack them, sell them, distribute them through bookstores and libraries, advertise them by critical discussion. You are artists, craftsmen, merchants, boilers down of wood-pulp, makers of inks and dye-stuffs; but the handiwork of each of you is visible in every single volume.

So, whatever your rivalries, whatever your disputes, you are a family - a family of book-folk. As a steward in your household, I beg you, with great respect, to recognise your dependence upon each other, printer on publisher, publisher upon author, small, stumbling child upon those who lead it on the rite of passage into the magical world of books.

I beg you to join together in the National Book Council, to plead your common causes with Government, to promote your common interests in the marketplace, to make known the riches you bring and the traditions you preserve through the printed page.

If you have no care for your own professional dignities, who else will assert them for you? If you disprize your craft so much that you will not pay the price of a good dinner to its common fund, how can you make others value it? If you cannot find a united voice to urge your joint concerns, then where is your authority in the speaking-place?

I am back in Australia after nearly two decades in foreign parts. I know nothing and care less about old quarrels and shortcomings in the organisation. I am concerned only with the future. I am prepared to work for it with you.

So please, makers and readers both, will you join us? Will you put some modest dollars into the National Book Council fund and begin to work together for that strange, magical object which enriches so many lives, upon which so many of our liberties have been founded - the Book!

I wish you all a Happy, Prosperous and Co-operative New Year.



Morris West is seen here in earnest conversation with the Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke on the occasion of the establishing of the Morris West Trust at the National Library of Australia. Mr West presented a cheque for \$50,000 and has undertaken to make a personal donation of \$5000 annually throughout his life. The funds are to be used by the Library specifically for the publication of historic, literary, artistic or other items the Library holds in its collections.