

BACK TO BASICS — FACT OR FICTION?

(An occasional correction
of a wrong assumption)

The comment has been made that membership of the LAA has fallen drastically while the staff of the LAA has expanded enormously.

FACT: This is not true, although it may be true to say that the staff of the LAA has risen enormously since 1937 when the Australian Institute of Librarians began!

In fact, in the last ten years the number of staff has dropped from twelve to eleven. As well, there has been a change in emphasis in staffing from clerical to professional staff, so that with one less staff member the Association is in fact able to provide more service to members.

The staffing for 1975 and 1984 is as follows:

1975	1984
Executive Director	Executive Director
Executive Assistant	Assistant Executive Director
Industrial Information Officer	Industrial Information Officer
Publications Officer	Continuing Education Officer
Assistant Publications Officer	Publications Officer
Executive Director's Secretary	Assistant Publications Officer
Examinations Clerk	Executive Director's Secretary
Membership Clerks — 2	Membership Clerk
Membership Clerk — receipting	Bookkeeper
Bookkeeper	Typist
Typist	Receptionist

Jenny Adams
Executive Director

**Grandmothers were humanity's first
information storage and retrieval system — Tom Stonier**

Invitation to attend General Council

The General Council of the Association will be meeting in Brisbane on Friday 24th and Saturday 25th August, prior to the Conference.

Members of the Association are most welcome to attend Council as observers, either for all or part of the meeting. If you wish to attend, would you please notify Angela Brommann on (02) 692 9233 as soon as possible. Notification is only required for catering purposes and to ensure there is adequate seating.

Councillors hope that as many members as possible will take advantage of the opportunity to see the Association's governing body at its second meeting for 1984.



Library Association of Australia

STUDY GRANT AWARD

The Library Association of Australia will make funds available each year to support practising librarians wishing to undertake a study project on a selected library/information issue or problem of present or future relevance to the development and improvement of library and information services in Australia.

For further information see InCite Vol 5 No 10.

Application forms are available from LAA House and applications for an award in 1985 should reach the Assistant Executive Director, LAA House, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007 by 31 August 1984.

Literary Guide to Australia

A very substantial undertaking is at present underway — The Oxford Illustrated Literary Guide to Australia, for which the material is being gathered by the Association for the Study of Australian Literature (ASAL).

The finished book will contain 200,000 words with place entries on more than 600 localities, biographical information on nearly 1000 writers as well as maps and photographs.

A substantial amount of material has already been received and a printout of around 90,000 words produced, but more entries are required!

If you would like to contribute to this project in supplying information about particular areas and their literary connections, contact the co-ordinator for your state.

NEW SOUTH WALES: State Co-ordinator:

Dr. Shirley Walker
English Department
University of New England
Armidale. 2351 New South Wales

NORTHERN TERRITORY: Co-ordinator:

Dr. David Headon
Darwin Community College

QUEENSLAND: Co-ordinator:

Elizabeth Perkins
English Department
James Cook University
Townsville.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Co-ordinator:

Andrew Taylor
English Department
University of Adelaide

TASMANIA and ANTARCTICA: Co-ordinator:

Dr Margaret Scott
English Department
University of Tasmania

VICTORIA: State Co-ordinator:

Val Kent
English Department
Monash University
Clayton. 3168

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Co-ordinator:

Bruce Bennett
English Department
University of Western Australia

Here is a sample entry from the *Guide*:

CHINKAPOOK (VIC.)

Wheat-farming town in the Mallee region of NW Victoria, near the Murray River and the NSW border, 70km W of Swan Hill, and 408km N of Melbourne.

John Shaw Neilson's father, John Neilson, farmed for a time at Chinkapook. When the mice plague of 1917 destroyed 50 bags of seed wheat, lost also were a number of Shaw Neilson's notebooks. Douglas Stewart lamented this occurrence in his poem 'The Mice of Chinkapook':

They bit their way through field and crop,
They ate the haystack to its top,
They crept into the house and took
The poet's notebook slice by slice,
The nibbling mice of Chinkapook.

National Library of Australia



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