

ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

This column announces the fact that the new Industrial Information and Research Officer is now installed in the LAA Office and 'open for business'.

Having only been resident for three weeks, 10 days of which was spent at the conference in Brisbane, I am still finding my way in the job. However several immediate priorities have arisen:

- The work level standards committee is to prepare a new draft standards document for circulation and comment prior to the December meeting of General Council.

- In conjunction with Jan Cree, the General Councillor for NSW, I am to investigate the role of information scientists.

- Library technicians have raised a number of matters of concern which I shall be assisting them with.

Additionally, members have contacted me about a variety of individual problems and salary enquiries.

As the title implies, the position of Industrial Information Officer has been expanded to include a research function. This will encompass researching policy items and co-ordinating lobbying and the release of media statements and should be helpful to various

CHANGES FOR THE LAA

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the Executive Committee. The sub-committee will take into account other models, such as the ALA, where the Executive Director has a more dynamic role in the affairs of the Association. The role of the Executive Committee is interwoven with that of the Executive Director.

I hope all members of the LAA will see these decisions as symbolic of the attitude of change which exists in the General Council at the current time.

Jenny Adams,
Executive Director

groups within the LAA.

To a large extent, however, the actual work I perform will be dependent upon the wishes of LAA members. I met a vast number of members at the Brisbane Conference but realize that there are many thousands more who were not in Brisbane. I would therefore like to hear from any LAA member who feels that I could be of assistance to them. I have written to all LAA divisions informing them that I am available to speak to members whenever this is requested and I look forward to getting around the divisions to determine their needs.

Louise Lansley

Industrial Information and Research Officer

TALKING BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Royal Blind Society's Talking Book of the Year Award this year will be presented by Jill Wran, wife of the New South Wales Premier, at a dinner to be held on Wednesday September 26 commencing at 6.30pm at the Royal Blind Society auditorium in Mitchell Street, Enfield.

Aims of the Award are to highlight the importance of talking books to blind and print handicapped readers and to encourage a high standard of production.

The winning book is *Amirah: an un-Australian childhood* by Amirah Inglis, published by William Heinemann. The Talking Book version was narrated by Jill McKay in the Royal Blind Society's recording studios at Enfield.

It is the story of two-year old Amirah Gutstadt who was brought to Australia in 1929 with 'a first name no one could pronounce and a surname no one could spell'. Amirah's story provides insights into the frustrations and joys of a young Jewish migrant becoming an Australian.

The Royal Blind Society has been lending recorded books for almost 50 years and today over 3000 people borrow from the 3000 Talking Books titles now available. Multiple copies of each title are made. Every day, the free services of the library sends approximately 1000 cassettes to borrowers throughout New South Wales and the ACT.

People attending the Talking Book Award dinner will be invited to inspect the recording studios, the library and communications and aids rooms. Further information and reservations should be directed to Mrs Marie Peters on (02) 747 6622.

National Library feels the pinch

THE CHAIRMAN of the Council of the National Library, Dr A. J. Forbes, said recently that he was gravely concerned at some aspects of the Government's support for the National Library in the Federal Budget.

'The Library greatly appreciates the modest increase in staff which it has been granted,' said Dr Forbes. 'This will certainly go some way towards restoring appropriate levels of service in some areas. On the other hand the funds provided for the purchase of library materials have been kept at the level of last year, less the amount which the Library had proposed to allocate to the National Film Archive and the Sound Recording Collection.' He pointed out that at a time of continually rising prices, and especially of escalating increases in the cost of Australiana, this meant the Library would not be able to acquire sufficient materials this year either to satisfy its direct users or to supplement and support the services of other major libraries.

Dr Forbes commended the Government on its support of a growing number of national collecting institutions, including the recently established National Film and Sound Archive, but he emphasised that the Council of the Library was seriously disturbed that this increased commitment appeared to be achievable only at the expense of reduced support for the National Library.

He said that it was difficult not to conclude that the Government did not appreciate fully the central importance of the National Library in preserving the national heritage, or the degree of reliance placed on it by other Australian libraries in the provision of library and information services for the nation.

While an increase had been granted in the provision made for the Library's general expenses, this would not be sufficient to enable the Library to equip fully the extensions to the building at present under construction as well as maintaining essential services.

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