

# Report of General Council

**The second meeting for 1984 of the General Council of the Library Association of Australia was held at the Gazebo Hotel, Brisbane, prior to the LAA/NZLA Conference.**

It was particularly heartening to see so many observers present and the President encouraged them to comment freely during the course of the proceedings. This report highlights the major items discussed at the meeting. Also included is a full agenda and further information on any item is available from your Councillor, Branch Secretary or the Executive Director.

## Membership fees for 1985

General Council resolved that personal membership fees should be reduced by 5% on 1984 and that all restriction on 'voucher only' membership should be lifted. A full report on these two major decisions was included in *InCite* V 5 No 15, 21 September 1984. Institutional membership will remain at 1984 levels.

## Structure of the LAA/Futures Committee Report

A Corporate Plan and Review Committee has been established to review the structure of the Association. General Council also considered the responses to the Futures Committee Report and referred these to the Corporate Plan and Review Committee.

The CPR Committee was reported in detail in *InCite* V 5 No 15, 21 September 1984.

## Information Scientists and the LAA

In November, Council requested that the Library Workforce Standing Committee examine the feasibility of surveying information scientists in Australia, both LAA members and non members, to identify who this group is and to ascertain whether more of them could be encouraged to join the LAA.

The LWSC believes that existing work being carried out in this area is sufficient, however Council decided more positive action should be taken. It has therefore asked the Industrial Information and Research Officer, Louise Lansley, and the NSW General Councillor, Jan Cree, to examine the feasibility of conducting the survey and to report to the December meeting of Council.

## Working Party on Document Delivery in Australia

Council resolved that the report of the Working Party should be given wide circulation both inside and outside the LAA and that comment should be sought from all interested parties. While Council deliberately did not adopt a stand on the recommendations of the Working Party, it has offered to host a meeting in November to draw up a definite plan for document delivery in Australia. Groups such as AACOBS, ALIC, CAUL, ASLA and ALCAE have greeted the prospect of such a meeting with enthusiasm. Copies of the report are available from LAA House.

## Draft Code of Ethics

The draft Code of Ethics was circulated to divisions for comment following the March meeting. A large number of comments were received and have now been referred to the Convenor of the Working Party for a further draft to be prepared.

Have you ordered the new edition of Directory of Special Libraries yet? It's out now!

## Australian Library and Information Research Foundation

Favourable comment on the establishment of a research foundation has been received from many interested parties and the proposal is now in the hands of the LAA's solicitor, who is drawing up a proposal to present to the Commissioner of Taxation to apply for tax exemption. The Foundation cannot proceed further until the Commissioner has made his ruling.

## Work Level Standards

Owing to the lack of an Industrial Information Officer and the absence of members of the Working Party on Work Level Standards, work in this area was behind schedule. Council viewed the production of Work Level Standards to be one of considerable urgency and has asked that a final draft be drawn up and circulated to divisions for comment well before the December meeting.

## Funding for Public Libraries

The Working Party on Funding for Public Libraries reported to the meeting and Council identified funding for public libraries as an area of top priority in the LAA lobbying program.

A campaign is to be co-ordinated from LAA headquarters with the members of the Working Party acting as State/Territory co-ordinators. Further details on the campaign will be issued as the planning progresses.

## National Information Policy

Council endorsed the general thrust of the National Information Policy document which was prepared by the Working Party on NIP. The document has been sent to the Minister for Science and Technology, the Hon Barry Jones, and will be circulated to other members of the Government and Opposition.

## 1985 Draft Budget

The 1985 draft budget was included in Council papers to assist Councillors in setting the 1985 membership fees. A further budget, taking into account the implications of the 5% personal fee reduction will be presented in December.

## Program Budgeting

The 1985 draft budget was also presented to Council in Program Budget format. Council resolved that program budgeting be adopted as a method of preparing Association budgets in conjunction with normal line budgeting, as a means of being able to identify the true costs of the various programs of the Association.

## Credit Card Facilities

The Executive Committee and General Council have approved the use of Visacard as an acceptable method of payment to the Association.

Visacard and Bankcard will be available to renew 1985 memberships.

## Continuing Education

A notice about CE appears elsewhere in this issue of *InCite*.

## Guide to Australian Reference Books.

The first title in this series, Humanities, was published in 1983, and the second on Social Sciences is currently in preparation.

We are now seeking expressions of interest in compiling a third volume, on Science and Technology. Would anyone interested in undertaking this project please contact Brenda Pittard, Publications Officer, LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007. Phone (02) 692 9233.

## LAA Handbook

In view of the difficulty of timely publication and the expense of production (\$13,000 pa), from which little income is generated, the Executive Committee recommended to General Council that the LAA Handbook no longer be published and that better use be made of the already published separate segments of the Handbook.

Council was unable to reach a decision on this matter and has asked that it be brought to the December meeting with examples of the segments and a sample of the folder in which it might be presented.

## Publications Board

The Chairman of the Publications Board, Janet Robinson, was invited to attend the meeting in order for Council to discuss the role and future of the Association's publishing program. This followed a poor financial result in the publishing area in 1983. Council has now asked the Publications Board to review and revise its terms of reference to be presented to the December meeting and has also put a \$50,000 stock or cash ceiling on the 1985 budget.

## Membership Report to 31 July 1984

There has been a slight decrease in the membership to date in 1984 against 1983 figures, with total financial membership at 6,213 (1984) and 6,435 (1983). The newly established Membership Sub-Committee is to analyse the figures further.

## LAA Committees

The Executive Committee recommended to General Council that in December each year the Council assess the effectiveness of each of the LAA committees of General Council and make a determination on the continued existence of each of those committees. Committees are to be asked to produce a report on their activities to be considered at the meeting. The decision has been taken to ensure that all committees are active and that once their objectives are completed they can be wound up.

## Library Technician Certificate, South Australian Department of TAFE

The Library Technician Certificate course offered at the Adelaide College of TAFE was reassessed in June. Recognition of the course has been extended for the maximum term to December 1990.

## Graduate Diploma in Teacher-Librarianship, Brisbane CAE

This course was to be reassessed in 1984. However due to a course review currently under way reassessment has been delayed and recognition of the course extended to December 1985.

Jenny Adams  
Executive Director

## SEMINAR ON INTERFACING BIBLIOGRAPHIC NETWORKS

Wednesday, 7th November, 1984 at the Merlin Hotel, Adelaide Terrace, Perth.

Keynote Speaker: Hans Groenewegen.

Topics include:

ABN-CAVAL Relationships  
Point to Point Communications  
Interfacing with ABN

Cost Aust \$55.00 (LAA members) Aust \$69 (Non-members)

Bookings to:

International Meeting Planning  
Specialists  
16 Caulfield Road  
Greenmount W.A. 6056

Ansett have been appointed official carriers for this conference.