

## 1984 Annual General Meeting

The Association's 1984 AGM was held on Wednesday, 29 August at Festival Hall, Brisbane. Six motions for discussion at the meeting were published in the 17 August issue of *InCite*, and in accordance with the published rules of the meeting the only additional items which could be admitted for discussion were informal matters (none were put forward) or urgency motions.

Greetings were presented from the American Library Association, Canadian Library Association and Papua New Guinea Library Association.

The distinction of Fellow of the Library Association of Australia was conferred on Peter Dawe (see report in *InCite* 5 October, 1984).

The 1983 Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account, and supplementary financial statements to 31 July 1984 were presented and adopted, and Coopers & Lybrand, Chartered Accountants, reappointed as Association auditors.

The following motions were discussed:

- That General Council of the LAA consider the relocation of LAA headquarters to Canberra in the next 5 to 7 years time, as part of forward planning for the Association, in order to facilitate better access to the processes of Federal Government on behalf of library and information services. *(ACT Branch)*

There was lengthy discussion of this motion, and it resulted in a tied vote, subsequently lost on the casting vote of the Chairman.

- That General Council consider afresh (considered in 1982) when recruiting staff for head office, the need to acquire skills in conference organisation. For each biennial meeting conference organising firms are being engaged, rather than the LAA building up its own expertise in this area. *(ACT Branch)*

This motion was lost. Most speakers against the motion felt local input was most important, that expertise should be engaged when needed, and that continuity was provided by the Executive Director.

- That General Council consider initiating an award, to be presented in conjunction with the Association's national conference, which honours the contribution of a distinguished Australian writer to contemporary Australian literature.

### Points

- The Association's interests are tied closely to Australian writers and literature but there is little outward sign of this link.
- An award, particularly if made to a young writer, could be an enormous encouragement for the future.
- The stature of the Association will be enhanced in the eyes of many through such an award.

*(ACT Branch)*

'Libraries are still about books' might best sum up views on this motion. However the meeting agreed that such an award should not add to the cost of membership, and an amendment ('and to seek sponsorship for this award') was accepted.

- That General Council encourage those Sectional Groups which do not already do so, to hold national conferences in years alternate to the LAA biennial conference.

*(ACT Branch)*

A number of national Sections hold conferences in non-conference years. There was not seen to be a need to encourage additional activities and the motion was lost.

- That the membership of the LAA should be provided, no later than the end of 1984, with (a) full details of the cost and implications of the IFLA conference to the Association, and (b) the effect of the IFLA conference on the 1988 National Conference.

*(ACT Branch)*

*InCite*, 2 November 1984, carried an extensive report by the President on this motion. The motion was amended by adding 'proposed (cost)' in (a) and 'likely (effect)' in (b) and was carried.

- That, with a view to improving the free flow of information to members and making By-law 16A more meaningful, General Council be requested to publish all General Council resolutions in *InCite*, as soon as possible after each meeting of General Council.

*(Gordon Bower)*

This Motion was carried.

The following motion was accepted by the Chairman as an urgency motion, and was carried:

That the Executive Director be required to report to the December meeting of General Council to report on all aspects of confidentiality of membership information, including all recording and dissemination of personal details, conducted in conjunction with LAA activities, and that the report be transmitted to Branches, Sections and Groups, and printed in full in *InCite*.

*(Marie Dowling, Colin Watson)*

The motion arises from the recent receipt by some members of unsolicited mail.

The General Secretary reported briefly to the meeting on major decisions of General Council, which had met on 24 and 25 August. These included the 5% reduction in personal membership fees for 1985, and the establishment of a Corporate Plan and Review Committee to examine all aspects of the Association's structure, objectives and operation.

The meeting concluded with a formal vote of thanks to the conference committee, proposed by Peter Judge, for a well organised and most successful conference.

*Sue Phillips*

Assistant Executive Director

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