REPORT OF THE MARCH MEETING OF GENERAL COUNCIL

General Council held its first meeting for the year on 29 and 30 March in the Belconnen Town Centre Library in Canberra. Branch Presidents were invited to attend the meeting, to give them an opportunity to meet other Presidents, and members of the Council and Executive. As the meeting coincided with the national Library Technicians Conference, there was a further chance to meet with a range of members of the Association.

The agenda for the meeting was a little smaller than has lately been usual, but a wide range of items was discussed. Resolution numbers are given where appropriate in the report and further information on all topics is available from LAA House or your General Councillor.

Corporate Plan and Review Committee

The first hearings for the review were held in Canberra on 26 and 27 March, and provided helpful input on a number of issues that had not been anticipated by the Committee as being of major concern to members. Hearings are now scheduled for all states and territories, ending in Hobart on 18 September. Branches and Sections are to be asked to suggest ways in which non-members and students can be encouraged to present their views to the review. (GC 11/85)

Volunteer workers

The use of volunteers in libraries has always been contentious, and on several occasions the Association has considered adopting a policy statement on the issue, but agreement could not be reached. A draft policy was prepared and circulated for comment last year, and Council has now adopted (unanimously) a *Statement on volunteer workers in libraries*, and *Guidelines* as to when and under what conditions volunteers may be used. (GC 12-15/85) Both documents stress the Association's opposition to the use of volunteers in place of appropriately trained paid library personnel on a regular and systematic basis.

Public library funding campaign

Council has identified public library funding as the top priority for the Association in 1985, and a campaign to lobby for government funding is getting underway. Council has allocated $35,000 to the campaign over 1985/86. (GC 19/85) and AACOBS has provided a fur-

ther $5,000. This funding will allow the appointment of a research officer for 3 months to collect relevant data, and of a publicity officer for 6 months. Half of the funding will be used for publicity material. The involvement of all members of the Association in the campaign will be vital for its success and it is recognised that the campaign will be a long-term project ranging over the next 2–3 years.

Special library publicity

Little work has been done to publicise or encourage the use of library staff in the private sector, yet this appears to be the main growth area for the profession. Council has established a small task force to plan a publicity campaign to draw attention to the benefits of employing professional staff, and to look at the economic state of special libraries. Sue McKnight, Queensland General Councillor, has been invited to lead the task force, which is to present a report to Council in August. (GC 21-24/85)

Relations with ASLA

The Association has accepted the invitation of the Australian School Library Association for the LAA to become a Societal Affiliate member of ASLA. This will allow two LAA delegates to attend its Federal Council meetings as observers. ASLA President, Doug Down, has been attending Council meetings in a similar capacity, and he has welcomed this additional link between the two associations. (GC 25/85)

Work level guidelines

Work level guidelines for librarians and library technicians have been adopted by Council. (GC 26/85) The guidelines set out the roles of librarians and technicians, group standards for both categories, and provide for five levels of librarian and three levels of technician. Typical duties are given for each level, and examples relating to different types of libraries are to be added. Copies of the *Guidelines* may be obtained from the Industrial Information and Research Officer, Louise Lansley.

Update of LAA manpower study

The Bourne, Hill, Mitcheson study *Library and Information Work: The Employment Market* was published in 1982, using 1980 data. Max Borchardt has offered to update

the study, and has been asked to prepare a detailed proposal for consideration at the August Council meeting. (GC 29/85)

Statement on international relations

In 1981 the Association adopted a *Statement on the South West Pacific*, the first policy statement relating to international relations, and reflecting its interest in relations in the immediate area. Council believes the Association should now indicate its involvement in the wider library arena by adopting a broader policy. A draft *Statement on International Relations* has been prepared by the International Relations Committee, amended slightly by Council, and is now to be circulated to divisions for comment, with a view to adoption in August. (GC 30-31/85)

Library standards

The Industrial Information and Research Officer has been examining progress on standards for various types of libraries. She reports that work is proceeding on evaluation methods for public libraries, a second draft of special library standards is to be produced shortly. Draft standards for Victorian hospital libraries have been circulated for comment, and the possibility of using these as the basis for national standards is being investigated. There has been some interest in standards for college libraries in New South Wales, and for school libraries, but nothing definite has yet emerged.

Council has reappointed the Committee on Library Standards for People with Disabilities to undertake work in this area (GC 35/85), and has offered assistance to other Sections in developing standards in their areas of interest. (GC 34/85)

Review of the taxation system

Introduction of a broadly based indirect tax is suggested as one of the possible outcomes of the Federal Government's July taxation summit. The Executive Director is preparing a submission to the Economic Planning Advisory Council to register the Association's opposition to any tax on books and associated materials.

1984 financial result

The Association had a most successful year in 1984. The accounts have not yet been completed, but an excess of income over expenditure of some $100,000 is expected. The

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Brisbane conference accounts have now been finalised, and the Conference Committee is to be congratulated for the excellent result — a profit of $98,000. Part of this goes to the New Zealand Library Association, joint organiser of the conference. The E.D. stressed the importance of using the excess to consolidate the Association's financial position rather than regarding it as readily available money for spending particularly as it is not yet possible to predict what effect the 5% personal fee reduction and unlimited 'voucher only' membership will have in 1985.

Educational Trust Fund
The nature of this fund makes it very difficult to invest and use monies held. After seeking legal advice, Council has decided to take steps to dissolve the Trust Fund and transfer the capital to a more readily accessible form of investment. No change is proposed to the nature or use of the fund — it will continue to be used for LAA Study Grant Awards and the Metcalfe Medallion, and other educational purposes that might be identified by Council and the Board of Education. (GC 45/85)

Membership
There was a drop of 166 financial members in the year to 1 March, a most disappointing result for a biennial conference year. Council's $500 prize for the first Branch to reach its target of a 7.5% increase was not awarded, but Peter Maskell of WAIT and James Henri of Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education win LAA publications for nominating the most new members for the year (14 and 13 respectively). A target of 5% has been set for 1985, again with a prize of $500, and Council has asked each Branch to appoint a recruitment officer as a step towards reversing the decline. (GC 49-51/85) It has also accepted the offer of the Vice-President, Ian McCallum, to examine the situation and recommend a plan of action to attract members.

Formation of divisions
Council has approved the formation of a national TAFE Section, and a Northern Territory Group of the Library Technicians Section. (GC 55 & 56/85) Members working in TAFE feel that there is a need for a separate Section to promote the needs and interests of this area, and to co-ordinate and disseminate information at a national level. Bernice Bur-

gess of Bankstown College of TAFE is the Interim President of the Section, and members wishing to join should contact the LAA office.

Reciprocal membership benefits for NZLA members
Council has approved an NZLA proposal that financial personal members of the NZLA be able to purchase LAA publications at member rates, provided reciprocal rights are offered to LAA members. (GC 59/85) Further details of this agreement will be reported once negotiations with NZLA are finalised.

Course recognition procedures
After an examination of course assessment procedures of state higher education boards, and in the light of a conjoint LAA/WAPSEC visit to Western Australian CAE in 1984, the Board of Education has decided that the Board's assessment panels will undertake further conjoint visits where circumstances are appropriate. Such a visit is proposed at Brisbane CAE later in the year. The Board is to introduce a two phase recognition process. Stage 1 will be a new course appraisal, for courses not previously assessed by the LAA, and will be an assessment of course documentation only. Stage 2 will be the same as the current on-site assessment of courses in train.

1988 IFLA Conference and 1988 LAA Biennial Conference
The committee systems for the two conferences have now been drawn up, with separate committees for finance, program and publications, but joint bodies for all other areas. Appointment of a conference organiser is now a priority, and the position is to be advertised shortly. A separate organiser will be appointed for the trade exhibition. A detailed budget for the IFLA Conference is being prepared. The Biennial Conference Committee is to hold a brainstorming session on 29 April to seek ideas about the program and format of the 1988 LAA conference.

Metcalfe Medallion winner
Averil Condren, a 1984 student in the Diploma of Information Management — Archives Administration at the University of NSW, is the first winner of the Metcalfe Medallion. Her entry, entitled 'The finding aid as Duke of Omnium: a standard to fail by' was the unanimous choice of the selection panel, and it is hoped it will be published by the Association.

Recognition of Riverina courses
Council has endorsed the Board of Education's recommendation that courses offered by Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education be recognised by the Association. The Bachelor of Arts (Library and Information Science) and Graduate Diploma in Library and Information Science have been granted unlimited recognition (subject to normal re-inspection procedures) and the Graduate Diploma in School Librarianship has been recognised to 31 December 1987. (GC 64/85)

Michael Middleton elected to Board of Education
Michael Middleton of the University of NSW has been elected a member of the Board of Education and Board of Examiners by the Professional Committee of General Council. His term of office is from 1 May 1985 to 30 April 1988.

Continuing Education
Council was advised that the first run of the tendering process for CE has been fairly successful, with fourteen tenders accepted covering all states and the ACT. The Northern Territory Branch requested deferral of programs at this stage. The CE Committee has prepared guidelines and documentation for 1986 tenders, and notices will appear shortly in *InCite*.

Library Workforce Standing Committee
Council has approved revised terms of reference for the Committee and Dr Patricia Layzell Ward has been seconded as a corresponding member. (GC 67 and 68/85)

Review of National Book Council
The NBC is reviewing its constitution and structure. Frances Awcock, representing the LAA as a constituent body of Council, has made a submission on the LAA's behalf proposing changes to the Governing Council and to the structure of state branches.

Honorary Awards
The Honorary Awards Committee has made recommendations for the award of the H.C.L. Anderson and Redmond Barry Awards. Details are in this issue of *InCite*.