



NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year!

During December I had the good fortune to spend a week in the UK and Holland visiting the Library Association, Aslib, the Institute of Information Scientists, IFLA and the Dutch Centre for Public Libraries and Literature (NBLC). I was greeted warmly by all organisations and as well as providing me with valuable information, there were also many questions asked about the LAA and the library profession in Australia. I am quite sure many of our overseas colleagues will be with us at IFLA 1988.

The areas which were of most interest to me were lobbying, continuing education, publications and association management, and I came away with many ideas to be incorporated in the Corporate Plan & Review Committee's work and for providing improved membership services.

In the area of continuing education, most of the organisations confirmed the LAA's thoughts that management, marketing, personal skills and information technology are the areas for which there is the greatest demand. Only the NBLC operates a CE system similar to that of the LAA, where outside organisations are funded to develop courses, and there is a growing trend among all organisations towards the use of non-library bodies for particular areas of expertise, eg management consultants.

Most of the organisations visited have a much larger publishing program than the LAA

and of course they have a much larger potential market too. Nevertheless, discussions on publishing provided some new ideas for publications and their marketing, and there could be future possibilities to enter into joint publications and perhaps open up the overseas market for Australian publications.

Lobbying the government is an area of top priority for all the organisations and, like the LAA, they are trying to gain greater public awareness of libraries, in particular library funding. The LA has appointed an ex MP as its Chief Executive in an effort to make a greater impact on government, and the NBLC provide politicians and the media with regular information as well as meeting with staff of the Ministry of the Arts every three weeks.

I also had the opportunity to discuss the planned IFLA 1988 Conference with the Secretary General at the IFLA Headquarters in The Hague. A report from Barrie Mitcheson, elsewhere in this issue, reports on some of that discussion, but I think it is worth mentioning here that after that discussion I am confident that the 1988 IFLA Conference can be organised in a mutually satisfactory way which will not put the Association at risk financially, as has been feared by some LAA members.

March General Council

In December General Council agreed that it would be ideal if the Council's March meeting could be held in Canberra as the dates of the meeting coincide with the Library Technicians Conference being held at the Canberra Rex Hotel. This would give Councillors the opportunity to attend some of the Technicians social functions and would also provide an opportunity for members of the ACT Branch to see Council in action. Observers at Council meetings are always welcome, however for catering purposes it is useful if you could advise Angela (02) 692 9233 of your attendance.

Jenny Adams
Executive Director



ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

NSW Branch Employment Service

The NSW Branch sponsored employment service in Sydney has now become fully operational, and people registered with the service have been coming in to LAA House to assist on a roster basis.

At the end of January (after approximately 2 months of operation) the service had received registration forms from 32 people seeking employment. In the same period it had been notified of the same number of vacant positions by employers seeking library staff. This is not to say that each of the 32 persons registered has found employment, as the particular requirements of employers do not always match the skills of persons registered with the employment service. However the response by employers has been very gratifying. Although it is impossible to keep detailed statistics about placements, the employment service has already filled a number of vacancies.

In addition to contacting those registered with the services directly about suitable vacancies, each week the rostered volunteers are sending copies of all advertisements for library positions appearing in the press to people registered for employment.

It is perhaps not surprising that most employers are seeking staff with some previous experience in librarianship and that it is more difficult to place new graduates. The employment service would therefore be particularly pleased to hear from employers in Sydney who may have vacancies suitable for recent graduates.

Employment Advertisements

There has recently been a spate of advertisements for librarians and library-technician positions around the country which display a lack of understanding of the roles of the two positions.

Members who become aware of an employment advertisement which sets out conditions contrary to LAA policy should forward it to their branch council or to the Industrial Information and Research Officer so that immediate action can be taken.

1985 Salary Scale Guide:

The 1985 Salary Scale Guide has been prepared but has been slightly delayed as a new process is being used to produce it this year. Members will be advised through *InCite* as soon as it becomes available.

Louise Lausley
Industrial Information and
Research Officer



Library Association of Australia
24th Biennial Conference
Darwin NT, 30 June — 4 July 1986

LIFESTYLES AND LIBRARIES

CALL FOR PAPERS

The conference theme 'Lifestyles and Libraries' has been chosen to convey the idea of libraries as places for people. Growing numbers of people are turning to libraries and information services in order to utilize an increasing volume of information produced in a greater variety of formats than ever before.

The adoption of appropriate technologies will be one of the ways by which libraries will be able to meet the growing demand. Libraries must effectively meet the informational and recreational needs of a changing world to remain an integral part of our society.

Within this general theme, emphasis in the keynote addresses will be on:

Law and Society
Media and Marketing
Patterns of Work and Leisure
Business

as these relate to libraries and their services.

This call is for papers for the concurrent sessions which may be of a theoretical nature or be outlines for practical or activity sessions.

If you wish to present a paper, or another activity, please submit the title, a short summary and an estimate of the time required together with your curriculum vitae by **30 March 1985**.

The Secretary
LAA Biennial Conference Committee
Darwin 1986
GPO Box 1080 DARWIN NT 5794

Promoting Australian Authors Week

The Book Marketing Council and the National Book Council have co-operated to produce some four-colour streamers for Australian Authors Week (March 8-15).

These are available free of charge from the National Book Council, 199 Cardigan Street, Carlton 3053. (02 347 6635).

Hurry as supplies are limited!