

News from the Divisions

SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION, SA

Continuing education:

The outstanding success of CE activities for 1984 was the ABN seminar conducted as a joint venture with the Cataloguers' Section. The limited number of places were soon filled and a waiting list of more than twenty people was formed. Fortunately, with plans in hand for another session, W. Cathro from ABN notified the section of his intention to visit SA and a second session of ABN, organised in a very short time, was attended by more than thirty librarians.

At a seminar in May speakers from Bennett Ebsco, DA Books, Mannings and H. Coxon spoke on Government publications and provided valuable insights into problems of supplying periodicals and other library materials.

Visits:

Our thanks are recorded to J. Powditch and G. Ralph for allowing us to visit the Art Gallery and the Wilmar library respectively. Both visits were relatively well attended and quite unique. We don't often have to be tagged and recorded to enter a library, as was the case with the Art Gallery and it is a rare opportunity to be able to attend the opening of a new, private library.

Lunches:

Irene Doskatsch organised a series of lunches at a variety of venues and we hope that lunches will continue to be a feature of the Specials calendar. As she is not continuing on the committee in 1985, we would like to thank Irene for the many social functions that she has organised.

Lobbying:

An important activity of the committee this year has been a representation to the South

Australian Library Advisory Committee (SALAC) for a representative of special librarians to be involved in that committee. A written submission was supplemented by the personal representation of E. Heinrich at a recent meeting of SALAC. As yet no response has been received.

It was interesting to note that the minutes of the General Council of the LAA at their meeting prior to the Brisbane conference involved items upon which this section had made representations — perhaps most notably the question of voucher only membership of the LAA. As a result of individual and group lobbying from our Committee and other Specials Committees, a voucher only category has been created for which all libraries are eligible, regardless of their budget. We hope that any librarians who have dropped their personal membership of the LAA in favour of the old institutional membership will continue to support their association by resuming their personal memberships. There are a great number of drafts requiring comment received from the central office of the LAA and this committee has been quite active in promoting the interests of special librarians in this state despite the short period of time allowed for such comments.

Many of these issues are discussed at Forum meetings organised through the SA Branch Committee. While the Specials Committee comprises a range of opinions which are presented on behalf of our section, members of the Section are reminded that their views may also be put at these meetings which are professionally informative and emphasise the high level of activity in the LAA.

J. Hooke (President)

L. Carmichael (Secretary)

NATIONAL SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION

List of office bearers for 1985:

President: Yvonne Urquhart. (Arthur Robinson and Hedderwicks).

Treasurer: Joyce Korn (Australian Society of Accountants).

Secretary: Jan Durkin (Coopers and Lybrand).

Committee: Christine MacLaren (Mental Retardation Branch), Elaine Alexander (Dept of Defence), Pam Tonkin (Bureau of Meteorology), Chris Poulton (State Bank — Victoria).

PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION

The Public Libraries Section will, in future, write a welcome letter to all new Public Library members throughout Australia. The Queensland Group has, in the past, only sent one to new Queensland Public Library members.

The Queensland newsletter, which all Queensland members have received, will be merged with the National newsletter, so that only one is produced in future. All Queensland members will receive their own copy. A copy will be sent to the Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory and Tasmanian Public Library members, as there is no group in those States/Territories. This will enable these members some direct benefits and contact with the Public Libraries Section.

All State Branches and Regional Groups will receive a newsletter. Public Library Groups will also receive copies that can then be distributed to their members.

An excellent paper on Marketing the Public Library was presented at the Public Libraries Section pre-Conference Seminar, 'Action for Change'. It is proposed that this paper be copied and made available for sale at a small cost. The paper provides a checklist of items that a Public Library could use to improve its marketing and promotion. Further details will be given when available.

Tonia Walker

VICTORIAN BRANCH

Branch Executive, 1985

President Angela Bridgland, (Dept. of Librarianship, Melbourne C.A.E.), Vice President, Ross Gibbs (Carrington Regional Library), Secretary, Diane Costello, (Library, Ballarat C.A.E.) Treasurer, Bruce Davidson, (Parliamentary Library).

Riverina Regional Group LAA Promotional Meeting

Fay Pattinson represented the Branch Council at this meeting, and was one of the three speakers. Faye outlined the activities of the Victorian Branch during the year.

Library Funding Increased

In a letter to the Branch the Victorian Minister for Local Government, Race Matthews announced an increase in public Library funding.

Menzies at the Rialto

Menzies was the venue for a very well attended and successful Branch Christmas party. The Rialto is one of Melbourne's newest developments and those attending had an opportunity to view at close hand a building project which has been constantly in the news in Melbourne.

NATIONAL BOOK COUNCIL NEWS

This year the now traditional Australian Book Week will be known as Australian Authors Week. Its theme this year will be Celebrating Australian Authors.

To launch Australian Authors Week (March 8-15), a dinner will be held in Canberra at University House on Friday 8 March at 7.30 p.m. The National Book Council Annual Awards for Australian Literature will be announced at this dinner over which it is hoped Thomas Kenneally the new NBC President will preside.

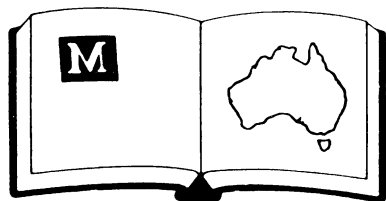
People wishing to attend the dinner should send cheques to Mary Lord, the Executive Director, c/- Book House, 199 Cardigan Street, Carlton, Vic. 3053. The cost is \$35 per head. Tables of 6 or 8 or 10 people are available if you wish to make up a party. *Frances Awcock*

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