

# WHAT HAPPENED IN AUGUST — A Report on General Council

General Council held its second meeting of the year on 9/10 August at LAA House, Sydney. Further information (including resolution numbers) is available from LAA House or your General Councillor.

## Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on Thursday 8 August at the State Library of NSW and a full report will appear in the next issue of *InCite*. Of the six motions put to the AGM only one was carried and this was put to General Council for ratification. The motion 'that the Library Association of Australia investigate the feasibility of a general publicity campaign aimed at a wide audience on the theme of what libraries and librarians can do' was ratified by Council and a report is to be prepared by the Executive Director for the November meeting.

## Statement on Professional Appointments

A statement on professional appointments was presented by the Industrial Information and Research Officer. The Statement is to be widened to include library technicians and a detailed investigation of the implications of Equal Employment Opportunity are to be carried out because this has implications for the Statement. Legal advice will be sought and the Industrial Information and Research Officer will co-ordinate the investigation.

## Special Libraries Publicity Task Force

The Special Libraries Publicity Task Force, established in March, presented a detailed submission outlining a full publicity program to be carried out in 1986.

Council accepted the recommendation of the

report and approved the following objectives:

- (a) Create awareness of the importance of 'information managers'.
- (b) Create an awareness of 'information managers'.
- (c) Inform employers about the benefits of employing professional information managers, especially in cost benefit terms.
- (d) Alert employers to technological advances in information handling.

Council allocated a sum of \$8400 to enable the campaign to be undertaken and asked the Executive Director to assist in the co-ordination of the campaign.

As Sue McKnight, Convenor of the Task Force, was not able to continue as Convenor, this matter was referred to the Special Libraries Section to be considered at their conference in September.

## Draft Code of Ethics

The draft Code of Ethics was circulated for comment after the March meeting of Council and these comments were considered in August. Council felt that the document needed further revision before it could be approved and has asked the General Councillor-at-large, David Clark, to bring a further statement to the November meeting.

## Corporate Plan and Review

The CPRC reported that hearings had been held in all capital cities except Hobart and that they were planning to return to Canberra. The response to hearings and the number of written submissions received was excellent and the report will be presented in November. Council has extended the November meeting to three days in order to give the report full consideration.

## Library Standards

Council reiterated its continued support for the development of standards and recommended that the Industrial Information and Research Officer determine the progress of the Medical, School and Public Libraries Sections in formulating a program for the development of standards for hospital, school and joint-use libraries. The possibility of obtaining funding, for the production of standards, from outside bodies was considered and will be explored.

## LAA 50th Anniversary

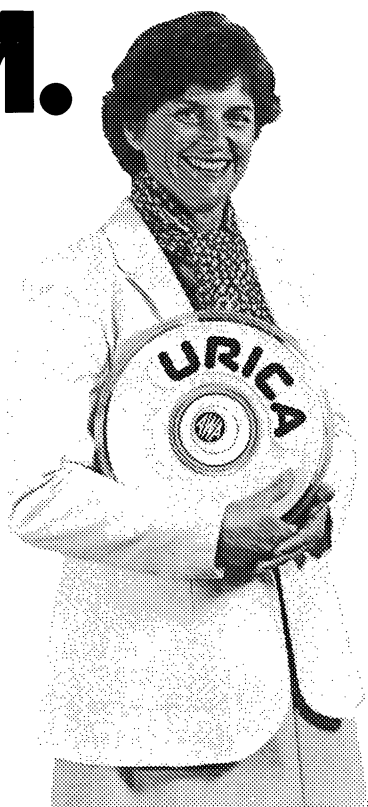
The Executive Director reported on progress to date for the LAA's 50th Anniversary to be held in Canberra in 1987. Plans include a two day seminar on the history and future of the LAA and the profession, a dinner and an informal evening featuring 1937 music. It was noted that the proposed dates clashed with the 1987 IFLA Conference in Brighton, UK and these will be reconsidered. Council noted the desirability of holding a General Council meeting in conjunction with the celebration.

## LAA Manpower Study

Max Borchardt submitted a proposal for updating the LAA Manpower Study. However, Council felt that further work needed to be done on what exactly is needed. The issue is to be considered by the Executive Committee before a decision is made on whether to accept Mr Borchardt's proposal.

**GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT**  
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## GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT

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### Australian Information Technology Society

Council considered a proposal put forward by the Institution of Engineers to form an Australian Information Technology Society. The Executive Committee had discussed the proposal in July and felt that it should not be supported in its current form, which proposed individual membership, but that the possibility of some sort of group being formed should be considered further.

The Executive Director was able to report on the results of a meeting attended by the Institution of Engineers, the Telecommunications Society, the Institute of Radio and Electronic Engineers and the LAA on 26 July.

The meeting drew attention to the involvement of libraries in information technology and agreed that there was a need for further co-operation and collaboration.

Council agreed that the LAA should participate in further discussion on this matter.

### Commonwealth Assistance for Public Libraries

The President reported that the state co-ordinators of the campaign had met on 7 August and had discussed a draft submission in detail. The submission was to be revised by the Research Officer, Gail Goodair, in the light of that discussion. The Industrial Information and Research Officer had distributed a lobbying kit to the campaign co-ordinators and it was agreed that a professional lobbyist should be consulted about how the campaign objectives could be best achieved. This may include the employment of a lobbyist. The President also drew attention to the change of name of the committee from Federal Funding for Public Libraries to Commonwealth Assistance for Public Libraries.

### Exchange Scheme for Library Workers

Council considered a proposal from the Tasmanian Committee for Library Co-operation suggesting a national database for an officer exchange scheme. While Council supported the idea of an exchange it was suggested that it might be better co-ordinated by another group, such as the State Librarians Council.

### Freedom of Information

New procedures and increased charges for Freedom of Information requests were introduced from 1 July and are likely to deter use of the legislation. The Government has also suspended publicity and this will further limit its effectiveness. Council thought that strong action was needed on these changes and resolved to write to both the Prime Minister and the Attorney-General and to issue a press release on the matter.

### A.G.P.S. Charter of Printing and Publishing Responsibilities

In August 1984 Council resolved to note and welcome the A.G.P.S. Charter of Printing and Publishing Responsibilities but also noted the lack of any financial sanctions against bodies which did not comply with it. The Association raised the matter with the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism and considered his reply at the August 1985 meeting. The Minister did not consider that such sanctions would be practical and Council has referred the matter to Peter Clayton, the LAA's representative on the A.G.P.S. Liaison Committee for further consideration.

### Taxation Review

Council considered the LAA submission to the Economic Planning Advisory Council and the result of the recent Tax Summit. Council resolved to encourage Branches to take up this issue and to urge individual members to write to Members of Parliament opposing any tax on books.

### Inquiry into Commonwealth Assistance to the Arts

The inquiry began in November 1982 and has since been reconstituted. A draft submission is to be drawn up by the General Secretary and comments on the submission are being sort from some Sections and Senior Librarians.

### National Language Policy

The Association wrote earlier in the year to Senator Ryan offering assistance in implementing the recommendations of the National Language Policy as they relate to libraries. The Minister has informed the LAA that a task force has been established to analyse the recommendations laid down in the report. The General Secretary has advised that the task force has now written to all Federal Government Departments requesting comment on the recommendations. The Association is working closely with the Victorian Working Group on Multicultural Library Services to ensure that the recommendations relating to libraries are given adequate consideration.

### Government Submissions

Since the March meeting of Council submissions have been made to the Committee to Review Australian Studies in Tertiary Education; the Review of Public Investment in Research and Development in Australia; and the IAC Inquiry into the Production of Books. The papers were not tabled at the Council meeting but are available on request.

### 1986 Draft Budget

A draft budget for 1986 was included in the agenda papers in both line and program format.

The final budget is presented to the meeting in November.

### 1986 Membership Fees

Council resolved that the 1985 fee scale remain unchanged for 1986 for all levels of personal and institutional membership.

Council also introduced a new recruitment incentive for 1986 and resolved that members who sign up a new member be given the option of a one-third reduction of the new member's fee on the nominated membership renewal. The reduction will be to the maximum of the nominating member's fee and provided that the new membership application is included with the membership renewal and that both are received by 31 March 1986. This decision was taken following a discussion on the importance of membership recruitment and the need for members to take an active role in the recruitment of new members.

### Membership

The Executive Director was able to report a slight increase in personal and total membership to 31 July. This has been a continuing trend throughout the year and Council was pleased to take note of this increase, while also reluctant to make the assumption that there was a real turn around in the Association's membership. It was resolved that at an appropriate stage a copy of *Incite* would be sent to unfinancial members with a note to encourage them to rejoin the Association.

### 1986 Biennial Conference

A report on planning for the 1986 Darwin Conference was considered by Council. Council also approved the appointment of a Trade Exhibit Organiser for the Darwin Conference and considered a draft budget which was tabled at the meeting.

A bark painting, which will be used as the design for the conference poster, has been purchased and will be retained by the Association, and Council approved this purchase.

The Council resolved to congratulate the Darwin Conference Committee on the comprehensiveness of its organisation to date.

### 1988 Biennial Conference

The NSW General Councillor reported on the 1988 Biennial Conference and tabled a planning table for the Biennial and IFLA Conferences. The three major subject areas: the individual, the institution and the environment have been linked in a time frame, and a theme of performance, persuasion and power was proposed although this has not yet been accepted by Council. It is proposed to link whatever themes are chosen for the Biennial Conference and IFLA to the Bicentennial theme of 'living together'.

### IFLA 1988 Conference

The Chairman of the IFLA Conference Committee tabled a report at the meeting. It was reported that the position of Conference Organiser had been advertised and that applicants had been interviewed and the Conference Committee recommended to Council that Dulcie Stretton Associates be appointed to the position. Council resolved to accept the recommendation and Dulcie Stretton Associates have been appointed as Conference Organiser for the 1988 IFLA and LAA Biennial Conferences.

The Executive Director reported that several people, including the IFLA 1988 Conference Secretary, the Program Sub-Committee Convener, the Chairman of the 1988 Biennial Conference Committee, the Past President of the LAA and the Executive Director would all be attending the IFLA Conference in Chicago and would be meeting with IFLA officers to discuss a range of matters associated with the

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1988 conference.

Council had some concern that the IFLA Conference Committee had not yet provided a budget and resolved that several items be requested for presentation to the November Council meeting, these included: a draft financial estimate, a full timetable and work schedule, and a list of committees and members.

### Proliferation of Conferences

The Executive Director had prepared a paper on the Proliferation of LAA Conferences and the level of funding involved in them and this had been circulated to divisions for comment. The comments from divisions indicated that this was not seen to be a problem area and that special conferences complemented the Biennial Conference. However, it was felt that it would be useful to have information on the criteria used to evaluate requests for attendance at conferences and the Executive Director is to discuss this matter with a cross-section of the employers.

### Board of Education

A separate report on the Board of Education will appear in *InCite* shortly.

### Continuing Education

The Continuing Education Committee have reported that approximately half of the 1985 tendered programs had been run by the end of July and returned some \$15,000 to the Association. The Committee is generally pleased with these results despite some initial organisation and communication difficulties. The Committee recommended and the Board of Education endorsed a recommendation that \$30,000 be set aside for CE activities in 1986. The General Council endorsed this recommendation. Branches had submitted priorities for 1986 tendered programs and tenders were called in July, and close on 10 October, at which time the 1986 program will be established.

### Canadian Library Association

The Canadian Library Association has proposed that the LAA, CLA, and ASTED enter into an agreement to undertake a continuing program of professional co-operation and a draft agreement was considered at the meeting. Council approved the wording of the agreement and this is to be conveyed to CLA and ASTED.

### LAA Computer

The new computer system at Head Office has become fully operational; however, it is not providing the Association with the improved facilities that were expected of it. The Executive Director expressed concern to Council that it is slower than the old system and is not integrated as it was planned to be. Council has approved a recommendation that an independent computer consultant be asked to review the Association's computing needs and to make recommendations on the appropriate facilities to suit those needs. This is to be reported to the November meeting of Council.

### Toll Free Telephone

As announced in the previous issue of *InCite*, the LAA has established a toll free telephone and the number is (008) 22 1481. The service is available in: Western Australia from 9am to 11am and in all other states from 10am to 12 noon. The service is not available in the Sydney Metropolitan area.

### Viatel

Following a suggestion by the Vice President of the Association, the LAA has mounted a database on Viatel for a six-month trial. The database was demonstrated to Councillors during a break in the Council meeting on 9 August.

### Director-General of the National Library

Council resolved to congratulate Warren Horton on his appointment as Director-General of the National Library of Australia.

### Next Meeting

As the report of the Corporate Plan and Review Committee is to be presented to Council in November, it was decided to hold a three-day meeting at that time to ensure adequate discussion of the report. The next meeting will, therefore, be held on Friday 29, Saturday 30 November and Sunday 1 December and the report will be discussed on Saturday.

### Press Releases

Before the meeting closed Council identified a number of items that could be the subject of a press release. These included Freedom of Information, the Taxation Review and Membership and Recruitment Decisions. *Jenny Adams*  
Executive Director

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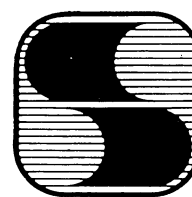
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