

News from the Divisions

RIVERINA REGIONAL GROUP

Sex roles, sexism

The group recently hosted a 24-hour visit to Wagga Wagga by Kari Skjonsberg, a Senior Lecturer in the Norwegian School of Library and Information Science. Kari spoke to a group of 40 at a dinner meeting (attended by residential school students, lecturers, and librarians from as far afield as Temora) on Sex Roles in Children's Literature, a topic for which she has gained an international reputation. She told the group that, starting in 1960, she and her students analysed hundreds of children's books for their portrayal of stereotype sex roles; this analysis was the forerunner to a variety of actions undertaken in order to prevent the publication of blatantly sexist writing for children both in Scandinavia and on an international basis. She and her cohorts feel they have the situation under control, at least in Norway.

Kari's other major talk while here was an open meeting on 'Quotas in favour of women in politics, education and the labor market'. An ardent feminist, Kari's views on this topic were also aired on 2AAA-FM, ABC Radio 2CO, and the local commercial TV channel, RVN2. David Foster's interview for his 'At Home' programme was particularly well considered and covered a wide range of feminist and women's issues. It was of particular interest in that Norway was holding a general election that day, and a Labor win would have ensured greater representation in parliament for women — as a party, it has pledged a minimum of 40% women and 40% men as candidates on its slate. While in Australia, Kari will also address the Human Rights Commission, NSW parliamentary women, the IBBY Conference in Perth, and a number of other interested groups.

Activities for the remainder of this year include a dinner meeting in Wagga Wagga, where John Mills and James Henri will be speaking on their recent experiences in the United States of America and Canada.

Finally, a highlight of the year will be our biennial joint meeting of the NSW and Victorian Branch Councils, to be held this time in Albury on 23 and 24 November.

The programme includes two panel discussions. On Saturday the topic is 'The Practicum in library education and in the field', probable panellists being Keith Davison, Marian Brown and Alison Griffith. The subject under discussion on Sunday is 'Creating the attitude and environment for professional development in libraries' with the likely participants being Alison Crook, Helen Sharpe and Anne Burnett.

Anyone interested in attending should contact Roy Sanders, School of Information Studies, Riverina - Murray Institute of Higher Education (069) 232 468.

LIBRARY TECHNICIANS NSW GROUP

In August we published an issue of *Lib Tec* for which the address labels were requested from LAA Headquarters in July. Consequently we know that there must be people who joined the LAA between July and now. To those who did not receive a copy about the first week in September, please phone 699 3226 before 9 a.m. or weekends and a copy will be posted to you straight away.

J. Walker

Honorary Secretary

VICTORIAN BRANCH

Recruitment

At the meeting of Branch Council on 11 September some suggestions to assist recruitment and retention of members were discussed. Ideas included a publicity plug for the LAA at all meetings, seminars etc. Membership cards the same size as credit cards with information on membership including section membership. Labels for everyone attending functions should be provided. Employers should be encouraged to give preference to LAA members when granting conference leave/funding to attend LAA activities.

Not M15

Branch Watch is being produced by the Victorian Branch to remind members of LAA functions in this state. To get information into *Branch Watch* a form is now available from Bev Kirby (03) 797 5333. Keep up to date by ensuring that a copy of *Branch Watch* is displayed on the notice board of your staff room library.

Margaret Broadhead

NSW BRANCH COUNCIL

Notes from September meeting

Ron Davis will speak on Commonwealth Assistance for Public Libraries campaign and other issues to all interested members at NSW State Library Galleries, 6 pm for 6.30 pm on Thursday October 17. Come and meet the President.

Mairéad Browne, Acting Head of Kuring-gai College School of Library and Information Studies will talk on the proposed new Bachelor of Arts (Information Science) course on Wednesday October 16 at LAA House at 7 pm. All welcome.

A joint NSW/Victorian Branch members meeting organised by the Riverina Regional Group is to be held in Albury Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 November 1985. This looks like being a really interesting weekend: more information later. All welcome.

A function is being planned to launch a new edition of the Branch publication *Local Studies Collection Guidelines*, November 27 at the Archives Office in the Rocks. Further details later.

It was noted that a good crowd of people had thoroughly enjoyed themselves at a promotional dinner held at the Waterfront Restaurant on September 13.

A quarterly report was received from Louise Lansley on the Branch Employment Service. It is being used particularly for temporary vacancies. 76 people had registered and 23 received positions in the period.

Branch approved sending a questionnaire on continuing education to all NSW members via *InCite* to help Branch and Sections plan continuing education for 1986.

Alison Crook

Vice-President NSW Branch

EDUCATION FOR LIBRARIANSHIP SECTION

The information professional

As a result of a conference organised by the Education for Librarianship Section of the Library Association of Australia, in late 1984 information professionals gathered together in Melbourne to share ideas.

The nineteen papers included in the proceedings of that conference discuss trends and developments in the information sector both in Australia and overseas, in education for information professionals, and in new applications of information handling. The keynote address by Dr Anthony Debons, Professor of Information Science, University of Pittsburgh, should be of particular interest to all those working in the information sector.

The proceedings edited by James Henri and Roy Sanders, are available from:

The Co-ordinator

Centre for Library Studies

Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education

P.O. Box 588

Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650

Price (including postage): \$20 LAA members; \$23 non-members. Please make cheque payable to: LAA EDLIB Section.

IFLA CONFERENCE PAPERS

Please note that the IFLA Conference Papers referred to by Marianne Broadbent in *InCite* for 27 September 1985 are available at Head Office.

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