

News from the Divisions

ACQUISITIONS SECTION

\$\$ The Dollar Crisis \$\$

All library administrators, acquisitions librarians and library staff involved in different approaches to providing resources in the current economic climate will find the Acquisitions seminar on Sunday 29 June in Darwin of interest. Five speakers will outline a number of different issues to be faced by all who manage the constantly declining funds available, while trying to satisfy increasing demands for materials.

The morning speakers are Dr Timothy Pascoe, a management consultant specialising in the areas of strategy and organisation, who will address the management implications of the dollar crisis. Mr Trevor Glover, Managing Director of Penguin Books Australia Ltd will then speak on the dollar crisis impact on publishing.

After lunch at the Esplanade Gallery Mr Peter Dawe, Chief Librarian, CSIRO, will speak on approaches being taken in special libraries to cope with the crisis. Mr Brian Cook, librarian of the Brisbane College of Advanced Education Resources Centre will then address the dollar crisis effect on academic libraries. State and public libraries face a number of different problems and Mr Euan Miller, State Librarian of South Australia, will speak on the budgeting difficulties in this area.

The seminar cost is \$35.00 for LAA members and \$50.00 for non-members. Cheques should be made payable to the LAA ACT Acquisitions Section and sent to PO Box E204, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600 by 2 June 1986. Queries to Janet Perfrement (062) 68 8101 or Carolyne Cohn (062) 72 6351.

NSW BRANCH

Some highlights from March Meeting

The second meeting of the NSW Branch was held on Wednesday 19 March. Maureen Webb of the MIND Special Interest Group spoke about the group's plans. The Branch accepted a proposal to join with MIND in the promotion of a meeting to hear Val Moon, Community Services Librarian at the State Library report

on her overseas study tour. Val will be examining technical innovations applied to services for the disabled.

Jeanette Knox also addressed the Branch on 'Freedom of information and developments'; she outlined the history of the 'Freedom of Information Legislation' and group action to date and noted a recent development with Senators Missen and Puplick setting up new FOI interest groups around the country. The new groups are mostly concerned with the Federal sphere but the NSW group will have an interest in the State arena. Jeanette thought it may be time for a further NSW push — especially in the light of the recent success with Local Government Records retention legislation. Executive will discuss this matter further.

A regular meeting of the Branch will be held at Blacktown Technical College on 21 May. The business meeting will take place 5.30 pm — 6.30 pm followed by a panel discussion 'Libraries and their users.' Refreshments will be served at about 6 pm.

The Branch will hold its second all day meeting of the year in the Hunter Region on Saturday 19 July.

The Riverina Regional Representative reported that planning is well under way for the distance education conference 'Libraries alone', July 1987.

CONTINUING EDUCATION . . .

It was noted that Branch planning is underway for two half day Management Improvement Seminars to be held on Thursday 12 June (Evaluating Effectiveness with Douglas Zweizig and Karen Kreuger as speakers) and Monday 16 June (Financial Management with Ching Chih Chen as speaker). A discount will be offered to those attending both seminars.

It was also reported that a New Technology Update seminar and exhibition would now be held during Australian Library Week (October 17-24). The seminar will be organised jointly by the Branch & the State Library's Innovative Technology Group.

Alison Crook
Branch President

TASMANIAN BRANCH

The Tasmanian Branch held a most successful Welcome to New Members Dinner on Wednesday 26 March at the University Club. Guest speaker was John Brudenall, Deputy Commonwealth Parliamentary Librarian who gave a most interesting talk on the User Pays Notion of Library Services. He dealt mainly with the public library scene, touching on matters such as State Libraries setting up business reference services for which they would charge commercial firms, what legal implications this could have for libraries and what kind of balance the library would have to maintain between the needs of the traditional library user and the client who was paying for a service. Question time was brisk and informative examples cited of information services being provided on a user-pays basis, clients' reactions to paying fees, and the future of providing information on a business basis. Altogether a most stimulating night.

The Tasmanian Branch held the first of its Lunchtime Meetings for 1986 on Wednesday 9 April at the Black Buffalo Hotel. The guest speaker was Christine Frey from the University School of Librarianship. Christine spoke about her three months at Triad in Melbourne, outlining the operations and organisational structure of Triad and her experiences in working in a field somewhat different from her traditional academic role. It was reassuring (I think) to hear that traditional library skills and experience are essential in this commercial field of information provision.

On 18 March 1986 Special Libraries Section members were treated to a most interesting talk by Evlyn Barrett of the Antarctic Division. Evlyn joined the expeditioners at the end of 1985 and sailed south on the Ice Bird to the Australian Antarctic bases to check the station libraries, do some work for the Australian Archives and an additional task not required of many librarians, guide helicopters onto their landing pads! Evlyn brought along some marvellous photographs and her orange Antarctic gear for people to see. A most entertaining evening and we all had the chance to ask as many questions as we could about Australia's Antarctic program.

Dorothy Shea

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