

LIBRARY STAFF TO STRIKE!

At a meeting of MOA library staff members held on 23 April 1986, a decision was taken that municipal library staff in Victoria would hold a 24-hour strike on Tuesday 20 May 1986 to protest over an appeal which has been lodged by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) against a decision by Commissioner Sheather to establish new classifications for Library Technician Grades 1 and 2 in the Award.

Background to the dispute

The MOA first lodged an application seeking a classification for Library Technicians working in municipal libraries on 3 October 1983. A decision was handed down by Commissioner Gough on 15 June 1984 which established that there should be a classification for two grades of library technician in the Award. An operative date of 1 February 1984 applied to this decision, however the MAV lodged an appeal against it. The matter was relisted for hearing and on 17 March 1986, Commissioner Sheather reaffirmed that a new classification for library technicians should be inserted into the Award. The MAV has now lodged an appeal against this second decision.

Action by the LAA

The LAA views this matter very seriously. It has monitored the progress of the application for a new classification for technicians since it was first lodged and the Industrial Information and Research Officer attended the MOA meeting on 23 April. The Association cannot understand why the MAV has found it necessary to appeal against Commissioner Sheather's decision and has written to the Secretary of the MAV seeking an explanation for this action. A copy of the LAA's letter appears on the left.

The LAA has also written to all Town Clerks/Shire Secretaries in Victoria expressing its concern that library staff have been forced to resort to industrial action and requesting their immediate assistance in persuading the MAV to withdraw its appeal. A copy of this letter is also reproduced at the right on this page.

LETTER TO TOWN CLERKS/ SHIRE SECRETARIES IN VICTORIA

Dear Sir,

Members of the Municipal Officers Association who work in Victorian municipal libraries recently voted to hold a 24 hour strike on May 20, 1986 in protest at an appeal which has been lodged by the Municipal Association of Victoria against a decision made by Commissioner Sheather to insert new classifications for Library Technician Grade 1 and 2 into the *Municipal Officers (Victoria) Consolidated Award 1974*.

As the professional association representing library staff throughout Australia, the Library Association of Australia is extremely concerned that staff in Victorian Municipal libraries have been forced to resort to strike action over this matter.

Library Technicians have been established as a separate occupational category in Victoria for more than 10 years and have gained recognition as such in most Awards covering library staff in Victoria. Library Technicians possess a specific qualification and are trained to perform a clearly defined set of duties which differ substantially from those performed by other categories of library staff.

The LAA has followed closely the progress of the application by the MOA to introduce new classifications for library technicians since it was first lodged in October 1983 and welcomed Commissioner Sheather's decision as it provided library technicians with recognition that was long overdue.

The Association cannot understand why the MAV has found it necessary to appeal against Commissioner Sheather's decision and has written to the Secretary of the MAV seeking an explanation for this action.

Library staff are dedicated professionals who have a great concern for the welfare of the clients they serve. The decision to strike has not been taken lightly and is an indication of the strength of opposition to the MAV's action. As a matter of urgency, the LAA seeks your assistance in persuading the MAV to withdraw its appeal.

Louise Lansley
INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION &
RESEARCH OFFICER

April 28, 1986.

Mr I. Pawsey,
Secretary,
Municipal Association of Victoria,
Rigby House,
15 Queens Road,
MELBOURNE VIC 3004

Dear Mr Pawsey,

The Library Association of Australia (LAA) has recently learnt that the Municipal Association of Victoria has lodged an appeal against the decision by Mr Commissioner Sheather on March 17, 1986 to vary the *Municipal Officers (Victoria) Consolidated Award 1974* to provide for two new classifications, namely: Library Technician Class 1 and Library Technician Class 2, with accompanying new salary ranges. As the professional association representing librarians and library technicians throughout Australia, the LAA is extremely concerned at your organisation's decision to appeal against this variation of the Award.

Library Technicians have been established as a separate occupational category in Victoria for more than 10 years and have gained recognition as such in most Awards covering library staff in Victoria. Library Technicians possess a specific qualification and are trained to perform a clearly defined set of duties which differ substantially from those performed by other categories of library staff.

The LAA has followed closely the progress of the application by the Municipal Officer's Association to vary the Award by inserting new classifications for Library Technicians since it was first lodged in October 1983 and welcomed Commissioner Sheather's decision as it provided library technicians working in municipal libraries with recognition that was long overdue.

The Association is therefore at a loss to understand why the MAV has found it necessary to appeal against Commissioner Sheather's decision and seeks an immediate explanation for this action.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Lansley,
INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION &
RESEARCH OFFICER.

Darwin — the latest news!

With only a few weeks to go before the Conference, there's a sense of excitement as all the final details are put into place. Here's the latest progress report from the organisers . . .

Keynote speaker profiles

Born on 30 June, 1948, *James Galarrwuy Yunipingu* was educated at the Yirrkala Mission School and in Brisbane. He received the Australian of the Year Award in 1978, and was awarded Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 1985 for his services to the Aboriginal community.

Galarrwuy is currently serving his second term as the elected Chairman of the Northern Land Council. He is also chairman of the Gumatj Association with responsibilities for ceremonial aspects in his home country in north-eastern Arnhem Land, and is involved in the business aspects of Yunipingu Industries based at Nhulunbuy on the Gove Peninsula.

His paper is entitled *Misinformation and Aboriginal culture* and will discuss the oral and visual traditions of Aboriginal people and the failure of authors, publishers and librarians to fully appreciate the relationship of Aboriginal culture to the information systems of European society.