

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.

Darwin — the latest

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It is particularly pertinent that such a topic concerned with traditional Aboriginal society and its relationship to information technology is to be addressed in the very region where such interaction is occurring.

Dr Douglas Zweizig is Associate Professor School of Library Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Beginning his career as an instructor in the Department of English at the University of New Hampshire in 1961, he subsequently developed his interests in librarianship. He worked for five years at Syracuse University, ending in 1972 as a Doctoral Fellow. He then taught at the University of Toledo and the University of Washington. From 1980-1982 he was Senior Research Associate with the consulting firm of King Research Inc. in Rockville, Maryland, before moving to his present position. He has been involved in several research projects each year since 1971, has presented a large number of papers and seminars and has written numerous professional articles and reports.

According to Dr Zweizig's paper, planning of library services is seen as a series of successive approximations to a moving target. The measurement of library services is a means of locating the library in terms of its target. Cur-

rent developments of output measures and standards for libraries are placed in this evaluation context.

Pre and post Conference sessions

Several pre and post Conference sessions have been organised with the intention of exploring a range of specific issues in greater depth.

The University and College Libraries section will meet on Sunday 29 June from 10-3 pm to address the issue of academic libraries in the information market place.

A second session of interest will be run on Saturday 5 July by Beth Stone, Chief Librarian of the Loan and Copy Service at the National Library of Australia. Beth will present a paper which will deal with the service and use of the National Union Catalogues. She will then address bibliographic problems and special collections of the National Library, including various kinds of government publications and technical reports.

Other sessions will include URICA, ABN and Book User Group meetings and several Executive and General Council meetings.

Alice Springs

An open invitation has been extended by librarians in Alice Springs to take the opportunity of visiting their libraries and doing some

sightseeing on your return trip home. The following libraries may be of interest:

Alice Springs Education Centre	
Jackie Miller	525044
Alice Springs Hospital Library	
Peter Ralph	502328
Alice Springs Public Library	
Joy Brucek	522738
Arid Zone Research Institute Library	
Irene O'Neill	522344
Community College of Central Australia Library	
Janien Ferguson	500238
Conservation Commission Library	
Carmel Leonard	508230
Crown Solicitor's Library	
Sophie Shiell	524088
CSIRO Central Australian Laboratory Library	
Sue Mitchell	524258
Mines and Energy Library	
Margaret Gaff	503688
Supreme Court Library	
Sophie Shiell	524088

If you would like to visit any school libraries, they may be located through the Yellow Pages in the Northern Territory Telephone Directory.

Please feel free to drop in, although it may be advisable to telephone first to ensure that the librarian is available at the time of the intended visit.

Jenny Doubleday
Publicity and Public Relations

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Rural Policy Statement

On 15 April the Commonwealth Government issued a Rural Policy Statement which promised to improve the Government's information collection and dissemination activities on the specific needs of rural women. There are also plans to improve the publicising of Commonwealth education services and to provide better access to community and social programs in country areas.

Peter Sekules, a Canberra based lobbyist currently being employed to work on the CAPL (Commonwealth Assistance to Public Libraries) Campaign, was quick to point out the opportunities for public libraries to be involved in these initiatives and the Association has taken action to draw this to the attention of the Government. Telexes were sent to the Prime Minister and the Ministers for Education, Employment and Industrial Relations, Community Services and Primary Industry, and followed by a more detailed letter outlining ways in which public libraries might play a vital role in communication with the rural sector, and supporting statistics. According to our figures, there are over 1000 public library access points in rural Australia serving nearly six million people.

The Department of Primary Industry responded promptly to the initial telexes and is studying our follow-up information. It is envisaged that further discussions will take place in the near future.

Buy Australian

Recent issues of *InCite* have contained items about the growing criticism from Australian authors and publishers about libraries' lack of support of Australian literature. There has also been adverse comment in *Australian Book Review* and at Writers Week in Adelaide.

One argument being put forward is that a quota system should be introduced to force libraries to purchase a set amount of Australian literature. The Association's policy on this matter is clearly set out in our *Statement on*

Freedom to Read. Item four of which says 'A librarian, while recognising that powers of censorship exist and are legally vested in state and federal governments, should resist attempts by individuals or organised groups within the community to determine what library materials are to be, or are not to be, available to the user of the library'.

Clearly, a quota system is a form of censorship and this we would oppose.

There seems to be, however, several ways in which the amount of Australian literature in libraries could be increased, and the Association is taking positive steps to discuss these with publishers and authors. A series of meetings is being sought with the appropriate associations to determine ways in which we might all work together to achieve our aim. Practical solutions might be for the book trade to support our campaign for increased funding for public libraries, and for a joint publicity campaign on Australian literature to be mounted.

There will also be an opportunity to discuss this at the Darwin Conference where a paper titled 'Australian Indigenous Literature in Australian Libraries' is being presented by Ken Methold (Chairman, Australian Society of Authors), Lawrie Ryan (Queensland State Librarian) and Laurie Muller (Queensland University Press).

Services to Members

I reported in *InCite* No. 6 on a number of ideas put forward by the Executive and endorsed by General Council to improve service to members and to dispel the 'them and us syndrome'.

The LAA staff looked at these suggestions and came up with a number of actions which will put the Council ideas into practice.

Processing membership renewals has always been a problem because no matter when renewals are sent out they usually arrive 'en masse' at Head Office in the last week of March, thus creating a huge mountain of work to be processed by a limited number of people on a computer with only limited capacity.

To try and solve the problem staff have made a recommendation to General Council that an early bird rate (like that for the Darwin Conference) be introduced for renewal by a certain date. It is also planned to keep daily

statistics in 1987 on the number of renewals so that facts on peak periods are available and can be used for future planning.

An item appears in this issue of *InCite* telling members how membership processing is proceeding. Information about staff and who to contact for what, which will be a regular annual item will appear shortly.

Staff have also identified their training needs and a training program is being drawn up.

To improve communication staff will make more contact with members by phone and various staff have been given specific phone calls to make on a regular basis, e.g. Executive Director to phone three presidents a fortnight, bookkeeper to phone treasurers membership clerk to phone secretaries etc.

More phone contact will also be made to answer membership queries and the use of the toll-free telephone is being emphasised.

National Information Policy

At its meeting on 2 May, the Executive Committee considered the current status of National Information Policy. The Executive is concerned at what appears to be a lack of progress in the area of NIP despite a great deal of work by the Association and other interested parties. Despite the release of the Department of Science NIP Discussion Paper it is unclear as to when Australia will finally have a National Information Policy. The Association has therefore sought a meeting to discuss the matter with the Minister for Science Barry Jones, to clarify the situation and assure the Minister of the Association's commitment to NIP.

Copyright

The Copyright Law Review Committee has recently held public hearings in Sydney (28 April-2 May) and Melbourne (5-9 May) on the importation provisions of the Copyright Act 1968. The Sydney hearings dealt with books and other printed materials and records and computer software were covered in Melbourne. The Committee comprises Mr Justice I.F. Sheppard (Chairman), Mr Peter Banki and Mr Derek Fielding. The Association had representatives at both hearings.

Jenny Adam
Executive Director