



## LAA: 50: Progress Report

The LAA:50 Committee has now met eleven times and made excellent progress. For those not familiar with what we have been doing, I will give a complete update in this article, so that members of the Association will be familiar with our intentions. Most members of the Committee will be in Darwin, so if you see us, feel free to ask for details.

**Members:** Jenny Gleeson, David Barron, Judith Baskin, Gordon Bower, Peter Clayton, Pauline Haldane, Warren Horton, Maxine Rochester. Jenny Adams is a member ex-officio, and Peter Dawe has just joined the Committee.

**Dates:** As the original dates for the anniversary clashed with IFLA at Brighton, we moved our festivities back a couple of weeks. The dates are now 2-4 September, 1987. (The Canberra weather should be better then, too.)

**Programme:** The original LAA (or rather, Institute of Australian Librarians) meeting was held in the Albert Hall, Canberra. We have proposed that on Wednesday night, 2 September, 1987, all participants will be welcomed at an informal function in the Albert Hall. The Canberra Philharmonic Society will entertain

with music from the 1930s. Guests will have an opportunity to relax, renew friendships, and enjoy themselves before the real action begins.

The Conference proper begins on Thursday, 3 September. The Committee has invited the Prime Minister to open the Conference. After the official opening, papers on the following topics will be presented by appropriate speakers.

- History, Australian Institute of Librarians.
- John Metcalfe's contribution to Australian librarianship.
- History of the LAA (Delegates will be invited to participate from the floor).

At night we will hear the Inaugural Harold White Oration. The Governor-General has been invited to speak.

4 September 1987 has been devoted to the future of the Association. Sessions will consider future objectives, lessons from the past, the Association and the individual member, and a summing up.

The Committee is in the process of inviting speakers to participate in the sessions. Names will be advised once acceptances have been notified. Speakers will represent all areas of the professions. Great care has been taken to balance males and females, professionals and paraprofessionals!

The Committee is ensuring that maximum publicity is being given to the celebrations. You may have already seen the logo; later a

special medallion will be available. States have been asked to participate by arranging State celebrations. The Association has agreed to schedule the AGM for 2 September, and General Council for 5-6 September.

Other groups such as ALPC, ALIC and AACOBS may also schedule events around that time. A bookmark may also be designed. Both Professor Jean Whyte and Mr Harrison Bryan, AO will have relevant publications available in time for the conference. Australia Post has been approached to commemorate the event with an appropriate stamp.

The Committee has been asked several times to explain why both the Governor-General and the Prime Minister should be invited to participate in the anniversary celebrations. The answer to that is easy. A fiftieth birthday party deserves a high profile and one can't get much higher than the Governor-General and the Prime Minister. Our Association has much to be proud of, and will be honoured if the incumbents of the day accept our invitations.

The LAA:50 Committee urges you to consider the anniversary conference when you are preparing your travel budget for 1987/88. The celebrations will be high profile for the Association, and the national committee is working very hard to ensure everyone has an appropriately nostalgic, informative, contemplative and futuristic conference. We urge you to attend.

*Jenny Gleeson*  
Convener

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