

# REPORT FROM GENERAL COUNCIL

The first meeting of the Association's General Council for 1986 was held on 20 and 21 March. The President welcomed a number of new Councillors — Vice President Peter Dawe, General Secretary Jan Cree, Councillor-at-large Martha Heeren, and Sue Brudenall (ACT), Frances Lemmes (NSW) and Anne Harris (SA). Branch Presidents were also present to give them an opportunity to meet the Council and hear of activities proposed for the year. This report of the major items considered during the meeting indicates resolutions of Council where appropriate. Further details of the items may be obtained from any member of Council, or from the LAA office.

## Services to members

The Executive Committee is keen to improve the image of the Association and its Head Office as seen by members, and put forward a number of suggestions to achieve this — full-time operation of the toll-free phone, encouraging Branches to take a more active part in assisting members with local problems, and giving staff opportunities to undertake training in areas such as communication and motivation. These proposals were endorsed by Council and have been outlined in more detail in *InCite* by the Executive Director.

## Review of LAA policy statements

The *Statement on Professional Appointments* has been revised to include library technicians, and to indicate its links with other policy statements related to this area, such as the statement on *The Roles of Librarians and Library Technicians*, and *Work Level Guidelines*. The revised statement has been referred to divisions for comment. *The Roles* statement was reviewed by the Board of Education at its April meeting, and both will now be considered by Council in June.

## Statement on Professional Ethics

Council adopted a *Statement on Professional Ethics* (GC 17/86), and a copy will be included with the next issue of *InCite*. Additional copies will be available on request from the LAA office.

## CAPL Campaign

The LAA/AACOBs submission on assistance to multicultural public library services has been published, and forwarded to the Commonwealth Government's Review of Migrant and Multicultural Programs and Services. A summary has been circulated in *InCite*. A proposal that public libraries become Government information centres has been discussed with officers of the Department of Sport, Recreation and Tourism and a submission is to be made to the Department. A group convened by the Vice-President is preparing a paper on another proposal that public libraries become centres for distribution of AGPS publications. The CAPL Committee has been asked by Council to consider what might be done about the Government's lack of action on the National Language Policy, on which a report was presented in October 1984.

## Library resources for nurse education

The Medical Libraries Section is concerned at the lack of resources for nurse education in hospital and college libraries. The situation is being investigated by the Section, and the Executive Director has asked the Association of Librarians in CAEs for its views. Council expressed its concern at the funding situation for nurse education. (GC 14/86)

## Publicity campaigns

The Association is mounting two publicity campaigns to highlight the roles of librarians, in special libraries and generally. Special library publicity task forces have been formed in each state, and the South Australian Branch is planning the general campaign, which among other things has suggested that a TV soapie featuring a librarian might do wonders for our image.

## Library standards

The development or review of library standards across the profession is continuing. The TAFE Council is to be approached about developing standards in the technical and further education area, and a South Australian interdepartmental committee is examining whether there is a need for joint-use library standards. Work is progressing on standards in the medical and special library fields.

## Update of the Bourne Hill Mitcheson manpower study

A selection of libraries and schools of librarianship were asked which aspects of the 1981 study they found particularly useful, and what other information they would wish to have included in an update of the study. To make the data less academic and of more practical use it has been suggested that more emphasis be placed on non-traditional jobs, and on available quantitative data, and that teacher librarians be included. Council has suggested to the Board of Education, which is to take responsibility for some Association workforce matters, that a small quantitative survey be undertaken annually. (GC 20/86)

## Corporate Plan & Review Committee Report

The Committee's report was issued in January, and was discussed by Council at a special one day meeting on 14 February. At that meeting there was almost unanimous endorsement of the recommendations made by the Committee. Councillors have since had opportunities to discuss the report and to receive comments from members, and reported wide agreement with the recommendations, particularly those regarding fees. Some queries had been raised about the proposed change of the Association's name to Library and Information Services Association of Australia, the future place of library technicians in the Association, representation of institutional members on Council, and what affiliate membership for bodies such as ASLA would entail. There was comment on the likely cost of implementing the proposals, and Warren Horton, Convenor of the Review Committee, will provide information on financial implications for Council's June meeting, when the recommendations are to be debated. Branches have been asked to rank the Report's recommendations in priority order, exclusive of financial considerations, to assist Council in its deliberations. (GC 23/86)

Alan Bundy, South Australian Branch President and Editor of *Australian Library and Information Abstracts* (ALISA) reported that he had found much more support for a change of name to Australian Library and Information Services Association (ALISA) and offered to change the title of the *Abstracts* to allow the Association to use the acronym. This offer was acknowledged with thanks, and will be kept under consideration, and Councillors have been asked to canvass both names with

members. Contact your General Councillor so that your views can be passed on to Council.

## Finance

Three recoupable special grant applications were approved by Council — \$3000 for the Riverina Regional Group for a July 1987 conference on isolated libraries, \$5000 for the Library Technicians Section for its fourth national conference to be held in Melbourne in October 1987, and \$7500 to IBBY for a second edition of *The New Classics*. The latter grant is subject to profits being shared 50% to the LAA and 50% to the groups producing the publication, and prices being in line with standard LAA differentials for members and non-members. (GC 26, 27 & 29/86)

## Membership

The Association is in a healthy state, with 7198 members at the end of February 1986, compared to 6875 at the same period last year (a 5.6% increase). There has been a good response to the 1/3 reduction in fees for members introducing a new member, and details will be available shortly.

The Northern Territory Branch was again the most successful Branch in recruiting members in the past year, achieving a 5% target increase by mid March 1985. The Branch won a \$500 unconditional grant and was congratulated by Council on its success. Council has increased the recruitment bonus for 1986, with \$500 to the winning Branch, \$250 to the second placegetter, and \$250 to the Branch achieving the largest numerical increase — to give some incentive to the larger Branches. (GC 33/86) Progress is to be reported regularly in *InCite*, and the first report appears elsewhere in this issue.

Branches were asked for suggestions on how to reduce the number of unfinancial members, and proposals included individual approaches to members who have not renewed, better promotion of LAA activities in libraries, more emphasis on local events, and more information on tax deductibility for expenditure on CE and other Association activities. The Executive Director will be publishing an article on this shortly, and the list of strategies for reducing the number of unfinancial members is being circulated to Branches. (GC 31/86)

## Sale of membership lists

Council has been discussing the sale of the Association's membership list, and the 1986 membership renewal form asked members to indicate whether they would wish their names to be included if the list was sold. Responses are being collated, and will be considered at Council's June meeting, with a report on likely costs and revenue from such sales.

## Public Library Standards Review Committee

This committee has been in recess since publication of *Policy and Planning Guidelines for Public Libraries* in 1984. It is being reactivated to draw up input and output standards, and it is hoped that a meeting can be arranged with Dr Douglas Zweizig on standards while he is in Australia for the Darwin Conference.

## Darwin Conference

Planning for the conference is in its final stages, and 110 registrations had been received at the time of Council's meeting (this had risen to 650 at the end of April). All exhibition space has been filled, and the Beaufort Centre and Performing Arts Centre will be excellent venues for the conference. Council congratulated

Robyn Young, Conference Secretary, and the Committee for their excellent work in planning the LAA's first conference in Darwin.

### 1988 IFLA & LAA Biennial Conference

Hans Groenewegen has taken up the position of Treasurer for the IFLA Conference Executive Committee in place of Alan Bunsell who resigned late last year due to pressure of other business.

TAA has been appointed internal carrier for the conference.

Publicity materials are being produced for distribution in Darwin, and in Tokyo and New York for the IFLA and ALA conferences in August. The Sydney Opera House is to be the venue for the closing of the LAA conference, and the IFLA opening.

### Guidelines for the Organisation of Biennial Conferences

Council has adopted *Guidelines for the Organisation of Biennial Conferences*. (GC 42/86) These cover all aspects of staging an LAA conference, from the roles of the many conference committees to seeking sponsorship and contracting speakers. The guidelines were developed largely as a result of Christine Crocker's work as Committees Co-ordinator for the Brisbane conference, and Council thanked Christine for initiating what will be a most helpful document for future organisers.

### 1990 Biennial Conference

Council has accepted with pleasure the invitation of the Western Australian Branch to host the 1990 conference in Perth. (GC 44/86) The Riverina Regional Group is keen to host a biennial conference in Albury, and Council has asked the Executive Director to investigate holding conferences outside capital city venues. (GC 45/86)

### Election of 2 members of the Board of Education and Board of Examiners

Twila Herr from the School of Librarianship, University of Tasmania and Helen O'Brien, from Canberra College of TAFE, have been elected members of the Board of Education and Board of Examiners. Twila's term begins on 1 May, and she replaces Denis Richardson who did not stand for re-election. Helen has been elected to fill the casual vacancy caused by the resignation of Gael Fraser.

### Honorary Awards

On the recommendation of the Honorary Awards Committee Council has conferred the H.C.L. Anderson Award on Laurie Brown, State Librarian of Tasmania, and the Redmond Barry Award on Justice Rae Else-Mitchell, Chairman of the Commonwealth Grants Commission and former President of the Library Council of NSW and member of the Council of the National Library of Australia. Reports on these awards appear in this issue of *InCite*.

### Publications Board

Council considers that there should be a better financial return from Association publications. It has asked the Publications Board to examine various aspects of the publications program, and has expanded the Board to include two representatives of Council and to place more emphasis on marketing. Martha Heeren, General Councillor-at-large, is to be one of the Council representatives. A comprehensive report by the Executive of the Board (the Chairman, Publications Officer and Executive Director) was prepared for the Executive Committee, and has been referred to the Board for its consideration. (GC 54/86)

### LAA computer

The last of the software for the Datapoint system has now been completed. A review of the Association's total information processing requirements is to be carried out and no further development of the present system will be undertaken. (GC 56/86)

### Interlibrary Loan Code for Audiovisual Materials

The Audiovisual Services Committee has revised this Code, and the revision has been endorsed by Council. A recommendation has been made to AACOBS that it be included in the Australian ILL Code. Council commended the Audiovisual Services Committee for its work on this revision. (GC 57/86)

### SAIL project

Progress on the Survey of Australian Interlibrary Loans Project has been reported in *InCite*. The feasibility study has been completed, and the survey is being undertaken in April/May. Council commended the Project Director, Andy Exon, on the progress of the study. (GC 58/86)

### Next Council meeting

The next meeting is to be held in the Hotel Darwin on Friday, 27 and Saturday, 28 June. Observers are welcome — please advise Angela Brommann if you wish to attend on (008) 22 1481.

Sue Phillips  
Assistant Executive Director

### CAVAL WORKSHOPS IN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

On 28 and 29 April, CAVAL launched its 1986 series of workshops in Australian Government publications. Michael Harrington, Supervising Editor, Service Publications, at AGPS, and one of Australia's foremost authorities in the field of government publications, led the first two sessions, which were held in the Borchardt Library of La Trobe University.

The first, a full day workshop was directed at librarians familiar with Australian government publications. Dealing specifically with publications of the parliament, Michael classified them into five categories, and then expanded his discussion, analysing each of these and examining the problems associated with retrieving information from them. Participants from most sectors of the library community participated in this workshop.

The half day workshop on Tuesday 29 April was the first in a series of seven workshops to be held each month until October. These are intended for librarians with little or no knowledge of Australian government publications. The first workshop provided participants with an overview of the structure of government and the nature of the government publishing programme.

The remaining workshops will be held at various locations throughout the Melbourne Metropolitan region, and details of them may be found in the Happenings column in *InCite*. For further details please contact Max Borchardt, Library Co-ordinator, CAVAL. Phone (03) 813 3844.

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