

..... News from the Divisions

NSW BRANCH

16 April Meeting

Branch members discussed the existing LAA policy of pre-payment for publications for all, including institutional members. It was considered that in view of the LAA's need to identify benefits it can provide to institutional members, and in view of the extreme improbability of institutional members failing to pay, this was a policy which the LAA could afford to reverse. Branch resolved to raise the matter with the Executive.

In response to a request from the Canberra Committee to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the LAA in September 1987, Branch set up a small working party (of Jan Cree, Rosemary McLaughlin and Sue Halbwirth, convenor) to organise some form of celebration for NSW.

It was noted that the unit cost of printing the second edition of *Local Studies Collections* had increased, as had costs of producing *So You Want to Work in Libraries*. These factors, combined with existing publications commitment, means that publications are unlikely to return a profit to the Branch in 1986.

21 May Meeting

NSW Branch held its May meeting in Western Sydney at Blacktown College of TAFE. A number of observers attended the remarkably brief meeting which preceded the main event of the evening, an excellent panel discussion, 'Selling on Target: Promoting the Library to Management, Users, and the Public.' Three stimulating panellists, Aileen Stevenson, David McKerlie, and Anne Wilson provided a lively and thought-provoking night, which was greatly appreciated by an enthusiastic audience.

Continuing Education: Not Wanted in the Country?

Plans to hold five seminars/workshops in the Sydney region in 1986 are proceeding smoothly. The first two, 'Evaluating Effectiveness' and 'Financial Management', organised in response to demand expressed in Branch's Continuing Education survey, will have been held by the time you read this.

However, plans to hold seminars in country

regions to spread the benefits of LAA membership more broadly, are not being so successful. Despite requests to regional groups to inform the Branch of areas in which their members would like continuing education activities, and despite Branch's expressed intention of cross-subsidising at least two activities in country regions in 1986 (from profits made through Sydney Continuing Education), there has not been the slightest glimmer of interest. 'Managing People at Work' is one possibility — but regional groups were invited to make use of the results of the continuing education survey to nominate a topic of interest to their members.

So, country members, if you want a seminar, let your regional group hear about it!

Public Libraries Delegation to NSW Premier

On 2 June 1986, a delegation consisting of Graeme Deutscher, Chief Librarian Wollongong Public Library, Lorraine Vass, Lane Cove Public Library, and Alison Crook, President of the NSW Branch of the LAA met with the Premier, in what has been established as an annual event, to discuss the issues presently facing NSW public libraries. The meeting was the culmination of a series of meetings held with Colin Gray and Jenny Kena (Secretary and Treasurer respectively of the NSW Public Libraries Section) and Chris Williamson of Lake Macquarie Shire Library to plan and write the contents of the submission to which the delegation would speak.

The delegation sought to draw the Premier's attention to the financial difficulties facing public libraries, and there was considerable discussion concerning the need to increase the per capita subsidy without decreasing Special Grants. The effect of Australian dollar devaluation on purchasing power was discussed and the Premier requested further statistical information which could be used in Budget discussions with Treasury. (That information was supplied within the week).

The delegation also thanked the Premier for the decision to proceed with the purchase of a microcomputer for each library system, informed him that the plan was nearing implementation, and sought to build on that project

with a further 3 part initiative:

- to place a telefacsimile machine in 11 regional centres (to add speedy document delivery to speedy registration of an information request).
- to provide training and database management software for use with the micros.
- to place a core collection of government publications in each public library (Commitment in principle to this, with a working party to sort out details was requested).

The Premier expressed the view that it all seemed sound and worth doing, but that it would have to be looked at in the context of the budget. We wait to hear further, but the budget for '86-'87 should be basically resolved before the Premier steps down on July 4.

Alison Crook, President, NSW Branch

PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION NSW GROUP

In response to the need for a workshop for first-line supervisors in public libraries, in particular, the first was organised in February this year and held at Bankstown City Library.

This was repeated at the end of May with a limit of 25 in each. The aim of the 'No Frill Supervision' workshops was to examine the standard workplace responsibilities of first line supervisors, establish major areas of responsibility and to discuss systems and approaches which will help supervisors carry out their responsibilities effectively and efficiently.

The presenters, Marilyn Bryce and George Campbell (TAFE) worked out a programme with level and content differing from the NSW Branch's workshop for middle level supervisors 'Managing People at Work', originally developed by Marilyn Bryce and Bruce Rose Personnel Officer, Sutherland Shire Council for the LAA's Continuing Education programme.

Feedback from participants has been positive. If you are interested in attending this workshop next year, then contact Colin Gray tel. 920 5880 or Margaret Whittaker, tel 707 4255 ext. 294 and it will be put on the tentative programme for the 1987 Committee to consider.

Colin Gray
Secretary

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**MORE NEWS FROM
THE DIVISIONS**

**LIBRARY TECHNICIANS
NSW**

The Committee held a meeting on Monday 16 June. Discussion included recent correspondence, how best to use the promotional video, the possibility of applying for a grant, the proposed change in LAA fees, pros and cons of abolishing national sections and Vice-President Ms. L. Zantiotis's trip to the Darwin Conference. Our next promotional function will be during August at Sydney Technical College, and the next Committee meeting will also be during August.

**TASMANIAN SPECIAL LIBRARIES
SECTION**

Corporate Plan and Review

On Wednesday 23 April Anne Hazell spoke to the Tasmanian Branch about the progress of the LAA Corporate Plan and Review. This led to a most useful discussion between Tasmanian Branch members and Anne who was able to clarify a number of points. This was most helpful for the Branch when it met on the following Monday to finalise its response to the Report of the Review Committee.

Law and lunch

At a lunch time meeting of Special Librarians on 17 April, Merrilyn Evans spoke about her new library at the Joint Law Courts in Hobart. Merrilyn was able to arrange for us to hold the meeting in the library, so we were able to browse around the shelves and really get the feel of what a law library is all about.

We were entertained by Merrilyn with a history of how the library came into being, a warning about architects who think they know what librarians want in a library (but don't), and then a description of the collection and its links with the Attorney-General's library in Canberra. It was a most illuminating talk, especially for those of us who need to make use of legal material from time to time, but do not actually work in a legal library. After Merrilyn's talk we moved to the Conference Room (courtesy of the Family Court Judge), had refreshments and carried on with our questions to Merrilyn about aspects of her library service.

RIVERINA REGIONAL GROUP

The Riverina Regional Group held a most successful lunch and seminar on 17 May, entitled: 'Rural Libraries: Joys and Problems'. This attracted 23 librarians from Finley in the west to Gundagai in the east (240 km), and Temora in the north to Albury in the south (200 km). The panel consisted of Guy Aaron (Albury TAFE), Sue King (Temora PL), Dianne Farlow (Griffith PL), Dawn South (Agric. Research Inst., Wagga), and Margot Lindgren (Finley & Berrigan schools).

Guy saw isolation of both library staff and clients as a major problem, but learning and job satisfaction as important joys. Sue found life as an untrained 'Robinson Crusoe' librarian with sole accountability an exhausting experience, but much improved on the library joining the regional system. Dianne too found that a region increased money and bookstock available, though still not enough for existing services because of priority allocation for new services. Dawn's isolation as a one-person library was relieved by being part of a network, and her clients on the whole knew how to find what they wanted. Margot, sharing her expertise between two schools 22 km apart, and exercising a dual role as both teacher and librarian, found isolation from technology and bookshops a problem. On the other hand the children saw the librarian as a friend rather than as a 'cranky' teacher.

A wealth of points were made by the panel and the other participants and it was only the approaching darkness, on a drought-breaking evening, which finally brought the seminar to a close. This meeting was a fitting foretaste of the national Libraries Alone: Rural & Isolated Libraries Conference being held in Wagga Wagga in July 1987. See you there!

Edward R. Reid-Smith

SCHOOL LIBRARIES SECTION

ANZAC weekend in Melbourne proved to be a successful one for the School Libraries Section. The Presidents of New South Wales (Mary Jane Stannus), South Australia (Trish Bickley), and Victoria (Lia Cross) met over the two days with the Committee of the National Section of School Libraries to examine a variety of issues concerning school librarians.

Topics discussed included the Corporate Plan & Review, the revision of *Books and Beyond*, federal funding for school libraries, the *National Information Policy*, and statements

on the *Principles of School Librarianship* and *Professional Appointments*. There was much discussion and a fruitful exchange of ideas.

The LAA Vice-President, Mr Peter Dawe met with the group on the Sunday. He stressed the similarities between school and special librarians where the personnel often worked in isolation devoid of professional day-to-day support. He sees school librarians as having an important role, and a demanding one, in the development of young people especially in this age of new technology and information control.

The meeting expressed its appreciation to Peter for the opportunity to discuss with him a wide variety of matters of concern. It is hoped that the meeting of Presidents will be come, at least, an annual event.

Irene Meewissen
(President)

**Keep in touch with
InCite!**

InCite really can play a vital role in keeping people in touch. Thaw Kaung, Chief Librarian, Universities Central Library, Rangoon Burma has just written to say that after an item he contributed to *InCite* was published he made contact with a long-lost friend who now lives in South Australia.

Thaw Kaung writes 'A close friend of mine whom I first knew as a child when I was living in England, and with whom I later lost touch, wrote to me recently to say that she has read the item I wrote at your request for *InCite*. This friend had, I found out only now immigrated to Australia, become a librarian and changed her name on marriage. So only now after 26 years, she was able to get my address from *InCite* and we have been able to establish contact, thanks to you.'

Jenny Adams
Executive Director

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