

## REPORT ON THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING OF 27 & 28 JUNE 1986

General Council met in Darwin on 27 and 28 June before the 1986 Biennial Conference. Much of the Council meeting was taken up with the Corporate Plan and Review Report and a report on the decisions made by Council appeared in *InCite* No 12. Further details and expansion on some of the Council's decisions on the future of the LAA also appear in this issue of *InCite* in another section.

### LAA 50th Anniversary Celebrations

A report from the Convener of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations Committee was presented to Council. The celebrations will be from 2-4 September and the program will begin with an informal function in the Albert Hall, the venue for the first meeting of the Australian Institute of Librarians. General Council resolved to meet in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary Celebrations on 5 and 6 September and, if necessary, on 7 September and that the Annual General Meeting would be held on the afternoon on Wednesday, 2 September before the opening of the celebrations.

### Australian Library and Information Research Foundation

For some time the Association has had a proposal under consideration to establish an Australian Library and Information Research Foundation. It has not been proceeded with to date because of an application before the Commissioner of Taxation, and we were advised not to proceed with tax exemption for a research foundation until the application had been finalised. This has now taken place and Council considered whether the proposal should be proceeded with. It was noted that groups such as AACOBs with research funding available often have difficulty in finding worthy projects and it was considered that the research foundation did not fit in with the future association that had been planned by the Corporate Plan and Review Committee and General Council. It was felt that the Association could not afford to establish such a foundation and it was resolved that the proposal not be proceeded with.

### Library standards

The Industrial Information and Research Officer is monitoring the development of library standards. She reported that the Public Library Standards Committee has reconvened and held its first meeting. The Committee has asked for and Council agreed to allocate \$3,000 for further meeting to be held in 1986, and the Committee has been asked to look at the funding it may require for meeting in 1987. Pending the development of National Hospital Library Standards, Council endorsed the Medical Libraries Section, Victorian Group's *Draft Minimum Standards for Hospital Libraries* which is for use in hospital libraries in Victoria. The South Australian Joint-Use Libraries Advisory Committee has advised that it will prepare draft standards for joint-use libraries and that these should be available by the end of 1986. Progress will continue to be monitored and reported at each meeting of Council.

### Use of international symbols in libraries

The Australian Library Promotion Council and the LAA have been looking at the use of a national library symbol and it has been agreed that it would be appropriate to use the symbol

of the American Library Association if permission is granted by the ALA. Council also considered the use of symbols for disabled people and this matter will be discussed further with the ALPC. It is proposed that a campaign to promote the use of these symbols be mounted with ALPC.

### Library Publicity Task Force

The Convener of the Library Publicity Task Force, Anne Harris, presented a report to Council. The Task Force is looking at ideas such as a video, radio promotion, and a pamphlet as ways of promoting librarians and the work that they carry out.

### Special Library Promotional Task Force

The National Convener, Jan Cree, reported that all State Conveners were to present a short report to the Special Libraries Section Annual General Meeting being held in Darwin, and that all states were progressing with their promotional activities. Little headway has been made in Western Australia and the ACT to date, and the Northern Territory is promoting libraries generally during the conference. Council noted the report.

### Revision of LAA Policy Statements

Council resolved that the revised *Statement on Continuing Education for Library and Information Services Personnel*, the *Statement on Library Services for Disabled People* and the *Statement on Joint-Use Libraries* be adopted as policy statements of the Association. These will appear shortly in *InCite*. It was resolved that the *Statement on the Roles of Librarians and Library Technicians* should be circulated to divisions for comment and brought back to the November meeting of Council. The Industrial Information and Research Officer will also report in November on modifications which may be needed to the *Statement on Copyright in Non-Book Materials*. Because the Australian Society of Archivists has assumed responsibility for the assessment of archives courses, the LAA's *Statement on the Recognition of Courses in Archives* is no longer needed and Council resolved that it should be withdrawn.

### Draft Policy Statements on National Information Policy

Two draft statements had been circulated to divisions for comment and these came back to the June meeting. From the range of comment it was difficult to make amendments to the existing draft statements and Council asked the ACT Branch to review the statements and the comments and to prepare another draft statement or statements for consideration at the November meeting of Council. As this was considered to be a matter of urgency the ACT Branch has been asked to prepare these and circulate them for comment before the November meeting of Council so that the Association can finalise its NI statement/s.

### Commonwealth Assistance to Public Libraries Campaign

Council noted that the Committee's submission on *Commonwealth Assistance to Multicultural Public Library Services* had been prepared and distributed widely, and the public meetings are being arranged in each state to explain the campaign to librarians and other interested parties. Some of the meetings have been planned for July.

### Rural Policy Statement

Council noted that the Association had written to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Community Services, Education and Primary Industry highlighting the ways in which public libraries could play a role in the economic and rural policy initiatives which were announced by the government recently. The Department of Primary Industry has contacted the Association to discuss ways in which libraries could be used for dissemination and collection of information.

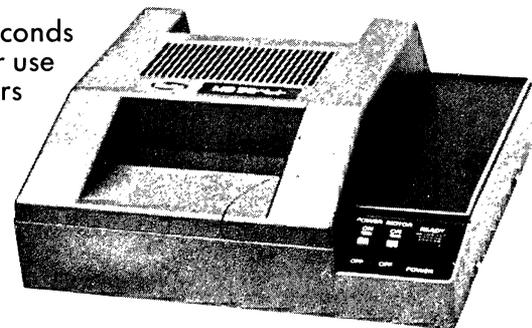
### Audiovisual copyright

The Attorney-General has introduced amendments to the Copyright Act 1968 to cover audiovisual materials. The amendments strengthen the anti-piracy provisions of the Act and increase access to copyright material to the handicapped, and for libraries, archivists and their clients. The Bill has been referred to the Audiovisual Services Committee for comment.

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**International Year of Peace Grant**  
The Association made its first grants available to libraries in mid May and a list of resources was prepared which was provided to all libraries receiving the grants. The second stage of the project was approved and the remaining \$25,000 of the \$40,000 project will be received in June. Council noted that the number of applications received has been disappointing and it is hoped that further applications will be received in the future.

**National Information Policy**  
The Executive Director reported that the Executive Committee was concerned at the lack of action of NIP in Australia. The Department of Science is drawing up an approach to Cabinet and a draft of this will be given to the interdepartmental meeting on NIP. Following endorsement it will then be presented to Cabinet. The Executive Director and President are to meet with the Minister for Science, Barry Jones, in August to discuss how the Association can best put its resources into the establishment of a proper National Information Policy. Council noted the report.

**Carryover of funds**  
Council approved the special case for retention of the \$8,000 which was profit from the Medical Libraries Section Conference for the establishment of the Anne Harrison Trust Fund. The Fund will be set up to support medical librarianship in Australia.

**Membership report**  
Council noted the latest membership statistics which showed an increase of 527 personal members over the same time last year, and an overall increase of 712 members.

**Sale of membership lists**  
Council has for some time been considering selling the membership lists of the Association. The results of the questionnaire on the membership form showed that 34% of members were in agreement with this, 50% did not want their name included on a membership list for sale, and 15% did not answer. Council resolved that no further action be taken in regard to selling membership lists for the time being.

**National Book Council Medal**  
Gerald Flesch has been nominated as the Association's representative on the National Book

Council's sub-committee for the National Book Council Medal. The Association will look at making a nomination for the medal some time during the year.

### **AACOBS/LAA Joint Committee on Information Technology**

Both AACOBs and the LAA have been considering the future of this Committee for some time and Council agreed to endorse the AACOBs proposal that the Joint Committee on Information Technology be disbanded. The Association will look at other ways in which it might keep its members abreast of trends in information technology.

### **IFLA/Biennial Conference 1988**

Both conference committees provided reports on their progress to date. Planning is well underway and publicity flyers and stickers have been produced for the Darwin conference and for future promotions. The IFLA Conference Committee has arranged a meeting with the IFLA Executive during the Tokyo conference, to be held in August, and has arranged for publicity on Australia to be distributed at that conference.

### **1990 Biennial Conference**

The Western Australian Branch has accepted the Association's invitation to host the conference and planning has begun.

### **Student attendance at conferences**

Council has endorsed the idea of student grants for attendance at LAA conferences and conference committees are being asked to consider this. An item is also being put in the *Guidelines for the Organisation of LAA Biennial Conferences*.

### **Report of the Board of Education**

Council endorsed the Board's proposal for a Library Manager of the Year Award and is inviting the Board of Education to investigate sponsorship for the award.

### **Public libraries as government information centres**

A submission has been put to the Information Co-ordination Branch of the Department of Sport, Recreation and Tourism setting out methods by which the federal government's free information might be distributed to public libraries as part of the proposal for public

libraries to become centres for the distribution of government information. The submission is currently under consideration by the government. The Executive Director and the Industrial Information and Research Officer have also met with Frank Thompson of the Australian Government Publishing Service to discuss the possibility of public libraries acting as distribution points for AGPS publications. The Industrial Information and Research Officer and the President of the Victorian Branch, Ross Gibbs, are currently investigating the feasibility of establishing a pilot project in five regional libraries to determine whether, in fact, public libraries could act as distribution points for AGPS publications. A further report on progress will be presented to the November meeting of Council.

### **Acquisition of Australian publications by Australian libraries**

Council noted that there has been an increasing amount of publicity regarding the lack of Australian literature in library collections and endorsed a proposal put forward by the Executive Director that further liaison be made with the Australian Society of Authors and the Australian Book Publishers Association. Council also noted however that a quota system would be a form of censorship and would be opposed by the Association under its Statement on Freedom to Read. Council resolved that while it was generally in favour of increasing the Australian content of libraries, it strongly opposed a quota system as a means of accomplishing this. It is envisaged that a joint committee of ASA, ABPA and the LAA will look at the matter further.

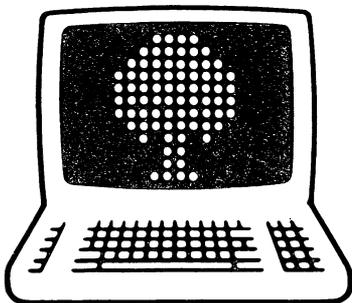
### **Submissions to government**

Council noted that submissions had been put to the Department of Science commenting on the *National Information Policy Discussion Paper*, and to the National Film and Sound Archive, commenting on the report *Time in our Hands*, and the Copyright Law Review Committee concerning the implications of Sections 37 and 38 of the Copyright Act 1968.

### **Australian Traineeship System**

Libraries in some states have already accepted trainees under the Australian Traineeship System and others are considering doing so in the future. Problems have been encountered

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# **BOOKNET**

## GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT

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ed in some libraries where trainees have been employed and the Industrial Information and Research Officer and Helen O'Brien, a member of the Board of Education, are preparing a set of guidelines which may assist libraries wishing to implement the Australian Ineeship system.

### Library resources for nurse education

Further action is to be taken on this issue until after the matter has been discussed by ALCAE at its AGM in Darwin, and when the Medical Libraries Section has had an opportunity to consider ALCAE's discussions, and to receive further information has been compiled in the Medical Libraries section.

### LAA in International Librarianship Committee

The interim LAA International Librarianship Committee presented its report to Council. Council endorsed the modus operandi set out in the report, and has invited Allan Horton to convene the new committee. The committee will be called the LAA International Relations Committee. The objectives of the Association's international relations program will be to achieve a higher profile for the LAA internationally, and b) to develop practical avenues for co-operation. The aims of the committee are — a) to establish a relationship with associations or groups with which there is an equal or equitable balance, and b) to establish a relationship with organisations for which the LAA might be considered a donor body. Allan Horton has been invited to establish a committee and to determine its terms of reference, and to report back to the November meeting of Council.

### Publications Board

The Publications Board presented a report of its last meeting to Council and also provided comment on the feasibility of the six points it presented to the March meeting of Council. These included better accounting and accountability, better communication, incentives to authors, broadening the appeal of the Association's publications, marketing and distribution, and divisional publications. Council endorsed their comments with interest. Council also endorsed *Guidelines on Publication of Conference Proceedings* and these will be included in the *Office Bearers Guide* and published in *InCite*.

### Encyclopedia of Australia Librarians and Information Science

Council noted that the Publications Board had authorised Harrison Bryan to begin work on its publication. Its scope will include major libraries, librarianship, benefactors of libraries and peripheral areas. It is proposed that it will be published in four volumes.

Jenny Adams  
Executive Director

# Local Government Records

## Major Bicentennial Grant in NSW

At a press conference held at St Mary's Cathedral on June 24, the Premier Mr Wran announced the NSW Bicentennial Archives Program being funded by the NSW Bicentennial Council. Three projects are involved — Archives of the Labour Movement in NSW, Archives of St Mary's and Archives of Local Government.

The inclusion of the Archives of Local Government project in the tripartite Bicentennial Program is welcome news for the Action Committee on Local Government Records. It is a vital and needed follow-up to the recent amendments to Ordinance 1 of the Local Government Act. Much is owed to the support given by the Archives Authority of NSW, the Library Association of Australia (NSW), the Australian Society of Archivists (Sydney) and the NSW State Committee of AACOBS. The records of local government bodies are an integral part of the information spectrum. Apart

from research value, they embody matters concerning citizens' rights and entitlements.

The Bicentennial Grant enables the appointment of a professional archivist and the compilation of a comprehensive Records Disposal Schedule for local government councils. This will assist with the identification of archival records, will encourage the orderly disposal of time-expired records of no enduring value, and ensure the preservation of records required to be safeguarded.

The administration of the project, which it is estimated will cost \$100,000 over a period of two years, is vested in the Archives Office of NSW under the Archives Authority of NSW. The work will be carried out in conjunction with the Ministerial Working Party of the Department of Local Government and the Action Committee. Essential to a successful outcome will be consultation with local government administrators and record managers.

Meantime to meet the demand for more specific guidelines and advice on the preservation of records amendments gazetted July 1985, the Action Committee hopes to mount relevant seminars through the local government and Shires Associations Training Unit.

Patricia Ward

Secretary, Action Committee  
on Local Government Records

## Talking Book Shortlist

An impressive array of literary awards has been won by the authors of the six titles selected in the short list for the Royal Blind Society's Talking Book of the Year Award for 1986.

This is the seventh year the Royal Blind Society has presented the award, which aims to highlight the importance of Talking Books to blind or visually impaired people; give recognition to a significant work of Australian literature; encourage a high standard of production; and acknowledge the co-operation of book publishers in the production of Royal Blind Society talking books.

The short list is:

*Lilian's Story* by Kate Grenville (Allen & Unwin) — winner of the Australian Vogel Literary Award, 1984

*Missus* by Ruth Park (Nelson)

*Illywhacker* by Peter Carey (University of Queensland Press) — winner of the Age Book of the Year Award, 1985; and the FAW Barbara Ramsden Award, 1985

*The Night We Ate The Sparrow* by Morris Lurie (McPhee Gribble/Penguin)

*A Book of Australian Railway Journeys* compiled by John Cook (William Collins Ltd)

*The Doubleman* by Christopher Koch (Australasian Publishing Co.) — winner of the Miles Franklin Award, 1986

The books were chosen by a judging panel which comprised Director of the Australian Book Publishers' Association, Ms Jan Noble; owner of two Sydney bookshops, Mr Philip Bray; member of the board of directors of 2RPH, Ms Dawn Sollars; talking book users Mrs Anne Somssich and Mrs Joan Johnson; and public librarian, Mrs Jewl Pels.

Books considered for selection had to have been published between April 1985 and March 1986, be by an Australian author or have an Australian theme, and work well as a talking book.

Books on the short list will be recorded at the Royal Blind Society's studios between now and October when the winner will be decided. The award presentation will take place at a luncheon to be held at the Royal Blind Society's auditorium at Enfield on Wednesday, October 15.

## Special ACCESS

ACCESS MELBOURNE, established on June 4, 1985, was based on the guidelines adopted by the successful Sydney group ACCESS. ACCESS (Architects, Construction and Consulting Engineers Specialist Services) is a group of librarians in architecture, engineering and related fields meeting to form a co-operative information network. At present ACCESS MELBOURNE has 21 member libraries, ranging from very small specialist company libraries to large academic libraries.

Quarterly general meetings are held, often with guest speakers and there is always discussion and the opportunity of meeting librarians from similar libraries. Many group members feel more relaxed asking for information from librarians they have met, and they discover that problems they encounter occur in many specialised libraries, and they can discuss them with others with similar experiences. As many ACCESS MELBOURNE members expressed interest in computers for specialised libraries, several meetings have pursued this topic. Once again discussion of the benefits and pitfalls experienced by other members has proved very useful for those embarking on library computerisation.

ACCESS MELBOURNE has produced a membership directory which is distributed to members, and lists member libraries, addresses, contacts within the library and the library's scope. A membership fee of \$25.00 per year also entitles a member to receive a copy of the *ACCESS Melbourne Union List of Periodicals* (a publication available to non-members on pre-payment of \$10) and a quarterly newsletter, in addition to the opportunity to attend meetings regularly.

Any special librarians in this field in Melbourne who are interested in the ACCESS MELBOURNE group, should contact any member of the management committee: Lynne Beaumont, Secretary (03) 235 1318, Elaine Kulinski, Treasurer (03) 266 8611 or Jane Spiers, Publications Officer (03) 267 2800.



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