



— the bottom line

So that was 1986. Secret arms deals between the US and Iran in the International Year of Peace. We had our paradoxes too.

On National Information Policy we're ready to roll with whatever Plan emerges, but still have trouble convincing governments that our collective experience with information delivery makes the library network a logical and practical starting-point.

The Corporate Plan for an expanding, outward-looking Association diverted much of our energies inwards as we discussed and debated and argued for just that degree of change with which most of us felt comfortable.

We learned to run our Association in a more business-like fashion and to balance funding for professional activities against our ability to attract subscriptions. Yet we still have some way to go in improving the perceived as well as the actual responsiveness of Head Office services.

We lifted our personal membership by 7 percent in a year in which resources for libraries became increasingly difficult to find. Perhaps the latter caused the former. Whatever, we'll need the additional people just to maintain our present position. We'll need more to improve it.

Looking back on a hectic year, there were a few highs as well as lows. Our Darwin Conference stands out for its strong programme, good organisation, and friendly informality. I haven't spoken to anyone who went who didn't have a ball. Even the AGM was fun.

Visits to State Branches were definitely highs. Our members are competent in many different fields, but without travelling around it's hard to form an accurate impression of the depth of commitment and the varieties of librarianship. My only regret about the visits programme is that capital cities predominated, and I think we're probably at our most resourceful in the country.

I've been fortunate to work with an extremely constructive General Council, a supportive Executive Committee, and a diligent and helpful Head Office. Jenny Adams, Sue Phillips and the rest of the team at Ultimo give us more than we should reasonably expect.

On the debit side of the ledger we have a small but visible minority too slow to realise that ours is a service profession, and that service means delivering to customers — not serving ourselves. I think we are still too prone to misinterpreting the comments and actions of our colleagues, sometimes with both malice and relish, when we could pause and understand instead.

Too much of our work is done by too few people — usually the same too few people. Too many people ask what the Association does for them instead of asking what they can do for the Association. We have more and more to do, so we must find ways to involve all our members.

Too often we prefer talk to action. Too often we try hard to find reasons for not act-

ing, when if we tried a little harder task would be completed.

Finally, it is possible to be the President when you have less than your full time to give. So stand for office. Once you get in, you'll find like me that its one of the most enjoyable, rewarding and exciting things you can do.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and let's get behind our 1987 President Peter Dawe. Next year we move into top gear.

Thanks. It's been great.

Ian McCallum
President

1987 DEADLINE DATES

Issue No	Closing Date	Mailing Date	Cover Date
1	Jan 20	Feb 2	Feb 6
2	Feb 3	Feb 16	Feb 20
3	Feb 17	Mar 2	Mar 6
4	Mar 3	Mar 16	Mar 20
5	Mar 17	Mar 30	Apr 3
6	Mar 31	Apr 13	Apr 17
7	Apr 21	May 4	May 8
8	May 5	May 18	May 22
9	May 19	June 1	June 5
10	June 2	June 15	June 19
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13	July 20	Aug 3	Aug 7
14	Aug 4	Aug 17	Aug 21
15	Aug 18	Aug 31	Sep 4
16	Sep 1	Sep 14	Sep 18
17	Sep 15	Sep 28	Oct 2
18	Sep 29	Oct 12	Oct 16
19	Oct 20	Nov 2	Nov 6
20	Nov 3	Nov 16	Nov 20
21	Nov 17	Nov 30	Dec 4

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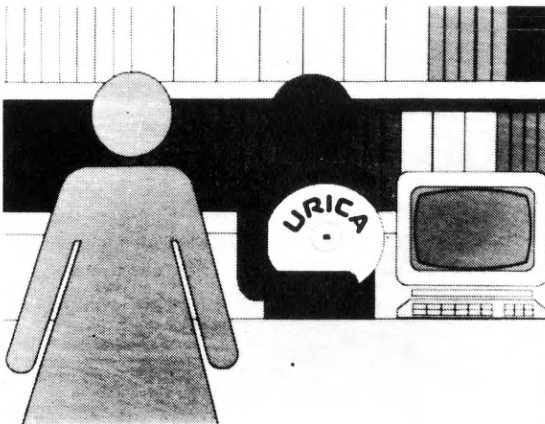
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