

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA **50th**
 3-4 SEPTEMBER 1987
 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Since the progress report on LAA: 50 in *InCite* 6 June 1986, the national committee has met four more times and made substantial progress with plans for the celebrations 3-4 September 1987.

To refresh your memory the planned events are as follows:

- Wed 2 Sept. — Evening celebrations, Albert Hall
- Thu 3 Sept. — Conference. The history of the LAA
— Dinner. Sir Harold White Oratlon
- Fri 4 Sept. — Conference. The future of the LAA

The national LAA: 50 committee is attempting to compile an invitation list of early members of the LAA (or AIL); the state branches are helping us in this task but we are now asking the membership at large for assistance. If you know the name and address of any early members of the association who were foundation or other members before 1946 please let us know the details as soon as possible. We are hoping to be able to bring this *Who's Who* of early members to Canberra and let them enjoy the 50th celebrations of the association they helped establish.

Don't forget to mark 3-4 September 1987 in your travel calendar and join in a nostalgic



A nostalgic Canberra spring . . .

spring in Canberra 1987. Full details of the celebrations including the conference topics and speakers will appear in *InCite* early in the New Year.

Margaret Thomson
 Secretary
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 Canberra City. ACT. 2601.

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR MICRO

On 27 September, 1986, a seminar was held by the Reference and Readers Advisers Group of the NSW Branch of the Public Libraries Section of the LAA. It aimed to illustrate a range of uses to which microcomputers may be put. The seminar followed the state government grant of IBM JX microcomputers to each public library service in NSW.

The group was able to subsidise travelling expenses for librarians from country libraries and some twenty librarians took advantage of this. This seminar was booked out in less than a week, illustrating the high level of interest in the topic.

Speakers included John Wright (State Library of NSW), Stephen Hocking (IBM), Sue Ping Kee (Idaps Aust), Graeme Blewett (Hurstville Library), Lyn Beauregard (Woollahra Council), Sue Boaden (Australia Council), Graeme Patingale and Joan Suckling (Penrith Library).

John Wright outlined practical uses of micros such as bulletin boards, off-line formatting, data base searching and book ordering. He indicated the types of software packages he felt suitable for libraries and suggested group decision making and purchasing software.

Stephen Hocking described the features of the JX and the options available to expand its capabilities. Sue Ping Kee spoke about the Lynx database, its library and trade holdings and its method of searching.

Graeme Blewett described how he went about setting up a local history database, pointing out the unique cataloguing and authority problems of local history items. Lyn Beauregard's area was community information, particularly the benefits of a micro-computer in the provision of community information for the Eastern Suburbs Information Network.

Sue Boaden described the problems of keeping control of newspaper clippings and the development of ARTSDOC, now available on AUSINET. Joan Suckling and Graeme Patingale related the Penrith Library experience of using microcomputers. They illustrated the use of graphics and word processing packages for generating posters, publications and signs. Using FACTFINDERS, a free text database, Penrith are currently producing a ready reference database which includes local history information and findings lists.

Notes have been compiled in relation to the seminar and are available from Joan Suckling, Penrith Library Ph (047) 32 2422 ext 344.

Joan Suckling
 RARA

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The CORPORATE LAW INDEX, provided by Ken Hale and Jim Jackson of the University of Wollongong, is a ready reference to all Australian corporate law cases reported since 1961. Australian and overseas journal articles are also summarised.

Comments, notes and articles on Acts and cases from Australian and overseas jurisdictions are indexed in MONASH FINDER, a database provided by Monash University Law Library.

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