



## the front line

Increased membership, an important thrust of the Corporate Plan and Review Committee, was nominated as one of the LAA's top priorities for 1987. In this issue I thought you would be interested in a brief progress report.

The first piece of good news is that new members are being enrolled at the rate of approximately 100 per month. This is a lift of 30 percent or more on last year. The number of 'voucher only' members is essentially static indicating that this class of member is not making inroads into our personal or institutional membership base, as some feared might be the case when this category was introduced.

Because of the interest in the future of the *Australian Library Journal* under the new 'unbundled' arrangements, supporters of the *ALJ* will be pleased to know that its future seems secure. The *Journal* continues to be received automatically by institutional members (570 plus), and approximately 1700 new and renewing members have entered subscriptions to date. Frankly I'm surprised it's not more! At \$15 pa it is exceptionally good value. Together these figures ensure that publication of the *ALJ* is a viable proposition. (It's still not too late to subscribe!)

As another element in the membership drive, in April I wrote to all unfinancial members. I explained that ours, like every professional association, exists to offer co-operative and mutual support and that we needed to build on that strength, not only to improve services to members, but also to counter the many political and economic pressures which we are all encountering with increasing frequency.

There has been an excellent response, with

many dozens of renewals often accompanied by explanatory letters. A lesser number have also written, at my invitation, to explain why they are not renewing — essential information if the LAA is to remain responsive to the needs of its members.

A few felt the fees were still too high — especially those who had paid a lesser fee last year. As I have sought to explain to them, the adjustment to fees following the Corporate Plan and Review was intended to provide for a more equitable balance than had existed before. Nevertheless it was always recognised that there might need to be some 'fine-tuning' of fees following our experiences this year, and the Executive Committee is keeping this question under close review.

I am sure we are all pleased and gratified to know that our membership numbers are climbing steadily and, as I said in my letter, that our Association is growing stronger and more vigorous daily.

Peter Dawe  
President

## Lord Mayor to open Law/Specials Conference

The Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Alderman Sallyanne Atkinson has agreed to officially open the Second Asian-Pacific Special and Law Librarians' Conference during the afternoon of Monday 28 September 1987. The Lord Mayor is well-known for her strong support of libraries and most recently took a leading part in the attempt to attract the staging of the Olympic Games in Brisbane.

The Conference to be held in Brisbane at the Sheraton Hotel will run from 28 Septem-

ber until 2 October. A draft program with registration details is now available from the Secretariat Office: International Convention Management Services, PO Box 29, Parkville, Vic 3052. Telephone enquiries may also be directed to the Convenor, Henry Thorburn (03) 565-2317.

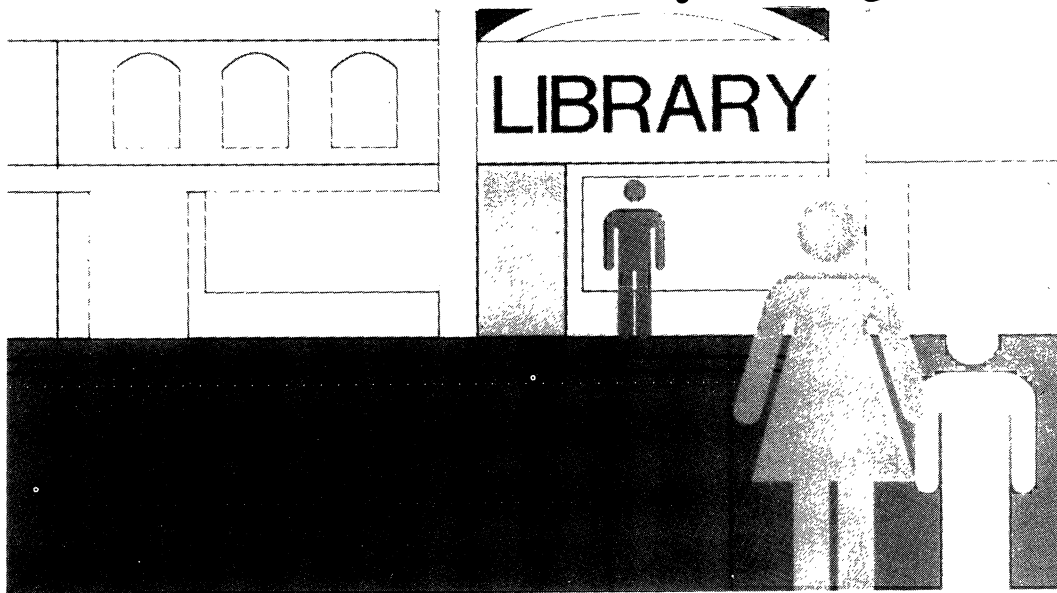
## Gail Haley tour

American writer and illustrator Gail Haley will be visiting Australia in June and July 1988. She will be based in Melbourne but is interested in travelling to other cities and rural areas in as much of Australia as possible.

Gail has won both the Caldecott Medal and the Kate Greenaway Medal and regularly conducts workshops with adults on children's literature, reading and writing skills, puppetry, writing and illustrating for children. She is also a regular speaker at professional meetings, conferences, seminars etc.

Anyone who is interested in having Gail Haley present a program, some workshops or a lecture, etc. in a school or public library should contact the trip organiser, Dr David Considine, at Curriculum and Instruction, Edwin Duncan Hall, Appalachian State University, Boone NC 29608.

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