

Libraries Alone

They called it 'Libraries Alone', and 170 librarians from all states of Australia gathered in Wagga Wagga for a conference on the special problems of rural and isolated librarians. The keynote speaker was Prof Bernard Vavrek, head of the Center for the Study of Rural Librarianship, Clarion University, Pennsylvania, who spoke about research to describe and quantify rural librarianship in the US. Prof Vavrek visited a number of

libraries in the Riverina district, and was struck by the close parallels between situations in Australia and the US.

Other speakers came from many parts of Australia, and from the National Library of New Zealand, which has recently completed an inquiry into the provision of library services in rural areas. Sessions dealt with education and staff development, networking, political and financial management for librarians, and services to various user groups.

The trade exhibition, held in Joyes Hall at Riverina-Murray Institute, featured 25 library suppliers from Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra, including demonstrations by computer companies and database vendors, and online demonstrations of ASCIS, AUSTRALIS, and Minerva.

Library Association of Australia

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Election of three members
by the
membership of the
Association

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Membership of the Board of Education is as follows:

- three professional members elected by the Professional Committee of General Council;
- seven members, of whom at least four must be professional members, elected by the membership-at-large of the Association;
- the President of the Association *ex officio*;
- the Director as a non-voting executive member. (By-law 24)

The terms of office of four members of the Board end on 30 April 1988. Three members are now to be elected by the membership of the Association to hold office until 30 April 1991. The Professional Committee of General Council will elect the third member.

Nominations are hereby called for the three positions. Nominees must be financial members of the Association, however they need not be professional members.

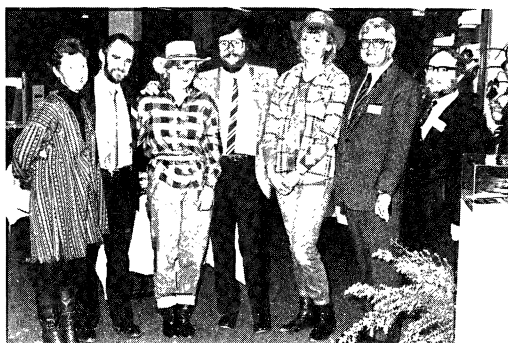
Nominations shall be:

- in writing;
- signed by two financial members of the Association;
- countersigned by the nominee;
- accompanied by a curriculum vitae (giving full details of academic and professional qualifications) and a statement of concerns, each to be not more than 100 words.

Nominations close with the Director, Library Association of Australia, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007 at 5 pm on 1 September 1987.

Board members retiring on 30 April 1988 are Moira MacKinnon, Jeanette Knox, Michael Middleton and Helen O'Brien. All members with the exceptions of Moira MacKinnon and Jeanette Knox are eligible for re-election.

Continuing members of the Board are Marianne Broadbent, Mairéad Browne, Twila Herr, Janette Wright, Edward Parr and Eric Wainwright.



Some of the committee donned country gear to serve guests at the predinner drinks in The William Merrylees Library. Pictured with Keynote Speaker, Prof. Bernard Vavrek, from Pennsylvania; were members of the Steering Committee (Left to right) Marion Bannister, Roy Sanders (Lecturer, RMIHE), Di Calway (William Merrylees Library) James Henri, Liz Lohmeyer (W.M. Library), Prof. Vavrek, and Edward Reid-Smith (Lecturer, RMIHE).

On the social side

The social side had a country theme throughout, starting with a Batlow apple being presented to each delegate. The entertainment at the conference dinner was provided by the head of the RMIHE Centre for Performing Arts, Colin Anderson, with the assistance of talented local actress, Meredith Duncan. On Wednesday evening delegates had the opportunity to taste award-winning College wines while listening to a string quartet from the Riverina Conservatorium.

Finally, delegates and guests enjoyed a highly entertaining Trivia Night organised by Robert Knight and Brian Plummer from the Wagga City Library. First prize went to a table comprising David Sansome from the Northern Territory library service, Morris Bellamy (Hibberd Centre Library, Weipa), Peter McCue (Hedland College Library, WA), Val Bromfield (State Library of Tasmania), Shirley Cohen (Editor, Libraries & Distance Education), Helen Rowan (Vic. Dept of Education, Correspondence School), Des Stewart (Dept. of Agriculture, Wollongbar) and Pat McConvill (Markwood, Vic) who beat the locals at their own game to win Wagga T-shirts donated by the Wagga Wagga City Council and champagne donated by Hills Library Service.

So, what came out of all this talking? Apart from the informal networking and the social goings on, the following recommendations were developed:

1. The setting up of a National Section of the LAA for rural and isolated librarians (further information, Alison Reid, 2 Gypsum St, Broken Hill, NSW 2880).



Wearing their 'Libraries Alone' windcheaters, committee members and helpers were ready to welcome delegates at the registration desk. (Left to right) Marsha Reilly, Librarian, William Merrylees Library, RMIHE; James Henri, Lecturer, Information Studies, RMIHE; Claire Bailey, Teacher librarian, Coolamon Primary School; Marion Bannister, Deputy Chief Librarian, Riverina Community Library Service.

2. Establishing a centre for the study of rural and isolated librarianship, to co-ordinate research in this area (further information, Roy Sanders, School of Information Studies, Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education, P.O. Box 588 Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650).
3. Establishing an international forum for the study of rural and isolated librarianship, and to disseminate information, support, etc, via an international journal yet to be established (further information and expressions of support to James Henri, Centre for Library Studies, RMIHE, P.O. Box 588, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650).

The Conference Proceedings will be published shortly by the Centre for Library Studies, RMIHE. The prepublication price of \$20 is available until 31st Oct, 1987.



Delegates queuing at the LAA stand at the trade exhibition. Both Jo-anne Fuller, Program Support Manager and Louise Lansley, Educational and Industrial Services Manager attended the conference, to recruit new members and answer general enquiries.



The string quartet.