



the front line

In this issue we welcome our Director-designate, Ms Sue Kosse, who will take up her position at the beginning of November (see page 7). Sue comes to us from James Cook University, Townsville, where she is presently Manager of Online Reference Services. She is also Secretary of the LAA's North Queensland Regional Group.

Sue's varied experience and skills, which include management and public relations, together with her commitment to the needs of users — a feature of much of her professional life — equip her to assume the LAA's top management position at a critical time in the Association's history. In offering our congratulations on her appointment we also offer our support in the vital work she will be undertaking on behalf of all members.

National Information Policy was again the theme of discussions I led recently with groups of interested and enthusiastic members in Launceston and Hobart. Interest in the topic had been heightened by Tasmanian Premier Robin Gray's proposal to change the funding basis of Tasmanian public libraries. Under this proposal a greater proportion of the state's library budget would be raised from local government — a lift of 16 percent to 40 percent of total funding. Association members led by Tasmanian Branch President, Jill Adamski, and Branch Secretary, Christine Frey, and by Robyn McKenzie and Nella Pickup from the

Tasmanian Northern Areas Regional Group are concerned that this not be taken as an opportunity to diminish support for the vital services provided, and have issued a challenging press release to support their plea.

The Trask Report into children's library services in Tasmania acknowledges the steady decline in children's services since the early 1970s, and the Tasmanian Library Advisory Board has noted in its latest annual report that it is becoming increasingly difficult for the Tasmanian State Library to maintain its services to the public. Amongst other things, the library now opens for only two hours during the weekend. Comparative weekend opening hours show state libraries in Melbourne and Sydney opening for 16 hours, with opening times in Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth 11.5, 10.5 and 7 hours respectively.

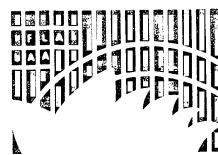
Although there are important structural differences between Tasmania and the mainland states in the funding of public library services, nevertheless Tasmania serves as a useful microcosm of the total Australian scene in demonstrating the need to ensure that high quality library services are promoted constantly and effectively. In discussions with the newly appointed Tasmanian State Librarian, Warwick Dunstan, it is clear that he and his staff are striving to meet this imperative.

The promotion and marketing of library services is not the preserve of only those who find themselves in difficult and threatening situations. It is a major challenge being recognised increasingly by members of the Association throughout Australia.

The Executive Committee and Council certainly have this matter very much at heart as you will know from repeated references in this column and elsewhere. At the Executive and Council meetings being held at the time this

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IFLA 88, I'll be there —



Beverly P. Lynch

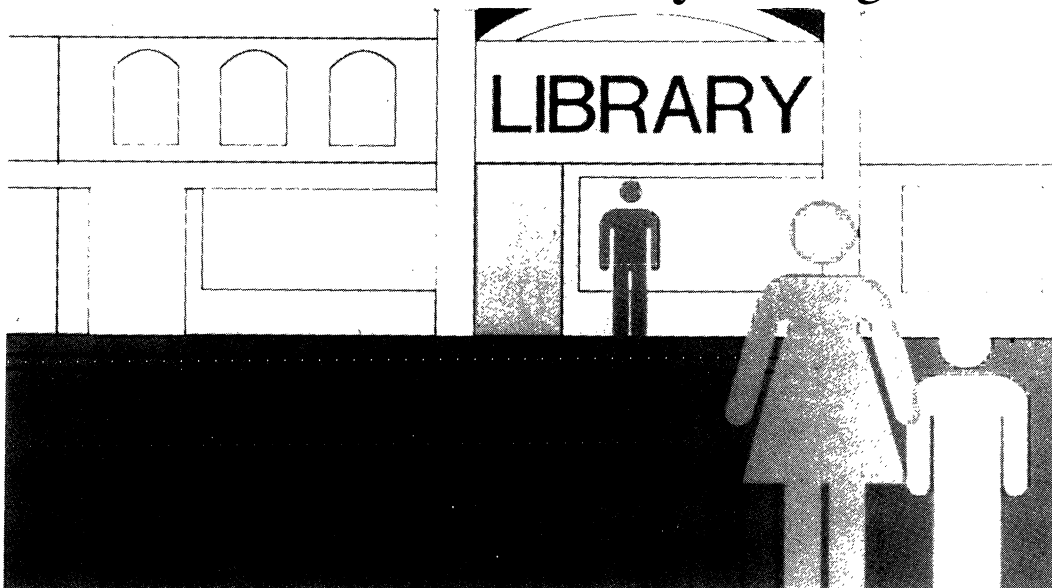


IFLA in Sydney! I'll be there — to continue the development of IFLA standards for university libraries around the world; to meet with colleagues working in university and research

libraries in order to consider matters of mutual interest; to enjoy the famous hospitality of Australian librarians; to visit the remarkable, vibrant country during its Bicentennial year; to meet Australian authors, tour Australian libraries, buy Australian books; to travel for two and a half days across the continent by train to visit Perth and Fremantle (America's Cup memories linger); to buy a opal and Australian pottery. IFLA '88 in Sydney promises to be one of the memorable international library conferences. I look forward to it.

Beverly P. Lynch
University Librarian
University of Illinois at Chicago
President
American Library Association 1985/86

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