

FEEDBACK

NSW BRANCH

The second all-day meeting for 1987 was held at LAA House on 18 July. Two Saturday Branch Council meetings are held each year so that regional councillors have the opportunity to attend. Three regional councillors, Alison Reid (Far West), John Shipp (South Coast) and Dennis Warren (Riverina) were able to be present. The following are highlights from the day's agenda.

Conservation on the move

This was a unique opportunity for councillors to hear Helen Price, LAA conservator, describe the project and its achievements. One of Helen's concerns is to ensure that sufficient groundwork is done to enable a continuation of the type of work the project is doing once the Bicentennial grant has expired. Helen brought a sample of the notes she uses in her conservation workshops which illustrate the techniques she teaches. Branch hopes to bring these together as a publication early in 1988.

Information exchange

Time was set aside for regional councillors to report on activities in their areas. Dennis Warren reported that Riverina region had been preoccupied with planning the 'Libraries Alone' conference which attracted 150 delegates from Australia and New Zealand. Alison Reid reported on the Far West's efforts to promote libraries in Broken Hill and the

Group's work in attracting people to the region as speakers. Janet Robinson, Branch President, recently spoke to the group, and Barbara Anderson, Helen Price, and the children's author, Simon French, have been invited to visit in the near future. John Shipp spoke of Wollongong's seminar program and the city library's move to new premises.

Program support

Joanne Fuller described her role as Programme Support Manager as the first contact point for division and section office bearers. Regional representatives were interested in her intention to shortly produce a compilation of information on teleconferencing.

Membership

Time was spent considering how to promote the LAA with a view to attracting new members. It was stressed to regional and sectional representatives that they should urge their current members to take out membership of these groups in 1988, especially in the light of the way funding of sections and divisions is proposed for next year. Failure to maintain members may result in diminished funding for a section.

Hazel Vickers
Branch Councillor

CATALOGUERS SECTION NATIONAL

Call for nominations

Nominations are called for the following national positions in the Cataloguers Section:

- National President, 1988-1989
- National Secretary, 1988-1989
- National Treasurer, 1988-1989
- LAA Representative on the Australian Committee on Cataloguing, 1988-1990.

Each financial member of the Cataloguers Section is eligible to nominate for one of the above positions. The positions of National President, National Secretary and National Treasurer will be filled for a two-year term com-

mencing 1 January 1988. These three positions, together with the Editor of *Cataloguing Australia*, form the National Executive of the Cataloguers Section. The National Executive fosters the exchange of information amongs state groups of the Section, monitors the Section's journal, *Cataloguing Australia*, coordinates the input of state groups into the planning of the National Cataloguing Conference, and speaks for the Section when required in a national context.

The position of one of the three LAA representatives on the Australian Committee on Cataloguing (ACOC) will be filled for a three year term commencing 1 January 1988. ACOC is a tripartite committee of the LAA, AACOB and the National Library. It is the principal Australian forum for the discussion of descriptive cataloguing, subject cataloguing and classification matters. It is a joint author of the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, and routinely meets to discuss proposed AACR2 revisions, and briefs the Australian representative on the Joint Steering Committee for AACR.

Nominations for any of the above positions should be made in writing and addressed to the National Secretary, Ruthi Urbach, C/- ASCIS 325 Camberwell Rd, Camberwell, VIC, 3124. The nomination should state the nominee's name, address and LAA membership number. There is no need for a seconder. The nomination should be accompanied by a brief statement outlining the nominee's background. Nominations for all of the above positions should reach the National Secretary by 30 September 1987. An election by all financial members of the Section will be held by postal ballot in October.

LIBRARY TECHNICIANS SECTION SA GROUP

Commencing with Orientation Week in February for new and continuing students, member of the Section explained the functions and benefits of the LAA and encouraged students to join the Association. A phone contact system is being tried by the committee this year. Each member has four or five graduates to contact in order to inform them of coming events. Feedback has been encouraging. A 'Needs and Demand' evening for graduates was held at the Adelaide College of TAFE. Ms C. Harrison, Continuing Education Officer of SA Branch Council, explained ways to meet the continuing need to update skills and keep abreast of new technology. A workshop has been planned later in the year, meanwhile a questionnaire is to be sent out, requesting information on areas that are causing concern.

A very successful car rally was held in May with participants hoping it will become an annual event.

Planning is well in-hand for technicians attending the Fourth National Conference of Library Technicians in Melbourne. A small but dedicated group are organising a workshop to be held during the SA Branch Annual Country Conference in Mt Gambier, 16-17 October. Technicians and students in the area have shown a keen interest.

V. E. Hopwood
Secretary

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Who's where.

Don't forget to send details of staff changes, new appointments etc for listing in this column.

VICTORIAN BRANCH

Professor Bernard Vavrek, Director of the Center for the Study of Rural Librarianship, Clarion State University, Pennsylvania, addressed a gathering of about 25 members on 15 July. Prof Vavrek spoke about libraries and library services in rural America, and he painted a very different picture to the one we usually hear from the United States.

His Center divides rural libraries into two groups according to the size of the community they serve, those serving less than 25,000 people and those serving less than 2,500. The communities themselves fund the libraries and there is virtually no Federal funding available. Average salaries are US\$10,000 and 87 percent of the staff have no library qualifications. Average total budget is around US\$22,000 and that includes salaries. Prof Vavrek's Center conducts courses for those in charge of these small rural libraries, and he treated his audience to an aspect of US librarianship which seems to be completely unknown in this country.

Branch Council

The SOLV campaign seems to have had its effect on the State Government's budget allocations for 1987/88. Public libraries have been allocated \$17.146 million instead of the threatened \$15.6 million, but this is still less than the previous sum of \$17.6 million. However the respite may be temporary as the 'extra' allowance is stated to be a once only supplement to the base figure. It seems that the battle over funding will continue.

The second Geddes report, entitled 'Discussion paper on improving services and delivery in publicly funded libraries in Victoria', has been released and it appears to have implications for all types of libraries in this state. A branch delegation will speak to the Minister about the implications of the report in mid-August.

Branch Council has been concerned about representation of the Branch on other bodies, and a study of past requests and minutes has shown that there are just four official representatives. They are as follows: Library Council of Victoria: Ross Gibbs; National Book Council: Margaret Smith; RMIT Information Services Course Committee: Ross Gibbs; SOLV: Rod

Blacker.

Other representatives are not officially sanctioned by the Branch. Branch Council has decided that there will be a spill of all these positions and that new nominations will be made on a calendar year basis where possible. Branch Council would also like to make non-official representatives into official reps!

Ray Price

LAA CATALOGUERS SECTION, QLD GROUP

The second activity for 1987 was held at the Queensland Institute of Technology on 24 June. Judith Baskin from ABN spoke on 'ABN and the future of the National Union Catalogues.' About 45 people attended, including special and reference librarians as well as cataloguers.

Judith gave some interesting statistics on the number of records contributed to ABN by participants, including holdings added by dial-up members, and by the addition of serials holdings, large retrospective conversion projects and braille and talking books holdings to NUCHP.

Discussion of future developments included downline loading and ABN on CD-ROM.

For our third activity, we took advantage of the visit of Mary Pietris to Brisbane after the Cataloguers Conference in Townsville. On 21 July, there was standing room only as Mary addressed our meeting at the State Library's premises at Teneriffe, on recent developments in LCSH. Mary distributed a comprehensive handout on the structure of the Library of Congress Subject Cataloguing Division and the way in which subject headings are assigned, giving all who attended a better understanding of the workings of this august organisation.

Our most recent activity was a combined one with UCLS, Queensland Section, at the University of Queensland on 6 August for a panel discussion on the topic, 'Cataloguing enrichment — destiny or delusion?' About 40 people enjoyed the contributions of Tom Cochrane (QIT), George Eichinski (Uni. of Qld, whose paper was read by Gaynor Austin of BCAE),

and Jenny Kenyon (Parliamentary Library of Queensland), who spoke on PARLAIRS. The reference librarian's viewpoint in favour of catalogue enrichment was argued passionately by Margaret Travis of BCAE, and the cataloguing librarian's viewpoint against, was presented with equal fervour by Ian Simons from QIT.

We are also planning a workshop on the practice of assigning subdivisions in LCSH, to be held at BCAE on 6 October. It's starting to look like The Year of the Subject Heading for Queensland cataloguers, so we should all be experts on the topic by the end of the year.

Lyn McMillan

TAFE SECTION NATIONAL GROUP

TAFE libraries in Australia

TAFE Libraries in Australia: 1974-1986, selected by Kathy Wood on behalf of the LAA-TAFE National Section (0868040460) has now been published. We sought entries by a search of print and online databases (eg LISA, ERIC, Australian Education Index); the call for contributions in *InCite*, 7 November 1986; and by sending letters to the Heads of TAFE Library Services in the states and territories.

It is interesting to see how much is available on libraries in the 'Cinderella' sector of Australian tertiary education. However, additions are most welcome and should be sent to the address given in the Preface.

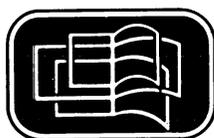
Sales at our recent First National Conference were very good, so don't delay, get your copy now from the LAA for \$6 plus \$1 postage. Cheques should be sent to: LAA, 376 Jones St, Ultimo NSW 2007.

Sue Stenning
TAFE National Section

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Electronic Ordering Now Available

- James Bennett Book Order Form now established for users of the Minerva Library Network (M.L.N. Menu Item 7.)
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Directory of Australian Directories

Ralph Reid, 'directory gazer' looks at some of the directories reviewed for the LAA's *Directory of Australian Directories*.

The process of directory compilation is generally a thankless one, and always vexatious. If it was supported by unlimited resources of time, money and expertise then conceivably all directories would be minor masterpieces; but it isn't, and they aren't. Most directories meet their major objective of information provision and, given the widely different circumstances and conditions under which they are put together, there is then doubtful validity in comparing directories (even those that address the same subject areas) and using terms like 'better' or 'best'.

So, with this in mind, I would like to briefly mention some of the 500 or so directories which I reviewed and described during compilation of data for the first edition of the *Directory of Australian Directories*, those which had some characteristics that caught my fancy. A second short article will concentrate on several library directories; this first one will deal with some more general ones.

Firstly, the *Australian Agricultural Year Book*, published for the National Farmers' Federation and edited by Julian Cribb. Surely one of the most attractive and informative of publications; lavishly illustrated and presented, it contains not only directory data but is also a mine of information on all aspects of agriculture, livestock, cropping and fishing industries. Maps, statistics on all aspects of production and trade, numerous in-depth articles on a variety of facets of primary industry. More than a mere directory; it is potentially a valuable teaching resource as well.

Also looking at rural topics is the *Australian Small Farms Handbook*, compiled by Mark

Pearson and published by Second Back Row Press. It deals with services, supplies, equipment and information sources for the small farmer and is organised in subject sections for organisations, a services and equipment catalogue, books and journals, special libraries, training, and a calendar of major events. In short, a most thorough, informative and attractive resource.

All of the Horan Wall and Walker guides represent excellent value for money in a diversity of fields. The *Cheap Eats* and *Bargain Shopper's Guide* series for each of the major capital cities are typical of the range; consumer-oriented, cheap, widely available, and a refreshingly simple interpretation of how information can be packaged and marketed.

Education directories proliferate, and despite some inevitable duplication are generally well organised and worthwhile. One with a slightly different orientation and an imaginative presentation is *What's Where and What's About*, from Aquarius Promotions. It lists organisations which supply educational resource material, and venues for camps and excursions in the ACT, NSW and Victoria.

The single biggest subject field for directories is that of community information, and these directories come in all shapes and sizes. Of them, three are worthy of mention. The Thebarton (South Australia) community information calendar is a novel break away from the normal A4/A5 booklet format, as is the nifty little purse/pocket-sized *Information '86* produced by the Bankstown (NSW) City Library.

But for a community directory which best illustrates all the proper design and presentation techniques, look no further than the November 1985 edition of *Community Directory: City of Melbourne*, produced by the Melbourne City Council Libraries and Community Information Branch. This particular edition, designed by Mark Carter, can probably not be faulted for content and certainly not for presentation.

Ralph Reid

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LIBRARY TECHNICIANS SECTION NSW GROUP

Three of our committee members attended the one-day seminar in Armidale on 29 June entitled 'Para-professionals in libraries'. This was organised by the New England Regional Group of the LAA and was made possible through the support of NSW Branch Council.

Guest speaker Beverley Runcie, Acting Head, School of Library Studies Sydney College of TAFE, gave a very comprehensive outline of the Library Practice Associate Diploma Course. Linda Percombe, Assistant Library Technician at Armidale CAE and Lexie Zantiois, Senior Library Technician, State Library of NSW spoke on aspects of working and studying as a library technician. Ted Flowers, University Librarian, University of Newcastle spoke on the para-professional in the library, applying this particularly to library technicians working in university libraries.

A very real feeling of isolation, particularly in the area of education and training, was made apparent by technicians in country centres. At the moment six para-professionals who are completing the only external course available to them, through South Australian TAFE, are employed at Armidale CAE and university libraries. Arrangements with SA and NSW TAFE have accommodated these students for block release in required subjects. However this

cannot be an ongoing arrangement. One of the technicians spoke of the difficulties associated with studying this way.

The plenary session concluded the proceedings and a number of positive suggestions were put forward regarding distance education for rural-based library technicians.

The hospitality of the New England Regional Group was wonderful and the seminar dinner held that evening, rounded the day off perfectly!

A full report on this seminar will be published in the next *Lib-tec*. This publication is free to all library technician members of the LAA. All technicians are urged to not only join the LAA but pay the \$5 extra to nominate their preference for joining the Library Technicians Section.

Marlene Knowles

Sending copy for InCite? Remember that reading handwriting is difficult at the best of times. Sending handwritten copy by fax is a real no-no. Please always try to send material typed double spaced. Copy should be addressed to Kathy Husselbee, Editor, InCite, LAA C/ 376 Jones St, Ultimo 2007 or Fax to (02) 692 0689.

LAA Study Grant Award deadline extended till 1 December

The Library Association of Australia will make funds available each year to support practising librarians wishing to undertake a study project. The number of awards in any year will depend upon the funds available and the estimated costs of proposals received.

The Association's intention in offering study grants is to provide an opportunity for librarians to undertake projects they would otherwise be unable to do because of the time and costs involved.

Conditions

- Available to a practising librarian in a supervisory or middle management position, with a minimum of three years' experience in library and information work.
- For the purpose of undertaking a study program on a selected library/information issue or problem of present and future relevance to the development and improvement of library and information services in Australia.
- The study may include opportunity for preliminary work, local or overseas visits/consultations, attachment to another organisation, preparation of a publication, further educational qualification.
- The study is to culminate in a written report in two parts, provided to the Association. The first is a chronological summary of the project components together with a statement of the value derived, provided within one month of the project's culmination. The second component is a comprehensive report provided within four months of the project's culmination.
- It is expected that the study project will provide an opportunity for self development as well as benefit to the successful applicant's institution and present position.
- The award is not intended to be used to fund research projects.
- Applicants should complete an application form which gives:
 - A brief description of the study project, including aims; benefits to the individual and to the institution; possible outcomes of a project.
 - Identification and reasons for choice of particular institutions, persons or activities.
 - Itinerary, timetable, travel/accommodation costs involved.
 - Details of any other funds or facilities being provided for the study project.
 - A curriculum vitae.
 - 2 referees' reports.
- Applicants must be financial members of the LAA.

Application forms are available from LAA House and applications for an award in 1988 should reach the Assistant Director, LAA House, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007 by 1 December 1987

CONSERVATION SIG

The Conservation SIG, the LAA's newest Special Interest Group had its inaugural meeting at Fisher Library, University of Sydney, on 27 May with 12 people attending. The Group elected Janine Schmidt Convenor and Tom Taylor Secretary/Treasurer. The committee of eight includes three people who are based outside Sydney. Elected as committee members were Karl Schmude, Jan Lyall, Carol Mills, Trevor Mills and Monique Reiher. The first group activity, a trip to the National Library's Preservation Laboratory, is planned for 17 October. People interested in attending should contact Tom Taylor on (02) 692 4162 (w) or (02) 516 2317.