



## Aboriginal history privatised

Librarians who placed advance orders for the Aboriginal history *Survival in our own Land* over twelve months ago wonder why they have not received their copies. The answer is that the book has become a political prisoner. Aboriginal people believe it is part of the long practised policy of suppression of their voice. The book, initiated in 1983 by the South Australian Jubilee 150 Board Aboriginal Executive Committee, was sponsored as an official Sesquicentenary project. It aimed to tell the story of the 150 years in 'South Australia' since Goonyas (Europeans) invaded the land, from the Nunga (Aboriginal) point of view.

It was to have been published by the Wakefield Press, set up by the SA Government for Sesquicentenary publishing. But it became a casualty in the Jubilee stampede.

Many books were competing for limited resources of professional expertise. The Aboriginal history was moved from the Griffin Press to allow the two Flinders histories a better 1986 publication chance. It was sent to a smaller printer where computer problems have caused considerable delays.

Many people hoped the Government would see the wisdom of supporting the Wakefield Press for a couple of years until it could become self-sufficient. South Australia has no major publisher since Rigby was relocated. If Wakefield Press had been given the opportunity to develop in lieu of a University press, it would have been an enterprise of lasting national value.

However the Government took the short term view and chose to sell off the Wakefield Press. Without consulting or even informing the Aboriginal people involved, *Survival in our own Land* was put in a grab bag up for tender, although the Jubilee Board Executive Director recommended that this book should go to the Government Printer.

It was handed over despite Aboriginal protests as part of a package deal for the bargain basement price of \$17,500 to the *Adelaide Review*.

This is the very book which should never have been privatised. More than 100 Aborigines gave their stories freely as a gesture towards increased tolerance and better understanding in the belief that the Government would recognise and honour their contribution. They are distressed that the book which is morally theirs has been sold off, and angered at the Government's crass insensitivity.

After the first print run of 2000 is sold, the rights go to this non-Aboriginal commercial interest which did nothing to help the book come into being. It has also failed to give proper production supervision, so that the book still faces big problems. Contributors are still seeking justice. Some

feel that their only recourse is to withdraw their material. That is understandable. But it would be tragic. The book would disintegrate and all Australians would be the losers. Indeed 'White Australia has a black history'.

Christobel Mattingley  
Editor/researcher

## Selection by dartboard II

Julian Woods' incomprehensible letter (*InCite*, 21.8.87) bears no relation to my piece (*InCite*, 22.5.87) although it pretends to be a response. In the interests of accuracy I invite readers to compare the two.

Mr Woods may make his requisition selections by dartboard but the idea, like the image, is his. My letter said nothing about monograph selection policy. It made two simple points regarding an imbalance in periodical holdings in 'two excellent local libraries', Ryde and Moonee Ponds: (1) that a major Australian quarterly such as *Island* was more relevant than the *Yale Review* and the *Dalhousie Review* (which Ryde has) and (2) that in difficult times a major Australian quarterly becomes even more important. Perhaps Mr Woods should read more carefully, show more respect for language, and learn to discriminate between book and periodical acquisitions in future.

Dr Stephen Alomes

## INDUSTRIAL NEWS

### APS Librarians Restructure

The Commonwealth Department of Industrial Relations has agreed in principle to the introduction of a Librarian Class 5 category for librarians working in the Commonwealth Public Service.

Librarians Class 5 will 'under broad policy guidance, plan, develop and co-ordinate significant library and/or library-based information services or functions and be responsible on a line, functional or advisory basis for the management of a wide range of associated operations and programs requiring major ongoing integration and for the efficiency and effectiveness of those operations and programs'.

A salary of \$41,950 — \$43,250 has been suggested for Librarian Class 5.

The librarians group of the Professional Officers Association has indicated acceptance of the proposed pay scale and the draft work level standard for the Librarian Class 5 position.

Issues relating to the librarian 1,2,3 & 4 classifications are to be discussed in the future

### National Review of Local Government Labour Markets

The *National Review of Local Government Labour Markets* has released its second discussion paper on 'Portability of Superannuation'.

The paper canvasses ways of improving the portability of superannuation for employees within local government, particularly for portability of superannuation for local government employees who move to a municipality in another state or to and from other public sector agencies. Copies of the paper are available on request from Louise Lansley at LAA Head Office (02) 692 9233 or (008) 221 481.

Louise Lansley

Manager, Educational & Industrial Services

## REFERENCE SERVICES 1987 THE CHALLENGE OF THE INFORMATION AGE

Second Reference Librarians  
Conference  
MELBOURNE

14 and 15 November 1987

The Second Reference Librarians Conference will be held at Ormond College at the University of Melbourne. The conference features 15 papers and a choice of eight sessions on several topics of interest to reference librarians as they face the challenge of the information age. Topics include:

- OPAC and Reader Education
- Output Measures
- Fee Paying Reference Services
- Barriers to Reference Service
- Inservice Training and New Staff
- Public Library Reference Service in Times of Limited Funding
- CD-ROM — The Reference Experience
- Reference Services and Distance Education
- Impact of Technology on Reference Services

Poster sessions and displays of library publications are encouraged and invited.

Registration forms are available from Ray Choate, Borchardt Library, La Trobe University Bundoora Vic 3083. (03) 479 2918.

## A Library Technician may be just what you need . . .

## . . . they are trained to meet your information requirements

Library Technicians are paraprofessional staff capable of operating, maintaining and controlling established systems in libraries. They perform a variety of tasks in both technical and reader services.

### Information Services

- Library Technicians support librarians with
- manual and computer information retrieval
  - inter-library loans
  - reference enquiries
  - audio-visual presentations
  - publicity displays
  - reader education programmes

### Technical Services

- Library Technicians
- undertake selected cataloguing duties
  - order, process and accession selected materials
  - operate circulation systems
  - oversee the repair and binding of items
  - maintain specialist collections

### Administrative Duties

- Library Technicians
- advise on the selection of equipment and supplies
  - compile statistics of activities
  - supervise non-professional staff
  - liaise on the development and review of operational procedures

Contact the LAA Educational and Industrial Services Manager for further information, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo, Sydney 2007 (02) 692 9233.