

## FEEDBACK

### SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION VIC GROUP

The Section held three functions in the second half of 1986. On 13 August members had the choice of attending two different functions — a visit to Information Express or to the ACTU Library.

The visit to Information Express was hosted by Robert Utter, Manager of Electronic Publishing. Members were given an overview and history of IE, a company which specialises in providing current investment-oriented information from both local and overseas sources. Some hands-on experience of the system was given to members and the link-up between CLIRS and IE was discussed.

Ann Wilson, ACTU Librarian, gave a talk to members who attended the alternative function on the workings of the ACTU and its library. Ann also spoke about and demonstrated the new videotext-based information service that is available to subscriber unions through VIATEL. Members were given the opportunity to see a closed user group service in action and to glean from Ann her insights in establishing it.

The ever-popular AGM and Christmas party were held on 1 December at the Bureau of Meteorology Library. A detailed President's Report for 1986 was tabled, outlining the Group's meetings, activities and various involvements for the year. A copy has been forwarded to ASLN for publication. Discussion at the AGM centered on the future of

the Section's newsletter and the LAA per-capita funding. Approximately 60 people attended the meeting and the following party.

A seminar on management perspectives has been planned featuring Sylvia Webb, Head of Business Information at Stoy Hayward, London and the Group is also in the process of putting together a new publication, *Guide to collections in Victorian Special Libraries*.

Vicki Nicholson  
Publicity Officer

### SCHOOL LIBRARIES SECTION (WA GROUP)

Funding cuts within the Library Services Board of the Education Dept of WA are starting to affect government secondary schools.

The Annual Issue worth approx. \$4,000 for the average high school (1,000 plus students) has been cancelled. It is also rumoured that the acquisition cheque of \$2,300 is unlikely to arrive. These amounts were allocated on the basis of a June/July financial year. In theory monies will now be paid as part of a grant made to principals at the beginning of the school year but were not included in the 1987 grant. In effect this is likely to mean an interim loss for six months of \$3,150 for an average high school.

With the loss of the Annual Issue for secondary schools provided by Library Services Branch, the reviewing service will be reduced. It seems that only fiction will be reviewed in 1987. This loss is of particular concern to country secondary schools who do not have easy access to bookshops.

A problem also exists in the selection of AV materials as there are no reviewing journals or shops carrying the necessary wide range of materials. Non-government schools throughout the state will also be affected as many found the Annual Issue Lists a valuable selection tool.

It is still uncertain whether the newsletter *R.B. Rotal* will appear in 1987, and together with a cessation of *Biblia* this is hindering effective networking amongst school libraries throughout this vast state.

Jennie Woodroffe  
School Libraries Section (WA Group)

### ACT BRANCH

#### Fellows face-to-face



Sir Harold and Lady White with Harold White Fellow, Frank Moorhouse, at the ACT Branch Dinner.

A very successful dinner was held by the ACT Branch on 16 December last year. It was the occasion where Frank Moorhouse (Harold White Fellow at the NLA) spoke to the Branch members. Making the evening more special was that Sir Harold and Lady White also attended.

Frank Moorhouse spoke about the famous copyright case involving his work and the University of NSW and read an extract from a recently published short story.

The Branch plans to continue its regular seasonal dinners in 1987 as so far they have proved to be entertaining and useful for fund-raising and recruitment.

### WA BRANCH

On 25 February the LAA WA Branch held a 'I love libraries' evening at the Department of Library and Information Studies, Curtin University (formerly WAIT).

A group of 40 library and information professionals, and students heard a number of local identities talk on why they love libraries.

The subject approach of the speakers varied considerably — from the quiet dedication of Karen Anderson to the joie de vivre of Grant Stone. All conveyed their enthusiasm for the profession and their role in it.

Following the re-organisation of primary and secondary education in WA and the consequent effects upon education library services, the LAA WA Branch has accepted the invitation of the Minister of Education, Bob Pearce, to nominate a member of the Branch Executive to liaise with the WA Education Department during the process of change.

Karen Anderson, Past President of the Branch, will act in this role and be advised by a working party of representatives from the staff of Education Library Services, the independent schools, the Catholic Education Commission and the President of the School Section WA Branch.

The changes in gradings for posts within the public service in WA continue. The Branch was not involved in recent changes within the Health Department of WA, but attention has been drawn to proposals for the State Library Service which involve the down-grading of a number of positions within the service. Particular concern has been expressed that under the public service proposals all posts for technicians will apparently be graded at level 1. Louise Lansley will visit Perth from 16-18 March to discuss a range of industrial issues with members and employers in the West. She will report her findings to members on 18 March.

Patricia Layzell  
President LAA WA Branch

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**DISTANCE IN EDUCATION  
SIG**

**Improving library services to  
external students**

A conference aimed at improving library services to external students was held at LAA House during 1-2 March, under the auspices of the LAA Distance in Education Special Interest Group.

The conference was chaired by Professor Richard Johnson, a Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commissioner and was attended by representatives of ALCAE, CAUL, COBOBS, LAA divisions with an involvement in distance education, the Board of Education and institutions offering external courses.

Discussion papers were presented on the issues and problems relating to external students, and the roles and responsibilities of the various sectors of the library and educational communities.

Alan Bundy of South Australian CAE spoke on the responsibility of the home institution, and presented the findings of his recent survey of services provided by the libraries of tertiary institutions.

Dr Mavis Kelly reported on Queensland University's three-yearly survey of external students, which covers items such as use of regional study centres, and of the Thatcher and other libraries.

The use of public library services was the subject of papers by Kerry Grosser of RMIT and Diana Oliver of Sutherland Shire Public Library, Kerry reporting on her LAA funded study of student use of academic and public libraries and Diana outlining some of the demands placed on the limited resources of local public libraries by students of all types, including those studying externally.

Some of the difficulties faced by students were discussed by Eugene Ross, a University of New England Student Liaison Officer. These include limited availability of resources, and of borrowing rights, and lack of publicity by libraries of their services.

With more than 30 percent of the nation's external students, NSW TAFE has a major involvement in this area. Mary Anne Banks from Sydney Technical College acknowledged

that TAFE library services to external students have been primitive, but improvements can be expected with TAFE joining CLANN and more resources being provided for its library services.



*Craig Grimison and Christine Crocker (conference organisers) with Prof. Richard Johnson.*

Christine Crocker from Deakin University looked at ways of achieving open access to tertiary libraries, and described the proposed national library card for external students. Some of the issues needing to be addressed here include restrictions on borrowing imposed by institutions, and how to co-ordinate the proposed system.

The LAA's Assistant Director, Sue Phillips, outlined the LAA's role in the development of standards for library services, noting that the Distance in Education Special Interest Group has an excellent record in this field, having developed and published *Guidelines for library services to external students* in 1982, less than three years after the Group was formed.

Professor Johnson summarised the major issues that had emerged from the conference — what information needs to be gathered and who should do it, the roles of the different types of libraries, the need for information to be disseminated to students and between libraries, how access to tertiary libraries can be opened up, the role of information technology and networks, and which clientele is being served, or should be served.

A working group of Christine Crocker and Craig Grimison (the conference organisers) and Alan Bundy was established to look at these issues, to suggest what needs to be done, and who might do it. The initiative will be carried forward by the Distance in Education Special Interest Group, and it is expected that a progress report will be made at the 'Libraries Alone' Conference to be held in Wagga in July.

*Sue Phillips*  
Assistant Director

**SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION  
NSW GROUP**

In early April, Sylvia Webb, author of *Personal Development in Information Work* will be conducting a workshop for the Section on 'Communication for Special Librarians' and an evening meeting on 'Setting up from Scratch'.

Sylvia Webb has worked in a variety of libraries and has also lectured in behavioural sciences, particularly in the areas of motivation, group behaviour, interpersonal skills and communication. She is currently Head of Business Information at Stoy Hayward, is an active member of the Library Association Council, and chairs their Special Libraries panel. She is author of the highly successful *Creating an Information Service*.

Her visit represents a unique opportunity for NSW special librarians to meet and learn from this stimulating and active librarian. On Wednesday 8 April she will be speaking at an evening meeting on the challenges and problems of setting up a new library in an organisation that has no tradition of library services. On Thursday 9 April she will be conducting a one-day workshop aimed at honing the communication skills of the special librarian in the workplace. For details see 'Happenings' or contact Graham Whittall (02) 235 8527.

**LIBRARY TECHNICIANS SECTION  
NSW GROUP**

NSW Library Technicians' Section is pleased to announce that its committee now has a full complement of 12 members, the recent vacancy being filled by Marian Morgan. Marian has been in NSW only a short time and was formerly treasurer of the LAA Technicians Section (Queensland Group).

*Jan Harris*

Feedback cont'd on page 10

**Who's where.**

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

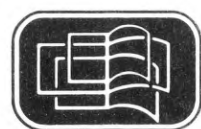
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NSW BRANCH

Conservation project launch

On 19 February at a representative gathering of librarians and professional organisations in the School of Librarianship, University of NSW, Judy Mackinoly, Project Officer for the NSW Bicentennial Council, formally presented the framed ABA Certificate for the NSW Branch Conservation Project.

Professor Malcolm Chaikin, Pro Vice-Chancellor, welcomed the Project to the University and the link with the major Bicentennial program 'Conservation on the Move'.

For those involved in the organisation of the project's program, the professional interest and hospitality of the School of Librarianship have meant a viable operating base and the potential for wider developments in local studies.

headed by librarians and curators caring for collections of historical books and records, in public libraries and elsewhere in the community.



Prof. Chaikin, Pro Vice Chancellor (left) with LAA Conservator, Helen Price and Prof. Boyd Rayward, Head, School of Librarianship, University of NSW.

This function, like the Sydney inauguration of the new National Section of Local Studies, is forming a network of valuable professional contacts and practitioners - librarians, archivists, conservators, historians, educators and local government personnel.

The first 'at home' conservation workshop took place in the lab on 26 February, one of a monthly program of five. The first four are booked out. Plans are under way for the next program for the second half of the year.

THE PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PLACES LIBRARIANS

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The Bicentennial Grant to the NSW Branch of the LAA of \$105,000 allows for the employment of a conservator for three years to assist in developing conservation programs for local studies collections in public libraries and local history societies.

Patricia Ward

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