

Why be President? - two tell



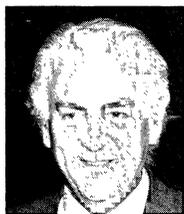
The only perk's a Cabcharge card, and it's withdrawn after 10 months anyway! As Vice-President, you learn that almost everybody knows more than you about the way the Association works. Then during the first six months as President, it gradually dawns that the position really does have some influence. But by the time you are ready to make your mark, the fact that you've 'copped flak' in *InCite* and elsewhere has diverted you to the extent that you settle for making your contribution as Past President. Come the third year, who wants to listen to a has-been?

So why be President? There's no other way to gain such a unique perspective on Australian librarians and libraries. No other way to appreciate the breadth of librarianship. No other way to appreciate their ingenuity in juggling organisational climate and resource to deliver eagerly received services. No other way to be so impressed, and proud, of the capabilities of your colleagues. And, no other way to get such emphatic confirmation of the values of libraries.

The pleasures come through meeting people who share your professional outlook, who care about the future of the Association, and who give so freely their time and their energy. Their enthusiasm is both infectious and sustaining. Everything you do is done through the members and the staff, and the satisfaction of collective achievement is a real buzz.

Try it for yourself. Until you do you won't understand why most Presidents, around the time the Cabcharge card expires, begin to entertain thoughts of presidency in perpetuity — or at least for another year. Be all you can be. Be the President!

Ian McCallum



I used my column in *InCite*, 8 May 1987, to share some of my experiences of being in the 'frontline' as President. The intervening time allows me to confirm the validity of the comments I made then about the rewards of this.

Of course, to contemplate standing for presidency of any large body of committed professionals can be a somewhat daunting prospect. This is where the three-year presidency cycle is both necessary and effective. On the other hand, the unique opportunity this position offers to contribute to the well-being and further development of one's professional association is so great that I guess this is why most people stand.

The most rewarding aspect is undoubtedly the opportunity for meeting and talking with so many members across the country, and being aware, through them, of the vitality and commitment of this vast army dedicated to the common good of the Association.

As the titular head of the Association, one is also not only involved but ultimately responsible, with the Council for the LAA (ALIA) policies and programs. As I think all readers will know, the Association works on a broad canvas. Inevitably this brings one face-to-face with an array of new, interesting and challenging situations. One also has the opportunity of meeting a wide range of people in kindred associations, in industry, government and the bureaucracy. I found both situations enriching professionally and personally, as, I am sure does and would any President.

In addition to close contact with Council members and other professional office bearers, the President works closely with and relies heavily on the Executive Director and other Head Office staff. I found this to be particularly enjoyable and satisfying part of the job due, I know, to the quality of support received and in knowledge of strong shared commitment.

The presidency of our Association is a challenging, demanding, satisfying, rewarding — and unique experience! I encourage you to share it!

Peter Dawe
Past President



LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
Election of Vice-President 1989
(President-elect 1990)

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

In 1986 the General Council of the Library Association of Australia resolved to change the composition of the Executive Committee from President, immediate Past President, Vice President, General Secretary, General Treasurer and Chairman of the Board of Education, to President, immediate Past President, Vice President and two members of the Council elected by the General Council to the Executive Committee.

The position of General Treasurer and General Secretary are thus being abolished and this will be completed when revised By-laws are approved by the Governor General. In the interim these positions are being filled by the two members of the Council elected to the Executive Committee.

In accordance with Division F Regulations nominations are now called for the position of Vice-President:1989 (President-elect 1990). Nominees must be financial members of the Association. Candidates and nominators should read the relevant regulations carefully.

Please note that nominations shall be:

- in writing
- signed by two financial members of the LAA
- accompanied by the written consent of the nominee, who shall supply a curriculum vitae and a statement of professional concerns (each of no more than 100 words).

Nominations must reach the Executive Director, LAA, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo, NSW 2007 by 5.00 pm on 1 September 1988.

Sue Kosse
Executive Director

Documenting Multicultural Australia

A national conference on the collection, preservation and interpretation of Australia's multicultural heritage will be held in Melbourne in November. New Responsibilities: Documenting Multicultural Australia will run from 11 November - 13 November, and will consider the adequacy of collection policies for museums, libraries, archives and other historical repositories in ensuring full and equitable representation of all people within a multicultural Australia.

The conference will consider issues such as the changing responsibilities of institutions in collecting, preserving and exhibiting material from Aboriginal and immigrant communities; access to collections; language policies, exhibition and interpretation; and education and training for the future. For libraries, the conference will be of particular interest to libraries which house pictorial, manuscript, local history and other historical collections.

A major role of the conference will be to develop policy options within the context of the Commonwealth Government's National Agenda for a Multicultural Australia. Participation is open to everyone, and especially welcome are members of cultural communities developing historical collections, as well as practitioners from existing or proposed historical repositories. The cost of the conference is approx. \$60 and further information can be obtained from Margaret Birtley (03) 649 8783 or Derek Whitehead (03) 699 9989.



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