

FRONTLINE

From the Expo (and Sunshine) State



Alan Bundy's invitation to Branch Presidents to write for the 'Frontline' was a welcome invitation, for it has given us an opportunity to publicise achievements and issues of concern at the state level. This is important, not only because so much of the Association's activity takes place at this level but also because the initiative and efforts made by Branch members deserve fullest recognition.

During five years as a Branch Councillor I have seen the Queensland Branch experience a steady growth. Most of the services we give now are not new, but they have changed in shape and scope or have been refined in different ways. This is so especially with those in the bread-and-butter class: continuing education, newsletter, etc. The Branch machinery itself has undergone changes that have improved its functioning. Now in 1988 we are seeking to build on these internal strengths and at the same time be more outward-looking.

This year's Branch Council inherited member services that were already in a healthy condition but some further advances have been made. The 'survival forum' concept has been put into operation along the lines proposed in *InCite*, 19 September 1987. In Queensland we call it our Industrial Advisory and Support Service. Another innovation has been our new members' booklet, compiled as part of the recruitment and retention pro-

gram. This is a publication that is both inexpensive and easy to update.

The continuing education program run by the Branch Council is a varied and successful one, improved this year by greater co-ordination with the Sectional Groups. A recent highlight has been a brace of seminars on marketing and promotion, with speakers including Alan Bundy, an Expo official and the Brisbane City Council alderman responsible for libraries. Earlier in the year, functions at the new State Library building were similarly well attended. The Branch Council also remains committed to provision of continuing education for non-metropolitan members. This is expressed both through financial support and making available audio or video recordings of Brisbane meetings.

Two of our more entrepreneurial services for members are our Branch newsletter and employment service. The newsletter *Quill: Queensland Inter-Library Liaison*, has a long and honourable history. This year, special efforts have been made to maximise its news coverage and raise the quality of promotion, with excellent results. The costs of *Quill* are largely met through advertising the employment service, EQU, which is also self-supporting, assists library workers of all kinds to find jobs and provides a valuable service to employers.

With traditional services to members operating well, the Branch Council has been able to extend itself this year, flexing its muscles more in lobbying and publicity. The first effort has been in the area of state government funding for public libraries. In the wake of an unfavourable budget last year, which capped a series of funding disappointments, the Branch has lobbied political leaders in both state and local government for a better deal. The argu-

ment in favour of public libraries has been linked to a parallel one in respect of school libraries. A letter campaign has been waged, supported by newspaper and radio coverage, and we now await the outcome in the forthcoming budget.

More recently the Branch has responded to the Kennedy Commission of Inquiry into Corrective Services in Queensland with a submission arguing the need for improvements in prison libraries. There is reason to believe that the seed we have sown here has fallen on fertile ground. At the same time a very exciting initiative has come from the Premier's Department, one which heralds the birth of a state information policy. The Government has announced that it is considering ways of improving private sector and community access to public section information. In response to an invitation for proposals, our Branch has lodged a submission which *inter alia* calls for a state information policy.

Yet another area of advocacy where the Branch is active is education for librarianship. Concerns expressed earlier in the year about the unavailability of certain courses have broadened to a view that library education in our State is in need of an overall review. The last review was nine years ago. Encouraged by changes in the higher education sector at large, the Branch is currently exploring possibilities in this direction.

Unfortunately, space does not permit more than a passing reference to the various achievements of our Regional and Sectional Groups: such as the directory of North Queensland libraries, the register of library technicians and the students' guide to academic libraries in Brisbane, not to mention all

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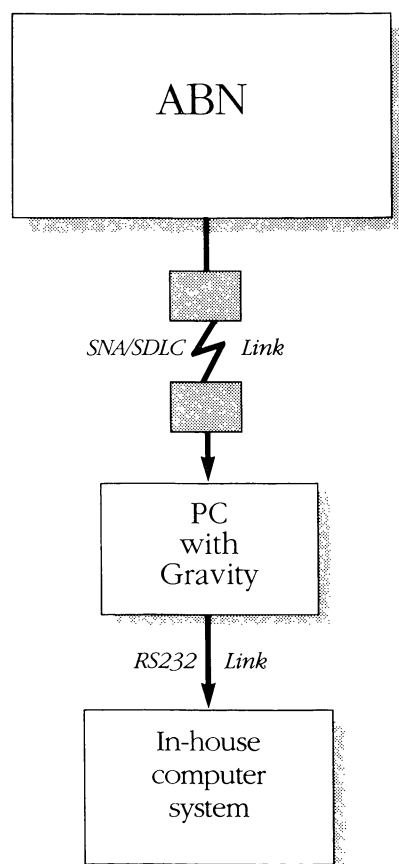
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the continuing education activities. Attendances overall indicate the Regional and Sectional Groups are doing very well in terms of meeting members' needs. Some excellent co-operative functions have been held, eg a joint SLAQ-UCLS seminar called 'Making the Transition: user education in secondary and higher education libraries'.

What lies ahead for the Queensland Branch? In the short term, we have the careers market in Brisbane, Rockhampton and Townsville. Our program of talks to students of librarianship will continue, culminating in a transition-to-work seminar at the end of the year for those students about to enter the workforce. There will be more continuing education activities, eg a report-writing seminar in Brisbane, and a conservation and preservation seminar in Townsville. Further ahead, we hope to remain busy with work on a state information policy and education for librarianship, not to mention Information for the Nation.

Libraries are great in the Sunshine state!

Phil Roberts

President, LAA Queensland Branch

The LAA's *Salary Scales* booklets are now available. Free to LAA members and \$4 to non-members.

NOW IN STOCK

Establishing Partnership Teacher-Librarians and Teachers Working Together. Proceedings of the seminar, A Co-operative Venture: teachers and teacher-librarians (ISBN 086804 047 9).

Edited by Hazel Vickers, School Libraries Section (NSW Group). Including Educational Rationales for Resource-based Learning by Noelene Hall; Establishing Partnership by Merran Dawson; The Transition to Co-operative Program Planning and Teaching — case studies by Margaret Roche, Niki Kallenberger and Jenny Chapman; and Co-operative Program Planning and Teaching Strategies for Meeting Challenges by Jennifer Peasley. Available from LAA Head Office, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo 2007. Price \$10 LAA members; \$15 others (\$1.50 postage).

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flict in relation to the Scheme, concluding that all participants had an interest in the continuation of the Scheme but that there were ways in which it could be improved. Moira Newman, Griffith University and library representative on the Committee, considered the achievements of the Scheme particularly in relation to libraries.

The wider national interest was canvassed by Justice Else-Mitchell, President of the ACT Library Service. Against that background, the specific value of the National Library was discussed by John Thompson who also identified some of the difficulties currently experienced, particularly in regard to valuations. This theme was also taken up by Laurie Fitzhardinge, a registered valuer, who was concerned at the variety of ways in which materials could be valued.

The taxpayers' interests were forcibly expressed by John Lamerton, Taxation Office, who emphasised that the Scheme was intended to provide tax relief in return for a genuine donation to a public institution. Non-library aspects were brought out by John McPhee, Australian National Gallery, who considered the issue of whether to accept or refuse donations. Lynn Hard, Australian Defence Force Academy, noted that the purpose of the Scheme was being lost in the mechanics: the Scheme was intended to be an incentive to support the arts, not simply a means of obtaining taxation relief.

Since the Scheme is of national significance and the seminar attracted considerable interest, the papers will be published in the near future.

Alex Byrne
President

LOCAL STUDIES SECTION NSW GROUP

Call for nominations

The Local Studies Section (NSW Group) is calling for nominations for its 1989 Committee. The following positions are to be filled: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and four committee members.

Nominations should be sent to Judy Washington, Lane Cove Public Library, 139A Longueville Road, Lane Cove NSW 2066; phone (02) 427 5194. The deadline is 3.00 pm, Friday, 28 October, when a general meeting will be held to consider the nominations.

FAR NORTH COAST (NSW) REGIONAL GROUP

Confirmation of Executive

The 1988 Executive of the Far North Coast (NSW) Regional Group are as follows: President, Des Stewart, North Coast Agricultural Research Institute; Secretary, Chris Taylor, Regional Library, Health Education Services; Treasurer, Dallas Curry, Divisional Librarian TAFE, Lismore; Elder, Ed Parr. Contact numbers for these people are in *Vital Link*.

NSW BRANCH

Pre-Summit discussion

The State Library of NSW and the NSW Branch Council are together hosting a final pre-Australian Libraries Summit discussion on 13 and 15 October (see 'Happenings' for details) to review the Summit agenda papers distributed to many NSW libraries. All NSW attendees at the Summit must have been invited to attend. So that they can take with them any further input from NSW members, you are welcome to attend the sessions which will be carried out in a similar manner to the Summit discussions earlier in the year. A summary of the Summit submissions available at each State Library can be obtained by contacting John Wright, on (02) 230 1644.

The NSW Branch social committee has arranged a theatre party to see Blood Brothers, a musical about a pair of twin boys on 19 October (see Happenings). All members are invited to attend for a chance to meet fellow librarians in a rather different setting and enjoy a social evening together.

Rosemary McLaughlan
Vice-President

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES SECTION NSW GROUP

Tertiary library statistics

The University and College Libraries Section is continuing its 1988 seminar program with a one-day seminar on 'tertiary library statistics' in November. The last seminar on 'Co-operative Borrowing' was very well attended and provided an opportunity for participants to examine their approaches to resource sharing.

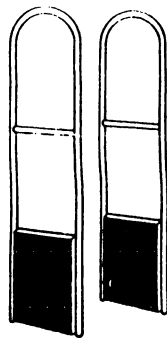
Another area of resource sharing is the publication of statistics. This important work is carried out by staff at Curtin University Library and the statistics are published annually in *Australian Academic and Research Libraries (AARL)*.

The statistics seminar will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss the current collection and publication process and to contribute to the ongoing review of the system. The seminar is timely given the government's policy statement on higher education and its emphasis on organisational effectiveness, resource allocation, institutional profiles and performance indicators.

Kevin Stapleton
President

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