

Records Disposal Schedule

'A milestone in the management of information by local government bodies in NSW' was how Mr David Hay, the Minister for Local Government and Planning, described the *General Records Disposal Schedule for Local Government in New South Wales*. The Minister was officially launching the publication at the Holroyd Centre, Western Sydney on 26 October.

The *Schedule* has been produced by the Archives Authority of NSW in accordance with a grant provided by the NSW Bicentennial Council. Comprising over 350 pages, it lists the records created by local councils and specifies the length of time each must be kept. Mr Hay said:

Records of Council represent its corporate memory. They are needed for administration, for research and to satisfy legitimate public interest ... Careful implementation of the *Schedule* will, on the one hand, assist with the identification of archival records, and, on the other hand, foster the orderly disposal of time-expired records of no enduring value.

These words were sweet music to the ears of the Action Committee on Local Government Records (of which the LAA, NSW Branch and the Australian Society of Archivists, Sydney, are members) and to the archivists, librarians, historians and record managers who attended. The Action Committee lobbied for the project to be undertaken and during the last two years has had the opportunity of regular consultation with the compiler, Sally Irvine-Smith, and the co-ordinator of the Bicentennial Archives Program, John Burke. The Action Committee is proud that the introduction to the *Schedule* includes its statement emphasising the importance of local government records to posterity, the need for preservation and access, and the recognition that local records are people-specific - reflecting 'not only the functions and decisions of Council but also just as importantly, the realities of life for all those within the Council's jurisdiction'.

Acceptance and implementation of the *Schedule* are the challenges ahead. The Archives Authority plans to extend its involvement with the project until at least the



From left to right: Professor Ian Jack, Chairman, Action Committee on Local Government Records; Patricia Ward, Secretary, Action Committee; Sally Irvine-Smith, compiler of the Schedule; the Honourable David Hay, Minister for Local Government and Planning; John Cross, Principal Archivist, Archives Authority of NSW; Dr Ken Knight, Chairman, Archives Authority.

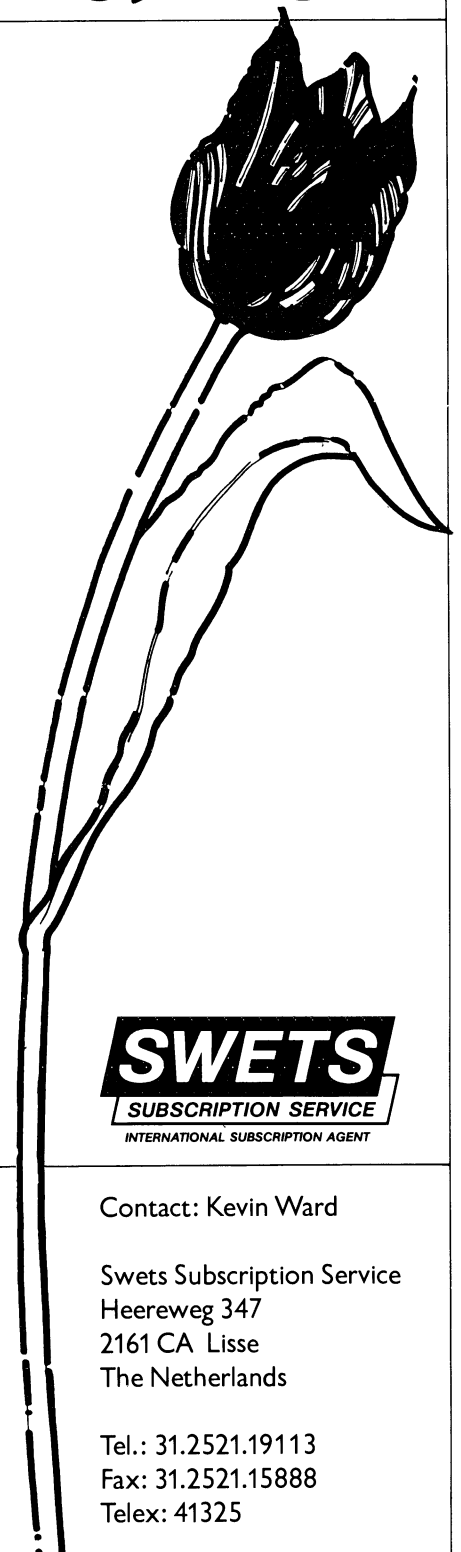
30 June 1989, by providing workshops and a free 'help line' for people needing advice and updates if necessary. All councils in NSW have been sent two copies of the *Schedule* gratis. It is available for purchase at the cost of \$35, postage included, from the NSW Government Records Repository, O'Connell Street, St Marys NSW 2760, or from the NSW Government Information Service Bookshop, 55 Hunter Street, Sydney 2000.

Handsomely produced, well arranged and fully indexed, the *Schedule* is a valuable reference tool for libraries. Significantly, a mirror of local government in NSW, it is a fascinating document to peruse as a citizen, let alone as an elected member, historian, sociologist or local studies librarian. Local government itself, the writing of history and the study of our society may all be changed by it.

Additional information on the *General Records Disposal Schedule for Local Government in New South Wales* may be obtained from John Burke or Sally Irvine-Smith on (02) 673 1788.

Patricia Ward
Secretary
Action Committee on
Local Government Records

Pick Of The Bunch



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The information investment - will you invest?

The Third Asian-Pacific Special and Law Librarians Conference will be held in the Adelaide Convention Centre from Sunday, 6 August to Friday, 11 August 1989. The organisers are now seeking the active participation of Australian special and law librarians as conference papers by Australian delegates are needed.

The conference theme 'The information investment' has been adopted to focus on mechanisms for changing organisational perceptions about the value of special libraries and information services; for re-assessing librarians' perceptions of their organisational function; and to identify related problems and solutions common or particular to information provision in Australia, Asia and the Pacific.

In today's economic and financial climate these matters affect the very existence, performance and effectiveness of special and law libraries. The assessment of a library and information service by management is still predominantly one of cost outlay rather than

viewing such a service as an organisational asset or investment.

Papers, including poster papers, are invited from authors addressing one or several of the issues pertinent to the concept of the information investment, as outlined in the announcement brochure. If required a formal invitation to present a paper can be sent so that paid leave may be granted by an employer or assistance sought from a sponsor.

The deadline for submission of a synopsis (250 words or less) is 1 January 1989. The synopsis should outline the paper's aim, content, conclusions and relevance to the conference theme, and must be signed. All correspondence and any requests for information must be addressed to Elliservice Convention Management, 60 Kensington Road, Rose Park, South Australia 5067; or PO Box 753, Norwood, South Australia 5067 (08) 332 4068.

Help foster regional understanding of information provision development, and encourage the informal exchange of ideas, practices, experience and possibilities for co-operation. The success of this conference depends on you...

Conference Organising Committee