



DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL  
AND FURTHER EDUCATION

## LIBRARIAN-IN-CHARGE

Port Macquarie College of TAFE  
(Librarian)

Pos No 30/2271

\$21,619 – \$28,736 pa

Responsible to College Principal/Regional Librarian for College library services.

**Essential:** Eligible for professional membership of the LAA. Experience in reader services. Demonstrated ability: management/supervision/communication. Capacity to implement change. Awareness of current library developments. Sound knowledge of and capacity to implement EEO policies. Shiftwork involved.

**Inquiries:** Mr Dallas (066) 23 0470.

Application forms can be obtained by telephoning (02) 289 7600 and (02) 289 7597, or by contacting your nearest TAFE College.

Envelopes containing application forms should be clearly marked 'Confidential' and forwarded to the Recruitment Section, Department of Technical and Further Education, PO Box K638, Haymarket, 2000.

**Applications close 23 December 1989.**

Alexander Turnbull Library  
National Library of New Zealand

## Manuscripts & Archives Systems Specialist

A vacancy exists in the Turnbull Library Manuscripts & Archives Section for a librarian or archivist with special interest and/or experience in automated systems.

**Qualifications and experience:** the person appointed will have a post-graduate qualification in librarianship or archives administration, and will have had some experience with the management of original materials, and with the implementation or maintenance of record systems, either manual or automated.

**Duties:** responsible to the Curator for the production and quality of finding aids, bibliographic records, and access systems for manuscript collections; assistance in providing reference services based on manuscript collections.

**Grade and salary:** 390.104, merit 5 \$26170–\$29352, \$30958–\$35139.

**Conditions:** the usual NZ Public Service conditions currently apply and include 3 weeks annual leave, superannuation benefits, sick leave, and long service entitlements.

**Enquiries and applications:** all enquiries should be directed to Peter Hughes or Margaret Calder. Applications, if possible on form PS 17A or PS6, must include education and work experience details, and the names of two referees, and must be addressed to: Staff Section, National Library of NZ, PO Box 1467, Wellington, New Zealand.

**Closing date:** 10 January 1989.

## David Jones takes a look at the new edition of the Australian Encyclopaedia

*The Australian Encyclopaedia*, 5th edition. Terrey Hills, NSW: Australian Geographic Society, 1988. Nine volumes. (ISBN 1 86276 000 4 – standard set; ISBN 1 86276 001 2 –deluxe set) Standard ('collectors') edition \$595. Limited deluxe edition \$795.

This edition of the *Australian Encyclopaedia*, as its editor-in-chief is justly proud to declare in his introduction, is the most Australian edition since the classic Angus and Robertson edition of 1958. The encyclopaedia passed to the US-owned Grolier Society in 1963, and they brought out a six-volume third edition in 1977. Despite the high standard of its contents, it was a totally frustrating reference book, with no index and only a few cross references to guide the user.

Some desperate but resourceful reference staff actually used the index to the second edition to lead them to the correct headings in the third!

Grolier made a much better fist of the fourth edition in 1983, and volume twelve contained a substantial index. Ownership passed to a New Zealand company in 1985, but last year the encyclopaedia was purchased by Australian Geographic, where, as my succeeding comments will amplify, I hope ownership will stay for good and all.

The other increase in 'Australianness' is more physical: this edition has been printed in Australia, unlike its predecessor, and a very nice job Griffin has done, both in the monotone work and in the colour printing, which in this edition is on every second page spread.

In intellectual terms, there are strong links with earlier editions, which are interesting to trace in the *dramatis personae* of this encyclopaedia and its predecessors. The present editor-in-chief, Richard Appleton, held the same position in the fourth edition, and was production editor for the third. Bruce Pratt was editor-in-chief of the third, and had been general editor, under the legendary Alec Chisholm, of the second. We are the beneficiaries of this tradition of and experience in what Appleton accurately calls the 'arcane arts of encyclopaedia editorship'.

Pratt's own motto – and one which could equally well apply to any information worker – was 'we are paid to be accurate'. In the article on Mount Olga there is a nice case study illustrating the Appleton's continuing application of this worthy maxim. The second edition of the *Australian Encyclopaedia* stated that Mueller persuaded Giles to name Mount Olga after the Queen of Spain. This was not in fact the case, although Reed's *Placenames of Australia, Australians: a historical library* and some editions of the encyclopaedia Britannica perpetuated the error. There never was a Queen Olga of Spain. Appleton relates how, through contact and correspondence with, among others, Gough Whitlam and the German Ambassador to Australia, Mueller's Olga was identified as the Queen of Wurttemberg by the State Archives in Stuttgart. Reference workers have, or should have, a healthy distrust even of the most 'authoritative' works, but this example of Appleton's and his team's editorial exertions is reassuring and not, I think, isolated.

The editorial staff have certainly been busy, soliciting, writing and editing the 400 or so new articles for this edition, revising existing articles

– 'probably some 80 per cent of the articles in this edition have been revised to a greater or lesser extent' – identifying and captioning new illustrations and reorganising entries, so that subjects like Australian Rules, Soccer and Rugby are not all lumped together under 'football'. Over \$1 million has been spent – well spent, I would say – on research and revision.

---

**... the outstanding reference work of 1988, a year which has seen a greater than usual number of excellent and useful works produced.**

---

Among the new entries are AIDS, Aboriginal movements, genetic engineering, information technology, in vitro fertilisation, peace and peace movements, future studies and tissue and organ transplants. Of course there has to be a corresponding loss, and among those outed are many nineteenth-century biographies – largely, we are told, pastoral, vice-regal or clerical. So Abbots and A. Becketts make way for Abeles, Daniel Cooper defers to Patrick Cook, and Seymour of the eponymous Centre is bumped by Alan Seymour of *The one day of the year* fame. It is a not unreasonable compromise: there is always the *Australian dictionary of biography* for those squeezed out.

For there is a remarkable influx of new biographical entries for prominent newsmakers from all fields of endeavour, such as Ita Buttrose, Harry Butler, Eddie Charlton, John Meillon, Nick Greiner, Alan Bond, Greg Norman, Slim Dusty and of course Richard Harold Smith, the adventurous publisher, pictured in one volume refuelling his helicopter on the way to the North Pole, and standing by the wreckage of the 'Kookaburra' in another. Overall it is a well-balanced selection of new biographical and subject entries, reflecting current concerns and preoccupations. I noted with some sadness the passing of the articles 'Australiana' and 'Crimes, notable', both of which topics have a considerable following. Others will find that some of their favourites may have become casualties of what must have been an unenviable editorial task.

One loss which I do not mourn is the space-consuming article reference guide which graced the fourth edition. This was a not terribly useful alphabetical listing of the headings of all the articles in that edition. The brief chronology of Australia in the final volume of the fourth edition has also been dropped, together with the list of winners of the (Sydney) Royal Easter Show art prizes. Some film and music awards are a new addition.

The diligent reference librarian will be used to the concept of retaining earlier editions of encyclopaedias for access to valuable information which succeeding editions have dropped for reasons of space. I wonder how many times the sexagenarian Carter and Jose work is consulted for details of, for example, early cricket scores. For it is as a long-term

Cont'd from page 20

investment that one should assess any encyclopaedia.

I'm unlucky enough not to have a personal copy of the first edition of the *Australian encyclopaedia* although I do keep an eye out for it at fetes. Like many thousands, I prize my set of the Chisholm edition, of which the young Dick Smith was vouchsafed only four volumes — including the one which must have tickled its editor's whimsy: 'Marsupials to Parliament' — and use it frequently.

The fifth edition too has the marks of a great edition: I have referred to the highly competent editing process, with its remarkable freedom from typos. In the course of a lengthy browse I noticed only three infelicities: some words which should have been in italics, a missing comma and a truant running head — not bad for a work of this complexity and magnitude. There is also the quality of the contributors: Ray Whitrod on the police, Richard Walsh on periodicals, Jill Sykes on dance, Ronald Strahan on mammals, Peter Spearritt on Sydney, popular culture, tramways and his specialty, the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Gavin Souter on New Australia, Maurice Saxby on children's books, — the list goes on and on — including Harry Bryan on libraries. To repeat a minor criticism of the previous edition: to my tidy mind it would seem helpful to have some indication of which contributors are deceased.

A new feature, which I did like, was the series of introductory essays, headed 'Australia and the World', in which distinguished and polished writers like Russel Ward, Donald Horne, Elaine Thompson and Mary White provide broad perspectives of the country in which we live. These essays range widely over topics such as the geological formation of the continent, the migration of peoples (Aboriginal, European and others), politics, wars, sport, economics, science and technology, all setting Australia within the context of movements in the world as a whole.

Illustration is a great strength of many encyclopaedias, and this one is no exception. Good use is made of the increased number of colour illustrations, and the increased flexibility in their placement. There is an excellent variety of forms of illustration. There are plenty of historical and contemporary photographs, but also maps, charts, diagrams, cartoons and reproductions of advertisements. There is in fact something graphic to complement or at least leaven the text at every page opening. Even the endpapers have received attention, with a lively Australian alphabet design by Robert Ingpen.

The fifth edition of the *Australian encyclopaedia* is the outstanding reference work of 1988, a year which has seen a greater than usual number of excellent and useful works produced. It is certainly a must for all Australian reference collections, and deserves wide sales in schools and the general market-place, where it has no real competition in the form of multi-volume Australian encyclopaedias. All of those responsible, publisher, editorial staff, contributors, designers, typesetters and printers, are to be congratulated on a first-rate publication.

The sturdily-bound standard edition — there are 10,000 sets of this — represents exceptionally good value for money at \$595. No doubt the 500 'deluxe' sets, signed personally [sic] by the editor-in-Chief, 'attractively finished with deeply-embossed leather-look spines' and costing \$795 will sell well too. The *Australian Encyclopaedia* is available direct from Australian Geographic, PO Box 321, Terrey Hills, NSW 2084, and delivery and insurance is \$15.

David J. Jones

## LAA Publications Board Meeting Report

A meeting of the Publications Board was held at LAA House on 10 November 1988. The meeting commenced by congratulating two members of the Board, Judith Baskin and Patricia Ward, on being awarded LAA Fellowships.

The main item of business was the report by Sandra Forbes on the LAA's publications program. Sandra had been asked in July 1988 to advise the Association on how its publications program could be continued and possibly expanded but at the same time be rendered more streamlined and cost-effective. The emphasis was to be on monograph publishing but LAA periodicals would also be taken into account.

The report was presented from a hard commercial perspective but with no cognizance of the people involved or the location of the LAA and carefully noted the dichotomy between the service and the commercial operation aspects of the LAA. Attention was paid to a costing of related overheads which revealed that, instead of returning a profit, the program had made a loss over past years.

It was noted that the philosophical basis of the Association is service provision not profit making, and it was important to analyse the loss, and, in particular, the loss associated with the publication of the LAA *Handbook* and biennial conference proceedings. These are costed to the Publications Division rather than the Membership Division.

There was considerable discussion on a philosophical framework to enable publication decisions to be consistent and it was strongly suggested that this be associated with a marketing strategy. After lengthy discussion it was clear that the magnitude of the report would prevent the Board from making a simple list of recommendations to General Council at this stage, and it was decided that a paper be prepared for General Council together with a summary of Sandra Forbes' report. The report will be considered further at the February meeting of the Publications Board.

In anticipation of the forthcoming name change of the Association, ALIA Press has been registered as a business name in NSW.

There was considerable discussion on the topic of the provision of permanent paper in light of the difficulties experienced in accessing paper for the LAA's encyclopaedia, *ALIAS*. It was suggested that the widest publicity be given to this problem with information being sent to paper suppliers and manufacturers, and to appropriate sections of the media such as the ABC Science Unit. It was agreed that General Council be alerted to the importance of using permanent paper for LAA publications.

It was reported that *ALIAS* Volume I is due for release in December and discussions were held on the appropriate venue for its launch.

The LAA President had raised the matter of the quality of LAA divisional newsletters and had suggested that the Board produce guidelines for the production of LAA newsletters. Frank Thompson offered to provide a copy of AGPS *Guidelines for Desktop Publishing* to the Board when they have been finalised.

Kerry Webb

LAA Publications Board

**The North Queensland Libraries: A Directory** (2nd edition), published by the North Queensland Regional Group, is now available from LAA Head Office. Cost: \$9.00 LAA members; \$13.50 non-members, (\$2.00 p&p).

Queensland members may purchase a copy directly from the North Queensland Regional Group (fee for postage not required). Contact: Secretary, North Queensland Regional Group, c/- University Library, James Cook University, Townsville Qld 4811.

Ask DAD! *Directory of Australian Directories* provides the answers - who/what/where, in any subject area.

### Resource Based Learning Conferences Publication

The papers produced for, and as a result of, the above conferences are now packaged together in the document entitled: *Resource based learning conferences*. If you would like to purchase a copy, send a cheque for \$11.00 to: Judy Woods, 26 Eucalypt Parade, St Agnes 5097.

This includes packaging and postage. Please make cheques payable to: Resource Based Learning Conference. Please remember to include a return address.

The booklet is full of practical ideas, and will be worth the money. Send your orders in early to ensure the early arrival of your copy.



DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION

### LIBRARIAN-IN-CHARGE

Gosford College of TAFE (Librarian)  
Pos No 30/2269  
\$21,619 – \$28,736 pa

Responsible to College Principal/Associate Librarian (User Services) for College library services.

**Essential:** Eligible for professional membership of the LAA. Experience in reader services. Demonstrated ability: management/supervision/communication. Capacity to implement change. Awareness of current library developments. Sound knowledge of and capacity to implement EEO policies. Shiftwork involved.

**Inquiries:** Ms Jane Butterworth (02) 289 7833.

Application forms can be obtained by telephoning (02) 289 7600 and (02) 289 7597, or by contacting your nearest TAFE College.

Envelopes containing application forms should be clearly marked 'Confidential' and forwarded to the Recruitment Section, Department of Technical and Further Education, PO Box K638, Haymarket, 2000.

**Applications close 23 December 1988.**