

## TASMANIAN BRANCH

### Film and video library services

The closure of the State Library of Tasmania Film Library is symptomatic of the alarming decline in Tasmanian public library services. Tasmania is now the only state without a film lending library. Moreover, while other states are developing new film and video library services, the State Library has not been able to spend money on the purchase of films or videos and has not even been able to start developing a video library service.

A comparison with services offered in other states shows clearly that the Tasmanian public is missing out.

The State Film and Video Library of South Australia spent \$417,000 last financial year (1986/87) on the purchase of new films and videos. Films and videos are available for loan to community groups, service groups, schools, businesses, organisations etc. Videos as part of a pilot program, are also being made available for loan from 26 public libraries; next year 50 small public libraries in South Australia will participate in the program. The videos available through the public libraries are videos not available from retail outlets eg. children's material, documentaries, ABC and BBC programs etc.

The State Film Centre of Victoria is developing an exciting program called '100 videos in 100 libraries'. The Centre offers municipal libraries 100 titles a year which have been purchased in bulk and can be made available to small public libraries at a much lower cost. The videos provided by the Victorian public libraries cover a wide range of subjects.

The State Film Library of NSW has spent a total of \$235,000 last financial year on films and videos, 90 percent of which was expended on the purchase of videos. The State Library of NSW is allowing a whole floor of one wing of their new building to be an open access video library collection, available for loan, and the librarians involved with the service consider the video collection to be one of the new dynamic public library services to be offered to the public in the 1980s.

Other states and territories are all similarly expanding their film libraries to encompass the provision of video lending services.

The Branch wishes to alert the Tasmanian

public to the inadequate library services they are receiving. The Association believes Tasmanians deserve and should be entitled to the same library services taxpayers receive in other states.

*Jill Adamski*  
Past President

## SA Public Libraries Automatic Information Network

SA State Local Government Minister, Barbara Wiese, has announced details of a \$3m Public Libraries Automatic Information Network (PLAIN), jointly funded by State and Local Government.

The scheme, to be developed over the next five years, will link South Australia's 131 public libraries giving users greater access to resources held in public libraries throughout the state.



*Watching PLAIN go through its paces — SA Local Government Minister, Barbara Wiese, Local Government Association Vice President, Malcolm Germein, with SA State Librarian, Euan Miller, at the microphone.*

Access to PLAIN is via modem. The system facilitates book selection (without the expense of librarians having to visit the Public Libraries Branch at Norwood); easy checking of catalogues and the progress of ordered items; and interlibrary loan.

Ms Wiese praised Local Government for its co-operation and enthusiastic support of the initiative. 'PLAIN is an excellent example of the State and Local Government working together to benefit the community', she said. 'PLAIN will particularly benefit borrowers in rural areas, but every library user will gain

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## What's new for '88 ...

Celebrations for the LAA half century are over now. We have reached that level of maturity where we are hoping to make leaps and bounds on the way to our centenary celebrations (that's if we survive this Bicentenary!!)

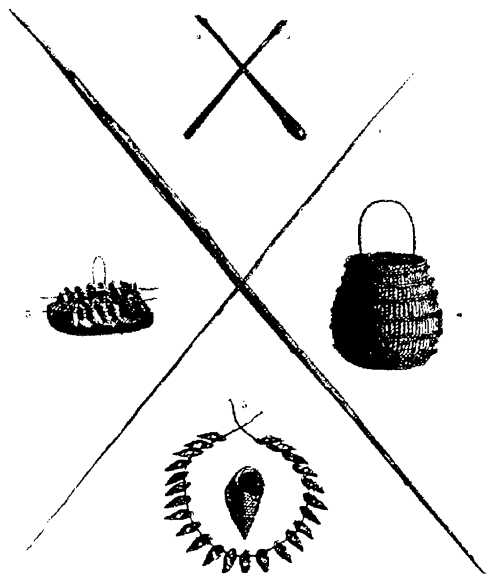
While most Australians are lying in the sun enjoying their holidays, the LAA has already been busy putting together the first issue of *InCite* and planning for a big year, with many new members and many others renewing their membership (no, this isn't a reminder). So what can we do for you? A small group of NSW YUPLIS (Young Upward Professional Library Information Specialists) has met to examine what we can do for our new and young professionals. So far the group is made up of a special, a school, and a public librarian as well as two euphoric non-librarians. We would like to get more new and young professionals involved in the activities of the Association, making you aware of the benefits gained from meeting new people and making professional contacts, continuing education, and getting involved in what is happening in professional matters.

The group is looking at organising economical social activities, specialist continuing education programs, establishing an encouragement award, organising topical presentations to students and any other activities that may be desired. If you are interested in being part of this group contact Alison Reid on (02) 230 1414 (w) or (02) 929 5763 (h), or Joanne Fuller at the LAA on (02) 692 9233. Maybe you have some ideas of your own for activities. All are welcome.

*Mary Baker*

If you want to know how the concept of a National Information Policy impinges on the role of the teacher-librarian, read Anne Hazell's article in *ALJ*. Out February. And only \$15 pa.

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