

Branch Roundup

At the recent General Council meeting Branch Presidents and Councillors were invited to report on the activities of their Branches in 1988. Council considered this was a most interesting and informative exercise, and that members should hear of some of the things the Association is doing. So here is a snapshot of what you can expect in your area and perhaps some ideas for other Branches to try.

Queensland

A new State Library building and Expo 88 offer wonderful opportunities — and venues — for promoting libraries and information services. The Branch is making a special effort to attract new members and retain current supporters by publishing a CE diary, videotaping major meetings for non-metropolitan members, participating in Careers Week and producing a booklet outlining Branch services. It has established an Industrial Advisory and Support Service (a survival forum) and plans to prepare a kit to assist libraries to promote their services more effectively. The Branch continues to publish its newsletter *Quill*, to operate its employment service EQUL and to conduct its popular 'Transition to Work' seminars.

South Australia

Politics have figured fairly prominently in the South Australian Branch's program in the early part of 1988, with the Branch canvassing the views of by-election candidates on library and information services, and inviting South Australian Senator Robert Hill to tour libraries in Adelaide as an early step in the Information for the Nation campaign. An active recruitment program, and the preparation of guidelines for the setting up of library services in small institutions such as the Adelaide Zoo are other initiatives of the Branch. It will participate in Careers Show 88 with the State Library, and will continue its Library Employment Group (LEG), which filled 45 jobs in 1987, 75 percent with LEG members. The Branch newsletter has been renamed *Inter Alia*.

ACT

As might be expected, the ACT Branch sees lobbying as a priority this year, and new Senator Bob McMullan was one of the guests of honour at its autumn dinner. The other was

the newly-appointed Deputy Director-General of the National Library, Eric Wainwright. The Branch will be establishing contact with the new Minister for Arts and Territories, Gary Punch. The American Library Association's lobbying kit is being obtained to see what new approaches can be tried. Other priorities for 1988 include following up lapsed members, and arranging discussion groups to enable Branch members to have input into the October libraries summit.

Northern Territory

Our smallest Branch (numerically) celebrates its 15th anniversary this year, and continues to cater for a very diverse range of members and interests. This year the Branch will be offering a more extensive program of general meetings focussing on local political issues as well as library matters. More emphasis will be placed on continuing education, after a rather quiet year in 1987. The Branch's long campaign for improved salaries and classification structures for staff in government libraries has been concluded successfully, with new salary scales, most librarian positions reclassified and a library technician category created.

New South Wales

How to attract young members of the profession, and then keep them interested, is a concern of all Branches. A NSW Branch working group has drawn up a program of activities for younger members which includes a workshop on interviewing techniques and resume writing, a 'meet your contemporaries' dinner and an encouragement award that should bring forward a lot of new ideas for Branch action. Conservation on the Move and our Bicentennial Conservator Helen Price will feature prominently this year with a wide-ranging program of workshops, publications and demonstrations. The Branch is introducing a twinning project with Illinois libraries, and will participate in working groups on library summit issues.

Tasmania

Raising the public and political profile of libraries is one of the aims of the Tasmanian Branch. An address to a large gathering of Branch members by the Minister for Educa-

tion and the Arts, Peter Rae, has led to a suggestion for more regular meetings, and these will be backed up by promotion of the Information for the Nation campaign and the launching of a community information file. The Branch is also organising a number of functions featuring visitors and speakers for the IFLA/LAA conference. A reduction in funding for the State Library of Tasmania, and two inquiries into library services in the state will give the Branch plenty of opportunities for action in coming months. A first step has been to lobby for inclusion of a librarian on the State Library Committee of Inquiry, which has very wide terms of reference covering the role, funding and future of the Library.

Western Australia

The Western Australian Branch has developed an issues-based agenda for its meetings, to encourage more active involvement by members, and to focus the work of the Branch around the areas of public affairs, liaison and professional development. One aim is to bring middle-level library managers back into Branch affairs. The Branch will continue to monitor student membership, which has been underwritten by the Branch, and will be reporting on this to General Council in August. On the industrial and political fronts the Branch is participating in the functional review of the State Library Service and in the Rogers review of library education, and has been successful in having the Shadow Minister for the Arts incorporate material provided by the Branch into the Opposition party platform. There is much enthusiasm for the Branch's 'local presence', which is an office and reading room located at Technology Park near Curtin University.

Victoria

The continuing saga of the State Library of Victoria building and the future composition and role of the Library Council of Victoria in the light of the Geddes reports will be major issues for the Victorian Branch in 1988. It has been active in both of these, and will continue its initiatives in conjunction with other bodies such as the State Library Support Group and the recently-formed Redmond Barry Society. The Branch office is located at Technilib, which is also home base for VALA, the Library Promotion Council of Victoria and a State Library service, so there will be plenty of opportunities for co-operative activities. Susan Ryan, the new Publications Manager of Penguin Books, was guest speaker at the Branch's AGM in March, and drew a large audience. The Branch is encouraging wider participation in Library Week by special libraries and other information services, and a new group — the Victorian Public Library Expo Association, which had its beginnings in the SOLV campaign — will be arranging a library expo in City Square as a special feature of Library Week.

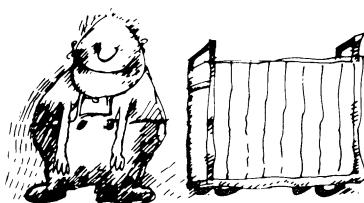
For more information about any of these activities, contact the Branch Secretary — see *The Vital Link* distributed with *InCite* No.5 of 15 April.

Sue Phillips
Member h p r i s Manager

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