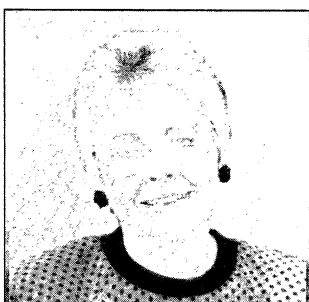


FRONT LINE



Averill Edwards — President, ALIA

In the next few months nominations for elections for the 1990 office bearers for the Association will be called for in *InCite* and in local and section newsletters. Don't pass over the notices and go on to other news without pause. Think about it and act — if not for yourself, for colleagues whom you work with or know.

Participation in elections in voluntary organisations is notoriously low. There is no cause for complacency in ALIA on this matter: the percentage of

members voting in the national election has been for years much less than 10 per cent — it wavers between 5 and 8 per cent. Evidence suggests that the participation in branch elections is much the same. Why should this be so? It is hard to accept that so few financial members are interested enough to put a cross on the relevant section of a paper and send it to head office.

Various techniques have been tried to overcome voter apathy. The self-addressed, prepaid envelope has resulted in a slight rise of participation. Simplification of the voting procedures required by the constitution has helped. Photographs of candidates for national office, together with brief biographies and statements of intent, are provided so that members are aware of more about the candidates than just their names. Suggestions have been made that longer accounts of professional involvement and achievements of candidates printed in *InCite* would help. What else can be done? I would welcome suggestions from members.

But the real question lies elsewhere than in the mechanical procedures. Is not the real issue the level of interest in the profession in which we are involved, and the commitment to take part in that profession even in the most remote way by reading the notes about candidates,

making a judgment and marking the ballot paper accordingly? Even if the candidate is not personally known, an assessment can be and should be made. All members have a vested interest in the election of office bearers who will lead their professional association.

In some elections there is often a dearth of candidates. In some regional groups and smaller branches and sections and sectional groups the same names appear, often in different combinations. In no way would I wish to decry the very significant and important contribution such members make to the Association and to the profession, but I wonder why other members of the groups are not prepared to shoulder their share of the task of leadership and responsibility.

Why is it that members are reluctant to nominate for office? Undue modesty, lack of interest, reluctance to accept jobs for which there are significant workloads, especially for those with family commitments? Whatever it is, when the call for nominations goes out all members should ask themselves what they can offer. Could I take my share of office? Could I undertake to do that job for 1 or 2 years? It is really a question of what you can put back into the Association for the benefits you receive from it.

Continued 31 ••

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Reference services — common ties

he cross-sectoral nature of reference services in public, academic, school and special libraries has provided the theme 'Reference services — common ties' for the 3rd National Reference Librarians' Conference. It is scheduled for 17–19 November this year and will be held in Melbourne following the VALA Conference.

The Conference — an excellent opportunity for reference librarians to share their knowledge and expertise — is being planned around the following themes:

- fee-based services
- new technology
- performance measures
- the client.

The first day will focus on reader education, and is being organised by the University and College Libraries Section (UCLS) Victorian Group. The format of the second and third days will follow the successful structure of previous conferences. Topical papers will be followed by thematically oriented presentations and workshops.

A call for papers for the 3 days appears in *Incite*, page 11. Speakers are invited to submit outlines with an ab-

stract by the end of July. Those interested in running workshops on topics related to the themes are also invited to submit a brief description of what they propose. Further details may be obtained from local Committee members.

The Planning Committee has representatives in each State. The Victorian chapter (see photograph) comprises: Ray Choate, Chair (La Trobe University), Max Borchardt (CAVAL), Susan Bray (University of Melbourne), Chooi-Hon Ho (Monash University), Christine MacKenzie (Dandenong Valley Regional Library Services), Erica Maxwell (Sunshine-Melton Regional Library Services), Vivien Nash (Monash University), Leigh Oldmeadow (Monash University), Barbara Paton (La Trobe University) and Barbara Tout (Victorian Parliamentary Library).

Interstate members are: Bett Draoulis and Margaret Henty, ACT (Australian Defence Forces Academy and Australian National University); Craig Grimison and Claire Wilde, NSW (University of Wollongong and Macquarie University); Alex Byrne, NT (University of the Northern Territory); Denise Dryburgh, Qld (University of Queensland); Patrick Condon, SA (University

of Adelaide); Twila Herr, Tas. (University of Tasmania); and Steve O'Connor, WA (University of Western Australia).

Registration forms will be available in August; and the Planning Committee looks forward to seeing you in November.



The Victorian Chapter of the Planning Committee for the 3rd National Reference Librarians' Conference, 17–19 Nov., 1989.

Monash electives

The Graduate School of Librarianship, Monash University, has a number of elective units that form part of the MA, Dip.Lib. and M.Lib. courses. Each unit runs for one semester, with approximately 2 hours contact per week.

The School is willing to offer these units as continuing education courses for interested librarians, who would follow the same program as enrolled students, but not for a degree.

In Semester 2 (commencing 18 July), units in International and Comparative Librarianship, Australian Booktrade History, and Advanced Use of Computers in Information Services are being offered. Enquiries to Mary Lou Maroney (03) 565 2959.



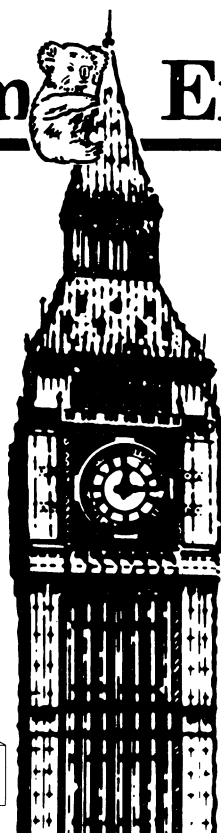
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