

The benefits of participation in office are legion. There is no doubt that elected officers learn much: new skills in conducting meetings, preparing the groundwork as secretary to make meetings run effectively, financial and budgeting skills, political skills in how to achieve an objective, listening skills, evaluation skills. The range of new contacts within the local area, the State or the nation can be significant in professional development. The views of other sectors of the library and information scene provide a broader perspective. Remember, too, that involvement as an office bearer need not be drudgery, but a source of fun.

The Association needs a variety of voices serving as its office bearers. It is important that in its councils the views of the very different sectors of our profession, for example the city and country members and the members who work in small and large institutions, are heard.

Above all, don't think that nomination for national office is only for the 'arrived' or for the 'rapidly upwardly mobile high flyers' — it is available for all members, and all should consider it seriously. Election time is not a time for undue modesty — if you have a contribution you want to make, nominate for election.

It is a pity that so many of our branch elections are not contested — why not make it an objective for your branch next year that every position on branch council will be vigorously contested? It would certainly stir interest in branch activities and in the carriage of the elected council's activities. The political statements required to be made as a justification for election would make members think about the objectives of their branch council for the forthcoming year and how they want them achieved.

The election of General Councillors is of the utmost importance for branches, and yet it often attracts little interest. The Branch President is clearly a priority for any branch, but the position of General Councillor must rank next. This person is the one who is to represent the interests of that branch on the General Council. The General Councillor is required to exercise independence of judgment at Council meetings, often in the heat of debate, and without briefing from the branch.

The General Council has the carriage of the affairs of the Association. Its decisions are only as good as the persons who are elected by the membership to become members of the General

Notes from the Executive Director

Plans for the move of the national office to Canberra are now well under way. Office space has been leased in the ACTU Building at 40 Brisbane Avenue, Barton, and will be occupied as of 31 July 1989.

ALIA's mailing address for the next 12 months will be: PO Box E441, Queen Victoria Terrace, ACT 2600, enabling us to receive your mail while in the temporary office and preventing disruption when we move into the new national headquarters building in 1990. We are waiting for telephone and fax numbers, and will publicise these in the next issue of *InCite*.

The office is also gearing up for the General Council Meeting in Adelaide

on 21–22 July. Two major items on the agenda are the progress report for the building (Friday morning) and the papers on the Australian Libraries Summit, including User Pays (3.30 pm on Friday). A complete listing of agenda items will be available on ILANET. Observers are most welcome to attend.

Sue Kosse
Executive Director, ALIA



ACTU House, Canberra.



ALIA STUDY GRANTS AWARDS FOR 1990

The Australian Library and Information Association will make funds available each year to support practising librarians/information professionals wishing to undertake a study project. The number of awards in any year will depend upon the funds available and the estimated costs of proposals received.

The Association's intention in offering study grants is to assist librarians/information professionals who work at middle management level, but who do not have access to institutional support or study leave, to undertake projects they would otherwise be unable to do because of the time and costs involved.

Conditions:

- Available to practising professional or technician members of the Association with a minimum of three years' experience in library and information work who occupy a middle management position, or other position of a similar nature, involving the use of expertise from the field of library and information work. Awards will normally not be made to members occupying research or teaching positions.

- For the purpose of undertaking a study program on a selected library/information issue or problem of present and future relevance to the development and improvement of library and information services in Australia.

- The study may include opportunity for preliminary work, local or overseas visits/consultations, attachment to another organisation, preparation of a publication, further educational qualifications.

- The study is to culminate in a written report presented in two parts:

- (i) a summary of the report, accompanied by a photograph of the author, suitable for publication in *InCite*, and

- (ii) a comprehensive report, presented in a form suitable for publication as a journal article, which should be forwarded to the ALIA within four months of the project's culmination.

- A follow-up report is to be provided to the ALIA by the recipient showing how the outcomes of the project have been applied to the benefit of the individual, institution and broader professional base. This is due 12 months after the project's completion.

- It is expected that the study project will provide an opportunity for self development as well as benefit to the successful applicant's institution and present position. The award is not intended to be used to fund research projects.

Applicants should complete an application which gives:

- A brief description of the study project, including aims; benefits to the individual and to the institution; possible outcomes of a project.

- Identification and reasons for choice of particular institutions, persons or activities.

- Itinerary, timetable, travel/accommodation costs involved.

- Details of any other funds or facilities being provided for the study project.

- A curriculum vitae.

- 2 referees' reports.

Applicants must be personal financial members of the ALIA.

Application forms are available from the ALIA office and applications for an award in 1990 should reach the Membership & Division Services Manager, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007 by **1 September 1989**.