

Feed-back

NSW Branch

The move to Canberra

In response to member's concern, NSW Branch Council organised a special general meeting on 24 January 1989 to discuss the Canberra building and the move of ALIA Head Office.

After lengthy discussion the meeting concluded that the time for a general plebiscite of members (which some considered appropriate) had passed, and that the membership should now seek to support ALIA in its venture given the commitment had been made to commence the Canberra building. The meeting was most concerned to emphasise that it was not opposed in principle to the move away from Sydney but nevertheless expressed concern about how the Canberra proposal had been managed and the manner in which decisions had been reached.

The meeting outlined the following items of concern and requested that resolutions relating to them be forwarded to the General Executive.

- The inadequate amount of information provided to members by the Executive and General Council about the Canberra project

- Improved availability and dissemination of information on all future major issues concerning the Association was required to restore the confidence of the members

- The short lead time on provision of information to the General Councillors before the meeting where the final decision to move was made, and the virtual gagging of discussion in General Council before the final decision was taken

- The structure of the project team, and concern that cost blowouts should be avoided—the meeting suggested that the project team should be larger, comprising people with legal, financial and building expertise, and include member representatives to ensure feedback to the rank-and-file of the Association

- The view that the treatment of ALIA Head Office staff during the process left a great deal to be desired

- The meeting's view that, because of the rise in property values in the area, great caution should be exercised and there must be wide consultation regarding the possible sale of the Ultimo property

- More details are to be sought about the services to be provided to members over the next few years and, in particular, which services might be earmarked for cuts or modifications.

NSW Branch Council would welcome opinions on these issues either through correspondence in *INCITE* or the NSW Branch Secretary Wendy Bartlett on (02) 543 3742.

Wendy Bartlett

South Australia

President's report

'Lobby or lose' was the title of the one-day workshop run by John Levett for the South Australian Branch in April and lobby or lose was the major focus of Branch activities for 1988. Much of the energy of Branch Council, and particularly the Executive, was devoted to a series of advocacy activities intended to

raise the level of awareness about the importance of library and information services among a wide range of community groups.

In the political area we:

- wrote to all candidates in the by-election for Port Adelaide seeking their views on the provision of library services

- arranged tours of some of the libraries in their electorates for Senator Robert Hill and Rod Sawford, and extended the same invitation to Michael Pratt

- continued discussion with the State Government about Freedom of Information legislation

- made a submission to the Local Government Advisory Committee on library services in the Mitcham Council area and participated in discussions about the establishment of a Friends of the Library group in Blackwood

- wrote to a number of politicians at various levels and other local people in support of a public library in Glenelg

- organised delegations to the Minister of Local Government and the Director-General of Education.

Industrially, we:

- pursued the possibility of library technician qualifications being recognised by the Education Department in the payment of school assistants

- questioned the absence of library qualifications in advertisements for a number of jobs, including the Manager of Public Libraries, the Local History Librarian at Public Libraries Branch, an audio-visual position in the Department of Tourism and the Local History Librarian at Salisbury Public Library

- supported in various ways the librarians in a number of threatened special libraries, including the Adelaide Zoo, the Department of Community Welfare, the National Safety Council and the Department of Social Security

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A toll-free number will be supplied for user service to clients outside these areas.

FEEDBACK ... continued

- through the Executive Director, queried the proposed use of volunteers in the staffing of a new public library.

Professionally, we:

- entered into a protracted correspondence about the principle of user pays with a Councillor from Port Lincoln (in cooperation with National President, Alan Bundy)

- wrote to the Minister of Education in Tasmania about the recently imposed charge of \$1 for acquiring items from other sections of the public library system.

- responded to an article in *Council and Community* in which the Director of Administration and Finance from Noarlunga Council put forward a number of arguments in favour of user pays

- made a submission to the implementation proposals for the Review on Public Library Services.

With regard to education for librarianship, we:

- were represented on a committee developing a library traineeship course for assistants in public libraries

- participated in Careers Show 88, in conjunction with the State Library

- carried out recruitment activities in the library schools at SACAE, SAIT and Adelaide College of TAFE

- responded to the Green Paper on Higher Education in relation to library education

- again held a Back to the Workforce seminar for people planning to seek jobs after some time away from librarianship

- organised a meeting of library educators and employers to discuss issues which arose at the Summit.

In addition, the President and representatives from many of the Sections were members of the South Australian committee for the Australian Libraries Summit.

To carry out the program outlined above, Branch Council met on 10 occasions for about two hours and the Executive met a further 10 times. The Council is now quite large, consisting of more than 20 people who represent most sectors of librarianship. It is pleasing to see a large number of younger librarians participating in the business of the Association through the activities of Branch Council. My thanks to all of this year's Council members and particularly to the Executive who shared much of the load with me. We were fortunate to have two of the National executive on Branch this year: Anne Harris in the dual role of South Australian General Councillor and Association Secretary, and Alan Bundy, the National President who attended most of our meetings. Thus we had an insight into the national scene and perhaps exerted more than our due share of influence in decision making at the national level.

Early in the year, the Branch organised a farewell function for Noel Stockdale, on his retirement from Flinders University,

and in July, we welcomed to Adelaide the Director-General of the National Library who spoke on current issues in Australian librarianship. Perhaps because of the LAA/IFLA Conference and the Summit, there were few general branch activities this year, leaving most of the continuing education program to be carried out by the Sections. Particularly disappointing was the last minute cancellation of the Country Conference through lack of interest.

It would be remiss of me to claim that all, or even most, of the activities described above bore immediate fruit. Some letters and submissions disappeared entirely, some queries were rejected outright, some may take a long time to have any effect. We reported the outcomes of most of our activities in *InterAlia* throughout the year. If you wish to discuss any of them further, please contact me or any other member of Branch Council.

Since I decided many years ago that I would never take on any extra-curricular activities from a sense of duty, I can honestly say that I have enjoyed the year as Branch President

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How do we get it right? What factors contribute to getting library technicians as a recognised established level of library personnel?

These were the sorts of questions Mr Ian Johnston from the University of Wales School of Library and Information Science was asking at a visit to the Library Studies Department at Footscray College of TAFE. Ian Rogers, Head of Library Studies organised a luncheon where college staff, industry and librarianship educators gave Ian Johnston the good oil.

On the left are Ian Johnson, Mariane Broadbent, Ian Rogers and John Rogan engaging, on the right, Sue Van Der Moden, Carmen Hannaker and Helen Smeaton.

Northern Territory

NT Branch celebrates 10th birthday

The NT Branch of the LAA is 10 years old and we here in the NT recently celebrated this momentous occasion.

Approximately 30 people (or 30% of the membership!) gathered together at the Social Club of the Darwin Institute of Technology to reminisce over the last 10 years which we feel have been very successful.

The current President of the Branch, Mr Mike Friganotis, opened the proceedings, introducing some of the young 'golden oldies' of the Branch who were in attendance, and welcomed the Executive

Director of the ALIA, Ms Sue Kosse, who joined us for the occasion. After congratulating the Branch, Sue launched the booklet 'Great Gnus' a commemorative booklet produced for the occasion. It is a bit more than a booklet really: 76 pages of recollections, reports and records, compiled by local identities Joy King and Julie Tyson. The booklet is a fitting tribute to the last 10 years.

Our General Councillor, Ann Alderslade, completed the formal part of the evening with a vote of thanks to Sue. Socialising was the important part of the night, and as the video record of the night and the photographs can attest, it was a good occasion.

Here's to the next 10 years!

Ruth Quinn
Vice-President



... from the Executive Director



ment of this joint agenda depended heavily upon a positive approach to co-operation at all levels by both ALIA and ACLIS.

A new *InCite*

You will have noticed some changes to this first issue of *InCite* for 1989.

With the name change for the Association to the Australian Library and Information Association being effective as of 1 January 1989, it was an appropriate occasion to implement some additional changes.

InCite has been redesigned by Stephen Cole, and Ed Highley and David Keightley have been appointed as editors.

Even though *InCite* will be produced in Canberra during this year, it will still be printed and distributed from Sydney. Tanya Vojsk will still manage all of the advertising for *InCite* from ALIA's Sydney office.

InCite's format has been changed to A4, which should mean that it is easier to manage when being read, and also be easier to shelve. This new format has become an industry standard, and *InCite* will continue to be produced in this format.

We are pleased with the new look for *InCite*, and we hope that you will like it too.

Sue Kosse
Executive Director

ALIA and ACLIS cooperate

ALIA and ACLIS have taken very seriously their responsibilities to achieve the resolutions from the October 1988 Australian Libraries Summit for which each has a joint responsibility.

On Friday December 9 1988 the Presidents and Vice-Presidents and Executive Officers of ALIA and ACLIS met to discuss how best to achieve the joint responsibilities.

In general it was decided that cooperation could be achieved at a number of levels between Presidents or Executive Officers and at the state level between State Committees/Branches.

These initial discussions concluded that initially the priority areas consideration would be user pays, the ALIA's Information for the Nation Campaign, lobbying, public libraries, funding access and new technology.

Both the ALIA and ACLIS representatives agreed that the successful achieve-

1989 ALIA MEETINGS

Executive Committee

Friday 10 February	Deadline 27 January
Thursday 16 March	Deadline 2 March
Friday 19 May	Deadline 5 May
Tuesday 18 July	Deadline 4 July
Friday 22 September	Deadline 8 September
Thursday 23 November	Deadline 9 November

General Council

Friday-Saturday 17-18 March	Deadline 13 February
Friday-Saturday 21-22 July	Deadline 19 June
Friday-Saturday 24-25 November	Deadline 23 October

Board of Education

Thursday-Friday 16-17 February	Deadline 1 February
Thursday-Friday 22-23 June	Deadline 7 June
Thursday-Friday 19-20 October	Deadline 4 October

Publications Board

Friday 10 February	Deadline 20 January
Wednesday 5 July	Deadline 14 June
Wednesday 1 November	Deadline 11 October

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 21 September

FEEDBACK ... continued

and the opportunity it has given me to meet colleagues from other sectors of librarianship. My involvement with the Association will continue next year as Past President, and in the national sphere as a member of the Board of Education and Convener of the Information For The Nation campaign.

I wish the 1989 executive every success. There is much more lobbying to be done before we win.

Anne M. Hazell

Local history conference

Recently, the first Local History Collections Conference was held in South Australia. Over sixty librarians, historians, Mortlock Library staff, and educators attended the conference which was opened by the chairman of the Libraries Board of South Australia, Mr Des Ross. State Librarian, Mr Euan Miller, by his attendance, showed support for the increasing importance that Local History Collections are assuming in South Australian Public Libraries.

Speakers included library staff, archivists, history lecturers, writers of local histories and History Trust staff. Participants listened to papers on the development of and trends in Australian History, practical advice on the logistics of setting up a Local History Collection,

storage techniques for paper based objects and the role of Local History Collection in a public library. At the conference, History Trust's Brian Samuels released two chronological lists. These were 'State-level voluntary organisations involved in preserving and promoting South Australian history: historical chronology' and government initiatives for the preservation and promotion of South Australian history: a select historical chronology'.

The conference attracted participants from far flung centres of South Australia including Hawker, Mount Gambier, Ceduna and Kangaroo Island. It was held in the new premises of the Public Libraries Branch at inner-suburban Hindmarsh and was arranged and co-ordinated by Ros Paterson, the Branch's Local History Project Officer. Her twelve month appointment is seen as an opportunity to survey Local History Collections throughout the state to produce a register and to provide an advisory and consultancy service to public libraries, especially those planning new collections. It is hoped that the conference assisted in this goal.

Conference papers are currently being printed for sale and distribution and cost \$5.50 including postage.

Contact Person: Ros Paterson,

Local History Project Officer,
Public Libraries Branch,
8 Miller Street,
Hindmarsh.
Phone (08) 348 2361.

NSW Young Ones

The final meeting for 1988 for the Young Ones was held at the State Library of NSW on 29th November. The meeting saw the launch of a new booklet entitled 'Job Hunting in Library and Information Work'. Compiled by Louise Lansley and Jo-Anne Fuller of the LAA, the nine page booklet thoroughly outlines the important procedures to keep in mind when preparing yourself for job interviews. It provides details of job sources; newspapers, LAA, Professional Employment Service, CES, employment agencies, library schools and government gazettes. Concisely written, the booklet is an essential source of information that could well help you secure the job that you really want. I found it particularly informative and well set out, such that I intend to revise my current portfolio. Congratulations to Louise and Jo-Anne on a job well done. Response to the booklet has been tremendous so contact the LAA now to be sure that you don't miss out on a free copy.

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The meeting also previewed the calendar of events planned for the Young Ones in 1989. Plans are underway and include an evening meeting with the new LAA president in February, two workshops, the encouragement award and dinner in June, and dinner with a speaker in October. We are looking for extra committee members and also invite any new graduates or members to attend any of our functions. Any suggestions for activities are more than welcome and can be directed to Alison Reid (Convener, LAA Young Ones) on 230 1469 or Mary Baker (Secretary, LAA Young Ones) on 875 6289. The group was set up in interests of young members of the profession, so why not get involved!

Mobile Libraries Special Interest Group

A very successful Mobile Muster has been held at Maleny, north of Brisbane. Around 50 delegates attended, from Queensland, Victoria, NSW, New Zealand and Malaysia. The Muster was opened by the Hon. B.D. Austin, Minister for Finance and Minister Assisting the Premier, followed by two days of excellently presented papers. Mobile libraries rolled up from Caloundra, Pine Rivers, Toowoomba, Logan, and all the way from Gosford (a tremendous effort). A great time was had by all and we look forward to the next one. Papers are presently being collated and will be available shortly for \$10 a copy from, Public Libraries Division, 24 Macquarie Street, Teneriffe, Q. 4005.

SA School Libraries Section

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held at SAIT following the Co-ordinating Committee meeting on Tuesday 15th November.

The 1989 committee is: Trish Bickley (President); Julie Fenwick and Sue Richmond (joint Secretary); Robina Weir (Treasurer and Branch Council Rep.); Jan Schmidt; Margaret Strickland; John Sloan; and Anne Hazell.

The interim report from the treasurer shows a balance of \$905.66.

During 1989 the committee will concentrate on the resolutions from the Library Summit, especially those pertaining to School Libraries.

Annual Report

1989 Committee

I would like to thank Anne Hazell, Robina Weir (Treasurer), and Jan Schmidt for their continued involvement in the School Libraries Section committee and

Julie Fenwick and Margaret Rowe for their contribution in 1988.

Co-ordinating Committee

• 1988 has been a continuation of the co-operation between SASLA, RCTA and the School Libraries Section.

The benefits include:

- a broader base from which to gather information and ideas and share knowledge.

- speaking as one voice.

- greater knowledge and understanding of the aims, objectives and activities of each group.

- development of common goals.

- shared information.

- facilitate the participation of more people in the decision making process.

• Many of the 1988 activities have been conducted jointly. These include:

- Two more Resource Based Learning Conferences on May 17th and 18th at WPTC.

- 'Spring Fever' - a literature update conference at WPTC.

- The publication of the papers from the four Resource Based Learning Conferences.

- Robina Weir has been the representative at meetings of professional associations with the Education Department to discuss possible Departmental support.

- Participation in a resource based learning teleconference with Queensland, Victoria, New Zealand and Canada.

- Visiting authors—Lois Lowry, Katherine Paterson, Dorothy Butler, Colleen O'Sullivan.

- The Dromkeen display.

Trish Bickley

NSW Public Libraries

Seminar report—be prepared to fight!

That was the message from the seminar entitled 'Be a better communicator', conducted by the Public Libraries Section and the Public Libraries Division of SLNSW.

Janet Donald, a management consultant, put the challenge to public librarians that money is a scarce resource, for which, we must learn to compete.

If we believe our aims to be worthwhile we must be prepared to fight for the resources necessary to achieve them—no matter how limited the resources may seem. To do this successfully we must develop appropriate strategies. Seven skill areas were identified in which we need to develop superior ability to our competitors.

These were: Fact Analysis; People Analysis; Persuasion; Gaming—Tactics; Teamwork; Creativity; and Grovelling.

An interesting discussion followed where it was agreed most of us were more experienced in some areas than others!

The second half of the day was devoted to a discussion of internal communication methods and procedures.

Lyn Barakat, Deputy Librarian, Sutherland, and Marion Bannister, Deputy Librarian, Riverina, gave a wide ranging talk on various communication issues ranging from induction procedures and staff appraisals to dealing with the grapevine and the problems of distance and isolation. Again, a useful discussion followed.

It was a full program where either session could have occupied the whole day, however the quality of speakers and the issues they raised made for a very practical and useful day. Anyone wishing further information should contact Lyn Barakat for a copy of Sutherland's training program or Marion Bannister for a summary of her paper.

Richard Bonser

Report from the Board of Education

IN ORDER to implement cost savings in 1989, the Board of Education has modified some of its activities.

Course Recognition Visits. A full programme of course recognition visits will be run in 1989. However, to ensure that the cost of the visits is kept to a minimum, the Board has altered some of the conventions previously applied to course recognition visits. In future, wherever possible, only one member of a visiting panel will be appointed from outside the state in which the school to be assessed is located. The convention that educators from schools of librarianship in the same state do not take part in the course recognition visits of other schools in that state will no longer apply.

Professional Development. A line item of \$10,000 has been inserted in the Association's 1989 budget for continuing education activities. A programme of mainly 'LAA approved' activities has been endorsed for 1989 as these activities do not require underwriting by the LAA.

LAA Workforce Project. Money is not available in the 1989 budget for the Board of Education's proposed study of advertisements for library and information positions however it is hoped that funding may be provided at a later date by a special grant allocation.

Louise Lansley
Secretary to Board of Education