

FRONT LINE



Lynn Allen, President

As I sit down to write this last Frontline as President, I am amazed at the speed with which this year has passed. On another front, some days one feels like one has been President forever!

It is with some sadness that I pass the banner to the new President as I have the sense of work left undone, more achievements to be made and an inevitable feeling of regret that things have not always turned out the way one wished. But this is a good definition of life itself, so I am not too disturbed by it.

I do not propose to write some sort

of annual report here, that comes later. In any case, anything that has been achieved this year is the result of a total team effort, not the work of one individual. But I do want to leave you with some thoughts that I have been exploring throughout my year, in this forum as well as others.

*One year is too short
to be President
(some people might
think one year's too
long...)*

One year is too short to be President (some people might think one year's too long to put up with the same person, but so be it). I think on the other hand that the 3-year commitment, especially for senior people, for young people with family commitments and for those who live at some distance from Canberra, is too long a time to commit oneself and one's institution — to say nothing of one's telephone bill, family patience and friends' tolerance!

I would like to suggest that there be

some discussion on 2-year Presidential terms. Two years and that's it! It reduces the commitment, but increases the sense of achieving and would reduce the pressure that seems to exist for the President to zoom around the country like some bishop on his peregrinations trying to meet as many members as possible. This has always intrigued me — it's a little like an American President going around the country trying to get support for people to vote for him after the election rather than before.

I would have been much happier to be President for 2 years. The concept of a Vice-President who is 'learning the ropes' is not valid. There aren't that many ropes to learn and we should not foster this illusion. Many people become full and active members/leaders of committees from the beginning of the committee's life. In any case, 2-year Presidencies would take the pressure off trying to achieve so much in so short a time.

Of course, this begs the question of whether Presidents should be 'trying to achieve so much'. I see the role of the President as a leader, a visionary, a person who stimulates intellectual challenging of current precepts and concepts and who may light fires of thought that continue long after the Presidential year has passed. I've tried

Quite simply, 'Levity' is the best solution to accessing ABN, fullstop.

Utilising an Australian-made advanced PC workstation, it's highly flexible, inexpensive, and an ergonomic joy.

There's in-built on-line HELP facilities, and unlike some present set-ups, you get the complete ALA character set fully displayed as well - no annoying asterisks.

Not least, Levity comes from ALDIS, the unique librarian based

computer company that understands your problems and can provide the expertise and support to solve them.

So, if you're currently using an archaic ABN access system, call us about 'Levity' on (03) 647 9724. And lighten up your life.

**An ABN
PC-based SNA
terminal cluster
called 'Levity'?
We're serious!**

aldis

AUSTRALIAN LASER DISK INFORMATION SERVICES
275 Normanby Rd. Port Melbourne 3207

to do this with the discussion on research, the commencement of strategic planning/thinking at General Council, the work I have done in preparing and giving my Presidential address and other talks I have given as well as in the detailed submission I have produced for the Australian as an Information Society inquiry.

I don't want to list a set of achievements here but I wouldn't be human if I had no wish to believe that I have not wasted my time. I think Council has moved to more of a policy focus, supporting the Executive Director and her staff in letting them get on with day to day matters. Personally, I think the decision making role of General Council has been strengthened with meeting four times instead of three and with focusing on some longer term matters such as interlibrary loan voucher scheme, the need for a new computer, defining the role of the Executive Director and National Office staff, looking at the way the ALIA Press should be run, dealing with the complex and ever-changing issues surrounding award restructuring and many other issues.

In my Past President year, which I would be happy to forego and leave the incoming President to get on with his agenda, I will focus on one topic as my contribution to the profession. I will further explore the concept of a potential National Section of

Information Theory and Research.

The response to date to this suggestion has been strong and a paper will be forthcoming for the first General Council 1991. I see this as being an area to which I can contribute and make a long-lasting impact on the relationship between theory and practice, at a local, national and international level.

*Ask not what your
Association/profession
can do for you, ask
what you can do for
your Association/
profession.*

Can I conclude by thanking all those people who have been so supportive. My special thanks to two groups of people. To General Council for their tireless work, their good humour and great team spirit, it has been a privilege to lead such a talented group of people. To my Western Australian colleagues, a

special thank you for organising such a fantastic Biennial Conference, for their endless support, for their wonderful inclusion of me in Branch and Conference activities and for their friendship.

Many people are currently talking about what the Association 'does for its members'. We are slipping into a marketing mind set that says we have to sell the Association to potential members. I can see the point of this, but I am firmly of the opinion that a professional association exists to receive contributions from its members, its power is the membership working together for what it can return to the profession in order to secure its survival, the respect of the general community and the attention of decision makers. Maybe I am old fashioned but I prefer to leave you with the following thought, which I know is what drives most of the people with whom I come into contact, with apologies to J F Kennedy: 'Ask not what your Association/profession can do for you, ask what you can do for your Association/profession'.

With many thanks and best wishes from your soon to be 'Past President' and a Merry Christmas and fulfilling New Year to you all. ■

Apology

Since *inCite* 18 was distributed, there has been a request for the publication of the following apologies:

As President, I apologise to those members of the Association who were offended by the publication of the photographs from the Perth Conference which appeared in *inCite* on 12 November. These photographs do not reflect either the nature of the conference or the contributions of participants. An apology from the Editor follows.

Lynn Allen, President

inCite no. 18 page 6 published four photographs taken at the Association's Perth Conference. These photographs were selected by me as Editor from over one hundred proofs to reflect the lighter moments of the conference. They were in no way intended as a reflection on the professional standing and integrity of any of the Association members involved. I acknowledge that the selection of these photographs was ill-considered and inappropriate and that their publication has caused offence and distress to some of those concerned. The publication of these photographs was an error of judgement on my part and I apologise unreservedly to the Association members concerned.

Peter Judge, Editor ■

Fellowships to Alan Bundy and Ed Parr

At the 1990 ALIA AGM on 3 October in Perth, the distinction of Fellow was conferred on Alan Bundy and Ed Parr. The citations were read by Averill Edwards and John Levett.

Their citations are printed below:

Alan Bundy's citation

Alan Bundy has made a distinguished contribution to the theory and practice of librarianship in Australia and to the objects and work of the Australian Library and Information Association. That contribution is characterised by energy and innovation. His major achievements are in the areas of publishing, clearinghouses and databases, continuing education and innovations in library services and administration.

He began his career in the City of Perth Libraries in 1966, becoming Branch Librarian in 1968 and Senior Branch Librarian in the City of Melville Libraries in 1969. After entering the College Library sector in Perth in 1969 as the College Librarian of the Technical Education Division, he became Chief Librarian of the Footscray Institute of Technology in 1974. Since 1983, he has been the College Librarian at the South Australian College of Advanced Education.

He has contributed immensely to the literature of Australian librarianship: through his own extensive writing and by his publishing activities, including initiating, editing and publishing journals, directories, monographs and other works. He has published across the spectrum of library endeavour, implementing publishing programs in his libraries and jointly founding and operating Auslib Press with his wife, Judith. A particular initiative at SACAE was the development of a Research and Development Register for the College, which is published annually by the library and is used and appreciated by the academic staff.

In addition to his publishing activities, Alan Bundy has initiated a number of clearing houses

Ed Parr's citation

Ed Parr has brought to librarianship in Australia a combination of vision, vigour and adventurousness. He has made a distinguished contribution to library and information services through his dedication to the development of the potential for co-operation and resource sharing, his vision for extending information services beyond the traditional limits of an academic library and his active participation in furthering education for the library profession.

He began his career in 1963 as a Branch Librarian in Perth. After a period as a Librarian at the University of Papua New Guinea from 1968 to 1972, he took up a position as a lecturer in the Department of Library and Information Studies in the Western Australian Institute of Technology. Ed was later to return to the Department of Library and Information Studies after three years of service as Principal Librarian at Nedlands College of Advanced Education. He was also Associate College Librarian at Western Australia College of Advanced Education before taking up his current position as Director of the Learning and Information Centre at the University of New England, Northern Rivers.

Ed Parr's involvement in networking began in 1982 when he was elected Chairman of the Interim Board of the Western Australian Library Network. This Board comprised university, college and state library authorities and assessed the feasibility of an integrated library network for Western Australia. His appreciation of the potential for networks and his ability to give life to concepts of co-operation later led to his election to the CLANN Board of

Alan Bundy continued 5...

Ed Parr continued 5...