



Sue Kosse — Executive Director

Working Party on Higher Education Libraries

At the end of December 1989, the terms of reference for the long rumoured review of libraries in higher education were announced. The review is being conducted under the National Board of Employment, Education and Training (NBEET) by a specially convened Working Party. The Working Party will be chaired by Professor Ian Ross, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Australian National University, and will also include Alan Bundy, Barrie Mitcheson, Margaret Trask and Eric Wainwright.

The December press release from NBEET indicated that 'recent rapid changes in the structure of higher education reinforced the need to reassess the effectiveness of provision of higher education library services within current resourcing levels'.

Margaret Henty from the Australian National University Library has been seconded to provide secretariat support to the Working Party. Submissions are being invited from all interested parties, and further information can be obtained by contacting Margaret Henty at the ANU Library. (Submissions are still being accepted in spite of the early closing date of 28 February 1990.)

An ALIA submission has been drafted and is now being considered by the General Council before being submitted.

NZLA POWER

The recent NZLA Conference, Information + Energy = Power, held in New Plymouth was an outstanding success, with over 500 delegates attending, or

more than one third the NZLA membership!

Barbara McKerrow and the Conference Committee organised an extremely efficient and friendly conference, together with a most interesting speakers' program. Two of the speakers received standing ovations from delegates. These were Chief Judge Silvia Cartwright who spoke on the responsibilities of a professional person in providing information and advice to the client; and Robert Croneberger, Director of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, USA, who introduced the action oriented mission statement for public libraries 'to excite, to entertain, to inform and to educate'. His strong vocal support for free public library services and the New Zealand position on US nuclear warships, added an external dimension to the many discussions at the conference on charging for interloan, and the inestimable value of libraries to the advancement of civilisation.

The conference also saw the establishment of the New Zealand Library Association Incorporated to replace the previous NZLA, and strong endorsement for the management of the Association under Geoff Chamberlain (1989-1990 President) and the Council, and for the directions being mapped out by the Futures Group.

National Ideas Summit

Summits are very popular in Canberra at the present time, and the National Ideas Summit as organised by the Australia Council was no exception. It was difficult to see the positive outcomes of the Summit; however perhaps the most promising but not resolved outcome, was the often stated endorsement of the concept that valuable contributions to Australia's progress are not always measurable in dollars.

General Council

The first meeting of the Association's General Council is to be held in Melbourne at the Parliamentary Library 23-24 March. All observers are most welcome to attend.

ALIA national office staff

Sue Kosse
Executive Director



Mary Papachristos
Membership Services
Manager



Helen Mandl
Division Support
Officer



Paula Jovicic
Membership Officer



Elizabeth Pinner
Membership Clerk



Tom McKeon
Industrial Information
Officer



Helen Stone
Secretary to
Executive Director



Philomena Holmes
WPO/Typist



Stacey Hilyard
Receptionist



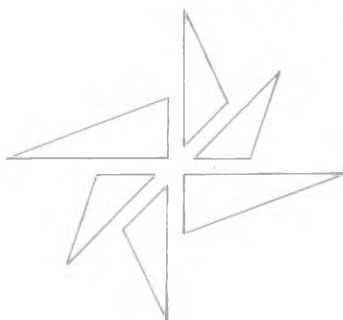
Sharon Brodrick
Despatch Clerk



Simon Hazelbrook
Finance Services
Manager



Helen McMillan
Assistant to Finance
Services Manager



Earthquake damage to University of Newcastle Libraries

The Earthquake which hit Newcastle on 28 December left much of the Auchmuty Library looking as though a cyclone had passed through it. The floors of four of the six main reading rooms were covered with thousands of books which had fallen from the shelves, together with hundreds of broken ceiling tiles and insulation batts. Other tiles were hanging loose from the ceiling with exposed wiring, and some end wall shelving had sprung loose from bolting and was swaying precariously. Everything was covered with layers of dust. Fortunately the library was closed for the Christmas break and so possible injury to library users and staff was averted.

Most books fell from the top two shelves, and the 'fallout' was worse on the top floors, especially at the extremities of the building. Fortunately only some fifty books were badly damaged. The fact that most of the shelving had been braced undoubtedly saved the library from greater damage, as it prevented the shelves from toppling over in a concertina effect across the Reading Rooms. Even with bracing, a number of the shelves 'walked' up to 5 centimetres.

The appearance of the library belied the amount of real damage that it had sustained from the earthquake. On inspection by the University engineers it was revealed that only relatively minor structural damage had occurred in the building. There are several cracked columns, and cracking of walls especially around stairways and near corner joints. Gaps have also appeared between walls especially near the ceiling.

Staff returned to work on Tuesday 2 January, and after engineers had inspected the building and declared it sound, they were able to set about restoring order. By mid-afternoon most of the debris had been cleared and books placed on holding shelves so that a team of cleaners could be brought in. The library was closed to users until Friday 5 January.

The Auchmuty and the Huxley Library, the library of the former Hunter Institute of Higher Education, are situ-

ated on the Shortland Campus of the University within five or so miles of Hamilton, one of the city suburbs almost completely devastated by the earthquake. It is about the same distance from the Tighes Hill TAFE Campus which sustained major structural damage to almost every building on the site.

The University was fortunate too that the Huxley Library sustained only minor damage. Some cracks appeared in parts of the library, and cement rendering fell away from some walls - all of which can be easily rectified.

The Newcastle Conservatorium since amalgamation has become part of the University of Newcastle. It is centred in Laman Street in the heart of Newcastle, an area which received widespread damage from the earthquake. The newer part of the Conservatorium sustained major structural damage, however, the library situated in an older part of the complex managed to escape almost intact. As with the Auchmuty Library, a number of books were thrown to the floor. The library is situated on the third floor of a 5-floor brick building and has concrete floors and plaster ceilings. It was built about 1930. Just how fortunate this library was to escape major damage is evident when compared to the damage received by the nearby Regional Art Gallery and adjoining Regional Library, and other buildings in surrounding streets.

Elizabeth Guilford



Thousands of books fall from the shelves: Auchmuty Library