

Direct Line



Sue Kosse
Executive
Director

General Council meets at ALIA House

The final meeting of the Association's General Council was held at ALIA House on 23-24 November 1990. The first day of the meeting happily coincided with the opening of ALIA House by the Honourable Ros Kelly, Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Territories and the Environment.

General Council is the Association's chief policy making body, and includes representatives from each Branch. It is chaired by the President.

The meeting considered several items which will have a very long term influence on the activities of the Association. These included the agreement for a joint publishing arrangement with DW Thorpe, local presence, approval to develop a skills analysis project, and the registering of the Association as an industry training agent for library and information work.

Australian Committee on Cataloguing

The Council endorsed Helen Hoffmann as the Association's representative on ACOC for a term of 1991-93.

Computer replacement

The decision on replacing the computer was delayed pending further investigation. However a decision was made to support the purchase of hardware and software for the Conference secretariat to enable it to actively pursue organising conferences for the Association.

IFLA Executive Board

In line with the Association's previously endorsed policy of increasing its level of activity in IFLA, the Council approved in principle support for an Australian

candidate for the 1991 elections for the IFLA Executive Board.

1991 budget

The proposed budget was approved in principle, subject to the end result being a balanced budget. Some minor changes to national office expenditure will enable this to happen.

Membership fees

The membership fees for 1991 were approved, and allowed for the CPI increase of 1990 and for a section membership to be also included. The fee for membership of all Sections and Special Interest Groups remains at the 1990 level of \$6.

Changes to local presence

Provision had been made in the 1991 budget for funding for local presence. As Council is seeking applications for funding for local presence from all Branches, it decided to allocate only 50 per cent of the 1991 provision to the existing local presence operations of Victoria and Western Australia and to make a first time allocation to New South Wales.

Library Technician of the Year

Congratulations to Faye Pattinson on being nominated Library Technician of the Year for 1990.

Two new Divisions

Council approved the formation of two new Association Divisions: a South Australian Group of the Reference and Information Services Librarians Section; and a Home Library Services Special Interest Group. Congratulations to both new Divisions and to their enterprising promoters.

Strategic Plan

As Branches had had very little opportunity to discuss the draft papers on the strategic plan, Council decided that these should be re-circulated to the Branches, the Board of Education and the national office for discussion and further consideration before being considered by the Council.

ALIA Press Board

For some time, the ALIA Press Board has been discussing the possibility of a cooperative publishing arrangement with DW Thorpe. Prior to the Council meeting, agreement had been reached by both parties as to the basis of the arrangement, and this was endorsed by the Council at its meeting. Members will continue to receive discounts on publications as pre-publication offers. The Press Board is to operate as a separate program within the Association's budget, and will begin its

1991 operations with a budget allocation of \$24 000 as a recoupable grant.

Australian Library Week

Council requested the Executive Director to write a paper for its March 1991 meeting proposing a role for the Association in future Australian Library Weeks. In the meantime a date and theme for 1991 is to be established by the Executive Director in consultation with the Branches.

ALIA as an Industry Training Agent

Following the introduction of the Industry Training Guarantee Act, employers will need to ensure that their training programs meet the criteria set down in the Act. Given the Association's very extensive role in ensuring standards of education for library and information work through formal courses offered by educational institutions, the Board of Education argued that this role should also be extended to include the certification of employer training programs for their employees. The General Council unanimously supported this argument. The Association is now seeking registration as an Industry Training Agent.

Library and Information Services Skills Analysis

In the 1970s the Association developed the extremely useful Work Level Guidelines to identify levels of work in libraries; however in the award restructuring and skills audit negotiations these were of little assistance to members. The Executive Director and the Industrial Information Officer have been discussing with the Department of Employment, Education and Training the need for a skills analysis in library and information science work to assist all sides in the award restructuring process. The Department has indicated that funding of 50 per cent could be available for such a project. The General Council endorsed the continuation of this project, and to seek funding from both the Department and from interested employing institutions. A proposal is currently being developed in consultation with the Department.

If you would like further information on any of the above matters considered by the Council, please telephone me on either (008)02 0071 or (06) 285 1877. The next meeting of the General Council will be on 22-23 March 1991, and agenda papers will be circulated early in March. □