

conference registration fee was set (which has been re-opened with the letter by Neil Radford in the latest issue [14]), the Conference Committee prepared a paper for the June General Council Meeting and also requested that it be published in *inCite* in order to re-open the dialogue on Biennial Conferences and their funding. No response was forthcoming from General Council and the paper was never published in *inCite*. All Branches have, however, been asked to comment on several papers prepared by the new Conference Organiser. We will await the outcome of those comments with interest.

The Western Australian Branch believes that \$30 000 remains of the conference profit which is not required for general operating expenditure. We believe that this money should be put aside for a specific project and has recommended at General Council and Board of Education that this money be channelled into Training and Development, with isolated members being the specific target group for projects.

### Sectional Groups

There has been much discussion in the Western Australian Branch regarding the funding of Sectional and Regional Groups in this past year. The majority of Association activities are held at Sectional and Regional level and most members have stated and shown their strong preference for activities run

by the Sections and Regions (of course, isolated members have no choice). We have found that the small monetary allocation to Sectional and Regional Groups is making them rely even more heavily on employer support by way of photocopying, mail-outs and telephone calls and are concerned that this is not the way a professional association should be run.

*...the time has  
come to consider  
the role of National  
Sections.*

This concern has led us to question the role of National Sections, which do not provide primary contact for members, but rather organise conferences and publications and coordinate responses to subjects of national concern. We wonder if, in fact, the time has come to consider the role of National Sections in the structure of the Association and to debate whether they warrant the funding they currently attract, or whether they should be abolished and the additional funding placed with the State Sections who provide the members with tangible services and professional contact.

### Feedback

I am hoping that the issues raised in this Front Line may stir some spirited debate — which we probably all need to take our minds off increased usage and budget cutbacks. If some of the issues I have raised are contentious, or if anyone has some ideas to share about training and development for isolated members, I am sure that others would be pleased to tap into your suggestions.

I leave the challenge with you. □

### Note from the Editor

*Kay's comments on the 1990 Conference call for a couple of remarks. At the time Kay prepared her paper, inCite was asked not to pre-empt the General Council discussion in June, which gave rise to the following Council minute:*

#### Review of biennial conferences

*The Western Australian General Councillor, on behalf of the 1990 Biennial Conference Committee requested re-consideration of the concept of biennial conferences, given that overall Association membership attendance was low and the nature of papers presented at the conference were very general and of little relevance to specific areas of library practice. However, the conference did generate substantial funds for the Association.*

*Councillors concluded that this issue would benefit discussion from the wider membership, and it was agreed that the Western Australian General Councillor would be invited to submit a paper to inCite on this matter.*

*Council did not accept the proposal to put money from the conference aside for a specific training project. inCite will be happy to publish the WA Councillor's paper as soon as it is ready.*

There will be library skills educational tours also on offer:

1. A walk round the reference library and local collection;
2. How to use OPAC.

June van Rooy □

*(Editor's note: these are the only responses to a letter from the ALIA Division Support Officer, sent on 12 August to all the principal Divisions of ALIA asking for details of their ALW activities. If inCite's 'special ALW issue' seems a bit thin, don't shoot the messenger.)*

Feedback continued next page...

# Feedback

## Australian Library Week

### Children's & Youth Services Section

Start Australian Library Week with a celebration of literature for children and young people. The Victorian Group of ALIA's Children's and Youth Services Section will be holding a Literature Weekend, 18-20 October 1991, with the theme *Teenagers — what are they?* Guest speakers will include Agnes Nieuwenhuizen, Victoria's Youth Literature Field Officer, and two writers for young people, Jenny Pausacker and David Metzenthen.

The weekend will be held at Rutherford

Park, Blampied, between Daylesford and Ballarat. It promises to be lively and thought provoking, and is an excellent chance for members of both CYSS and School Libraries Section to get together. Day rates are available.

Contact Trevor Trotter, Williamstown Library (03) 393 9311 or Jane Walker, St Kilda Public Library (03) 536 1333. □

### Bird-persons and other adventurous souls

Townsville City Library in Flinders Mall, plans to have an Open Day on Sunday, 20 October.

A banner announcing the week and the theme will be hung across the front of the building. As an 'eye-catcher' they are arranging for a rap-jumper or abseiler to make a descent from the flat roof of their three-storey building into the mall below where the weekly Cotters Market will be in full swing.

Inside the library, they will feature a hang glider with a display of books and videos about adventurous leisure pursuits, both 'how-to-do-it' and tales of individual adventurers. Clubs and businesses have been approached for brochures, etc. about the sports and they are hoping that a couple of talks from practitioners can be arranged.

## LIAISE

**Want a job ?  
Need new staff ?**

Liaise first - the ALIA  
NSW Branch employment service.

For permanent and temporary  
library staff in the Sydney  
metropolitan area.

**Call Jo-anne Fuller on  
(02) 906 6000.**

## ELISS: NSW Group essay competition

Professionals and students of librarianship throughout Australia are invited to enter the ELISS (ALIA Education for Library and Information Services Section) essay competition. The topic should examine the continuing impact of information technology on the education and training of information professionals. An aspect or specific area from the following might be analysed — CD-ROM, library networks, database design, database creation and use, management information systems, local databases, or some other topic negotiated with ELISS.

The essay should reflect the practical application of published material and should not be confined to broad generalisations. Clear, rigorous analysis is preferable to historical treatment or recounting the sequence of events. Issues raised in essays should be considered from a balanced viewpoint.

The competition is open to any interested persons. One award of \$500 will be made, presented during ALIA '92 at Albury. The winning entry will be published. Previous essays have been published in the EFLA Journal and were

strategic in the professional development of the writers.

The work should be within 6000-10 000 word range, original and not part of any longer writing. Entries should be in the hands of the group secretary no later than 31 March 1992.

For further information on the essay competition, contact: Judith James, School of Information Studies, Charles Sturt University — Riverina, PO Box 588, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2560, telephone (069) 22 2597, fax (069) 22 2733. □

## After the conference Impressions of *Achieving Excellence*

The 4th Asian Pacific Special and Law Librarians Conference with the 9th Biennial Health Librarians Conference is over. Over 820 librarians and information specialists attended, including some 60 trade exhibitors. For the first time there was a large contingent of delegates from the Pacific region and two of the keynote speakers were from Asia.

Aside from the overall quality of papers and the excellent trade exhibition, some highlights of the conference were Margaret Trask's keynote paper on *Leadership* and Peter Ellyard's stirring lecture on *The preferred future*. The Special Librarians enjoyed the enthusiasm and fluent presentation style of Delia Torrijos and Kim See Ch'ng. The Law Librarians are

still debating who they enjoyed most, Kathleen Price, Betty Moys or Harry Martin. The Health Librarians rave about Guy St Clair, who not only gave an exciting keynote address but also spoke at the Health Dinner.

The sponsored Pacific delegates commented on how useful the conference was for them. Many seem to have been led astray by one of Hills Hotline reporters (no names) and a great time was had by all. A big thank you to the Canberra librarians who billeted these overseas delegates and showed them around.

Other social events, beside the official dinners, included the great opening function which featured a Maggie Shepherd fashion parade. Canberra's fine

restaurants proved for the out-of-towners that there is life in Canberra after all.

The trade exhibitors commented favourably on both the quality of the exhibition hall and the number of delegates visiting the stands. A number I spoke to said that this is the best library conference that they had been to in ages.

Unfortunately we proved yet again that large numbers of librarians and information specialists cannot read or perhaps you missed the daily announcements or the Hills Hotline before journeying out to libraries on visits that could not be. Apologies to those who made unsuccessful trips to libraries that cancelled at the last minute.

The Conference Committee firmly believes that this conference did live up to its theme. A suggestion for improving the quality of non-keynote speakers is a proposed award for the best conference speaker within this category at the Brisbane Conference in 1993. Any suggestions should be sent to the new National Executive in Brisbane.

Kay L Winter

Overseas Delegates Coordinator □

*Some of the overseas delegates, from PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and UK, with Jacqueline Elliott (Law Program Coordinator) and Dianne Roberts (Hills Hotline).*



### Who knows?

A member has asked if we can complete the quotation: 'A book without an index is like a — without a —.' Does anyone know what it is and where it comes from? No prizes, but if appropriate we may publish a selection of the correct and/or witty answers. □