

Direct Line



Sue Kosse
Executive
Director

At this time of the year, staff in the National Office are busy preparing budget, policy and planning papers for the last General Council meeting of the year. This follows closely on the heels of the Board of Education, Executive Committee and ALIA Press Board meetings held in October and September respectively, and all of which had most extensive agendas to cover.

For two new staff members, Jennefer Nicholson, Membership Services Manager, and Elaine O'Leary, Publications Officer, this was their first experience of Association meetings, and they had their first opportunity to meet with the members of the respective Boards to whom they provide support.

During August, we were very pleased to welcome back to work Helen Mandl, the Division Support Officer, after 4 months of sick leave. August also saw the departure of Tom McKeon, the Industrial Information Officer. Tom had made a most valuable contribution to the Association during his 2 years of employment, as he worked to ensure that the Association kept abreast of the myriad of changes coming through the Federal government's policies on award restructuring, structural efficiency and training. We all wish Tom every success in his new position with Charles Sturt University.

A new Industrial Information Officer, Susan Ainsworth has been appointed to the National Office. Susan will commence work on 9 December 1991.

With the last quarter of the year comes membership subscription renewals. This year an attempt has been made to simplify the forms so as to enable members to renew their membership with as little effort as possible. To this end, freepost is also being used. The renewals are being distributed in the last week of October, and we would welcome members' comments on the revised forms.

The need to process the renewals on the aged Datapoint computer has not allowed us to streamline the renewals as

much as we would like; however 1992 may see a change to this position. A proposal is being put to the November meeting of the General Council on an approach to replacing the membership software and hardware. The accounting and word-processing functions have already been removed from the Datapoint and placed on a Local Area Network of personal computers. Andrew Eggleton, the Financial Services Manager, is currently completing the establishment of accounts on this system. Already staff in the National Office have achieved considerable increases in efficiency through the introduction of the LAN of pc's.

The last quarter of 1991 may also see some interesting developments with two Federal Government Reports.

During the last quarter of 1991 we hope to complete the last phase of approvals for the Association's revised constitution. The most recent round of discussions with the approving body, the Department of Administrative Services, has led me and the Association's solicitor to delve into the last 15 years of Association history to justify and explain the proposed changes to the by-laws. Twenty-two pages of explanation later we believe that we have satisfied their need for information! December 1991 may see the end of this very long process.

The last quarter of 1991 may also see some interesting developments with two Federal Government Reports. The first of these is the *Report of the Inquiry into Australia as an Information Society*. The first part of this report, *Grasping New Paradigms*, has been referred to DITAC for response, and the second, *The role of libraries/information networks*, to DASETT for response. The Association has established a committee to develop the concept of using the report as a starting point for wider consultation with the information industry on information policy for Australia. This could result in a national conference of stakeholders in the information industry.

At a recent meeting with the National Information Technology Council, it was made known that DITAC was using the Information Industries Roundtable (IIR) for

information industry consultation on the first part of the report. I have made an approach to IIR to join with the Association in undertaking this wider consultation. This will be considered by IIR on 6 November.

Consideration is also being given as to how best to progress the second part of the report. Both DITAC and DASETT have 6 months to respond to the reports.

At a dinner meeting with the Minister for Higher Education and Employment Services, the Honourable Peter Baldwin, discussion focused upon the Finn Report, *Young people's participation in post-secondary education and training; report of the Australian Education Council Review Committee*. It is clear that there is very considerable interest within the Federal Government in restructuring TAFE, and the Minister was most interested in the views of the Board of Education's Executive Committee on both TAFE training for library technicians and libraries. This issue will be considered at the Association's General Council meeting in November. A further meeting will be organised with the Minister later in the year to follow up on these discussions.

If members would like further information on any of the above matters, please telephone me on (06) 285 1877 or (008) 02 0071.

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