

Quality meat

This is a short note to tell you how much your efforts in producing a quality 'newsletter' are appreciated. It is certainly one of the best I have seen in any subject area.

It is a pity though that it is not indexed by any of the databases because it has a lot of 'meat' in it.

Moosh Dua, Vic

Spawned, spurned and spurred on

Before my term in office as National President for 1994 I contributed to the debate held during the Section's AGM at the 7th National Library Technicians Conference by stating my belief that as members library technicians should not be deprived of the highest award offered by the Association. I have so far chosen to remove myself and the National Group from the public debate however as it seems that the debate is going to continue for some time and particularly as the letters in this column are becoming more offensive, I think that the time has come to make comment.

In his keynote address to the first national workshop on the guidelines for the education of library technicians, Watkins said that 'library technicians have specialist skills and expertise beyond the capacity of the professional librarian' (Watkins, *N Middle level education and its implications for library technicians courses* 'Guidelines for the education of library technicians: report of the national workshop

Melbourne 24-27 May 1976' Melbourne, Library Courses (Vocational) Standing Committee 1976 pp.5-6) and I believe that to be true. Library Technician members are different to, but just as professional as, Associate members and they are quite capable of meeting the criteria laid down for the award of Fellow. I have been particularly offended by some of the letters in this column, but more so by the words of Borchardt (27 May 1994) about the 'Councils shameful decision to degrade professionalism' by allowing library technicians to become Fellows. I wonder if our detractors were so heated in opposition to the acceptance of library technicians as members of the Association!

Library technicians were spawned by the profession in order that librarians could be freed to manage and develop services. They were welcomed into the ALIA fold as a means to developing a collegial relationship with professionals. Now they are being spurned publicly by some professionals and their supporters, of whom there are many, are not making public comment.

The role of the professional will only be enriched and enhanced (and thereby 'respected') with the support of library technicians, and the development of library and information services relies on the quality of the relationship between the professional and the paraprofessional. The General Council as a whole sees the importance of that

relationship. Hopefully, library technicians will not only see this but will be spurred on to demonstrate that they are highly appropriate recipients of the award.

Jean Bailey, President, Library Technicians Section ■

ALIA welcomes new members

We welcome the following new members who joined the Association in July and hope that they will speedily become involved in our activities:

New Associates

Shirley Birrell
Adrienne Dietrich
Frances Deland
Dimitria Dess
Monica June Dixon
Kathryn Gardner
Judith Lynne Hanlen
Francesca Higgins
Elizabeth Anne Kloeden
Carolyn Louise MacVean
Jennifer McInerney
Jennifer Mee
Patricia O'Dwyer
Pauline Roberts
Keren Sutcliffe
Carolyn Wakefield

New Technicians

Piphal Engly
Julie Forrest

New Members

Gerardine Antram
Caroline Baker
Roslyn Bellew
Jenny Cameron
Grace Canazza
Kathleen Faulkner
Jane Gornall
Christina Hellard
Jeffery Herd
Elizabeth Kamphuis-Gall
Leo Lynch
Suzanne McGill
Ian McTaggart
Alison Miles
Ilona Nunis
Anthony O'Brien
Karna O'Dea
John Pawlenko
Margaret Phillips
Jennifer Proctor
Stephen Shortis
Lise Summers
Clare Tuohy
Susan Wallman
Therese Watson

Vital link update

Health Libraries Section – National Group

President: Mr Ian Stubbin, Prince of Wales Hospital Library, High Street, Randwick NSW 2031, Ph: (02) 399 4902, Fax: (02) 398 9782

Secretary: Ms Virginia Staggs, Senior Librarian, Concord Hospital Library, Hospital Road, Concord NSW 2139, Ph: (02) 736 6936, Fax: (02) 736 6707

Treasurer: Ms Toni Silson, Librarian, Lady Davidson Hospital, Bobbin Head Road, Turrumurra NSW 2074, Ph: (02) 488 0180, Fax: (02) 449 6973

Newsletter Editor: Mr Grahame Manns, 90 Darley Road, Manly NSW 2095, Ph: (02) 977 8642

Preservation of Library Materials

Contact & Newsletter

Editor: Mr Alan Howell, Mr Howell is the only contact for this SIG, his details stay the same Remove: Secretary/Treasurer and Convenor

Tasmanian Branch

Secretary: Ms Kate Hodgson, PO Box 764, Sandy Bay TAS 7005

Kate is also the Tasmanian Local Presence Coordinator

Please forward all changes to *Vital link* to Ms Stacey Hilyard at National Office.