

No problem at all, but...

With reference to the Western Australian commitment to free at the point of use public libraries, Trevor Wakeley (*inCite* Feb 1995) asks just what is the problem?

Trevor, of course, is right. There is no problem at all if: you know nothing of library history, and thus cannot possibly learn from its lessons; you do not have strength of purpose to fight for the modest additional funding required to ensure that the intellectual resources of public libraries remain free at the point of use for all individual Australians — and without being subjected to a means test; and you have no commitment to equity and social justice.

There is *one* problem though. The historian fifty years hence might just conclude how ironic it was that the biggest threat to the free public library was from people who, in becoming library managers, had forgotten they were librarians.

Alan Bundy, SA

Public vs school libraries

I would like to comment on some remarks made by Jan Gaebler in her *Front line* article, March 1995.

Jan writes: 'It is time we started acknowledging that our teacher librarians are the foundation stone for all library user groups. That first introduction to libraries via the primary or secondary school has an irrefutable tendency to imprint lifelong user patterns — those of our future library users.'

As a public librarians and ex-children's librarian, I found myself a little taken aback by these comments. Surely the foundation stone for library user groups is the public library, as they actively target and provide programs for pre-school children and their parents, reaching a large percentage of children in the critical formative years before they attend school.

Whilst I agree that teacher librarians play an important role during the school years, it is the public library that

is establishing trends in library usage by reaching people of all ages. Public libraries are making library use an important component of a well rounded life.

I can sympathise with the difficulties teacher librarians are facing due to dwindling resources. And I have first hand experience of the effect that this has on the public library.

When school library resources are limited or stretched to capacity, where do the children go? Straight to the public library. Community expectation, rightly or wrongly, is that it is the public library's responsibility to 'fill in' for inadequate school library resources, often extending to supporting tertiary studies as well.

I agree that all sectors of the library field have their own unique and distinct roles and clients to satisfy, but the public library is at the beginning and end of library usage in the community.

Leonie Bruhn-Howard, Qld

ALIA welcomes new members

In the February issue of *inCite* we omitted some people who joined the Association in December. We also welcome the following new members who joined the Association in March and hope that they will speedily become involved in our activities.

New Associates

Verna Aslin NSW
Esther Beale QLD
Patricia Brooks SA
Beryl Colley NSW
Lisa Dorney QLD
Fiona Emberton QLD
Fran Grant SA
Barbara Griffith NT
Kathryn Hedemann QLD
Prudence Hughes NSW
Bronwyn Huitfeldt QLD
Chitra Karunanayake NSW
Ann Keast NSW
Helen Kwaka SA
Yuk Fun Lam VIC
Lyndall Lander NSW
Chi Keung Lui VIC
Julie Mackenzie SA
Jennifer Martin QLD
Ka Shing Ng VIC
Wendy Patrick NSW
Camille Peters WA
Lan-Giao Pham VIC
Caroline Ramsden VIC
Laura Rayner ACT
Christopher Robertson QLD
Kenneth Scott QLD
Cherie Smith TAS
Nola Smolders VIC
Helen Thomson VIC
Barbara Thorsen QLD
Rebecca Wallner WA

New Technicians

Susan Charik NSW
Karen Conway NT
Jan Ellis NSW
Patricia Fields NSW

New Members

Sue Aidenton WA

Barbara Alexander WA
Christine Ashley SA
Steven Bagshaw NSW
Helen Bootes NSW
Susan Brunner SA
Geoff Chamberlain NZ
Hong Han Chan WA
Stephanie Clark NT
Therese Dahl QLD
Tracey Dourlay NSW
Heather Durant VIC
Josephine Eva-Laretive NSW
Joanne Evans VIC
Debra Fischer VIC
Kerriann Fisher WA
Marilyn Fraser SA
Anne Galligan QLD
Leonie Garner SA
Melissa Gavenlock NSW
Vanessa Giorla NSW
Jennifer Harder NSW
Jason Jackiw SA
Simon Jacks VIC
Karen Kearney VIC
Norma Keily SA
Kathy Kish NSW
Clifford Law ACT
Mikaela Lawrence SA
Stephanie Littlejohn TAS
Kong Kong Liu NSW
Christopher Lomax NSW
Jane Mackay-Clift VIC
Bronwynne Maher NSW
Josephine McPherson VIC
Swinitha Nawana SA
Irina Nisina VIC
Christine O'Connell NSW
Barbara Old VIC
Valerie Paget SA
Louisa Pert VIC
Kathryn Prescott VIC
Angela Randall QLD
Joanna Reid NSW

Elizabeth Richardson QLD
Bronwyn Russell VIC
Claire Saunders NSW
Men Ye Anita Siu VIC
Judith Smart NSW
Sonia Smirneos VIC
Kerry Snelgrove NSW
Nola Solly SA
Melba Spittle NSW
Meagan Stewart VIC
Alexandra Storm ACT
Maree Tambasco VIC
Urbana Tarona NSW
Heather Voskuyl NSW
Jeanette Williams NSW

Congratulations to those members who have upgraded their membership

Upgrade to Technician

Denise Gorski VIC
Robyn Graham WA
Ruth Jones NSW
Kathryn King SA
Carolyn Leesong NT
Darren McDowell ACT
Cheralyn McGrath VIC
Lorna Watson USA

Upgrade to Associate

Trinidad Allom NT
Jennifer Andrewartha WA
Mary Barthelemy NSW
Bill Barton QLD
Astrid Beeston NSW
Irene Bonella NSW

Lajos Bordas NSW
Peter Brook NSW
Claire Saunders NSW
Jenny Cameron VIC
Brendan Carter QLD
Nhon Thi Dang QLD
Peter De Beuzeville NSW
Stephen De Silva WA
Wendy Eyles QLD
Merise Feneley NSW
Edith Fry Western Samoa
Bruce Greenhalgh SA
Margaret Hall WA
Pamela Handyside NSW
Anita Haniford TAS
Christina Hellard VIC
Bruce Hopkins VIC
Norman Horne NSW
Andy Karas QLD
Gail Macqueen NSW
Kylie McIntyre NSW
Pamela Menadue SA
Julie-Ann Milne NSW
Rachel Montalto VIC
Judith Newland ACT
Mary Novello QLD
Wanda O'Donoghue ACT
Puay Cheng Pang VIC
Vera Pohl VIC
Kimberley Porteous QLD
Haridian Ramirez NSW
Rosalina Rasing NT
Jennifer Read VIC
Francoise Rodrigue NSW
Patricia Ryan SA
Geraldine Ryder SA
Matthew Scholten NSW
Delma Simpson QLD
Lisa Southall WA
Meagan Stewart VIC
Kathryn Walker NSW
Catherine Walpole TAS
Suzanne Waring TAS
Angela Yam NSW