## A very productive couple of days...

eneral Council met in Canberra on 18 and 19 July. Items for this meeting were wide-ranging, and following is a brief report on the meeting. More detailed information is available from your General Councillor or from ALIA National Office.

The purchase of a new membership database management system was approved. This system will allow greater flexibility in reporting on our membership base, provide greater efficiencies in ALIA National Office, replace additional databases currently in use and provide an interface with the Association's financial package. The new database system will be 'live' in time for the 1997 renewal period. As part of the conversion process complete member records will be sent out with renewals this year and members will be asked to check their details to ensure that they are correct.

At the meeting discussion took place about ALIAnet matters and its continuing place within the Association. It was agreed that General Councillors would pursue Branch executive officers to prepare home pages for publishing on ALIAnet, in order to facilitate better communication. The draft *Strategic plan* prepared by ALIA National Office was discussed. It was agreed that more input was required on the 'areas of strategic focus'. Each Branch has been invited to consider the critical issues that they believe are facing the profession, and provide a short structured statement to ALIA National Office by the end of September. These responses will be synthesised and distributed to General Councillors for further consideration prior to the next meeting. The *ALIA framework for continuing professional development* will now be available to member and non-member Institutions at a differential rate.

General Council agreed that all new membership certificates should include a statement to the effect that the certificate is valid only while the bearer remains a personal, financial member of the Association. General Council also determined that this decision should be communicated to members, reinforcing that only personal financial members of the Association are entitled to use post-nominal letters.

The telephone survey undertaken by Branches of unfinancial members of the Association was discussed, with many Branches reporting that the exercise was useful, but difficult. Branches have been asked to document the pros and cons of the process and recommend any changes that they feel may be necessary.

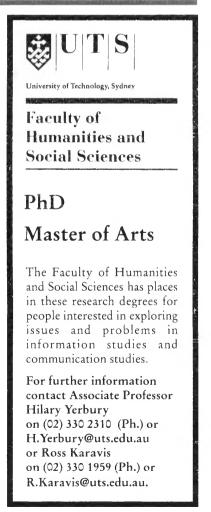
Membership fees for 1997 were agreed to at this meeting incorporating a rise in line with CPI of four per cent. General Council reaffirmed its belief that the current fee level for overseas members is appropriate.

A report from the ACT Branch on the development of a marketing plan for the profession was discussed, the secondary research component has been agreed to by General Council and will begin shortly, with support from the Executive Committee of General Council. A more detailed proposal and recommendations on the second stage (primary research) should be prepared for presentation to a later meeting.

It was resolved that Voucher-only members of the Association will be required to hold a separate membership for each office/site. General Council asked the National Office to provide further information on the financial implications for Institutional members with multiple offices/sites for the November meeting.

The Association's policy statements





continue to be reviewed with three being ► amended following Division comments at this meeting. Copies of the Statement on part time work. Statement on information as a commodity and its importance to economic development and the Statement on the role of libraries and information centres in library and information studies education will be included in the 1996 Handbook. The Statement on the role of librarians and library technicians was referred to the September meeting of the Board of Education, with Jenny McCarthy, as the General Council representative, to take carriage of the process. A proposed new policy statement, Statement on workplace reform was considered, and copies have been circulated to all Divisions for comment prior to further consideration at the November meeting.

Draft guidelines for the provision of Home Library Services were discussed at this meeting. It was agreed that these and other services provided by public libraries should not be separated from the overall operation of public libraries. The executive director advised the meeting that a special teleconference was being set up to discuss the revitalisation of the Public Libraries Section (National Group). The question of guidelines will be referred to this group.

Two Fellowships of the Association were awarded at this meeting, the recipients being Dr Andy Exon from Western Australia and Angela Bridgland from Victoria. It was noted that no nominations had been received for the ALIA Library Technician of the year Award for 1996. General Council awarded the 1996 ALIA Manager of the Year to Clare Body from the Bureau of Meteorology Library in Victoria.

A report on Australian Library Week 1996 was tabled at the meeting. It was noted that the introduction of the management and consultative committees had worked extremely well. 1996 was the first Australian Library Week to be the subject of a publicity/media analysis which revealed that the Association received \$81 364 worth of publicity in advertising dollar terms, most of it free of charge (see story p29). Regional activity was high, with the two highest scoring States in terms of publicity being NSW and Queensland. Further information on Australian Library Week can be found in the July and August issues of inCite.

The Mobile Libraries Special Interest Group was dissolved by Special Resolution at this meeting.

A report on the feasibility of National Sections having greater involvement in General Council was tabled. It was agreed that all National Sections will be included in the General Council portfolio system in 1997, that National Sections would be treated as Branches for the purpose of information dissemination and that all Divisions would be asked to provide more information on planned activities at least once each year.

The ALIA/ACLIS strategic review was further discussed at this meeting. It was determined that the review was an important opportunity and should be pursued. It was resolved that ALIA, together with ACLIS and the National Library of Australia, commission a strategic review of the future coordination and representational needs of the library and information community and that General Council authorise the executive committee to negotiate terms of reference and management of the project that best reflect the key interests of ALIA Members.

