Cover story

Your 1996 General Councillors

Helen Tait   Kerry Smith   Jan Gaebler   Kay Poustie   Joye Volker   Craig Grimison

Helen Tait is a 'new Australian', having come to Melbourne in 1993 from New Zealand, where she had worked for twenty-two years in local government management positions, initially in libraries and most recently in a general management role in Auckland City.

Her contacts with the Australian library profession began in 1976, travelling on an ANZAC fellowship, and were maintained through roles on the organising committees of the first two joint conferences: Christchurch 1981 and Brisbane 1984. She had an active involvement with NZLIA, including 11 years on council and was president in 1985. She was also active for some years on the IFLA public library section. In a former life Helen was heavily involved in organising international ski races and in skiing administration.

Kerry Smith has been involved with ALIA since the day of her last librarianship exam when she went along to the 1982 Specials WA Christmas drinks 'to meet a few people' and wound up on the committee!

Kerry lectures at Curtin University, mainly in the areas of information services management. Her experience as a librarian and information manager for the mining and petroleum industries renewed her interest in scientific and technological in-

ALIA's direction and focus are determined by an elected General Council, the policy-making body of the Association. Elections are held yearly to determine the composition of General Council, which is composed of ALIA members from each state and territory. This therefore allows for representation from all areas and ensures that all views and interests are represented in the decision-making process.

Get to know your General Councillors. They voluntarily work on *your* behalf — to represent *your* views in the pursuit of objectives determined by the membership. To assist members of ALIA in communicating with the current elected councillors, here is some inside information about the interests, pursuits and ambitions of our 1996 General Councillors.

formation, so much so that she recently completed her MA in science and technology information policy: a PhD is in the pipeline.

In her spare time she is a local government councillor where she presses the issues of libraries and of the environment. She rarely gets the time to garden and looks forward to practising on her recently-acquired piano.

After serving as ALIA president last year, **Jan Gaebler** is now in her third and final year on the General Council. Jan hopes that she can contribute continuity to the initiatives and existing business of the Council in 1996, to ensure that our Council is productive, efficient and responsive to the membership at large.

Jan met a multitude of members throughout last

year and witnessed a forceful league of people who are making a vital contribution to promoting and leading the profession at the grassroots level.

Jan would like to see us become less prone to 'compartmentalising' and segregating members by sectors, and welcomed the move by the public and reference groups to have a combined conference in 1997.

Kay Poustie is the current chair of the Board of Education and is serving her sixth year on the Board. Her 'other' job is city librarian of the City of Stirling libraries in Western Australia.

Kay has been involved in ALIA as branch president and as chair of the finance committee of the 1990 biennial conference, and is cur-

rently treasurer for the Public Libraries WA section.

Her work with the Board of Education continues to be demanding but most rewarding. Through the work of the Board Kay has a much greater appreciation of the work of educators and the role of government policies in the changes impacting on our profession.

However, the greatest benefit of working with ALIA has been the people she has met and worked with over the years.

Joye Volker is the institute librarian at the Australian National University Institute of the Arts, managing a music library and a visual arts library with a focus on performance and practice. Arriving from Canada in early 1977, she first worked in Australia as a senior librarian at the ANU Library.

Joye has a strong interest in electronic imaging and networking strategies which provide an opportunity for blending her education in mathematics and her interest in music and the visual arts. Joye has developed the Institute of the Arts library web server, a vehicle for electronic publication for information about the Institute and electronic exhibitions.

When not working, Joye can be seen running around the hills orienteering, or keeping a keen eye on the under–15 boys cricket team that she manages.

Craig Grimison is currently chief librarian for the Australian Catholic University in NSW, a position he has held for over two years. Craig previously worked at the University of Wollongong, University of New England, NSW Department of TAFE and the Canberra College of Advanced Education in both reader service and technical services positions. Craig was awarded the Blackwells Scholarship in 1991–1992 and consequently spent six months in the United States as a management intern at Stanford University and the University of Pennsylvania.

Craig has been involved with ALIA since the mid 1970s in various capacities and was NSW branch president in 1995. He was also president of the New England Regional Group and the Distance Education Special Interest Group.

Kaye Bartlett, our Northern Territory councillor, is acquisitions supervisor at the Northern Territory University. She served as vice-president of the NT Library Technicians Group in 1993 followed by two terms as president. Kaye is the ALIA representative on the Course Advisory Committees at the Northern Territory University, and was the convenor of *Techs at the top*, the 1995 national library technicians conference held in Darwin.

Kaye is particularly interested in staff development for librarians and library technicians in remote areas, Aboriginal employment and training issues, the implementation of competency standards, enterprise bargaining issues, and improving the lobbying skills of members. She is keen to promote library technicians within ALIA and the wider community.

Jenny McCarthy joined General Council in 1995 as the Queensland representative. Jenny joined ALIA in 1973, and has been involved in Queensland branch activities ever since.

In the late 1980s she was active in UCLS, serving as Queensland section president in 1989. Jenny is campus librarian, Kelvin Grove Campus of QUT. Prior to this she worked in the TAFE sector for 17 years, establishing and later managing the Queensland TAFE library network.

Jenny's experience in TAFE has given her a special interest in the needs of members working in remote locations and small libraries. She is also interested in supporting and encouraging new members to the profession and in continuing professional development opportunities. Jenny will be General Council's 1996 Board of Education nominee.

Di Booker is manager, Open Learning Information Materials Clearing House, at the Adelaide Institute of TAFE. Di's career in librarianship began in the Children's library at the State Library of South Australia.

She joined TAFE in 1985 and has held the positions of user services librarian at Kingston College and Adelaide Institute of TAFE.

Issues of access and equity in the provision of library and information services, and the empowerment of users through the acquisition in information literacy skills are seen by Di as the major concerns for the profession. Di was president of the South Australian Branch in 1991 and is conference convener for the ALIA biennial conference to be held in Adelaide in 1998.

Andy Smithies has a particular interest in education for the profession and has been a part-time teacher in the Graduate Diploma course since 1989 and the Library Technician course since 1981. Recently he has been involved in editing units for the new national curriculum of the library technician course and is keen to see technicians properly recognised in Tasmania.

Andy's current position is clinical librarian at University of Tasmania Library and he takes a close interest in special libraries, particularly health libraries, and their special challenges.

Involved with the ALIA Tasmanian branch for the past seven years, 1996 will be his fourth year on General Council. Andy would like to see more emphasis on ALIA/ACLIS co-operation: he believes that one strong voice for the library sector is an important goal.

Jane King is the Victorian General Councillor. She is in her sixth year on the Council and has held the financial matters portfolio on the Executive Committee for the past three years.

Until October last year, Jane was the director of Carringbush Regional Library. As a result of recent changes to Victorian local government, Jane (with a partner) is now joining the ranks of library and information management consultants.

She has been an active member of the Victorian Branch Council and the Public Libraries Section for ten years. Her professional interests relate to the future of public libraries and particularly to the development of service and performance benchmarks on a national level. Jane believes that links between similar associations should be closer to enable those working in the sector to speak more effectively for their professional future.

Jillian Beswick has been branch councillor in the Northern Territory and Western Australia, and committee member of RAISS and UCRLS. She is looking forward to being on General Council and representing Western Australian members. Her interests include ensuring the steady growth in ALIA membership, the ongoing development and access to electronic libraries and to the Internet, information literacy, and continuing professional development.

She is currently faculty librarian, education; and manager, external library services at the Edith Cowan University library. Prior to this, Jillian worked for ten years with the Northern Territory Library Service. Her professional experience includes working in a variety of areas: academic, state, public, community, TAFE and school libraries. ∎

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