

EDITORIAL

Thank you all for your favourable comments on the first issue of *Australian Law Librarian*. We are delighted with the feedback we have had and not a little relieved that you approve of the change! What I would like to see now is recognition that the *Australian Law Librarian* is a channel for you to voice your ideas and tell us all what is happening in your part of the country.

I have concentrated this issue on the publishers, as the more we know about their operations the better we will understand the background to our dealings with them. Besides that, the publishers have supported the ALLG for many years and their activities affect us all.

As you will see from Jane Ponting's column the Group is about to take an exciting step towards bringing the publishers and law librarians closer together. The formation of a Publishers Liaison Committee is long overdue. What do you think should be the Committee's main concerns? Personally, I would find the compilation of an annual price increase table for Australian legal publications invaluable. If you have any views

on this matter send them in for publication in the next issue.

The AALL has a Committee on Relations with Information Vendors. Kendall Svengalis is the editor of *The CRIV Sheet*, the Committee's official newsletter. He is an expert on the quirks of legal publishing in the US. His article, delivered at the Honolulu Institute on "*Collection Managment and the Frugal Librarian*" in July 1992, has plenty of tips for those who are trying to make their books fit the budget. With the end of the financial year coming up I hope you find it useful.

Thank you all again for your constructive and kind comments on our first issue. The Committee looks forward to receiving your contributions and suggestions.

Finally, do you know someone who wants to be National Convenor of the ALLG? Turn to the next page for the Call for Nominations, due in by 19 May 1993.

JACQUELINE ELLIOTT - EDITOR

NATIONAL CONVENOR'S NOTES

Slowly, but surely, the building of our national organisation continues! By the end of March 1993, six of the eight Divisions of the ALLG have, in accordance with the terms set at the 1991 Annual General Meeting, voted on the Constitution. In all cases, the Divisions agreed to accept the draft Constitution. The final two Divisions will be voting as this issue of the *Australian Law Librarian* goes to print.

As was to be expected with this process, several Divisions found that when it actually came "to the crunch", they were able to see room for improvement in the draft and suggested several logical and practical amendments. For example,

one such amendment was to move the interpretation section to the beginning of the document, and several Divisions agreed that the Group should not be tied to calling their official publication a 'newsletter'. I was happy with this outcome, in that none of these amendments affected the spirit or intention of the draft and, in accepting them, we have made considerable progress. Amended copies will be sent to each Division, to be made available to all members.

There are still areas in our Constitution which need further consideration and which I propose to include for wider discussion on the agenda for our AGM, which will be held during the

"*Creating Our Future*" conference in August. Three already identified areas are: incorporation, conferences, and continuity in international liaison. As we grow and expand our resources, the requirement to become incorporated will become more pressing. The way in which we continue to organise our conferences, and the management and distribution of any profits need tighter guidelines. Arrangements also need to be made to ensure ongoing liaison with other law library associations, for example in exchange of publications and delegates at conferences.

One result of the adoption of the Constitution is that a call for nominations for the position of National Convenor is included in this issue. This will ensure that all eligible members have the opportunity to be involved in the selection process. Nominees will be required to submit their intention to stand with a short statement about themselves. These will be published in the June issue of the *Australian Law Librarian* before a postal ballot is held. The results of the ballot will be announced at the AGM. I would encourage any interested members to put forward their nomination.

Arrangements are nearing completion for the establishment of the ALLG's Publishers Liaison

Committee. Terms of reference for the Committee have been drafted and I would, once again, encourage any members interested in participating in this group to contact me (03-344-8671) for further details. The Committee has the scope to become an important force in law librarianship, providing an active link to the vendors and maintaining surveillance on pricing movements.

Before Christmas, I received a suggestion that the ALLG develop a directory of audio/visual resources available nationally. This could be a useful project for one of the Divisions, or an interested member, to adopt in 1993. Again, I can be contacted for further details and may be able to provide some support in its production.

Finally, all Divisional levies for 1992 have been received, along with details of financial members, so we have an embryonic membership register. The levies have raised nearly \$900 and the ALLG can boast 436 members. I will be requesting each Division to forward the levy for 1993, due 1 April 1993, before the next conference. This will provide a useful foundation for supporting national activities.

JANE PONTING - NATIONAL CONVENOR

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

In accordance with the provisions set down under the ALLG's Constitution, nominations are sought for the position of National Convenor for the term September 1993 - August 1995.

Written notice of nomination should include the following details:

- name and signature of candidate;
- name and signature of proposer;
- name and signature of seconder;
- brief statement (no more than 150 words) of candidature including, for example, experience and ways in which candidate can work for the best interests of the ALLG.

Prospective candidates must be financial members of the ALLG at 30 March 1993.

Nominations should be forwarded to:

Jane Ponting
Library & Information Studies
Institute of Education
University of Melbourne
PARKVILLE VIC. 3052

by no later than 19 May 1993.