

TIP-OFF: News from the Executive Director

THE WEEK FOLLOWING Easter saw the gathering of the decision-making body of the Association – General Council. This two-day meeting was preceded by a meeting of the Executive Committee. Like all first meetings of the year, there were new faces, new ideas and new friendships.

It was particularly gratifying to see the Presidents of all Branches present as invited observers. During the two days there were sometimes as many as fifteen observers; hopefully this is an indication of the general interest in the welfare and progress of the Association. General Council particularly welcomed as observers Mrs Dorothea Brown, President of the New Zealand Library Association and Ms Helen Tait, Co-Convener of the 1984 Conference Committee.

A full report of the Council meeting will appear in the next issue of *InCite*; in this column I will preview some of the more exciting issues discussed. The stage was appropriately set by discussion centring on the role of the General Council and the Executive Committee.

For new Councillors the relationship between the two bodies may be a little unclear – this was an excellent opportunity to answer queries. Under our By-laws the Executive Committee has such powers as the General Council from time to time directs. To avoid any confusion, I will draw up a list of delegations of authority for the next meeting of Council.

The conduct and powers of the Annual General Meeting has been an almost endless topic for discussion. In preparation for the 1982 AGM, which will be one of the high points of the Conference, the Executive sought legal advice on the powers of an AGM over Council. The resulting opinion was that resolutions of an AGM are binding on Council. Accepting this advice could mean a considerable change in the operation of the Association. In view of this, a second opinion was sought which verified the first. This issue certainly made for lengthy and difficult discussion at the Council meeting, and I shall enumerate further on this in the next issue of *InCite*.

LAA conferences are always a topic for discussion and at the moment the Association has some plans under way for 1982, 1984, 1986 and 1988. To the great pleasure of the Northern Territory Branch, General Council resolved that the 1986 Biennial Conference would be held in Darwin.

Two topics to be considered by council in the future are – the role of the LAA and information scientists, and the legal responsibilities of librarians. These will be discussed at length at future meetings.

The subject of office accommodation was in the minds of most Councillors as a lot had happened since the previous meeting. The LAA has now purchased new premises in Jones Street, Ultimo. A full report of this will appear in the next issue of *InCite*.

These were only a few of the subjects discussed. The meeting was very long and the finish at 5 pm on Saturday was due only to the skilful chairing of the President. The next meeting will be held in Adelaide on Friday, 20 and Saturday, 21 August.

Susan Acutt
Executive Director

Latest news from LAA22

CONFERENCE ORGANISERS ARE delighted at the number of early enrolments. Could anyone who enrolled before their travel arrangements were completed, please notify Ellisservice (the conference organisers) of the final details. This is particularly important for those planning to have lunch at the University on Saturday, 22 August.

Enrolments made after 29 May will be subject to \$25 late fee, so please act promptly to avoid this! This will also help to ensure that you receive your choice of hotel and special study. This is particularly important where numbers for special studies are limited.

If you wish to take part in any of the sightseeing tours listed on page 10 of the Conference Circular, you should send \$20 with your registration, not the full amount as implied on the registration form.

Changes

The Special Study 'The librarian as manager in local government' (PU1) will now take place on Monday and Tuesday only.

In the parallel session 'Children, information and new technologies', John Cook will be joined by Bob Miller from the Educational Technology Centre in South Australia. In 'Outline public access catalogues and reader services', Ron Wehir has been replaced by Barry Martin also of the University of Melbourne. Bob Hogg of the Australian PLATO Services has withdrawn from the session, 'New learning resources', and a replacement is being sought.

Child-care and LAA22

Steering Committee members have investigated the availability of child-care facilities for delegates to LAA22.

The University of Adelaide, a major conference venue, has affiliated child-care services catering for children between three

Launching party for Directory of Special Libraries



The Canberra launching of the *Directory of Special Libraries in Australia* was held on 10 March in CSIRO Headquarters Conference Room. It was well attended by Canberra-based Special Librarians. Guests included Judith Baskin, President of LAA, Harrison Bryan, Director-General of the National Library of Australia, Peter Judge, O-i-C, CILES in CSIRO and Terry Holden, from CSIRO-DCR. CSIRO assisted greatly with the production of the Directory.

The editors at the Canberra launching presented Mr Bryan with the deposit copy which had been autographed by the editors and speech makers. The photograph shows Harrison Bryan receiving the Directory from Jean Geue and Heather Howard.

months and five years. Direct day time access to these facilities cannot be offered to conference delegates because the Centres are fully booked, with permanent enrolments on a full time or part time basis.

The Management Committee offers the following suggestions:

1) For evenings and weekends when the Centre is not open normally, its full facilities could be made available with trained staff rostered to care for children. Staff costs would be the only expense to be met by parents and this would be on a share basis.

The maximum capacity is 60 children, including up to 12 babies; that is up to about 18 months or needing cots. Children over 5 could be accommodated for these sessions.

2) During day-time sessions, if there is sufficient demand, a suitable room in the South Australian College of Advanced Education (City Campus) will be set aside as a child-minding centre. Situated between the University of Adelaide and the Festival Centre, it would be very accessible to delegates. Experienced staff, known to the Management Committee, could be employed and equipment, keys and other requirements would be loaned by the Centre. This arrangement would be limited to children up to five.

We wish to stress that this would be a *child-minding* rather than a full child-care program; that is a normal week's program

News from the Divisions

ACT BRANCH

Recruitment dinner

'Why be an April fool? Don't miss out on joining the Library Association of Australia.' A slogan along these lines was developed and posters distributed to libraries in the ACT, inviting members to bring a non-member to the ACT Branch recruitment dinner held on April Fool's Day in the Readers Lounge of the National Library of Australia.

The security attendants at the library had never seen anything quite like it before. Balloons and a fool-mobile arrived, followed by curries, enormous bowls of rice, jellies and fools (old English desserts) and three kinds of liquid refreshments. The garish jellies and the LAAmington HQ (built from vividly coloured lamingtons) were by far the most admired culinary works of art.

The Pie in the Sky (PITS) Theatre company sent Charlotte along as the jester. Fortunately for the security attendants' general state of health she changed into her costume after arriving in the building.

Susan Acutt, LAA Executive Director, was the guest speaker and gave a convincing address on the professional and economic benefits to be derived from membership of the Association. The dinner was attended by more than 60 people, a good proportion being non-members. The ACT Branch looks forward to seeing their names on the next membership printout.

Linda Beveridge
General Councillor-at-large.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES SECTION – NSW GROUP

The Annual General Meeting of the NSW School Libraries Section of the LAA was held on 23 February 1982 at Tempe Public School. Forty-three members of the section were present to take part in a brief general business meeting, to meet the members of the 1982 committee and to hear reports from our 1981 and 1982 Presidents.

The highlight of the meeting was a talk and slide presentation from Mr Nick Van Exter, Senior Government Architect, who has a particular interest in school libraries. Mr Van Exter showed slides of the exterior and interior of several new schools and explained the rationale for the position of the library within the school. He has worked closely with the Education Department Building and Research Group and is obviously convinced that libraries should be the focal point in schools.

Mr Van Exter was responsible for the development of the 'Homestead' library which has been used extensively in primary schools. He showed how the interior of these homestead libraries could be furnished and decorated to suit the needs of particular schools and locations. It was pleasing to see how, in spite of pressures for the production of purely functional buildings, the architects believe in the importance of atmosphere and aesthetics.

NSW BRANCH

The Editor of the *Australian Library Journal*, John Levett, was the guest speaker at the NSW Branch's Annual General Meeting in the Galleries of the State Library of New South Wales on 25 March, 1982.

In a lively and thoughtful address, Mr Levett traced the development and evolution of the *ALJ* and compared it with its counterparts from Library Associations of other countries. He discussed its editorial persuasion under successive editors and the manifestations of this not only in content, but frequency, format and appearance. This was followed by an evaluation of the present arrangement, with *ALJ* appearing quarterly and *InCite* issued fortnightly as a news and information publication.

One of the problems confronting the editor of a journal which is received by right of membership, is that of ascertaining how many of its potential readers actually read it. With journals to which separate subscriptions are required this can be more directly assessed. Mr Levett indicated that comments and criticism (and praise) of any aspect of *ALJ* are always welcome. He wondered, too, how many members read the *Journal's* editorial.

The majority of articles submitted to, and therefore, published in the *Journal* are of a report nature . . . 'How we do this in our Library' and so on. Mr Levett claimed that the profession requires that its members review current trends and practices and contemplate future paths of development. He regretted, however, the dearth of articles initiating new concepts in the profession as a whole and quoted MacLaughlin and Trahn's paper on job sharing as an example of this.

Mr Levett examined the relationship between the editor of *ALJ* and the Editorial Board, saying in conclusion that relations in general are harmonious. Some members of the audience, however, voiced their reservations about the need for an editorial board.

It was a thoughtful, thoroughly-researched, often provocative paper to which this summary does not do justice. The AGM was well attended by over fifty NSW Branch members and guests, who considered themselves fortunate to have been treated to such an excellent address.

NSW SPECIAL LIBRARY SECTION

The NSW Special Library Section meeting on continuing education held in the Dixon Galleries on 23 March was attended by a small number of members who benefited from the 'soiree' form and its consequent ease of interaction with the speakers – Carmel Maguire, Mel Weinstock, Marilyn Bryce and Mairead Browne.

Points discussed were the need of educators for feed-back from graduates in practice, the economics of costing courses, the acceptance and recognition of continuing education by employers, the concept of continuing education as an essential part of professional life.

'Specials' present particular problems with their wide ranging areas of interest and small units of staff where LAA programs must have a broad appeal.

Suggested approaches were the formation of discussion groups, audio and video packages, attendance at special units 'lifted out' from library school courses.

The meeting concluded that lip-service was paid to continuing education. It is important but institutions receive no support to provide it.

Joan Parker

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of activities would not be attempted, but children would be suitably occupied. Staff-child ratios would comply with child-care regulations.

Again staff costs for this would be met by participating parents on a share basis.

Delegates who wish to use either of these services should notify the Conference Organiser, Mrs Muriel Ellis, 81 Fullarton Road, Kent Town 5067 giving projected details of times care may be needed and the ages of children involved as soon as possible, but *no later than the end of July* so that preliminary arrangements can be made. Final details will need to be confirmed immediately before the Conference begins.



John Cook who will conduct one of the parallel sessions 'Children, information and new techniques' with Bob Miller.

Library Technicians and LAA22

Technicians will find many sessions to attract them. Special studies have been requested on the following subjects:

- 1) Automated cataloguing systems – Monday 23 August 2-4pm
- 2) Middle level management problems in libraries: how to recognise and resolve them – Tuesday 24 August 2-4pm
- 3) Library statistics: planning and collection – Thursday 26 August 11.15am-12.30pm.

It is difficult to select just a few items but the following sessions will probably be of interest to a large number of technicians and may also be good 'material gatherers' for those who are still studying.

- 1) Monday 23 August
 - a) Bibliographic and information networks for Australia
 - b) Library and information work: the employment situation
 - c) Joint use Libraries.
- 2) Tuesday 24 August
 - a) Children, information and new technologies
 - b) Censorship
 - c) Telecommunications
- 3) Wednesday 25 August
 - a) One bibliographic data base for Australia?
 - b) Challenges in childrens books
 - c) Community information networks
 - d) On-line access public catalogues and reader services.
- 4) Thursday 26 August
 - a) Library services in a multicultural society
 - b) Copyright
 - c) New learning resources: educational technology and the librarian
 - d) Staff roles in the '80s.

There will also be a dinner, an AGM and no doubt several impromptu lunches, theatre parties, tours etc, as well as the organised ones.

Reports on LAA22 from Anne Hazell, Julie Dow and Nancy Stanelis.