

DIRECT LINE



Sue Kosse, Executive Director

Members *are* ALIA

Bev Kirby and John Levett have raised an issue of critical importance to the Association—the delivery of appropriate and efficient services to members.

The Association over a long period of time has developed a range of services for its members and an infrastructure to provide these services. The national and local offices, and the ALIA computer are part of this infrastructure.

However, people join ALIA because of the benefits to them in supporting the objectives of the Association and in sharing the services developed for and provided to this exclusive group of people.

The General Council has recognised that the continued strength of the Association lies in its ability to meet its objectives in changing times, where needs and priorities constantly need to be reviewed, and where plans and strategies need to be developed, agreed to, and implemented.

In March 1988 the General Council resolved to undertake a strategic planning process for the Association; however this was delayed until after the relocation from Sydney to Canberra.

In 1990 Lynn Allen has given top priority to the Association's need to develop its strategic plan. The issue of services to members is one of the key factors being considered by Council in this plan. Each member of Council is writing a paper on a strategic issue. Christine Goodacre, the Tasmanian General Councillor, is writing a discussion paper on membership of the Association; while John Levett is writing a paper on the administrative effectiveness of the national office.

In 1989 I recommended to General Council a revised staffing structure for the national office to align staffing more closely with programs; and to replace the

main computer system. Both recommendations were supported by Council. The new staffing structure is now in place and the computer will be replaced by the end of 1990.

In line with the strategic planning process, the Association will need to re-allocate its resources to meet its new priorities and programs. The national office may change as a result of this process, but I see this as a positive change for the future of a strong Association and the staff of the national office are keen to participate in and implement the much needed strategic plan.

Your General Councillor, your Branch or Regional Group as well as national office staff, would welcome any feedback from members on new or amended services, priorities and programs.

Vonnie Young memorial award

Julie Barkman, Senior Librarian in the Sutherland Shire Libraries and Information Service, is the winner of the \$3,300 professional development award organised by friends and colleagues in memory of Vonnie Young.

Julie's research on the 'Recruitment and retention of specialist Children's and Young Adult Librarians in Public Libraries' is the basis for her thesis for the Master of Librarianship (Research) from the University of NSW, supervised by Dr Patricia Willard.

Julie, who has worked in local government public libraries for over 11 years including Dubbo and Wyong prior to Sutherland, will use the funds for postal surveys, interviews and case studies.

A report on the research will be published as a memorial to Vonnie who enjoyed life and encouraged others through professional contact and activities.



Julie Barkman

Creative leadership for Wollongong librarian

Felicity McGregor, Deputy University Librarian at Wollongong, has been awarded a scholarship to attend the Centre for Creative Leadership in North Carolina. The scholarship has been funded by the Centre and will enable Felicity to attend a Management for Commitment course in September 1990.

Established in 1970, the Centre was inspired by H. Smith Richardson, founder of the Vick Chemical Company. Richardson believed that enterprises fail because management loses the ability to recognise and adjust to new and changing conditions, and his Foundation has been a continuing supporter of the Centre.

As Deputy University Librarian, Felicity is responsible for Library staffing especially staff development. Over the past few years, she has developed performance appraisal mechanisms and has been responsible for the formulation of cohesive staff development programs. Her belief that library managers need to develop a broader aspect and longer view of their roles stimulated Felicity's interest in the activities of the Centre for Creative Leadership.

Recently, Felicity addressed the First World Congress on Action Research and Process Management, on the use of an action research model to implement change at the University of Wollongong Library. While in the USA, Felicity will visit several universities which have affiliations with the University of Wollongong.

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Correction

inCite 13, Feedback (p12): Cataloguers Section National Group Perth update.

Please note the correct contact telephone numbers for: President Helen Hoffman (03) 479 2923, Secretary Sue Clarke (03) 660 3107, and Treasurer Jean Tindall (03) 573 2445.