

People in The news

THE news from Monash University Graduate School of Librarianship is that RADHA ASMUSSEN will be on study-leave for the latter half of 1980. She will visit public libraries and library schools in Sweden and Germany. RICHARD STAYNER is leaving for a short visit to the United States and England on 6 June. The primary purpose of the trip is to attend the ALA Conference in New York. JEANETTE ROSENGREN, formerly Executive Director of Technilib, joined the School for 1980 as Tutor in bibliographic organisation.



Euan Miller . . .
Director SA Public Libraries

EUAN MILLER has been appointed Director, Public Libraries, South Australia — a new position created as a result of the Crawford Report which recommended major improvements in public library service in that State.

In this position he will be responsible for the implementation of a development plan which recommends the establishment of 99 libraries over a period of eight years as well as significant upgradings of existing services.

At present Euan Miller is Regional Librarian, Moonee Valley Regional Library Service in Victoria, a position he has held for the past six years after crossing to Australia from New Zealand.

He is noted for the new developments in library services to potential users he has initiated and encouraged in Melbourne.

He will take up his appointment on 4 August 1980.

Euan Miller is at present General Secretary of the Association.

ACK WARD, Chief Librarian, RMIT, has been appointed Deputy Chairman of CAVAL. He will be Acting Chairman during the absence on study leave of Professor Evan Williams, the Chairman, from June to October 1980.

JOHN LEVETT, Head, School of Librarianship, Tasmanian College of Advanced Education, will be Librarian-in-Residence at Warragul College of Advanced Education from 26 May to 6 June 1980.

Obituary

ROBERT DAVID WILLIAMSON, whose untimely death on 3 April 1980, has saddened his many friends and colleagues in the Australian library and information community is one of a relatively small group of lay people who have made a notable contribution to librarianship and information science in this country.

Born in August 1917 in Lithgow, NSW, and educated at Melbourne High School and Sydney Technical College, Bob had a long and distinguished career as a chemical engineer. Thirty-nine years' service with APM was interrupted by six years with the AIF during World War II, but during his time with the company he occupied positions in technical, production and management in mills located at Botany, Fairfield, Broadford, Maryvale and Head Office, Melbourne.

He was the first Australian to receive the Ignitia Award in Technology of the City and Guilds of London Institute in Chemical Industries Paper Technology in 1958. He was Australian editor of *Pulp and Paper International*, a member of the RACI, the Institution of Chemical Engineers, the Library Association of Australia, the Australian Writers Guild, and was an ordained Elder of the Presbyterian Church.

His interest in the provision of effective information services and recognition of the value and importance of these services was sharpened when he served as the industry representative on the Secretariat of STISEC. He went on to become Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Information Committee of the RACI, and served as a member of the Communications Systems Working Group (COSYWOG) of the National Library of Australia. He took an early retirement from APM to develop his own business and later to join with two colleagues to form the company TransKnowledge Associates, one of the first information bureaux in this country.

The Library Association of Australia will remember him especially, however, for the pioneering work he did with the Information Science Section of the Association. In company with others, Bob believed that there was merit in nurturing the growth of the new Section under the aegis of the LAA.

Bob Williamson was the driving force behind the creation of the Victorian Group of LAA/ISS. He called the inaugural meeting of the first working group on 14 September 1976, which led, in turn, to the formal creation of the



Bob Williamson . . . a pioneer

Group at its first open meeting on 16 February 1977, at which Bob was elected foundation President unopposed. He remained leader in all senses of the Victorian ISS until serious illness in mid-1979 forced him to relinquish the Presidency. His interest remained undiminished however, and he was still a member of the Committee at his death in March 1980.

Bob always stressed the need for co-operation between librarians and information scientists, and was eager to see the LAA develop into an 'umbrella' organisation which would both promote professional qualifications and provide full professional recognition for information scientists.

Bob Williamson had a number of rare personal qualities which may explain why few who came in contact with him were untouched or were not influenced by him in some way.

An extremely competent scientist, schooled and skilled in rational and logical thought he was also a gifted creative writer and a man of strong religious faith. A visionary, he was also the pragmatist, able to give practical expression to his ideas. A man of sensitivity and gentleness; he was also strong and resolute in pursuing what to him was the right course. He was a pioneer yet was both ready and willing to be guided by the experience of others.

Many members of the LAA have had contact with Bob since he became a member of the LAA, and all will mourn his death. We shall also remember with gratitude, however, the dedication he gave and the major contribution he made to his adopted profession.

Peter Dawe

Any ideas for the 1982 Conference?

IN August 1982 the LAA National Conference will be held in Adelaide.

The Program Subcommittee would like to hear from anyone with ideas and suggestions.

The theme of the conference *Challenge and Response* is deliberately broad in scope, and it is hoped that it will attract non-traditional, provocative and lateral suggestions as well as those considered proper for internal examinations of the profession.

The program planners see this call for ideas as the first step in a process of consultation and decision making over the next 15 months or so.

If you have any suggestions about topics for discussion and debate, and speakers for workshops and seminars, etc, please contact Anne Hazell, School Libraries Branch, South Australian Education Department, (08)

227 3209 by 30 June 1980.

The School Libraries Section representative on the Program Committee is anxious to get as many ideas as possible from school librarians so that the resulting program will be useful, stimulating and enjoyable.

Please forward any suggestions you have regarding: Themes or topics for lectures, discussions and workshops; People to speak and/or chair workshops; Whether you prefer lectures, workshops of small group discussions or what emphasis on each of these modes of communication interests you; What social activities you would like; and any other suggestions you wish to make.

Send suggestions to Maureen Nimon, Department of School Librarianship, Adelaide College of Advanced Education (City Campus), Kintore Avenue, Adelaide 5000.