

## VIEWPOINT

RECENTLY THE Association lost one of its senior office staff – the Industrial Officer, Brian Henderson. While we can rejoice for Brian in that he has found a new and challenging field to conquer, his departure emphasises the dependence our Association has on a competent, effective and dedicated central office staff.

Servicing an association of 8000 members is a task of some magnitude, particularly when the range of responsibilities covers not only catering to the needs of individual members and divisions, but also servicing the governing bodies and their supporting committees.

Despite the winding down and now the cessation of the Registration Examination, the demands on office staff continue to increase by the broadening of other activities through the Board of Education, continuing education, publications, industrial information service, etc. The immediate future will see the blossoming of some of these areas with for example the establishment of the Publications Board and the appointment of a Continuing Education Officer.

Growth in such areas is indicative of a healthy association; it also highlights the requirement for central staff to be adaptable to the changing needs of the Association. I have no doubt that the membership can continue to rely on a level of service which is responsive to the requirements of an association which is developmental, flexible and perhaps even innovative at times!

I feel it to be incumbent upon the Association to pass some comment on the service it has received from Brian Henderson over the past five years. Perhaps the majority of members have had little direct contact with Brian in that period. Yet I venture to suggest that few would not have heard mention of his name.

Those who have had cause to call upon Brian's services in his period as our Industrial Officer will be very much aware of his knowledge of contemporary industrial affairs, his sincerity of purpose and his thorough integrity in respect of personal approaches for advice or assistance. These traits Brian will take with him to his new position, but he leaves an Association which has gained enormously from his contribution and which is grateful for those years of service and sound counsel.

*Jim Dwyer, LAA President*

## Joy of chickens

THE Frankfurt Book Fair each year awards a prize to the work with the strangest title. Last year the prize went to an American book entitled *The Joy of Chickens* – a serious book on relations between men and chickens through the ages.

It edged out strong competition from *Entertaining with Insects*, *The Original Guide to Insect Cookery*; *Ex-Nuns: A Study of Emergent Role Passage* and *The Rape-Sponge Cucumber*.

The judges said: 'In a world of falling standards there is some comfort to be had from the panel's unanimous opinion that the general standard of incredibility has kept up remarkably well.'

The first annual winner was a Japanese title: *Proceedings of the Second International Workshop on Nude Mice*. Near-misses this year included: *Where Do Babies Come From and How To Keep Them There*; *How to Conduct a One-Day Conference on Death Education* and *How To Pick Up Women at Discos*.

*(From Forum)*

## Australian Joint Copying Project

THE PROJECT, known as the AJCP, is the world's oldest co-operative micro-filming scheme. Administered jointly by the National Library of Australia and the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, the AJCP copies, in Britain, records relating to Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific and South-East Asia.

To date the AJCP has produced nearly 6000 reels of film of official records copied at the Public Record Office, London, and nearly 1400 reels of microfilm copied outside the Public Record Office. The two series of film are known as the PRO series and M (Miscellaneous) series.

The aim of the Project is to make historical records readily available to researchers. Positive copies of the reels can be ordered from the National Library of Australia, where all negative master film is stored.

Finding aids to assist users of the reels take several forms. Many libraries hold unpublished detailed lists of the contents of the reels, but the user should first consult the *Australian Joint Copying Project Handbook*. Parts 1 to 7 were published between 1972 and 1976. Part 8 was published in December 1980 and is now available, at a cost of \$7.95, from the Sales and Subscriptions Unit, National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT 2600.

### New Accessions

Some unusual records have been added to the AJCP in the past year. They include records of the New Zealand and Australian Land Co, Bishop George Selwyn of New Zealand, journals of emigrants and settlers, letters of the missionary Robert Codrington, photographs of engravings of aborigines (1862), surgeon John Harris of Ultimo, collections copied at the House of Lords on 19th and 20th century Dominion politics, including those of Lloyd George and Beaverbrook, material on governors Sir Henry Loch and Lord Hopetoun, and memoirs of Andrew Holden, born 1886 in Tasmania, brother-in-law of Field Marshal Montgomery.

The largest M series collection filmed in 1980 was that of De La Rue Company, the firm which printed and supplied material for postage stamps, currency, passports, railway tickets etc, in most British colonies, including Australia and New Zealand, from the 1850s till the 1940s.

Major libraries will shortly receive an eight-page list describing new accessions. Other libraries and individuals may request copies of the list from the Principal Librarian, Australian Reference, National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT 2600.



## AUDIOVISUAL COMMITTEE NEWS

### How to get your money's worth from AV

1980 was a record year in terms of usage for the AV Section of Macquarie University Library, but the Special Collections Librarian, Bert Cornelius, is interested in quality of use as well as quantity.

Having searched vainly for an unpretentious, down-to-earth brochure to help teaching staff make the best use of their institution's AV dollars, he found it necessary to write his own.

The LAA's Committee on Audiovisual Services hopes that other librarians may be able to use Macquarie's brochure as a starting point for compilation of similar publications.

For a copy of the brochure send a stamped, addressed envelope to Bert Cornelius, Special Collections Librarian, Macquarie University, North Ryde, NSW 2113.

#### Cassettes at Newcastle

Non-book materials in NSW public libraries totalled 342,530\* items as at 31 December 1979.

Newcastle Region Public Library holds more than 22,000 cassettes – the largest collection of audio cassettes in NSW.

The collection began with 'Hear-a-Book' tapes presented by local Apex Clubs, and has been extended with the aid of special grants into the fields of music, children's literature and other subjects. Their popularity is indicated by the 140,000 loans issued last year, representing eight percent of the total 1.6 million loan issue. The central library alone issues more than 100 music cassettes each day.

Three different methods of organisation are employed to suit the type and use of the

cassettes. Each begins with the allotment of accession numbers.

Cassettes for the print handicapped, including the productions of 'Hear-a-Book', Australian Listening Library and the Royal Blind Society of NSW, are kept in closed access and accordingly are arranged by accession number. A separate block of numbers is reserved for the new four-track tapes of the Blind Society, and the symbols (4T) are added to the numbers for purposes of distinction. Some 200 persons with disabilities ranging from blindness to multiple sclerosis and illiteracy last year borrowed 5400 titles on 33,000 tapes from the collection of 1400 titles on 7600 tapes.

Music and most children's cassettes have the spools separated from the cases for display and selection purposes. The spools are issued when the cases are presented at the charging desk. Music cassettes are simply classed to the number 780 with letters following to indicate the type of music: the practice of music shops is followed to achieve 10 broad groupings. There are 13,000 music cassettes and 1700 children's treated in this way.

The third kind of arrangement occurs with the relatively few cassettes dealing with special subjects such as arthritis and foreign languages for the traveller, and with combinations of easy books and matching cassettes. These are placed in specially made dummy books and shelved among other books.

*Charles Smith*

Newcastle Region Public Library

\* Figure from NSW Public Libraries Division