

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1983

THE VICTORIAN BRANCH of the LAA hosted the 1983 AGM, held in the Glasshouse Theatre of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology on Thursday 15th September. Seventy-seven members attended, which was particularly encouraging for a non-conference year.

The highlight of the AGM was the presentation of the HCL Anderson Award to Mr Ira Raymond and the Redmond Barry Award to Mrs Barbara Sattler. These awards were conferred by the General Council of the LAA in 1982. Both recipients expressed their thanks to the Association for receiving these most prestigious awards.

The AGM accepted the 1982 Annual Report and the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet and appointed Coopers and Lybrand as the Association's auditors until the 1984 Annual General

VDUs in the workplace

IT WOULD NOT be too cynical to say that as certainly as visual display units are introduced into libraries, so will industrial action by staff just as certainly follow. That is, unless management has taken the time to adequately prepare the workplace and the staff for the introduction of these units.

Many physical and psychological effects have been attributed to the use of VDUs. While many of these claims remain scientifically unsubstantiated, the concern created in the minds of operators and potential operators is very real and management is well advised to plan in advance for the introduction of these units.

It is not possible to specify definitive requirements, but it is recommended that current Australian standards and guidelines prepared by such bodies as the national Health and Medical Research Council, be consulted for the latest information and advice. There are several inter-related factors which should be addressed for the smooth introduction of VDUs; in outline these include:

- **Environmental Factors**

- Air-conditioning
- Glare
- Layout
- Lighting
- Location
- Noise

- **Furniture and Equipment Factors**

- Chairs
- Desks
- Document holders
- Footrests
- Keyboards
- Screens

- **Health and Safety Factors**

- Posture (training in correct procedures)
- Pregnancy (redeployment)
- Sight (testing and remedial programmes)

- **Task Factors**

- Keyboarding speeds
- Maintenance routines
- Scheduling of work and breaks
- Variety of tasks

- **Software**

- Instructions
- Messages

Meeting.

Two notices of motion had been received within the prescribed time: 'That the LAA revise the membership fee structure so that a scaled-to-salary fee be levied which:

1. Includes membership and a subscription to *InCite*.
2. Provides for charging additional fees for membership of sectional and special interest groups.
3. Provides for charging subscription fees for LAA publications, including the *Australian Library Journal* (NSW Branch).

This motion was *lost* following considerable discussion.

The second motion from the Tasmanian Branch 'That the LAA modify the output format of membership lists to remove information on the salary ranges of individual members' was *carried*.

The President accepted a third motion as being within the scope of the meeting 'That General Council examine the implications of charging a basic membership fee and charge additional fees for membership of sections and special interest groups.' This motion was *lost*, however consideration will be given to this subject in a paper being prepared by the Executive Director on the 'Effectiveness of the present structure of the LAA'.

The Annual General Meeting *unanimously* passed an urgency motion 'That this AGM of the Library Association of Australia notes with deep concern the referendum concerning possible rescission of the NSW Library Act which is to be conducted by North Sydney Council on the 24th September, and affirms its continued support for the principles of free public library service'.

In the days following the AGM, the LAA issued a press release to the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian*, *The Australian Financial Review*, and a large number of suburban newspapers.

Following the close of the formal part of the AGM, the President, Barrie Mitcheson, presented a provocative Presidential Address on 'Whither libraries, whither the LAA?' Excerpts of this address will appear in a later issue of *InCite*.

Susan Acutt
Executive Director

BALLOT PAPERS

In the case of joint members where only one copy of *InCite* is received at an address where there are two members, please contact the LAA Head Office (02) 692 9233 to obtain further copies of the Ballot Papers.

Prompts

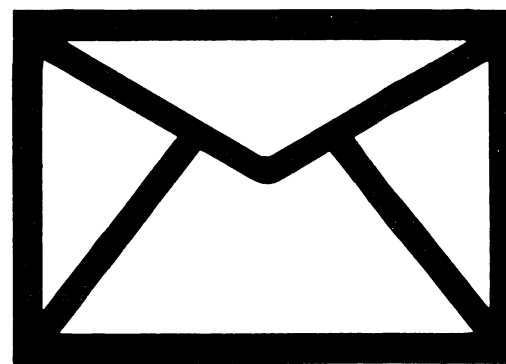
Response times

Not all of these factors are under the direct control of management. However, it is important that management is prepared to consider them and to establish policies relating to those environmental and safety aspects of the workplace which will promote organizational efficiency and employee well-being by creating safe, healthy and effective workplaces.

Louise Jones

*Member AACOBS/LAA Joint Committee on Information Technology

*At the meeting of the Joint Committee held on 24th June, one of the subjects addressed was the ergonomics of VDUs. The area is a very difficult one in which any statements made must be of a cautious nature. However, the Committee believes that it is important to draw the problems of implementing the use of VDUs to the library community's attention, stating that it is not an easy decision and that library management should research the subject thoroughly.



Australian Science Index

As readers of *InCite* may be aware, CSIRO is intending to cease production of the *Australian Science Index*.

We consider this to be premature and undesirable given the current coverage of other Australian databases. The following telex has been sent to the Minister for Science and Technology. We urge other libraries to similarly communicate with Mr Jones.

Mr Barry Jones
Minister for Science and Technology
Parliament House
CANBERRA

We have recently been informed of the cessation of publication by CSIRO of the Australian Science Index. This is most regrettable particularly as at a national seminar held at the Library of this Institute last November it continued production was strongly supported by librarians and other information professionals.

A review of the decision would be appreciated.

Alan Bund
Chief Librarian
Footscray Institute of Technology
Lyn Lan
Subject Librarian
Engineering and Science
Footscray Institute of Technology

With apologies

In answering one letter, I generated another (see *InCite* August 5).

Please, Katie Blake, accept my apologies and be assured that the implication was unintended.

Barrie Mitcheson
Institute Librarian
RMIT

Stanton stays free

EUPHORIA over Australia's win in 'that cup should not obscure another victory of much greater significance for library and information workers, and all those who use and value our freely available public library services.

Faced with a compulsory referendum question:

Should North Sydney Council revoke the Library Act 1939 in order that a scale of fees and charges can be levied for the use of library services?

Voters in North Sydney Municipality responded with an overwhelming NO — 18,300 in fact. (Note for the record 2,550 voted yes.)

We must not relax, however, thinking the battle is won for good — the same question is likely to crop up elsewhere, and in the word of Peter Tranter, retiring Deputy Mayor of North Sydney, what is needed is 'eterna vigilance'.

Don't miss out!
Information Management Workshops
See announcement on page 8