

LAA announces major changes

The General Council of the LAA met in Brisbane on 24/25 August, prior to the LAA/NZLA Conference. A full report will appear in the next issue of *InCite*, but I know that members will be interested to have immediate details of some major decisions made at the meeting.

The Council had already decided at the March 1984 meeting to hold 1985 personal fees at 1984 levels. After discussion the Council has now accepted a further recommendation of the Executive Committee, strongly supported by me as Executive Director, to amend this decision and lower all personal fees in 1985 by 5%. This decision recognises the concern expressed by members at our level of fees.

The financial implications of the reduction will need to be considered in relation to the 1985 draft budget and a revised version will be prepared for consideration at the December 1984 Council meeting.

General Council also considered and approved a recommendation that the restrictions on 'voucher only' membership be removed. In the past 'voucher only' membership has been available only to libraries with a staff and materials budget of under \$50,000 per annum. The removal of this limit means that all libraries will be eligible for 'voucher only' membership for an annual subscription fee of \$25. Full institutional members will be encouraged to continue their institutional membership and to take advantage of the benefits that this level of membership offers.

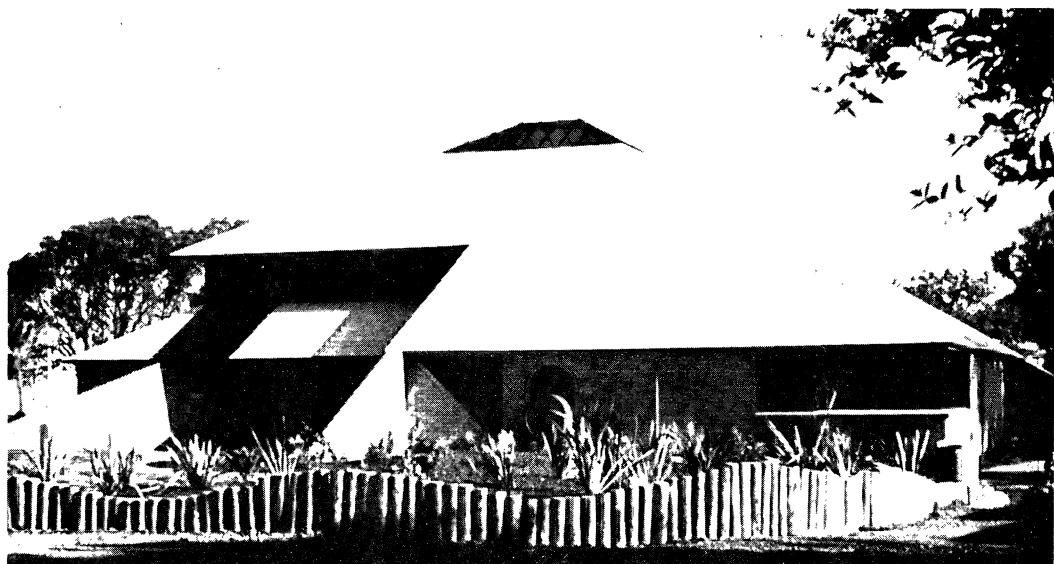
The structure of the LAA was also considered at the meeting and the decision was made to form a Corporate Plan and Review Committee to draw up a corporate plan for the Association up to 1989 and to carry out a thorough review of the Association and its activities. The Committee will be Warren Horton (as Past President 1985), Anne Hazell and the Executive Director and two further members who will be co-opted by the Committee. A broad range of members will be involved in carrying out various sections of the review which is to be presented to Council no later than the final meeting for 1985.

The terms of reference of the review are as follows:

1. To prepare a corporate plan for the Association for the years until and including 1989.
2. To review the present corporate structure and functions of the Association against the corporate plan and to advise General Council on the ability of the existing corporate structure and functions, including the deployment of the Association's labour financial and capital resources to meet the objectives of the Association, and
3. where appropriate to recommend to General Council alternative corporate structures and/or functions which would better meet the objectives of the Association.

The terms of reference highlight seven areas to be examined by the sub-committee.

Major design award goes to New Zealand



EAST COAST BAYS, Auckland, New Zealand: Winner of the 1984 Library Design Award for the most outstanding library entered.

On the first occasion that the Library Design Awards have been open to them, New Zealand libraries and their architects have won two of the three Awards for 1984.

The East Coast Bays Library in Auckland, designed by architects Dodd Paterson with Mrs Judy Hocquard, City Librarian, won the top award — a bronze medallion — for the most outstanding library entered.

The Canterbury Public Library in Christchurch, designed by Warren & Mahoney, architects with Mr John Stringleman, City Librarian, was awarded a citation.

The Mascot Branch Library in Sydney also won a citation. The library was designed by

Rippon Associates, architects, with Miss Veronica Young, Chief Librarian of the Randwick-Botany Joint Library Service.

The Awards are conducted by the Australian Library Promotion Council in association with the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. They are sponsored by Australia's largest school and library suppliers, Raeco Pty Ltd.

The Awards are given to the best architect-designed libraries in Australasia and were presented by Mr Alex Dix, A.O., Chairman of the Museum of Australia, on August 28 in Brisbane.

(i) Aims and objectives of the Association

The starting point of any review of the structure of the Association must be its published aims and objectives together with some assessment of the extent to which they are being met. Attention must also be paid to the possibility that aims and objectives other than those publicly acknowledged are being pursued.

(ii) Functions

The functions of the Association such as the publication program, the Board of Education, the various services for members need to be reviewed to determine whether structural changes are required to improve delivery of existing services and to meet new functional needs.

(iii) Finance

The finances of the Association are an integral part of any examination of the structure of the Association. The sub-committee will examine the way in which funds are raised, invested, and disbursed to achieve the Association's aims and objectives. The disbursement to Branches and Sections will be of particular importance.

(iv) Program/Activity Budgeting

General Council has endorsed the proposal for program budgeting in the expectation that this will give General Council and the membership-at-large a clearer idea of how funds are allocated among the competing functions and activities of the Association. The sub-committee will examine the need for program/activity budgeting to be used by the Association's Branches and Sections.

(v) Membership

Matters relating to membership of the Association, both categories and structure impinge directly on the Association's ability to raise funds. The present membership structure and fee levels must be examined.

(vi) Fees

Fees are an essential part of the review of the Association's membership categories and structure.

(vii) Role of the Executive Director/Executive Committee

Traditionally the Executive Director has been seen as the servant of the Association charged with carrying out the policy determined by General Council and

ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT



This column announces the fact that the new Industrial Information and Research Officer is now installed in the LAA Office and 'open for business'.

Having only been resident for three weeks, 10 days of which was spent at the conference in Brisbane, I am still finding my way in the job. However several immediate priorities have arisen:

- The work level standards committee is to prepare a new draft standards document for circulation and comment prior to the December meeting of General Council.

- In conjunction with Jan Cree, the General Councillor for NSW, I am to investigate the role of information scientists.

- Library technicians have raised a number of matters of concern which I shall be assisting them with.

Additionally, members have contacted me about a variety of individual problems and salary enquiries.

As the title implies, the position of Industrial Information Officer has been expanded to include a research function. This will encompass researching policy items and co-ordinating lobbying and the release of media statements and should be helpful to various

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the Executive Committee. The sub-committee will take into account other models, such as the ALA, where the Executive Director has a more dynamic role in the affairs of the Association. The role of the Executive Committee is interwoven with that of the Executive Director.

I hope all members of the LAA will see these decisions as symbolic of the attitude of change which exists in the General Council at the current time.

Jenny Adams,
Executive Director

groups within the LAA.

To a large extent, however, the actual work I perform will be dependent upon the wishes of LAA members. I met a vast number of members at the Brisbane Conference but realize that there are many thousands more who were not in Brisbane. I would therefore like to hear from any LAA member who feels that I could be of assistance to them. I have written to all LAA divisions informing them that I am available to speak to members whenever this is requested and I look forward to getting around the divisions to determine their needs.

Louise Lansley

Industrial Information and Research Officer

TALKING BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Royal Blind Society's Talking Book of the Year Award this year will be presented by Jill Wran, wife of the New South Wales Premier, at a dinner to be held on Wednesday September 26 commencing at 6.30pm at the Royal Blind Society auditorium in Mitchell Street, Enfield.

Aims of the Award are to highlight the importance of talking books to blind and print handicapped readers and to encourage a high standard of production.

The winning book is *Amirah: an un-Australian childhood* by Amirah Inglis, published by William Heinemann. The Talking Book version was narrated by Jill McKay in the Royal Blind Society's recording studios at Enfield.

It is the story of two-year old Amirah Gutstadt who was brought to Australia in 1929 with 'a first name no one could pronounce and a surname no one could spell'. Amirah's story provides insights into the frustrations and joys of a young Jewish migrant becoming an Australian.

The Royal Blind Society has been lending recorded books for almost 50 years and today over 3000 people borrow from the 3000 Talking Books titles now available. Multiple copies of each title are made. Every day, the free services of the library sends approximately 1000 cassettes to borrowers throughout New South Wales and the ACT.

People attending the Talking Book Award dinner will be invited to inspect the recording studios, the library and communications and aids rooms. Further information and reservations should be directed to Mrs Marie Peters on (02) 747 6622.

National Library feels the pinch

THE CHAIRMAN of the Council of the National Library, Dr A. J. Forbes, said recently that he was gravely concerned at some aspects of the Government's support for the National Library in the Federal Budget.

'The Library greatly appreciates the modest increase in staff which it has been granted,' said Dr Forbes. 'This will certainly go some way towards restoring appropriate levels of service in some areas. On the other hand the funds provided for the purchase of library materials have been kept at the level of last year, less the amount which the Library had proposed to allocate to the National Film Archive and the Sound Recording Collection.' He pointed out that at a time of continually rising prices, and especially of escalating increases in the cost of Australiana, this meant the Library would not be able to acquire sufficient materials this year either to satisfy its direct users or to supplement and support the services of other major libraries.

Dr Forbes commended the Government on its support of a growing number of national collecting institutions, including the recently established National Film and Sound Archive, but he emphasised that the Council of the Library was seriously disturbed that this increased commitment appeared to be achievable only at the expense of reduced support for the National Library.

He said that it was difficult not to conclude that the Government did not appreciate fully the central importance of the National Library in preserving the national heritage, or the degree of reliance placed on it by other Australian libraries in the provision of library and information services for the nation.

While an increase had been granted in the provision made for the Library's general expenses, this would not be sufficient to enable the Library to equip fully the extensions to the building at present under construction as well as maintaining essential services.

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