



NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The LAA/NZLA Conference

The Brisbane Conference is over but I'm sure the positive mood that emanated from it will survive and rub off on those members who were not able to attend. From the moment we stepped off the plane in Brisbane it was clear that things would go well. The weather was beautiful, sunny and about 22°C (and it stayed that way throughout the Conference), the hotel greeted us like long lost friends, 'This Week in Brisbane' welcomed us on its front cover and the Queensland Government presented us with a cheque for \$3,000 towards the Conference.

Of course that's not what really made the Conference. That was the years of hard work and planning down to the most minute detail, done by the Conference Committee. And the excellent papers presented by such a range of speakers from both Australia and overseas, not to mention the 1,500 plus participants from all over Australia and New Zealand, as well as some of the Pacific Island countries.

The positive mood began with General Council, held on the Friday and Saturday before the Conference. A report appears elsewhere but the decisions to reduce personal

membership fees, abolish restrictions on 'voucher only' membership and to carry out a complete review of the Association really set the tone for the rest of the week.

Aside from the formal Conference sessions there were many other activities which made a particular impact on me. The excellent Opening Address by Alex Dix and the Presidential Address by Warren Horton, gave us all a great deal to think about and I hope that all members will have an opportunity to read these in *InCite* in the near future. The presentation of the two Baker and Taylor grants of \$500 each was also memorable. These were awarded to student members of the LAA and the NZLA and brought two young people from Western Australia and New Zealand.

The 6th edition of the *Directory of Special Libraries in Australia* was launched at the conference by the President, Warren Horton and the editor, Jan Cree responded well with some very witty ditties. I have it on good authority that the 7th edition will have a name change and be called DASL (Directory of Australian Special Libraries)!

The greatest highlight for me as a still fairly new Executive Director was the opportunity to meet so many members of the Association and to get from them thoughts on the Conference and the Association generally. Unfortunately I didn't manage to meet all 1,500 participants.

More detailed reports of the Conference will be appearing in future issues of *InCite* and it

is hoped we will have the Proceedings published by the end of the year.

Free LAA Membership

New members can join the LAA from 1st October at no charge for the remainder of the year. If you've been thinking of joining or know someone who has, why not take advantage of this offer and find out what the Association's all about. Of course in 2-3 months you'll only scratch the surface but I'm sure it will be enough to encourage you to join for a full year in 1985.

Travelling Around

I have reached a point in my travels where some of the TAA hostesses actually recognise me but while there are times when I would dearly love to stay in one place the thing I do enjoy is having the opportunity to meet and address the members of the LAA. Since July I have been able to address the Queensland Branch, who very kindly gave me the opportunity to talk about service in special libraries, the New England Regional Group and the Victorian Branch.

By the end of the year I will have visited every State in Australia and while I do not see it as vital that I visit every State every year I do think it is important during my first year as ED. Next year I hope to concentrate my travel on the more isolated areas of Australia rather than the city centres. *Jenny Adams*
Executive Director

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THE METCALFE MEDALLION

JOHN METCALFE was responsible for establishing the basis of the profession of librarianship in Australia and was the dominating influence in the profession in this country until his retirement in the 1960s. John Metcalfe the man and his contribution to librarianship and library education are commemorated by the Library Association of Australia through the Metcalfe Medallion, an award created in 1982.

The award is for the most outstanding essay or other piece of work on any topic in the areas of librarianship, information science or archives administration, submitted by a student undertaking a first award course in librarianship or archives administration.

Students are invited to submit entries for the 1985 award. These should be pieces of work of publishable standard — there is no specified length.

A panel of several distinguished members of the profession will select the winning entry, which it is anticipated will be published in the *Australian Library Journal* or another suitable publication by the Association. The Association reserves the right not to make an award in any year.

Entries should be placed in a sealed envelope, marked only with the title of the work. This envelope, together with a covering letter indicating the title and the identity of the writer, should be sent to the LAA office. The outer envelope should be marked 'Metcalfe Medallion'.

There must be no identification on the entries themselves, and only one may be submitted by each entrant.

Send entries to:

Assistant Executive Director,
Library Association of Australia,
376 Jones Street,
Ultimo NSW 2007

Entries close 31 December 1984

For further information contact Sue Phillips, Assistant Executive Director, at the LAA Head Office (02) 692 9233.