

IN THE NEWS continued

New appointment at Lane Cove

Lane Cove Public Library now has a new Deputy Librarian and Information Co-ordinator. She is Lea Rosser and she replaced Jill Peters from Tuesday 2nd October. Lea previously worked at Parramatta Library where she was in charge of the House Bound Reader Service. She completed her B.A. in Library and Information Science in 1982 at Riverina College where she majored in Public Administration. She is currently completing a Bachelor of Business course also at Riverina College.

(Dr) Chris Henderson

Chief Librarian and Information Co-ordinator

Beauty, mate!

The Standards Association of Australia has embarked on an ambitious project to determine the nature of Australian business language.

The primary purpose of the study is to provide information that will enable business educators and personnel officers to design training and test material relevant to the work likely to be encountered in an Australian office. The results of the study should be of broader interest.

The need for the study arose during SAA's preparation of the recently published Australian standard typing speed test (AS 2708) and work just began on a similar standard for shorthand speed tests. The chief stumbling block is the lack of any information on average difficulty levels and vocabulary characteristics of Australian business language. American and English studies are not necessarily relevant to Australia.

Briefly, the study will involve the collation

and computer analysis of a large number of letters, memos and reports from a representative sample of Australian business and government. The analysis will produce such information as common word and usage lists, measures of vocabulary difficulty and information about punctuation and sentence structure.

It is hoped that the proposed shorthand speed test standard, requested by the Canberra College of Technical and Further Education, will be published towards the end of next year.

Talking local news

It's a first for Melbourne — a 'talking local newspaper', the result of co-operation between Nunawading Library, the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind, and the *Nunawading Gazette*.

Melbourne's first Suburban Talking Newspaper is a weekly audio cassette tape for print

handicapped people, and includes excerpts from two local newspapers, the *Nunawading Gazette* and the *Eastern Standard*. Feature stories, public information and notices, and even the occasional description of photographs introduce blind people and others who have difficulty reading to the news and life of the community.

The service is free and started in June this year. Gail Lewis, the librarian who supervises the volunteer readers from Mitcham Repertory Group and Churinga Players, said that there has been a wonderful response to the service. Over 80 residents receive the cassettes each week.

Nunawading Council are providing the library facilities free for the talking papers, and the RVIB provides all duplication equipment and cassettes. The *Gazette* provides pre-production galley proofs of articles. The cassettes are posted around the same time as the papers are delivered.

ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT



On a number of occasions recently I have been asked to explain the difference between trade unions and professional associations such as the LAA.

Trade unions are registered *industrial* organisations and as such are the only bodies able to represent employees before various state and federal industrial tribunals in order to negotiate better wages and conditions or to argue for redundancy settlements or the reinstatement of members who have been unfairly dismissed.

As registered organisations, trade unions have conferred upon them certain rights, such as the right of union officials to enter the premises of respondents to their awards to speak to union members and the right to examine the records of a respondent organisation relating to the salaries, annual leave, hours of work etc of employees.

Professional associations on the other hand are generally not able to register as industrial organisations and are concerned with furthering the *professional* interests of their members by sponsoring activities such as continuing education courses, promoting the profession publicly, providing a network of contacts by encouraging the formation of special interest groups, producing publications which are relevant to the profession and helping to maintain the standard of professional courses at educational institutions.

The LAA does all these things and, in addition, it has an industrial information officer; a position which is sometimes confused with that of a trade union official. Because the LAA is not a registered industrial organisation, its industrial information officer cannot directly negotiate improvements in awards and conditions for library staff and does not possess the same rights as a trade union official.

The key word in the title of the position is *information*. The LAA's Industrial Information Officer *can* provide information about industrial matters to members and is in fact in the unique position of being able to monitor industrial matters affecting library staff right around the country. Given the proliferation of trade unions representing library staff in Australia, no other organisation is able to provide an overview of industrial matters affecting the profession as a whole.

Hence the LAA's Industrial Information Officer can produce the annual comparative

Salary Scale booklet and can monitor work level standards and employment prospects across the country. This information is of assistance to individual unions when they are preparing cases for improved wages and conditions for their members who work in libraries. So the LAA's Industrial Information Officer can act as a link between unions and the profession as a whole.

A significant number of librarians and library technicians work in special libraries in private enterprise and (except in NSW) are generally not covered by a union. For these people, the LAA's Industrial Information Officer is their only source of advice about industrial matters. In summary then, trade unions and professional associations carry out quite different functions. The LAA's Industrial Information Officer provides a link between the two but does not perform the work of a trade union official.

Louise Lansley

Industrial Information and Research Officer

National Film and Sound Archive

The National Film and Sound Archive Advisory Committee are asking individuals and organisations to make submissions on the development of the NFSA and in particular on the following matters:

- functions and responsibilities;
- legislation required;
- resources and facilities required, with a program of construction and costs;
- resources and facilities required;
- staffing;
- policies for acquisition of material, cataloguing, conservation, reproduction and access arrangements;
- relationship and co-ordination with other Commonwealth bodies, with the industry and trade;
- regional representation;
- appropriate charges for services;
- preservation program and timetables;
- deposit requirements.

Submissions are to be sent by November 30 1984 to The Chairperson, National Film and Sound Archive Advisory Committee, GPO Box 2002 Canberra ACT 2601.

Enquiries can be directed to Mr. C. D. Pitson, Interim Director, NFSA (062) 671 7111.

The LAA will be submitting comment on those areas in which we have expertise.

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